



INNOVATIVE IAS

Daily News Analysis

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General Studies- 2

Donald Trump impeachment

Why in News?

- Donald Trump has become the third US President in history to be impeached by the House of Representatives. The trial will now start in the Senate.

Key points:

- The two prior impeachments were: Andrew Johnson (1868) and Bill Clinton (1998).
- The legislature of the United States of America i.e. Congress of the United States consists of two houses: the Senate, in which each state, regardless of its size, is represented by two senators, and the House of Representatives, to which members are elected on the basis of population.
- The US Constitution states that the President can be removed for conviction of treason, bribery, or other high crimes or misdemeanour".
- In India, the President can be removed only for 'violation of the Constitution' and the Constitution does not define the meaning of the phrase 'violation of the Constitution'.

EVM not under RTI

Why in News?

Recently, the Delhi High Court quashed an order of the Central Information Commission (CIC) which had held that Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) fall within the definition of 'information' under the Right To Information (RTI) Act.

Key points:

- The CIC's order had come on a plea which sought access to an EVM maintained by the Election Commission (EC) under the RTI Act.
- CIC had observed that EVMs available with the EC in a material form or as a sample is a piece of information under section 2(f) of the RTI Act.
- Section- 2 (f) states that "Information" means any material in any form, including Records, Documents, Memos, e-mails, Opinions, Advice, Press releases, Circulars, Orders, Logbooks, Contracts, Reports, Papers, Samples, Models, Data material held in any electronic form and information relating to any private body which can be accessed by a Public Authority under any other law for the time being in force.
- With this judgement, EVMs are out of the purview of RTI ACT.

Election Commission's Stand

- EC does not maintain any EVM in sample or model form for the purpose of Section 2(f) of the RTI Act.
Though it maintains a small number of EVMs for the purposes of training of election officials



INNOVATIVE IAS

Daily News Analysis

and uses in awareness programmes under strict supervision.

- All EVMs utilised in the conduct of elections are securely stored in accordance with the manual on EVMs issued by the EC and the Representation of People Act.
- As per Article 324 of the Constitution, ECI has plenary powers in matters related to conduct of elections. And EVMs are integral to the conduct of elections in India. Its unregulated disclosure may lead to the threat to the purity and fairness of elections.

India-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission's

Why in news?

The India-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission's (JRC) technical-level talks have been cancelled recently.

Key points:

- The JRC was expected to draft the framework agreement of the interim sharing of the Feniriver's waters with Tripura. Bangladesh had agreed to share 1.82 cusecs of water with Tripura.
- The Feniriver forms part of the India-Bangladesh border. It originates in the South Tripura district and meets the Bay of Bengal after it flows into Bangladesh.
- The meeting cancellation is also expected to delay the preparation of a draft framework for the interim sharing agreements regarding several other rivers like the Manu, Muhuri, Khowai, Gomati, Dharla and Dudhkumar.

Indo-Bangladesh Joint Water Commission

- An Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission (JRC) is functioning since 1972.
- It was established to ensure the most effective joint efforts in maximizing the benefits of common river systems. India and Bangladesh share 54 rivers.
- The JRC is headed by Water Resources Ministers of both the countries.
- It also includes a system of transmission of flood forecasting data on major rivers like Ganga, Teesta, Brahmaputra and Barak during the monsoon season from India to Bangladesh.

Tripura's first SEZ

Why in News?

Recently, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has notified setting up of Tripura's first ever Special Economic Zone (SEZ).

Key points:

- It will be developed by Tripura Industrial Development Corporation (TIDC) Ltd. for the industries based on rubber, textile and apparel, bamboo and agri-food processing.
- The setting up of a SEZ will open up new avenues to attract private investment because of



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Daily News Analysis

its close proximity to the Chittagong Port (Bangladesh).

- With a view to overcome the shortcomings experienced on account of the multiplicity of controls and clearances; absence of world-class infrastructure, and with a view to attract larger foreign investments in India, the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) Act was passed in 2005.
- SEZs work as an engine for economic growth supported by quality infrastructure complemented by an attractive fiscal package, both at the Centre and the State level, with the minimum possible regulations.

India US 2+2 dialogue

- On December 18, India and United States held security dialogue in Washington. This was their second 2+2 dialogue.

Key points:

- The countries signed agreements on space exploration and defence cooperation. Three agreements under Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) were signed that will help in co-developing critical technologies.
- They also discussed on the efforts put in by the countries together for a free, open and prosperous Indo-Pacific with ASEAN at the centre.
- The leaders also reached MoU on water resources. The agreement will be signed between India's Ministry of Jal Shakti and US Geological Survey on quality assessment and management of water.
- The countries signed Industrial Security Annex that will enhance technology transfer and information exchange

Industrial Security Annex

- The Industrial Security Annex is a part of General Security of Military Information Agreement. The ISA will provide a framework to pursue and co-develop linkages in defence manufacturing. It will also add value to Make in India initiative. It will also help in developing manufacturing corridors that have been launched in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
- The first 2+2 dialogue was held in New Delhi in September 2018.

General studies-3

Jalasathis

Why in News?

Chief Minister of Odisha launched the 'Jalsathi' programme which will ensure supply of safe drinking water to all households in the state. During the programme launch, he distributed water quality testing kits and POS (point of sale) machines to women volunteers being called as- 'Jalasathis'.

About 'Jalsathi' programme

- Implementation: A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between Water

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Daily News Analysis

Corporation of Odisha (WATCO) and women federations in Bhubaneswar (Odisha Capital) for implementation of 'Jalsathi' programme.

- Coverage: Initially, the 'Jalasathi' programme will be implemented in as many as 8 wards of Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) under the 5T initiative of Housing and Urban Development. The programme will be implemented in remaining wards of Bhubaneswar and other urban areas of state in next phases. The initiative will benefit about 70 lakh people in urban areas.
- Under 'Jalsathi' programme, about 5,000 women will be engaged for supplying safe drinking water. Earlier, the state government had also engaged women self-help groups (SHGs) under 'Mission Shakti', for collection of power dues, paddy procurement, mid-day meal preparation activities. Therefore, the inclusion of woman volunteers from Mission Shakti for piped water supply where they will serve people as 'Jalasathis' will further boost their economic empowerment.
- Jalsathis: The 'Jalasathis' will act as links between consumers and Public Health Engineering Organisation (PHEO) or Water Corporation of Odisha (WATCO). They will be responsible for water quality testing, collection of water charges, facilitating new water connections, regularising connections, facilitating complaints redressal, reassessment of demands, meter reading, bill generation and bill delivery.

Medicine for breast cancer

The World Health Organization launched its first biosimilar medicine to treat breast cancer. The WHO intends to make the expensive, life-saving treatment affordable for women all over the world.

Key points:

- WHO launched a biosimilar medicine "Trastuzumab" in order to treat breast cancers. It is an antibody that shows high efficacy in curing early stages of breast cancers. It was included in the WHO Essential Medicines List in 2015.
- In women, breast cancers are the most common form of cancers. Around 2.1 million women are affected by breast cancers (2018 UN data). Treatment of breast cancer using "Trastuzumab" is an essential treatment for about 20% of breast cancers. WHO also estimates that by 2040 the number of diagnosed breast cancers will reach 3.1 million.
- The Essential Medicines according to the WHO, are the medicines that satisfy priority health care needs. It was launched in 1977 and updated once in two years. The list includes medicines for both adult and children. The current list was published in April 2019.

Biosimilar medicines

- Biosimilar medicines are produced from biological sources like cells and not from synthesized chemicals. They are important to treat cancers and other non-communicable diseases. They are less expensive and give same effectiveness as that of generic medicines. The trastuzumab is already in use in several markets. But this is the first time, WHO is approving the medicine.



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Daily News Analysis

Prelims facts:

Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project

- Telangana State government has requested the Centre to treat Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP) as a National Project.
- National Projects are provided Central grant of 90% of the estimated cost of such projects for their completion in a time bound manner.
- It was initiated in 2016 on the Godavari River.
- It is designed to irrigate 45 lakh acres for two crops in a year, meet the drinking water requirement of 70% of the state and also cater to the needs of the industry.
- The Centre under the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act is mandated to support programmes for the development of backward areas in the successor States, including expansion of physical and social infrastructure.

Balimela reservoir

- Recently, there has been demand for providing patta or documented land rights to the tribal inhabitants of 'SwabhimanAnchal', the erstwhile cut-off area of the Balimela reservoir in Odisha.
- The Balimela Reservoir is on the river Sileru which is situated in the Maikangiri District of Odisha State.
The Sileru (also known as the Machkund River) rises in the Eastern Ghats in Andhra Pradesh state and flows northward into Jalaput Reservoir on the border with Odisha state.
- The Sileru empties into the Sabari River in Chhattisgarh. Sabaririver is a tributary of Godavari.

Phase-III of PradhanMantri Gram SadakYojana launched

- Rural Development Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launched Phase-III of PradhanMantri Gram SadakYojana in New Delhi to further enhance connectivity of villages with hospitals, schools and agricultural markets.
- The Phase-III of PMGSY aims at consolidation of 1 lakh 25 thousand Kilometers through Routes and Major Rural Links that connect habitations to Gramin Agricultural Markets, Higher Secondary Schools and Hospitals with an estimated cost of 80 thousand 250 crore rupees for the period 2019-20 to 2024-25.

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