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Editorial
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COMPILATION

Private Rocket Prospects

03/06/2024

Agnikul Cosmos's successful test of the 'Agnibaan' rocket marks a significant boost for India's private space sector and innovation.



On May 30, Agnikul Cosmos successfully tested its rocket 'Agnibaan' with the 'Suborbital Tech Demonstrator' (SOrTeD) mission, marking a significant milestone in India's private space sector. This fifth attempt saw a minimal version of the 14-tonne, two-stage launch vehicle powered by 3D-printed semi-cryogenic engines. Agnikul's success aligns with India's expanding market for small satellite launch services, currently led by ISRO's PSLV and soon, the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle. However, Agnikul needs to improve its communication of test flight parameters. The private sector's test flights, including Skyroot's 'Vikram' in 2022, signify more than commercial potential. ISRO's support and shared technical expertise have accelerated these missions, potentially spurring innovation in the sector. Notably, ISRO's development of carbon-carbon composite engine nozzles for the PSLV, increasing payload capacity by 15 kg, exemplifies cross-sector knowledge transfer. The government should foster frameworks for free-flowing knowledge, ensuring advancements in aerospace benefit broader scientific fields.

04/06/2024

“Baby Trafficking Prevention”



The recent bust of an inter-State baby smuggling racket by Telangana police highlights a serious socio-economic issue. This gang, operating across Delhi, Pune, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh, was involved in 'purchasing' babies and selling them to childless couples. They charged between 1.80 lakh and 5.50 lakh per baby, earning commissions from ₹50,000 to ₹1 lakh. Poverty often forces biological parents to sell their newborns, while the high demand and long waiting times for legal adoption drive desperate couples to illegal means. Legal adoption processes can take two to four years, exacerbating the issue. The government's current efforts in apprehending such gangs are only short-term solutions. Long-term measures must address root causes like poverty alleviation, youth employment, awareness about adoption schemes, and streamlining bureaucratic processes. Ensuring the best interests of the child is crucial in curbing such illegal activities and preventing children from being treated as commodities in a black market.

05/06/2024



“Property Compensation,”

The evolution and legal debates surrounding property rights and compensation in India, emphasizing the need for just and fair compensation.

The article discusses the evolution of property rights and compensation in India, focusing on key judicial and legislative developments. Initially, the Indian Constitution regarded the right to property as a fundamental right, sparking debates on compensation adequacy when property was acquired by the state. The conflict began with the *Bela Banerjee* case, where the Supreme Court mandated "just equivalent" compensation for deprivation of property under Articles 19(1)(f) and 31(2). To counter this, the Fourth Amendment in 1955 declared compensation non-justiciable. In 1971, the term "compensation" in Article 31(2) was replaced with "amount" to avoid judicial scrutiny, upheld by the Supreme Court in *Kesavananda Bharati*.

Post-1977 political changes led to the deletion of the right to property from the Constitution, reclassifying it under Article 300-A as a legal right. Justice K.K. Mathew emphasized that compensation's adequacy was inherently tied to social and economic considerations, relating to the directive principles and basic structure doctrine. Recent judgments, such as in the *Kolkata Municipal Corporation* case, reinforced the requirement for adequate compensation, reinstating the need for judicial review to ensure fairness and equity in property acquisition and compensation. The overarching theme is the ongoing balance between state authority and individual property rights, highlighting the fundamental need for just and fair compensation.

“Economic Issues Post-Election,,

06/06/2024

The election results highlight the electorate's focus on economic issues like unemployment, low wages, and the need for social justice.

The recent Lok Sabha election results have surprised many, challenging exit polls and analysts' predictions. The focus on social justice, caste census, and economic issues seemed to sway voters. The electorate's message highlights economic challenges such as unemployment, low wages, inadequate livelihoods, and rising costs of essentials, which were allegedly neglected by the government.

The focus was on addressing these concerns, particularly in regions like Uttar Pradesh. Promises included expanding social and economic rights through better-funded employment schemes, universal pensions, and improved public services for health and education. Emphasis on youth, women, and workers' rights and economic dignity were central to the campaign. Two critical policy changes are proposed: ensuring basic social rights and creating jobs to meet young people's aspirations. Addressing these requires public employment expansion and supporting micro, small, and medium enterprises.

The article critiques the government's approach to welfare schemes, suggesting a shift towards human rights-based frameworks. Additionally, the revival of federalism is seen as essential, advocating for state governments to have more autonomy in public service delivery, reducing central interference.

07/06/2024

“Re-democratisation Challenges,”



The recent Indian election marks a potential shift towards re-democratisation, emphasizing coalition governance and social justice.

The 18th Indian general election signifies the end of a political cycle, marked by the Bharatiya Janata Party losing its majority. Despite this, a complete shift in power dynamics has not occurred, and the political landscape shows signs of a re-democratisation process. For the past decade, political and economic power concentrated in a few hands, side-lining Parliament and federal institutions. This period saw increased identity politics and communal polarisation, often marginalising minorities. Although the current power structure remains largely intact, the need for coalition governance might alter the political scenario. The Election Commission's actions, alongside potential judicial decisions, could lead to changes in governance and policy enforcement. Historical parallels indicate that federalism and political inclusivity might be revitalised, partly due to the coalition pressures and judicial interventions.

Social justice initiatives and political mobilisations, driven by various regional and national leaders, focus on inclusion and equality. These efforts aim to counter previous policies that marginalized certain groups. Future political narratives and reforms will likely emphasise unity, diversity, and federalism, shaping a more inclusive political discourse and governance framework in India.

“Misguided JUDGMENT,”

08/06/2024



The Madhya Pradesh High Court's ruling on inter-faith marriage under the Special Marriage Act misinterprets the law, imposing personal religious norms on secular unions.

The Madhya Pradesh High Court's decision to deny protection to an inter-faith couple, citing the invalidity of their marriage under Muslim law, demonstrates a significant legal misinterpretation. The Special Marriage Act (SMA) of 1954 was established to enable inter-faith marriages without adhering to religious rituals. Despite this, the judge erroneously examined Muslim law to conclude that a Muslim cannot marry an “idolatress or fire-worshipper,” deeming such a marriage irregular. The SMA should override personal laws in inter-faith marriages, making the judge's focus on religious validity irrelevant. The judge acknowledged that SMA marriages cannot be contested based on ritual non-performance but drew a flawed conclusion that invalid marriages under personal law remain invalid under the SMA. This interpretation misapplies a provision meant to prevent misuse of the SMA for marriages within prohibited relationships. The court's approach imposes religious law on secular marriages and undermines the SMA, potentially pushing individuals towards religious conversion to validate their marriages. Allowing this judgment to persist would weaken the SMA and obstruct efforts toward a uniform civil code, thereby privileging religious personal law over secular marriage laws.