

The background features a detailed line drawing of a Gothic cathedral interior. On the left, a series of pointed arches supported by columns lead the eye towards a large dome in the distance. On the right, a perspective view of a vaulted ceiling with intersecting beams and columns is shown. The entire scene is rendered in a light, sketchy style on a cream-colored background.

Executive



1. What is Executive?

The word Executive comes from the Latin word *exsequi*, meaning “to carry out” or “to execute.”

The executive is the organ of government responsible for implementing laws, policies and decisions made by the government. It also performs the day-to-day administration of the country. In a democracy, the executive includes both political leaders and permanent officials who help in administration.

2. Forms of Executive

There are two broad forms:



3. Types of Executive

There are three major forms of executive:



A. Parliamentary Executive

- The Prime Minister is the real head of government.
- A President or Monarch may exist as the formal/constitutional head.
- The Prime Minister and Council of Ministers exercise the real executive power.
- The Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to the legislature.
- The executive remains in office only as long as it enjoys the confidence of the lower house. If it loses majority support, it may have to resign.
- India and the UK follow the parliamentary system.

> **Easy idea:** Nominal Head → President/Monarch |
Real Executive → Prime Minister + Council of Ministers



B. Semi-Presidential Executive

- Both a President and Prime Minister exist.
- The President is generally directly elected and possesses significant powers.
- The Prime Minister heads the government and deals mainly with day-to-day administration.
- Executive authority is therefore shared between the President and Prime Minister.
- The exact distribution of powers differs from country to country.
- Example: France

> **Easy idea:** President + Prime Minister → Both have important executive roles



C. Presidential Executive

- The President is both the Head of State and Head of Government.
- The President is generally directly elected by the people or through a separate electoral mechanism.
- The President and legislature have separate mandates.
- The President is not normally dependent on the legislature's day-to-day confidence to remain in office.
- The executive is therefore more independent of the legislature than in a parliamentary system.
- Example: USA

> **Easy idea:** President = Head of State + Head of Government

4. Parliamentary Executive in India

India adopted the parliamentary system at both the Union and State levels.

Why did India adopt the Parliamentary System?



5. President of India

- The President is the constitutional/formal head of the Union Executive.
- India follows a parliamentary system, so the President normally acts on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister.
- The President's term is 5 years.
- The President is elected indirectly by an electoral college through proportional representation by means of the Single Transferable Vote (STV).

Removal of the President

- The President can be removed only through impeachment.
- Impeachment can be initiated by either House of Parliament.
- The ground is violation of the Constitution.

Major Powers of the President



6. Executive Powers

Appoints the Prime Minister and other important constitutional authorities.
Government actions are formally taken in the President's name.



2. Legislative Powers

Summons and prorogues Parliament.
Gives assent to Bills.
Can issue an Ordinance when Parliament is not in session, subject to constitutional conditions.



3. Financial Powers

Money Bills require the President's recommendation for introduction. The Union Budget is presented to Parliament in the President's name.



4. Judicial Powers

Can grant pardon, reprieve, respite or remission in certain cases.



5. Emergency Powers

Exercises important constitutional powers during situations of national, state or financial emergency, subject to constitutional provisions.

Position of the President

The President is the formal head, but in the parliamentary system the real executive power is exercised by the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers.

Discretionary Powers

The President normally acts on ministerial advice, but has limited discretion in certain situations, especially when:

- No party has a clear majority in the Lok Sabha. The President has to determine who is most likely to command majority support and form the government.

6. Vice-President of India

- The Vice-President has a term of 5 years.
- The Vice-President is elected indirectly by the members of both Houses of Parliament.
- The election uses proportional representation through the Single Transferable Vote (STV).

Main Roles

1. Ex-officio Chairman of Rajya Sabha

Presides over the meetings of the Rajya Sabha.

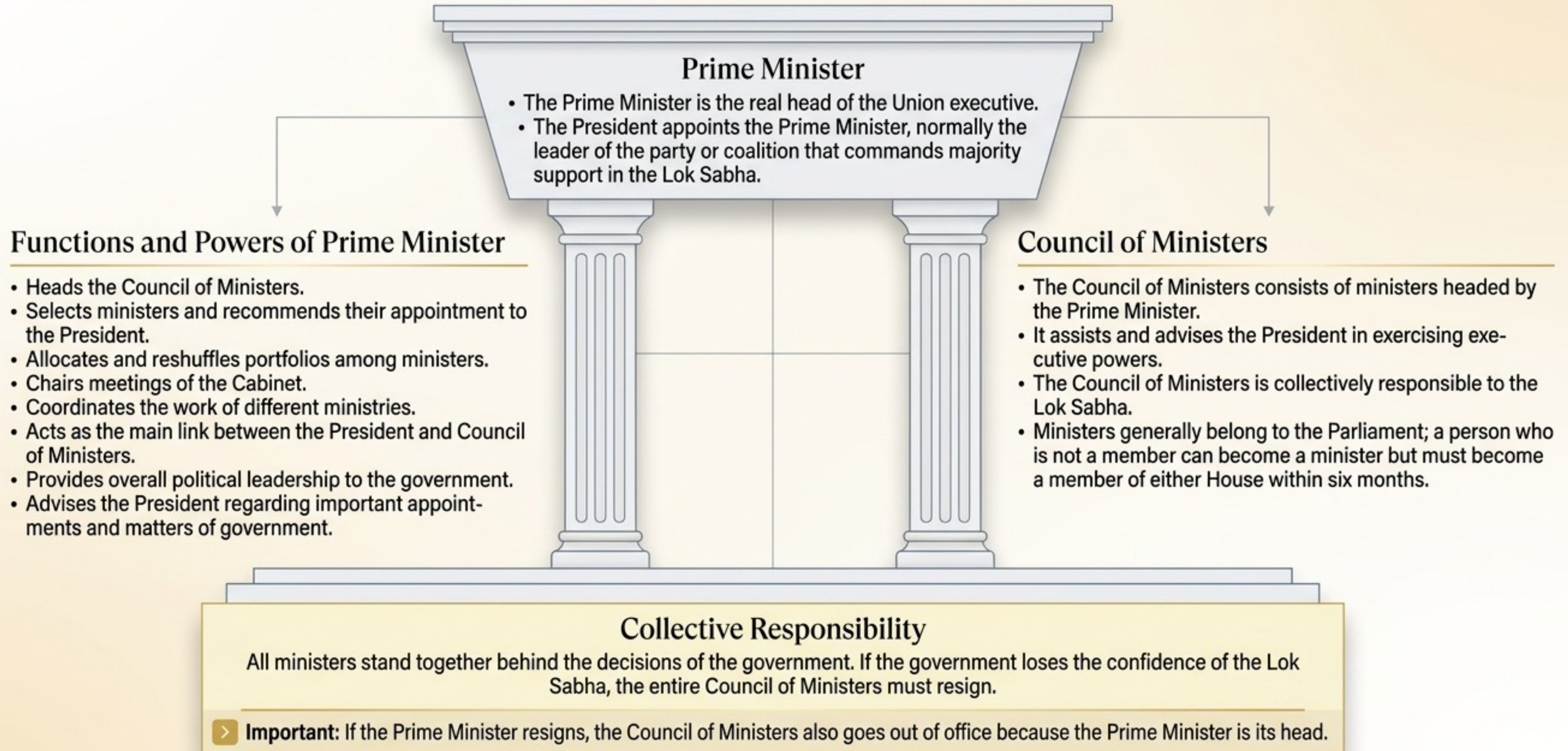
2. Acts as President

If the office of President becomes vacant due to death, resignation, removal or any other reason, the Vice-President acts as President until a new President assumes office.

3. Continuity of the constitutional office

Ensures that the office of President does not remain vacant during such a transition.

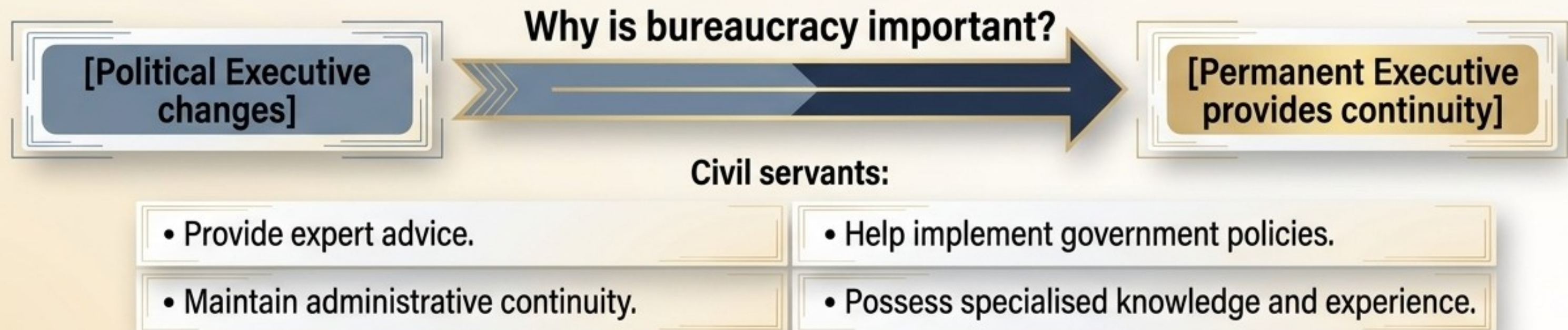
7. Prime Minister and Council of Ministers



8. Permanent Executive — Bureaucracy



- The permanent executive consists of civil servants/bureaucrats.
- Unlike the political executive, they are not elected and generally continue in service even when governments change.
- They are trained, skilled and experienced in administration.
- They provide continuity and expertise to government.
- They are expected to remain politically neutral.
- They assist the political executive in implementing policies and managing day-to-day administration.



9. UPSC — Union Public Service Commission



Union Public Service Commission

- UPSC is a constitutional body associated with the recruitment of civil servants.
- It conducts examinations and selection processes for important civil services.
- It helps ensure merit-based and impartial recruitment.
- It contributes to maintaining a professional and politically neutral civil service.

Why is merit-based recruitment important?

- Ensures capable and trained people enter the administration.
- Reduces political influence in recruitment.
- Strengthens the efficiency and neutrality of the permanent executive.

10. Classification of Civil Services

Indian civil services can broadly be understood as:

A. All India Services

Examples: Indian Administrative Service (IAS) | Indian Police Service (IPS) | Indian Forest Service (IFoS)

➤ **Important:** Officers of All India Services can serve under both the Union and State governments.

B. Central Services

Examples: Indian Foreign Service (IFS) | Indian Revenue Service (IRS)

Officers mainly serve under the Central/Union Government.

C. State Services

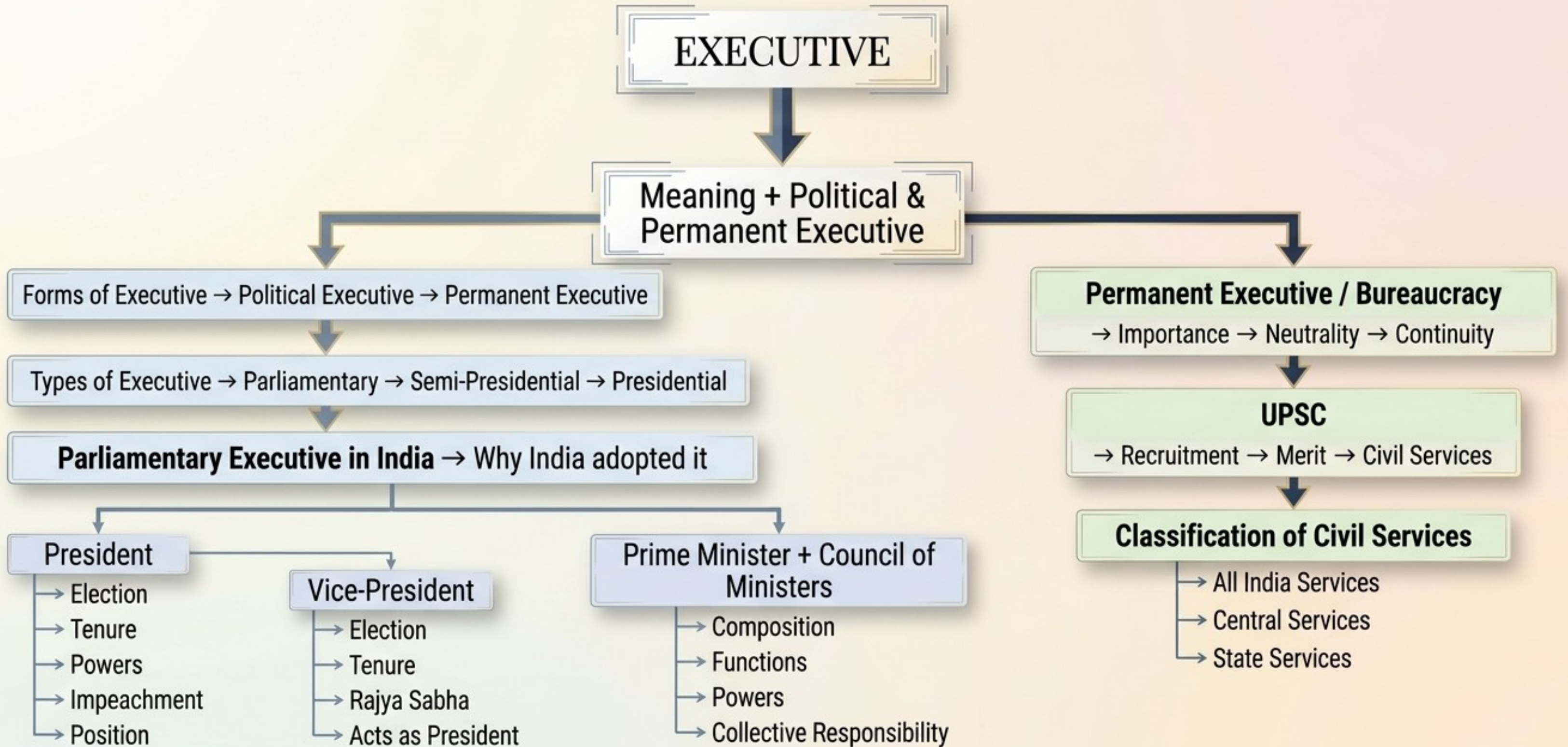
Examples include various State Civil Services and State Police Services.

Officers mainly serve under the respective State Government.

Quick Comparison

Service	Works Mainly For
All India Services	Union + State Governments
Central Services	Union Government
State Services	State Government

🔑 Chapter 4 — Quick Revision Map



IMPORTANT MCQs

1. In the Indian parliamentary system, who is considered the real executive?

- (a) President
- (b) Prime Minister
- (c) Vice-President
- (d) Speaker of Lok Sabha

2. Which system of executive has both a President and a Prime Minister with significant executive roles?

- (a) Parliamentary system
- (b) Presidential system
- (c) Semi-presidential system
- (d) Monarchical system

3. The President of India is elected by:

- (a) Direct vote of all citizens
- (b) Members of Lok Sabha only
- (c) Elected members of Parliament and State Legislative Assemblies
- (d) Members of the Council of Ministers

IMPORTANT MCQs

4. What does collective responsibility of the Council of Ministers mean?

- (a) Every minister is individually responsible only to the President
- (b) The Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha
- (c) Ministers are responsible only to the Prime Minister
- (d) Ministers can independently reject Cabinet decisions

5. Which of the following best describes the permanent executive?

- (a) Elected political leaders who change after elections
- (b) Civil servants who provide continuity and administrative expertise
- (c) Members of Parliament who make laws
- (d) Judges appointed by the President

6. The Vice-President of India is the ex-officio:

- (a) Speaker of Lok Sabha
- (b) Chairman of Rajya Sabha
- (c) Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha
- (d) Leader of Rajya Sabha

MCQ ANSWERS

1. (b) ✓ 2. (c) ✓ 3. (c) ✓ 4. (b) ✓ 5. (b) ✓ 6. (b) ✓

Important Long Questions

Q1. Distinguish between Parliamentary, Presidential and Semi-Presidential forms of executive. [6 Marks]

Answer:

Parliamentary	Presidential	Semi-Presidential
Prime Minister is the real head of government.	President is the real executive.	President and Prime Minister both have significant roles.
Executive is responsible to the legislature.	Executive has a separate mandate from the legislature.	Powers are shared between President and Prime Minister.
Government must enjoy the confidence of the lower house.	President normally does not depend on legislative confidence to remain in office.	Exact division of powers varies by country.
India, UK	USA	France

Keywords: Prime Minister – President – Legislature – Accountability – Shared Power

Important Long Questions

Q2. Explain the position and powers of the President of India in the parliamentary system. [6 Marks]

Answer:

- **Constitutional Head** – The President is the formal head of the Union Executive.
- **Executive Powers** – Appoints the Prime Minister and other important constitutional authorities.
- **Legislative Powers** – Summons and prorogues Parliament and gives assent to Bills.
- **Financial Powers** – Money Bills require the President's recommendation for introduction.
- **Judicial Powers** – Can grant pardon, reprieve, respite or remission in certain cases.
- **Emergency Powers** – Exercises important constitutional powers during emergencies.
- **Aid and Advice** – Normally acts on the advice of the Council of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister.
- **Limited Discretion** – Has discretion in certain situations, such as when no party has a clear majority in the Lok Sabha.

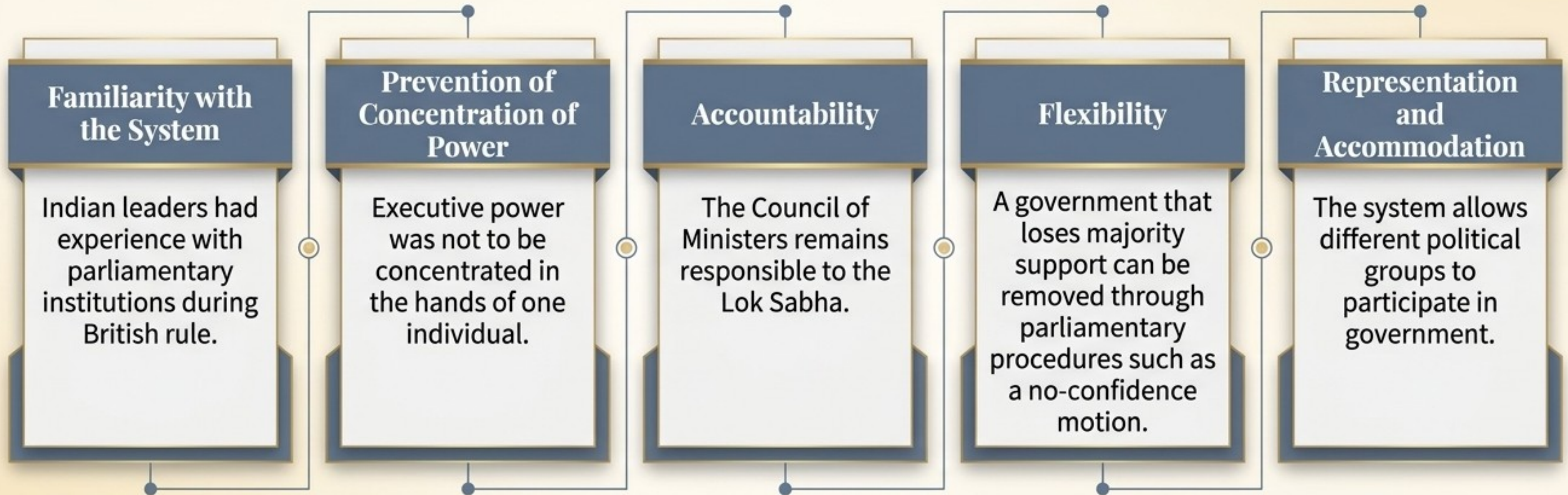


(Note: The President's role and discretionary powers are repeatedly identified as important Chapter 4 examination areas.)

Keywords: Constitutional Head – Executive Powers – Legislative Powers – Emergency – Aid and Advice – Discretion

Q3. Why did India adopt the parliamentary system of executive? Explain. [4 Marks]

Answer:



Keywords: Familiarity – Accountability – Power Sharing – No-Confidence Motion – Representation

Q4. Explain the role and importance of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers in the Indian parliamentary system. [6 Marks]

Answer:

Prime Minister

- The Prime Minister is the real head of the Union Executive.
- † Heads and coordinates the Council of Ministers.
- † Recommends the appointment of ministers and allocates their portfolios.
- † Coordinates the work of different ministries.
- † Acts as the important link between the President and the Council of Ministers.
- Provides overall political leadership to the government.

Council of Ministers

- Assists and advises the President in exercising executive powers.
- Is collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha.
- Is collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha.
- If the government loses the confidence of the Lok Sabha, the entire Council of Ministers must resign.

(Note: The Prime Minister's central role and collective responsibility are recurring long-answer themes in Chapter 4 resources.)

Keywords: Real Executive – Leadership – Cabinet – Coordination – Collective Responsibility – Lok Sabha

Q5. What is the Permanent Executive? Explain its importance in a democratic government. [4 Marks]

Answer:

- **Meaning** – The permanent executive consists mainly of professional civil servants/bureaucrats.
- **Continuity** – Unlike political executives, civil servants remain in office even when governments change.
- **Expertise** – They are trained and experienced in administration and provide expert advice.
- **Political Neutrality** – They are expected to work impartially irrespective of which political party is in power.
- **Implementation** – They help implement government policies and manage day-to-day administration.

Keywords: Civil Servants – Continuity – Expertise – Political Neutrality – Implementation