EAC-PM Report on Domestic Migration

For Prelims: **Economic Advisory Council To The Prime Minister** , **400 Million Dreams!**, **Internal Migration**, **Census**, **Census 2011** **Construction**, **Manufacturing**, **Affordable Housing**, **Brain Drain** , **Employment Opportunities**, **Social Security**, **Gender-Sensitive Policies**, **Social Welfare Schemes**, **Skill Development**, **Special Economic Zones (SEZs)**.

For Mains: Significance, Cause and Impact of Migration Trends in India.

Why in News?

The **Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM)** released the report "**400 Million Dreams!**".

- This groundbreaking analysis uses high-frequency, granular data to address gaps in understanding **internal migration** in India.

About the Report

- **Title and Focus**: The report, titled **"400 Million Dreams!"**, examines the volume and patterns of **domestic migration in India** using novel datasets to provide updated insights beyond conventional data sources like the **Census**.
- **Agencies and Contributors**: It is authored by **Bibek Debroy**, Chairman of the **EAC-PM**, and **Devi Prasad Misra**, an Indian Revenue Service officer.
    - Released under the **EAC-PM Working Paper Series**, it reflects collaborative efforts to understand migration's socio-economic dimensions.
- **Period of Consideration**: The study analyzes data from the **post-2011 Census period**, incorporating trends up to **2024**, using high-frequency datasets to track inter-decennial migration patterns.
- **Data Sources**: The report relies on three high-frequency datasets to bridge gaps in migration insights:
    - **Indian Railways UTS Data**: Captures migration flows through unreserved ticket sales, representing affordable travel choices for blue-collar workers.
    - **TRAI Roaming Data**: Tracks seasonal and temporary migration, providing insights into urban workforce fluctuations.
    - **District-Level Banking Statistics**: Offers a glimpse into **remittance inflows** and financial impacts on origin regions.

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	Persons	Male	Female
Population of India	1210854977	623270258	587584719
Total Migrants	455787621	146145967	309641654
Migrants from Rural Areas	295114410	73522596	221591814
Migrants from Urban Areas	106355920	45962228	60393692
Migration for Work/Employment	41422917	35016700	6406217
Migration for Business	3590487	2683144	907343
Migration for Economic Reasons	45013404	37699844	7313560
Migration for Economic Reasons [moved within last one year]	3364993	2662350	702643
Participation in Labour Force (% of Population)	39.79	53.26	25.51
Total Workforce	481799195	331953739	149892862
% of Migrants in Workforce	9.34	11.36	4.88
% of Total Migrants who have moved within last one year	7.48	7.06	9.61

What are the Major Findings of the Report?

- **Decline in Migration Rates**: Domestic migration rates in India have **declined by 11.78%** since the 2011 Census, reducing the migrant population to approximately **40 crore (400 million)**, constituting **28.88%** of the total population.
    - Improved living conditions and rising economic opportunities in rural areas are key factors contributing to this decline.
- **Additional Highlights from the Study**: The estimated number of migrants in India as of 2023 is **40,20,90,396**, approximately **11.78% lower** than the **Census 2011** figure of **45,57,87,621**. The migration rate has dropped from **37.64%** in 2011 to **28.88%** in 2023.
    - The decline in migration is hypothesized to result from improved access to **education**, **healthcare**, **infrastructure**, **and economic opportunities** in regions that were traditionally major sources of migration.
- **Spatial Dimensions**: The second sentence highlights that over 75% of the predicted migration flows occur within a 500 km radius from the origin, which aligns with the concept of "**gravitational effects**" in migration.
    - Major origin districts cluster around urban agglomerations like **Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Bengaluru, and Kolkata**.
    - The **gravitational effect** in migration suggests that people are more likely to move to nearby locations due to factors like distance, economic opportunities, and social ties, similar to gravitational pull.
- **Changing Dynamics in Recipient States**: The composition of the top five recipient states has changed, with **West Bengal and Rajasthan** emerging as new entrants, while **Andhra Pradesh and Bihar** have moved lower in rank.
    - Even in these top states, the percentage of migrants has reduced, potentially indicating a broader **spatial spread of migration**.
- **Growth and Decline Trends**: States like **West Bengal, Rajasthan, and Karnataka** have seen significant growth in their share of arriving migrants.
    - Conversely, **Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh** have experienced a decline in their percentage share of total migrants.
- **Key Migration Routes**: State-level migration routes include **Uttar Pradesh to Delhi, Gujarat**

to Maharashtra, Telangana to Andhra Pradesh, and Bihar to Delhi.
- District-level popular dyads are **Murshidabad to Kolkata, Paschim Bardhaman to Howrah, Valsad to Mumbai, Chittoor to Bengaluru Urban, and Surat to Mumbai**.
- **Seasonal Migration Insights**: April-June (aligned with sowing/harvesting seasons) and November-December (festival and marriage season).
  - Post-pandemic, even high months like April-May show **6.67% lower passenger levels** compared to pre-pandemic levels in 2012.
- **Migration Distance**: Over **75% of migration flows** occur within **500 km** of the origin, consistent with **Ravenstein's Theory of Human Migration**, which emphasizes proximity in migration decisions.
- **Economic Drivers of Migration**: Employment is a major driver, with **45 million people migrating for economic reasons**, accounting for a significant portion of **blue-collar workforce** demand in urban hubs.
  - Seasonal spikes in migration coincide with **agricultural cycles** and festivals, as shown by peaks in railway ticket sales and roaming SIM data.
- **Gender-Specific Trends**: Male migrants dominate employment-related migration, while **marriage remains the leading cause** of female migration, especially in **rural regions**.
  - A notable trend is the increasing participation of women in urban workforce migration, albeit limited by social constraints.
- **Economic Impact at Origin and Destination**: **Remittances** strengthen rural economies, with districts in **Uttar Pradesh and Bihar** receiving the highest inflows.
  - Banking data indicates a surge in savings and investments in **high out-migration** districts, reflecting improved **financial literacy** among migrant households.
  - Urban areas witness a consistent supply of **skilled and unskilled labor**, aiding economic growth but creating infrastructure pressures.

STATE FROM	STATE TO
UTTAR PRADESH	DELHI
GUJARAT	MAHARASHTRA
TELANGANA	ANDHRA PRADESH
BIHAR	DELHI
BIHAR	WEST BENGAL
BIHAR	UTTAR PRADESH
UTTAR PRADESH	MAHARASHTRA
BIHAR	MAHARASHTRA
ANDHRA PRADESH	KARNATAKA
JHARKHAND	BIHAR

What are the Major Reasons for Migration Mentioned in the Report?

- **Employment Opportunities**: The pursuit of better job prospects accounts for over **45 million migrants**, with urban centers like **Delhi NCR, Mumbai, and Bengaluru** being key destinations.
    - Migrants primarily fill gaps in **labor-intensive sectors** such as **construction, manufacturing, and domestic services**.
- **Education**: Migration for education remains significant, with cities like **Delhi, Pune, and Chennai** attracting students from smaller towns.
    - The report highlights that access to **higher education institutions** often determines migration trends among youth.
- **Marriage**: A leading cause of migration among women, accounting for over **50% of female migrations**, especially in rural India.
    - This migration often overlaps with economic migration as women integrate into workforce participation in destination areas.
- **Family Relocation**: Movement due to household relocation constitutes a considerable portion, particularly among **lower-income groups** seeking better living standards.
    - The report links this trend to expanding **affordable housing** schemes in urban areas.
- **Seasonal Factors**: Temporary migrations for **harvesting, sowing, and festival seasons** are significant, especially in agricultural and industrial regions.
    - **High-frequency data** from railways underscores these periodic spikes in movement.

Origin State	Destination State	Total Migrants
Uttar Pradesh	State - NCT OF DELHI (07)	28,54,297
Uttar Pradesh	State - MAHARASHTRA (27)	27,54,706
Karnataka	State - MAHARASHTRA (27)	13,99,591
Bihar	State - JHARKHAND (20)	13,36,048
Uttar Pradesh	State - HARYANA (06)	11,13,535
Bihar	State - NCT OF DELHI (07)	11,06,629
Bihar	State - WEST BENGAL (19)	11,03,757
Uttar Pradesh	State - MADHYA PRADESH (23)	10,90,881
Bihar	State - UTTAR PRADESH (09)	10,72,739
Gujarat	State - MAHARASHTRA (27)	9,83,653
Maharashtra	State - GUJARAT (24)	9,71,975
Uttar Pradesh	State - GUJARAT (24)	9,29,411
Andhra Pradesh	State - KARNATAKA (29)	8,90,697
Uttar Pradesh	State - UTTARAKHAND (05)	8,90,663
Madhya Pradesh	State - MAHARASHTRA (27)	8,24,624
Rajasthan	State - GUJARAT (24)	7,47,445
Tamil Nadu	State - KARNATAKA (29)	7,36,821
Madhya Pradesh	State - UTTAR PRADESH (09)	6,68,537
Haryana	State - NCT OF DELHI (07)	6,66,331
Uttar Pradesh	State - PUNJAB (03)	6,49,557
Rajasthan	State - HARYANA (06)	6,11,160
Maharashtra	State - KARNATAKA (29)	5,86,864
Uttar Pradesh	State - RAJASTHAN (08)	5,85,982
Rajasthan	State - MAHARASHTRA (27)	5,70,233
Bihar	State - MAHARASHTRA (27)	5,68,667
NCT of Delhi	State - UTTAR PRADESH (09)	5,66,210
Madhya Pradesh	State - RAJASTHAN (08)	5,54,058
Haryana	State - PUNJAB (03)	5,45,584
Punjab	State - HARYANA (06)	5,38,328
Haryana	State - RAJASTHAN (08)	5,33,963

What are the Challenges Highlighted in the Report?

- **Data Limitations**: Traditional datasets like the **Census** and irregular surveys are outdated by the time they are published, limiting their utility for real-time policy interventions.
  - High-frequency datasets, while granular, often lack demographic details such as **age, gender, and reason for migration**.
- **Urban Infrastructure Strain**: Cities with high in-migration, such as **Delhi, Mumbai, and Bengaluru**, face challenges in providing adequate **housing, transportation, and healthcare**.
  - Rapid urbanization leads to the development of **slums and informal settlements**, straining municipal resources.
- **Regional Disparities**: Origin regions like **Bihar and Uttar Pradesh** face labor shortages, reduced agricultural productivity, and "**brain drain**" due to high out-migration.
  - Development remains uneven, with destination states benefiting disproportionately from **migration-driven economic contributions**.
- **Gender Inequalities**: Female migrants, often categorized as moving for "marriage," face challenges in accessing **employment opportunities** and **social security** in destination regions.
  - The lack of **gender-sensitive policies** exacerbates vulnerabilities for women migrants.
- **Social Integration**: Migrants often face **discrimination and marginalization** in destination cities, hindering social cohesion.
  - Language barriers and cultural differences create challenges for **assimilation into local communities**.
- **Policy Gaps**: Lack of **portable social welfare schemes** limits migrants' access to essential services when moving across states.
  - Insufficient focus on **secondary cities** leads to overburdening of **Tier-1** cities while neglecting smaller urban centers.

Way Forward

- **Develop Real-Time Migration Tracking**: Establish a **centralized data platform** to integrate railway, telecom, and banking data, enabling policymakers to track migration trends in real time.
  - Regular updates and analytics-driven insights are essential for timely policy interventions.
- **Strengthen Urban Infrastructure**: Invest in **affordable housing**, public transport, and healthcare in high in-migration states to accommodate rising urban populations.
  - Expand **social security networks** to support migrants, especially those in informal sectors.
- **Enhance Opportunities in Origin Areas**: Introduce **rural employment schemes** to reduce distress migration.
  - Promote **skill development** programs tailored to regional industries to retain local labor.
- **Portable Benefits and Support Systems**: Implement **portable social welfare schemes**, ensuring migrants retain access to healthcare, education, and ration benefits across state borders.
  - Establish **migrant support centers** in urban areas to provide assistance with legal, financial, and social integration.
- **Gender-Sensitive Policies**: Design initiatives to **support women migrants**, focusing on workforce participation and social security.
  - Encourage **employability training** for women moving to urban centers.
- **Focus on Secondary Cities**: Promote development in **Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities** by creating incentives for industries to establish operations there.
  - Develop **special economic zones (SEZs)** in smaller cities to balance migration flows.