



**KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY**  
Only IAS Academy by Grandson of "Perunthalaivar Kamarajar"

# New 'EXILE Act' targets H-1B visas: Why US lawmaker wants to abolish the programme used by 70% of Indians

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## What Is Happening

A new bill called the **EXILE Act** has been introduced in the U.S. Congress that aims to end the H-1B visa programme in the United States.

The bill was introduced by Republican Representative Greg Steube of Florida.

## What the EXILE Act Proposes

The EXILE Act stands for Ending Exploitative Imported Labour Exemptions Act.

It seeks to amend the U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act to terminate the H-1B visa programme by around 2027.

Under this bill, new H-1B visas would eventually be stopped once the programme ends.

## Why the Bill Was Introduced

The lawmaker sponsoring the bill argues that the H-1B system has been misused by companies to hire cheaper foreign labour, hurting American workers and job opportunities.

Supporters of the bill say that it is meant to prioritise U.S. citizens for jobs and protect domestic employment.

## About the H-1B Visa Programme

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The **H-1B visa** allows U.S. employers to **hire foreign professionals in specialized roles like technology, engineering, and healthcare.**

A large number of H-1B visa holders are from India or China, with Indians accounting for over 70 % of approved petitions in recent years.

### **Current Policy Context**

The EXILE Act comes when the U.S. is already tightening immigration policies, including stricter visa checks and higher fees.

These changes have created uncertainty among foreign workers, including Indian professionals.

### **Why This Matters**

If passed, the EXILE Act could limit future H-1B work opportunities for foreign professionals, especially from India.

The debate highlights tension between protecting local jobs and meeting demand for skilled foreign labour in the U.S.

### **Way Forward**

**Balanced Reform of H-1B System:** The U.S. can improve rules to prevent misuse while still allowing skilled foreign professionals needed by industries like technology and healthcare.

**Protect Both Workers:** Policies should protect American jobs and also ensure fair opportunities for global talent, instead of completely ending the programme.

**Increase Skill-Based Selection:** Giving priority to high-skill, high-salary applicants can reduce concerns about cheap labour and improve productivity.

**Stronger Monitoring of Companies:** Proper checks on employers can stop wage undercutting and exploitation of foreign workers.

**India–U.S. Cooperation:** India and the U.S. can work together on mobility agreements, skill partnerships, and alternative visa pathways to support professionals.

**Encouraging Domestic Skill Development:** The U.S. can invest more in training its own workforce, reducing long-term dependence on foreign visas.