



Chief Minister

 drishtiias.com/printpdf/chief-minister-1

Why in News

Recently, **Pushkar Singh Dhami** was sworn in as the **11th 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