International Relations · GS - II

Examine the challenges faced by Indian migrant workers in the Gulf region and discuss the measures India can adopt to protect their rights and facilitate their safe return in cases of exploitation or detention.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 29/10/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Migrant worker vulnerability; recruitment fraud; consular assistance; Emigration Act 1983; bilateral cooperation; legal aid; worker awareness; rehabilitation and reintegration

Model Answer

Introduction

Millions of Indians work abroad, including in Gulf countries, contributing to India's economy through remittances. However, fraudulent recruitment, contract substitution, exploitative employment and detention can leave workers vulnerable.

Major Challenges

Recruitment Exploitation: Workers may be misled about wages, job roles or working conditions by fraudulent agents.

Legal and Linguistic Barriers: Unfamiliarity with local laws, limited financial resources and language difficulties can obstruct access to justice.

Limited Bargaining Power: Dependence on employers for employment, accommodation or residency-related procedures can increase vulnerability.

Measures for Protection

Consular Support: Indian missions should facilitate consular access, legal assistance, communication with families and coordination with local authorities.

Recruitment Regulation: Effective enforcement of the Emigration Act, 1983, verification of recruiting agents and action against fraudulent intermediaries are essential.

Bilateral Cooperation: India should strengthen labour agreements, grievance-redressal mechanisms and cooperation with host-country authorities.

Pre-departure Awareness: Workers should receive verified contract details, information about local laws and emergency contact information.

Conclusion

Protecting migrant workers requires prevention, timely diplomatic intervention and lawful resolution of cases. A coordinated approach can safeguard their dignity while respecting the sovereignty and legal systems of host countries.

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