

## Migrant Crisis

### Why in news?

The recent case of alleged assault on migrant workers in Tamil Nadu has once again brought attention to migrant workers and the problems they face.

### Who are migrants?

- **Migrant** - A person who moves away from his place of usual residence, within a country or across an international border, temporarily or permanently, for a variety of reasons.
- Migrants are defined as those for whom the last usual place of residence any time in the past is different from the present place of enumeration.
- The term includes a number of well-defined legal categories of people, such as migrant workers.

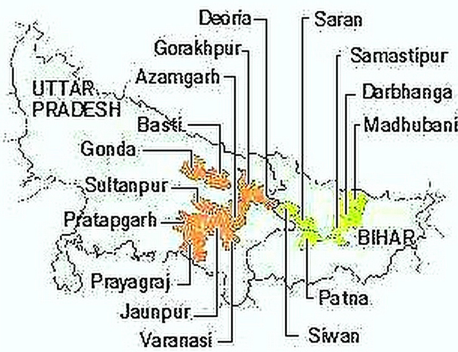
### What is the legal framework for migrant welfare?

- The *Inter-State Migrant Workmen Act, 1979* looks into the welfare of the labourers.
- The Act mandates that the establishment which proposes to employ migrant workers be required to be registered with destination states.
- Contractors will also have to obtain a licence from the concerned authority of the home states as well as the host states.
- However, in practice, this *Act has not been fully implemented*.
- This Act has been subsumed into the four broad labour codes notified by the Centre:
  1. The Code on Wages, 2019
  2. The Industrial Relations Code, 2020
  3. The Code on Social Security, 2020
  4. The Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020.
- These have not been implemented yet.

### What is the data on migration?

- **Census** - 2011 census reported the number of internal migrants in India at 45.36 crore, making up 37% of the country's population.
- This number included both *inter-state migrants and migrants within each state* and the annual net migrant flows amounted to about 1% of the working age population.

## PATTERNS OF MALE OUT-MIGRATION



17 districts account for 25% of male out-migration in the country. The map shows 16; Ganjam in Odisha is not mapped.

Source: Customised from the Registrar General of India, based on Census 2001 in the Report of Working Group on Migration, 2017

## 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%

Source: NSS 2007-08, Report of the Working Group on Migration, 2017

- **CMM** - Developed states take positive Cohort-based Migration Metric (CMM) values reflecting net immigration.
- A report, *Migration in India 2020-21*, released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, reported that 0.7% of the country's population was recorded as a temporary visitor.

*Temporary visitors are 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.*

- While 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.

## Which states have tried to implement the Inter-State Act?

- **MoU** - In 2012, with the help of the *International Labour Organisation*, a MoU was signed between *Odisha and Andhra Pradesh* to track labourers migrating.
- **Facilitation centres** - Kerala has set up facilitation centres for migrant workers whom the state refers to *as guest workers*.

## What is the Jharkhand migrant crisis and how did it respond to the situation?

- Jharkhand government started thinking about migrant labourers' welfare during reverse migration in the pandemic, and found that roughly 9 lakh labourers had returned to Jharkhand.
- **SRMI** - Jharkhand started the Safe and Responsible Migration Initiative (SRMI) in 2021, aiming at enabling systemic registration of migrant workers for monitoring and analysis in the source and destination districts.
- The priority of SRMI is to generate data and then map the labourers who move out to several states for work.

## References

1. [The Indian Express | Why migrant workers' issues recur?](#)
2. [The Indian Express | Concern over north Indian workers in Tamil Nadu](#)
3. [The Hindu | On rumours and fake news about migrant workers in TN](#)

