



# Parole and Furlough

## Why in News?

Recently, [Supreme Court of India](#) ruled that the period of parole granted to convicts during the [Covid-19 pandemic](#) to prevent overcrowding in prisons and avoid the risk of spread of infection, cannot be counted as part of their actual sentence period.

## What is Parole and Furlough?

- **Parole:**
  - It is a system of **releasing a prisoner with suspension of the sentence.**
    - The release is conditional, usually subject to behavior, and requires periodic reporting to the authorities for a set period of time
  - Parole is **not a right**, and is given to a prisoner for a specific reason, such as a death in the family or a wedding of a blood relative
  - It may be denied to a prisoner even when he makes out a sufficient case, if the competent authority is satisfied that releasing the convict would not be in the interest of society.
- **Furlough:**
  - It is similar to parole, but with some significant differences. It is given in cases of **long-term imprisonment.**
  - The period of furlough granted to a prisoner is treated as **remission of his sentence.**
  - Unlike parole, **furlough is seen as a matter of right for a prisoner**, to be granted periodically irrespective of any reason, and merely to enable the prisoner to retain family and social ties, and to counter the ill-effects of prolonged time spent in prison.

## Note

- Both parole and furlough are considered as **reformatory processes.** These provisions were introduced with a view to **humanizing the prison system.**
- Parole and furlough are covered under the **Prisons Act of 1894.**

## UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

**Q. With reference to India, consider the following statements: (2021)**

1. When a prisoner makes out a sufficient case, parole cannot be denied to such prisoner because it becomes a matter of his/her right.
2. State Governments have their own Prisoners Release on Parole Rules.

**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

**Ans: (b)**

**Source: IE**

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