

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.

(GS II, 150 Words, 10 Marks)

The recent hike in H-1B Visa fees and resultant panic highlights India's dependence on foreign job markets.

India's dependence on foreign job market

→ Source of Remittance (129 Billion Dollar in 2024)

Introduction:

Good – Strong opening highlighting India's dependence on foreign job markets with the H-1B fee hike as context.

Improve – Could briefly mention India's dominance (~70% of H-1B recipients) or remittance share (27% from US) to add factual depth.

→ Absorbs large Indian Diaspora
GCC – 9 million Body: US – 5 million

Good – Covers India's dependence (remittances, diaspora, high-paying jobs) and implications: unilateral policy shocks, unemployment, taxation on remittances, brain drain, fewer foreign jobs, and pressure on Indian job markets. Structured and relevant.

Improve – Needs a bit more emphasis on Indo-US diplomatic strain and IT sector impact. Some points like "image of India as dirty" under measures are less relevant to the question.

Conclusion / Measures:

Good – Measures like R&D investment, higher education/vocational training, strengthening domestic sectors, and rule of law are apt. Conclusion frames the hike as a "blessing in disguise" for Atmanirbhar Bharat.

Improve – Could end with a sharper punchline like: "India must convert dependence into resilience by fostering innovation and diversifying job opportunities."

Implication of Dependence of West Country
1) Unilateral measures (like H1B) can disrupt job market
↳ Rise in unemployment
2) Recently Proposed taxation on Remittance can ↑ Current Account Deficit (CAD)

3) Less jobs in foreign countries
More Competition for jobs in India (lesser salaries)

4) Leads to Brain Drain
↳ Many Indians head fortune 500 Companies

U.P.S.C.

- 4) Raise discontent among educated Youth (Main beneficiary of H1B)
- 5) Fewer Indian's will pursue foreign education → Pressure on already overburdened Education institutions

Measures to Reduce Reliance

- 1) More invest in R&D (0.6% of GDP in India vs 2.8 China)
↳ emergence of new sector (akin to Silicon Valley)
- 2) Focus on Higher education and Vocational training for Skill Development (Many H1B Visa holders trained in US)
- 3) Focus on basic services (Education, Healthcare, Infrastructure) to incentivise youth
- 4) Address environmental Pollution Concerns → to improve image of India as being dirty
- 5) Focus on law & order (Rule of law) for Safety Concerns.

Recent H1B Visa hike can act as a blessing in disguise if we leverage the talent for Atmanirbhar Bharat.