Indian Economy · GS - III

Examine the challenges posed by sharp seasonal airfare increases for migrant workers and overseas Indians. Suggest measures to improve affordability while preserving competition in the aviation sector.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 29/10/2026	GS - III	Indian Economy

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

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Answer Hint

Airfare regulation; market competition; migrant welfare; diaspora engagement; consumer protection; aviation connectivity

Model Answer

Introduction

Air connectivity is essential for migration, tourism and economic integration. However, sharp airfare increases during festival seasons can place a disproportionate financial burden on migrant workers and overseas Indians.

Key Challenges

Affordability: High fares on Gulf routes can prevent lower-income workers from visiting their families.

Limited alternatives: Peak-season demand, constrained capacity and limited flight options on certain routes can weaken consumers' ability to switch airlines.

Consumer welfare: Unclear pricing practices and additional charges may make it difficult for passengers to compare the actual cost of travel.

Policy Measures

The government should improve fare transparency, strengthen consumer grievance mechanisms and monitor potentially unfair trade practices. Airlines could be encouraged to provide advance-purchase offers, additional seasonal capacity and targeted concessions where commercially feasible. Better coordination with Gulf countries and improved airport infrastructure could also expand connectivity.

Any intervention should be evidence-based and proportionate, avoiding measures that unnecessarily discourage competition or reduce flight availability.

Conclusion

The concerns raised by Kerala’s political leadership highlight the importance of affordable international connectivity. A balanced approach combining transparency, competition, adequate capacity and passenger protection can help address seasonal airfare pressures.

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