

Q. The [U.S.] hike in (H-1B visa) fees ex-
poses India's independence on foreign
job markets. Analyse its implications and
suggest measures for India to reduce
this reliance. [61511, 150 words, 10 marks]

The U.S. hike in H-1B visa fees -
impacting nearly 70% Indian applicants
- exposes India's overreliance on foreign
job markets for skilled employment.

IMPLICATIONS

1. Economic Vulnerability: Indian IT firms face higher costs and reduced competitiveness; remittance inflows risk decline, affecting domestic consumption and rupee stability.
2. Brain Drain: Skilled professionals continue migrating, weakening domestic innovation and entrepreneurial growth.
3. Diplomatic Leverage: The U.S. gains bargaining power over India through visa policies; India's MEA has raised concerns over impacts on families and professionals.
4. Remittance Risk: India, world's largest remittance recipient

(\$ 185 bn, World Bank 2023), faces uncertainty.

MEASURES TO REDUCE RELIANCE

1. Domestic job creation : Leverage Digital India and Make in India to absorb skilled youth.
2. Skill alignment : Implement NEP-2020 and NITI Aayog's skill roadmap in frontier technologies. (AI, semiconductors).
3. Diversification of mobility : Promote migration to EU, Japan, Gulf; utilise alternatives like UAE's Golden Visa and Canada's Global Talent stream.
4. Policy tools : Conclude FTAs with mobility clauses. eg, India-EU Migration and Mobility Agreement 2023, and trade in domestic currencies → de-dollarisation.

India must move from visa-dependence to visa-diversification, turning brain drain into brain gain to become Amanirbhar in human capital.

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प्रश्न संख्या
(Question No.)

U.P.S.C.

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Introduction:

Good – Concise and effective, directly pointing out India's overreliance on foreign job markets and the fee hike's impact.

Improve – Could add a short line linking it to IT sector dependence for sharper framing.

Body:

Good – Well-structured with clear headings. Covered economic vulnerability, brain drain, diplomatic leverage, and remittance risk. Measures like job creation, NEP skill alignment, diversification of mobility, and policy tools (FTAs, de-dollarisation) show depth.

Improve – Could briefly mention workforce well-being/social impacts to balance the economic/diplomatic focus.

Conclusion:

Good – Strong finish highlighting shift from visa-dependence to visa-diversification and turning brain drain into brain gain.

Improve – Make it slightly more concise; one punchline on migration policy reform would directly address the demand.