Geography · GS - I

Analyse the changing patterns of international migration and their implications for countries of origin and destination, with reference to India and the United Kingdom.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 27/11/2026	GS - I	Geography

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Skilled migration, student mobility, diaspora, remittances, brain drain, brain gain, demographic change, immigration policies

Model Answer

International migration is increasingly shaped by global labour demand, educational opportunities, demographic differences and immigration regulations. India–UK migration demonstrates how migration flows can benefit both countries while generating competing policy concerns.

1. Changing migration patterns

Migration is no longer exclusively permanent or employment-driven. It includes international students, skilled professionals, dependants and temporary workers. Stricter visa regulations in destination countries can alter the volume and composition of migration without necessarily eliminating the underlying demand for foreign talent.

The UK figures for the year ending June 2026 illustrate this complexity: Indians remained the largest nationality among immigrants, while also accounting for a substantial number of departures. This reflects two-way mobility rather than a one-directional movement of people.

2. Implications for India

1. **Economic benefits:** Remittances, overseas employment and international professional networks contribute to household incomes and economic linkages.
2. **Human capital concerns:** Emigration of highly skilled professionals can create shortages in critical sectors, although returning migrants may bring valuable expertise.
3. **Educational opportunities:** International education can improve skills and strengthen academic and professional networks.
4. **Demographic effects:** Migration influences the working-age population and the distribution of skilled labour.

3. Implications for destination countries

The UK benefits from migrant contributions to universities, healthcare, technology and other sectors. However, migration also raises policy concerns regarding housing, public services, labour-market competition and integration.

Policy perspective: India should strengthen domestic employment and research opportunities while protecting migrant workers' rights. Destination countries need transparent, predictable immigration policies aligned with genuine labour and educational requirements.

International migration should therefore be understood as a dynamic process of shared economic interdependence rather than merely a measure of population inflow.

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