

Indian Order of Precedence

[UPSC Notes]

The Hierarchical Order of Indian Precedence

The hierarchical order of the Indian Precedence is as follows:

1. **President:**

As the nation's first citizen, the President also holds the title of the excellent commander of the IAFs and executive branch leader. "Droupadi Murmu" is newly elected as the 15th President who assumed control on 25 July 2022.

2. **Vice-presidents:**

They are the formal representative of Indian Presidents, who exist to serve as the leader of the nation. The vice presidency is the highest constitutional post following the presidency, coming in second place in the line of precedence and foremost in the line of succession. The vice president serves as the ex officio head of the Rajya Sabha and is a member of the Indian Parliament. We are privileged with Jagdeep Dhankar as our Vice-president.

3. **Prime Minister:**

Executive authority is delegated to the Prime Minister and the Board of other Ministers. Despite being the constitutional, nominal, and ceremonial head of state, India's President. The Lok Sabha, the lower house of the Indian Parliament and the main legislative body of the Republic of India, is where the prime minister is frequently the leader of the party or coalition that holds a majority.

4. **Governor of each state of India:**

At present, currently, India is grouped into 28 states and 8 UTs. Each state has a governor who serves as the central Government's chief executive officer and spokesperson.

5. **Former presidents:**

Before being elected, seven presidents had political party memberships. Six of them were active Indian National Congress party members. Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, who subsequently rose to the

position of President, was a member of the Janata Party. Zakir Husain and Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, two presidents, passed away while in office.

Until a new president was chosen, their vice presidents served in an acting capacity. Two acting presidents filled Zakir Husain's position till the time Varahagiri Venkata Giri was appointed as the new President. M. Hidayatullah took over as President after Giri quit to run in the presidential elections. Pratibha Devisingh Patil was chosen as the 12th president in 2007 and was the first woman to hold the position.

5A Deputy Prime minister: The second-ranking official in India's Government is known as the Deputy Prime Minister. It holds the second-highest position in the Union Council of Ministers. Typically, a deputy prime minister also serves for the home, defense, or finance ministry of India.

This position in the Indian presidency is supposed to lead to political steadiness and potency within an alliance government or during a national emergency when an appropriate and dependable chain of expertise and instruction is required.

Any Indian Prime Minister is considered "first among equals,"; which means equal to all the cabinet members. Out of the 73 years since its founding, the office has been occupied for over 11 years.

6. Chief justice of India/Lok Sabha Speaker:

Lok Sabha Speaker is the apparent authority and the leader or head of the Indian Parliament's subordinate house, "Lok Sabha."

The speaker is generally chosen in the first Lok Sabha session after the general elections. After that, the Lok Sabha's current members vote to elect the speaker to serve a five-year term.

7. Union Cabinet Ministers:

India's Cabinet ministers are the representative of the states in the Government of India. Indian President appoints the cabinet ministers for a five years duration. It consists of the NITI Aayog's Deputy Chairman, Past Prime Ministers, and Heads of opposition political parties in Rajya and Lok Sabha.

The Cabinet Ministers of India are responsible for the day-to-day affairs of the Government, and their portfolios include, but are not limited to, finance, defense, home affairs, commerce and industry, justice, and home affairs.

The Cabinet Ministers of India have the power to issue orders to the Government, including approval for any project or decision made by the Government, grant pardons, and grants to individuals who have committed offenses under Indian law.

7 A Bharat Ratna holders: India's uppermost civilian honor only awarded for the most incredible levels of national service is the Bharat Ratna. In 1954, the Bharat Ratna Award was established.

Some of the Bharat Ratna winners were:

- Atal Bihari Vajpayee (25 December 1924 – 16 August 2018);
- Pranab Mukherjee (11 December 1935);
- Bhupen Hazarika (8 September 1926 – 5 November 2011);
- Nanaji Deshmukh (11 October 1916 – 27 February 2010), etc.

8. **Eighth order of precedence:**

Commonwealth countries' High Commissioners and Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassadors accredited to Indian leaders of each state. Indian states' Chief Ministers outdoors their corresponding Territories

9. **Judges of Supreme Court:**

The Supreme Court is commanded by its chief justice & is presided over and managed by the chief justice. The senior justice chaired all of the Supreme Court's courts. The chief justice analyzes laws and norms, overseeing federal agencies and other governmental entities in addition to hearing cases.

9A Chairperson, Chief Election Commissioner, India's Comptroller and Auditor General of India, and UPSC.

10. **Tenth level:**

It includes positions like Rajaya Sabha's Deputy Chairman, Lok Sabha's Deputy Speaker, Indian states' CMs, Planning Commission Members, National Security Advisor, and Ministers of State of the Union, including ministers from the Defence Ministry of India for defense subjects.

11. **Eleventh level:**

It is also referred to as the Attorney General of India and includes positions such as Lieutenant Governors inside their corresponding UTs, and Cabinet Secretaries.

12. **Twelfths level:**

Chiefs of Staff possess the title of full General or alike ranks. It includes positions such as the Indian Army's General, Indian Navy's Admiral, and Indian Air Force's Air Chief Marshal.

13. **Thirteenth level:**

It includes positions like Representatives Extraordinary and Ministers Plenipotentiary accredited to India.

14. **Fourteenth level:**

It includes positions like the Chief Magistrates of High Courts and State Legislatures' Speakers & Chairmen within the states.

15. **Fifteenth level:**

It includes positions such as States Cabinet Ministers inside their corresponding states, Unions' Deputy Ministers, Chief Ministers of UTs within respective UTs, and for Delhi - Chief Executive Councillor.

16. **Sixteenth level:**

It includes positions such as Officiating Chiefs of Staff possessing the title of Lieutenant General or other similar ranks.

17. **Seventeenth level:**

It includes positions like Central Administrative Tribunal Chairman, NCSC and NCST chairpersons, Minorities Commission Chairman, High Courts' Chief Magistrates outdoors their respective authorities, and High Courts' Puisne Judiciaries within the respective jurisdictions.

18. **Eighteenth Level:**

It comprises positions such as States Cabinet Ministers, State Legislatures' Chairmen, and Speakers (all outdoors their respective States). Also, State Legislatures' Deputy Speakers & Deputy Chairmen, and Ministers of State (all inside their respective States).

UTs' Ministers and Legislative Assemblies' Speakers within the respective Union Territories. Delhi's Executive Councilors and Delhi Metropolitan Council's Chairman within the Union Territories.

19. **Nineteenth level:**

This level of Indian precedence includes positions of States' Deputy Ministers within the respective states. Also, it has Indian UTs' (without Councils of Ministers), Chief Commissioners, Legislative Assemblies' Deputy Speakers in UTs, and Delhi Metropolitan Council's Deputy Chairman (all within their respective UT).

20. Twentieth level:

It involves positions such as State Legislatures' Deputy Speakers and Deputy Chairmen, and Ministers of States (all outdoors the respective States). Additionally, High Courts' Puisne Magistrates outdoors the respective jurisdictions are counted in this level.

21. Level Twenty-one:

This level only includes all the Members of Parliament.

22. Level Twenty-two:

It only has States' Deputy Ministers outside the respective States.

23. Level Twenty-three:

There are many positions in it, including Army Commanders/Vice-Chief of the Army Staff, or similar positions in other services, Chief Secretaries to State Governments within their respective States, Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities, Commissioner for SC and ST, Members, Minorities Commission, Members, National Commission for SC, Members, National Commission for ST, Officers of the rank of full General or equivalent rank, Secretaries to the Government of India (including ex-officers).

Additionally, Secretary, Minorities Commission, Secretary, SC and ST Commission, Secretary to the President, Prime Minister's Secretary, Secretary, Rajya Sabha/Lok Sabha, Solicitor General, and Vice-Chairman, CAT are also counted.

24. Level Twenty-four:

Lieutenant Generals or equivalents are the only officers at this level.

25. Level Twenty-five:

It includes a long list of positions:

- Indian Government Additional Secretaries.
- Additional Solicitor General
- Advocate Generals of States.

- Chairman, Tariff Commission
- Charge d' Affairs and Acting High Commissioners a pied and ad interim
- A Chief Executive Councillor of Delhi and a Chief Minister of a Union Territory outside their respective Union Territories
- Those who represent their state governments outside their own states as chief secretaries.
- Deputy Comptroller and Auditor General
- Deputy Speakers of Union Territories' Legislative Assemblies and the Deputy Chairman of Delhi Metropolitan Council from outside their respective Territories.
- The director of the Central Bureau of Investigation.
- Border Security Force General Director.
- General Director of the Central Reserve Police.
- Director, Intelligence Bureau.
- Those who serve outside their respective Union Territories as Lieutenant Governors.
- Members, Central Administrative Tribunal.
- Members, Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission.
- Members, Union Public Service Commission.
- Members of the Union Territory and Delhi Executive Council who reside outside their respective Union Territories.
- Armed Forces officers with the rank of Major General or equivalent.
- Those who are the Speakers of the Legislative Assembly in their Union Territories,
- The Chairman of the Delhi Metropolitan Council outside their Union Territories.

26. **Level Twenty-six:**

This level, in order of precedence, only includes the Indian Government's Joint Secretaries and Major-General ranked officers. It also includes officers having the equivalent rank of these positions.

Importance of order of Indian Precedence

There are several reasons why the order of Indian Precedence is so essential.

- First, it is an important cultural marker for the people who live in the area. They are the first to use a particular word or phrase, and they are the first to use that word or phrase formally.
- Second, it is an important indicator of social rank. It shows how much respect people have for one another and how much respect they have for authority figures such as elders and judges.
- Third, it shows how closely related groups are to one another. For example, if two groups are very close to one another but far apart on social status, that could indicate that one group has more power than the other group.
- Fourth, it shows that people from different tribes are related by blood and not just by language or culture. This means that if you see someone from a tribe with a name like "Indians" who speaks English fluently, you can assume that they belong to that tribe as well.