

The Executive Branch

Chapter 6: The Parliamentary System: Legislature and Executive · Topic 2

Key Concept

The President of India is the ceremonial head of state, while the Prime Minister, as head of government, holds real executive power and leads the Council of Ministers.

The Council of Ministers, including the Prime Minister and various ministers, is responsible for implementing laws, forming policies, and managing different government departments.

The executive branch works alongside the legislature (which makes laws) and the judiciary (which interprets laws), forming a system of checks and balances.

At the state level, a similar structure exists, with a Governor as ceremonial head and a Chief Minister leading the state's Council of Ministers with real executive power.

Quick Revision Notes

- The executive implements laws and runs administration.
- The President is India's ceremonial head of state.
- The Prime Minister holds real executive power.
- The Prime Minister leads the Council of Ministers.
- Ministers implement laws and manage departments.
- The executive works alongside the legislature and judiciary.
- This forms a system of checks and balances.
- States have a Governor (ceremonial) and Chief Minister (real power).

Practice Questions

- 1 Explain the difference between the President and Prime Minister's roles.
- 2 Research the Council of Ministers' functions.
- 3 Discuss why checks and balances matter in government.
- 4 Compare the national and state-level executive structures.
- 5 Research your state's Chief Minister and Governor.
- 6 Discuss why the executive alone shouldn't have unlimited power.