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## **RBI Launches Trump's 'Gold Card' Visa: A Comprehensive Overview**

### **The Announcement**

- On February 26, 2025, U.S. President Donald Trump announced the launch of a new "gold card" visa program.
- This visa offers a path to U.S. citizenship for a \$5 million investment.
- The new visa will replace the existing EB-5 investor visa program.
- The gold card visa aims to attract ultra-high-net-worth individuals (UHNWI) to the U.S., promising green card privileges and a streamlined route to citizenship.

### **History of the EB-5 Investor Visa**

- The EB-5 investor visa program was established by Congress in 1990 to stimulate the U.S. economy through job creation and capital investment by foreign investors.
- The program allowed foreign nationals to obtain U.S. permanent residency (a green card) by investing at least \$1 million, or \$500,000 in targeted employment areas, and creating a set number of jobs for American workers.
- Over the years, the program faced criticism for fraud and misuse, prompting calls for reform.

### **Economic Implications**

- The gold card visa program is expected to generate significant revenue for the U.S. government.
- By requiring a \$5 million investment, the program aims to attract wealthy individuals who can contribute to the U.S. economy through taxes, spending, and job creation.



- Unlike the EB-5 program, the gold card visa does not have a specified limit on the number of visas issued, potentially allowing for a substantial influx of capital.
- Critics argue that the high investment threshold may exclude many potential investors, particularly from countries like India, where the EB-5 program was popular.

### **Legal Implications**

- The introduction of the gold card visa raises several legal questions.
- While the program aims to simplify the process for wealthy investors, it also eliminates the job creation requirements that were central to the EB-5 program.
- This shift may lead to concerns about the potential for money laundering and other financial crimes.
- Additionally, the gold card visa program will require new legislation passed by Congress to fully replace the EB-5 program.
- The legal framework for the gold card visa will need to address these concerns to ensure the program's integrity and effectiveness.

### **Future Prospects**

- The future of the gold card visa program depends on its ability to attract high-net-worth individuals and generate economic benefits for the U.S.
- While the program has the potential to bring in significant revenue, it also faces challenges in terms of accessibility and regulatory oversight.
- The success of the gold card visa will likely depend on the implementation of robust legal and regulatory measures to prevent abuse and ensure that the program achieves its intended economic goals.

In conclusion, the launch of Trump's gold card visa marks a significant shift in U.S. immigration policy, aiming to attract wealthy investors with a streamlined path to citizenship. While the program offers promising economic benefits, it also raises important legal and regulatory questions that will need to be addressed to ensure its success.