## The Hindu News Analysis – 24th June 2020 – Shankar IAS Academy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No</th>
<th>News Articles</th>
<th>Page Number*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Trump suspends H-1B visas till year-end</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Downing the shutters (Editorial)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Tech giants slam visa curbs</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>‘H1B curbs misguided, harmful’</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>‘Country of origin’ must on GeM platform: govt.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Chennai receives its quota of Krishna water from A.P.</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>The sharp end of military power (OPED)</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Govt. mulls customs levy on solar equipment</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Practice Prelims MCQs</td>
<td>@ End of the video</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Practice Mains Question</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* C – Chennai; B – Bengaluru; D – Delhi; H – Hyderabad; T – Thiruvananthapuram
News – ‘Proclamation Suspending Entry of Aliens Who Present a Risk to the U.S. Labor Market Following the Coronavirus Outbreak’ issued by US President on 22nd June 2020 – follows similar Proclamation made in April, 2020

- Two broad types of visa to US
  - non-immigrant visa for temporary stay,
  - immigrant visa for permanent residence.

- H-1B Visa
  - A non-immigrant or temporary visa.
  - For specialty occupations in fields requiring highly specialized knowledge.

Trump suspends H-1B visas till year-end

Move draws flak from tech industry

Tech workers in India hoping to move to the U.S. for work suffered a setback on Monday with US President Donald Trump slapping an executive order (EO) pausing new H-1B visa effective June 24 through the end of the year.

H-1B visas (non-immigrant and temporary visas) for highly skilled and educated workers, mostly from India, have been a key plank in the US tech industry as well as politicians on both sides of the aisle as damaging to the US economy. Monday’s order also extended to the end of the year, the April 22 order suspending new immigrant visas issued to those outside the US.

The order does not apply to existing green card holders, spouses and children of US citizens, those already in the US on temporary work visas (such as H1B) or their derivatives.

Also exempt are those outside the US who have been physically present abroad on June 24, 2020, and individuals to whom the order applies but who are physically present in the US by virtue of being in transit.

The H-1B visa is a two-year visa for workers with a bachelor’s degree or higher in a specialty area, and does have an annual numerical limit: 65,000 new visas – with an additional 20,000 visas reserved for those with a Master’s degree or higher from a U.S. institution of higher education.

Annual numerical limit: 65,000 new visas – Additionally, 20,000 visas can be granted to persons with a Master’s degree or higher degree from a U.S. institution of higher education.

Visas for workers to be employed at an institution of higher education or its affiliated or related non-profit entities, a non-profit research organization or a government research organization – not subject to the annual cap.

Period of stay: Up to three years – may be extended, but cannot go beyond a total of six years – some exceptions are there even for this rule of 6 years, under the US legal framework.

Civilspedia Team - Powered by Shankar IAS Academy

Implications

✓ Restricts the movement and job opportunities of talented Indian professionals

➤ Many are not job creators

✓ Indian IT companies restricted to send its low cost labour to its client sites at the US

Exchange Programmes – students, teachers, trainees, interns, affected.

Tech giants slam visa curbs

We will continue to stand with immigrants, says Google CEO Sundar Pichai

Daniel Lainoff

Sundar Pichai, Google’s CEO, has joined the forefront of American high-tech companies to express their displeasure with the Trump administration’s recent decision to reduce work visas for temporary foreign workers. The decision is part of a broader effort to increase the number of jobs for American workers.

Donald Trump

President Donald Trump announced on Tuesday that the US government will suspend the issuance of new work visas for the next 60 days. The move comes amid a global recession caused by the coronavirus pandemic and a sharp decline in immigration.

The decision has been met with mixed reactions from tech companies, with some expressing concern that it could harm their ability to attract and retain top talent.

Google, Microsoft, and Apple, among others, have all expressed similar concerns, highlighting the importance of immigrants to their businesses.

The suspension of work visas is part of a larger effort by the Trump administration to reduce immigration, which has been a contentious issue in American politics for decades.

Several tech leaders have also called on the government to provide more support for small businesses, which have been hit hard by the pandemic.

In a letter to the president, the leaders called for a moratorium on new work visas for high-skilled workers, including H-1B visas, which are used by Indian professionals.

The letter states: “We believe that immigrants contribute significantly to America’s economic growth and innovation. They help drive our economy and create jobs for American workers. We urge you to consider temporarily suspending the issuance of new H-1B visas.”

The suspension of work visas is part of a broader effort by the Trump administration to reduce immigration, which has been a contentious issue in American politics for decades.

Several tech leaders have also called on the government to provide more support for small businesses, which have been hit hard by the pandemic.

In a letter to the president, the leaders called for a moratorium on new work visas for high-skilled workers, including H-1B visas, which are used by Indian professionals.

The letter states: “We believe that immigrants contribute significantly to America’s economic growth and innovation. They help drive our economy and create jobs for American workers. We urge you to consider temporarily suspending the issuance of new H-1B visas.”

The suspension of work visas is part of a broader effort by the Trump administration to reduce immigration, which has been a contentious issue in American politics for decades.

Several tech leaders have also called on the government to provide more support for small businesses, which have been hit hard by the pandemic.

In a letter to the president, the leaders called for a moratorium on new work visas for high-skilled workers, including H-1B visas, which are used by Indian professionals.

The letter states: “We believe that immigrants contribute significantly to America’s economic growth and innovation. They help drive our economy and create jobs for American workers. We urge you to consider temporarily suspending the issuance of new H-1B visas.”
• Impact IT firms and big tech companies – they use the H-1B programme for their staffing needs.
• Criticized both in the U.S. and India.
• Immigration has contributed immensely to America’s economic success – made America a global leader in technology.
• H-1B programme plays a crucial role in addressing the shortage of health care professionals in America.
• Every segment of American economy employ skilled workers from other countries for innovation and productivity.
• Pandemic – companies, including the U.S. companies, are trying to recover from the economic fallout.
✓ More difficult for US companies to recover – will harm US economy.

Practice Question – Mains
GS – II
Q. The recent announcement made by USA to suspend some of the non-immigrant visas affect both Indian and US economies. Justify. (150 words, 10 marks)

Civilspedia Team - Powered by Shankar IAS Academy

'Statement of origin’ must on GeM platform: govt. 'Steps towards Atmanirbhar Bharat'
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI
In a push to promote local products, the Union government has made it mandatory for all sellers on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM), a platform for public procurement, to list the country of origin while registering new products.
Those who have uploaded products are getting regular warnings that they will be removed if the origin details are not updated.

Local content
The changes to the GeM, a Special Purpose Vehicle under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, are in line with the Centre's Atma-nirbhar Bharat and Make in India policies, an official

PG - 1 → C, B, D, T
PG - 11 → Hyderabad

Civilspedia Team - Powered by Shankar IAS Academy
Government e-marketplace (GeM)
• An online procurement platform for government ministries and departments.
• MSMEs, recognised start-ups and other private companies can register as sellers and sell their products and services directly to government entities.
• Launched in August 2016.
• Completely paperless, cashless and system driven e-market place.

A Special Purpose Vehicle under Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
• Procurement on GeM has been authorized by General Financial Rules issued by Ministry of Finance.
• Launch of the platform - an important reform in the public procurement - promotes openness, transparency and efficiency in public procurement.

GEM ADVANTAGES

For Buyers
• Rich listing of products for individual categories of Goods/Services
• Search, Compare, Select and Buy facility
• Buying Goods and Services online, as and when required.
• Transparent and ease of buying
• Continuous vendor rating system
• User-friendly dashboard for Buying and monitoring supplies and payments
• Easy Return policy

For Sellers
• Direct access to all Government departments.
• One stop shop for marketing with minimal efforts.
• One stop shop for bids / reverse auction on products / services
• New Product Suggestion facility available to Sellers
• Dynamic pricing: Price can be changed based on market conditions
• Seller-friendly dashboard for selling and monitoring of supplies and payments
• Consistent and uniform purchase procedures

News - Measures to promote Make In India and Self-Reliant India
✓ Sellers at GeM
  ➢ To mark ‘Country of Origin’ of products
  ➢ indicate the percentage of local content in the products
✓ Local Suppliers – Class I and Class II
  ➢ Class I – goods and services (G&S) and works, have more than or equal to 50% of local content.
  ➢ Class II – G&S and works, have more than 20% or less than 50% of local content.
✓ Buyers can now reserve any bid for Class I Local suppliers.
✓ For those bids below INR 200 crore, only Class I and Class II Local Suppliers are eligible to bid, with Class I supplier getting purchase preference.

Practice Question – Prelims
Q. Consider the following statements with reference to Government e-Marketplace (GeM).

1. It is a Special Purpose Vehicle under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Administration.
2. In the platform, the main seller is the Government and its agencies, whereas the main procurers are private players.
3. GeM Startup Runway allows startups to reach out to the universe of government buyers by offering innovative products unique in design, process and functionality.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2
(b) 2 only
(c) 3 only
(d) 2 and 3
Chennai receives its quota of Krishna water from A.P.

Officials to request the neighbouring State to release more water in the next spell

Andhra Pradesh has assured to provide Krishna water from Kandaleru reservoir to meet the drinking water requirements of Chennai.

Krishna River

- An inter-state river in southern India and is the second largest river in Peninsular India.
- Source – rises in the Western Ghats at an altitude of 1337m near Mahabaleshwar in Maharashtra.
- Course – flows across the whole width of the peninsula, from west to east, for a length of about 1400 km.
- Mouth – forms a fertile delta in Andhra Pradesh before draining into the Bay of Bengal.
Important dams on Krishna River

- Nagarjuna Sagar Dam – world’s largest masonry dam, Andhra Pradesh-Telangana border.
- Almatti dam (Karnataka), Srisailam dam (A.P.) and Tungabhadra dam (Karnataka).

Basin extends over Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh – total catchment area of >2.58 lakh sq.km.

Tributaries (13)

- Important Right bank tributaries – Ghataprabha, Malaprabha and Tungabhadra.
- Important Left bank tributaries – Bhima, Musi and Munneru.
- Koyna river, in which the Koyna Dam is located is also a tributary of Krishna in Maharashtra.
- Other tributaries – Panchganga, Dudhganga, Dindi, Peddavagu, Halia, Paleru.

Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to Krishna River.

1. Its drainage basin extends over Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.
2. Tungabhadra, Malaprabha and Bhima are its important tributaries.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2
**The sharp end of military power**

Unless there is vision and an acceptance of the importance of air power among the IAF, there is danger.

---

**Part A—Preliminary Examination**

**Paper I** - (200 marks)

**Duration**: Two hours

- Current events of national and international importance.

**Part B—Main Examination**

**PAPER-IV**


- Security challenges and their management in border areas - linkages of organized crime with terrorism.
- Various Security forces and agencies and their mandate.

---

**India China War – 1962** - Political leadership, Indian Army, IAF shied away from using IAF’s offensive element against China

**1986-87** - IAF generals developed a strategy to spook China.

**IAF’s competitive advantage over China**

- Harvard Kennedy School - IAF enjoys both qualitative and quantitative advantage over the People’s Liberation Army Air Force.
  1. India’s fighter fleet of 4th Generation Aircraft are superior than China’s.
  2. More operational bases than China close to the LAC.
  3. Aerial mobility department - Fleet of C-17s, IL-76s, AN-32s and C-130s.
  4. Chinook and Apache helicopters.

**Areas of concern for IAF**

- China has strong ground-based air defence network - S-300, S-400 etc.
- Long-range air delivered cruise missiles.
- Surveillance – China possesses a large series of low earth orbit surveillance (LEO) satellites.

**Conclusion**

- Clear and present danger for India’s interests if IAF’s importance is not acknowledged.

---

Civilspedia Team - Powered by Shankar IAS Academy
Govt. mulls customs levy on solar equipment

NEW DELHI

The government is considering levying a basic customs duty (BCD) of about 20% on solar energy equipment to give an edge to domestic manufacturers and discourage imports, especially from China. However, solar energy developers say it will be counterproductive in view of India's ambitious target of achieving 100 GW of solar energy by 2022. PTI

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks) Duration : Two hours

- Current events of national and international importance.
- Economic and Social Development-Sustainable Development, Poverty, Inclusion, Demographics, Social Sector Initiatives, etc.

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-III

General Studies- II: Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations.

- Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India’s interests, Indian diaspora.

Customs Duty

- A type of indirect tax levied on goods imported into India as well as on goods exported from India.

  ✓ Reason for imposing customs duty
    ➢ Revenue generation
    ➢ Protection of domestic industries from the entry of foreign goods
    ➢ Reducing imports
    ➢ Protecting forex reserves in times of crises
    ➢ Reducing deficits.

- India – basic law for levy and collection of customs duty is Customs Act, 1962

- Under 7th Schedule of the Constitution – Union has the right to legislate and collect duties on imports and exports.

- Customs duty on exports is levied to mop up excess profitability in international prices of goods, when domestic price of a good may be low at the given time compared to its international price.

- Types of Import Customs Duty
  ✓ Basic Customs Duty,
  ✓ Additional duty or Countervailing duty/CVD
  ✓ Anti-dumping duty/Safeguard Duty etc.
### Basic Customs Duty (BCD)
- It may be at the standard rate or, in the case of import from some other countries, at the preferential rate.
- Tax calculated on the Assessment Value of the goods that have landed at the customs border of India.
- It can vary between 0% to 100%.
- Depends upon the Harmonised System of Nomenclature (HSN) code of the product and the Country of Import.
- Mechanisms to reduce BCD
  - Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status
  - Arrangements under Free Trade Agreement / Preferential Trade Agreement.

### News
- Central government plans to levy a basic customs duty of about 20% on import of solar energy equipment, especially from China.
  - To give an edge to domestic manufacturers
  - To discourage imports.

---

### Countervailing Duty (CVD)
- Duty imposed when India finds that a government of the exporting country provides subsidies or assistance such as subsidized loans, tax exemptions, indirect payments, etc. to its local industry.
- Any country can impose CVD on any of the countries from which it imports, if it feels that it is affected by the actions of the exporting country.
- Section 9 of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 – Central Government may impose a CVD not exceeding the amount of subsidy given by the exporting country.
Practice Question – Prelims

Q1. Consider the following statements with reference to Krishna River.

1. Its drainage basin extends over Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.
2. Tungabhadra, Malaprabha and Bhima are its important tributaries.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2
Practice Question – Prelims

Q2. Customs Duty is an indirect tax levied on goods imported into India as well as exported from India. Which of the following is/are not an Import Customs Duty?
   1. Countervailing duty
   2. Basic Customs Duty
   3. Anti-dumping duty

Select the correct answer from the code given below.
(a) 1 only  
(b) 1 and 2 only  
(c) 2 and 3 only  
(d) None of the above

Practice Question – Prelims

Q3. Consider the following statements with reference to Government e-Marketplace (GeM).
   1. It is a Special Purpose Vehicle under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Administration.
   2. In the platform, the main seller is the Government and its agencies, whereas the main procurers are private players.
   3. GeM Startup Runway allows startups to reach out to the universe of government buyers by offering innovative products unique in design, process and functionality.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2  
(b) 2 only  
(c) 3 only  
(d) 2 and 3
Practice Question – Mains

GS – II

Q. The recent announcement made by USA to suspend some of the non-immigrant visas affect both Indian and US economies. Justify.

(150 words, 10 marks)
Practice Questions – Prelims
24-06-2020

Q1. a – 1 only
Q2. d – none of the above
Q3. c – 3 only

LIKE, COMMENT & SHARE