

THE PRIVATE SECTOR BOOST IN INDIA'S SPACE INDUSTRY

Context

- India's Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) stated recently that the government would soon come up with a new space policy that could initiate the rise of India's own "SpaceX-like ventures, aiming to increase private sector participation in the industry.
- India has not yet tapped into its complete potential in space sector. With a new space policy, it is aiming to encourage satellite manufacturing in the private sector for a range of applications from health care, agriculture to urban development and property tax estimation.

Significance of space sector development

- **Precise information:** Satellites provide more accurate information on **weather forecasts** and assess long-term trends in the climate and **habitability** of a region.
- **Illustration:** By monitoring the long-term impact of climate change at regional, territorial, and national scales, governments can devise more pragmatic and combative plans of action for farmers and dependent industries.
- **Combating hazards:** Additionally, space technology can also serve as **real-time monitoring** and **early-warning solutions** against natural disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, floods, wildfires, mining etc.
- **Enhanced connectivity:** The satellite communication has far reach to remote areas where conventional networks would require a heavy complimenting infrastructure.
- **Reaching the unreachable:** World Economic Forum (WEF) had stated in 2020 that satellite communication can help connect **49%** of the world's **unconnected population**.
- **Security architecture:** Enhancing space technology would be beneficial to serve multiple purposes in defense.

Critical areas of development in space sector

- The various categories for investment in the space technology sector are mentioned as below:

- **Satellite communications** (major category), which is used to facilitate telecommunication services
- Other prominent categories include **spacecraft** and **equipment manufacturing**
- The space avenue is an **integration** of the aerospace, IT hardware and telecom sectors. Thus investment in this arena would foster **positive carryover effects** to other sectors as well.

India's standing in global space market

- **Statistics:** As per SpaceTech Analytics, **India** is the **sixth-largest** player in the industry internationally having **6%** of the world's **space-tech companies** (as of 2021).
 - U.S.A. holds the leader's spot housing 56.4% of all companies in space-tech ecosystem.
 - Other major players include U.K. (6.5%), Canada (5.3%), China (4.7%) & Germany (4.1%).
- **Valuation:** Indian Space Industry was valued at **\$7 billion in 2019** and aspires to grow to **\$50 billion by 2024**.
- **Budget allocation:** India's total budgetary allocation for **FY2022-23** towards the Department of Space was **₹13,700 crore**.
 - Also the **funding into space start-ups** nearly **tripled to \$67.2 million** on a year-over-year basis in 2021.
- **Prominent distinction:** India's standout feature in space-tech is its **cost-effectiveness**. For instance, India holds the distinction of being the **first country** to have reached the **Mars' orbit** in its **first attempt** and at **\$74 million**, way cheaper than Western standards.
- **Innovation:** Most global space companies are involved in manufacture of spacecraft equipment and satellite communications.
 - However, majority Indian start-ups registered with ISRO, are dealing in projects related to **space debris management** of old spacecraft and satellites.
- **Investment destination:** U.S. and Canada were the highest receivers of space-related investment in 2021.
 - U.S. space budget was \$41 billion in 2021, \$23.3 billion of which was focused on NASA.

Regulation of private players in India's space sector

- The private sector involvement in space sector development was earlier mostly limited to manufacturing and fabrication of rockets and satellites, including research institutions.
- However, in order to increase their role and make them into a strategic partner Government of India set up a new space organization called **IN-SPACE** (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre) in 2020 within Department of Space (**DoS**).
- Additionally, **New Space India Ltd (NSIL)** was constituted in 2019 to **transfer the matured technologies** developed by the ISRO to Indian industries. All of them are under the purview of the Ministry of Defence. One of the mandates of NSIL is to **mass-produce and manufacture the SSLV and the more powerful PSLV** in partnership with the private sector in India through technology transfers.

About IN SPACE:

- **Description:** IN-SPACE acts as **national nodal agency** for hand-holding and provides a **level playing field** for private companies to use Indian space infrastructure.
 - As an **oversight and regulatory body**, it is responsible for devising mechanisms to offer sharing of technology, expertise, and facilities free of cost (if feasible) to promote non-government private entities (NGPEs).
 - IN-SPACE's Monitoring and Promotion **Directorate** oversees NGPE's activities as per prescribed regulations and reports back in case any **corrective actions** or resolutions are required.
- **Mandate:** It was mandated with the task of promoting, authorising and licensing private players to carry out space activities.
- **Act as bridge:** ISRO shares its expertise in matters pertaining to quality and reliability protocols, documentations and testing procedure through IN-SPACE's 'interface mechanism' to NGPEs.

CCI: WHATSAPP HASN'T WITHDRAWN 2021 PRIVACY POLICY, MUST BE PROBED

In News:

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) recently told the Delhi High Court that WhatsApp's updated privacy policy of 2021 has not been withdrawn.
- Hence, its probe concerning the policy should be allowed to proceed.

Competition Act, 2002:

- The Competition Act, 2002, as amended by the Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007, follows the philosophy of modern competition laws.
- The Act prohibits anti-competitive agreements, abuse of dominant position by enterprises.
- It also regulates combinations (acquisition, acquiring of control and M&A) which causes or likely to cause an appreciable adverse effect on competition within India.
- The objectives of the Act are sought to be achieved through the Competition Commission of India.

About Competition Commission of India (CCI):

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) is a statutory body which was established in March 2009 under the Competition Act, 2002.

Objectives:

- Eliminate practices having adverse effect on competition
- Promote and sustain competition
- Protect the interests of consumers
- Ensure freedom of trade in the markets of India

Composition:

- The Commission consists of one Chairperson and six members who shall be appointed by the Central Government.

Functions:

- Ensure consumer interests are protected in the market
- Implement the policies enumerated in the Competition Act, 2002
- To promote fair and constructive competition practices in the market
- To prevent the realisation of anti-competitive agreements

- To cooperate with other regulatory bodies to work more efficiently in ensuring the continuity of a free and fair market

Powers:

- The Competition Commission of India has the power to inquire into a certain agreement as well as the dominant position of enterprises.
- It has the power to inquire into any acquisition or combination if it determines that such acquisition or combination may adversely affect competition in the Indian market.
- It has the power to regulate its own procedures.
- It has the power to impose monetary penalties upon violation of the Competition Act, 2002.
- It has the power to pass an interim order for any act where there has been anti-competition agreements or abuse of position by dominant parties which adversely affects the competition in the market.

Few judgements of CCI

- in 2012, CCI imposed a fine of \$910 million on 11 cement companies for cartelisation.
- In 2013, \$7.6 million fine was imposed on the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) for misusing its dominant position
- It imposed a fine of ₹258 crores upon Three Airlines in 2015 for cartelisation in determining the fuel surcharge on air cargo.

News Summary:

- In January 2021 WhatsApp rolled out a new privacy policy and had given users time till 28 February 2021 to accept and update.
- However, some of the features of the new privacy policy triggered debates and seemed controversial.
 - For instance, the new policy does not provide the users with the option to opt-out of their data being shared with Facebook Inc, WhatsApp's parent company.
- Due to public push back, WhatsApp had extended the deadline to update to May 2021.

Suo-moto action by CCI:

- Subsequently, CCI on its own had decided to initiate a probe into WhatsApp's updated privacy policy based on news reports regarding the same.

- WhatsApp and Facebook had subsequently challenged before the single judge CCI's March 2021 order directing a probe against them.
- Their argument was that the issue concerning its new policy was already pending consideration before the high court and the Supreme Court.

ARTICLE 60 (OATH OR AFFIRMATION BY THE PRESIDENT)

Droupadi Murmu took oath of office as the 15th President of India and created history by being the first tribal head of State and the second woman to occupy the country's highest constitutional post.



About:

- Every President and every person acting as President or discharging the functions of the President shall, before entering upon his office, make and subscribe in the presence of the Chief Justice of India or, in his absence, the senior most Judge of the Supreme Court available, an oath or affirmation in the following form, that is to say -
 - "I, A.B., do swear in the name of God / solemnly affirm that I will faithfully execute the office of President (or discharge the function of the President) of India and will to the best of my ability preserve, protect and defend the Constitution and the law and that I will devote myself to the service and well-being of the people of India."

THE TRADITION OF 25 JULY AND DROUPADI MURMU'S SWEARING-IN AS PRESIDENT

25 July, will go down in the annals of Indian history as Droupadi Murmu is sworn in as the first tribal President of the country.



About:

- Records show that since 1977, successive Presidents have taken the oath of office on 25 July.
- Murmu's swearing-in on 25 July makes her the 10th successive President to take oath on 25 July since 1977. At 64, Murmu is the youngest and India's first president to be born after Independence.

Significance of 25 July

- There is no written rule as to why presidents since 1977 have been sworn in on this date.
- The tenure of outgoing President of India, Ram Nath Kovind ended on 24 July, paving the way for Droupadi Murmu's ascension to the topmost position in the country.
- Incidentally, Kovind was also sworn in as the 14th President of India on 25 July 2017.
- Since Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, the sixth President of India, took the oath on 25 July back in 1977, this practice has continued.
- Successive Presidents such as Giani Zail Singh, R Venkataraman, Shankar Dayal Sharma, KR Narayanan, APJ Abdul Kalam, Pratibha Patil, Pranab Mukherjee and Ram Nath Kovind have taken oath on 25 July.

LATEST GUIDELINES ON ARRESTS AND BAIL ORDERS

On July 11, a division bench of 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.

What the top court said

The Supreme Court has called upon the government to consider framing a new law to facilitate the grant of bail



On rate of conviction: "The rate of conviction in criminal cases in India is abysmally low. It appears to us that this factor weighs on the mind of the court while deciding the bail applications in a negative sense"



On the need for bails act: "We... call on government to consider an Act meant for granting of bail. Our belief is for the reason that the code as it exists today is a continuation of the pre-independence one"



On preservation of right to liberty: "Liberty, as embedded in the Code, has to be preserved, protected, and enforced by the criminal courts. Any conscious failure by them would constitute an affront to liberty"



About:

- These guidelines are in addition to the earlier ones which the apex court had already laid down in the case of Armesh Kumar vs State of Bihar (2014).
- The Court in the present case has also

emphasised upon separate legislation on the law relating to bail and has also issued specific directions in this regard.

- On July 16, even the Chief Justice of India (CJI) cautioned against “hasty and indiscriminate arrests”. He further commented on the delay in bails and the plight of undertrial prisoners.

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

- Section 41 of the Code provides for the circumstances in which arrest can be made by the police without a warrant and mandates for reasons to be recorded in writing for every arrest and non-arrest.
- Section 41A of the Code provides for the requirement of a notice to be sent by the investigating agencies before making an arrest in certain conditions prescribed by the Code.

HUMAN-ANIMAL CONFLICT

Minister of Environment tabled data in Lok Sabha on human-animal conflict.

Elephants	2018-19	19-20	20-21
Humans killed by elephants	—	585	461
Elephants killed by trains...	19	14	
... by electrocution	81	76	6
... by poaching	6	9	
... by poisoning	9	0	

533 Humans killed by elephants in 2021-22

About:

- Between 2018-19 and 2020-21, 222 elephants were killed by electrocution across the country, 45 by trains, 29 by poachers and 11 by poisoning.
- Among tigers, too, 29 were killed by poaching between 2019 and 2021, while 197 tiger deaths are under scrutiny.
- Among human casualties of conflict with animals, elephants killed 1,579 humans in three years — 585 in 2019-20, 461 in 2020-21, and 533 in 2021-22. Odisha accounted for the highest number of these deaths at 322.
- Tigers killed 125 humans in reserves between 2019 and 2021. Maharashtra accounted for nearly half these deaths, at 61.