

US Visa Politics

What is the issue?

- The United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (US ICE) has given new regulations for international students' visa.
- The US administration is pursuing controversial immigration policy measures following the pandemic.

What were the ICE's directives?

- ICE asked the students currently in the U.S. enrolled in programmes that would be administered in **online mode** to leave the country.
- Another possibility for these students is to transfer to a university with in-person instruction to remain in lawful status.
- If not, ICE cautioned, they risk the initiation of removal proceedings or similar immigration consequences.
- Students attending schools offering **normal in-person classes** could stay.
- However, they cannot take more than one class or three credit hours online.
- Visa issuance to students enrolled in universities or programmes that are conducted entirely online for the fall 2020 semester will be stopped.
- Such students will not be permitted to enter the U.S.

What is Trump's immigration policy?

- **Lawsuits** were filed by Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to block the ICE directive.
- This is the latest twist in an ongoing immigration policy crackdown by the Trump administration.
- These include a halt in the issuance of many visa categories as well as the halt in green card processing.
- All these halts will continue until the end of the calendar year.

What are the arguments against the move?

- There is no possible rationale behind imperilling the lives of foreign students who were admitted to universities on merit.
- These students do not pose an immediate threat to U.S. jobs.
- It may be futile to wall off large swathes of the economy to the capable

foreign workers who are delivering value in many jobs in the U.S.

- So, this political move by Trump may damage, in the longer term, the economic prospects of the very U.S. people he claims to be fighting for.

Source: The Hindu

