



#CABINET RESHUFFLE 2021

- **Complete List of Cabinet Ministers 2021:** Kiren Rijju was sworn in as the new Law Minister, Jyotiraditya Scindia as the new Civil Aviation Minister, Mansukh Mandaviya as the new Health Minister and Anurag Singh Thakur as the new Minister of Information and Broadcasting and Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports during the oath-taking ceremony on July 7, 2021.
- These Ministers are among the 43 Ministers, including **15 new Cabinet Ministers and 28 Ministers of**



State (MoS), who took the oath of office at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in the presence of President Ram Nath Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

- Among the **newly sworn in Ministers of States**, Anupriya Singh Patel has got Commerce and Industry portfolio, Meenakshi Lekhi has MoS External Affairs and Culture Ministry, Ajay Bhatt has become the new MoS of Defence and Tourism, Pankay Chaudhary has become MoS of Finance and Satya Pal Singh Bhagel has become MoS of Law and Justice Ministry.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** congratulated all his colleagues who took the oath and wished them the very best for their ministerial tenure. He tweeted saying that we will continue working to fulfil aspirations of the people and build a strong and prosperous India.
- This is the first major **Union Cabinet reshuffle** in the second term of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- Full List of Council of Ministers with their Portfolios:
- **PM Narendra Modi:** Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Department of Atomic Energy; Department of Space; All important policy issues and All other portfolios not allocated to any Minister

List of Cabinet Ministers

- **Amit Shah** - Minister of Home Affairs; and Minister of Cooperation
- **Nitin Jairam Gadkari** - Minister of Road Transport and Highways
- **Nirmala Sitharaman** - Minister of Finance; and Minister of Corporate Affairs
- **Narendra Singh Tomar** - Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
- **Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar** - Minister of External Affairs
- **Arjun Munda** - Minister of Tribal Affairs
- **Smriti Zubin Irani** - Minister of Women and Child Development
- **Piyush Goyal** - Minister of Commerce and Industry; Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; and Minister of Textiles
- **Dharmendra Pradhan** - Minister of Education; and Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- **Pralhad Joshi** - Minister of Parliamentary Affairs; Minister of Coal; and Minister of Mines
- **Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi** - Minister of Minority Affairs
- **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat** - Minister of Jal Shakti
- **Dr Mahendra Nath Pandey** - Minister of Heavy Industries

List of new Cabinet Ministers 2021 and their Portfolios

1. **Narayan Rane**- Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
2. **Sarbananda Sonowal**- Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways and Minister of AYUSH
3. **Virendra Kumar**- Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment
4. **Jyotiraditya Scindia**- Minister of Civil Aviation
5. **Ramchandra Prasad Singh**-Minister of Steel
6. **Ashwini Vaishnaw**- Minister of Railways; Minister of Communications; and Minister of Electronics and Information Technology
7. **Pashu Pati Kumar Paras**- Minister of Food Processing Industries

8. **Kiren Rijju** - Minister of Law and Justice
9. **Raj Kumar Singh**- Minister of Power; and Minister of New and Renewable Energy
10. **Hardeep Singh Puri** - Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas; and Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs
11. **Mansukh Mandaviya**- Minister of Health and Family Welfare; and Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers
12. **Bhupendra Yadav**- Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change; and Minister of Labour and Employment
13. **Parshottam Rupala**- Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
14. **G Kishan Reddy**- Minister of Culture; Minister of Tourism; and Minister of Development of North Eastern Region
15. **Anurag Singh Thakur**- Minister of Information and Broadcasting; and Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports

Ministers of State (Independent Charge)

- **Rao Inderjit Singh** - Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation; Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the **Ministry of Planning; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs**
- **Dr Jitendra Singh** - Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Science and Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Earth Sciences; Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office; Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Minister of State in the Department of Atomic Energy; and Minister of State in the Department of Space.

Ministers of State

- **Shripad Yesso Naik** - Minister of State in the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Tourism
- **Faggansingh Kulaste** - Minister of State in the Ministry of Steel; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development
- **Prahalad Singh Patel** - Minister of State in the Ministry of Jal Shakti; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Food Processing Industries
- **Ashwini Kumar Choubey** - Minister of State in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- **Arjun Ram Meghwal** - Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Culture.
- **General (Retd.) V. K. Singh** - Minister of State in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Civil Aviation
- **Krishan Pal** - Minister of State in the Ministry of Power; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Heavy Industries
- **Danve Raosaheb Dadarao** - Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways; Minister of State in the Ministry of Coal; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Mines
- **Ramdas Athawale** - Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- **Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti** - Minister of State in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development
- **Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Balyan** - Minister of State in the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying

- **Nityanand Rai** - Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs
- **V. Muraleedharan** - Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs
- **Som Parkash** - Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- **Renuka Singh Saruta** - Minister of State in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs
- **Rameswar Teli** - Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Labour and Employment
- **Kailash Choudhary** - Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

List of 28 new Ministers of State:

1. **Pankay Chaudhary**- Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance
2. **Anupriya Singh Patel**- Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry
3. **Satya Pal Singh Bhagel**- Minister of State in the Ministry of Law and Justice
4. **Rajeev Chandrasekhar**- Minister of State in the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
5. **Shobha Karandlaje** -Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
6. **Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma** -Minister of State in the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
7. **Dardhana Vikram Jardosh**- Minister of State in the Ministry of Textiles; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways
8. **Meenakshi Lekhi**-Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Culture
9. **Annpurna Devi**- Minister of State in the Ministry of Education
10. **A Narayanaswamy**- Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
11. **Kaushal Kishore**- Minister of State in the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
12. **Ajay Bhatt**- Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Tourism
13. **BL Verma**- Minister of State in the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Cooperation
14. **Ajay Kumar**- Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs
15. **Chauhan Devusinh**- Minister of State in the Ministry of Communications
16. **Bhagwanth Khuba**- Minister of State in the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
17. **Kapil Moreshwas Patil**- Minister of State in the Ministry of Panchayati Raj
18. **Pratima Bhoumik**- Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
19. **Subhas Sarkar**- Minister of State in the Ministry of Education
20. **Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad**- Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance
21. **Rajkumar Ranjan Singh** -Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Education
22. **Bharati Pravin Pawar**- Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
23. **Bishweswar Tudu**-Minister of State in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Jal Shakti
24. **Shantanu Thakur**- Minister of State in the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways
25. **Munjapara Mahendrabhai**- Minister of State in the Ministry of Women and Child Development; and Minister of State in the Ministry of AYUSH
26. **John Barla**- Minister of State in the Ministry of Minority Affairs
27. **Dr L Murugan** -Minister of State in the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying; and

Minister of State in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

28. **Nisith Pramanik**- Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

List of Union Ministers who have resigned from Union Cabinet

- Ravi Shankar Prasad
- Prakash Javadekar
- Rao Saheb Danve Patil
- Babul Supriyo
- Harsh Vardan
- Pratap Sarangi
- DV Sadananda Gowda
- Ramesh Pokhriyal
- Debashree Chaudhur
- Santosh Gangwar
- Sanjay Shamrao Dhotre
- Rattan Lal Kataria
- Thaawarchand Gehlot

Why did the Cabinet reshuffle happen?

- The latest union cabinet expansion and cabinet reshuffle was necessitated by the vacancies caused due to death of Union Minister Ram Vilas Paswan and exit of few alliance partners including Shiv Sena and Akali Dal. The upcoming state elections may also have a role in the latest cabinet reshuffle.
- The **new Union Cabinet** is Prime Minister Narendra Modi's youngest team ever. The new council of ministers have witnessed a **record induction of members from OBC and SC communities** and also a higher representation of women and more representation from sub-regions of states.

Background

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** had earlier during the day held a meeting with many leaders including Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP President JP Nadda, Anurag Thakur, Jyotiraditya Scindia, Sarbananda Sonowal, Purshottam Rupala, Nisith Pramanik, RCP Singh and Pashupati Paras at 7, Lok Kalyan Marg ahead of the Union Cabinet reshuffle.

WOMEN MINISTERS IN CABINET RESHUFFLE 2021

- The new Union Council of Ministers of **PM Modi-led government** has now 11 women ministers. The previous Council of Ministers had 5 women ministers.
- The **new Union Cabinet** has now 7 new women ministers. Till now, the Union Cabinet had **three women union ministers and three women ministers of state (MoS)**. With Harsimrat Kaur Badal's resignation, the count of women union ministers fell to two, and with the dropping of MoS Debasree Chaudhary from the reshuffle, the count fell further.
- The **new Union Cabinet** was announced on July 7, 2021, after a reshuffle. President Ram Nath Kovind administered the oath-taking ceremony of 43 Ministers of which 36 new faces to the Union Cabinet.
- **Cabinet Reshuffle 2021: Women Ministers - What did not change?**

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- **Union Minister Smriti Irani** will keep the charge of the Ministry of Women and Child Development while being relieved from the Ministry of Textile, which has been allotted to Piyush Goyal.
 - **Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** will also continue to head the Ministry of Finance.
 - **Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti** will continue as **Minister of State (MoS), Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, and Ministry of Rural Development.**
 - **Renuka Singh Saruta** will continue as Minister of State (MoS), Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
 - Cabinet Reshuffle 2021: Meet the 7 new women ministers
 - **Anupriya Patel:** She has been appointed as Minister of State (MoS), Ministry of Commerce and Industry. She is a two-time Lok Sabha MP from Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh. She is also the leader of Apna Dal, Uttar Pradesh. During the first term of PM Modi-led government, Patel served as Minister of State in the Ministry of Health.
 - **Shobha Karandlaje:** She has been appointed as Minister of State (MoS), Ministry of Agriculture, and Farmers' Welfare. She is a two-time MP and BJP MP from Udupi-Chikmagalur, Karnataka. She has served as a one-time MLC and a one-time MLA. She has also held portfolios like Rural Development, Power, and Food and Civil Supplies.
 - **Darshana Jardosh:** She has been given charge as Minister of State (MoS), Ministry of Textiles, and Ministry of Railways. She is a three-time MP from Surat, Gujarat. Prior to becoming Lok Sabha MP, she served as Corporator, Surat Municipal Corporation. She has also been a member of the Gujarat Welfare Board.
 - **Meenakshi Lekhi:** She has been appointed as Minister of State (MoS), Ministry of External Affairs, and the Ministry of Culture. She is serving her second term as Lok Sabha MP from Delhi. She is also an advocate at the Supreme Court. She was also a member of the New Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC).
 - **Annpurna Devi:** She has been given charge as Minister of State (MoS), Ministry of Education. She is a four-time MLA, currently Lok Sabha MP, Kodarma, Jharkhand. She has also held portfolios such as Women and Child Welfare and Irrigation in the Jharkhand government.
 - **Pratima Bhoumik:** She has been appointed Minister of State (MoS), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. She is serving her first term as BJP MP in Tripura West.
 - **Dr Bharati Pawar:** She has been given charge as Minister of State (MoS), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. She has been a member of the Nashik Zila Parishad. She is a first-time Lok Sabha MP in Dindori, Maharashtra.

INDIA'S NEW RAILWAY MINISTER

- **Former IAS Officer Ashwini Vaishnaw** has taken charge as India's new Railways Minister and IT Minister in the first major cabinet reshuffle of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's cabinet on July 8, 2021.
- Ashwini Vaishnaw is a **member of the Rajya Sabha from Odisha**. He has been appointed the Minister of Railways, Minister of Communications and Minister of Electronics and Information Technology.
- The 50-year-old has replaced **Ravi Shankar Prasad as Minister of Communications, and Minister of Electronics and Information Technology** and **succeeded Piyush Goyal**, who has been in charge of the Ministries of Commerce and Industry; Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; and Textiles.



Who is Ashwini Vaishnaw?

- **Ashwini Vaishnaw** is an IIT-Kanpur alumnus, as he did his MTech from the institute in the industrial and management engineering department. He is a resident of Pali District near Jodhpur, Rajasthan.
- He is a former **Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the Odisha cadre**. He had cracked IAS in 1994 with an all-India rank of 27.
- Ashwini Vaishnaw left for the US to do his MBA from Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania in 2008.
- Ashwini Vaishnaw is a member of the **Bharatiya Janata Party and became a member of the Parliament**, representing Odisha in the Rajya Sabha in June 2019.
- As a civil servant, he served as a collector in Balasore and Cuttack districts. He was appointed as deputy secretary in the office of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee in 2003.
- Ashwini Vaishnaw was appointed as former **PM Vajpayee's private secretary** after the BJP-led NDA lost the 2004 General Elections.
- He became the **deputy chairman of Mormugao Port Trust**, where he worked for the next two years in 2006.
- **Vaishnaw** has also previously served as Managing Director of GE Transportation and Vice President - Locomotives & Head Urban Infrastructure Strategy at Siemens. He quit the corporate sector in 2012 and set up two automotive components manufacturing units in Gujarat.
- His political career began when he won **the Rajya Sabha election unopposed with the support of**

INDIA'S NEW HEALTH MINISTER

- **Mansukh Mandaviya** has taken charge as **India's new Health Minister**, replacing Dr Harsh Vardhan. He is among the seven ministers who got elevated to the Union Cabinet on July 7, 2021.
- He has taken over as **health minister at a critical time** when India's fight against COVID-19 is still continuing and the nation is working on a strategy to hold off a **third wave of COVID-19** by ramping up vaccinations.
- The **Union Ministry of Health and Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers** will be clubbed. So, Mansukh Mandaviya will take charge of the clubbed Ministry. Mandaviya was previously serving as Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilizers and held independent charge of shipping ministry.



Who is Mansukh Mandaviya?

- **Mansukh Mandavaiya** was born in a small village called Hanol in **Palitana Taluka of Bhavnagar district of Gujarat**. He was born into a middle-class farmer family.
- Mandavaiya completed his MA in Political Science from Bhavnagar University and studied a Livestock Inspector course at the Gujarat Agricultural University's Dantiwada campus in 1992.
- He later did his masters in political science and became a member of the **Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad**. He was later appointed as the State Executive Member of Akhil Bharatiya Vidhyarthi Parishad in Gujarat.
- He was elected as a member of the **Gujarat Legislative Assembly from Palitana constituency in 2002 and served till 2007**.
- He appointed as the Chairman of the Gujarat Agro Industries Corporation Limited in 2011-2012. He had served as the **Member of Rajya Sabha from 2012-2013**
- He **became the youngest state secretary of Gujarat BJP in 2013** and then the General Secretary of the party in the state in 2015.
- He had joined **PM Narendra Modi's government** first as Minister of State for Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Ministry of Shipping and Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers in 2016 and served till 2019.
- **He was re-elected as Rajya Sabha member in 2018**. He was again given Minister of State

(Independent Charge) for Shipping and Minister of State for Chemicals & Fertilizers in 2019.

- Mansukh Mandaviya has been an important young face in the Narendra Modi government since 2016.

Background

- The **49-year-old parliamentarian from Gujarat** is also known for famously riding a bicycle to the Parliament. He will now face a huge challenge to revive the nation's crumbling healthcare system, which was stretched beyond its limits in April-May when the nation was hit with its worst health crisis when it ran out of oxygen, critical medical facilities and beds.
- The Union Health Ministry had received heavy criticism over the healthcare crisis, as the nation's death toll jumped to record high and medical manpower fell short in various states, leaving many struggling to get healthcare services.
- The **Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**, Ashwini Kumar Chaubey has also been replaced and Dr Bharati Pravin Pawar has been given the charge of the post.

INDIA'S NEW CIVIL AVIATION MINISTER

- **New Civil Aviation Minister:** Jyotiraditya Scindia has been appointed as India's new Civil Aviation Minister, following his father's footsteps. Scindia is among the 15 new Ministers who were sworn into Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Cabinet on July 7, 2021.
- **His late father, Madhavrao Scindia** had held the civil aviation portfolio under the PV Narasimha Rao-led central government between 1991 and 1993.
- Jyotiraditya Scindia reportedly got the **Civil Aviation Minister portfolio as the BJP leadership** felt that the civil aviation sector needed a young face to represent it. His induction is expected to bring in new energy and ideas to make the sector more dynamic in the post-COVID world.



Who is India's new Civil Aviation Minister?

- Former senior Congress leader, Jyotiraditya Scindia is India's new Civil Aviation Minister. **He succeeds Hardeep Singh Puri**, who is the new **Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs**.
- **Jyotiraditya Scindia is a Rajya Sabha MP from Madhya Pradesh.** The former Congress heavyweight had switched over to the BJP on March 11, 2020.
- The 50-year-old leader had served as the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Power from

October 2012 till May 2014 under the earlier UPA government led by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

- **Jyotiraditya Scindia is also a former Member of Parliament in the Lok Sabha**, representing the Guna constituency in Madhya Pradesh. He, however, lost his traditional family seat in the 2019 Indian general elections.
- He is a former member of the **Indian National Congress and presently a member of the Bharatiya Janata Party**.
- Jyotiraditya Scindia had been inducted into the UPA government in 2007 and remained a part of the Union Cabinet till 2014 by serving as a minister of state for communications, commerce and industry and power.
- He had begun his political journey when he had contested his maiden election as a Congress candidate in 2002 in the Guna constituency by-poll after the sudden death of his father, Madhavrao Scindia, in a plane crash.
- **Jyotiraditya Scindia was elected from the Guna constituency** again for the fourth time in the 2014 General Elections but lost from it in the 2019 Elections to BJP candidate KP Yadav.

Background

- **Jyotiraditya Scindia** got a cabinet berth in the first major reshuffle of the Council of Ministers since **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** took charge for a second term in May 2019. Overall, 43 **new Cabinet Ministers were administered the oath of office by President Ram Nath Kovind** on July 7, 2021.

GOI CREATED 'MINISTRY OF COOPERATION'

- **The Union Government on July 6, 2021, created a new Ministry of Cooperation** with an aim to implement the vision of **'Sahkar se Samridhhi' or prosperity through cooperation**. The new ministry comes in amid a massive cabinet reshuffle exercise happened on July 7, 2021.
- Union Home Ministry Amit Shah expressed that the new Ministry would bring prosperity to the rural and agricultural sectors. He further said the new Ministry will help the cooperative sector soar to new heights.

Ministry of Cooperation: Key points

- The **new Ministry of Cooperation** is the government's move to strengthen cooperative movement in the country. The Ministry will help manifest the vision of **'Sahkar se Samridhhi' or prosperity through cooperation**.
- With the **new Ministry, the Central Government shows its deep commitment to community-based developmental partnership**. As per the government, a cooperative-based economic development

model is crucial to India's growth where each member is working with a sense of responsibility.

- The new Ministry also fulfills the commitment announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman while presenting Budget 2021-22 on February 1, 2021, where she spoke about the government's commitment towards the development of multi-state cooperatives and proposed to set up a separate administrative structure for cooperatives.

What will new Ministry of Cooperation offer?

- The new Ministry will offer a separate administrative, policy, and legal framework to strengthen the cooperative movement in the country.
- The Ministry will aid in streamlining all processes for 'Ease of doing business' for cooperatives and boost the **development of Multi-State Cooperatives (MSCS)**.

Department of Public Enterprises added in Finance Ministry

- Amid the news of an imminent reshuffle in the Union Cabinet, the gazette notification issued by the Union cabinet Secretariat on July 6, 2021, informed that the Finance Ministry has been expanded with an addition of the **Department of Public Enterprises**. It is a nodal entity for the policy formulation for all the Central Public Sector Units (PSU).
- According to the Department's website, as a result of the reorganization of the Ministries/Departments of the Union Government in September 1985, the **Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE)** was made part of the Ministry of Industry.
- Later, in May 1990, BPE was made a **full-fledged department known as the Department of Public Enterprises**.

Department of Public Enterprises: Background

- As per the Department's website, the **Department of Public Enterprises** was set up as the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) in 1965 and it was under the Ministry of Finance.
- Later, in 1985, BPE was made part of the **Ministry of Industry and in 1990** was made a full-fledged department known as the Department of Public Enterprises.
- Until now, the Public Enterprises department was part of the **Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises**.

#COUNCIL OF MINISTERS (CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS)

Recently, the Prime Minister **expanded and reshuffled his Council of Ministers (COM)**. The Prime Minister now has 77 ministers, nearly half of them new.



About:

- **Article 74 of the Constitution** deals with the **status of the council of ministers** while **Article 75 deals with the** appointment, tenure, responsibility, qualification, oath and salaries and allowances of the ministers.
- The COM consists of three categories of ministers, namely, **cabinet ministers, ministers of state, and deputy ministers**. At the **top of all these ministers stands the Prime Minister**.
- **Cabinet Ministers:** These head the important ministries of the Central government like home, defence, finance, external affairs and so forth.
- **Cabinet** is the **chief policy formulating body** of the Central government.
- **Ministers of State:** These can either be given independent charge of ministries/ departments or can be attached to cabinet ministers.
- **Deputy Ministers:** They are attached to the cabinet ministers or ministers of state and assist them in their administrative, political, and parliamentary duties.
- At times, the COM **may also include a deputy prime minister**. The deputy prime ministers are appointed mostly for political reasons.

Constitutional Provisions:

- **Article 74 (COM to aid and advice President):** The advice tendered by Ministers to the President shall not be inquired into in any court.
- The **President may require the COM to reconsider such advice** and the President **shall act in accordance with the advice tendered after such reconsideration**.
- **Article 75 (Other Provisions as to Ministers):** The PM shall be **appointed by the President** and the other Ministers shall be appointed by the President on the **advice of the PM**.
- The **total number of ministers, including the Prime Minister, in the COM shall not exceed 15% of the total strength of the Lok Sabha**.
- This provision was added by the 91st Amendment Act of 2003. A **minister who is not a member of the Parliament (either house) for any period of six consecutive months** shall cease to be a minister.
- **Article 77 (Conduct of Business of the Government of India):** The President shall make rules for the more convenient transaction of the business of the Government of India, and for the allocation among Ministers of the said business.

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- **Article 78 (Duties of Prime Minister):** To communicate to the President all decisions of the COM relating to the administration of the affairs of the Union and proposals for legislation.
 - **Article 88 (Rights of Ministers as Respects the Houses):** Every minister shall have the right to speak and take part in the proceedings of either House, any joint sitting of the Houses and any Committee of Parliament of which he may be named a member. But he shall not be entitled to vote.

Responsibility of Ministers:









- **Collective Responsibility:** Article 75 clearly states that the **COM is collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha**. This means that all the ministers own joint responsibility to the Lok Sabha for all their acts of omission and commission.
- **Individual Responsibility:** Article 75 also contains the principle of individual responsibility. It states that the ministers hold office during the pleasure of the President, which means that the President can remove a minister even at a time when the COM enjoys the confidence of the Lok Sabha.
- However, the President removes a minister only on the advice of the Prime Minister.
- **Council of Ministers in States:** The **Council of Ministers in the states** is constituted and functions in the **same way** as the **Council of Ministers at the Centre (Article 163: COM to aid and advise Governor) and Article 164: Other Provisions as to Ministers).**

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