

Migration Trends in India

December 29, 2024 • vajiramandravi.com



What's in today's article?

- Why in News?
- What are the Migration Trends in India Highlighted in the EAC-PM Report?
- Major Migration Routes and District-Level Insights:
- Methodology of the EAC-PM Report and its Limitations:
- Conclusion

Why in News?

- A recent working paper by the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM), titled "400 Million Dreams!", sheds light on the evolving migration trends in India.
- The similar exercise was undertaken in Economic Survey 2016-17, when Arvind Subramanian was Chief Economic Advisor, for calculating the migration trends.

What are the Migration Trends in India Highlighted in the EAC-PM Report?

- **Top states for migrant destinations:**
 - **West Bengal and Rajasthan** emerged as new hotspots for migrant inflows, joining Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Madhya Pradesh in the top five states receiving the highest number of 2nd-class railway passengers.

- **States showing the highest growth in incoming migrants:** West Bengal, Rajasthan, and Karnataka.
- In contrast, states like **Andhra Pradesh and Bihar** saw a decline in rankings compared to 2012.
- **Decline in overall migration:**
 - The report notes an **11.78% reduction in the overall number of migrants** since the 2011 Census.
 - This decline is attributed to **improved economic opportunities in smaller cities**, reducing the need for long-distance migration.

Major Migration Routes and District-Level Insights:

- **Top state-to-state routes (2023):**
 - Uttar Pradesh to Delhi
 - Gujarat to Maharashtra
 - Telangana to Andhra Pradesh
 - Bihar to Delhi
 - Bihar to West Bengal
- **Top destination districts for migrants:**
 - Mumbai
 - Bengaluru urban
 - Howrah
 - Central Delhi
 - Hyderabad
- **Emerging origin districts (2023):**
 - Villupuram (Tamil Nadu)
 - Saharsa (Bihar)
 - Moradabad (Uttar Pradesh)
 - Murshidabad (West Bengal)
- **Major intra-state movement:** The **Murshidabad-Kolkata route** is the most traveled path for general class passengers, reflecting significant intra-state movement.
- **Migration to major urban centers:**
 - **Delhi:** Major source districts include Agra, Patna, Kanpur Nagar, Jhansi, and Bareilly, with new entrants like Dausa (Rajasthan) and Ludhiana (Punjab).
 - **Mumbai:** Valsad, Surat, Nashik, Ratnagiri, and Varanasi remain key origin districts, with Sindhudurg as a notable addition.

Methodology of the EAC-PM Report and its Limitations:

- **Methodology:**
 - The report analyses migration patterns **using Indian Railways' unreserved ticketing data, mobile roaming data, and banking remittance records.**
 - The 2nd-class in Mail Express and Ordinary trains is the most affordable travel option predominantly used by blue-collar workers.

- **Limitations:**

- Lack of demographic details (age, gender, reasons for migration).
- Data captures station-to-station travel rather than actual origin-destination routes.

Conclusion:

- The EAC-PM report provides crucial insights into migration patterns in India, highlighting significant changes in destination preferences and **reduced migration trends due to localised economic opportunities**.
- These findings are **vital for policymakers** addressing urban planning, infrastructure, and economic development.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qjv-xS-Qz1w>

Q.1. What is the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM)?

The EAC-PM is an independent body that advises the Government of India on economic issues. The EAC-PM provides neutral analysis and advice to the Prime Minister on economic issues such as inflation, industrial output, and microfinance.

Q.2. Why was there a reverse migration?

The phenomenon of reverse migration is often seen in regions experiencing economic change, where migrants return due to better job opportunities or improved living conditions back home.

Source: West Bengal & Rajasthan new migrant destination hotspots; Uttar Pradesh tops

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/migration-trends-in-india/>

© Vajiram & Ravi. For personal use only.