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Q. 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. (GS-2, 10M)

The 2025 US one time \$100,000 H-1B fee exposes India's heavy reliance on foreign job markets, particularly in STEM, as nearly 70% of these visas go to Indians, making them vulnerable to US policy shifts.

Implications:

- ① Brain Drain: Talented youth migrating instead of contributing domestically.
- ② Economic Impact: IT/tech services, a major forex earner, face higher costs.
- ③ Policy Uncertainty: frequent visa changes disrupt Indian professionals abroad.
- ④ Domestic job mismatch: Reliance on foreign jobs reflects limited high-end opportunities at home.

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- Strengthen Skill India and Promote domestic high-tech industries (semiconductors, AI, green tech)
 - Incentivise startups and R&D under Atmanirbhar Bharat.
 - Expand global job diversification through FTAs with EU, Japan and Gulf nations.
 - Encourage reverse brain-drain by easing innovation, infrastructure, and taxation policies.

"India must turn this challenge into an opportunity by building world-class job at home, reducing reliance on foreign markets and emerging as a global hub of innovation and talent. and ensure economic resilience and inclusive growth"

Introduction:

Good – You highlighted India's dependence on foreign job markets and gave data (70% visas) which adds weight.

Improve – Instead of only stating vulnerability, connect it briefly to India's IT sector to set a sharper context.

Body:

Good – You covered key implications like brain drain, economic impact, policy uncertainty, and job mismatch. The way forward also included measures like skilling, startups, R&D, and diversification.

Improve – Geopolitical/diplomatic implications with Indo-US relations are missing; including them would give more balance.

Conclusion:

Good – You ended with an optimistic tone about turning challenge into opportunity and promoting inclusive growth.

Improve – Conclusion could be slightly shorter and also mention migration policy reforms, as directly required by the question.