



drishti

## Human Migration in India

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### Definition

- The International Organization for Migration defines a migrant as any person who is moving or has moved across an **international border** or **within a state** away from his/her habitual place of residence, regardless of the **person's legal status**, movement is **voluntary** or **involuntary**, **causes** for the movement and **length of the stay**.

### Factors

- **Push Factors**
  - **Demographic and Social Infrastructure:** Young age structure and population growth, inadequate educational and medicare institutions, lack of social security infrastructure
  - **Economic:** Unemployment, low wages, poverty, low consumption
  - **Political:** Bad governance, human rights violations, civil war, terrorism, oppression of minorities
  - **Ecological:** Natural or manmade disaster, desertification, lack of natural resources, lack of environmental policy
  - **Migrant Flows:** Decision of family, information flows, media
- **Pull Factor**
  - **Demographic and Social Infrastructure:** Stable population, demographic ageing, welfare policies and social security benefits, educational and medical institutions
  - **Economic:** Labour demand, high wages, high consumption and living standard
  - **Political:** Democracy and political stability, peace and security, protection of human and civil rights, protection of minorities
  - **Ecological:** Better environmental policies, protection of natural resources, environment protection
  - **Migrant Flows:** Diaspora, ethnic community, information flows

### Types

- **Internal Migration**

## Human Migration in India

- **Key Source States:** Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh.
- **Key Destination States:** Delhi, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Haryana, Punjab and Karnataka.
- **Internal migrants:** 30 percent of the population of India; where female constitutes 70.7 of the total population.
- **Male Migration:** Mainly for employment-related reasons.
- **External Migration**
  - **Emigration:** India to various parts of the world.
  - **Immigration:** From different countries to India.
  - **Refugee Migration:** Involuntary or forced immigration to India in the form of refugees.

### Causes

- **Employment:** Seasonal and circular migration. Educational opportunities.
- **Social reasons:** Marriage, ethnic conflicts, political turmoil, social unrest.
- Environmental and disaster-induced factors.

### Impact

- **Positive Impact**
  - Labour demand and supply
  - Economic remittances
  - Social remittances
  - Demographic advantage
  - Climate change adaptive mechanism
- **Negative Impact**
  - Demographic profile
  - Political exclusion
  - Population explosion and the influx of workers
  - Victimization of illiterate and under-skilled migrants
  - Increased slum at destination
  - Brain drain at the source area

### Challenges

- Inclusion and integration of migrants
- Psychological and emotional stress
- Employment challenges
- Contract wage system
- Health hazards
- Lack of information
- Exclusion from social benefits

### Way Forward

- **The Human development report** by the United Nation Development Programme (2009) highlights, **migration as integral to the developmental process.**
- **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** also suggests an inclusion and integration of migrants in development.
- Migration centric **policies, institutional mechanisms and social securities.**

For TTP