

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 A nation's true strength lies not in exporting its talent, but in empowering it at home.
The U.S. hike in H-1B visa fees underlines India's overdependence on foreign job markets, especially in IT and services.

Implications

- Rising costs for Indian IT firms
- Reduced opportunities for skilled youth abroad
- Decline in remittances & forex inflows
- Brain drain concerns
- Strategic vulnerability to U.S. policy shifts

Challenges

- Slow domestic job creation
- Skills - industry mismatch
- Weak R & D and innovation ecosystem
- Dependence on service sector vs manufacturing
- Bureaucratic hurdles for start-ups & MSMEs

Measures

- Boost Make in India, Digital India & local job creation
- Diversify IT/service exports to ASEAN, EU, Africa
- Strengthen start-ups, MSMEs, innovation hubs
- Invest in AI, Semiconductors, green tech

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UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
Content of the Question is more important than length.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

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- Global-standard skilling & re-skilling
 - Encourage remote work on freelancing for global markets
- "India must shift from dependence to resilience by converting its demographic dividend into domestic growth". Aligning with SDG 4, SDG 8, and SDG 9, India can transform into a knowledge-driven economy, paving the path towards Viksit Bharat @ 2047 and global superpower status.

Introduction:

Good – You opened strongly by framing the issue in terms of empowering talent vs. dependence on foreign markets, which sets a good context.

Improve – Could add one brief line on India's IT/tech reliance to make the context sharper.

Body:

Good – The answer is neatly divided into Implications, Challenges, and Measures. You covered rising costs, reduced remittances, brain drain, weak R&D, and bureaucratic hurdles, along with measures like Make in India, diversification, startups, and AI/semiconductors.

Improve – A short mention of geopolitical/diplomatic implications (Indo-US relations, global labour politics) would make the body more comprehensive.

Conclusion:

Good – Very strong, linking India's shift from dependence to resilience with SDGs and Viksit Bharat @ 2047.

Improve – Keep the ending slightly more concise; one clear punchline on policy reforms would have been ideal.