



10 June, 2024

Council of Ministers

Context: The new Council of Ministers has sworn in after the elections.

- The Union Council of Ministers (CoM), also known as the Central Council of Ministers (CoM), is part of the executive branch of the Union Government.
- It is the real executive authority under the Parliamentary System of Government as provided by the Indian Constitution.
- Serves as the principal advisory body to the President of India.
- Plays a pivotal role in decision-making and in the formulation and implementation of government policies.

Constitutional Provisions

➤ Article 74 – Council of Ministers to aid and advise President

- There shall be a CoM with the Prime Minister at the head to aid and advise the President, who shall act in accordance with such advice.
- The President may require the CoM to reconsider such advice.
- However, the President is bound to act in accordance with advice tendered after such reconsideration.
- The advice tendered by Ministers to the President shall not be inquired into in any court.

➤ Article 75 – Other Provisions as to Ministers

- The Prime Minister shall be appointed by the President; other ministers shall be appointed by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister.
- The total number of ministers, including the Prime Minister, shall not exceed 15% of the total strength of Lok Sabha (91st Constitutional Amendment Act of 2003).
- A member of either House of Parliament disqualified on the grounds of defection shall also be disqualified to be appointed as a minister (91st Constitutional Amendment Act of 2003).
- Ministers shall hold office during the pleasure of the President.
- The CoM shall be collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha.
- The President shall administer the oaths of office and secrecy to the Ministers.
- A minister not a member of Parliament for any period of six consecutive months shall cease to be a minister.
- Salaries and allowances of ministers shall be determined by the Parliament.

➤ Article 77 – Conduct of Business of Government of India

- All executive actions of the Government of India shall be expressed to be taken in the name of the President.
- Orders and other instruments made and executed in the name of the President shall be authenticated as specified in rules by the President.

- The validity of an order or instrument so authenticated shall not be called into question on the ground that it is not made or executed by the President.
- The President shall make rules for more convenient transactions of business of the Government of India and allocation among Ministers.

➤ Article 88 – Rights of Ministers as Respect the Houses

- Every Minister shall have the right to speak and take part in the proceedings of either House, any joint sitting of the Houses, and any Committee of Parliament of which he may be named as a member, but shall not be entitled to vote.
- A Minister who is a member of one House of Parliament has the right to speak and take part in the proceedings of the other House but can vote only in the House of which he is a member.

Composition of Union Council of Ministers

➤ Cabinet Ministers

- Head important ministries such as Home, Defence, Finance, etc.
- Members of the Cabinet, attend its meetings, and play an important role in deciding the policies of the government.

➤ Ministers of State (MoS)

- Can either be attached to Cabinet Ministers or given an independent charge of Ministries/Departments.
- In case of attachment, may be given charge of departments of Ministries headed by Cabinet Ministers or allotted specific items of work related to these Ministries.
- In case of independent charge, perform the same functions and exercise the same powers w.r.t. their ministries/departments as Cabinet Ministers but do not attend Cabinet meetings unless invited.

➤ Deputy Ministers

- Not given independent charge of Ministries or Departments.
- Attached to Cabinet Ministers or Ministers of State and assist them in their duties.
- Not members of the Cabinet and do not attend Cabinet meetings.
- Parliamentary Secretaries
- Not members of the CoM.
- Appointed by the Prime Minister of India.
- Assist senior ministers in performing their duties.

➤ Appointment of Ministers

- The Prime Minister is appointed by the President of India.
- Other ministers are appointed by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister.
- The President can appoint only those persons as ministers who are recommended by the Prime Minister.
- A person who is not a member of either House of Parliament can be appointed as a minister, but must become a member within six months, otherwise ceases to be a minister.

Face to Face Centres



10 June, 2024

Oath-taking Ceremony

Context: Narendra Modi was appointed as Prime Minister at a swearing-in ceremony on Sunday evening.

Purpose and Importance

- **Formal Assumption of Office:** The swearing-in ceremony marks the formal assumption of an official post, signaling the beginning of the office-bearer's duties.
- **Loyalty and Commitment:** The oath underscores the office-bearer's loyalty to the Constitution and commitment to perform their duties with integrity and faithfulness.
- **Affirmation of Constitutional Supremacy:** The ceremony emphasizes the supremacy of the Constitution in governing the actions and responsibilities of public officials.

Constitutional Provisions for Oaths

- **President's Oath:** Detailed in Article 60 of the Constitution of India.
 - The President swears to "faithfully execute the office of President (or discharge the functions of the President) of India" and to "preserve, protect and defend the Constitution and the law" while devoting themselves to the service and well-being of the people of India.
- **Oaths for Other Offices: Provided in the Third Schedule of the Constitution.**
 - Includes oaths for the Prime Minister, Union Ministers, Chief Ministers, state ministers, Members of Parliament, and Members of State Legislatures.
- **Oath of Secrecy: Also included in the Third Schedule.**
 - Ministers swear not to "directly or indirectly communicate or reveal to any person or persons any matter" considered or known to them as ministers, except as required for the due discharge of their duties.

Oath Wording Options

- **Swear in the Name of God:** Individuals may choose to swear in the name of their deity, reflecting personal or religious beliefs.

- **Solemnly Affirm:** An alternative for those who prefer not to invoke a deity, suitable for secular or non-religious individuals.

Key Components of the Oath

- **Loyalty to the Constitution:** A pledge to uphold the Constitution's principles and provisions.
- **Faithful Execution of Duties:** A commitment to perform official duties to the best of one's ability.
- **Secrecy and Confidentiality:** A promise to maintain confidentiality regarding sensitive information encountered during the course of duty.

Historical and Practical Examples

- **Variations in Practice:** Though the Constitution mandates the exact wording, minor deviations have occurred in practice, often influenced by regional and cultural factors.
- **Maharashtra 2019:** Uddhav Thackeray invoked Chhatrapati Shivaji and his parents, and Eknath Shinde invoked Bal Thackeray during their oaths. Experts debated the legality of these additions.
- **Karnataka 2023:** Satish Jarkiholi took the oath in the name of Buddha and Basavanna, while Zameer Ahmed Khan invoked Allah and his mother.

Corrections by Administrators: Administrators, such as Governors or Presidents, are responsible for ensuring the correct recital of the oath.

- **Example Corrections:**
 - President Pranab Mukherjee corrected Ramdas Athawale for omitting his name.
 - The Bihar Governor corrected Tej Pratap Yadav for mispronouncing words during the oath.

Significance of the Oath

- **Legal and Moral Obligation:** The oath imposes both a legal and moral obligation on office-bearers to adhere to constitutional principles and perform their duties with integrity.
- **Symbolic Act:** It symbolizes the transition of power and the assumption of responsibility, reinforcing the democratic process and constitutional governance.
- **Public Assurance:** Provides the public with assurance that their leaders are committed to serving the nation and upholding its laws and values.

NEWS IN BETWEEN THE LINES

Retro Revival Exhibition



Recently, the Indian diaspora curated a unique art showcase on Paramount classics in United Arab Emirates.

About Retro Revival Exhibition:

- The "Retro Revival" exhibition is **organized by the PaintBrush Art Community**, a collective of **Indian diaspora artists in the UAE**.
- The exhibition features the works of **22 artists from 8 different countries**.
- A total of **26 artworks** are showcased in this exhibition.
- The **theme** of the exhibition is **to pay homage to iconic Paramount movies from Hollywood's golden era**.
- Some of the movies highlighted in the artworks include **"The Terminator," "Titanic," "The Godfather," "Sleepy Hollow," "Tomb Raider" and "Top Gun."**
- The objective of the exhibition is to **capture the magic of these classic movies** and iconic figures, transporting viewers back to a time of cinematic excellence.

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	- Notable art events in the UAE include World Art Dubai and the Sharjah Biennale. - The UAE government has backed numerous initiatives promoting arts and culture, which have attracted international artists and empowered the local art scene.
KASISH International Film Festival 	Recently, the short • film Mehroon, directed by Abu Sohel Khondekar, has won laurels at the KASISH International Film Festival in Mumbai. About the KASISH International Film Festival: - KASISH International Film Festival is held annually in Mumbai. - It showcases films with LGBTQ+ themes, highlighting diverse perspectives and stories from the LGBTQ+ community. - The festival provides a platform for emerging filmmakers to gain recognition and appreciation for their work, particularly in the realm of LGBTQ+ cinema. - KASISH presents awards in various categories, including Best Film, Best Director, Special Jury Mention and more, to honor outstanding contributions to LGBTQ+ cinema. - It promotes inclusivity and diversity, welcoming filmmakers and audiences from all backgrounds to engage with LGBTQ+ storytelling. - It plays a crucial role in raising awareness about LGBTQ+ issues, fostering dialogue, and promoting acceptance and understanding through the medium of cinema.
Reusable Launch Vehicle Program 	Recently, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has advanced its Reusable Launch Vehicle (RLV) program with the upcoming third and final RLV landing experiment (RLV LEX), bringing it closer to reality. About the Reusable Launch Vehicle (RLV) program: - The RLV-LEX (Reusable Launch Vehicle - Landing Experiment) programme is an initiative led by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) aimed at advancing India's capabilities in reusable launch vehicle technology. - It involves conducting a series of experiments to develop and test prototypes of reusable launch vehicles, with a focus on achieving autonomous landings under varying conditions. - The programme aims to reduce the cost and increase the efficiency of space missions by enabling the recovery and reuse of launch vehicle components. - The programme is set to conduct its third and final RLV landing experiment (RLVLEX), marking a significant milestone. - The mission is scheduled to take place at the Aeronautical Test Range in Chitradurga, Karnataka. - Previous missions include LEX-01 (April 2, 2023) and LEX-02 (March 22, 2024), both of which were executed successfully, contributing to the progress of the RLV-LEX programme. - The programme plans to advance to testing an unmanned Orbital Re-entry Vehicle (ORV), which will be 1.6 times the size of Pushpak. - The ORV will be placed in a 400 km orbit around Earth using a modified Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV). - The ORV testing phase will include experiments such as evaluating a thermal protection system and retractable landing gear.
Hydrogen Line 	About Hydrogen Line: - The hydrogen line is a specific wavelength of electromagnetic radiation emitted by hydrogen atoms. - Each hydrogen atom consists of one proton and one electron. - The spins of both particles (proton and electron) are pointing in the same direction (either both up or both down). - When the spins are anti-aligned, the atom is in a higher energy state, while aligned spins signify a lower energy state. - The atom emits electromagnetic radiation with a wavelength of 21 cm when the electron flips its spin from anti-aligned to aligned. - The hydrogen line was discovered in 1951 and the discovery of the hydrogen line transformed the field of radio astronomy.

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Current affairs summary for prelims

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- This discovery allowed scientists to detect **clouds of cold, neutral hydrogen atomic gas** in interstellar space.
- **Astronomers use the 21 cm hydrogen line** to detect the first light emitted by the universe's earliest galaxies.
- The hydrogen line could be **used to send information across space** that might be detected by an alien civilization.

POINTS TO PONDER

- What is the 2024 theme for World Food Safety Day? – **Prepare for the unexpected**
- Which regulatory authority recently introduced the 'Saarthi 2.0' mobile app for investors? – **SEBI**
- NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL) has partnered with which South American country to implement UPI payments? – **Peru**
- Which Russian cosmonaut has become the first person to spend 1000 days in space? – **Oleg Kononenko**
- With which countries did India recently establish the Biopharmaceutical Alliance? – **US, Japan, and South Korea**

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