

POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

Context: Transit Anticipatory Bail, safeguarding fundamental rights in the criminal justice system, the judiciary, constitutional protection, and bail types.

Why in News?

Recently, the Indian Supreme Court (SC) upheld the constitutional imperative of defending citizens' rights to life and personal liberty as enshrined in Article 21 of the Constitution of India in the case of Priya Indoria v. State of Karnataka and Ors, 2023, ruling that a Sessions Court or the High Court in a state can grant transit anticipatory bail to an accused through the First Information Report (FIR) is registered outside their jurisdiction.

- Transit anticipatory bail shields the accused from arrest while they wait to appear before a court that has jurisdiction over the alleged offense.
- No other law or the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) defines the word "transit anticipatory bail" in clear terms.
- In 1998, the Supreme Court created the notion of transitory anticipatory bail in the State of Assam v. Brojen Gogol case.
- This kind of release gives fair and temporary relief, especially for people who live in another state, enabling them to apply for anticipatory bail.

What is the Transit Anticipatory Bail ruling from the SC?

- In the interest of justice regarding a formal complaint filed outside the court's territorial jurisdiction, the Supreme Court (SC) rules that the High Court and Sessions Courts should grant transit anticipatory bail in the form of temporary protection under Section 438 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1973.
- The SC also noted that an absolute bar on jurisdiction could have unfair consequences, particularly for bona fide (genuine) applicants who are being prosecuted in error, mala fide, or for political reasons.
- In order to protect the applicant from irreversible injury, the SC stated that transit anticipatory bail should only be granted in "exceptional and compelling circumstances."

The SC outlined the requirements for provisional protection.

- During the initial hearing, notice to the public prosecutor and investigating officer is required.
- The petitioner must provide clear justification for their expectation of an interstate arrest in the order granting limited relief, as well as information about how this protection would affect the existing investigation.
- In order to obtain anticipatory bail from the court having territorial jurisdiction over the FIR, the applicant must prove to the court that they are unable to do so.
- The satisfaction may be predicated on worries about arbitrariness, fears of risks to one's life or personal freedom in the jurisdiction where the FIR is filed, or medical needs.
- The decision recognizes that defendants may select a court of their choosing for provisional relief.
- The SC emphasizes the significance of a territorial relationship between the accused and the court's jurisdiction in order to prevent abuse.

What is Bail and What are its Types?**Definition:**

- Bail is the commitment to appear in court when needed in exchange for the conditional or provisional release of a person detained under legal custody (in cases when the court has not yet rendered a decision).
- It denotes a security or collateral placed in front of the court for eventual release.
- The Calcutta High Court expounded on the concept behind the imposition of bail in the 1973 case of Supt. and Remembrancer of Legal Affairs v. Amiya Kumar Roy Choudhry.

India's bail types include:

- Regular Bail: This is an order from a court (any court in the nation) to free someone who has been placed under arrest and is being held by the police.
- A person may apply for such bail under the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1973, Sections 437 and 439.
- Interim bail is defined as bail that is issued by the court for a brief and temporary duration while the application for regular or anticipatory bail is still underway.

Pre-arrest or anticipatory bail:

- According to the law, a suspect may request bail prior to being taken into custody. Pre-arrest bail is provided in India in accordance with section 438 of the CrPc, 1973.
- Only the Sessions Court and High Court are authorized to issue it.
- Pre-arrest bail is an optional provision that the court may provide based on the specifics of the case, the accused's past, the seriousness of the offense, and other pertinent considerations.

- When granted bail, the court may additionally impose certain requirements, such as turning in the passport, abstaining from leaving the nation, or routinely reporting to the police station.

Statutory Bail:

- Statutory bail, sometimes referred to as default bail, is a different kind of relief than bail granted through regular court proceedings under CrPC Sections 437, 438, and 439.
- Statutory bail is granted, as the name suggests, in cases where the police or investigating agency neglects to submit their report or complaint within a specified amount of time.
- The CrPC's Section 167(2) codifies this.

Conclusion: With the Expansion of Businesses and the e-commerce boom, higher managerial personnel often have warrants of arrest issued against them for alleged offences occurring in other states. Transit bail has proved essential in protecting these individual and ensuring the protection of their personal liberty and freedom

SECURITY

Context: Civil War in Myanmar, Security challenges and their management in border areas.

In News, why?

Due to the ongoing civil war in Myanmar, 1,500 citizens of that country recently sought safety in the Champhai region of Mizoram after heavy fighting broke out between the Myanmar Army and pro-democracy militias in the western Chin State, which borders Mizoram.

Describe a Civil War.

- A protracted struggle between organized groups within the same nation or state is known as a civil war.
- Armed conflicts occur between factions or groups that have clear social, political, or ideological differences and are fighting for supremacy over the government, territory, or resources of the country.

What is the history of Myanmar's ongoing civil war?

- 2020 Elections and Military Coup: The National League for Democracy (NLD), led by Aung San Suu Kyi, won the November 2020 elections. Nonetheless, the Tatmadaw, a military junta, disputed the election results and accused electoral fraud without providing sufficient evidence.
- The military overthrew the government in a coup in February 2021, imprisoning Aung San Suu Kyi and other elected officials, imposing a state of emergency, and taking control of the government.

Opposition and Demonstrations:

- People all around Myanmar demanded the restoration of democracy and the release of politicians who had been arrested following the coup.
- A variety of groups, including activists and civil officials, participated in the civil disobedience campaign by organizing protests and strikes.

Establishment of Opposition Forces:

- The People's Defence Forces (PDFs) were established by opposition groups, such as armed civilians and ethnic armed organizations (EAOs), in order to oppose the military regime when the Tatmadaw stepped up its crackdown on dissent.
- In an effort to contest the military's power, these organizations allied with the National Unity Government (NUG), which was founded by parliamentarians who had been overthrown.

Present Situation:

- Battles have also broken out in other parts of the nation, including Rakhine State, Kayin State, the Sagaing region bordering Manipur, and Chin State bordering Mizoram. These conflicts are being led by different local resistance groups.

What Does India Stand to Gain from Myanmar's Ongoing Civil War?

- Balanced Approach: Up until now, India has managed to strike a balance between protesting the "interruption" of democracy in Myanmar and cooperating with the regime to safeguard its "vital interests."

India's immediate concern:

- the inflow of citizens of Myanmar into the Northeastern border states.
- This too during a period when Manipur's position is still unstable.

Rebels Seize Control of Two Key Towns:

- Two significant towns that are near the only two border crossings between India and Myanmar have been taken over by the anti-junta forces.
- These are: Khampat in the Sagaing region, around 60 km from Moreh in Manipur; and Rikhawdar, near Zokhawthar in Mizoram.
- This latter (Khampat in the Sagaing region) is included in the proposed trilateral highway project between Thailand, Myanmar, and India.

What is India's current legal framework for handling refugees?

- Under the Foreigners Act of 1946, India handles all foreigners, including those who are overstaying their visas, illegal immigrants, and refugees/asylum seekers: The central government is authorized by Section 3 to find, apprehend, and expel unauthorized foreign nationals.
- The Passport (Entry into India) Act of 1920 grants the authorities the authority to forcibly remove an unauthorized foreign national in accordance with Article 258(1) of the Indian Constitution.
- The 1939 Registration of Foreigners Act: This imposes a statutory requirement that all foreign persons (apart from Indian residents living abroad) visiting India for an extended period of time (greater than 180 days) register with a Registration Officer within 14 days of their arrival.

The Citizenship Act of 1955

- It included provisions for the revocation, loss, and denial of citizenship.
- Additionally, the Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019 (CAA) aims to offer citizenship to immigrants who are persecuted in Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Afghanistan and who are Hindu, Christian, Jain, Parsi, Sikh, and Buddhist.
- When interacting with foreign nationals who declare themselves to be refugees, India released a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) that all relevant authorities must adhere to.

Conclusion

There is no easy fix but a clear assessment of the risks of allowing myanmar multifaceted crisis to fester should amplify the call for more proactive regional diplomacy. The region should must invest in an institutional and humanitarian way forward

PRELIM FACTS

1. Rapid Innovation and Startup Expansion (RISE)

Context: Recently, AIM, NITI Aayog launched a new accelerator called Rapid Innovation and Startup Expansion (RISE) to support Australian and Indian circular economy startups.

About Rapid Innovation and Startup Expansion (RISE):

- The India Australia RISE Accelerator is delivered in partnership between CSIRO, Australia's national science agency, and Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), the Government of India's flagship initiative to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship.
- This initiative focuses on startups and small to mid-sized enterprises (SMEs) in India and Australia working on circular economy technologies and solutions.
- **Focus Themes:** With a focus on Environment and Climate Technology, the program will be tailored to accelerate start-ups working on a range of areas:
 - Climate Smart Agriculture
 - Clean Energy
 - Circular Economy and Waste Management
 - Climate Smart Mobility
- Over the nine months, the RISE Accelerator program will help startups navigate early steps in a new region, fast-track connections to the right partners, customers, and talent, and build credibility to succeed in international markets.
- The accelerator, in its first round, will focus on supporting startups and SMEs working on technologies and solutions for the waste and circular economy
- Participating startups may also be eligible for up to INR 40,00,000 in non-equity grants.
- The future rounds of the accelerator will focus on climate-smart agriculture, clean energy and climate smart mobility.

What is the circular economy?

A circular economy means products are designed in such a way that they can be used again, or even multiple times, to maximise their value

2. Global Digital Public Infrastructure Repository

Context: Recently, the Prime Minister of India announced the launch of two India-led initiatives: the Global Digital Public Infrastructure Repository and a Social Impact Fund.

- It is created by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- It is a comprehensive resource hub, pooling essential lessons and expertise from G20 members and guest nations.
- Its primary aim is to bridge the knowledge gap in the choices and methodologies required for the design, construction, deployment, and governance of DPIs.
- The GDPIR showcases the information in a standardized format from countries and organizations that have developed DPIs at scale, incorporating elements such as maturity scales, source codes (where available), and governance frameworks. Currently, the GDPIR features 54 DPIs from 16 countries.

- The DPIs from India that have been incorporated in the GDPIR are: Aadhaar, Unified Payments Interface (UPI), DigiLocker, Umang, eSanjeevani, API Setu, Co-WIN, Government e-marketplace, Diksha, E-Hospital, Poshan Tracker and Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).

What is Digital public infrastructure (DPI)?

- It encompasses foundational elements or frameworks like digital identification, payment infrastructure, and data exchange solutions.
- These components play a crucial role in facilitating countries to provide vital services to their citizens, fostering empowerment, and enhancing lives through the promotion of digital inclusion.

3. Shan State in Myanmar

Context: Myanmar is concerned about the conflict in northern Shan State, which has affected Mandalay-based traders.

About Shan State:

- It is a state in Myanmar.
- It borders China to the north, Laos to the east, Thailand to the south, and five administrative divisions of Myanmar in the west.
- The largest of the 14 administrative divisions by land area, Shan State covers 155,800 km², almost a quarter of the total area of Myanmar.
- The state gets its name from the Burmese name for the Tai people: “Shan people”.
- The Shan constitute the majority among several ethnic groups that inhabit the area. The Shan are Theravada Buddhists and have their own written language and literature.
- The Thanlwin River (also known as the Salween/Namkhong) cuts across the state, which is also home to Inle Lake, the second-largest natural expanse of water in Myanmar.
- Shan is largely rural, with only three cities of significant size: Lashio, Kengtung, and the capital, Taunggyi.
- Shan State, with its many ethnic groups, is home to several armed ethnic armies.
- While the military government has signed ceasefire agreements with most groups, vast areas of the state, especially those east of the Thanlwin River, remain outside the central government’s control and in recent years have come under heavy ethnic-Han-Chinese economic and political influence. Other areas are under the control of military groups, such as the Shan State Army

4. AGNI Initiative

Context: Ministry of Ayush has launched AGNI Initiative for physicians practicing in the field of Ayurveda.

- Ministry of Ayush has launched AGNI Initiative for physicians practicing in the field of Ayurveda.
- AGNI – Ayurveda Gyan Naipunya Initiative

Objectives

- To provide a platform to Ayurveda practitioners for reporting their innovative practices in various disease conditions.
- To create of a database by identifying and collaborating with interested practitioners.
- To mainstream pragmatic practices through scientific validation and evidence-based appraisal.

Nodal agency – Central Council for Research in Ayurveda Sciences (CCRAS).

- It will document and publish the reported practices in consultation with National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM)

Central Council for Research in Ayurveda Sciences (CCRAS)

- An autonomous body under Ministry of AYUSH.
- Aim – To undertake, coordinate, formulate, develop and promote research on scientific lines in Ayurveda.

5. Psyche mission

Context: Psyche mission fires lasers at Earth from 16 million kilometres away, successfully demonstrating the future of communication in space.

- Psyche was discovered in 1852 by Italian astronomer Annibale de Gasparis. It is sometimes referred to as 16 Psyche
- Launched by – NASA in 2023.
- Psyche mission fires lasers at Earth from 16 million kilometres away, successfully demonstrating the future of communication in space.

Deep Space Optical Communications (DSOC) – Psyche Mission

- It is a new laser communication technology that encodes data in photons at near-infrared wavelengths (rather than radio waves) to communicate between a probe in deep space and Earth.
- Using light instead of radio allows the spacecraft to communicate more data in a given amount of time.

- It is planned for the 1st 2 years of the spacecraft's cruise and so it does not relay Psyche mission data to earth.
- Aim – To study the metallic asteroid called '16 Psyche', located in the main asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter.
- Type- Orbiter
- Mission – By 2029, the spacecraft will begin exploring the asteroid and will spend about 2 years orbiting the asteroid.
- It will take pictures, map the surface, and collect data to determine Psyche's composition.
- Scientific instruments – Multispectral Imager, Gamma-Ray and Neutron Spectrometer, Magnetometer, Deep Space Optical Communications (DSOC).
- It uses solar electric propulsion and communicates with Earth through the Deep Space Network (DSN) of NASA.
- Significance – It will help to unlock the secrets of planets formation and evolution.

ANSWER WRITING

Describe the causes and traits of winter smog in the Indian context. Which mitigation and control measures would you suggest for wintertime smog in Indian cities?

Introduction

A seasonal phenomena of air pollution known as "winter smog" is caused by an accumulation of pollutants in the lower atmosphere that creates a dangerous fog in the wintertime. A research conducted in 2019 by the Indian Council of Medical Research found that 1.67 million deaths in India were caused by severe air pollution, such as smog.

It is mostly composed of the following elements:

- **Weather:** Temperature inversions, or pockets of warm air trapping cooler air close to the ground, are a result of wintertime climatic circumstances. This hinders the dispersion of contaminants, which would otherwise cause smog to build up.
- **Pollution Sources:** Burning solid fuels for cooking and heating, construction, industrial pollutants, and automobile emissions are the main causes of wintertime smog.
- Pollutants such as volatile organic compounds (VOCs), NO_x, and fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) are released into the atmosphere as a result of these emissions.
- **Burning of crop leftovers:** During the post-harvest season, agricultural regions bordering metropolitan areas sometimes burn crop residues (known as stump burning in the NCR region), which further exacerbates the smog problem.

India's wintertime smog has the following characteristics:

- **Reduced Visibility:** Winter pollution makes it harder to see, which makes driving dangerous and increases the risk of accidents.
- **Issues with Respiratory Health:** It presents serious health hazards, especially for people who already have respiratory disorders.
- Infections related to respiratory systems can be brought on by the fine particulate matter's deep lung penetration.
- **Environmental Impact:** The devastation of agriculture, forests, and aquatic ecosystems can result from smog. It might potentially have an impact on climate change worldwide.

Strategies for Mitigating and Controlling Winter Smog in Indian Metropolitan Areas:

- **Promote the Use of Public Transportation:** One practical strategy to lessen traffic jams and promote the use of carpooling or public transportation is to impose a congestion charge on private automobiles operating during rush hours.
- **Drones for Pollution Control:** One proactive way to manage air quality is to utilize drones to locate and disperse pollution hotspots.
- **Industrial Emissions Cap and Trade:** This policy limits industrial emissions and encourages a market-based strategy for pollution reduction.
- **Vertical Gardens:** Adding vertical gardens to urban areas is both visually beautiful and good for the environment.
- **Crop Residue Management:** Promote and put into practice environmentally friendly substitutes for burning crop residue.
- **Rewarding Low-Carbon Lifestyles:** People are more likely to make environmentally friendly decisions and lower their carbon footprint when they are offered incentives such as points, coupons, or tax breaks for engaging in eco-friendly activities like carpooling or public transportation

Conclusion:

In Indian cities, reducing wintertime smog is a difficult and varied task. Governments, businesses, and communities must work together to implement regulations, improve public awareness, and develop technology in order to provide effective solutions.

MCQs

1. Recently, 'RISE' initiative was launched. It is associated with which one of the following fields?
 - a) **Circular Economy**
 - b) Education
 - c) Child Nutrition
 - d) Financial Inclusion
2. With reference to the Global Digital Public Infrastructure Repository, consider the following statements:
 1. It is created by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
 2. It is a comprehensive resource hub in which essential lessons and expertise from G20 members are pooled.
 3. Only Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) is incorporated in this repository from India.
 How many of the above statements are correct?
 - a) Only one
 - b) **Only two**
 - c) All three
 - d) None
3. Consider the following:
 1. China
 2. India
 3. Thailand
 How many of the above countries border Shan State in Myanmar?
 - a) Only one
 - b) **Only two**
 - c) All three
 - d) None
4. AGNI Initiative, recently seen in news is an initiative of which of the following ministry?
 - a) **Ministry of Ayush**
 - b) Ministry of Defence
 - c) Ministry of Home Affairs
 - d) Ministry of Science and Technology
5. Consider the following statements about Psyche Mission
 1. It is a joint initiative of NASA and JAXA Space agencies.
 2. It aims to study the metallic asteroid called '16 Psyche', located in the main asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter.
 Choose the incorrect statements:
 - a) **1 only**
 - b) 2 only
 - c) Both 1 and 2
 - d) Neither 1 nor 2
6. What is the 'Abel Prize'?
 - (a) An award recognizing outstanding achievements in literature.
 - (b) **A prize awarded for excellence in the field of mathematics.**
 - (c) A prestigious honor in the field of environmental science.
 - (d) An accolade presented for exceptional contributions to the field of astronomy.
7. Regarding the 'Moho discontinuity', which statement is accurate?
 - (a) **A geological boundary between the Earth's crust and mantle.**
 - (b) A weather phenomenon associated with extreme temperature variations.
 - (c) A seismological feature indicating the presence of oil reserves.
 - (d) A point of intersection between two tectonic plates.
8. Consider the following statements regarding International Space Station (ISS).
 1. The ISS is the first space station to be built and operated.
 2. ISS is not entirely in zero-gravity space and it does encounter a little bit of gravity.
 3. Thrusters must be sent periodically, that attach themselves to the ISS for keeping it in orbit.
 How many of the above statements are correct?
 - (a) Only one
 - (b) **Only two**
 - (c) All three
 - (d) None
9. Which one of the following situations best reflects "Indirect Transfers" often talked about in the media recently with reference to India?
 - (a) An Indian company investing in a foreign enterprise and paying taxes to the foreign country on the profits arising out of its investment
 - (b) A foreign company investing in India and paying taxes to the country of its base on the profits arising out of its investment
 - (c) An Indian company purchases tangible assets in a foreign country and sells such assets after their value increases and transfers the proceeds to India
 - (d) **A foreign company transfers shares and such shares derive their substantial value from assets located in India**
10. Rothera Research Station on Adelaide Island, is located in which region?
 - a) Arctic
 - b) **Antarctic**
 - c) Equator
 - d) Mediterranean