

## Prelim Bits 02-02-2023 | UPSC Daily Current Affairs

### Puisne Judge

*The recommendation for appointment of the Supreme Court judges, the Collegium said it had taken into consideration the seniority of Chief Justices and 'senior puisne Judges'.*

- **Meaning** - The French origin word 'puisne' means 'later born' or younger.
- **Usage** - Puisne is almost always used in the context of judges, and essentially denotes seniority of rank.
- The term puisne judge is used in common law countries to refer to judges who are ranked lower in seniority, (except the Chief Justice of that court).

**Common law** - Common law is the body of law that is created by judges through their written opinions, rather than through statutes or constitutions (statutory law).

*The United Kingdom (UK) and the Commonwealth countries, including India, are common law countries.*

- **In the UK** - Puisne judges are judges other than those holding distinct titles.
- **In India** - All judges have the same judicial powers. As the senior most judge of a court, the Chief Justice has an additional administrative role.
- In India, there is a reference to a puisne judge only while considering the order of seniority for appointments, elevations to High Courts, etc.
- It does not have a bearing on the exercise of a judge's judicial power.
- **Related Topic** - [Collegium System](#)

### References

1. [IE - Who is a puisne judge, and what does the term mean?](#)

### Laboratory-Grown Diamonds

*The 2023 Union Budget shines special attention on laboratory-grown diamonds (LGD).*

*Scientists at General Electric research laboratory in New York created the world's first-ever LGD in 1954.*

*Naturally-occurring diamonds are created when carbon deposits buried within the earth are exposed to extreme heat and pressure.*

- Laboratory-grown Diamonds (LGD) are manufactured in laboratories, as opposed to naturally-occurring diamonds.
- They are produced using specific technology which mimics the geological processes that grow natural diamonds.
- LGD is hard to be distinguished from naturally-occurring diamonds.
- **Similarity** - The chemical composition and other physical and optical properties including optical dispersion of the two are the same.
- **Differences** - Naturally-occurring diamonds take millions of years to form.
- Naturally-occurring diamonds require more energy to extract.
- LGD has much lesser environmental footprint than that of a naturally-occurring diamond.
- **Methods** - LGDs are mostly manufactured through 2 processes
  1. High pressure, high temperature (HPHT) method or
  2. Chemical Vapour Deposition (CVD) method.
- Both HPHT and CVD methods of growing diamonds artificially begin with a seed (a slice of another diamond).
- **Application** - Created in controlled environments, their properties can be enhanced for various purposes.
- LGDs are most often used for industrial purposes, in machines and tools as cutters.
- Pure synthetic diamonds have high thermal conductivity, but negligible electrical conductivity.
- Pure synthetic diamonds are used in electronics as a heat spreader for high-power laser diodes, laser arrays and high-power transistors.

## 2023 Budget Provisions for LGDs

- Reducing the basic customs duty (from 5% to nil) on seeds used in the manufacture of LGDs.
- A 5-year research grant will be provided to one of the IITs for research and development in the field of LGDs.

## References

- [The Hindu - What are laboratory-grown diamonds?](#)
- [IE - What are lab-grown diamonds, mentioned in Budget 2023?](#)

## Death Penalty in India

*According to the Annual Death Penalty Report - 2022, trial courts awarded 165 death penalties in 2022, most since 2000.*

- The Annual Death Penalty report 2022 was released by Project 39A, a group from the National Law University, New Delhi.
- **Report Highlights** - In 2022, 165 death sentences were imposed by trial courts, which is the highest in a single year since 2000.
- As on 31st December 2022, 539 prisoners were living on death row, which is the

largest death row population since 2004.

- The death penalty in Ahmedabad single bomb blast case is the largest number of persons sentenced to death in a single case since 2016.
- The cases of sexual violence constituting over half of the total death sentences imposed by trial courts in 2022.
- Despite the high number of death sentences in trial courts, very few death sentences are upheld by higher courts.



## Prisoners on Death Row

*Article 39 A - Free legal Aid*

*Article 72 - [Pardoning power](#) of President*

*Article 134 - Right of appeal in any case where capital punishment was imposed on an accused in reversal of acquittal order.*

- **Global scenario** - At the end of 2022, 113 countries had abolished the death penalty.
- 125 countries voted in favour of a moratorium on the death penalty at the UNGA on 15 December 2022, with India voting against the same.
- **Related topics** - [Jurisprudence of death penalty](#), [Reforming death penalty in India](#), [Mercy Petition](#)

## References

1. [IE - Annual Death Penalty Report, 2022](#)
2. [Project 39a - Annual Statistics Report - 2022](#)

## UPI for NRIs

*The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) recently eased the use of UPI (Unified Payment Interface), to non-resident Indians (NRIs).*

- **Existing case** - Even now, non-resident Indians (NRIs) can use the UPI app for payments.
- But for sim-linked payments process, Indian mobile phone number is required.
- **Now** - NPCI has eased the use of UPI to NRIs to make payments from their non-Indian mobile numbers.
- Non-resident account types like NRE/NRO that have international mobile numbers will now be allowed to transact with UPI.
- It can cover retail as well as wholesale transactions.

*UPI is a simple payment technique that enables digital money transfers from one person to another.*

- **New Provision** - In order to access UPI from their international mobile number, the

user will need an NRO or NRE (non-resident ordinary or non-resident external) account.

- The user should first link the mobile number with an NRE or NRO account.
- Member banks must ensure that the accounts are only allowed as per the extant FEMA regulations.
- The onus of adherence to the guidelines/instructions issued by the RBI from time to time will rest with the respective banks.
- In addition to this, the remitter and beneficiary banks need to comply with respect to anti-money laundering (AML) rules.
- The first phase of rollout is extended only to 10 countries — Singapore, Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Oman, Qatar, the US, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and the UK.

## References

- [Business Line - UPI for NRIs](#)
- [IE - NRIs can now set up UPI on their international mobile numbers](#)

## Dementia

*According to a 2020 report published by the Alzheimer's and Related Disorders Society of India, there are around 5 million people in India living with dementia.*

- Dementia is a syndrome in which there is deterioration of cognitive functions beyond the usual consequences of biological ageing.
- It affects memory, thinking, orientation, comprehension, calculation, learning capacity, language, and judgement.
- **Cause** - Dementia results from a variety of diseases and injuries that primarily or secondarily affect the brain.
- The most common cause of dementia is Alzheimer's disease and it mainly affects older people.

*Worldwide, 47.5 million people have dementia and is expected to double every 20 years, going up to 135.5 million by 2050.*

- **Symptoms** - depression, psychosis, agitation, aggression, disturbed sleep, wandering, apathy, and a variety of socially inappropriate behaviours.
- **Treatment** - There is currently no treatment available to cure dementia.
- The 'Global action plan on the public health response to dementia 2017-2025' provides a comprehensive blueprint for action in several areas for dementia.

## References

1. [The Hindu - Dementia: What it is?](#)
2. [WHO - Dementia](#)



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