Society & Social Justice · GS - I

Examine the geographical, economic and humanitarian factors driving irregular migration from West Africa towards the Canary Islands. Discuss the challenges faced by European countries in managing such migration.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 16/11/2026	GS - I	Society & Social Justice

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Atlantic migration route, geographical proximity, poverty and unemployment, political instability, climate change, human trafficking networks, maritime risks, humanitarian assistance, border management, EU cooperation, development partnerships.

Model Answer

Introduction

The Canary Islands have emerged as a major destination for irregular migration from West Africa. Migrants undertake dangerous Atlantic journeys in search of safety and better economic opportunities.

Factors Driving Migration

Poverty, unemployment, political instability, conflict and environmental degradation encourage migration. Climate change, including drought and declining agricultural productivity, can further intensify livelihood insecurity. Smuggling networks exploit vulnerable migrants by organising dangerous sea crossings.

Challenges for European Countries

Large-scale arrivals create pressure on reception facilities, healthcare, accommodation and local resources. Governments must balance border security with international refugee and human rights obligations. Human trafficking, migrant deaths and coordination among European states present additional challenges.

Way Forward

A comprehensive approach should combine safe migration pathways, stronger anti-trafficking cooperation, effective search-and-rescue mechanisms and investment in West African development.

Conclusion

Irregular migration requires a coordinated response addressing its root causes while protecting human dignity and ensuring responsible border management.

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