

The U.S. hike in H-1B visa fees expose India's dependence on foreign job markets, analyse its implications and suggest measures for India to reduce this reliance.

The H-1B visa which allows US-based companies to hire and employ foreign workers for speciality jobs like science, technology engineering, mathematics (STEM) and IT (High skills) and at least a bachelor's degree. The US is imposing a \$100,000 annual fee on new H-1B visa applications for skilled workers starting 2026. The move aims to curb misuse and encourage domestic employment by highlighting India's dependence on foreign job markets for skilled workers.

Good - You explained what the H-1B visa is and mentioned India's heavy dependence on it, along with the recent fee hike.
Improve - The introduction is a bit long and descriptive; a sharper focus on India's vulnerability would align better with the question.

Good - You mentioned IT firms, remittances, increased costs for companies, and dependence on the US job market. Measures like diversification, infrastructure investment, and reskilling are relevant.

Improve - The body lacks depth in workforce and geopolitical implications. Try to organise points more clearly under headings like Economic, Workforce, Geopolitical.

Good - You ended with a forward-looking note on reducing reliance and creating opportunities domestically.
Improve - The conclusion could be stronger if it briefly highlighted policy reforms in migration and skilling.

How The fee Hike exposes India's Dependence.

Heavy reliance of the Indian IT sector on US visa regimes.

- Indian firms like TCS, Infosys, HCL, Wipro among others have historically been significant beneficiaries of the H-1B visa regime.
- Remittances and foreign exchange → skilled

Workers abroad remit money back Home, which contributes to foreign exchange inflows. Remittances may decline.

Implications

Increase Cost for Indian Companies \rightarrow the New

Fees including a \$4,000 additional fee for employers with over 50 employees where more than 50 employees are on H-1B or L-1 visas. will increase the cost burden on Indian Companies.

2) Dependence on US Job Market \rightarrow India's

IT Sector's Heavy reliance on the US Job Market makes it vulnerable to exchange in US immigration policies.

Measures

1) diversification of job markets beyond the US

2) Investing in Domestic infrastructure.

3) promoting startup ecosystem.

4) upskilling and reskilling

By implementing these measures, India can reduce its reliance on Foreign Job market and create more opportunities for its skilled workforce within country.