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Q. The U.S. hike in H-1B visa fees exposes India's dependence on foreign job markets. Analyse its implications and suggest measures for India to reduce this reliance

A. Recently U.S. increased the H-1B visa fees the 71% recipients of which were Indians, which shows India's dependence on foreign job markets having broad social, economic and political implications.

### Implications on H-1B visa fee increase

Economic: • loss of jobs by Indians in USA

• loss of Remittance (India received highest remittance in 2022 globally with USA being

Good – Mentions visa fee hike, India's high share of beneficiaries, and sets up broad impacts.

Improve – Could briefly connect it to the IT sector at the start for sharper context.

• In a positive sense reduced brain drain might help in economic growth

Good – Well-organized into Economic, Social, and Political impacts; includes points like remittances, brain drain, family income, and Indo-US relations. The balance of positives and negatives shows maturity.

Improve – Some points (like "loss of soft power") could be explained in 1–2 lines more. Flow can be improved by converting bullet notes into small analytical sentences.

• low income → reduced consumption → low GDP.

Good – Strong way forward with concrete suggestions: R&D, PLI scheme, manufacturing, diversifying job markets, and diplomacy.

### Social Impact:

• Reduced family income → low expenditure in health and education

• Illegal Migrant problem might increase

• Mental tension and stress in USA workers and aspiring students and engineers etc

• In positive sense, it might help in re-integration of families.

• loss of quality education opportunity.

### Political Impact:

• The move shows deteriorating India-USA relations.

• Loss of India's soft power in service sector.

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- loss of jobs internationally might create political instability at home.

Given the implications steps are needed to convert this into opportunities.

### Way forward

- ) Provide Research opportunity: Provide infrastructure required for research, by provide scholarship etc. e.g. PMRF, Atal Innovation Mission etc, India AI etc.
- ) Promote Startup:
  - Improve ease of doing business. e.g. Uwaa Se Viswa 2.0
  - Provide incentives e.g. PLI scheme, Mudra scheme
  - Reduced Red tapism and governance challenge.
- ) Alternatives: Use International diplomacy to open job opportunities in other states like Japan, EU, Singapore etc.
- ) Promote Manufacturing: Promote manufacturing sector to provide job opportunities through Make in India, National Manufacturing Mission, Semicon India etc

The visa like in USA present both challenges and opportunity for India, government need to implement reform to ensure utilization of Indian mind for India

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