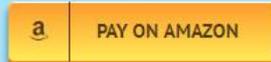


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1. US proposes changes to H1B visas; to be given to most skilled, highest paid foreign workers

- What is H1B visa?**
- What does the new merit based rule for H-1B visa propose?**
- What could be the implications of this newly proposed rule?**
- Why is H1B visa programme criticised?**

GS paper 2 (Effect of polices and politics of developed and developing countries on India, India's interest)

In this video, you can find detailed answers for all the above questions.

The above article has been retrieved from:

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<https://indianexpress.com/article/world/us-proposes-changes-to-h1b-visas-to-be-given-to-most-skilled-highest-paid-foreign-workers-5473632/>

What is the context about?

The Trump administration on Friday proposed major changes to the H-1B application process with the aim of awarding the visa to the most skilled and highest paid foreign workers.

What is H1B visa?

- ❑ The H1B visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows companies to employ foreigners for a period of up to six years. This visa is aimed at helping companies employ foreigners in positions for which they have been unable to find American employees.
- ❑ The minimum salary for an employee holding the H1B visa is set at \$60,000 per year. H1B visa holders are allowed to apply for permanent residency in the US as well as buy or sell property in the country.

What does the new merit based rule for H-1B visa propose?

- ❑ Under a new proposed merit-based rule, companies employing foreign workers on the H-1B visa – under the Congressional mandated annual caps — would have to electronically register with the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) during a designated registration period.
- ❑ The H1-B visa has an annual numerical limit cap of 65,000 visas each fiscal year as mandated by the Congress. The first 20,000 petitions filed on behalf of beneficiaries with a US master's degree or higher are exempt from the cap.

What could be the implications of this newly proposed rule?

- ❑ This is likely to increase the number of foreign workers with a master's or higher degree from a US institution of higher education to be selected for an H-1B cap number.
- ❑ This proposed change would increase the chances that beneficiaries with a master's or higher degree from a US institution of higher education would be selected under the H-1B cap.
- ❑ The proposed process would result in an estimated increase of up to 16 per cent (or 5,340 workers) in the number of selected H-1B beneficiaries with a master's degree or higher from a US institution of higher education.

Why is H1B visa programme criticised?

- ❑ The aim of the H1B visa programme was to supplement the US workforce with high-skilled workers to do jobs that Americans are not skilled to do, not to replace the US workers. But over time, there have been many grumblings that many companies use the H1B visa to replace American workers with foreign ones, as the latter can be hired at lower salaries without compromising on the skill sets.
- ❑ In some cases, American employees have alleged that they were made to train H1B holders to do their own jobs, and then fired.

