

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.

Ans:- The U.S. H-1B visa fee hike highlights India's significant dependence on foreign job markets, particularly for its IT sector. It exposes vulnerabilities linked to immigration policy changes, creates uncertainty for professionals, and poses cost challenges for Indian companies.

Implications for India

① Economic Impact:- The fee hike increases operational costs for Indian IT firms and reduces their competitive advantage, potentially affecting profitability.

② Talent Flow Disruption:- Covers economic impact, talent flow disruption, psychological barriers, and strategic opportunity.

Higher costs and uncertainty can deter skilled Indian professionals from pursuing U.S. jobs, causing a "reverse brain drain".

Measures/Way Forward: This could either strengthen India's domestic talent pool or redirect talent to other countries.

③ Psychological Barriers:- The policy creates a psychological barrier for young Indian professionals and their families who aspire to work in the U.S.

④ Strategic Opportunity:-

Indian firms are likely to increase offshoring work to India and focus on local hiring in the U.S. to mitigate costs. This could accelerate the growth of Global Capability Centres (GCCs) in India.

Very good start—student clearly mentions India's IT sector dependence, vulnerability due to policy changes, and challenges for Indian companies. Sets proper context. Could be slightly sharper if the visa fee hike figures were directly included.

Introduction

Body

Strengths:

Well-organized points with clear subheadings.

Strong mention of Global Capability Centres (GCCs) and strategic offshoring opportunity.

Areas to Improve:

Some repetition in phrasing ("detering skilled professionals," "reverse brain drain")—needs crisper expression.

Humanitarian/social angle (impact on families, remittances, foreign exchange) is missing.

A small diagram or data (like share of Indian H-1B visa holders) could have strengthened analysis.

Excellent coverage—"Make in India," strengthening R&D, skilling, market diversification, migration agreements. Measures are practical and directly linked to reducing dependence. Could briefly connect with geopolitical and diplomatic aspects as well.

Good—student links back to India's overdependence and stresses diversification + domestic capability. Could be made more impactful by adding "India must focus on turning this challenge into an opportunity for self-reliance in the tech sector."

Conclusion

Measures for India to reduce reliance:-

- ① Boost Domestic Employment:- Expand initiatives like 'Make in India' and 'Startup India' to create high-quality, high-tech jobs within the country.
- ② Strengthen Innovation Ecosystem:- Invest heavily in research and development (R&D) to foster innovation and entrepreneurship. Use returning talent to build a stronger knowledge base.
- ③ Skill India Initiatives:- Continuously upskill and reskill the workforce to meet global market demands and position India as a global skill capital.
- ④ Encourage companies to explore and expand into alternative markets beyond the U.S. such as Canada, Australia, and European nations.
- ⑤ Pursue new or strengthen existing migration and mobility agreements with other countries to ensure a smoother flow of skilled labour.

In conclusion, the recent hike in H-LB visa fees to \$100,000 exposes India's dependence on foreign job markets. By diversifying its tech market by developing domestic capabilities, India can reduce its dependence.