

NEWS TODAY

CRIMINAL INDICTMENT OF A PRESIDENT IN THE US AND INDIA

- Recently, Donald Trump **became the first former U.S. President to face a criminal charge.**
- In **both US (Resolution by US Justice Department) and India (Article 361 (2) of the Constitution)**, criminal proceeding against a **sitting president cannot** be instituted.
 - However, this **immunity is not available to the former Presidents in USA and India.**
 - Also, in India**, those convicted with a **jail term of two or more years cannot contest the election of President for six years.**
 - But in USA**, such a person **can run for the office of President** and can even serve as the President.
- Other Points of comparison**

Provisions	Indian President	U.S. President
Qualification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 35 years of age Citizen of India Qualified for election as a member of Lok Sabha Not holding office of profit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 35 years of age U.S. resident for 14 years and a natural born citizen
Impeachment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grounds - Violation of the Constitution Impeachment charges can be initiated by either House of Parliament. Requires two-third majority from both the houses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grounds - Treason, Bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanours. Impeachment charges can be introduced in the House of Representatives. Requires a simple majority from House of Representatives and two-third majority from the House of Senate.

DEFENCE MINISTRY INKS ₹32K CRORE CONTRACTS IN PUSH FOR SELF-RELIANCE

- The deals are related to:
 - Improved Akash weapon system (AWS):** AWS is a **Short Range Surface to Air Missile System** that can simultaneously engage Multiple Targets.
 - Improved AWS has **Seeker Technology, 360° Engagement Capability** and improved environmental parameters.
 - Weapon Locating Radars (WLR) Swathi (Plains):** It is an indigenously designed WLR which is capable of **locating guns, mortars and rockets firing own troops.**
 - Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels and Next Generation Missile Vessels:** These will enable the navy to maintain its combat capability.
 - To help meet various operational requirements including **anti-piracy, anti-trafficking**, etc.
 - Lynx-U2 Fire control system fire control system:** It is capable of **accurately tracking and engaging targets** amid sea clutter as well as **air/surface targets.**
 - It will be installed on offshore patrol vessels.
 - Next-generation maritime mobile coastal batteries** (long range) and **BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles.**
 - BrahMos is a two stage missile system** with a solid propellant booster engine and a liquid Ramjet for second stage.
 - Originally Brahmos range was capped at 290 kms, but following India's entry into** Missile Technology Control Regime, it has been decided to **extend range upto 600km.**



PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS REGULATORY BOARD (PNGRB) AMENDED THE PNGRB (DETERMINATION OF NATURAL GAS PIPELINE TARIFF) REGULATIONS

- By amending the regulations, PNGRB incorporated the regulations pertaining to **Unified Tariff for natural gas pipelines** with a mission of **"One Nation, One Grid and One tariff"**.
 - PNGRB has notified a **levelized Unified Tariff of Rs.73.93 per million British thermal units (mBtu)**.
- PNGRB has created **three tariff zones** for Unified Tariff:
 - First zone** is up to a distance of 300 kms from gas source,
 - Second zone** is 300 – 1200 kms, and
 - Third zone** is beyond 1200 kms.
- Significance of unified tariffs:**
 - Help reduce the tariffs** for upcoming pipelines.
 - Facilitating more capital expenditure** in pipelines.
 - Benefit to consumers in far-flung areas** where presently additive tariff is applicable.
- The **Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas** bi-annually revises the price of **natural gas** produced from various sources.
 - The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs is yet to consider the suggestions made by the **Kirit Parikh Committee on fair pricing of natural gas**.
 - Among other things, it had **recommended to include natural gas in GST** regime.
- The **national gas grid** covers all the interconnected pipeline networks owned and operated by entities viz. IOCL, ONGC, GAIL (India) Limited.

At present, there are about **17,000 km long Natural Gas pipeline network** which is operational in the country.

Additionally, **15,500 km pipelines** has been envisaged to complete the **National Gas Grid**.

1ST FOUNDATIONAL LITERACY AND NUMERACY ASSESSMENT TEST (FLNAT) HELD THIS YEAR

- The FLNAT under **Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram** (New India Literacy Programme, NILP) was held across 10 States and UTs to **assess the basic Reading, Writing and Numeracy skills of the neo-literates**.
 - Non-literates of 15 years and above age group participated** in the event so that they can be **declared as literates on qualifying**.

About NILP

- It is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** approved for implementation during **FYs 2022-27**.
- The scheme is **in alignment with** the recommendations of **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**.
- The scheme **targets all non-literates of age 15 years and above** in the country, with more **focus on females and educationally backward states**.
- It has **five components: FLN; Critical Life Skills; Basic Education; Vocational Skills and Continuing Education**.
- The scheme is to be **implemented through volunteer teachers and students** of schools and Higher Education Institutions and Teacher Education Institution.
- Target for FYs 2022-27 is **5 crore learners (1.00 crore per year)** by using **"Online Teaching, Learning and Assessment System (OTLAS)"** in collaboration with National Informatics Centre, NCERT and NIOS.

SWACHHOTSAV 2023 LAUNCHED BY UNION MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS (MOHUA) ON INTERNATIONAL ZERO WASTE DAY (IZWD) 2023

- Swachhotsav campaign aims at galvanizing **participation and leadership of women to realize the goal of 'Garbage Free Cities'**.

The first IZWD has been jointly facilitated by the **UN Environment Programme (UNEP)** and the **UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)**.

Star Rating Process Flow



- MoHUA said that **1,000 cities are targeted to become 3-star Garbage Free Cities (GFC)** by October 2024 under the Swachh Bharat Mission Urban (SBM-U) 2.0.

GFC-Star rating protocol was launched in 2018 under SBM-U 2.0 to encourage a competitive, mission-mode spirit among Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).

Key achievements under SBM-U:

Urban India has become Open Defecation Free (ODF).

- All 4,715 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) completely ODF,
- 3,547 ULBs are ODF+ with functional and hygienic community and public toilets and
- 1,191 ULBs are ODF++ with complete faecal sludge management.

Waste processing in India has **gone up by over four times** from 17% in 2014 to 75% today.

About SBM-U 2.0:

- It is being **implemented as a centrally sponsored scheme by MoHUA** and envisages to make all cities **'Garbage Free'**.
- It focuses on **source segregation of solid waste**, utilizing the principles of **3Rs** (reduce, reuse, recycle), **etc** for effective solid waste management.

KNOW THE TERM

- A neo-literate is an **adult or an adolescent who did not or could not make use of the available educational opportunities on time**, and who at a **later stage acquired the skills of literacy** through formal or non-formal approaches.

INDIA OBJECTS TO \$280-BN US PLAN TO PROMOTE CHIP MAKING

- During recent Trade Policy Review of the USA, India sought clarifications from US on **ambitious CHIPS Act**.
 - US government's **Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors (CHIPS) and Science Act, 2022** aims to **incentivize technology companies to build semiconductor factories** in the country.
 - India raised concerns that it **violates World Trade Organisation (WTO) provisions** and puts global competitive manufacturers at **disadvantage**.
- About Semiconductor chips**
 - They are materials that conduct electricity **more than an insulator but less than a pure conductor**.
 - US, South Korea, Taiwan, and China** are top 4 countries dominating semiconductor industry.
 - Demand drivers for semiconductor industry:**
 - Growth in **cloud computing, internet-connected devices (IoT), and artificial intelligence**;
 - Development of **connectivity, data centers, communications, automotive, and advanced software**;
 - Challenges faced in semiconductor manufacturing:** Highly complex process of chip manufacturing, massive investment requirement, lack of skilled workforce etc.
- Initiatives By India:**
 - India Semiconductor Mission.**
 - Production linked incentive (PLI) scheme** for semiconductor and display board production.
 - Fiscal support for **design-linked initiative (DLI) scheme**.
 - Chips to Startup (C2S) programme.**

ALSO IN NEWS



AIS or All India Services (Conduct) Rules, 1968

- DoPT has instructed **all-India service officers** to disclose their investments in shares, debentures and other securities if they add up to **more than their basic salary** for six months.
 - This intimation is in addition to similar information that needs to be shared under **AIS Rules, 1968**.
- About AIS rules, 1968:**
 - These rules **specify the overall conduct** for Civil Servants.
 - Rule 14 (1) says that no member shall **speculate in any stock, share or other investments**.
 - But this provision **will not apply to occasional investment** made through stock-brokers or other persons duly authorised on licence under relevant law.



Second Summit for Democracy

- The **USA along with Costa Rica, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea, and the Republic of Zambia** opened the Second Summit for Democracy.
 - India also participated in the Summit.**
- It endorsed the **Summit for Democracy Declaration**, which affirms the endorsing parties' political commitments to:
 - Protect human rights, media freedom, and rule of law; Support free and fair elections, etc.



Captive Employment

- Union Ministry for Rural Development (MoRD) has initiated 'Captive Employment' under the **Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY)**.
- Captive Employment is a **first of its kind initiative** aimed at addressing the vision of **demand-based skilling ecosystem** catering to the requirements of industry partners ensuring **sustainable placements for rural poor youth**.
 - Captive Employer** is any Employer or Industry who provides employment to candidates in their own organization or one of its subsidiaries and has **suitable in-house training facilities**.
- DDU-GKY is a placement linked skilling program of the MoRD under the aegis of **National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM)**.



Pench Tiger reserve

- Two orphaned tiger cubs rescued from Pandharkawada forest range in Maharashtra have been moved to **Pench Tiger Reserve**.
- About Pench Tiger reserve:**
 - It is named after **Pench river**, which flows from **north to south** through Reserve.
 - Location:** Located in southern reaches of **Satpura hills** in Seoni and Chhindwara districts in Madhya Pradesh, and **continues in Nagpur district** in Maharashtra as a separate Sanctuary.
 - Flora:** Sal trees, Terminalia Arjun, Amaltas and Flame of The Forest (Butea frondosa) etc.
 - Fauna:** Tiger, Leopard, Sloth Bear, Jackal, Wolf, Deer, Porcupine, Hyena etc.


TRAPPIST-1b

- **James Webb Space Telescope (JWST)** has revealed that **TRAPPIST-1b** is **unlikely** to have an **atmosphere** as its temperature reaches a sizzling **230 degrees Celsius**.
 - It is based on the **planet's thermal emission**, detected by the Webb's **Mid-Infrared Instrument (MIRI)**.
- TRAPPIST-1b is an **earth-sized rocky exoplanet** with **1.4 times the mass** and **1.1 times the radius of earth**.
 - **Exoplanets** are the planets that **orbit around other stars**.
- TRAPPIST-1b, **discovered in 2017**, is **innermost** of seven known planets in the **TRAPPIST-1 system**.


Coronal Holes

- NASA scientists have spotted a **massive coronal hole on the Sun**, which is **20 times larger than Earth**, unleashing solar winds towards Earth.
 - Solar winds **impact Earth's magnetic field, satellites and technology**. Solar winds also lead to **generation of aurora at higher latitudes on Earth**.
- Coronal holes are **areas which appear dark in solar corona in extreme ultraviolet and soft x-ray solar images**.
- They appear dark as:
 - They are **cooler, less dense regions** than the surrounding **plasma**, and regions of **open, unipolar magnetic fields**.


Rare Diseases

- **All drugs and food** for special medical purposes, **imported for the treatment of all rare diseases** listed under the **National Policy for Rare Diseases 2021**, have been **exempted from basic customs duty**.
 - The government has also **fully exempted Pembrolizumab (Keytruda)** used in the treatment of **various types of cancer**.
- According to the WHO, rare diseases are **often debilitating lifelong diseases or disorders** with a prevalence of **1 or less, per 1000 population**.
 - However, in India a disease is defined as rare if it affects **fewer than 1 in 2500 individuals**. **72% of rare diseases are genetic**.
- **Example:** Cystic Fibrosis, Spinal Muscular Atrophy, Hunter syndrome, etc.


Vaikom Satyagraha

- Tamilnadu is planning a **year-long celebration** of Vaikom satyagraha movement that was launched to **end caste discrimination** in a temple in colonial Kerala.
- **About Vaikom Satyagraha:**
 - It was a satyagraha in **Travancore, India** (now part of Kerala) **against untouchability** in Hindu society.
 - It was centered at the **Shiva temple at Vaikom**, near Kottayam.
 - The Satyagraha aimed at **securing freedom of movement** for all sections of society through the public roads leading to the **Sri Mahadevar Temple at Vaikom**.
- **Pioneers:** Madhavan, K.P. Kesava Menon and K. Kelappan (also known as Kerala Gandhi).


Personality in News

- Shyamji Krishna Varma** (4 October 1857- 30 March 1930)
- Born in **Mandvi, Gujarat**, **Shyamji Krishna Varma** completed **his education in India and taught Sanskrit at the Oxford University**.
 - In **1905** he founded '**The India House**' and '**The Indian Sociologist**', that acted as a **meeting point for radical nationalists among Indian students in Britain**. He moved to **Paris in 1907** avoiding prosecution.
 - He became the **first President of Bombay Arya Samaj** and he **inspired Veer Savarkar** who was a member of India House in London. A memorial called **Kranti Teerth** dedicated to him was **inaugurated in 2010 near Mandvi**.
 - **Values:** Patriotic, Courageous, Etc.



/c/VisionIASdelhi



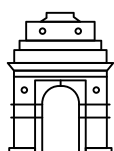
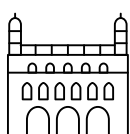
/Vision_IAS



/visionias_upsc



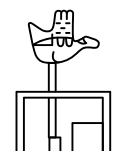
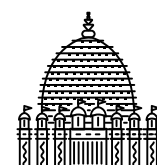
/VisionIAS_UPSC


DELHI

LUCKNOW

JAIPUR

HYDERABAD

PUNE

AHMEDABAD

CHANDIGARH

GUWAHATI