

WEEKLY GK NOTES- 28th July – 3rd August**INTERNATIONAL NEWS****1) Pakistan Sentences Omar Ayub and Nearly 200 PTI Supporters to 10-Year Jail Terms**

A special Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) in Faisalabad has sentenced 108 PTI leaders and supporters, including senior figures like Omar Ayub Khan and Shibli Faraz, to 10 years in prison each for their involvement in the May 9, 2023, riots following former Prime Minister Imran Khan's arrest. The court found them guilty of targeting military and government facilities. Out of approximately 185 accused, 108 were convicted, with 58 receiving maximum sentences, while 77 were acquitted due to insufficient evidence. The sentences also led to automatic disqualification for some members of parliament. PTI has condemned the verdicts as politically motivated and plans legal appeals and protests.

2) New Zealand Reverses Ardern-era Ban on Offshore Oil & Gas Exploration

New Zealand's Parliament, led by Prime Minister Christopher Luxon's conservative coalition, has overturned the 2018 offshore oil and gas exploration ban instituted under Jacinda Ardern. The Crown Minerals Amendment Bill, passed by a 68–54 vote, allows companies to apply for new petroleum exploration permits beyond onshore Taranaki starting from September 2025. Proponents argue the change addresses energy shortages and boosts investment, while critics—including the Green Party and environmental groups—warn it undermines climate goals and may burden taxpayers with future cleanup costs.

3) Myanmar Junta Ends Emergency Rule, Sets December 2025 Election Timeline

Myanmar's military junta has formally lifted the state of emergency, which has been in place since the February 2021 coup, as it prepares for a general election by December 2025. The ruling council was replaced by a caretaker body under a new 11-member election commission led by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, who continues as acting president. Although opposing parties have vowed to boycott and UN experts have labelled the election a facade to legitimise military rule,

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the junta states the move marks a “new chapter” toward multi-party democracy under the 2008 Constitution.

4) Australia to Ban YouTube Accounts for Children Under 16 Starting December 10, 2025

Australia’s Online Safety Amendment (Social Media Minimum Age) Act 2024 will require platforms—including YouTube—to prevent minors under 16 from creating or retaining accounts, effective December 10, 2025. Though initially exempted due to its educational emphasis, YouTube was later included after the eSafety Commissioner Julie Inman Grant revealed that 37% of children aged 10–15 experienced harm through YouTube, the highest among surveyed platforms.

Children will still be able to watch videos anonymously, but will be barred from features like commenting, subscribing, uploading, and personalised recommendations. Platforms must take “reasonable steps” to enforce age verification—without mandating government IDs—and face fines of up to A\$49.5 million (US\$33 million) if they fail to comply.

YouTube has challenged its inclusion, asserting it is primarily a video-streaming service, not social media. However, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has affirmed that child safety takes precedence over legal threats, positioning the new law as a world-first digital-age protection framework.

5) Indonesia Releases 1,178 Prisoners in First Clemency Phase

Indonesia has commenced the release of 1,178 inmates, including political rivals of former President Joko Widodo and Papuan independence activists, under the first wave of clemency decreed by President Prabowo Subianto. Approved by Parliament as part of a reconciliation and prison reform agenda, the move addresses severe overcrowding and introduces a second cohort of 1,668 eligible inmates soon.

6) Smithsonian Removes Trump’s Impeachment Mentions Under Controversy

The Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History quietly removed references to former President Donald Trump’s two impeachments from its "Limits of Presidential Power" exhibit last month, reverting to a pre-2008 format. Though the museum asserts the change was part of a broader review, critics and former officials claim it followed White House pressure and marks a

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troubling moment in politicised historical exhibition. Plans are underway to include all impeachments in a revised exhibit.

7) Ahmedabad Tops India's Crime & Safety Index in 2025, Ranks 29th in Asia

Ahmedabad has been ranked the safest city in India according to the Numbeo Crime & Safety Index 2025, earning a safety score of 68.3 and placing 29th across Asia, surpassing major metros like Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Hyderabad. This recognition reflects the city's robust security framework, including more than 25,000 CCTV cameras—22,000 of which were installed by citizens under the Gujarat Public Safety Act—and 24/7 monitoring from a central control room managed by Ahmedabad Police. The establishment of local crime branches under each Deputy Commissioner of Police, the deployment of SHE Teams focused on protecting vulnerable groups, and targeted anti-begging drives have all contributed to nearly 100% case detection rates and markedly low crime figures. Ahmedabad also ranks highly on other national safety lists, and its citizens enjoy peace of mind across public spaces like the Sabarmati Riverfront and Manek Chowk, which report virtually no violent crime, even in crowded areas or high-value trade hubs.

NATIONAL NEWS

8) Yogi Adityanath Announces ₹2 Lakh Ex-Gratia Aid for UP Families of Haridwar Stampede Victims

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath expressed profound grief over the tragic stampede at Mansa Devi Temple in Haridwar on July 27, which resulted in the deaths of six devotees, including four from UP (Aarush of Bareilly, Vicky of Rampur, Vakil of Barabanki, and Shanti of Budaun), and injuries to many others. The UP government announced an ex-gratia payment of ₹2 lakh for each family of the deceased from the state and directed officials to work with Uttarakhand authorities on swift body repatriation. This is in addition to Uttarakhand's announced aid of ₹50,000 to injured individuals and a magisterial inquiry into crowd management.

9) Kolhapuri Chappals Introduce QR Authentication Amid Prada Cultural Appropriation Backlash

After Prada featured sandal designs at Milan Fashion Week resembling GI-tagged Kolhapuri

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chappals without attribution, widespread criticism prompted Maharashtra authorities to launch QR-code verification for authentic Kolhapuris. The initiative, backed by LIDCOM and artisan groups, embeds unique QR tags in each pair to confirm legitimate origin, protect local craftsmanship, and combat counterfeit products in international markets. Prada has since acknowledged the inspiration and indicated willingness to collaborate with Kolhapur artisans.

10) Yogi Adityanath Inaugurates India's First AI-Augmented Private University Campus in Unnao

On July 26, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated the Chandigarh University AI-augmented multidisciplinary campus in Unnao—India's first private institution integrating AI across education, administration, and industry training. As part of the state's AI Pragya initiative, UP aims to train over 10 lakh individuals in AI, machine learning, data analytics, and cybersecurity, with a monthly training target of 1.5 lakh. Located along the Lucknow–Kanpur highway and spread across roughly 60–100 acres, the campus is positioned to become a hub of technological innovation in line with national education reform efforts.

11) MEA Issues Travel Advisory, Urging Indians to Avoid Eight High-Risk Countries

India's Ministry of External Affairs has issued a travel advisory cautioning citizens against travelling to eight countries due to safety concerns: Yemen, Cambodia, Myanmar, Iraq, Syria, Libya, Lebanon, and Bangladesh. Advisory reasons include ongoing civil war in Yemen and Syria, border clashes (e.g., Cambodia–Thailand), political instability, terrorism, and violence. Iraq is deemed safe except in five provinces (Nineveh, Salahuddin, Diyala, Anbar, Kirkuk), which remain conflict zones. Indian nationals in these regions are advised to avoid travel, register with Indian missions, and monitor alerts closely—particularly those in Cambodia and Myanmar where unrest is escalating.

12) TCS to Cut 2% of Global Workforce (≈12,200 Jobs), Mostly Middle & Senior Levels: CEO Krithivasan

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), India's leading IT services firm, announced plans to reduce around 2% of its global workforce (approximately 12,000–12,200 employees) in fiscal year 2026, predominantly impacting mid- and senior-management roles across regions and business domains.

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CEO K. Krithivasan described the move as part of a broader strategic transformation to make TCS agile and future-ready, driven by shifting client demands, slower discretionary technology spending, and the need for new skill sets in emerging technologies like AI. Krithivasan emphasised the layoffs are not a result of AI-driven productivity gains but rather due to a skills mismatch and redeployment limitations despite extensive upskilling efforts (over 550,000 employees trained in basic AI and more than 100,000 in advanced roles).

Employees impacted by the restructuring will receive a “compassionate exit,” including full notice-period pay, severance packages, extended insurance coverage, and outplacement counselling services.

13) India Discovers 7.23 Million Tonnes of Rare Earth Oxide Reserves, Valued at Approximately \$360 Billion

India has identified 7.23 million tonnes of Rare Earth Oxide (REO) within 13.15 million tonnes of monazite deposits, strategically located across coastal and inland regions of Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Gujarat, and Maharashtra. An additional 1.29 million tonnes of REO have been found in *hard rock deposits*, mainly in Gujarat and Rajasthan, taking the total to over 8.5 MT of REO resources. The Geological Survey of India has further estimated 482.6 million tonnes of REE ore resources across 34 exploration projects. Since the discovery, India has exported only 18 tonnes over the last decade and has not imported any REE, highlighting a significant gap between reserves and processing capacity. The valuation of these reserves is pegged at approximately \$360 billion

14) MEA Denies Claims: Nimisha Priya's Death Sentence in Yemen Has Not Been Overturned

Indian officials have firmly denied recent reports originating from statements by Grand Mufti Kanthapuram A.P. Aboobacker Musliyar and others that Nimisha Priya's death sentence in Yemen has been overturned. While her execution, initially scheduled for July 16, 2025, was postponed following India's concerted diplomatic efforts, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) stressed that there is still no official confirmation from Yemeni authorities that the sentence has been commuted or cancelled. The MEA labelled the reversal claims as inaccurate and unverified, describing the case as highly sensitive and complex. Under Yemeni Sharia law, Nimisha's only

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legal path to release would be acceptance of “blood money” (diyah) by the victim’s family, a route they have reportedly rejected. India, which lacks diplomatic representation in Houthi-controlled Sanaa, continues to pursue back-channel negotiations via intermediaries, religious figures, and friendly governments, but officially considers its sentence still in force

15) IMF Updates 2025 Growth Outlook: India to Lead at 6.4%, Global Growth Revised to 3.0%

The International Monetary Fund’s July 2025 update to its World Economic Outlook forecasts global GDP growth at 3.0% for 2025, rising slightly to 3.1% in 2026, up from earlier projections, driven by lower effective tariffs, stronger early trade flows, and better financial conditions. India is projected to be the fastest-growing major economy with a robust 6.4% growth forecast, a 0.2 percentage point upgrade from April’s estimate, owing to resilient consumption, public investment, and reform momentum. The United States is expected to grow at 1.9%, reflecting tariff pauses and fiscal incentives boosting demand. European growth remains subdued: Germany at 0.1%, France at 0.6%, and the UK at 1.2%, the latter revised upward as the British economy shows resilience amid trade headwind. In emerging markets, China’s growth was upgraded to 4.8%, reflecting a strong first-half recovery and tariff reprieve; other notable forecasts include Japan at 0.7%, Russia at 0.9%, Brazil at 2.3%, Saudi Arabia at 3.6%, and Nigeria at 3.4%

16) Seven Women from SC/ST Communities are Raped Every Day in Madhya Pradesh

Between 2022 and 2024, Madhya Pradesh witnessed 7,418 rape cases involving women from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, averaging about seven such rapes per day, according to data shared in the state assembly by MLA Arif Masood. Among these, 558 women were murdered, 338 were gang-raped, 5,983 were molested, and 1,906 faced domestic violence, translating to 41 recorded crimes per day against SC/ST women over the three-year span. Tribal women comprised 411 of the murder victims, while Dalit women accounted for 147. Molestation cases totalled nearly six thousand, with more than half involving Dalit women. Domestic violence incidents averaged two per day, disproportionately affecting Dalit women, 1,352 from SCs and 554 from STs. This disturbing pattern underscores structural oppression and persistent vulnerabilities among marginalised women in MP, which represent around 38% of the state’s population: 16% SC and 22% ST

17) Uttar Pradesh Launches India's First State-Led AI Road Safety Project (₹10 Crore), Approved by MoRTH

The Uttar Pradesh government has rolled out India's first-ever state-funded AI and big-data road safety pilot project, receiving formal clearance from the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH). With ₹10 crore allocated in the 2025–26 state budget, the initiative is being implemented at zero cost to the Centre by public sector ITI Limited in partnership with U.S.-based mLogica. Beginning with a six-week proof-of-concept phase, the system synthesises accident data, weather inputs, vehicle telematics, road infrastructure, and driver profiles to identify accident causes, forecast black spots, and provide real-time policy dashboards for informed enforcement. Upon successful testing, the AI engine will be integrated across all transport functions, including faceless licensing, permit issuance, e-challan operations, revenue tracking, and the Vahan-Sarathi registry, supporting predictive policing, fraud detection, and risk scoring in real-time. The project adheres to all legal frameworks (Motor Vehicles Act, Central Rules, SOPs), emphasises stringent data privacy, cybersecurity standards, and positions Uttar Pradesh at the forefront of tech-enabled, transparent, and efficient governance.

18) Kerala to Launch Liquor Bottle Deposit-Return Scheme from September 2025

The Kerala government will pilot a liquor bottle deposit-return initiative through its state-run Bevco outlets in Thiruvananthapuram and Kannur starting September 2025. Under the scheme, consumers will pay a ₹20 refundable deposit on both plastic and glass liquor bottles at the time of purchase. Each bottle will feature a QR code for tracking, and refunds can be claimed by returning the bottle; anyone, not just the original buyer, may return it. Liquor priced above ₹800 must henceforth be sold solely in glass bottles, a move expected to cut the use of plastic among the state's annual sale of approximately 70 crore bottles, where nearly 80% are plastic. The initiative is managed in partnership with the Clean Kerala Company, which will handle logistics and recycling. Modelled after a successful scheme in Tamil Nadu, the program is aimed at significantly reducing non-biodegradable waste and promoting consumer-led recycling.

19) EC Finalises Electoral College List for Vice-Presidential Election; Poll Set for September

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The Election Commission of India (ECI) has completed preparation of the Electoral College list for the upcoming 17th Vice-Presidential election, following Jagdeep Dhankhar's resignation on July 21, 2025. The list includes elected Lok Sabha members, as well as elected and nominated Rajya Sabha members, updated in compliance with Rule 40 of the Presidential Election Rules to ensure accuracy of names and addresses. Under constitutional and statutory obligations, the EC will issue the official election notification on August 7, with nominations due by August 21, scrutiny on August 22, and withdrawal deadline on August 25. If required, voting is scheduled for September 9, with vote counting to be held on the same day in Parliament House, New Delhi.

The Vice President will be elected via secret ballot using the single transferable vote system, and no party whips will be allowed, ensuring independent voting by MPs. Until the new Vice President is elected, the Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha will preside over the Upper House. The final Electoral College list will be available for purchase at ₹100 per copy from the ECI's New Delhi office once the notification is issued.

20) SRK and Vikrant Massey Share Best Actor Award; Rani Mukerji Wins Best Actress; "12th Fail" Wins Best Feature Film at 71st National Film Awards 2025

At the 71st National Film Awards, Superstar Shah Rukh Khan won his first-ever Best Actor award for the blockbuster *Jawan*, sharing the honour with Vikrant Massey for his powerful lead role in *12th Fail*. Both received the Rajat Kamal medal and ₹2 lakh cash prize, a landmark moment marking the first National Awards for each of them. Simultaneously, veteran actress Rani Mukerji received her first Best Actress award for *Mrs. Chatterjee vs Norway*, a compelling legal drama inspired by a true story that highlights institutional and cultural challenges faced by an Indian mother abroad. The acclaimed feature film award went to *12th Fail*, directed by Vidhu Vinod Chopra, which also won recognition for its socially relevant storytelling. These results signal a powerful blend of mainstream success and meaningful cinematic narratives shaping the landscape of modern Indian cinema.

21) Zomato's Deepinder Goyal Launches LAT Aerospace to Build India's First Indigenous Jet Engines and STOL Aircraft

Zomato co-founder Deepinder Goyal, along with former COO Surobhi Das, has founded LAT Aerospace, a Bengaluru-based aerospace startup aiming to build India's first fully indigenous gas

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turbine engines from scratch. Backed by \$50 million in seed capital, including \$20 million from Goyal himself, the startup is actively recruiting engineers for a hands-on propulsion research team focused on designing light and efficient flight-ready engines for 12–24 seat STOL aircraft, UAVs, and regional air travel platforms. LAT Aerospace’s vision is to offer “buses in the sky”: affordable, high-frequency flights using compact “air-stops” runway zones no larger than parking lots built in Tier-2 and Tier-3 Indian cities, tapping into the country’s unused airstrip infrastructure (only ~150 out of 450+ are currently operational).

22) PM Modi Unveils ₹2,200 Crore Development Push in Varanasi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for 52 infrastructure and tourism-centric projects worth ₹2,200 crore in Varanasi, including the redevelopment of eight riverfront ghats, Kalika Dham, Durgakund kunds, and Munshi Premchand’s ancestral home. He also initiated road widening, railway overbridges, rural water schemes, park beautification, and a Miyawaki urban forest, in a bid to boost local tourism, accessibility, and environmental resilience.

SPORTS NEWS

23) Shubman Gill Joins Exclusive 700-Run Test Series Club During Historic England Tour

India captain Shubman Gill achieved a career-defining milestone by exceeding 700 runs (final tally: 754) in the Anderson–Tendulkar Trophy Test series in England, becoming the first Indian captain and first Asian ever to breach the 700-run mark in an away Test series. His outstanding series included centuries of 147 at Leeds, 269 at Edgbaston, 161 at Birmingham, and 103 at Old Trafford, achieving four hundreds across the series, only matched by cricket legends like Sunil Gavaskar and Don Bradman. India ultimately levelled the series 2-- 2 after a thrilling 6-run victory in the final Test, with Gill’s consistency and leadership being widely lauded.

24) IPL 2025 Jerseys Worth ₹6.52 Lakh Stolen from BCCI Office by Wankhede Stadium Security Manager

A 43-year-old security manager, identified as Farukh Aslam Khan, has been arrested for allegedly stealing 261 official IPL 2025 jerseys, each worth around ₹2,500, from the Board of Control for Cricket in India’s merchandise store at Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai, on June 13. The haul was

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valued at ₹6.52 lakh in total. The theft came to light during a stock audit in mid-July, and CCTV footage later confirmed Khan's unauthorised entry into the storeroom. According to police, Khan sold the jerseys online to a dealer in Haryana to fund a gambling addiction, claiming they were part of a "clearance sale." So far, only 50 jerseys have been recovered. Khan is currently out on bail as the Marine Drive Police conduct further investigations into the financial transactions and the full extent of the theft's proceeds. The incident has triggered serious concerns within the BCCI and raised questions about internal security protocols at one of India's premier cricket venues.

25) Khalid Jamil Named First Indian Men's Football Coach in 13 Years

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) has appointed Khalid Jamil as the head coach of India's senior men's national football team, ending a 13-year stretch since the last Indian coach, Savio Medeira, in 2011-12. Known for leading Aizawl FC to an I-League title and currently coaching in the ISL, Jamil's rise symbolises renewed trust in domestic coaching talent.

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Weekly Quiz (28th July – 3rd August)

1. Which Pakistani politician was sentenced to 10 years in jail for the May 9, 2023, riots?
 - a) Imran Khan
 - b) Shah Mehmood Qureshi
 - c) Omar Ayub Khan
 - d) Pervez Elahi
2. New Zealand reversed an Ardern-era ban related to which sector?
 - a) Coal mining
 - b) Offshore oil & gas exploration
 - c) Uranium processing
 - d) Timber exports
3. When will Australia ban YouTube accounts for children under 16?
 - a) September 2025
 - b) October 2025
 - c) November 2025
 - d) December 10, 2025
4. Which city ranked as India's safest in the 2025 Numbeo Crime & Safety Index?
 - a) Mumbai
 - b) Bengaluru
 - c) Hyderabad
 - d) Ahmedabad
5. Which Indian state launched QR code verification for Kolhapuri Chappals?
 - a) Maharashtra
 - b) Gujarat
 - c) Rajasthan
 - d) Karnataka

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6. What percentage of TCS's global workforce will be cut in FY 2026?
 - a) 1%
 - b) 2%
 - c) 3%
 - d) 4%
7. What is the estimated value of India's Rare Earth Oxide reserves discovered in July 2025?
 - a) \$150 billion
 - b) \$200 billion
 - c) \$360 billion
 - d) \$500 billion
8. Which Indian national's death sentence in Yemen was clarified as still in force?
 - a) Nimisha Priya
 - b) Priya Reddy
 - c) Sanjana Thomas
 - d) Anjali Menon
9. According to the IMF's July 2025 Outlook, what is India's projected growth rate?
 - a) 6.0%
 - b) 6.2%
 - c) 6.4%
 - d) 6.5%
10. Uttar Pradesh launched India's first AI-based Road Safety Project with a budget of:
 - a) ₹5 crore
 - b) ₹8 crore
 - c) ₹10 crore
 - d) ₹12 crore
11. Kerala's bottle deposit-return scheme will begin in:
 - a) September 2025
 - b) October 2025

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c) November 2025

d) January 2026

12. Who won Best Actor at the 71st National Film Awards for the movie *12th Fail*?

a) Pankaj Tripathi

b) Vicky Kaushal

c) Vikrant Massey

d) Nawazuddin Siddiqui

13. What startup did Zomato's Deepinder Goyal launch for indigenous jet engines?

a) AirX India

b) AeroNext

c) LAT Aerospace

d) AeroInd

14. Which city did PM Modi announce ₹2,200 crore development projects in July 2025?

a) Ayodhya

b) Varanasi

c) Lucknow

d) Haridwar

15. Which cricketer became the first Asian to score 700+ runs in an away Test series in England?

a) Virat Kohli

b) Rohit Sharma

c) Shubman Gill

d) KL Rahul

16. How many IPL jerseys were stolen from the BCCI's office?

a) 150

b) 200

c) 261

d) 300

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17. Who has been appointed India's men's football coach after 13 years?
- a) Savio Medeira
 - b) Khalid Jamil
 - c) Syed Rahim Nabi
 - d) Derrick Pereira
18. Which timeline did the Myanmar junta set for general elections?
- a) October 2025
 - b) November 2025
 - c) December 2025
 - d) January 2026
19. What significant step did Indonesia take under President Prabowo?
- a) Released 1,178 prisoners in the clemency phase
 - b) Legalised same-sex marriage
 - c) Signed an FTA with India
 - d) Nationalised copper mines
20. Smithsonian faced criticism for removing which references?
- a) 9/11 Attacks
 - b) Trump's impeachment
 - c) Roe v. Wade Judgement
 - d) Vietnam War Protests

Answer Key

- 1. c (Omar Ayub Khan)
- 2. b (Offshore oil & gas exploration)
- 3. d (December 10, 2025)
- 4. d (Ahmedabad)
- 5. a (Maharashtra)

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6. b (2%)
7. c (\$360 billion)
8. a (Nimisha Priya)
9. c (6.4%)
10. c (₹10 crore)
11. a (September 2025)
12. c (Vikrant Massey)
13. c (LAT Aerospace)
14. b (Varanasi)
15. c (Shubman Gill)
16. c (261 jerseys)
17. b (Khalid Jamil)
18. c (December 2025)
19. a (Released 1,178 prisoners in clemency phase)
20. b (Trump's impeachments)