



# President of India- Role in Parliamentary System

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**Abstract-** The Indian president was formed as the head of state and supreme commander of the Indian armed forces while the Indian Constitution was being written. Despite the fact that Article 53 of the Indian Constitution states that the President may exercise his powers directly or by subordinate authority, with a few notable exceptions, all executive powers granted to the President are actually exercised by the Prime Minister, a subordinate authority, with the help of the Council of Ministers. The President is the nominal executive or a constitutional ruler under the Indian Republic's legislative system.

**Keywords:** President of India, President, head of the state, supreme commander, Indian constitution, Dr Ambedkar

## **Objectives of the study**

**Primary objective** - The main objective of the study is to understand the role and importance of the President of India.

## **Secondary objectives** –

- To know the powers of the first citizen of India.
- To understand the relationship of President and Prime Minister of India.
- To figure out how Indian president exercise his duties in Republican India.
- To understand the Status of President in Indian Parliamentary system.

**Introduction-** A key function of India's head of state is played by the President, who is also known as "The First Citizen of India" in de facto terms. Compared to other presidents or heads of state from across the world, the Indian president stands out. India is a republic, thus in this instance the president will operate as the nominal head of state while the Prime Minister, who really executes the executive's powers, serves as the actual head of state.

The real position of the President of India is clouded with different suspects. Some of the constitutionalists demanded the president as mere figure head or titular head or rubber stamp or golden zero. There are many causes to call the President such which are as follows:

- (a) The first cause may be that the President is the head of the State, not of the Government.
- (b) Secondly, India does not have Presidential form of Government.
- (c) Thirdly, British tradition still prevails in our constitution.
- (d) The last but not the least, the President works on the advice of the Ministers.

“The President is the symbol of Indian National Unity. He plays a vital role in the working of government. Being impartial and above party politics, he exerts his influence on the decisions of the Prime minister.”

In this respect we do remember Dr. B. R. Ambedkar who explained the position of the President in the Constituent Assembly and he said: “He is the Head of the State but not of the Executive. He represents the nation but does not rule the nation. He is the symbol of the nation. He will be generally bound by the advice of the ministers. He can do nothing contrary to their advice nor can do anything without their advice.”

The President of the Constituent assembly, Dr. Rajendra Prasad also expressed his opinion that: “Although there is no specific provision of the constitution itself making it binding on the President to accept the advice of his Ministers, it is hoped that the

convention under which in England the King always acted on the advice of his Ministers, would be established in this country also and the President would become constitutional President in all matters.”

“It is the Council of Ministers which will prevail and not the President. The President’s role at the best may be advisory; he may act as the guide, philosopher and friend to the Ministers. But cannot assume to himself the role of their master---a role which is assigned to the Prime minister.”

But James Manor, a professor at the London-based Institute of Commonwealth Studies who has extensively researched the presidency, says Indian presidents are "not entirely rubber stamps".

They can ask ministers to reconsider actions, offer them private advice and convey warnings. They also make public speeches which indicate, at least subtly, "some differences of view with the government, and which may swing public opinion".

Also, more importantly, after elections, presidents are free to act - and must act - without the advice of ministers if no party has been able to garner a parliamentary majority. They also have some freedom to decide whether to accept a prime minister's request for dissolving the parliament to enable a general election.

The President of India is vested with the role ‘to advise, to encourage and to warn’, which lends the office of the President much authority and influence. In spite of the finality of the issue that he or she is merely a figurehead without any real powers, circumstantial dynamics may probably afford him few, if not many occasions to use his discretion in making decisions. There are three important circumstances, which can be discussed as under:

- Firstly, when after a fresh general elections, no party is able to command a majority in the Lok Sabha; the President is unintentionally put in a situation to apply his wisdom, without any aid and advice from a Council of Ministers.
- Secondly, if an obligatory government loses its majority in the Lok Sabha and the Council of Ministers recommends the dissolution of the House, the President might be in a position to use his mind to find out whether a reasonably stable government can be formed and the country saved from another general election, thereby acquiring a discretionary power to accept or the recommendation of the Council of Ministers.
- Lastly, due to the lack of time-frame, the President must assent to a bill, he may, in his discretion, use the pocket veto to kill a bill.

**Conclusion-** The attributes of the Indian presidency specifically are unique. He or she continues to play a big part in our nation. The President of India addresses the nation on the eve of Independence day and Republic day. On these occasions, this is the President’s personal address and not a policy statement of the government. Dr Kalam, from the beginning of his presidency, used these occasions to apprise about the challenges that it faced in various fields.

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