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Sarkaria Commission Recommendations

Public Administration (Paper 1 & 2)

G Rajput • Lesson 81 • Sept 29, 2025

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CABINET SECRETARY



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- The Cabinet Secretary is the top-most executive official and senior-most civil servant of the Government of India. The Cabinet Secretary is the ex-officio head of the Civil Services Board, the Cabinet Secretariat, the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), and all Civil Services of India work under the rules of business of the government.

- The Cabinet Secretary is the senior-most cadre post of the Indian Administrative Service,ranking eleventh on the Indian order of precedence.The Cabinet Secretary is under the direct charge of the Prime Minister. Since 2010, the Cabinet Secretary's term length was extended to a maximum of four years.

Origin

- The precursor to the cabinet, the Executive Council of the Viceroy, used to have a Secretariat, which was headed by the Private Secretary of the Viceroy. At first, the role of this Secretariat was merely to take care of the paperwork related to the Executive Council but when the work of the individual departments under the Council increased, the work of the Secretariat too became more complex.
- The Private Secretary came to be known as the secretary of the secretariat. And this post became more powerful over time as the Secretariat's main role became coordinating the work of the departments. In 1946, the secretariat became cabinet secretariat and the secretary became the Cabinet Secretary.

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After Independence in 1947, the functions of the Secretariat underwent major changes. Being the seniormost secretary, he doesn't belong to any ministry. A series of committees on economic, defence and intelligence matters was constituted under the Cabinet Secretariat. Most of the departments created after Independence functioned under the Cabinet Secretariat and were later seconded to the respective ministries.

The position holder is accountable for ensuring that the civil service is equipped with the skills and capability to meet the everyday challenges it faces and that the civil servants work in a fair and decent environment.

Functions and Power

The following are the functions of the Cabinet Secretary:

- Heads the Cabinet Secretariat.
- Acts as the chief coordinator of the central government.
- Acts as the chairman of the Civil Services Board, which among other things, recommends empanelment of officers (except officers under the Ministry of External Affairs), for the ranks of secretary, additional secretary and joint secretary.
- Act as the chairman of the Committee of Secretaries on Administration.

Functions and Power

- Act as the chairman of the Conference of Chief Secretaries of States.
- Recommends postings of officers (except officers under the Ministry of External Affairs) of the rank of secretary and additional Secretary to the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC).



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Functions and Power

- Acts as the chairman of Senior Selection Board, which recommends postings of officers of the rank of joint secretary in the Union Government to the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC).
- Acts as a senior adviser to the Prime Minister.
- Provide assistance to the Council of Ministers.
- Prepares the agenda of the cabinet and minutes its meetings.
- Provide an element of continuity and stability to administration during crises

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Cabinet Secretary of India › Officeholder

T. V. Somanathan



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The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) is a high-level committee within the Government of India responsible for appointing senior officials to key positions in the central government and public sector undertakings.

Established in 1950, the ACC is chaired by the Prime Minister of India and includes the Minister of Home Affairs as a member.

The committee plays a crucial role in selecting and appointing individuals to various top posts, including the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister of India, National Security Advisor, Cabinet Secretary, Chief of Defence Staff, Secretaries to Government of India, and heads of intelligence agencies, among others.

The ACC's decisions are processed through the Establishment Officer's Division of the Department of Personnel and Training, which functions as the committee's secretariat.

As one of the eight Cabinet Committees of India, the ACC's composition and functions are designed to ensure efficient and transparent selection processes for critical government positions

The Establishment Officer's Division (EO Division) processes all proposals for senior appointments in the Government of India that require the approval of the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet under the Government of India Transactions of Business Rules, 1961. The committee makes appointments to posts of

- *Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister of India*
- *National Security Advisor*
- *Cabinet Secretary*
- *Chief of Defence Staff*
- *Chief of Army Staff, Chief of Naval Staff, and Chief of Air Staff*
- *Secretaries to the Government of India*
- *Chiefs of all Army, Naval and Air Force Commands (GOC-in-C, FOC-in-C, AOC-in-C)*
- *Director General, Defence Intelligence Agency*
- *Director General Military Operations*
- *Scientific Advisor to the Defence Minister*
- *Director General Armed Forces Medical Services*
- *Director General of Ordnance*
- *Director-General of Defence Estates*
- *Controller General of Defence Accounts*
- *Director of Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA)*
- *Solicitor General of India*
- *Governor of the Reserve Bank of India*
- *Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India*
- *Executive Director of World Bank*
- *Chairperson and Members of the Railway Board*
- *Chief Vigilance Officers and directors of the board in Public Sector Undertakings.*
- *Secretariat posts of and above the rank of Joint secretary to the Government of India.[4]*
- *Chief of Securities and Exchange Board of India[5]*

Role

In the Government of India Allocation of Business Rules, 1961, the Cabinet Secretariat finds a place in the First Schedule to the Rules. The subjects allotted to this Secretariat are, firstly, secretarial assistance to Cabinet and Cabinet Committees, and secondly, the Administration of the Rules of Business.

The Cabinet Secretariat is responsible for the administration of the Transaction of Business Rules, 1961 and the Allocation of Business Rules, 1961 of the Government of India, facilitating smooth transaction of business in ministries/departments of the Government by ensuring adherence to these rules. The Secretariat assists in decision-making in Government by ensuring Inter-Ministerial coordination, ironing out differences amongst ministries/departments and evolving consensus through the instrumentality of the standing/ad hoc Committees of Secretaries. Through this mechanism, new policy initiatives are also promoted.

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Role

The Cabinet Secretariat ensures that the President of India, the Vice-President and Ministers are kept informed of the major activities of all departments by means of a monthly summary of their activities. Management of major crisis situations in the country and coordinating activities of the various ministries in such a situation is also one of the functions of the Cabinet Secretariat.

The Cabinet Secretariat comprises three wings: Civil, Military and Intelligence. The Civil wing is considered to be the main wing and provides aid, advice and assistance to the Union Cabinet. The purpose of having the Military wing is to have better coordination in Intelligence and to provide secretarial assistance to the Defence Committee of the Cabinet and the National Defence Council. The Military wing is represented by an officer of the rank of major general, or its equivalents in the Indian Armed Forces, who is designated as a joint secretary in the Cabinet Secretariat.

Role

The Intelligence wing deals with matters pertaining to the Joint Intelligence Committee of the union cabinet. The chief of the Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW) also officially first reports to the Cabinet Secretary, and is designated Secretary (R) in the Cabinet Secretariat.

The First Administrative Reforms Commission (1966–70) found that the average tenure of the Cabinet Secretary was two years and eight months, which was considered to be inadequate. It recommended a tenure of three to four years. It also wanted that Cabinet Secretary to act as the principal staff officer to the prime minister, the cabinet and the cabinet committees for important matters.


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The Cabinet Secretariat of India is the office of Cabinet Secretary of India

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Emolument, accommodation and perquisites

- The Cabinet Secretary to Government of India is eligible for a diplomatic passport. The official earmarked residence of the Cabinet Secretary is 32, Prithviraj Road, New Delhi, a Type-VIII bungalow.

- The salary and emolument in this rank is in pay level 18 which is equivalent to Chief of the Army Staff, but in precedence the cabinet secretary is listed above all other government officers including those from armed forces.It is however a fact, that the warrant of precedence is not an indication of functional or inter-se seniority, and is only referred to for seating at official functions, with no relevance to the day to day business of government.

For Example

Defence Secretary (India)

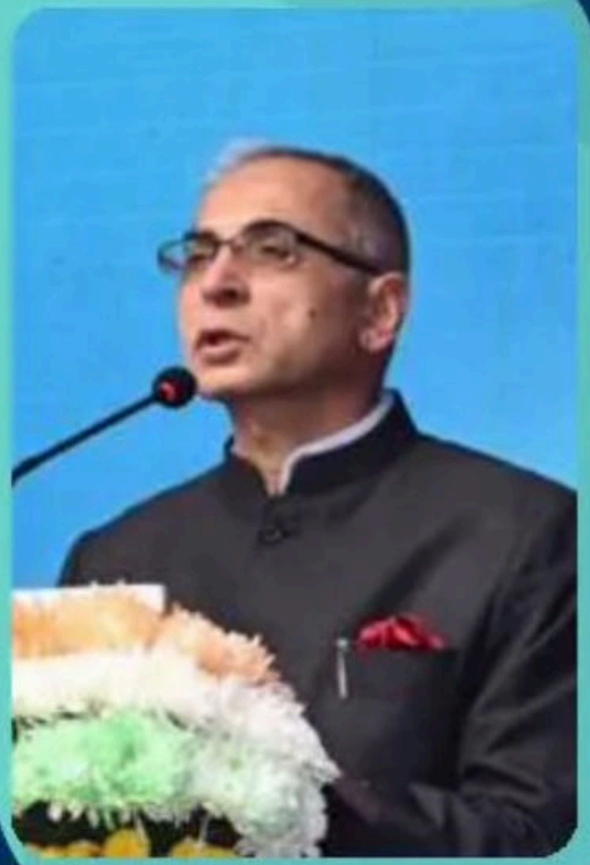
The Defence Secretary (IAST: Rakṣā Saciva) is the administrative head of the Ministry of Defence. This post is held by a senior Indian Administrative Service of the rank of secretary to the Government of India. The current Defence Secretary is Shri. Giridhar Aramane, I.A.S.

As a secretary to the Government of India, the Defence Secretary ranks 23rd on Indian order of precedence, along with all other Secretaries to the Government of India, and Lieutenant Generals in the grade of Army Commander.

Foreign Secretary (India)

The foreign secretary of India (IAST: Videśa Saciva) is the top diplomat of India and administrative head of the Ministry of External Affairs. This post is held by an Indian foreign service officer of the rank of secretary to the government of India. Vinay Mohan Kwatra is an Indian diplomat and currently serving as the Foreign Secretary of India from May 2022, succeeding Harsh Vardhan Shringla.

As an officer of the rank of secretary to the government of India, the foreign secretary ranks 23rd on the Indian Order of Precedence. However, unlike other secretaries to the government of India, the foreign secretary is also the top diplomat of the country and heads the 'Foreign Service Board'.

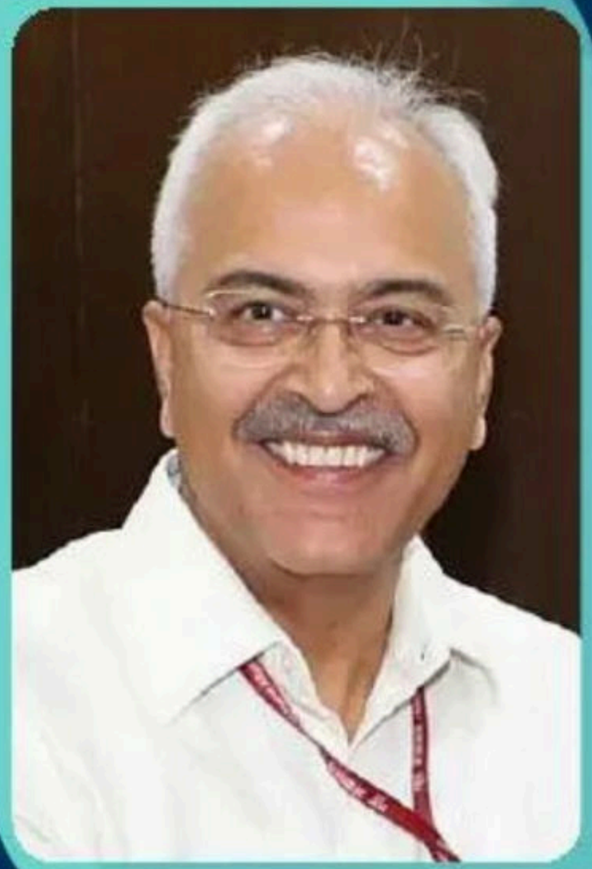


Vinay Mohan Kwatra, IFS

Home Secretary (India)

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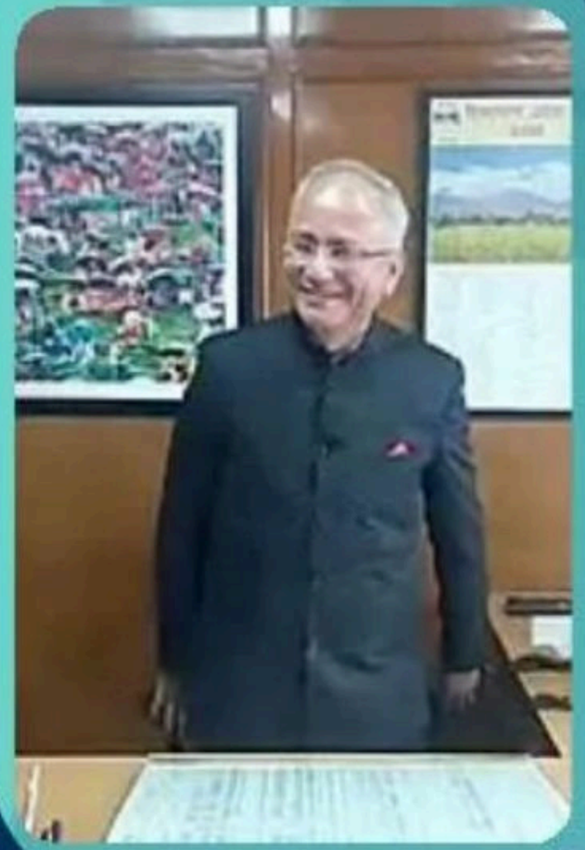
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Ajay Kumar Bhalla, IAS

Chief secretary (India)

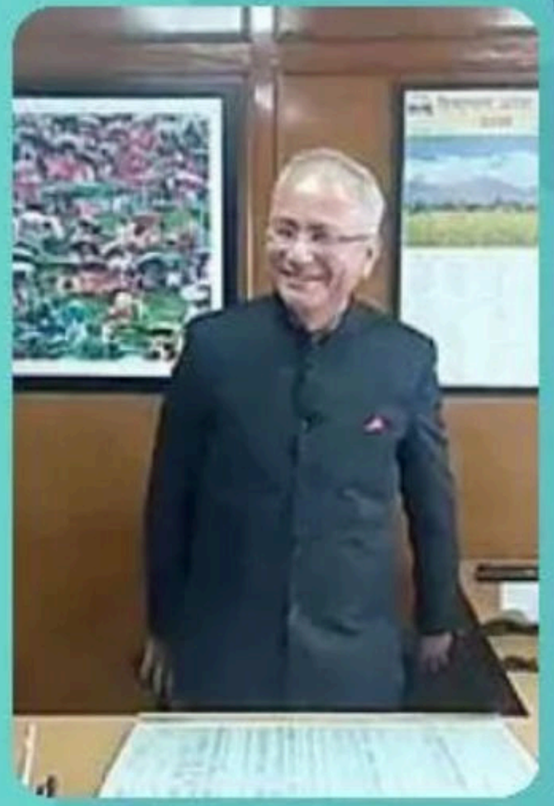
The Chief Secretary is the top-most executive official and senior-most civil servant of the state government.[3] The Chief Secretary is the ex-officio head of the state Civil Services Board, the State Secretariat, the state cadre Indian Administrative Service and all civil services under the rules of business of the state government. The Chief Secretary acts as the principal advisor to the chief minister on all matters of state administration.



Anil Kumar Khachi as Chief Secretary of Himachal Pradesh

Chief secretary (India)

- The Chief Secretary is an officer of the Indian Administrative Service.
- The Chief Secretary is the senior-most cadre post in the state administration, ranking 23rd on the Indian order of precedence.
- The Chief Secretary acts as an ex-officio secretary to the state cabinet, therefore called "Secretary to the Cabinet".
- The status of this post is equal to that of a Secretary to the Government of India.



Anil Kumar Khachi as Chief Secretary of Himachal Pradesh

Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister of India

The Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister of India (PS to the PM) is the senior-most bureaucrat in, and the administrative head of, the Prime Minister's Office. The officeholder is generally a civil servant, commonly from the Indian Administrative Service and occasionally from the Indian Foreign Service. The post is considered one of the most influential in the Indian civil services, and some principal secretaries are considered more powerful and influential than senior government ministers.

The status of the principal secretary—akin to the additional principal secretary—was generally considered equivalent to the Cabinet Secretary, the Government of India's topmost civil servant. However, since 2019, the officeholder has been the accorded the status of a cabinet minister.



Pramod Kumar Misra, IAS

National Security Advisor (India)

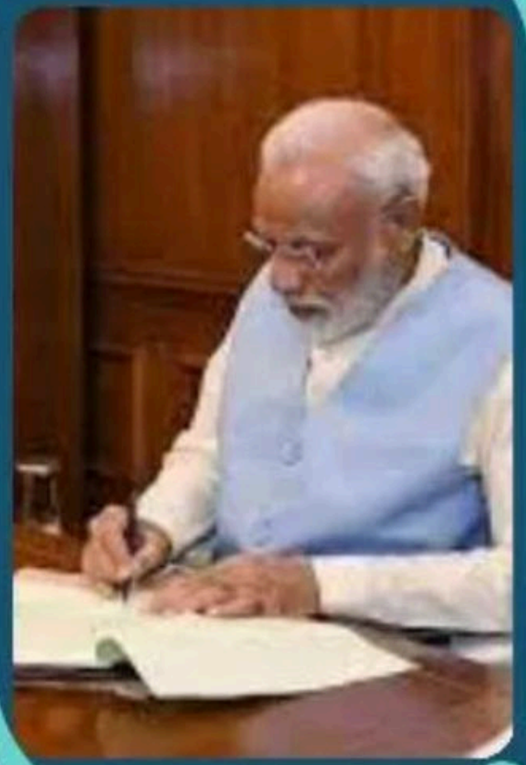
The National Security Advisor (NSA; ISO: Rāṣṭrīya Surakṣā Salahkar) is the senior official on the National Security Council of India, and the chief advisor to the Prime Minister of India on national security policy and international affairs. Ajit Doval is the current NSA, and has the same rank as a Union Cabinet Minister.



Ajit Doval, KC

Prime Minister's Office (PMO) (India)

The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) located in South Block, overlooking the grandeur of Rashtrapati Bhawan. Though in the 1990s I.K. Gujral and some of his predecessors, used Prime Minister's Residence (PMR) spread over a 10-acre complex as office.[4] It is sandwiched between the cabinet secretariat on one side and the ministries of external affairs and defence on the other. The 20-room PMO is equipped to provide both infrastructural and manpower support to the nation's chief executive. Hi-tech accessories and sophisticated communication devices were installed to monitor domestic and international developments.



Narendra Modi

Functions of the Cabinet Secretary:

The following are the functions of the Cabinet Secretary:

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Narendra Modi

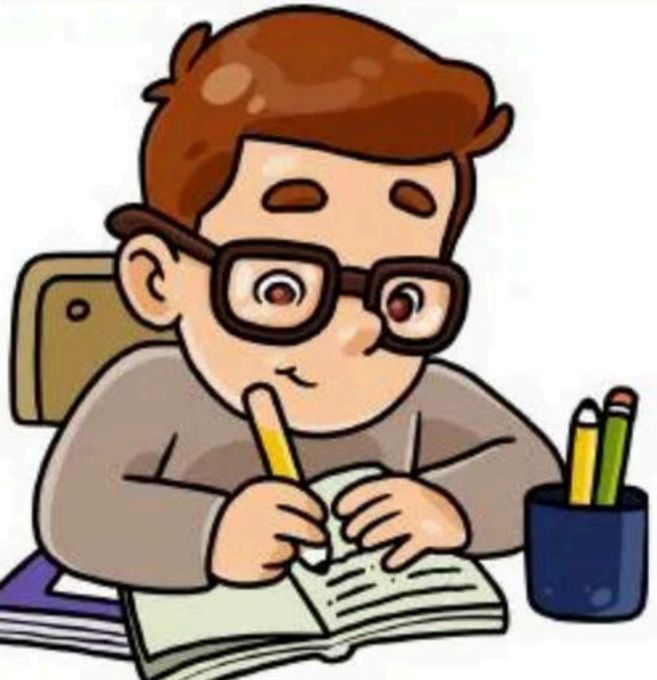
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CHIEF SECRETARY



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सत्यमेव जयते

CONCEPT –

- The Chief Secretary is the top-most executive official and senior-most civil servant of the state government.
- The Chief Secretary is the ex-officio head of the state Civil Services Board, the State Secretariat, the state cadre Indian Administrative Service and all civil services under the rules of business of the state government.
- The Chief Secretary acts as the principal advisor to the chief minister on all matters of state administration.
- The Chief Secretary is the officer of Indian Administrative Service.

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- The Chief Secretary is the senior-most cadre post in the state administration, ranking 23rd on the Indian order of precedence.

- The post of Chief Secretary of a State Government is equivalent to Vice Chief of the Army Staff/Commanders and officers in the rank of full General and its equivalents in the Indian Armed Forces, and are listed as such in the Order of Precedence

- The Chief Secretary acts as an ex-officio secretary to the state cabinet, therefore called "Secretary to the Cabinet". The status of this post is equal to that of a Secretary to the Government of India.

- ***APPOINTMENT :***
  - **The Chief Secretary is 'chosen' by the Chief Minister.**
  - **As the appointment of Chief Secretary is an executive action of the Chief Minister, it is taken in the name of the Governor of the State.**

- ***TENURE :***
  - **The office of Chief Secretary has been excluded from the operation of the tenure system.**
  - **There is no fixed tenure for this post.**

CHIEF SECRETARY IN UNION TERRITORY –

- In the union territories, which are governed by Administrators, Chief Secretaries are absent. In these territories an Adviser to the Administrator is appointed by the Union Government.
- However, the union territories of Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir and Puducherry, which have been granted partial statehood, do have Chief Secretaries.
- In Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir and Puducherry, the Chief Minister chooses the Chief Secretary and is appointed by the Lieutenant Governor.

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- Chief Secretaries and Advisers to the Administrators of Union territories, in general, are junior in rank compared to the Chief Secretaries of the States. The office bearers generally are of the rank Joint Secretary to Government of India and its equivalents.

- However, in Delhi and Chandigarh, the topmost civil servant is either of the ranks of Secretary to Government of India and its equivalents or Additional Secretary to Government of India and its equivalents.

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CABINET SECRETARY

- The Cabinet Secretary is the top-most executive official and senior-most civil servant of the Government of India.

- The Cabinet Secretary is the ex-officio head of the Civil Services Board, the Cabinet Secretariat, the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), and all civil services under the rules of business of the government.

- The Cabinet Secretary is the senior-most cadre post of the Indian Administrative Service,ranking eleventh on the Indian order of precedence.



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- The Cabinet Secretary is under the direct charge of the Prime Minister.
- Since 2010, the Cabinet Secretary's term length was extended to a maximum of four years.
    - According to All India Services (Death-Cum-Retirement-Benefits) Rules, 1958, the government can give extension in service to a cabinet secretary provided the total tenure does not exceed four years.

FUNCTIONS OF CABINET SECRETARY

- The Cabinet Secretariat is responsible for the administration of the Government of India (Transaction of Business) Rules, 1961 and the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules 1961, facilitating smooth transaction of business in Ministries/ Departments of the Government.

- This Secretariat provides Secretarial assistance to the Cabinet and its Committees, and also assists in decision-making in Government by ensuring Inter-Ministerial coordination , ironing out differences amongst Ministries/ Departments and evolving consensus through the instrumentality of the standing/ adhoc Committees of Secretaries.

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- The Cabinet Secretariat ensures that the President, the Vice President and Ministers are kept informed of the major activities of all Ministries/Departments by means of monthly summary of their activities.

- Management of major crisis situations in the country and coordinating activities of various Ministries in such a situation is also one of the functions of the Cabinet Secretariat.

ORIGIN OF THE POST OF CABINET SECRETARY

- Before the adoption of the portfolio system in India, all Governmental business was disposed of by the Governor-General in Council, the Council functioning as a Joint Consultative Board.

- This procedure was legalized by the Indian Councils Act, 1861 during the time of Lord Canning, leading to the introduction of the portfolio system and the inception of the Executive Council of the Governor-General.

- The Secretariat of the Executive Council was headed by the Private Secretary to the Viceroy, but he did not attend the Council meetings.

- Lord Willingdon first started the practice of having his Private Secretary by his side at these meetings.

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- Later, this practice continued and in November, 1935, the Viceroy's Private Secretary was given the additional designation of Secretary to the Executive Council.

- The constitution of the Interim Government in 1946 brought a change in the name, though little in functions, of this Office. The Executive Council's Secretariat was then designated as Cabinet Secretariat.

- It no longer remained concerned with only the work of circulating papers to Ministers and Ministries, but developed into an organisation for effecting coordination between the Ministries.

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Thank You

For Watching !



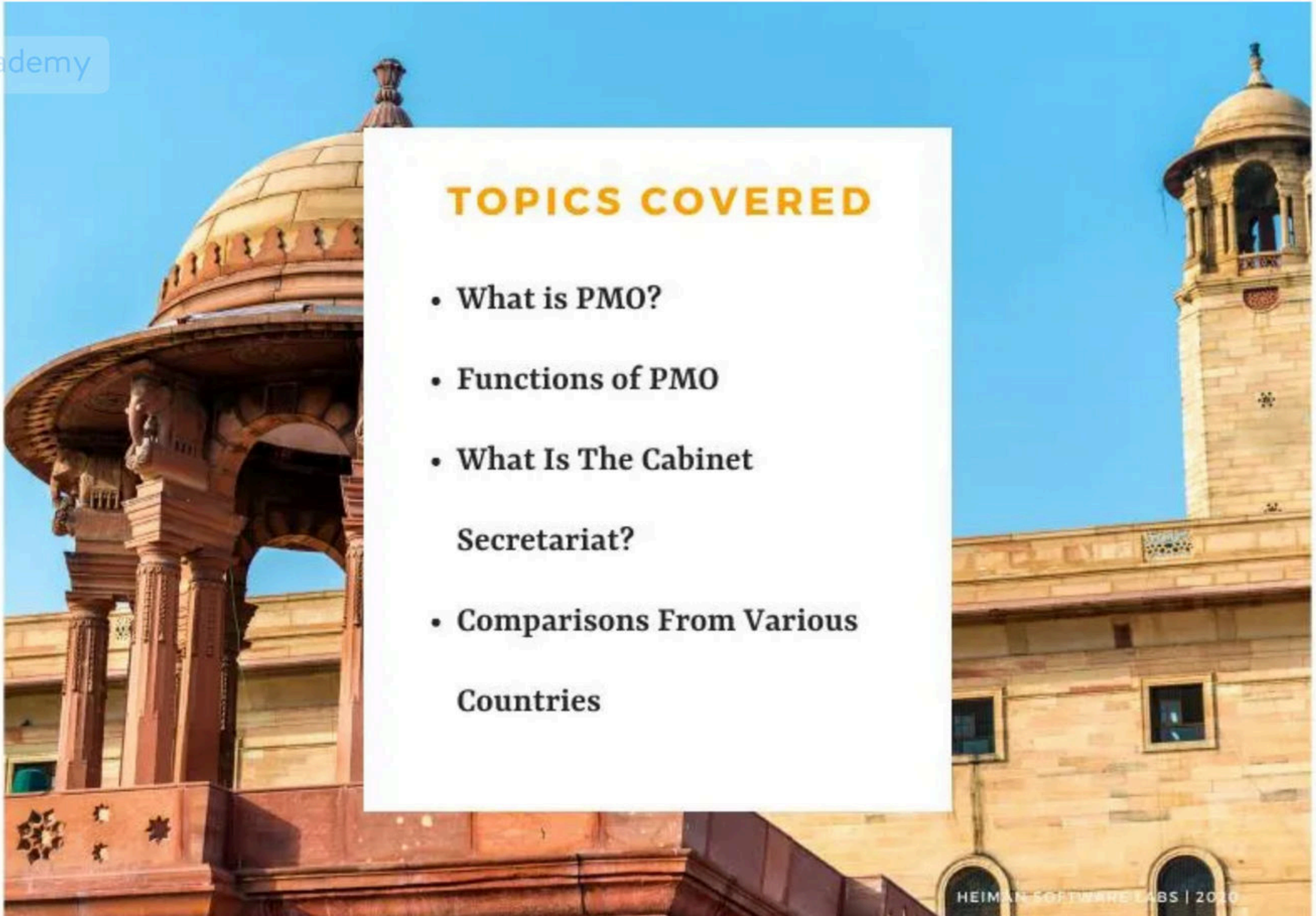
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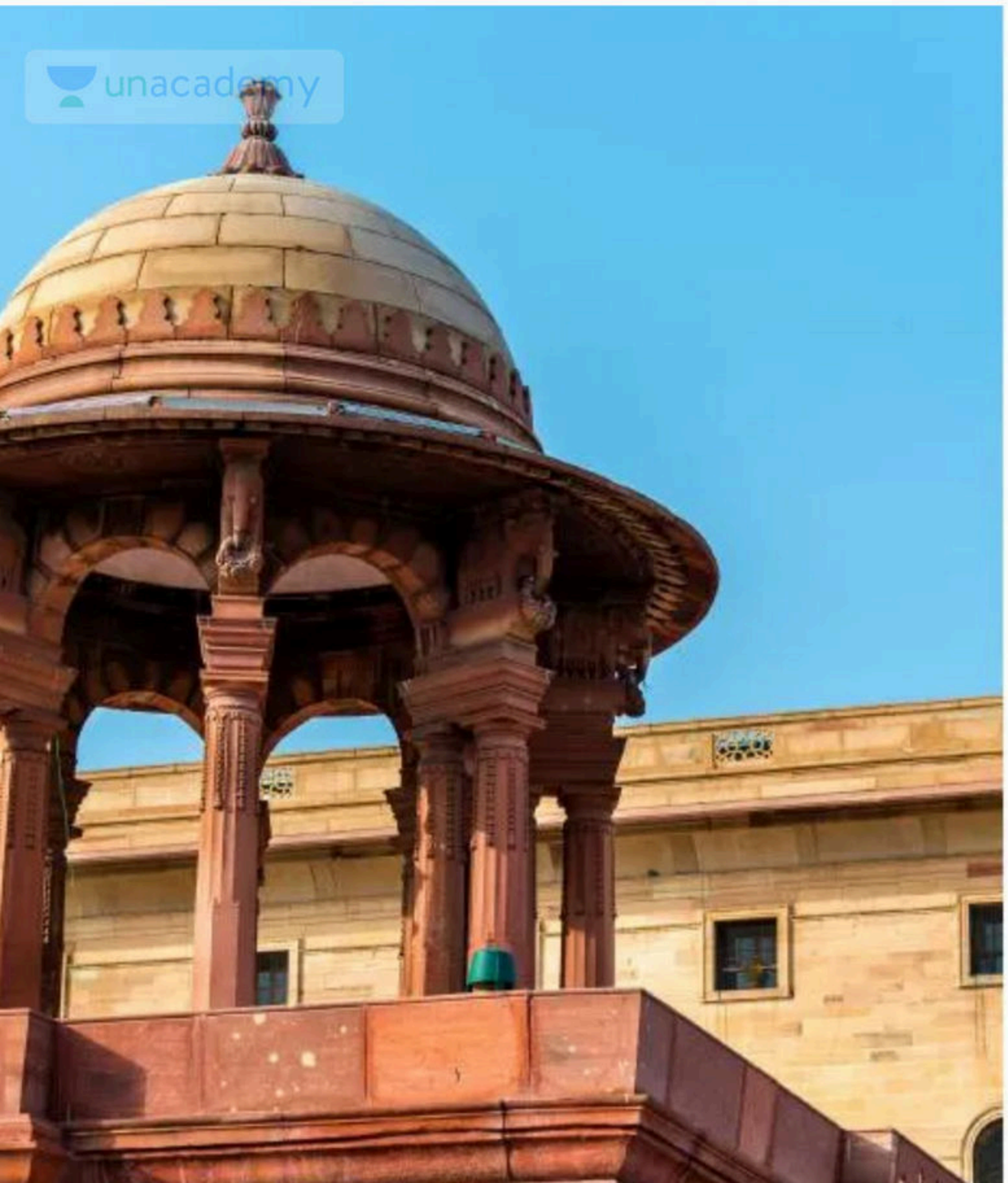
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UNDERSTANDING

PMO AND CABINET SECRETARIAT

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TOPICS COVERED
• What is PMO?
• Functions of PMO
• What Is The Cabinet Secretariat?
• Comparisons From Various Countries
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WHAT IS PMO?

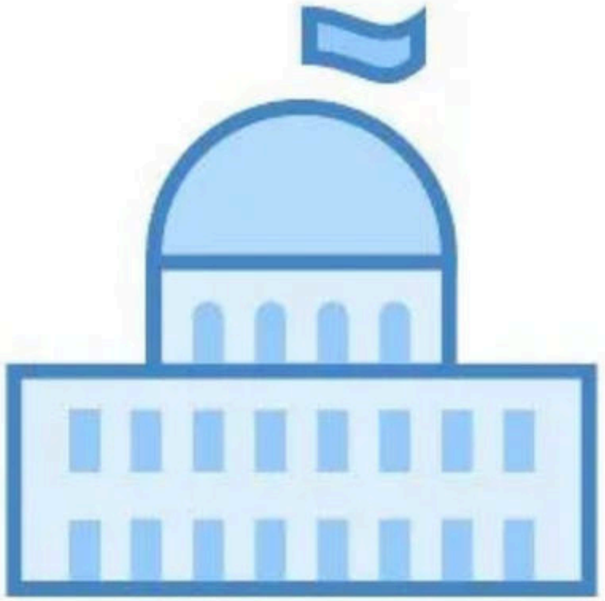
- The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) consists of the immediate staff of the Prime Minister of India, as well as multiple levels of support staff reporting to the Prime Minister. The PMO is headed by the Principal Secretary.
- The PMO enjoys the status of a department of the Government of India under the Allocation of Business Rules, 1961. It has no attached and subordinate office under it.

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WHAT IS PMO?

- The Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) and the National Defence Fund (NDF) are operated directly from the PMO. The Prime Minister's National Relief Fund was established in January 1948 as Trust, by then Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, with public contributions to assist displaced persons from Pakistan, due to partition of India.
- The PMO is headed politically, by the Prime Minister and administratively, by the Principal Secretary. Additionally, it consists of one or two additional secretaries, three to five joint secretaries and a number of directors/deputy secretaries and under-secretaries.
- Agencies under Prime Minister
  - Department of Atomic Energy
  - Department of Space



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FUNCTIONS OF PMO

- When it comes to running the Prime Minister's Office, the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister of India is in charge.Some of the main duties of the officeholder are, but are not limited to:

- Advising the prime minister on domestic and foreign policy issues.
- In charge of the offices and departments that the prime minister has given them. Making sure that things run smoothly in the Prime Minister's Office.
- Important government paperwork that needs to be taken care of in the Prime Minister's Office. Making notes on problems that the prime minister will talk about with high-level politicians, bureaucrats, and other important people.
- Putting important and critical files in front of the prime minister for approval and orders.
    - Most people think that the Prime Minister's most important assistant is the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister.

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FUNCTIONS OF PMO

Important officers in the PMO [edit]

Senior officials in the Office of the Prime Minister of India[6] [hide]

Name[7]	Designation	Rank
Pramod Kumar Mishra, IAS	Principal Secretary	Cabinet Minister[8]
Ajit Kumar Doval, IPS, KC[9]	National Security Adviser	Cabinet Minister[10]
Rajiv Gauba, IAS[11]	Cabinet secretary of India	Cabinet Secretary[12]
Tarun Bajaj, IAS	Additional Secretary	Additional Secretary to Government of India
Arvind Kumar Sharma, IAS	Additional Secretary	Additional Secretary to Government of India
Vivek Kumar, IFS[13][14]	Private Secretary	Joint Secretary to Government of India
Hardik Satishchandra Shah, IAS[15]	Private Secretary to PM	Joint Secretary to Government of India

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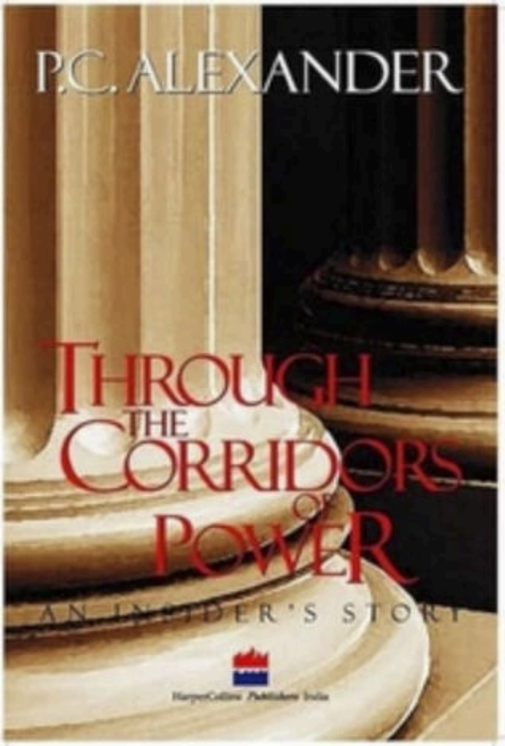
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FUNCTIONS OF PMO

No.	Portrait	Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister of India	Took office	Left office	Time in office	Service	Prime Minister of India
1		P. N. Haksar (1913–1998)	6 December 1971	28 February 1973	1 year, 84 days	Indian Foreign Service	Indira Gandhi (INC)
2		V. Shankar	4 April 1977	31 July 1979	2 years, 118 days	Indian Civil Service	Morarji Desai (JP)
3		P. C. Alexander (1921–2011)	2 May 1981	18 January 1985	3 years, 261 days	Indian Administrative Service	Indira Gandhi (INC) (2 May 1981 – 31 October 1984) Rajiv Gandhi (INC) (31 October 1984 – 18 January 1985)

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FUNCTIONS OF PMO

4		**B. G. Deshmukh** (1929–2011)	27 March 1989	11 December 1990	1 year, 259 days	Indian Administrative Service	Rajiv Gandhi (INC) (27 March 1989 – 2 December 1989) Vishwanath Pratap Singh (JD) (2 December 1989 – 10 November 1990) Chandra Shekhar (SJP(R)) (10 November 1990 – 11 December 1990)
5		**S. K. Misra** (born 1932)	11 December 1990	24 June 1991	195 days	Indian Administrative Service	Chandra Shekhar (SJP(R))
6		**A. N. Verma**	25 June 1991	15 May 1996	4 years, 324 days	Indian Administrative Service	Narasimha Rao (INC)
7		**T. R. Satishchandran** (1929–2009)	12 June 1996	30 June 1997	1 year, 18 days	Indian Administrative Service	H. D. Deve Gowda (JD) (12 June 1996 – 21 April 1997) I. K. Gujral

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FUNCTIONS OF PMO

8		**N. N. Vohra** (born 1936)	1 July 1997	19 March 1998	261 days	Indian Administrative Service	I. K. Gujral (JD)
9		**Brajesh Mishra**[a] (1928–2012)	19 March 1998	22 May 2004	6 years, 64 days	Indian Foreign Service	Atal Bihari Vajpayee (BJP)
10		**T. K. A. Nair** (born 1939)	28 May 2004	3 October 2011	7 years, 128 days	Indian Administrative Service	Manmohan Singh (INC)
11		**Pulok Chatterji** (born 1952)	3 October 2011	26 May 2014	2 years, 235 days	Indian Administrative Service	Manmohan Singh (INC)
12		**Nripendra Misra** (born 1945)	28 May 2014	10 September 2019	5 years, 105 days	Indian Administrative Service	Narendra Modi (BJP)

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FUNCTIONS OF PMO

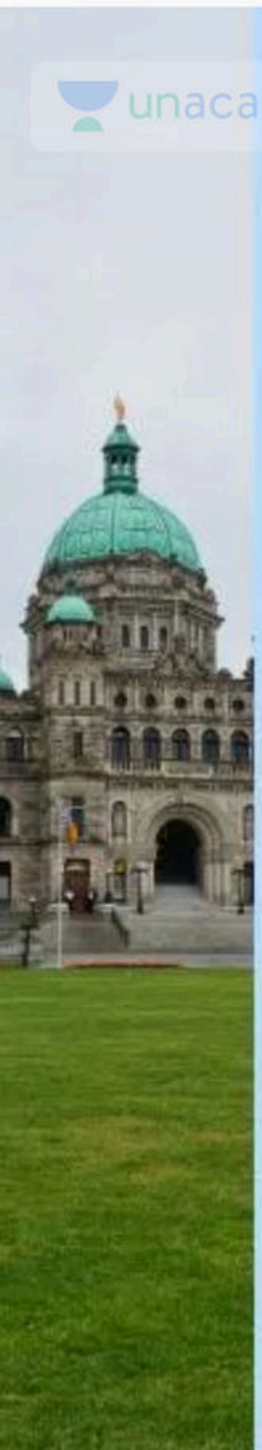
13	 Pramod Kumar Mishra	**ar Mishra** (born 1948)	11 September 2019	*Incumbent*	4 years, 39 days	Indian Administrative Service	Narendra Modi (BJP)

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Designations	Officer Name	Telephone
Principal Secretary to PM	Dr. P. K. Mishra	23013040
National Security Advisor	Sh. Ajit Doval KC	23019227
Principal Secretary-2 to PM	Sh. Shaktikanta Das	23012401
Advisor to PM	Sh. Tarun Kapoor	23010838
Special Secretary to PM	Sh. Atish Chandra	23013132
Additional Secretary to PM	Sh. Subhasish Panda	23018040
	Sh. Ashish Vachhani	23012613
	Sh. Amit Singh Negi	23017367

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FUNCTIONS OF PMO

- Maintaining liaison with central ministries/departments and the state governments.
- Assisting the Prime Minister in respect of his overall responsibilities as head of the government like
- Acting as the 'think-tank' of the Prime Minister.
- It is not concerned with the responsibilities of the Prime Minister as the chairman of the Union Cabinet.
- It acts as the residual legatee of the Central Government, that is, it deals with all such subjects which are not allotted to any ministry/department.

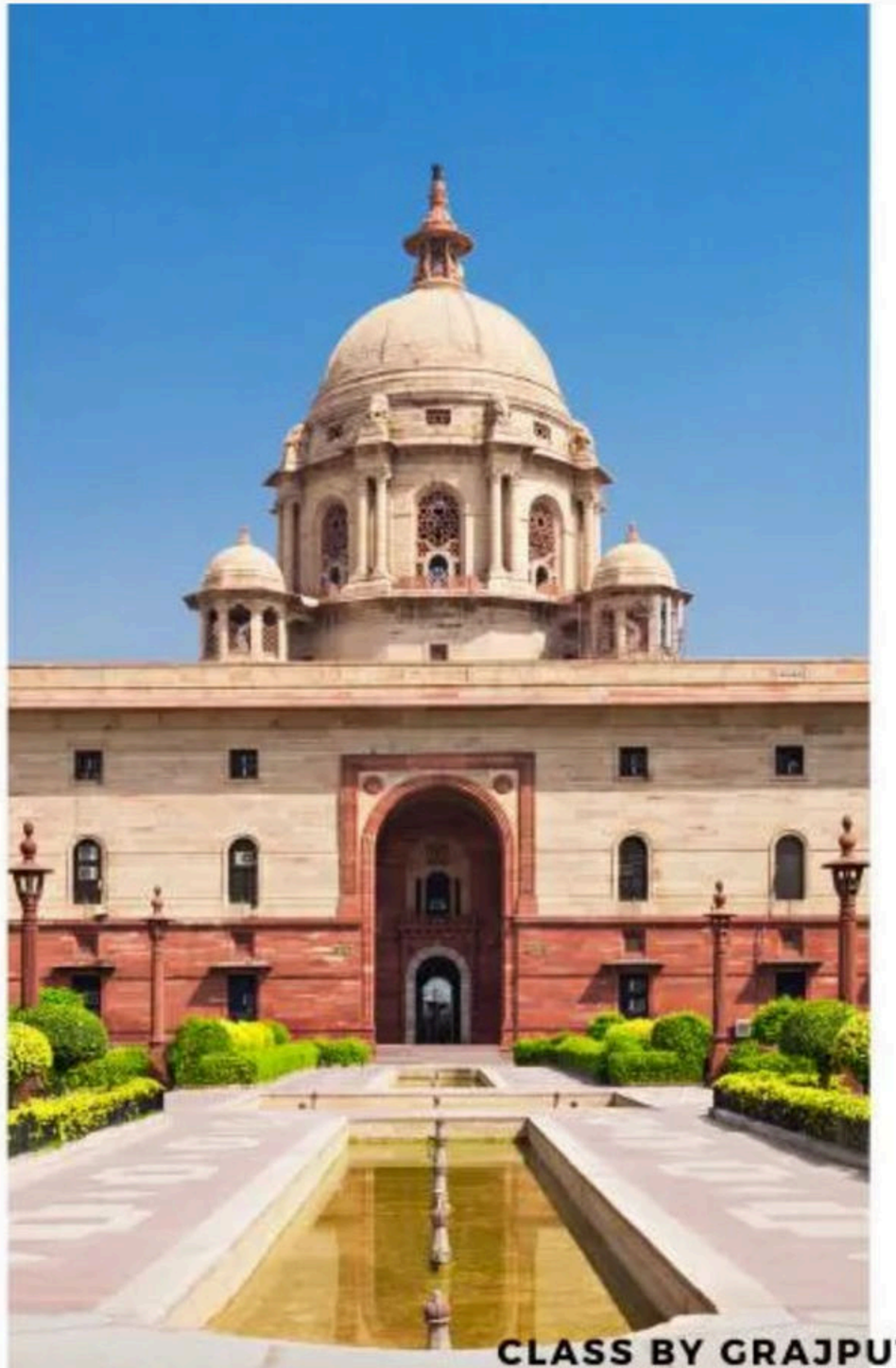


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WHAT IS THE CABINET SECRETARIAT?

- The Cabinet Secretariat is responsible for the administration of the Government of India (Transaction of Business) Rules, 1961 and the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules 1961, facilitating smooth transaction of business in Ministries/ Departments of the Government.
- The administrative head of the Secretariat is the Cabinet Secretary who is also the ex-officio Chairman of the Civil Services Board. The business allocated includes
    - Secretarial assistance to the Cabinet and Cabinet Committees; and
    - Rules of Business.

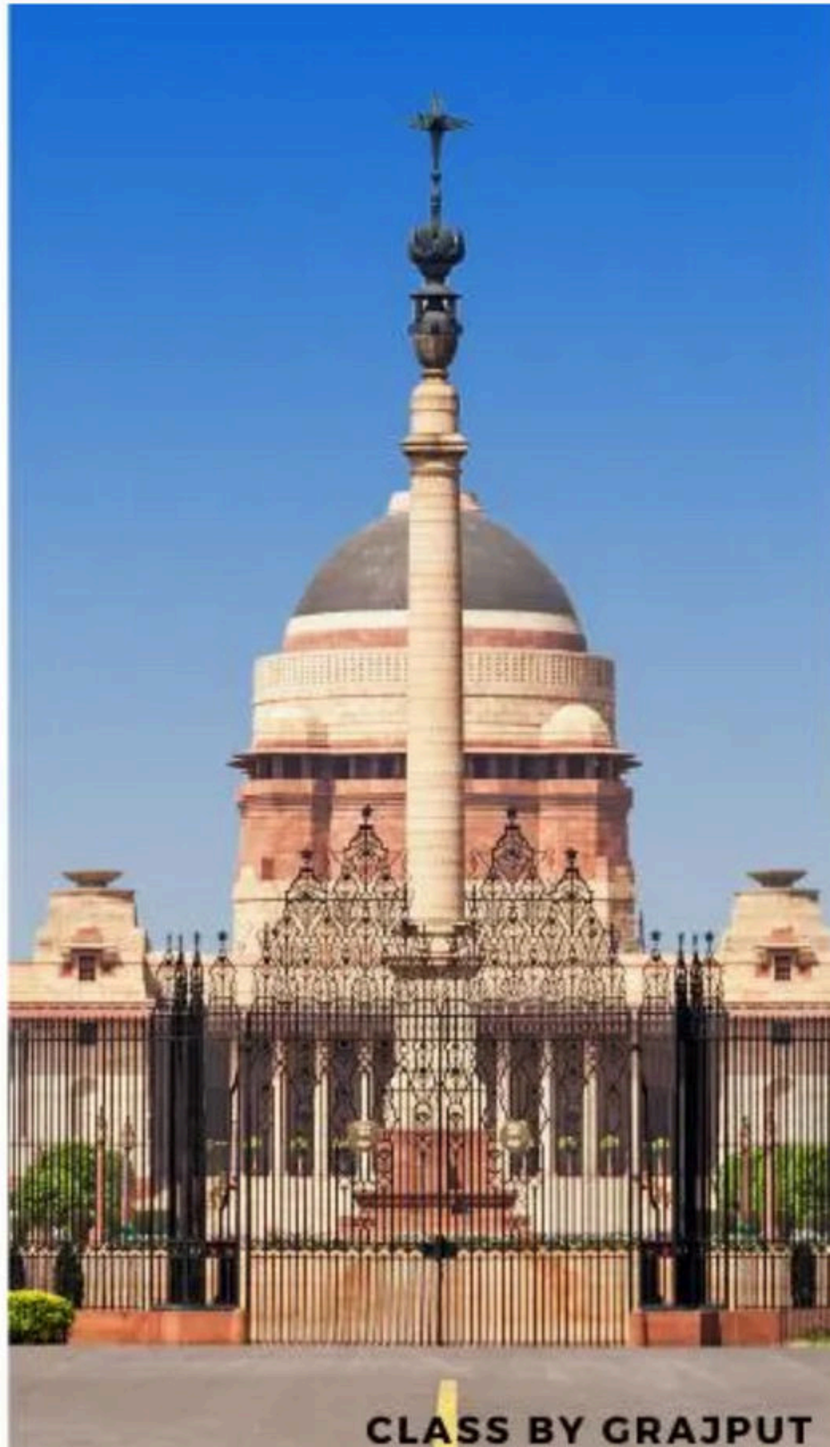


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WHAT IS THE CABINET SECRETARIAT?

- This Secretariat provides Secretarial assistance to the Cabinet and its Committees, and also assists in decision-making in Government by ensuring Inter-Ministerial coordination, ironing out differences amongst Ministries/ Departments and evolving consensus through the instrumentality of the standing/ ad hoc Committees of Secretaries. Through this mechanism, new policy initiatives are also promoted.
- Attached offices of Cabinet secretariat
    - Direct Benefit Transfer Mission
    - Directorate Of Public Grievances
    - Office Of Principal Scientific Adviser
    - National Authority Chemical Weapons Convention



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WHAT IS THE CABINET SECRETARIAT?

Cabinet Secretaries of India since 1950[21]

S.No	Name	Assumed office	Left office	Tenure	Cadre/ Batch	Notes
1	N. R. Pillai	6 February 1950	13 May 1953	2 years, 7 months, 8 days	ICS	Inaugural Holder
2	Y. N. Sukthankar	14 May 1953	31 July 1957	4 years, 2 months, 17 days		
3	M. K. Vellodi	1 August 1957	4 June 1958	10 months, 3 days		Earlier served as Chief Minister of Hyderabad State.
4	Vishnu Sahay	1 July 1958	10 November 1960	2 years, 4 months, 9 days		
5	B. N. Jha	10 November 1960	8 March 1961	3 months, 26 days		Shortest serving Cabinet Secretary
6	Vishnu Sahay	9 March 1961	15 April 1962	1 year, 1 month, 6 days		
7	S. S. Khera	15 April 1962	18 November 1964	2 years, 7 months, 3 days		First Sikh as Cabinet Secretary.
8	Dharma Vira	18 November 1964	27 June 1966	1 year, 7 months, 9 days		
9	D. S. Joshi	27 June 1966	31 December 1968	2 years, 6 months, 4 days		
10	B. Sivaraman	1 January 1969	30 November 1970	1 year, 10 months, 29 days		

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WHAT IS THE CABINET SECRETARIAT?

11	T. Swaminathan	1 December 1970	2 November 1972	1 year, 11 months, 1 day		
12	B. D. Pandey	2 November 1972	31 March 1977	4 years, 4 months, 29 days		Longest-serving Cabinet Secretary
13	N. K. Mukarji	31 March 1977	31 March 1980	3 years		
14	S. S. Grewal	2 April 1980	30 April 1981	1 year, 28 days	PB:1947	
15	C. R. Krishnaswamy Rao	30 April 1981	8 February 1985	3 years, 9 months, 9 days	AP:1949	
16	P. K. Kaul	8 February 1985	22 August 1986	1 year, 6 months, 14 days	UP:1951	
17	B. G. Deshmukh	23 August 1986	27 March 1989	2 years, 7 months, 4 days	MH:1951	
18	T. N. Seshan	27 March 1989	23 December 1989	8 months, 26 days	TN:1955	
19	V. C. Pande	23 December 1989	11 December 1990	11 months, 18 days	RJ:1955	
20	Naresh Chandra	11 December 1990	31 July 1992	1 year, 7 months, 20 days	RJ:1956	

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WHAT IS THE CABINET SECRETARIAT?

21	S. Rajagopal	1 August 1992	31 July 1993	11 months, 30 days	MH:1957	
22	Zafar Saifullah	31 July 1993	31 July 1994	1 year	KA:1958	
23	Surendra Singh	1 August 1994	31 July 1996	1 year, 11 months, 30 days	UP:1959	
24	T. S. R. Subramanian	1 August 1996	31 March 1998	1 year, 7 months, 30 days	UP:1961	
25	Prabhat Kumar	1 April 1998	31 October 2000	2 years, 6 months, 30 days	UP:1963	
26	T. R. Prasad	1 November 2000	31 October 2002	1 year, 11 months, 30 days	AP:1963	
27	Kamal Pandey	1 November 2002	14 June 2004	1 year, 7 months, 13 days	UK:1965	
28	B. K. Chaturvedi	14 June 2004	13 June 2007	2 years, 11 months, 30 days	UP:1966	
29	K. M. Chandrasekhar	14 June 2007	13 June 2011	3 years 11 months 30 days	KL:1970	

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WHAT IS THE CABINET SECRETARIAT?

28	B. K. Chaturvedi	14 June 2004	13 June 2007	2 years, 11 months, 30 days	UP:1966	
29	K. M. Chandrasekhar	14 June 2007	13 June 2011	3 years 11 months 30 days	KL:1970	
30	Ajit Seth	14 June 2011	13 June 2015	3 years 11 months 30 days	UP:1974	
31	P. K. Sinha	14 June 2015	30 August 2019	4 years 2 months 16 days	UP:1977	
32	Rajiv Gauba	30 August 2019[22]	Incumbent	4 years, 1 month and 13 days	JH:1982	

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CHIEF SECRETARY

- No position within the Union Government is comparable in stature to that of the state's Chief Secretary.
- The Cabinet Secretary, operating at the central level, can be considered, to some degree, the chief secretary's counterpart.
- However, due to the extensive range of responsibilities and functions undertaken by the chief secretary in state administration, they are consolidated at the central level and are executed in collaboration with the Cabinet Secretary, the Personnel Secretary, the Home Secretary, and the Finance Secretary.

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THE FOLLOWING ARE PARALLELS BETWEEN THE POSITIONS OF CHIEF SECRETARY AND CABINET SECRETARY:

- Each serves as a principal advisor to the corresponding chief executive officer.
- Each serves as the principal coordinator of their respective governments.
- Secretary-generals of their respective administrations, both.
- Both serve as chiefs of administration for the cabinet secretariats they oversee.
- The origin of both offices was the Central level.
- The execution of the decisions made by their respective administrations is supervised by both individuals.
- Each serves as the leader of its corresponding civil service.

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THE CABINET SECRETARY IS DISTINCT FROM THE CHIEF SECRETARY IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS:

- The scope of authority and responsibilities of the Chief Secretary far surpasses that of the Cabinet Secretary.
- The administrative chief of the State Secretariat is the Chief Secretary, whereas the Cabinet Secretary does not hold this position at the Central Secretariat.
- The Cabinet Secretary is not the head of Central secretaries; rather, he or she is primus inter pares (first among equals). The head Secretary is the chief of state secretaries.
- At the state level, the Residual Legatee is the Chief Secretary; at the central level, this distinction does not apply to the Cabinet Secretary. The administrative chief of the PMO, the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, is responsible for carrying out this duty at the central level.
- Certain divisions within the State Secretariat operate under the direct supervision of the chief secretary, whereas the Cabinet Secretary does not hold a direct oversight role over any department within the Central Secretariat, with the exception of the Cabinet Secretariat.

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