

DAILY PT POINTERS

30 December, 2024



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AFTER MUSK REMARKS

Trump weighs in on H-1B: Been a believer... great programme

'Always been in favour of the visas... many H-1B visas on my properties'

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 29

AMID THE public row among his supporters over the H-1B visa programme, US President-elect Donald Trump has backed key ally Elon Musk, calling himself a "believer in H-1B" and saying he has "always been in favour of the visas".

"I've always liked the visas, I have always been in favour of the visas. That's why we have them," Trump said in a telephone interview with the *New York Post* on Saturday. "I have many H-1B visas on my properties. I've been a believer in H-1B. I have used it many times. It's a great programme," he said.

EXPLAINED **E** **Changing stand**

DURING DONALD Trump's first term as US President, his administration imposed restrictions on H-1B visas, citing concerns over "abuse" and "economic strain". His hard line on immigration, focussed mostly on illegal entrants, formed an important part of his campaign this time too. His support for H-1B comes at a time when the programme faces intense scrutiny, including from a section of his supporters.

President-elect Donald Trump expressed support for H-1B visas, citing their importance for hiring skilled workers.

What is the H-1B visa program?

- The programme allows American employers to hire non-immigrant workers in specialty occupations that require a high level of skills and at least a bachelor's degree, according to the US Department of Labour.
- "The intent of the H-1B provisions is to help employers who cannot otherwise obtain needed business skills and abilities from the US workforce by authorising the temporary employment of qualified individuals who are not otherwise authorised to work in the United States,"

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After 2 years of India-Australia trade deal, export utilisation reaches 79%

TRADE HAS DECLINED IN CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR



TRADE UTILISATION of a FTA indicates the extent to which trade benefits from the agreement. It also provides insights into whether businesses are effectively leveraging the FTA or finding its concession procedures burdensome

INDIA-AUSTRALIA trade has declined during current financial year

RAVIDUTTA MISHRA
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 29

THE MINISTRY of Commerce and Industry on Sunday said that export utilisation under the India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) has reached 79 per cent after two years of implementation, while import utilisation stood at 84 per cent.

Trade utilisation of a free trade agreement (FTA) indicates the extent to which trade benefits from the agreement. It also provides insights into whether

The ministry said that key sectors such as textiles, chemicals, and agriculture have recorded significant growth. Additionally, exports in new categories, including gold studded with diamonds and turbojets, demonstrate the agreement's role in diversifying trade.

Imports of essential raw materials such as metalliferous ores, cotton, and wood products have bolstered India's industries, underscoring the mutually beneficial nature of the partnership. Meanwhile, sectors such as electronics and engineering have potential for further growth. The

- Export utilisation under the India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) has reached 79 per cent after two years of implementation, while import utilisation stood at 84 per cent.
- Trade utilisation of a free trade agreement (FTA) indicates the extent to which trade benefits from the agreement. It also provides insights into whether businesses are effectively leveraging the FTA or finding its concession procedures burdensome.
- However, trade between India and Australia has declined during the current financial year. Official trade data revealed that goods exports to Australia totalled \$3.99 billion during the six months from April to September 2024, down from \$4.89 billion in the same period last year, marking an 18 per cent decline.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB-GS3(Defence)

Ministry of Defence



INDIAN ARMY CONTINGENT DEPARTS FOR INDIA- NEPAL JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE SURYA KIRAN

Posted On: 28 DEC 2024 8:41AM by PIB Delhi

- The Indian Army contingent comprising 334 personnel departed for Nepal today to participate in 18th edition of Battalion Level Joint Military Exercise SURYA KIRAN. The exercise will be conducted in Saljhandi, Nepal from 31st December 2024 to 13th January 2025. It is an annual training event conducted alternatively in the two countries.
- The Indian Army contingent is being led by a Battalion from the 11th Gorkha Rifles. The Nepal Army contingent will be represented by Srijung Battalion.
- The aim of Exercise SURYA KIRAN is to enhance interoperability in jungle warfare, counter terrorism operations in mountains, and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief under United Nations Charter. The exercise will focus on enhancing operational preparedness, aviation aspects, medical training, and environment conservation. Through these activities, the troops will enhance their operational capabilities, refine their combat skills and strengthen their coordination to operate together in challenging situations.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY



PIB-GS3(Space)

Ministry of Science & Technology



ISRO's year end mission to seek the rare feat of docking or merging or joining together two satellites in Space

SpaDeX, India's final Space Mission for 2024: How ISRO will dock 2 satellites in space with PSLV rocket's round design

"SpaDEX" will mark a milestone, showcasing India's expertise in spacecraft docking technology


- ISRO's year-end mission scheduled for 30th December is going to be a historic one as it will seek the rare feat of docking or merging or joining together two satellites in Space. The project has been named "Space Docking Experiment" (SpaDeX)
- SpaDeX mission is a cost-effective technology demonstrator mission for the demonstration of in-space docking using two small spacecraft launched by PSLV. This technology is essential for India's space ambitions such as Indian on Moon, sample return from the Moon, the building and operation of Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS), etc. In-space docking technology is essential when multiple rocket launches are required to achieve common mission objectives. Through this mission, India is marching towards becoming the fourth country in the world to have space docking technology.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY



PIB-GS1(History)

Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways



“Lothal to become Global Hub for Maritime Heritage with National Maritime Heritage Complex”: Sarbananda Sonowal

Union Ministers Shri Sarbananda Sonowal along with Dr Mansukh Mandaviya and Chief Minister of Gujarat Shri Bhupendra Patel made a joint review to assess the progress of National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) at Lothal, Gujarat.

Ministers visit INS Nishank, Lothal Jetty Walkway, and Museum Block

Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways is developing NMHC under the Sagarmala Programme, to showcase India's Maritime Legacy

Posted On: 28 DEC 2024 5:40PM by PIB Delhi

- The National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) in Lothal, Gujarat, is set to become an international tourist hotspot, celebrating India's rich maritime legacy. Spanning from ancient civilisations to modern times, the complex will use a unique blend of education and entertainment, incorporating the latest technology to immerse visitors in the country's maritime history. Designed as a world-class destination under the Sagarmala Programme, NMHC aims to showcase India's naval achievements and cultural connections through interactive exhibits, state-of-the-art displays, and engaging storytelling. This initiative is poised to not only preserve India's maritime heritage but also to attract global tourists and foster a deeper appreciation of its historical significance. Lothal, a prominent city of the ancient Indus Valley Civilisation dating back to 2400 BCE, holds historical significance for its advanced dockyard, thriving trade, and renowned bead-making industry. Artifacts such as seals, tools, and pottery unearthed by archaeologists reveal a rich cultural and economic history, making it a pivotal site of the Harappan civilisation.

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The challenge of holding judges accountable

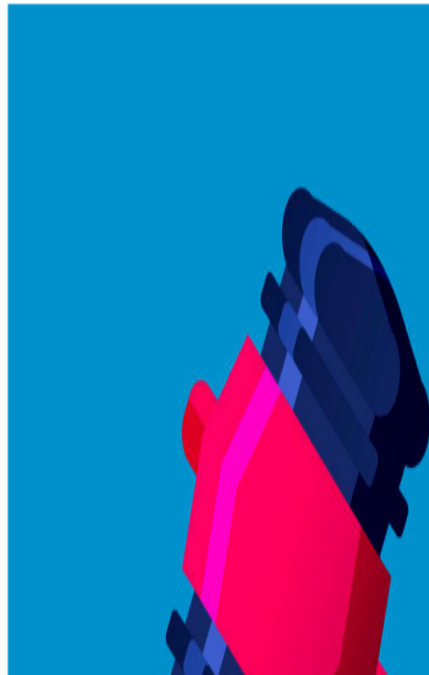
The review mechanism for judges in India requires 'proved misbehaviour or incapacity' to be decided by a committee set up under the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968. This committee functions like a trial court, but is set in motion only after a successful attempt to impeach the judge is moved either in the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha

LETTER & SPIRIT

Kunal Shankar

A speech delivered by Justice Shekhar Kumar Yadav of the Allahabad High Court, that made apparent his biases against the Muslim community, at an event organised by the legal cell of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad within the Court precincts on December 8, has once again spotlighted the difficulty in India's review mechanism to hold judges of the higher judiciary accountable.

The review mechanism requires "proved misbehaviour or incapacity" to be decided by a three-member committee set up under the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968. This committee functions like a trial



August 6 that year, seeking a continuation of the committee's investigations arguing that "the jurisdiction of the Committee is untouched by the factum of removal...". The FJA's contention was that there were two separate parts to the removal process of a justice – one that concerns finding guilt, which is governed by Article 124 (5) and the second, which is impeachment, which is governed by article 124 (4) and is within the jurisdiction of Parliament. "The purpose of impeachment is not merely removal from office, but a more substantial one about accountability to the people whose trust is alleged to be breached and whose confidence in judiciary needs to be reinforced," the FJA argued.

"Though Article 124(5) of the Constitution uses the words "removed from office" and is silent on the issue of

THE GIST

Only two judges so far have been found guilty for their "misbehaviour" by the three-member committee, which must comprise of a Supreme Court judge, a Chief Justice of a High Court and an eminent jurist.

Article 124 (4) of the Constitution stipulates that the panel's finding must be voted upon by Parliament. The motion requires either a two-thirds majority of present MPs voting in favour of the motion or an absolute majority

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- The review mechanism requires "proved misbehaviour or incapacity" to be decided by a three-member committee set up under the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968. This committee functions like a trial court, but is set in motion only after a successful attempt to impeach the concerned judge is moved either in the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha, which must be approved by the presiding officer of the House — the Speaker in the case of the Lok Sabha, or the Vice-President/Chairman in case of the Rajya Sabha. The provisions for this mechanism flows from Articles 124 (4), (5), 217, and 218 of the Constitution of India, and the those of the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968

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Centre gets 6.21 lakh applications under PM internship scheme

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The Union Corporate Affairs Ministry said in a release on Sunday that the pilot scheme of the Prime Minister's Internship Scheme received approximately 6.21 lakh applications against 1.27 lakh opportunities. "The selection

real-life business environment, across varied professions and employment opportunities," the Centre said.

Financial aid

"The interns will be provided with financial assistance of ₹5,000 per month [for 12 months], of which ₹4,500 would be disbursed

- The Union Corporate Affairs Ministry said in a release that the pilot scheme of the Prime Minister's Internship Scheme received approximately 6.21 lakh applications against 1.27 lakh opportunities. "The selection process for internship is ongoing," the Ministry said.
- The internship scheme was announced in the previous Union Budget, and it aims to provide internship opportunities to one crore youth in the top 500 companies over five years. "Through this Scheme, youth will gain exposure to real-life business environment, across varied professions and employment opportunities," the Centre said.
- **Financial aid**
- "The interns will be provided with financial assistance of ₹5,000 per month [for 12 months], of which ₹4,500 would be disbursed by the Union government, and ₹500 per month would be paid by the company from its CSR [corporate social responsibility] funds," the Centre added.
- The Corporate Affairs Ministry will also provide a one-time grant of ₹6,000 for incidentals to each intern, upon joining the place of internship.