

(Q) The US hike --- This reliance.

Ans)

Demand: H-1B visa & India's Strategic autonomy; Challenges to foreign policy, economy & domestic industry; and citizens; Way Ahead

In Financial year 2023-24, India exported 42 million tonnes of raw iron ore (raw material), in a similar vein, India exported over 1 million of its

talented citizens to the US in FY24.

Good - You introduced the issue and linked it with strategic autonomy and foreign policy challenges.
Improve - Instead of too much data (iron ore export, 1 million professionals), focus more directly on the H-1B context in the introduction.

The Culprit: Our weak manufacturing sector & industrial investments.

Good - You covered challenges under economy, foreign policy, and domestic industry, and gave examples like Infosys and Tech Mahindra.
Improve - The points are scattered; try grouping them under clear headings (Economic, Strategic, Social) for better structure. Also, more detail on workforce implications would add depth.

H1B visa & India's strategic autonomy

Good - You gave a way forward with diversification, domestic industry push, and bureaucracy reforms.
Improve - End with a sharper line on India's migration policy reforms and long-term self-reliance to directly match the demand.

1) The H-1B is a work-visa for professionals in STEM fields offered by the US government.

2) Although, beneficial for India from a remittance ~~and~~, and employment perspective, it compromises our strategic autonomy by creating reliance, and even disharmony were the visas supply to stop. The 100,000 dollar fee requirement.

Challenges due to H1-B fee hike

- 3) Foreign Policy: Balancing strategic importance with economic links.
- 2) eg US is India's largest export market in FY 24'.
- 4) Economy & domestic Industry: Collaboration with US companies is compromised.
eg Firms like Infosys, & Tech-Mahindra employed many H1-B holders.
- 5) Citizens: American jobs provided an escape from the stagnating Indian job market.

Way Ahead

- 6) Need to diversify relations with the EU, Russia, Israel, & middle east countries to ~~provide~~ with focus on employment opportunities.
- 7) Domestic Industry must step-up with capital investments & manufacturing push.
- 8) The Government & Bureaucracy must streamline industry setting-up & winding up process, as well as provide infra-structure services.

The answer to the H1-B challenge is 2-fold → Diversify & Domestic.