Geography · GS - I

Analyse the changing patterns of student and skilled migration from India to developed economies. What do these trends indicate about India's opportunities and challenges as a country of origin?

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

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

International migration, student mobility, skilled workforce, brain drain, brain circulation, remittances, demographic dividend, diaspora engagement

Model Answer

Migration from India to developed economies has increasingly become a combination of educational mobility, skilled employment and temporary international exposure. The departure of Indian nationals from the United Kingdom, including former students and workers, illustrates the dynamic nature of these movements.

Changing migration patterns

1. **Education-led migration:** Indian students constitute an important component of international mobility, often seeking specialised education and better career opportunities.
2. **Skilled migration:** Professionals in healthcare, information technology, engineering and research contribute to destination-country labour markets.
3. **Circular migration:** Completion of education, employment contracts and restrictive visa policies can encourage migrants to return to India or move to other destinations.

Opportunities for India

1. **Remittances:** Overseas employment generates foreign exchange and supports household consumption and investment.
2. **Knowledge transfer:** Returning professionals can bring advanced skills, technology and international experience.
3. **Global networks:** The diaspora strengthens trade, investment, research collaboration and India's international engagement.

Persistent challenges

1. **Brain drain:** The departure of highly trained professionals can aggravate shortages in critical sectors.
2. **Unequal access:** High migration costs and educational expenses can make overseas opportunities inaccessible to poorer households.
3. **Policy uncertainty:** Frequent changes in destination-country visa and employment rules create insecurity for students and workers.

India must strengthen domestic research, employment opportunities and skill development while facilitating safe migration and productive diaspora engagement. The objective should be to transform brain drain into mutually beneficial brain circulation.

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