



Is the U.S. restriction on immigrants a gain or loss?

22 – 30 June 2020

The U.S. President Donald Trump on June 22, 2020 has suspended the H-1B (high skilled workers), H-4 (spouses of H-1Bs), L-1 (intra-company transfers) visas, among others, until December 31, 2020. It has caused a deep sense of anxiety and uncertainty among the best and brightest talent (and their dependents) in and out of the country. In an already worsening political and economic scenario, this action has further added to the enormous pressure on immigrants and the businesses, among others, in the U.S. Even worse, the “proclamation” issued by the White House in this regard describes the best and brightest talent as “aliens who present a risk to the U.S. labor market following the Coronavirus outbreak”. The first edition of this ONW, among others, highlights further challenges to the U.S. economy and politics posed by this action and its worldwide impact with particular focus on India.

News/Op-ed	Key Takeaway
<p>American dream over? Time may be right for the Indian one Times of India June 30, 2020</p>	<p>While uprooting family and adapting to a new work culture is difficult, home-coming can be a positive thing. “There has been a “Jiofication of India” (referring to increasing accessibility of internet at a low price),” says Hemant Mohapatra, Venture Capital Partner. “If I were to move now, I would just have to uninstall Lyft and replace it with Ola, or uninstall an OTT platform and replace it with a Hotstar. It is as simple as that.”</p>
<p>US has just over 580,000 H-1B visa holders, says USCIS ETTech June 29, 2020</p>	<p>The US immigration agency said there were an estimated 583,420 H-1B authorised work permit holders in the country as of September 2019. This is the first time that the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has released this data. Every year, the US issues 85,000 new H-1B visas in addition to renewing those that have lapsed. The visas are typically issued for a period of three years. In recent years, Indian nationals have received about 70% of all the H1-B visas issued.</p>
<p>Trump’s H1-B order makes it impossible for many Indians to return to their lives in the US The Economic Times June 29, 2020</p>	<p>Trump’s order bars hundreds of thousands of people from getting employed or joining work-study programmes in the US. It restricts American companies from hiring talented foreigners and blocks spouses of foreigners working in the US from entering the country. “Several families in the US will feel enormous stress as there will be a long delay in getting spouses, children and relatives from joining them,” says Netra Chavan, an immigration consultant.</p>

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<p>Immigration bans will lead to dumbing down of the world The Times of India June 28, 2020</p>	<p>Overall, immigrants who came to America for study or employment — many of them through the H1B visa route — are more likely to file a patent, publish a scientific paper, start a company, and earn higher wages than American-born college graduates. Immigration fuels enterprise, and it has been America’s secret sauce of success. But don’t expect the Trump base to acknowledge this. It is no secret that Trump’s support comes mainly from whites without college degrees, and he won a majority of the least educated counties and states in 2016. “I love the poorly educated,” he once said. Nearly 80% of his base has expressed fears of “cultural displacement”.</p>
<p>Trump's H-1B order makes it impossible for many Indians to return to their lives in the US ETTech June 28, 2020</p>	<p>US President Donald Trump’s order bars hundreds of thousands of people from getting employed or joining work-study programmes in the US. It restricts American companies from hiring talented foreigners and blocks spouses of foreigners working in the US from entering the country. “Several families in the US will feel enormous stress as there will be a long delay in getting spouses, children and relatives from joining them,” says Netra Chavan, an immigration consultant in Silicon Valley who runs an online community page for H1B and H4 visa holders.</p>
<p>In 2019, Indians bagged 40,275 invites, or 47% of total, to apply for permanent residence in Canada The Times of India June 28, 2020</p>	<p>A fair share of these Indians includes those already working in Canada or migrating from the US — owing to the Trump administration’s increasing protectionist immigration regime. As per a newly released report, the overall 2019 figure of 85,300 is a slight decline from the 89,800 invitations issued in 2018.</p>
<p>After US suspends H-1B visa, Indian engineers look at Canada The Economic Times June 26, 2020</p>	<p>Shortly after the visa suspension was announced, Canada’s immigration minister Marco Mendicino said, “We believe that immigration will spring our recovery out of this pandemic. We have a plan in place that looks to leverage the best and the brightest from around the world. We’ve got pathways like the Express Entry program, and the Global Talent Stream, which will help to bring entrepreneurs, engineers, and innovators.”</p>
<p>US H1B visa: India assessing impact of Donald Trump's order Deccan Chronicle June 26, 2020</p>	<p>Reminding the US that “high-skilled Indian professionals bring important skill sets, bridge technological gaps and impart a competitive edge to the US economy”, New Delhi said, “they have also been a critical component of the workforce that is at the forefront of providing COVID-19 related assistance in key sectors, including health, information technology and financial services”.</p>
<p>H-1B visa: November Polls behind Donald Trump's order Deccan Herald June 24, 2020</p>	<p>The blanket nature of the latest order and its timing show the special political purpose behind it in an election year. Trump will make the order a major issue in the campaign for the Presidential election in November. Protectionist, anti-immigrant and anti-foreigner sentiments and policies have been an important feature of his politics. The "America First’ slogan will get shriller now.</p>

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<p>Tech sector in India, US hits out at Trump for suspension of H-1Bs The Times of India June 24, 2020</p>	<p>A number of US tech CEOs, including Apple’s Tim Cook and Google’s Sundar Pichai, said immigration and consequent diversity had immensely contributed to the American success. Indian IT association Nasscom described the move as misguide and harmful to the US economy. “This new proclamation will impose new challenges and possibly force more work to be performed offshore since local talent is not available,” it said.</p>
<p>US halts H-1B and other visas in blow to India and China talent Nikkei Asian Review June 23, 2020</p>	<p>U.S. President Donald Trump barred the issuance of many new work visas under a proclamation signed Monday, 22nd June, including the marquee H-1B program used primarily by high-skilled immigrants from India and China. The broad-based ban runs through the end of the year. It also covers the H-2B visa for temporary nonagricultural workers, the L-1 work visa for intracompany transfers, and certain instances of the J-1 exchange visitor visa. Exemptions include temporary food supply workers and medical workers fighting COVID-19.</p>
<p>‘So much for Namaste Trump’: Suspension of H-1B visas provokes condemnation in US and India Scroll.in June 23, 2020</p>	<p>Citing unemployment as a result of the Covid-19 crisis, US President Donald Trump on Monday, 22nd June, issued an executive order suspending new visas for foreign workers, including the H-1B visa for highly skilled individuals, until the end of 2020. The move will disproportionately hurt Indian citizens, who have received as much as 70% of H-1B visas over the past five years, and both US and Indian tech companies that rely on them for smooth operations.</p>
<p>Trump Suspends Visas Allowing Hundreds of Thousands of Foreigners to Work in the U.S. The New York Times June 22, 2020</p>	<p>“Putting up a ‘not welcome’ sign for engineers, executives, IT experts, doctors, nurses and other workers won’t help our country, it will hold us back,” said Thomas J. Donohue, the chief executive of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. “Restrictive changes to our nation’s immigration system will push investment and economic activity abroad, slow growth and reduce job creation.”</p>
