

MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT: NARRATIVES FROM INDIA

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OUTLINE

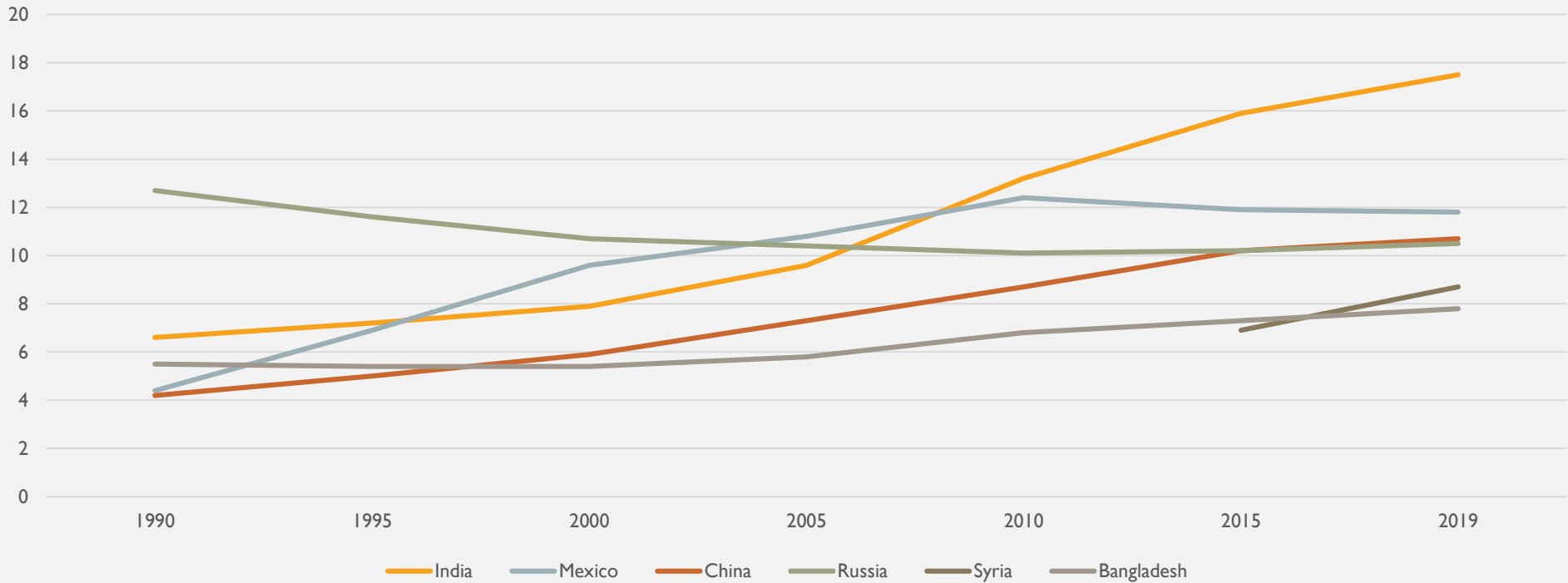
- Indian Diaspora
- Diaspora Engagement
- Remittance Management
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- Future of Indian Migration
- State level Initiatives

INDIAN DIASPORA: SIZE AND CONTRIBUTION

- India has had a rich and complex history of migration dating back centuries.
- This has led to the formation of Indian societies all over the world.
- The United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) showed that India had the largest diaspora population in the world, with a population of 17.5 million – According to the MEA, India has 30 million Indians overseas, which includes Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) and Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs).
- The migration of the Indian population abroad has contributed significantly to the development of the country.

INDIAN DIASPORA: SIZE AND CONTRIBUTION

Highest Diaspora Populations in the World



Source: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2019)

INDIAN DIASPORA: SIZE AND CONTRIBUTION

- The largest Indian populations are present in the GCC countries and the Western Anglophone countries like the US, UK, Canada and Australia. This population contributes significantly to homeland development.

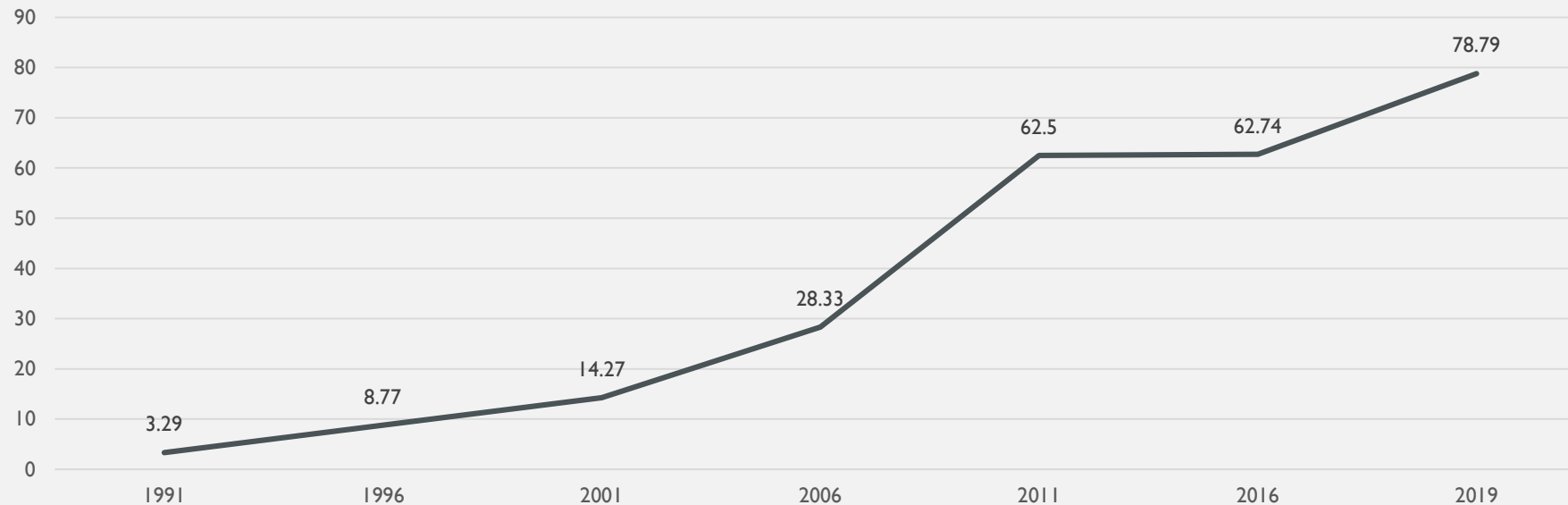
Country	NRI	PIO	Total
USA	1,280,000	3,180,000	4,460,000
UAE	3,100,000	4,586	3,104,586
Saudi Arabia	2,812,408	2,160	2,814,568
UK	325,000	1,500,000	1,825,000
Canada	184,320	831,865	1,016,185
Kuwait	928,421	1,482	929,903
Qatar	691,539	500	692,039
Oman	688,226	919	689,145
Australia	241,000	255,000	496,000
Bahrain	312,918	3,257	316,175

Source: Population of Overseas Indians, MEA, Govt. of India (Dec 2018)

INDIAN DIASPORA: SIZE AND CONTRIBUTION

India is also receives the highest amount of remittances in the world, at almost \$80 bn in 2018.

Quantum of Remittances into India 1991-2019 (In \$ bn)



Source: World Bank Remittances Data, 1991- 2019

INDIAN DIASPORA: SIZE AND CONTRIBUTION

- It has contributed immensely in the economic, social and political realms. They have been lauded as drivers of growth in India, especially in the post-liberalization era.
- India has had a history of policy frameworks meant for emigration management and regulation, and more recently for Diaspora engagement as well.
- While earlier disengaged from the Diaspora, successive Indian Governments had a hands-on engagement with the Indian Diaspora, which has been reflected in policy initiatives, beginning with the setting up of the High Level Committee on the Indian Diaspora.

HIGH LEVEL COMMITTEE ON THE INDIAN DIASPORA

- The High Level Committee on Diaspora Affairs was set up in September 2000 to understand the size and spread as well as the various issues and challenges of the Indian Diaspora. –NDA I
- The Committee came up with a comprehensive five-part report, with a number of recommendations.
- This report led to a number of new initiatives for Diaspora engagement- such as the setting up of a separate Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA), which was functional from 2004-2016 (UPA I, UPA II and NDA I), and the celebration of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, commemorated every January 9th (Established in 2000 – Return of Mahatma Gandhi)
- Another initiative was the introduction of the Person of Indian Origin (PIO) cards and the Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) card in 2005, which was merged into one OCI card in 2015.

OVERSEAS CITIZEN OF INDIA CARD



- The Overseas Citizen of India Card was first introduced in 2015
- Multiple entry, multi-purpose lifelong visa to visit India;
- Exemption from reporting to Police authorities for any length of stay in India; and
- Parity with NRIs in financial, economic and educational fields except in the acquisition of agricultural or plantation properties – no right to vote.

DIASPORA BONDS

- These are bonds issued by a country to its own Diaspora to tap in their wealth in the adopted developed countries.
- India has periodically issued Diaspora Bonds to involve the Diaspora in homeland development.
- The Government of India has in the past issued the India Development Bond (IDB) in 1991, the Resurgent India Bond (RIB) in 1998 as well as the India Millennium Deposits (IMD) in 2000.
- They offered bonds with a five year maturity at a fixed rate basis, with attractive returns.
- Over the years India was very successful and it was estimated that India and Israel raised about \$35-40 bn through these bonds (Ketkar & Ratha, 2007).

REMITTANCE MANAGEMENT AND NRI DEPOSITS

- With the high amount of remittances coming into the country, it is important to manage them efficiently.
- A number of Money Transfer Organizations (MTOs) have been set up along with the banks allowing for accounts for NRI deposits (Non-Resident External (NRE) account and Non-Resident Ordinary Account (NRO)).
- In the state of Kerala alone (the highest emigrant state), which is heavily dependant on remittances and NRI deposits, NRI deposits were estimated to be in the region of INR 1.9 trillion or about \$ 35 billion in 2019 (Kerala Economic Review, 2019).

EMIGRATION MANAGEMENT

- The current emigration regulations stem from the Emigration Act, 1983, with Emigration Clearance required for 17 specified ECR countries for workers holding a less than 10 grade qualification. Clearance is granted by a Protector General of Emigrants (PGE) and Protector of Emigrants (PoE).
- In 2019, A new Bill was introduced to streamline the process of Emigration Governance by including everyone in its ambit, including students. The Draft Emigration Management Bill seeks to do away with the current system and replace it with system and replace it with a Emigration Management Authority (still not approved by the Parliament)
- Currently, emigration clearance is done online through the eMigrate system and grievance redressals can also be filed online through the MADAD system (consular services management system)
- The Governments has introduced the Overseas Workers Resource Centre (OWRC) and Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) for worker welfare abroad.
- Still more can be done for the rehabilitation and re-integration of return migrants into consideration the fact that return migration, especially from the Gulf is on the increase due to nationalization polices in the Gulf.

SKILLS UPGRADATION AND TRAINING

- When it comes to return migrants, the Govt. of India taken active measures for the re-integration of migrants such as re-skilling programmes, such as the one in conjunction with the National Skills Development Council and the setting up of the India International Skills Centre – demographic dividend.
- This has been seen at the State level as well. Eg: Skills training imparted by NORKA Roots.
- Also, there are Pre-Departure Orientation Programmes for departing migrants so that they are aware of the conditions and cultures that await them in their destinations.

MIGRATION RELATED DATA - KMS

- An important step in policy making is the availability of reliable data.
- Before the advent of the Kerala Migration Survey (KMS) in 1998, there was no reliable data on migration in India, which led to a lack of a policy framework.
- Still there is a lack of reliable migration data in India, with on ECR clearance being recorded through the eMigrate system. This excludes most migrants, who do not require Emigration Clearance.
- However, the 20 year success of the KMS and its model being implemented in other states like Tamil Nadu, Goa, Punjab and Gujarat provides a way ahead in this aspect.
- Proposal to conduct India Migration Survey 2024

IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS AND THE FUTURE OF INDIAN MIGRATION

- The issue of migration has seen some important developments.
- Recently, the Government has taken the decision to change the definition of who is a Non-Resident Indian in order to tax their incomes at source, a decision which needs to be examined in the light of the massive NRI deposits and remittances that lead to homeland development.
- A number of nationalist labour market policy decisions taken in the GCC, eg.: Nitaqat in Saudi Arabia, will force many Indian migrants to return back. These return migrants will need to be rehabilitated and re-integrated.
- The role of migration as a survival strategy during climate crises also needs to be assessed in the Indian context. For eg: as in the case of the Kerala floods of 2018. This will be an issue for the world at large in the time to come.
- Given the need for re-thinking the nature and issues related to migration, more will need to be done.

STATE- WISE INITIATIVES

- Not just at the Central Government Level, but many State Governments have also initiated their own Diaspora engagement initiatives.
- State with large Diaspora populations such as Kerala, Punjab, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu have their own Governmental departments for the welfare of overseas citizens.
- Departments such as the NORKA Roots in Kerala also ensure in emigrant welfare and outreach, offering a number of services to Non- Resident Keralites.
- Recently, the Govt. of Kerala held the 1st and 2nd Loka Kerala Sabhas, which like the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, acts as a common platform for the cultural, socio-political and economic integration of Non-Resident Keralites.

THANK YOU



SESSION 1

Migration Policy Narratives in the Age of the Global Compacts

Discussant: Mustafa Alio | Jumpstart–Refugee Talent

Audience Q&A