



## India's Internal Migration

**For Prelims:** Human Migration, India's migrant workers, Migration in India Report 2020-21

**For Mains:** Significance of Migration, Challenges to Migration, Need for a migration-centric policy.

### Why in News?

There is **concern in Tamil Nadu over a possible exodus of migrant workers** after videos showed purported attacks on Hindi-speaking men.

- Almost **a million migrants are estimated to work in Tamil Nadu**, and industry bodies fear the state's industrial and manufacturing sector would be severely impacted by an exodus.

### What is Migration?

- **About Migration:**
  - 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.
  - Examining the migration shifts in scale, direction, demography and frequency can lead to effective policies, programmes and operational responses on the ground.
- **Factors Determining Migration:**
  - It can be **either voluntary or forced movements** as a consequence of the increased magnitude or frequency of disasters, economic challenges and extreme poverty or conflict situations.
  - In more recent years, the [Covid-19 pandemic](#) is also one of the major causes of **Migration**.
- **Push and Pull Factors of Migration:**
  - **Push factors are those that compel a person** to leave a place of origin (out-migration) and migrate to some other place such as - **economic reasons, social reasons, lack of development of a particular place**.
  - **Pull factors indicate the factors which attract migrants** (in-migration) to an area (destination) such as **job opportunities, better living conditions, availability of basic or high-level facilities etc.**

### What are the Statistics about Migration?

- **2011 Census:**
  - Number of **internal migrants** (both inter-state and within state) in India at 45.36 crore, making up **37% of the country's population**.
  - The **annual net migrant flows** amounted to about **1% of the working age population**.

- India's **workforce was 48.2 crores strong**. This figure is estimated to have exceeded 50 crores in 2016.

▪ **Report of the Working Group on Migration, 2017:**

- Report under the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation** stated that **17 districts** accounted for the **top 25% of India's total male out-migration**.
  - Ten of these districts are in **UP**, six in **Bihar**, and one in **Odisha**.

## SHARE OF MIGRANT WORKERS AMONG TOTAL WORKERS BY MAJOR SECTORS

| Sector               | RURAL |        | URBAN |        |
|----------------------|-------|--------|-------|--------|
|                      | Male  | Female | Male  | Female |
| Primary              | 4%    | 75%    | 20%   | 65%    |
| Manufacturing        | 13%   | 59%    | 38%   | 51%    |
| Public Services      | 16%   | 69%    | 40%   | 56%    |
| Construction         | 8%    | 73%    | 32%   | 67%    |
| Traditional Services | 10%   | 65%    | 29%   | 55%    |
| Modern Services      | 16%   | 66%    | 40%   | 52%    |
| Total                | 6%    | 73%    | 33%   | 56%    |

▪ **Economic Survey 2016-17:**

- Relatively **less developed states** such as **Bihar and Uttar Pradesh** have **high net out-migration**.
- Relatively **more developed states** such as **Goa, Delhi, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka** reflect net immigration.
- The **largest recipient was the Delhi region**, which **accounted for more than half of migration in 2015-16**.
- While **Uttar Pradesh and Bihar** taken together **account for half of total out-migrants**.

▪ **Migration in India Report 2020-21:**

- The report released by **Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation in June 2022**, collated numbers for temporary visitors and migrants.
- **0.7% of the country's population** was recorded as a '**temporary visitor**' during the July 2020-June 2021 period.
  - Temporary visitors were defined as those who arrived in households after March 2020 and **stayed continuously for a period of 15 days or more but less than 6 months**.
  - **Over 84% of these 0.7% temporary visitors moved places due to pandemic**.
- **The all-India migration rate was 28.9%** for July 2020-June 2021, with a **26.5 % migration rate in rural areas and 34.9% in urban areas**.
  - **Females recorded a higher share of migration rate** of 47.9%; 48% in rural and 47.8% in urban areas.
  - **Migration rate for males was 10.7%**, with 5.9% in rural and 22.5% in urban areas.
- **86.8% females migrated for marriage** while **49.6% of the males migrated in search of employment**.

## What is the Significance of Migration and Migrants?

- **Labour Demand and Supply:** Migration **fills gaps in demand for and supply of labor**, efficiently allocates skilled labor, unskilled labor, and cheap labor.
- **Skill Development:** Migration enhances the knowledge and skills of migrants through **exposure and interaction with the outside world**.
- **Quality of Life:** Migration **enhances chances of employment** and economic prosperity which in turn improves quality of life.
- **Economic Remittances:** The migrants also send extra income and remittance back home, thereby **positively impacting their native place**.
- **Social Remittances:** Migration helps to improve the social life of migrants, as they **learn about new cultures, customs, and languages** which helps to **improve brotherhood among people** and ensures **greater equality** and tolerance.

## What are the Challenges Related to Migration?

- **Issues faced by Marginalised Sections:**
  - Whereas the people who are poor or belong to a **marginalised section do not find it easy to mix up**.
- **Social and Psychological Aspects:**
  - Many times, migrants are **not easily accepted** by the host place and they always **remain as a second-class citizen**.
  - Any person migrating to a new country faces **multiple challenges, from cultural adaptation and language barriers** to homesickness and loneliness.
- **Exclusion from Political Rights and Social Benefits:**
  - Migrant workers are **deprived of many opportunities** to exercise their political rights like the **right to vote**.
  - Moreover, the need to provide **proof of address, Voter IDs and Aadhaar cards**, which is difficult due to the fluidity of their lives, deprive them from accessing welfare schemes and policies.

## What are the Government Initiatives Related to Migration?

- In 2021, [NITI Aayog](#), along with a working subgroup of officials and members of civil society, has prepared a [draft National Migrant Labour policy](#).
  - The ramping up of [One Nation One Ration Card \(ONORC\)](#) project and introduction of the [Affordable Rental Housing Complexes \(ARHC\)](#), **PM Garib Kalyan Yojna scheme** and [e-Shram portal](#) reflected a ray of hope.
  - However, the story of migrants is still **a tale of distress** in India.

### UPSC Civil Services Exam, Previous Year Questions (PYQ)

**Q.** What are the main socio-economic implications arising out of the development of IT industries in major cities of India? **(2021)**

**Q.** Discuss the changes in the trends of labour migration within and outside India in the last four decades. **(2015)**

[Source:IE](#)

