

26 Jul 2022: UPSC Exam Comprehensive News Analysis

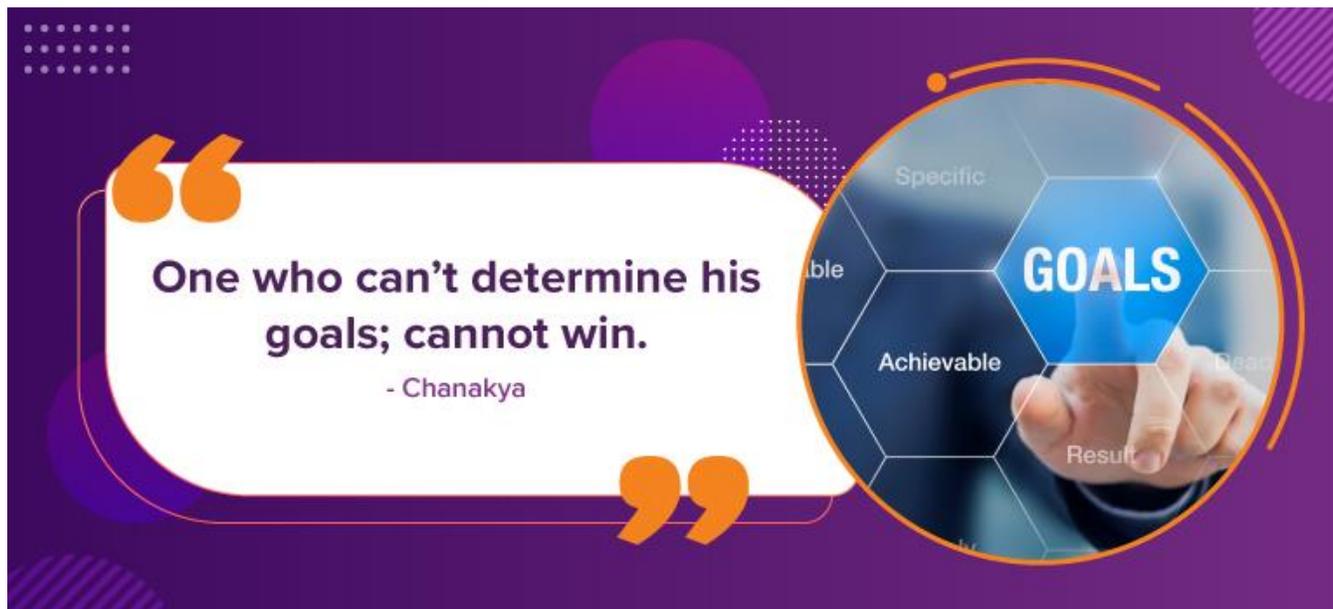


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A. GS 1 Related

Nothing here for today!!!

B. GS 2 Related

Category: POLITY

1. Droupadi Murmu is President of India

Syllabus: Indian Constitution - Structure, organization and functioning of the Executive

Mains: Powers and functions of the President of India.

Context: Ms. Droupadi Murmu was sworn in as the 15th President of India, and became the first tribal head of state and the second woman to occupy the country's highest constitutional post.

- Ms. Murmu has become the youngest President at 64.
- In her speech, she laid out her vision of sabka prayas (everyone's effort) and sabka kartavya (everyone's duty) to fulfil the expectations of freedom fighters and citizens of independent India.

Read more on the Powers and Functions of the [President of India](#).

Nut graf:

Ms. Murmu should be looked at as the President of 1.3 billion people of India and not merely as a "tribal president" for the real success of our democracy. The symbolism behind this election can be realised only if the administration backs it up with policies and actions countering the wider disempowerment of tribespeople, justice and fairness to all.

2. The latest guidelines on arrests and bail orders

Syllabus: Indian Constitution-Comparison of the Indian constitutional scheme with that of other countries

Mains: Reforms in criminal procedure laws

Context: Recently, the Supreme Court of India in *Satender Kumar Antil vs CBI* laid down fresh guidelines on arrests in order to have strict compliance with the provisions of Section 41 and 41A of the [Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973](#) in addition to the earlier guidelines laid down in the case of *Arnesh Kumar vs State of Bihar, 2014*.

- The Supreme Court of India also urged the Union Government to bring a new law to simplify the process of [bail](#), referring to the Bail Act of the United Kingdom.

What are Sections 41 and 41A of the Code of Criminal Procedure?

- Section 41 of CrPC provides for the conditions in which an arrest can be made by the police without a warrant.
 - Reasons for the arrest must be recorded in writing for every non-arrest and arrest under this section.
- Section 41A mandates that a notice be sent by the investigating agencies before making an arrest in certain conditions prescribed by CrPC.

Read more on [Guidelines issued by the Supreme court on Bail reforms in CNA dated July 17, 2022](#).

Nut Graf:

Comprehensive reforms should be made to the criminal laws in India with wider consultations to provide affordable and speedy justice to all and create a people-centric legal structure.

C. GS 3 Related**Category: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY****1. The private sector boost in India's space industry**

Syllabus: *Achievements of Indians in science & technology; indigenization of technology and developing new technology.*

Mains: Role of the private sector in India's space industry

Context: Recently, the Principal Scientific Adviser to the government of India hinted at the new space policy to boost private sector participation in India's space sector.

Importance of space sector development in India:

- Aids in strengthening connectivity and addressing climate-related events/disasters through a more secure and effective means.
 - Satellites provide more precise and reliable information on weather forecasts and evaluate long-term trends in the climate and habitability of a region. Governments can develop policies and action plans based on long-term data provided by these satellites to help farmers and dependent industries.
 - They provide real-time monitoring and early-warning solutions against natural disasters such as [earthquakes](#), tsunamis, floods, wildfires, mining, etc.
- Satellite imagery helps in identifying patterns of land use, land cover, settlements, and road and rail networks.
- An independent regional navigation satellite system called NavIC - Navigation with Indian Constellation is designed to provide position information in the Indian region and 1500 km around the Indian mainland.
- Real-time tracking and high-resolution imaging capability can also serve multiple purposes in defense.
 - For example, the [Cartosat-2](#) satellite helped in planning and executing military operations such as 'surgical strikes' across the [LoC](#) in 2016 and the operations across the Manipur-Myanmar border in 2015.
- Satellite communication can connect remote areas where other conventional means would require heavy complementing infrastructure.
 - As per the World Economic Forum, satellite communication can help connect 49% of the world's unconnected population.

Space sector as a market:

- The space sector is an integration of the aerospace, IT hardware and telecom sectors. It is thus argued that investment in this arena would foster positive carryover effects to other sectors as well.
- Satellite communications are among the major categories for investment in the space technology sector as they are used to facilitate telecommunication services.
- Spacecraft and equipment manufacturing are some of the other areas of investment with vast potential.

Where does India stand in the global space market?

- In 2021, India stands 6th internationally in the space industry having 3.6% of the world's space-tech companies.
 - The top five countries with companies in the space-tech ecosystem are:

- The U.S. (56.4%), U.K. (6.5%), Canada (5.3%), China (4.7%) and Germany (4.1%).
- The Indian Space Industry aspires to grow to a valuation of \$50 billion by 2024 from \$7 billion in 2019.
- India's prominent feature in the space industry is its cost-effectiveness.
 - India is the first country to have reached Mars' orbit in its first attempt and at \$75 million, way cheaper than Western standards.



Image Source: Wall Street Journal

- Most companies in the sector, globally, are involved in the manufacture of spacecraft equipment and satellite communications.
- As per the Union Ministry of Science and technology, a total of 60-odd start-ups are registered with the [Indian Space Research Organisation \(ISRO\)](#) and a majority of them were dealing in projects related to space debris management.

How is the private sector's involvement regulated in India?

- The U.S. and Canada were the highest receivers of space-related investment in 2021.
- The Union government has announced various programs enabling more private players in the space sector to provide numerous services.

- The Union government established the [Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre \(IN-SPACE\)](#) in June 2020.
- NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) was created in March 2019 as a Public Sector Undertaking of the Government of India and commercial arm of ISRO under the Companies Act 2013.
 - The main objective of NSIL is to scale up industry participation in Indian space programmes.
 - NSIL works on capacity building of local industry for space manufacturing.
 - It is different from ISRO's existing commercial arm Antrix Corporation which handles ISRO's commercial deals for satellites and launch vehicles with foreign customers.

Conclusion:

Timely reforms and complementing policies with the regulatory environment should be the focus to provide a “level playing field” to private companies in space-based services and satellite launches.

Nut Graf:

Participation of the private sector, in the long term, is believed to help spur investment and expertise in the space realm which is capital-intensive and demands high technology.

D. GS 4 Related

Nothing here for today!!!

E. Editorials**Category: POLITY****1. Reform bail law, but make the right diagnosis first**

Syllabus: Criminal Justice System in India/Important Supreme Court Judgments

Mains: Criminal Justice system in India- Challenges/concerns and recommendations

Background:

- The Supreme Court of India recently in the Satender Kumar Antil vs CBI case took note of the ineffectiveness of India's bail system. The Supreme Court lamented that despite comprehensive guidelines regarding granting of bail, such as setting timelines for the disposal of bail

applications, these guidelines are not being followed. This the Court argued goes against the principle of 'presumption of innocence' and 'bail not jail' as the norm.

- India's criminal justice system is plagued by serious challenges. Over 75% of India's prison population are undertrials while overcrowding in Indian prisons stands at 118%.
- The Supreme Court has also called for new and separate legislation regarding bail.

Challenges:

- Before making any attempts to formulate separate legislation for bail, there is a need to first understand the nature of the problem contributing to this crisis.

Lack of safeguards against arbitrary arrests:

- People especially from the disadvantaged sections of society like migrants, the poor, and those who don't have a family or who do not own any assets, lack sufficient safeguards against arrests. There is also a lack of effective enforcement of safeguards against arbitrary arrest.
- Also, clauses such as the arrest of a person are justified as 'necessary' if the police have 'reasons to believe' that it is required to ensure their presence in court put disadvantaged sections at higher risk of arrest because of their socio-economic conditions.

Issues with bail adjudication:

- The power to grant bail is largely based on the court's discretion.
- Despite clear guidelines by the Supreme Court on the exercise of discretion by courts in deciding bail applications, these guidelines continue to be overlooked by the lower courts.
- The guidelines lay stress upon the need to release applicants on bail. However, courts rarely exercise their discretion for granting bail and generally take a stringent approach against the release on bail. Also, the offence-based and person-based considerations in deciding bail applications remain unclear.
- As a result, some are either denied bail or granted bail with onerous conditions. Bail conditions in the nature of cash bonds, surety bonds, proof of property ownership and solvency, place a disproportionate burden on the disadvantaged sections of society.

Challenges in bail compliance:

- A large number of undertrials continue to remain in prison despite being granted bail due to challenges in complying with bail conditions.
- Lack of means to arrange for money/property and local sureties, lack of residence and identity proof, severely undermine an undertrial's ability to comply with bail conditions.

Nut Graf:

There is an urgent need for bail reform and coming up with a new bail law as suggested by the Supreme Court is the need of the hour. However, for any bail law to effectively provide relief, a careful re-evaluation of the existing challenges is necessary.

Category: ENVIRONMENT

1. Backsliding on climate action

Syllabus: *Conservation, Environmental Pollution and Degradation, Environmental Impact Assessment.*

Mains: *Failure of the developed countries to adhere to their climate commitments- concerns.*

Background:

Failing climate action commitments:

- Western nations seem to be renegeing on their promised climate action under the Paris deal.
 - Countries in Europe seem to be moving back towards carbon-intensive fossil fuels like coal. There also seems to be growing resentment among the citizenry against imposed emission cuts in sectors such as agriculture and industry which they feel could undermine economic growth and development. The economic disruption caused by the pandemic has resulted in a recession-like situation in Europe and the appetite for climate action seems to be waning.
 - Fossil fuels are making a quiet comeback in the U.S. too. Having pushed to make a choice between concentrating on the economy to get it back into recovery mode and fighting hard against climate change, climate action seems to be taking a back seat.
- There seem to be attempts to reinterpret the Paris deal aimed at downgrading the 2030 commitments made under the [Paris Agreement](#).
 - The developing countries by calling for a global net zero seem to be deflecting attention away from the concept of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR). There seems to be a clear attempt at misinterpreting the concept of net zero by developed countries.
 - Also, the calls for early peaking of carbon emissions tend to overlook the provisions laid out in the Paris Climate Agreement. This would result in undue pressure on developing countries to peak early.
 - Article 4 of the Paris Agreement defines ‘Global Peaking’ thus: “In order to achieve the long-term temperature goal set out in Article 2, Parties aim to reach global peaking of

greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible, recognizing that peaking will take longer for developing country Parties.”

- The developed countries have not kept up their promise of mobilising \$100 billion per year by 2020 for climate action in developing countries. They have also failed to ensure sufficient transfer of technology to facilitate a transition towards less carbon-intensive economy in developing countries.

Concerns:

- The downgrading of the commitments made by the carbon-intensive developed countries would render the achievement of the target of limiting global warming to below 2°C almost impossible.
- Also, the Global South could be forced to compensate for the shortfall in climate action if and when the developed countries downgrade their pledges of climate action. This will adversely impact the economic and social developments in such countries.

Recommendations:

- The developed countries, given their historical emissions, will have to peak first with more time for developing countries.
- Also the developing countries must be given more time to achieve net zero later than developed countries. In fact, the developed countries should be pushed to adopt a net negative carbon emissions target to compensate for their historical emissions. The developed countries should reach net zero earlier than 2050 in order to achieve the overall global net-zero target by around mid-century.

Nut Graf

The “global stocktake” of the Paris Agreement will be done in 2023 to assess the world’s collective climate action. Developing countries like India should hold the countries of the developed world accountable to their climate action commitments made under the Paris Climate Agreement.

F. Prelims Facts

1. Raja Ravi Varma

Syllabus: GS1- Indian Culture; Salient aspects of Art Forms, Literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times.

Context: Raja Ravi Varma’s kin seeks Bharat Ratna for him.

Raja Ravi Varma:

- Raja Ravi Varma was an Indian painter and artist of the late 19th century.
- His works are one of the best examples of the fusion of European academic art with a purely Indian sensibility and iconography.
- Raja Ravi Varma was closely related to the Travancore royal family.
- He was acclaimed for his religious depictions of Hindu deities and his works from Puranas and Indian epics.
- His women-centric paintings portray a vast variety of their expressions and costumes.
 - Some of his popular works include 'Nair Lady Adorning Her Hair', 'Lady in the Moonlight', 'Lady with Swarbat', 'Maharashtrian Lady with Fruits' and 'Malabar Lady with Violin'.
- He learned the basics of painting in Madurai. Varma was patronized by Ayilyam Thirunal, Maharaja of Travancore.
- Rama Swami Naidu taught him water painting and oil painting was taught by Danish portraitist Theodore Jenson.
- In 1894, he started a lithographic printing press in Ghatkopar, Mumbai.
 - His press mostly produced the oleographs of Hindu gods and goddesses in scenes adapted mainly from the epics and Puranas.

Honours:

- Viceroy Lord Curzon bestowed the Kaisar-i-Hind Gold Medal on Varma in 1904.
- In 2013, the crater Varma on planet mercury was named in his honour.
- The Raja Ravi Varma Award is given by the Kerala government annually to people who show excellence in the field of art and culture.

G. Tidbits**1. Only 4 states adopt model tenancy law**

- Only 4 states had revised their tenancy laws in line with the Model Tenancy Act (MTA) passed by the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry in 2021.
- The main objective of MTA is to balance the rights of landlords and tenants.

Read more on [Model Tenancy Act](#).

H. UPSC Prelims Practice Questions**Q1. Consider the following statements with respect to Lithium: (Level-Difficult)**

1. It is considered to be the lightest or the least dense metal on earth.

2. It is highly reactive and flammable and must be stored in vacuum, inert atmosphere, or inert liquid such as purified kerosene or mineral oil.
3. Lithium salts have proven to be useful as a mood stabilizer and antidepressant in the treatment of mental illnesses such as bipolar disorder.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a. 1 and 2 only
- b. 2 and 3 only
- c. 1 and 3 only
- d. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: d

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct**, Under standard conditions, Lithium is the least dense metal and the least dense solid element.
- **Statement 2 is correct**, Like all alkali metals, lithium is highly flammable and reactive, therefore it must be stored in vacuum, inert atmosphere, or inert liquid. Moist air corrodes the metal quickly.
- **Statement 3 is correct**, Lithium is present in trace quantities in biological systems.
 - Certain Lithium salts are used as psychiatric medicines, primarily for bipolar disorder and other major depressive problems that do not improve following the use of common antidepressants. Lithium is taken orally.

Q2. With respect to the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016, which of the following statements is/are correct? (Level-Medium)

1. Children below the age of 14 years will be allowed to work in occupations except for 18 occupations and 65 processes.
2. Children below the age of 14 years will be allowed to work in Family Businesses/Enterprises only if they are non-hazardous.

Options:

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both
- d. None

Answer: b

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect**, 2016 Amendment prohibits the employment of children below the age of 14 in all occupations and processes.
- **Statement 2 is correct**, in order to protect the health and ensure children's well-being, children could work in their family businesses only if it is safe for them. Earlier it was allowed for hazardous and non-hazardous work.

Read more on [Child Labour \(Prohibition and Regulation\) Amendment Act, 2016](#).

Q3. Which of the following genetically modified (GM) crops has/have been approved for commercial cultivation in India? (Level- Easy)

1. Brinjal
2. Cotton
3. Golden rice
4. Soybean

Options:

- a. 1 and 3 only
- b. 2 only
- c. 1, 2 and 3 only
- d. 3 and 4 only

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The Indian government has not approved any Genetically Modified (GM) food crop for commercial cultivation. **Therefore, options 1, 3 and 4 are incorrect.**
 - However, confined field trials have been allowed for at least 20 GM crops.
- **Option 2 is correct**, Bt cotton is the only GM crop approved for commercial cultivation in India.
 - Bt Brinjal and HtBt Cotton and are already being grown commercially without any authorization despite a government ban.

Q4. Arrange the following islands from North to South: (Level: Difficult)

1. Smith Island
2. Long Island

3. Havelock Island
4. Rutland Island

Options:

- a. 1-2-3-4
- b. 2-3-4-1
- c. 3-4-1-2
- d. 4-1-2-3

Answer: a

Explanation:





Image source: Go2andaman.com

Q5. With reference to the proposals of Cripps Mission, consider the following statements: (Level-Medium)

1. The Constituent Assembly would have members nominated by the Provincial Assemblies as well as the Princely States.
2. Any Province, which is not prepared to accept the new Constitution would have the right to sign a separate agreement with Britain regarding its future status.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: b

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect**, A [Constituent Assembly](#) would be formed to frame a new constitution for the country. This Assembly would have members elected by the provincial assemblies and also nominated by the princes.
- **Statement 2 is correct**, Any province unwilling to join the Indian dominion could form a separate union and have a separate constitution.

I. UPSC Mains Practice Questions

1. [Examine the executive and legislative powers and functions of the President of India. \(250 words, 15 marks\) \[GS-2, Polity\]](#)
2. [How does a strong space sector contribute to overall development? Why are private players being encouraged to invest in India's space sector? Analyse. \(250 words, 15 marks\) \[GS-3, Science & Technology\]](#)