

Ques 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. (GIS2, 150 words, 10 marks)

Ans Nearly 70% of H-1B visas go to Indians making the workforce vulnerable to external policy shifts.

### IMPLICATIONS OF H-1B FEE HIKE

① Increased Cost for Indian IT = The substantial \$100000 fee per H-1B visa increases operating costs.

Introduction:

② Impact on Indian IT firms = (could pressure margins & client deals with financial strain & slowdown IT sector)

Good - Strong start with statistics (nearly 70% of H-1B visas to Indians) that immediately sets context. Improve - Could add a short line linking directly to India's IT dependence for clarity.

③ Shift towards Global Capability Centres = Companies are likely to leverage their presence in India more.

Good - Covers multiple dimensions: cost for firms, pressure on margins, global capability centres, and lesser mobility. Solutions are structured: infrastructure, skills, education, diversification. Nice use of keywords like "AI, cloud computing, STEM graduates."

④ Reassessment of talent strategy = policy shift forces both US & Indian firms to re-evaluate their global talent strategies.

Good - Strong ending with focus on innovation, resilience, and even a quote ("America's loss will be India's gain" - Amitabh Kant). Leaves a positive impression. Improve - Could shorten slightly, and conclude with one punchline on India's self-reliance in workforce strategy.

### MEASURES TO REDUCE RELIANCE

① Promote India's IT sector & infrastructure = Enhancing domestic demand & investing in GIGs will create robust local market & serve alternative hubs for talent.

② Develop local talent & skills = Implement programs to enhance skills e.g. AI, Cloud computing.

③ Modernize education = produce higher quantity & quality of STEM graduates.

④ Diversify the economy = Boosting rural employment, modernizing agriculture & promoting entrepreneurship.

- ⑤ Boost domestic job creation via digital endo,-  
make in India and high value manufacturing
- ⑥ Invest in R & D & emerging technologies of semiconductors,  
green tech.

Reducing reliance on foreign markets requires  
India to become a global hub of innovation &  
high-quality jobs, ensuring resilience against  
external shocks.

AMERICA'S LOSS WILL BE INDIA'S GAIN - AMITABH KANT