

1. ASSESS THE POSITION OF CHIEF MINISTER IN THE GOVERNANCE OF A STATE.

The Chief Minister is the de facto executive of the state. His position in the state is analogous to that of the Prime Minister at the Centre.

He is appointed by the Governor and latter usually appoints the leader of the majority party in the state legislative assembly as the Chief Minister. The governor may first appoint a person as the CM and then ask him to prove his majority in the SLA. A person who is not a member of SLA or either House of the State legislature (where bicameral system exists) can be appointed as the CM for six months, within which period, he/she should be elected to State Legislature, failing which s/he has to cease to be the CM.

The Chief Minister is administered oath of office and secrecy by the governor. In his oath the CM swears to bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India, to uphold the sovereignty and integrity of India, to faithfully and conscientiously discharge his duties and to do right to all manner of people in accordance with the Constitution and law without fear or favour, affection and ill-will.

Though the term of the CM is not fixed, he cannot be removed by the Governor as long as he enjoys the majority of the state legislative assembly.

He is the pivot around which the whole council of minister moves. He recommends the names of the members to the Governor for their appointment as ministers. He allocates and reshuffles ministries. He presides over the cabinet and has the final say in the policy decisions. He is the chief spokesperson of the government of the state. He is the political head of the state services. He is crisis manager-in-chief at the political level during emergencies. He is the kingpin between the Governor and the Council of ministers. He communicates to the Governor all decisions of the CoM.

Chief Minister's position at the state level is second to none in power and influence.



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