



## India-Italy Migration and Mobility Agreement

**For Prelims:** India-Italy Migration and Mobility Agreement, [European Union](#), Location of Italy, [India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor](#), [Global Biofuel Alliance](#), Blue-Raman project

**For Mains:** Areas of Cooperation Between India and Italy

[Source: PIB](#)

### Why in News?

Recently, the **Union Cabinet** granted **ex-post facto approval** to the **Migration and Mobility Agreement between [India and Italy](#)**.

### What is Migration and Mobility Agreement between India and Italy?

#### ▪ About:

- The agreement is set to strengthen cooperation **on issues related to [irregular migration](#)** while bolstering people-to-people ties between India and Italy.
- It facilitates mobility for various segments, including **students, skilled workers, businesspersons, and young professionals**, fostering exchange and collaboration.

#### ▪ Key Provisions:

- **Temporary Residence for Indian Students:** Graduates seeking professional exposure in Italy post-academic or vocational training can secure temporary residency for **up to 12 months**.
- **Reserved Quotas for Workers:** The agreement **outlines quotas for non-seasonal and seasonal Indian workers**, with a reserved quota range over the years **2023-2025** under the existing Flows Decree.
  - The Italian government's annual "**Flow Decree**" (**Decreto Flussi**) sets the maximum number of non-EU citizens who can enter Italy for work and self-employment

#### ▪ Implementation:

- The agreement will remain in force for **5 years**, with automatic renewal unless terminated.
- A **Joint Working Group (JWG)** will oversee its implementation, convening periodically to evaluate progress and propose supportive measures for effective execution.

### Key Facts About Italy

#### ▪ About:

- Italy is a boot-shaped peninsula that juts out of southern Europe into the **Adriatic Sea, Tyrrhenian Sea, Mediterranean Sea**, and other waters.

#### ▪ Bordering Countries:

- Italy has international borders with **Austria, France, the Holy See (Vatican City), San Marino, Slovenia, and Switzerland**.
- Italy also shares maritime borders with **Albania, Algeria, Croatia, Greece, Libya, Malta, Montenegro, Spain, and Tunisia**.

- **Form of Government:** Republic
- **Capital:** Rome
- **Money:** Euro
- **Major Mountains:** Alps, Apennines
- **Major Rivers:** Po, Adige, Arno, Tiber



## What are the Other Areas of Cooperation Between India and Italy?

- **Historical Ties:**
  - India and Italy are ancient civilizations but young states. Italian port cities were important trading posts on the **spice route**.
  - The **Venetian merchant Marco Polo**, during his travels to the east, also traveled to India in the 13<sup>th</sup> century and wrote about his experiences.
- **Political:**
  - Political relations between India and Italy were established in **1947**.
  - In **March 2023**, India and Italy elevated their relationship to a **Strategic Partnership**.
- **Economic:**
  - The bilateral trade between the two countries was valued at **USD 14.25 billion in 2022-23**.
    - Italy is among India's top **5 trading partners in the [European Union](#)**.
  - Main items of Indian exports to Italy are **ready-made garments, leather, iron ore, motor vehicles, textiles, chemicals, gems & jewelry**.
    - The main items of import from Italy are general and **special purpose machinery**,

machine tools, metallurgical products, and engineering items.

- **Security:**
  - The **India-Italy Military Cooperation Group (MCG)** is a forum established to boost defense cooperation between the both countries.
- **Other Initiatives Involving India and Italy:**
  - [India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor](#)
  - [Global Biofuel Alliance](#)
  - **Blue-Raman project**

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## Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra Adds Beneficiaries to PM-Kisan

**For Prelims:** Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, [Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi \(PM-Kisan\)](#), [Direct Benefit Transfer \(DBT\) Scheme](#), [Aadhaar linkage](#), [Saturation Drive](#)

**For Mains:** Saturation Drive and its impact on the PM Kisan Beneficiaries through Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra.

**Source:** [IE](#)

### Why in News?

Recently, the number of [Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi \(PM-Kisan\) scheme](#) beneficiaries has declined by more than **20%**, decreasing from a peak of **10.47 crore** in **April-July 2022** to **8.12 crore**.

- The government's proactive measures, particularly the "[saturation drive](#)" initiated under the **Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra**, have added 34 lakh farmers back to the list of beneficiaries.

### What is Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra?

- **About:**
  - It is a nationwide campaign to **raise awareness** through **outreach activities** to achieve **saturation of schemes of Govt. of India** across the country covering all [Gram Panchayats](#), [Nagar Panchayats](#) and [Urban Local Bodies](#).
  - The campaign is being taken up by adopting a whole of government approach with active involvement of various **Ministries/Departments of Government of India, State Governments, Central Govt. Organizations and Institutions**.
- **Objectives:**
  - Reach out to the **vulnerable** who are eligible under various schemes but have not availed benefit so far.
  - **Dissemination of information** and generating awareness about schemes.
  - Interaction with beneficiaries of government schemes through their **personal stories/ experience sharing**.
  - Enrolment of potential beneficiaries through details ascertained during the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra.

### What is PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana (PM-Kisan)?

- **About:**
  - It was launched to supplement financial needs of land holding farmers.

- It has become operational from **December, 2018.**
- **Financial Benefits:**
  - Financial benefit of **Rs 6000/- per year in three equal installments, every four month** is transferred into the bank accounts of farmers' families across the country through **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode.**
- **Scope of the Scheme:**
  - The scheme was initially meant for **Small and Marginal Farmers (SMFs)** having landholding upto **2 hectares** but scope of the scheme was extended to cover all landholding farmers.
- **Funding and Implementation:**
  - It is a **Central Sector Scheme** with 100% funding from the Government of India.
  - It is being implemented by the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.**
- **Objectives:**
  - To supplement the **financial needs** of the **Small and Marginal Farmers** in procuring various inputs to ensure **proper crop health** and **appropriate yields**, commensurate with the anticipated farm income at the end of each crop cycle.
  - To protect them from falling in the clutches of **moneylenders** for meeting such expenses and ensure their continuance in the **farming activities.**
- **PM-KISAN Mobile App:**
  - It was developed and designed by **the National Informatics Centre** in collaboration with the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.**
- **Physical Verification Module:**
  - A mandatory physical verification of **5%** beneficiary every year is being done as per the provisions laid down in the scheme.

## What are the Challenges of PM-Kisan?

- **Mandatory Provisions and Aadhaar Linkage:**
  - The **mandatory land seeding provisions** and the requirement to **link Aadhaar** with **active bank accounts** have introduced complexity, leading to challenges for farmers in complying with these prerequisites.
  - Farmers, especially those in remote areas, may face technical challenges in fulfilling the **Aadhaar linkage** and **land seeding requirements**, hindering their access to **PM-Kisan** benefits.
- **Awareness and Outreach:**
  - Many eligible farmers may still be unaware of the **PM-Kisan scheme** or may not have sufficient information about the application process.
  - Despite efforts, **outreach initiatives** may struggle to reach all segments of the farming community, particularly in remote or marginalized areas.
- **Technology Accessibility:**
  - Disparities in technology access, including smartphones and internet connectivity, may hinder farmers' ability to engage with the online processes required for PM-Kisan enrollment and compliance.

## Way Forward

- Conduct a comprehensive review of mandatory land seeding provisions and Aadhaar linkage requirements for simplicity and efficiency.
- Utilize technology to create user-friendly platforms for seamless compliance.
- Establish community-level engagement programs to reach vulnerable farmers.
- Collaborate with local authorities, agricultural services, and NGOs to identify and support eligible farmers unaware of PM-Kisan benefits.

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

**Q. Consider the following statements: (2018)**

1. Aadhaar card can be used as a proof of citizenship or domicile.
2. Once issued, Aadhaar number cannot be deactivated or omitted by the Issuing Authority.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Ans: (d)**

**Exp:**

- The Aadhaar platform helps service providers authenticate identity of residents electronically, in a safe and quick manner, making service delivery more cost effective and efficient. According to the GoI and UIDAI, Aadhaar is not proof of citizenship.
- However, UIDAI has also published a set of contingencies when the Aadhaar issued by it is liable for rejection. An Aadhaar with mixed or anomalous biometric information or multiple names in a single name (like Urf or Alias) can be deactivated. Aadhaar can also get deactivated upon non-usage of the same for three consecutive years.

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