**Syllabus subtopic**: Effect of Policies and Politics of Developed and Developing Countries on India’s interests, Indian Diaspora.

**Prelims and Mains focus**: about the new immigrations system and its features; about its significance for India

**News**: United Kingdom’s Home Secretary announced the launch of the UK’s new points-based visa system which is inspired by Australia’s points-based immigration system.

**Objective**

It is aimed at attracting the "brightest and the best" from the world, including from India, and cutting down numbers of cheap, low-skilled workers coming to United Kingdom.

**About the new immigration system**

- It will **award points** for specific skills, professions, salaries or qualifications/attributes, and **visas will be awarded to those who gain sufficient points**. The system will provide **simple, effective, and flexible arrangements for skilled workers** to come to the UK.

- The new single global system will **treat EU and non-EU citizens (including India) equally**, giving top priority to those with the highest skills and the greatest talents, including scientists, innovators and academics.

- The minimum general salary threshold will be reduced to £25,600 (approximately Rs.23.8 lakh), down from the previously proposed £30,000.

- The new system will **come into force from January 1 2021 at the end of the transition period** after the UK’s exit from the European Union (EU) in January 2020, which will **formally end free movement of people within the economic bloc for the UK as a non-member**.
The Home Secretary also announced a reformed **Global Talent route**. This will include a **new fast-track scheme** for world-leading **scientists, top researchers and mathematicians** to come to the UK. This will run alongside the Points-Based Immigration System and will allow a small number of highly skilled workers to come to the UK without a job offer.

**Student visa routes** will also be points-based and be opened up to EU citizens from next year. Those wishing to study in the UK will need to demonstrate that they **have an offer from an approved educational institution**, that they can support themselves financially and that they **speak English**.

To address the specific **labour concerns** of the agricultural sector reliant on **seasonal workers** from the EU, the **Seasonal Workers Pilot** will be expanded in time for the 2020 harvest from 2,500 to 10,000 places.

**EU citizens** and other non-visa nationals will **not require a visa to enter the UK** when visiting the UK for **up to six months**.

However, the **use of national identity cards** will be **phased out** for travel to the UK and the Home Office highlighted that as part of its post-Brexit offer, those EU citizens resident in the UK by December 31 2020 can still apply to settle in the UK through the EU Settlement Scheme until June 2021.

**Benefit for Indian nationals**

- The new Points-Based Immigration System is great news for Indian nationals looking to work in the UK. It **puts Indian applicants on a level playing field**, and prioritises those with the greatest skills and talent – something which India has in abundance.

- A lot of **Indian students** want to put experience to their qualifications, so they would **welcome the lower salary threshold** for when they have to convert
their visa.

- The lower salary threshold means skilled Indians are easily the biggest winner.