

Won't allow H-1B visa hires to replace US workers: Trump

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WASHINGTON/BENGALURU: United States president-elect Donald Trump said on Friday he would not allow Americans to be replaced by foreign workers.

"We will fight to protect every last American life," Trump told his supporters in Iowa. "During the campaign I also spent time with American workers who were laid off and forced to train the foreign workers brought in to replace them.

We won't let this happen anymore," Trump vowed amidst cheers and applause from the audience.

Trump's hardline posturing on outsourcing can prove worrisome to Indian technology companies. However, there's a belief that the legal system might come to the aid of Indians working in US on H-1B visa.

A case in point is the recent lawsuit against Disney World. A district court upheld Disney's IT outsourcing contract with HCL Americas and Cognizant, saying allegations about abuse of the H-1B visa programme weren't sufficient to prove that it was unlawful. A former IT employee of Walt Disney Parks and Resorts, Leo Perrero, had filed a class-action lawsuit against HCL America and Disney, alleging that the firm replaced US workers with H-1B employees that violated the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) Act, said a news report published in <http://www.shrm.org> Though Trump's views on outsourcing are cause for worry for the Indian IT services sector, 60% of whose revenues come from the US, experts believe that Indian IT sector will work within the complexities of the existing global order.

"While Indian technology companies have largely preferred the H-1B visa regime, any decision by the new United States government to reduce the annual cap is likely to have an adverse impact not just on India but on the global technology sector," said Vikram Shroff, head of the HR law practice at the law firm Nishith Desai Associates.