



## Recruitment of Skilled Workers for Israel

**For Prelims:** [National Skill Development Corporation](#), [Israel](#), [Emigration](#), [International Labour Organisation](#), [Trade unions](#)

**For Mains:** International Practices for Protection of Migrant Workers, Concerns Related to Indian Working in War-torn Areas.

**Source:** TH

### Why in News?

The governments of **Uttar Pradesh and Haryana**, in collaboration with the [National Skill Development Corporation \(NSDC\)](#), have initiated a large-scale recruitment drive to send approximately **10,000 workers to Israel**, mainly for construction activities.

- While this endeavour is hailed as a "**passport to dreams abroad**" by the NSDC, it has faced significant opposition, primarily from **trade unions**, citing concerns about the violation of [emigration rules](#).

### What are the Employment Opportunities in Israel and Related Concerns?

- **Lucrative Opportunities in Israel:** There are **openings** in Israel: plastering workers, ceramic tile workers, iron bending and frame workers.
  - Selected candidates from India are promised monthly salaries of around **₹1.37 lakh (6,100 Israeli shekels)**.
  - As of **February 2023**, there were about **18,000 Indian citizens in Israel**, engaged in various professions such as caregiving, diamond trading, IT, and education.
- **Concerns Raised by Trade Unions:** Trade unions are challenging the employment drive, **citing violations of the Emigration Act**.
  - The Emigration Rules require workers going to conflict zones to register with the **Ministry of External Affairs' 'e-migrate' portal**. However, Israel is not on this list.
  - Current Situation in Israel, particularly due to [conflicts with Hamas](#), have raised concerns about the safety of migrant workers.
    - They argue that the **move goes against the ethos of bringing back citizens from conflict zones** and accuse the government of using unemployment for political gains.

### Note

[Workers going to conflict zones](#) or places without sufficient labour protections are required to **register with the Ministry of External Affairs' 'e-migrate' portal**.

- Passports issued under the **ECR (Emigration Check Required) scheme cover workers travelling to 18 countries**, including Afghanistan, Bahrain, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, the Kingdom

of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Oman, Qatar, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Thailand, the UAE, and Yemen. **Israel is not on this list.**

- **International Practices for Protection of Migrant Workers:**

- The International practices for protection of migrant workers are governed by two conventions of the [International Labour Organisation \(ILO\)](#): the **Migration for Employment Convention (Revised), 1949** and **Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention, 1975.**
  - While **India has not ratified both conventions**, Israel had ratified the **1949 convention in 1953.**
  - The 1949 convention emphasised measures against misleading propaganda related to **emigration and immigration.**

- **Additional Considerations: ILO** predicts a global increase in **unemployment** in 2024. The report urges countries to **design sensible migration policies and skilling initiatives to address the growing unemployment** concerns.

- In 2019, a parliamentary committee recommended the drafting of a migration policy, emphasising the need for **enhanced institutional arrangements for the welfare of Indian emigrants.**

## Note

An unofficial method to work in foreign countries floated in the news recently, the **Donkey Flight**. It is an illegal immigration method used to enter countries like the **United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom.**

- It involves multiple stops and border crossings through various countries, **often relying on [human traffickers](#) and agents.**

## Way Forward

- **Address Trade Union Concerns:** Engage in a constructive dialogue with [trade unions](#) to address their concerns and **ensure transparency in the recruitment process.**
- **Enhance Safety Measures:** Prioritise the **safety and well-being of recruited workers** by establishing robust safety protocols and contingency plans, especially considering the geopolitical challenges in Israel.
- **Develop Comprehensive Migration Policy:** Work towards drafting and implementing a **comprehensive [migration](#) policy**, taking into account the recommendations of the parliamentary committee, to ensure the welfare and protection of Indian emigrants in the long run.

## UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

### Prelims

**Q 1. Which one of the following countries of South-West Asia does not open out to the Mediterranean Sea? (2015)**

- (a) Syria
- (b) Jordan
- (c) Lebanon
- (d) Israel

**Ans: (b)**

## **Mains**

**Q .** “India’s relations with Israel have, of late, acquired a depth and diversity, which cannot be rolled back.” Discuss. **(2018)**

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