

UPSC

(Candidate must adhere to the word limit specified in the question)

Q) The U.S hike in H1B visa fees exposes India's dependence on foreign job markets. Analyse its implications and suggest measures for India to reduce this reliance. (150W, 10M)

US president H-1B Visa fee hike to \$1,00,000 has raised concern over humanitarian consequences for Indian tech workers and potential disruption in U.S tech companies.

⇒ Implication of fee hike:

1) Indian not only facing majority of visa disruption for Indian tech workers.

Good – Begins with mention of fee hike (\$100,000) and directly highlights humanitarian consequences and disruption for Indian tech workers.

Improve – Could add a short fact (like 70% of H-1B visas go to Indians) to give stronger context.

Body:
71% with 60% of the total cost for \$1,00,000.

Good – Lists multiple implications: majority of Indian applicants affected, disruption in US tech companies, talent shortage, and higher costs for employers. Balanced perspective is evident.

Improve – Analysis is more descriptive than analytical; points could be grouped as Economic, Workforce, Strategic. Missing mention of remittances and India-US relations.

2) Tens of thousands of potential applicants and their families could be adversely affected.

Good – Suggests domestic opportunities, reforms, AI/advanced tech, diversifying markets, and long-term strategy. The line on reducing dependence and strengthening India's ecosystem is strong.

Improve – Needs a sharper closing punchline (e.g., "Turning this crisis into an opportunity for Atmanirbhar Bharat").

3) Disruption to US tech Companies, reliance on highly skilled foreign workers may face talent shortage.

4) Employees may struggle to justify hiring specialised foreign workers at increased fee.

Highlighting the challenges posed by protectionist measures, India can manage as following ways-

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⇒ Domestic opportunities and Long-term Strategy

- India can mitigate fallout by -
 - Strengthening domestic infrastructure and implementing reform
 - Developing AI and other advanced tech capabilities.
 - Explore new markets in Asia and parts of Europe.
- Need for long-term strategy to reduce reliance on US tech job opportunities.

Reducing dependence on US employment will strengthen India's tech ecosystem, while risk US with talent shortage, demonstrating importance of sustainable global collaboration