

10th High Kr.

(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)
कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

23-9-25

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस हार्जिफ में नहीं लिखना चाहिए।
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Q. The US hike in H-1B visa fee exposes India's dependence on foreign job markets. Analyse its implications & suggest measures for India to reduce this reliance.

Recent shock from Washington: A sharp hike in H-1B visas fee rise which raises the cost of hiring foreign skilled workers.

H-1B Visa → is a US-work Visa
→ requires at least graduate
→ sponsored by US Employer
→ Common in STEM

change in H-1B
President Trump said the fee will rise up to \$100,000

Why India is Exposed: Indians formed roughly $\approx 71\%$ of H-1B visas in FY24

• US is the largest source of remittances to India (about \$120 - \$125 Mn)

Implications

1) local hiring shift: Due to higher cost, firms will shift towards U.S local hire which will lead to less recruitment of Indians.

2) Remittance drag: Slow flow of Indians to US will also slow down remittances.

↳ will have impact on India's foreign Exch. Reserve

3) Political Implications: strains Ind-US relation.

↳ Increase Pressure on Indian Policy makers for negotiation.

4) Social Implication: Earlier student used 14-15 track; now they aren't sure to opt for this

Measures

1) Diversify mobility: i) Ind-Australia MMPA creates pathway that offers 2 yr work visa to Ind.

ii) UK-Ind mobility & migration Partnership Scheme

2) High Skill Job Creation: schemes like PLI to absorb STEM intelligence

ii) Push Semiconductor via Semiconductor mission

iii) Use Startup Ind Seed fund to promote startup

iv) Promote initiative like GIFT city

3) → mass upskill under PMKVY 4.0 so graduates land higher value jobs & don't rely on overseas

Way forward: Govt should ~~not~~ mix schemes like PMKVY with PM-NRAPS & must focus on Job creation

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Introduction:

Good – Engaging start with reference to Washington's move and context of H-1B visa fee hike. Mentions India's high share (71%) which gives factual weight.

Improve – The intro could be more concise and directly connect fee hike to India's IT/workforce dependence instead of broader narrative.

Body:

Good – Covers economic (remittance drag, local hiring shift), political (Indo-US strain), and social implications (students and skilled workers). Also highlights why India is most exposed with data (remittances, share of visas).

Improve – Presentation is a bit scattered; points could be structured into 3–4 clear dimensions (Economic, Workforce, Geopolitical, Social). Some sentences are repetitive, so tighter phrasing would help.

Conclusion:

Good – Suggests way forward with focus on schemes like PMKVY, job creation, and diversification. Optimistic tone fits UPSC style.

Improve – Ending line could be sharper with a single punchline like "India must convert this external shock into an opportunity for self-reliance."