



Migration

For Prelims: [Migration](#), [Demographic Factors](#), [Fertility](#), [Mortality](#), [Labor Force](#), [Internal Migration](#), [External Migration](#), [Immigration](#), [Emigration](#), [Natural Disasters](#), [Sons of the Soil](#), [Climate Change Effects](#), [Deforestation](#), [Water Scarcity](#), [Remittances](#), [Food](#), [Debt Repayment](#), [Children's Education](#), [Agricultural Investments](#), [Green Revolution](#),

For Mains: Migration, and its impact on Indian demography.

What is Migration?

- **About:** [Migration](#) is generally defined as the movement of people from one geographical location to another, involving a change in their usual place of residence.
 - Migration is a reaction of human populations to **economic, social, and demographic factors** in their environment.
 - Its study holds significant importance in population research, as it, along with [fertility](#) and [mortality](#), influences [population size](#), [growth rate](#), [structure](#), and [characteristics](#).
 - Migration plays a key role in **shaping the distribution of a country's population** and impacts the **expansion of the [labor force](#)** in different regions.
- **Types:**
 - **Internal Migration:** [Internal Migration](#) occurs when people move from **one place to another place within the country**. It can be classified as **Immigration** (refers to migration into a particular area within a country), **Outmigration** (refers to movements out of a particular area within a country).
 - Internal migration is further classified into four categories which include: Rural to Rural migration, Rural to Urban migration, Urban to Rural migration, Urban to Urban migration.
 - **External Migration:** [External Migration](#) refers to **movement from one country to another**. It can be classified as **Immigration** (migration into a country from another country), **Emigration** (migration out of the country).
 - **Forced Migration:** It occurs when individuals or families are compelled to move due to factors like [war, persecution, or natural disasters](#).
 - **Voluntary Migration:** It involves individuals or families choosing to relocate, often driven by **better economic prospects** or a desire for an **improved quality of life**.
 - **Temporary Migration:** It refers to the movement of a person to a different location for a specific period, with the plan to return to their original place afterward for reasons such as **work, education, or seasonal changes**.
 - **Permanent Migration:** It occurs when a person moves to a new location with no intention of returning to their original place. This type of migration is usually for long-term settlement.
 - **Reverse Migration:** It refers to individuals or families returning to their country of **origin or original place of residence** after previously migrating elsewhere.

Recent Migration Pattern

- According to calculations by the [Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister \(EAC-PM\)](#), the total number of migrants in India as of **2023** is estimated to be **40.20 crore**, compared to **45.57 crore** recorded in the **2011 Census**.
- The **EAC-PM** also stated that the **migration rate**, which was **37.64%** as per the **2011 Census**, has now declined to an estimated **28.88%** of the population.

What are the Causes of Migration?

- **Economic Factors:** Economic factors influencing migration can be categorized as **Push Factors** and **Pull Factors**.
 - **Push Factors:** Push factors are the conditions that **force or compel individuals** to leave their place of residence and move elsewhere.
 - These factors can include economic hardships such as **poverty, low productivity, unemployment, depletion of natural resources, and natural disasters**, all of which drive people to seek better opportunities elsewhere.
 - An [International Labour Organization \(ILO\) study](#) highlights that one of the **main push factors** in migration from agriculture is the **lower income levels** compared to other economic sectors.
 - **Pull Factors:** Pull factors are the conditions that **attract migrants** to a particular location, such as **better job opportunities, higher wages, improved working conditions, and enhanced living standards**.
 - Migration toward cities often increases when **industries, commerce, and businesses** rapidly expand.
 - Pull factors influence not only **rural-to-urban migration** but also other forms of internal and international migration.
 - A significant number of people from **India** and other **developing nations** have migrated to the **USA, Canada, and the Middle East**, primarily seeking **better employment prospects, higher earnings, diverse occupational choices, and an improved quality of life**.
- **Socio-Cultural:** Social and cultural factors also play a significant role in migration. Family conflicts can sometimes drive individuals to relocate.
 - Moreover, advancements in **communication and transportation, exposure to television, cinema, and urban-oriented education** contribute to changing attitudes and values, further encouraging migration.
- **Environmental Factors:** Natural disasters, [climate change effects](#), [deforestation](#), and [water scarcity](#) can trigger migration by resulting in the loss of homes, livelihoods, and essential resources.
 - Consequently, affected populations may be forced to migrate in pursuit of **safety, stability, and better living conditions**.

What is the Impact of Migration?

- **Positive Impact:** One of the key benefits for source regions is the [remittances](#) sent by migrants. Remittances from international migrants serve as a major source of foreign exchange.
 - The remittances sent by **internal migrants** are relatively small compared to those from **international migrants**, they still play a crucial role in the **economic development** of source regions.
 - These funds are primarily used for essential needs such as [food, debt repayment, medical treatment, marriages, children's education, agricultural investments, and house construction](#).
 - Migration helps redistribute the population, aiding **labor supply** in urban and industrial areas.
 - Migrants serve as catalysts for social change by bringing new ideas and innovations, such as [advancements in technology, family planning](#), and **girls education**, from urban to rural areas.

- Migration fosters **cultural exchange**, leading to the **development of a composite culture** and broadening societal perspectives by breaking down rigid social barriers.
- **Negative Impact:** Internal remittances are **relatively smaller** than **international remittances**, limiting their economic impact.
 - Rural areas suffer from **labor shortages** due to the out-migration of young and skilled workers.
 - Out-migration of young and skilled individuals negatively impacts the demographic structure of rural areas.
 - Migration **skews the sex ratio**, with rural areas experiencing a decline in the male population and urban areas seeing an influx of male migrants.
 - Migration has significant **negative effects**, including anonymity, which can create a sense of **social isolation and dejection** among individuals. Prolonged feelings of alienation may push some towards **anti-social behaviors**, such as crime and substance abuse.
 - The influx of people due to **rural-to-urban migration** has strained the **existing social and physical infrastructure** in urban areas. This has resulted in the **unplanned expansion** of urban settlements and the **emergence of slums** and shanty colonies.

What are the Challenges Related to Migration?

- **Economic Challenges:** Migrants often struggle to find stable jobs and end up in low-paying, informal sector work. Large-scale migration to cities overwhelms housing, transportation, sanitation, and healthcare services.
- **Social Challenges:** Migrants, especially from marginalized communities, face discrimination based on language, caste, or region.
 - Migrant children often drop out of school due to frequent relocations or lack of access to education.
 - Migrants have limited access to healthcare facilities, leading to malnutrition, poor maternal health, and occupational diseases.
- **Political & Legal Challenges:** Migrants are often unable to vote or participate in local governance due to residence-related voting restrictions.
 - Many migrants lack proper identification documents, making it difficult to access government welfare schemes.
 - In some areas, competition for jobs and resources leads to tensions and violence.

What are the Different Initiatives Regarding Migration?

- Initiatives like the **draft National Migrant Labour policy prepared** by **NITI Aayog** in 2021 discuss the importance of collective action to help migrants bargain for better conditions.
- The **One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) Project** has been expanded, along with the introduction of the **Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHC)** and the PM Garib Kalyan Yojna scheme.
- The launch of the **e-Shram portal** also brings promise to the migrant's status.
- The **Code on Social Security** provides certain benefits for **inter-state migrant workers** such as **Insurance** and **provident fund**.

Way Forward

- **Policy Interventions:** The government should focus on **strengthening social security measures, providing affordable housing, and creating employment opportunities** to improve the living conditions of migrants.
- **Skill Development:** Implementing **training programs and vocational education initiatives** can help migrants acquire better skills, enabling them to secure stable and higher-paying jobs.
- **Better Urban Planning:** Authorities must enhance urban infrastructure, including **transportation, sanitation, and housing**, to accommodate the growing migrant

population and prevent the expansion of slums.

- **Legal Protection:** Strengthening [labor laws](#) and ensuring strict enforcement can safeguard migrant workers from exploitation, discrimination, and unfair working conditions.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

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

Q. How does illegal transborder migration pose a threat to India's security? Discuss the strategies to curb this, bringing out the factors which give impetus to such migration. **(2014)**

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/migration-34>

