International Relations · GS - II

Rising visa costs can create a conflict between migration regulation and international education competitiveness. Discuss with reference to Australia's recent student visa fee increase.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 28/11/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

International student mobility, migration management, education exports, affordability, skilled workforce, global competitiveness

Model Answer

Australia's increase in student visa application charges highlights the challenge of balancing migration regulation with the objective of attracting international students. The higher financial burden may influence students' decisions about studying abroad.

Potential implications:

1. **Affordability:** Higher visa charges increase the overall cost of overseas education, particularly for students from middle- and lower-income backgrounds.
2. **International competitiveness:** Students may prefer countries offering comparatively affordable education and simpler visa procedures.
3. **University finances:** A decline in international enrolments could affect university revenues, research funding and employment opportunities.
4. **Skilled workforce:** International students contribute to the availability of skilled professionals in sectors such as healthcare, education and technology.

5. **Migration management:** Higher charges may help governments regulate visa applications and manage migration pressures, but excessive costs could discourage genuine applicants.

Way Forward:

- Maintain transparent and predictable visa policies.
- Introduce proportionate fee structures for genuine students.
- Strengthen screening against fraudulent applications.
- Consult universities before introducing major policy changes.
- Balance migration objectives with educational and economic interests.

Conclusion: International education is both a source of academic exchange and an important economic sector. A balanced visa policy should ensure effective migration management without weakening a country's attractiveness as a global education destination.

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