

International Migration Review Forum

(17- 20 May, 2022)

Intervention by the Hon'ble Minister of State, Shri V. Muraleedharan (19 May 2022)

Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

NAMASKAAR,

1. Migration is as old as human history. It is a response to our desire for adventure, socialization and advancement. It brings benefits to all sides, the migrant as well as the receiving society. We are not unacquainted to this and India hosts an unprecedented human diversity due to in and out migration spanning several millennia. Our diaspora across the world is of the largest at around 32 million.
2. Economic developments and technology innovations have altered the nature of migration and new patterns are emerging. COVID-19 has brought into sharp focus the need to stay connected and keep abreast of developments in the migration sphere and emphasized the essential role played by migrant workers in countries of origin, transit and destination.
3. Global Compact for Migration is an important initiative that provides a holistic approach to establishing sustainable migration governance across the globe. Our national priorities are in consonance with the vision to accelerate progress in achieving GCM's objectives and to achieve the target 10.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals to facilitate orderly, safe, and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.

4. The key pillars of our migration policy are safe, secure and skilled migration. We have developed the eMigrate digital platform in 2014, as a single window to promote fair and ethical recruitment connecting foreign employers, recruitment agents and facilitating pre departure orientation training, insurance as well as providing an e-locker for the safekeeping of all relevant travel documents. While the eMigrate portal is now open to Foreign Employers across the world to source talent from India, we are willing to share our experience on the same.
5. For India, the safety and security of our diaspora is of paramount importance. Operation Ganga launched in February 2022 to evacuate nearly 22,500 Indian citizens as well as 147 foreign nationals from 18 countries from Ukraine amid the ensuing conflict. We have done this on myriad occasions for including Kuwait (1990), Operation Raahat in Yemen (2015), Vande Bharat Mission (2020), Operation Devi Shakti in Afghanistan (2021).
6. The Government set up a national ministry in 2014 which is tasked with streamlining vocational and technical training. The focus is on skill up-gradation compliant with new-age courses such as data analysis, smart agriculture, cloud computing, etc
7. Migration can only be managed collectively. Multilateral understanding is necessary and bilateral partnerships are essential. The Global Compact on Migration and regional groupings such as the Abu Dhabi Dialogue and Colombo Process play an important role, not only to disseminate awareness but also in identifying and sharing of best practices.
8. For instance, India-EU Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility led to agreements with several EU countries, including France (2018), Portugal (2021). An agreement with Germany has recently been finalized. We have signed similar mobility agreements with United Kingdom (2021) and MoC on Specified Skilled Workers with Japan (2021) outside the EU.

9. As the report of the Secretary-General for the first IMRF has already outlined, we need to build a better society by learning from the lessons learned during the pandemic. We would like to highlight our collaboration with International Organization for Migration on a project for strengthened data management towards evidence-based migration. India looks forward to closer engagement and cooperation with the international community to facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration.

Thank You
