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Tender Heart High School,

Sector 33B, Chandigarh

Class VIII

Subject: History and Civics

Teacher:- Mili Bhatnagar

Chapter 2 The Union Executive

Good Morning Students!

In Term I we had studied about the first organ of the government - the legislature. In this chapter we will study about the executive arm of the government which enforces law. The President is the head of the Executive. The Vice President, the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers and the officials and experts of the civil services assist and advice the President.

Eligibility :- For a person to be eligible for the post of the President she/he must be

- a) a citizen of India
- b) be 35 years of age or more
- c) qualify to be a member of the Lok Sabha
- d) Must not hold office of profit and not be a member of Parliament or the State Legislature.

Election :- The President is elected by an electoral college consisting of elected members of both the houses of the Parliament and elected members of the state legislative assemblies. The President is elected for a term of five years and can be re-elected. He/She can resign by addressing a letter to the Vice President or can be removed from office through the process of impeachment.

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Mili BhatnagarLegislative Powers

1. The President can summon and prorogue the Houses of Parliament.
2. The President can dissolve Lok Sabha. A joint sitting is addressed by the President at the beginning of the first session after the general election.
3. A Bill passed by the Parliament cannot become a law without the President's signature.
4. The President can issue ordinances.

Executive Powers.

1. The President appoints the Prime Minister and other ministers on his advice.
2. It is the duty of the Prime Minister to keep the President informed of the decisions of the Council of Ministers.
3. The President appoints senior officers of the Union Government, judges of Supreme Court and High Court.
4. The President controls the administration of the Union Territories directly.

Judicial Powers.

1. The President has the power to grant pardon or reduce the sentence of a person convicted of an offence.
2. The President is not answerable to any court for his/her actions unless faced with impeachment.

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The President is the supreme commander of the armed forces. She/He can declare war or conclude peace. The President sends and receives ambassadors of other countries.

The President also has certain powers to deal with the situations of emergency when

1. the nation is threatened by external aggression or armed rebellion
2. there is a breakdown of government machinery in any state. In such a situation, the President takes control of the administration of the state. This is known as the 'President's Rule'.
3. there is a threat to the financial stability of the country.

So we can conclude that the President's position is one of authority and prestige.

MCQ

Fill in the blanks

1. All of these
2. The President
3. All of these
4. The President
5. The Vice-President

1. Dr. Rajendra Prasad
2. Supreme
3. leader
4. three
5. Prime Minister