lated charges without a Congressional nod.

How has the fee affected workers?

While the court ruling is being celebrated by many immigration advocates, some lawyers say damage may already have been done. Asel Williams, a founding immigration attorney at New York City-based Williams Law, told *The Indian Express*: "Indian professionals on H-1B and STEM OPT status have already felt the impact of the

tions have coincided with broader technological disruptions in the labour market. "These layoffs are being driven by a combination of AI displacement and increasingly restrictive H-1B policies. The damage to Indian H-1B holders and STEM OPT workers has in large part already been done," she said. Similarly, Bray noted that the fee appeared to suppress demand for new H-1B sponsorships. "The number of H-1Bs originating in other countries was re-

does not come into effect until the appeal is decided, which can take a few months."

Williams urged foreign workers to avoid assuming that the ruling resolves immigration uncertainties. "I recommend H-1B holders avoid international travel," she said. "The court ruling does not automatically make it easier to obtain an H-1B visa through consular processing. Both the US Department of State and DHS retain discretion to deny any H-1B petition."

Patna