International Relations · GS - II

Examine the implications of changes in skilled-worker visa policies of developed countries for India's human capital, services exports and global workforce mobility.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

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Answer Hint

Skilled migration, H-1B visa, Indian IT professionals, remittances, brain drain, brain circulation, services exports, immigration uncertainty, bilateral relations, global talent competition.

Model Answer

Introduction

Skilled migration connects India's human capital with global labour markets. The H-1B visa programme of the United States is particularly significant for Indian professionals, especially in the technology sector.

Implications for India

Restrictive visa policies and greater scrutiny of extensions can increase uncertainty for Indian employees and their employers. Potential consequences include:

1. **Services exports:** Disruptions to overseas deployment may affect Indian IT companies' ability to serve international clients.
2. **Remittances:** Reduced employment opportunities abroad may influence foreign exchange inflows.
3. **Brain drain and circulation:** Greater uncertainty may encourage professionals to return to India, creating opportunities for domestic innovation, although it may also disrupt international career pathways.

4. **Global competitiveness:** Indian firms may face higher compliance costs and difficulties in retaining specialised talent.

Way Forward

India should strengthen domestic research, innovation and high-skilled employment, diversify overseas labour markets, negotiate mobility arrangements through diplomacy and support returning professionals. Companies must also improve immigration compliance and contingency planning.

Conclusion

Changes in skilled-worker visa regimes highlight the need to balance global workforce mobility with domestic capacity-building. India must convert migration-related uncertainties into opportunities for strengthening its knowledge economy.

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