



# First Batch of Indian Workers Leave for Israel

## Why in News?

Recently, the **first batch of Indian construction workers** bound for **jobs in Israel** were flagged off by Israeli ambassador Naor Gilon and government officials.

## Key Points

- The **Israeli government** raised an **urgent request for construction workers** in November 2023 and **Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu** had discussed fast-tracking the process with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in December 2023.
  - This was because the country faced major labour shortages after it **banned thousands of Palestinians** from working in Israel following the **terror strikes by Hamas** on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2023.
- According to the **National Skill Development Council**, the first group were recruited over the past few months during a massive drive in **Haryana and Uttar Pradesh**.
  - They are part of a requisitioned 10,000-strong workforce that will be flown to Israel over the next few weeks, with batches due to fly almost every day on board Air India and even chartered flights.
- According to the **Ministry of External Affairs** the workers were travelling to Israel under a government-to-government arrangement, as part of the **India-Israel mobility partnership signed in 2023**.
  - As Israel is not on the list of **“Emigration Clearance Required” (ECR)** countries, **registration for the workers is not mandatory on the MEA’s eMigrate portal**.
  - As per **the Framework Agreement and Implementation Protocols** signed with Israel, Indian workers shall enjoy **equal treatment** with respect to labour rights as Israeli citizens and shall be provided with **proper lodging, medical insurance and relevant social security coverage** as well as wages and benefits as set out in law.

## The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)

- It is a **non-profit public limited company** established on **July 31, 2008**, under **Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956**.
- The Ministry of Finance established NSDC as a **Public Private Partnership (PPP)** model.
- The Government of India, through the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)**, owns 49% of NSDC, while the **private sector owns the remaining 51%**.
- The organisation **provides funding to develop scalable and successful initiatives for vocational training**.

## The eMigrate portal

- It is fully operational since its **launch in 2015** and provides for registration of **Recruitment Agents (RAs), Foreign Employers (FEs)** and issue of **Emigration Clearance (EC)** to prospective emigrants.
- It is a comprehensive online system developed to facilitate safe and legal migration of Indian workers to 18 **Emigration Check Required (ECR) countries**.
  - These 18 countries are **Afghanistan, Bahrain, Iraq, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait,**

**Jordan, Libya, Lebanon, Malaysia, Oman, Qatar, South Sudan, Syria, Sudan, Thailand, UAE and Yemen.**

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