

Q.1) Consider the following statements about 'Council of Ministers'

1. The total number of ministers in the Council of Ministers must not exceed 15% of the total number of members of the House of the People
2. Ministers must be members of parliament

Select the correct statements

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.1) Solution (c)

Per Article 75(3), the Council of Ministers is responsible collectively to the lower house of the Indian Parliament, called the Lok Sabha (House of People). When a bill introduced by a minister in the Lok Sabha is not approved by it, entire council of ministers is responsible and not the minister. The council of ministers upon losing confidence of Lok Sabha shall resign to facilitate new government formation.

A minister shall not take any decision without being considered by the council of ministers per Article 78(c). All union cabinet members shall submit in writing to the President to propose proclamation of emergency by the president per Article 352.

According to the Constitution of India, the total number of ministers in the Council of Ministers must not exceed 15% of the total number of members of the House of the People. Ministers must be members of parliament. Any minister who is not a member of either the lower or upper houses of parliament for six consecutive months is automatically stripped off his or her ministerial post.

Per Article 75, a minister who works at the pleasure of President is appointed by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister.

Removal

- Upon self-resignation
- Upon dismissal by the President for minister's unconstitutional acts per Article 75(2).
- Upon direction from the Judiciary for committing violation of law.
- Upon ceasing eligibility to be a Member of Parliament.

It is nowhere stated in the constitution, a minister can be removed by the Prime Minister at his will.

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Source: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/modi-cabinet-reshuffle-full-list-of-pm-modis-council-of-ministers/articleshow/60348346.cms>

Q.2) H5N1 was in news recently. It is concerned with which of the following diseases?

- a) Avian Influenza
- b) Swine Flu
- c) Tuberculosis
- d) Pneumonia

Q.2) Solution (a)

The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers welfare has declared India free from Avian Influenza (H5N1)

Source: <http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/india-declares-itself-free-from-h5n1-and-h5n8-bird-flu/story-XC2H6cZzD9B50GUp0JLbfP.html>

Q.3) Consider the following statements about 'Institute De Droit International'

1. It was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1904 for its efforts to promote settlement of disputes among States through peaceful means.
2. India hosted the Session of Institute of International Law for the first time in 2017

Select the correct statements

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.3) Solution (c)

It's the first time that India is hosting this global legal meeting. The International Institute of Law or Institute De Droit International was founded in 1873 in the Ghent Town Hall in Belgium by 11 international lawyers. It was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1904 for its efforts to promote settlement of disputes among States through peaceful means.

The institute selects 132 lawyers from different countries to act independently towards international legal measures.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/telangana/india-a-major-stakeholder-in-global-peace-says-vice-president/article19616169.ece>

Q.4) Consider the following statements about 'India's tiger population'

1. The northwest cluster consist tigers only from Ranthambore
2. The tigers from the central cluster have the least genetic diversity

Select the correct statements

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.4) Solution (a)

India's tigers comprise three distinct populations: the northwest cluster (consisting only of tigers from Ranthambore), southern (south India) and central (comprising tigers from the Terai, northeast and central India). While the isolated Ranthambore population had the least genetic diversity, the central cluster — which is also the most connected — harboured the highest. Large seemingly more connected populations have more diversity than smaller isolated ones.

Ranthambore population, being cut off from other tiger populations, could be at risk in future due to inbreeding, which could decrease genetic variation in the population already at risk.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/habitat-connectivity-crucial-for-tigers/article19610328.ece>

Q.5) Which part of the sun is visible during a total solar eclipse?

- a) Photosphere
- b) Corona
- c) Heliosphere
- d) Chromosphere

Q.5) Solution (b)

The corona is the outermost layer of the Sun, starting at about 1300 miles (2100 km) above the solar surface (the photosphere). The temperature in the corona is 500,000 K (900,000 degrees F, 500,000 degrees C) or more, up to a few million K. The corona cannot be seen with the naked eye except during a total solar eclipse, or with the use of a coronagraph. The corona does not have an upper limit.

During a total solar eclipse, the disk of the moon blocks out the last sliver of light from the sun, and the sun's outer atmosphere, the corona, becomes visible

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/great-american-solar-eclipse-studying-the-suns-corona/article19529746.ece>

