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The US 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. (10m)

The U.S government stunned the tech world by announcing an upto 50-fold hike in the cost of skilled labour permits (H-1B visa fee) to \$10,00,00 previously at \$4500.

Implications for India

Good - Clear reference to US fee hike, highlighting costs and linking it to Indian skilled workers' vulnerability.
Improve - Could briefly add India's large share in H-1B visas (around 70%) to strengthen context.

① Limit job mobility

Introduction:

Body:

Good - Identifies implications: limited mobility, loss of jobs, potential talent shift to other countries, and economic impact on remittances. The measures are practical: SEZ promotion, diversification, skill upgradation, entrepreneurship and negotiations.

Improve - Points are written in note form, some could be converted into short analytical sentences. Missing direct mention of India's IT export dependence and geopolitical strain in Indo-US ties.

Conclusion:

Good - Ends with "India's self-reliance," linking the issue to Atmanirbhar Bharat.

Improve - A stronger closing punchline (e.g., "Turning external shocks into opportunities for innovation and domestic job creation") would give more impact.

② Loss of job to sponsor or retain H1B workers → lead to loss of job of Indian graduates.

③ Failure of strategy Potential for talent shift to countries such as Canada, UK, UAE, Saudi Arabia.

④ Others other implications like Innovation Risk, talent drain, etc may affect Indian economy and US-India relationship

Measures to rectify the issue.

- ① Encourage companies to build more India based delivery to reduce dependency.
~~Eg~~ Promote Special Economic Zones.
- ② Promotion of Nearshoring and diversified approach. ~~Eg~~ Expand presence in Canada, Europe, Middle east.
- ③ Support skill upgradation to make Indian professionals more valuable. ~~Eg~~ NASSCOM's IT Next initiative train young engineers.
- ④ Encourage entrepreneurship and retain talent in India. ~~Eg~~ Start-up India & Atal Mission.
- ⑤ India may negotiate with US government to reduce H-1B visa fee.
- ⑥ Offer grants, tax incentives for SMEs and startups affected by US market restriction.

India by promoting Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, it can convert U.S. shock into India's self-reliance.