Migration in India

Why in news?

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According to Census data released on Thursday, southern states, especially Tamil Nadu and Kerala, have shown the highest increase in migrant population.

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Who are migrants?

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- The present study considers migrants by place of last residence i.e those who have last resided at a place other than their place of enumeration are deemed to be migrants.
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- The study, however, does not point out whether these are interstate or intrastate migrants.
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What is the current scenario?

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- Migration patterns in India are increasingly reflecting the economic divide in the country, with more migrants over the last decade heading to the southern states, which have grown at a faster clip during this period.
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- With 45.36 Crore migrants in India, **every third citizen of the country is a migrant**.
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- Of these, **69% are women**.
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- Migrants constitute 37.8% of India’s 121.03 Crore population. Over the last decade, the total number of migrants in India rose by 44.35 per cent from 31.45 Crore in 2001. During the same period, India’s population grew

17.64%.
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- **Tamil Nadu's migrant population surged 98%** from 1.58 Crore in 2001 to 3.13 Crore in 2011. During the same period, the population of the state grew by 15.6%. Migrants now constitute 43.4 per cent of the state's population compared to 25.44 per cent in 2011.
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- Kerala's migrant population has grown by 77. The state's population in the same period grew by 4.9 per cent. In Kerala, nearly 49% of the population called themselves migrants.
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- Karnataka too has shown a 50% increase in its migrant population.
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- Only Andhra Pradesh, with a 40% rise in migrant population, has shown a growth below the national average.
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- The only other states which have shown a higher growth of migrant population are Meghalaya and Manipur, where the number of migrants have grown by 108% and 97% respectively.
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- For Jammu and Kashmir, it was 55% and Assam 52%.
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What is the reason for migration?

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- While globally, migration is attempt by people to survive and prosper, in India, **marriage appears to be the biggest reason** why people migrate.
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- Of the total 45.36 Crore migrants, 69% people referred to marriage being the reason for their migration.
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- Only **11.17% of the migrants termed work** and business as causes.
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Why women migrate?

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- Majority of women have cited marriage or having migrated with their husbands as the reason for their translocation.

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- Apart from these, the Census data shows that Indian women are also migrating for work and education.
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- The number of Indian women who are economic migrants moving for the sake of work, business or education has grown by 129%.
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- During the same period, the number of male economic migrants grew by 51%.
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Why surge in migration to Southern States?

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- The **socio-economic development** of the southern states is considerably higher and that attracts people.
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- Another factor is that because of better **education** levels and awareness, local residents of these areas get drawn towards better economic opportunities. This vacuum that gets created gets filled up by people from outside.
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- These developed areas face **a crisis of manpower, especially for low-skilled jobs, which leads to migration**.
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Source: The Hindu

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