

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

On 19th September 2025, US authorities announced a hike in HBI visa fee from \$2000-\$5000 to a whopping \$100,000. As a wake up call, it India being heavily reliant on foreign job markets is needed to reorient its growth path domestically because it is seen as a 'Restriction on non-immigrant workers'.

Implications of fee hike in short-term can impact India's demographic talent:-

Economic impact

- Small American firms that were a viable option for Indian skilled workers are now unable to afford offshore workforce. US in 2023-24 was the largest contributor of remittances which now seem to dip.
- Indian companies abroad like Infosys, TCS are now exploring alternate hiring domestically while strengthening their offshore delivery.

Humanitarian impact

- The policy targets new applicants, aspirants of growth and exposure are now suffering a toll mentally of not being placed/hired in a foreign firm.
- People already working in US firms are now hesitant to return to interact with their relatives from whom they haven't met for years.

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India contributed about 70% foreign jobforce in America, Economic experts are of the view that it will fall eventually.

Diplomatic impact

Being ~~the~~ India's largest Remittance source and trade provider, US had certainly created hardships and spikes in diplomatic relations.

As a result, ministry of external affairs are now focused on diversifying jobforce of India among other nations to reduce western reliance.

Way forward

Diversification

Scandinavian countries like Finland, middle eastern countries like Israel, Saudi Arabia can provide wider opportunities with same level of work culture as compared to US firms. ~~Saudi~~ Singapore being the largest FDI investor is yet another job source for aspiring Indians.

Domestic innovation : Reorienting and upgrading India's infrastructure with cutting edge technology can easily absorb a plethora

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of job force.

Upskilling : Increasing youth capacity through capacity building can make them compatible with trending job patterns.

Incentives : Tax incentives, subsidies can bolster human capital of India to contribute towards nation's growth outlook. For instance, Priority sector lending (PSL) can incentivise service sector to absorb workforce.

Good attempt—student mentioned the recent US policy decision and linked it with India's dependence on foreign job markets. However, it could be sharper by briefly pointing out both the problem (fee hike + reliance) and the need for domestic reforms in the first lines.

Strong coverage—student explained implications (economic, humanitarian, diplomatic) with examples like remittances, IT sector, small firms, and MEA diversification. Measures like diversification, domestic innovation, upskilling, and incentives are relevant and specific. Still, some points are a bit lengthy. More concise structure with subheadings could improve readability. Also, the humanitarian angle could be shorter, and more space should be given to solutions.

Very good—student concluded with a balanced view, short-term problem but long-term opportunity for domestic innovation. The linking of "hindrance into catalyst" is effective. Still, it can be made crisper by directly stating: "India must build resilience by strengthening its domestic job market."

Conclusion
Thus, the vestige of a policy may be a barricade for a short-term but in a long term coordinated approach among Indian markets can convert this hindrance into a catalyst of domestic innovation.