



## Chief Minister

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### Why in News

Recently, **Pushkar Singh Dhami** was sworn in as the **11<sup>th</sup> Chief Minister (CM)** of Uttarakhand.

He takes over the position just a few months ahead of Assembly polls, due early in 2022.

### Key Points

- **Appointment:**
  - Article 164 of the Constitution envisages that the **Chief Minister shall be appointed by the governor.**
    - A leader of the party that has got the majority share of votes in the assembly elections, is appointed as the Chief Minister of the state.
    - The Governor is the nominal executive authority, but **real executive authority rests with the Chief Minister.**
    - However, the **discretionary powers enjoyed by the governor reduces to some extent the power, authority, influence, prestige and role of the Chief Minister in the state administration.**
  - A person who is not a member of the state legislature can be appointed as **Chief Minister for six months**, within which time, he should be elected to the state legislature, failing which he ceases to be the Chief Minister.
- **Term of the CM:**
  - The term of the Chief Minister is not fixed and he **holds office during the pleasure of the governor.**  
He cannot be dismissed by the governor as long as he enjoys the majority support in the legislative assembly.
  - The State Legislative Assembly can also remove him by passing a vote of **no-confidence** against him.

- **Powers and Functions:**

- **With Respect to Council of Ministers:**

- The governor appoints only those persons as ministers who are recommended by the Chief Minister.
    - He allocates and reshuffles the portfolios among ministers.
    - He can bring about the collapse of the council of ministers by resigning from office, since the Chief Minister is the head of the council of ministers.

- **With Respect to Governor:**

- Under Article 167 of the Constitution, the Chief Minister acts as a link between the Governor and state council of ministers.
    - CM advises the Governor regarding the appointment of important officials like advocate general, chairman and members of the State Public Service Commission, State Election Commission, etc.

- **With Respect to State Legislature:**

- All the policies are announced by him on the floor of the house.
    - He recommends dissolution of legislative assembly to the Governor.

- **Other Functions:**

- He is the chairman of the State Planning Board.
    - He acts as a vice-chairman of the concerned zonal council by rotation, holding office for a period of one year at a time.
    - He is a member of the Inter-State Council and the Governing Council of NITI Aayog, both headed by the prime minister.
    - He is the chief spokesman of the state government.
    - He is the crisis manager-in-chief at the political level during emergencies.
    - As a leader of the state, he meets various sections of the people and receives memoranda from them regarding their problems, and so on.
    - He is the political head of the services.

Source: TH