

ee hike will push wave patents to India'

H-1B visa fee hike will push the wave of patents to India, says a former US diplomat. The H-1B visa fee hike will push the wave of patents to India, says a former US diplomat. The H-1B visa fee hike will push the wave of patents to India, says a former US diplomat.

to spur offshoring months: Pai

Sept 20: Former Infosys CEO and industry leader on Saturday said the US move to impose a steep USD 100,000 annual fee on H-1B visa applicants by companies may accelerate offshoring to India. Dismissing the notion that the move to send cheap labour to the US, Pai said the move will push the wave of patents to India, says a former US diplomat.

H-1B visa fee hike to force strategy rethink for companies: Law firm JSA

NEW DELHI, Sept 20: The USD 100,000 annual fee imposed by the US on H-1B visas will escalate costs and erode competitive edge for heavy H-1B users, and may potentially disrupt business models and revenue streams for Indian IT professionals and companies, says Singh.

In a move that is bound to impact Indian tech professionals adversely, US President Donald Trump on Friday signed a proclamation that will raise the fee for H-1B visas to a steep USD 100,000 annually. The H-1B visa fee ranges from about USD 2,000 to USD 5,000, depending on employer size and other costs.

Indian techies are among the main beneficiaries of the US H-1B visa programme, which attracts top talent and expertise from around the globe. The Congressional mandated pool is 65,000 such visas every year along with an additional 20,000 vi-

sa reserved for those who have received advanced degrees in the US.

The visa fee hike comes at a time when the US IT and Indian IT sectors are already rattled by a turbulent business environment in the world's largest outsourcing market. The sector faces delays in client decision-making amid macroeconomic uncertainties, tariffs and trade wars, geopolitical tensions, and the shadow of a recession.

Adding to the concerns is the legislative threat of the proposed Hitting International Relocation of Employment (HIRE) Act, introduced by Senator Bernie Sanders, which, if passed, will curb outsourcing and promote domestic employment by imposing a 25 per cent levy on payments made by American companies to foreign workers for services benefiting US consumers.

Singh from JSA Advocates and Solicitors said that USD 100,000 annual fee on H-1B

visas may force IT companies to rethink their strategy and business models. Indian IT companies, which rely heavily on H-1B visas, may lose their competitive edge, according to Singh.

The impact of the US proclamation imposing a USD 100,000 annual fee on H-1B visas, on IT companies, especially if they rely heavily on H-1B visas, potentially forcing them to reconsider their hiring strategies and business models, Singh said.

Eventually, the proclamation may achieve what it set out to do - hiring and training local talent in the US for a more localised workforce.

Singh noted that there may be potential disruption of business models and revenue streams for Indian IT professionals and companies.

"If costs are passed on to clients, this could impact competitiveness. I guess Indian IT companies may need to reas-

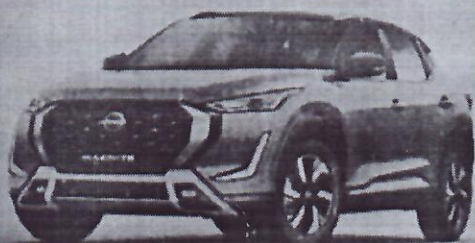
ess their global mix and focus on core competencies, rather than the US market," he said.

Indian talent may find it difficult to maintain and sustain their US presence, says Singh.

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Magnite 2025 – the ₹-money SUV



Although cabin feel and comfort are subjective, the interior has been upgraded to soft-touch, copper-coloured leatherette on the dashboard and door pads, giving it a premium feel compared to the older model's all-black plastic interiors. Loaded with features like a 7-inch digital instrument cluster, an 8-inch 9-inch touchscreen with wireless Android Auto and Apple CarPlay, a cooled glove box (depending on del), and rear USB-C ports, the cabin feels modern. The 1.0-litre turbo-petrol engine is peppy and responsive. Add to that the high ground clearance (190 mm). Its powertrains are also compliant, too.

Although cabin feel and comfort are subjective, the interior has been upgraded to soft-touch, copper-coloured leatherette on the dashboard and door pads, giving it a premium feel compared to the older model's all-black plastic interiors.

I, however, found nothing special to write about its touchscreen infotainment system, nor its 360-degree camera system. However, the suspension felt firm and clunky over very rough patches of roads, and the plastic door panels felt cheap. Those are not deal-breakers, though, especially at that price point, which ranges between Rs. 6.14 lakh and 11.92 lakh. I would say it is a sensible and competent choice for budget-conscious buyers who prioritise practicality and features over outright refinement. The improved safety kit and interior make it a compelling pur-

GST 'disparity' poses threat to packagers

KOLKATA, Sept 20: Corrugated box manufacturers have raised an alarm over a sharp inverted duty structure created after the rationalisation of GST rates, and claimed that more than 20,000 MSMEs in this packaging segment are at risk of closure.

While GST on corrugated paperboard boxes has been reduced from 12 per cent to 5 per cent, the rate on its primary raw materials, kraft paper and board, has been raised from 12 per cent to 18 per cent, they said.

Eastern India Corrugated Box Manufacturers said the recent GST revisions have created a severe imbalance.

"This disparity leaves a 13 per cent burden on the industry and is far from supporting MSMEs. It threatens their viability," the association said in a statement.

The association highlighted that the change will "lead to working capital blockage due to accumulation of input tax credit, higher interest and compliance costs, and increased service costs as input credit on labour and materials is

India's biggest enemy on other nations

BHAVNAGAR (Gujarat), Sept 20: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said India's main adversary is its dependence on other nations as he made a strong pitch for "aatmanirbhar" and called for indigenous production of everything from semiconductor chips to ships.

Speaking at the 'Samadrasa Samruddhi' event, where he inaugurated and laid foundation stones of projects worth Rs 34,200 crore, Modi said all the problems of India have only one solution, and that is self-reliance.

"India is moving forward with the spirit of global brotherhood and India has no major enemy in the world today, but in true terms, India's biggest adversary is dependence on other nations," Modi said, emphasising that this dependence must be collectively defeated.

He said greater foreign dependence leads to greater national failure. "For global peace, stability, and prosperity, the world's most populous country must become self-reliant," Modi said and cautioned that reliance on others com-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said India's main adversary is its dependence on other nations as he made a strong pitch for "aatmanirbhar" and called for indigenous production of everything from semiconductor chips to ships.