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## Article For Reading - Presidential [reprieve](#): On U.S. President-elect Donald Trump, the road ahead

President-elect Donald Trump was handed an “unconditional discharge” in a [felony](#) case in New York, where he was earlier found guilty on 34 counts of falsifying business records to make \$1,30,000 in hush-money payments to an adult films star over an alleged affair. Following his conviction last May, one of four criminal indictments that he faced at the time, Mr. Trump went on to win the November 2024 election and will be sworn into office on January 20. In accordance with the legal immunity for official acts that is offered to the office of the President of the U.S., a position affirmed recently by the Supreme Court, three indictments that had not yet reached the stage of a conviction or acquittal were either dismissed or came to a halt owing to procedural complexities. His indictment for his role in instigating a mob attack on the U.S. Capitol in January 2021 and his indictment for mishandling classified documents discovered at his home in Florida, after his 2020 election defeat, were withdrawn by then Special Counsel Jack Smith because the Department of Justice “forbids the federal indictment and subsequent criminal prosecution of a sitting President”. A state-level case in Georgia relating to allegations of tampering with the 2020 election’s vote-counting process was paused pending a decision by an appeals court.

In the New York case, following his appeal to delay the sentencing, the Supreme Court ruled that sentencing could proceed after the judge, Juan Merchan, said that he would hand down an unconditional discharge — **implying** no jail time, monetary fine, or **probation** — given that this would be “the most viable solution” in such unprecedented circumstances.

Other than facing the routine conditions of a ban on convicted felons owning guns and being required to provide the State of New York criminal database with a DNA sample, Mr. Trump has emerged **unscathed** from the legal **quagmire** prior to his 2024 victory. The deeper questions that America will wrestle with, however, transcend these legal **minutiae** — they relate to the fact that Mr. Trump, his 2024 campaign, and the MAGA movement more broadly, remain polarising and there is near-complete breakdown of bipartisanship within political circles as applicable to critical issues of social and economic policy, including the economy and jobs, reproductive rights, the criminal justice system and immigration reform. Liberal and progressive Americans must, understandably, be hoping, in the light of his comprehensive victory leading to a federal government **trifecta**, that Mr. Trump will strike a **conciliatory** note on Inauguration Day, and follow that up with a more bipartisan approach to policymaking in the four years ahead. The cost of not doing so appears to be high **indeed**.

## **Summary –**

Donald Trump, despite being found guilty in a New York case involving falsified business records, was handed an unconditional discharge, avoiding jail time or fines. Legal immunity for sitting U.S. Presidents halted or dismissed other criminal indictments against him, including cases related to the Capitol riot and classified documents. While his legal troubles did not impede his 2024 election victory, his presidency faces challenges due to deep political polarization and a lack of bipartisanship on major social and economic issues. The hope remains that he adopts a conciliatory and collaborative approach during his term.

## **Vocabulary -**

### **1. Reprieve (noun) दण्डविराम**

Meaning = a cancellation or postponement of a punishment .

Synonym: Respite, Pardon

Antonym: Penalty, Punishment

Example: The governor granted a reprieve to the death row inmate just hours before the scheduled execution.

### **2. Felony (noun) गंभीरअपराध**

Meaning= a serious crime, typically one involving violence, regarded as more serious than a misdemeanour, and usually punishable by imprisonment for more than one year or by death.

Synonym: Serious Crime, Major Offense

Antonym: Misdemeanour, Infraction

Example: Convicted of a felony, he faced several years in prison.



### 3. Unscathed (Adjective) सुरक्षित, अक्षत

Not harmed, injured, or damaged, especially after a dangerous or difficult situation.

Synonyms – Uninjured, Intact, Safe, Undamaged, Whole

Antonyms – Harmed, Injured, Damaged, Hurt

Example – She escaped the accident unscathed.

### 4. Probation (Noun) परीक्षा, अवधि-परीक्षण

Probation refers to a period of testing or trial during which a person's abilities, behaviour, or qualifications are evaluated.

Synonyms – Evaluation, Apprenticeship, Internship, Supervision.

Antonyms – Permanency, Certainty, Tenure, Confirmation, Stability

Example – The judge sentenced him to one year of probation instead of jail time for the minor offense.

### 5. Quagmire (noun) दलदल

Meaning = a soft boggy area of land that gives way underfoot or a complex or hazardous situation from which it is difficult to extricate oneself.

Synonym: Mire, Swamp

Antonym: Solid ground, Certainty

Example: The discussion turned into a quagmire of legal jargon that few could follow.

## 6. Minutiae (Noun) सूक्ष्म विवरण

**Meaning-** It is plural form of “Minutia”. Minutiae refers to small or precise details that are often unimportant or trivial.

**Synonyms-** Details, Trivial, Particulars, Niceties.

**Antonyms –** Essentials, Basics, Generalities.

**Example –** The lawyer focused on the minutiae of the contract to ensure there were no loopholes.

## 7. Conciliatory (Adjective) सुलहपूर्ण, शांतिपूर्ण, or मित्रतापूर्ण.

**Meaning –** It refers to an attitude or action intended to make peace, resolve conflict, or soothe tensions.

**Synonyms –** Pacifying, Reassuring, Appeasing, Soothing.

**Antonyms –** Hostile, Antagonistic, Combative, Confrontational

**Example –** She adopted a conciliatory tone to calm the heated argument between her colleagues.

## 8. Imply (verb) संकेत करना

**Meaning -** to suggest or express something indirectly.

**Synonym:** Insinuate, Suggest

**Antonym:** Explicit, State

**Example:** His tone implied criticism but did not outright say anything negative.

### 9. Indictment (noun) अभियोग

**Meaning** = a formal charge or accusation of a serious crime.

**Synonym:** Charge, Accusation

**Antonym:** Acquittal, Exoneration

**Example :** The grand jury returned an indictment against the politician for corruption.

### 10. Trifecta (noun) त्रयी

**Meaning**= a run of three wins or grand events; in betting, a bet in which the person betting forecasts the first three finishers in a race in the correct order.

**Synonym:** Triple, Trio

**Antonym:** Single, Loss

**Example:** He managed to win a trifecta at the horse races, which paid off handsomely.

### 11. Conviction (Noun) दोषसिद्धि

**Meaning** - The act of being found guilty of a crime in a court of law.

**Synonyms-** Judgment, Sentence, Verdict

**Antonyms** – Acquittal, Exoneration, Vindication

**Example** – After his conviction for fraud, he was sentenced to five years in prison.