K visa

***Prelims**: Current events of national importance and international importance | International relations*

Why in News?

China recently revised the 'Regulations on the Administration of the Entry and Exit of Foreigners', adding a new visa category of K visa, seen as a counter-measure to the US announcing a steep USD 100,000 one-time fee on new H-1B visa applications.

- **Aim –** It aimed at foreign science and technology talents who meet certain conditions and requirements.
- It allows foreign scientists, researchers, and technologists to live, work, and innovate in China without requiring a local employer sponsor.
- **Effect from –** October 1, 2025.
- **Eligibility -**
  - Foreign youth who have graduated from renowned domestic or international universities or research institutions with a bachelor's degree or higher in **STEM fields** (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) and
  - Foreign professionals engaged in education and research in STEM-related fields would qualify.
- **Features -** Compared to existing ordinary Chinese visa types, K visa holders have been promised greater flexibility in terms of entry frequency and validity period.
- **Scope of activities -** Exchanges and collaborations in education, science, technology, culture, entrepreneurship, and business.
- **No sponsorship requirement -** More importantly, applications *will no longer require sponsorship* from a local enterprise.
- **Extension to the R visa -** The K visa is essentially being seen as an extension of the R visa for high-level talent introduced by China in 2013.
- Details such as the specific age range for "young" individuals, the scope of specific tech industries, the exact validity period and duration of stay for K

visas, and follow-up residency policies after entry remain to be further clarified.
- **Significance** -The K visa fits into China’s attempts to try to position the country as a science and technology superpower.

References

1. The Indian Express | K visa
2. Times of India | K-visa
3. Outlook Traveler | K Visa

