

Leveraging Digital Innovation in Migration Governance
– The e-Migrate experience of India
[Thursday 7 May 2026; UNHQ CR-2; 1:15 pm – 2:30 pm]

Concept Note for the IMRF side event

India is home to one of the world's largest and most vibrant diasporas, with over 34 million people (including the Non-Resident Indians and People of Indian Origin) living and working across more than 200 countries. The Indian diaspora serves as a vital bridge between India and the world, contributing significantly to global economies while strengthening economic, technological, and cultural linkages with their homeland. Indian emigrants also play a key role in India's development through remittances, investments, skills transfer, and knowledge exchange. In the last decade, India's migration governance has adopted a citizen-centric approach to promote overseas employment and to prevent exploitation of emigrants and advance measures to protect vulnerable emigrants.

2. Recognizing the importance of safe, orderly, and regular migration, the Government of India has developed a comprehensive whole of government approach to enable collaborative governance framework for managing overseas employment and protecting migrant welfare. Migration governance in India involves close inter-ministerial coordination among key government institutions, and other relevant agencies. In addition, State Governments play an important role in awareness generation, pre-departure orientation, skill development, and protection of migrant workers at the grassroots level. This cooperative approach enables the development of policies that are responsive to the needs of emigrants across the migration cycle.

3. As part of its efforts to modernize governance and improve service delivery, India has increasingly leveraged digital technologies to strengthen migration management systems. Digital platforms enable greater transparency, accountability, and efficiency while enhancing access to services for emigrants and other stakeholders.

4. **e-Migrate Portal:** In 2023-24, an estimated 2.5 million Indians travelled overseas for work; of them about 750,000 went to Emigration Check Required (ECR) countries (there are 19 ECR Countries-Afghanistan, Bahrain, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Oman, Qatar, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Thailand, UAE, Yemen and Iran) including 400,000 ECR passport holders. In addition, 1.2 million students travelled for higher studies. It was against this backdrop of increasing international mobility that the e-Migrate digital platform was established in 2014.

5. It empowered emigrants by providing transparency, verification of credentials of 2466 Recruitment Agencies (RAs) s and 298,749 Foreign Employers (FEs) and digital scrutiny of employment contracts to ensure faster processing of Emigration Clearances (EC's) as well as security of employment overseas. As a data-driven digital system approach, its digital verification ensures streamlined operations, reduces bureaucratic interventions and improves stakeholder coordination. Most importantly, the platform has emerged as a database for overseas employment, linking workers and Foreign Employers. Its integration with the National Career Portal (NCS) enables seamless alignment of job matching, skilling, certification, and labour market information with international employment opportunities. e-Migrate is the perfect example of evidence-based digital tool. A dedicated helpline and support system is also available to assist emigrants and other stakeholders to address any query/issue. Advisories/alerts are issued through the eMigrate portal, social media handles and other modes of publicity about the perils of fake job rackets and ways to prevent the same. About 2500 illegal/unregistered agents in the country have been notified on the eMigrate portal. The awareness campaign on safe and legal migration through eMigrate portal is carried out across the country from time to time by conducting workshops, trainings, information sessions, digital campaigns for media groups, police officials and law enforcement agencies, local administration, aspiring recruiting agents, entrepreneurs and general public. The Government launched the 'Surakshit Jayen Prashikshit Jayen' (Go Safe, Go Trained) campaign in 2018 to raise awareness among prospective emigrants for safe and legal migration

6. An updated, revamped and user friendly eMigrate-V2.0 portal was inaugurated on 14 October 2024. Powered by open-source technology and API-based architecture, this platform enhances efficiency, and transparency in overseas employment procedures, aligning with the Government of India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) vision. The revamped portal has been integrated with secure documentation verification - DigiLocker to provide for storage and access by users of documents across the world; Common Services Centers (CSC) to enable delivery of emigration related services through its network of over 500,000 centers across the country; UMANG (Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance) for providing access to pan-India e-Gov services; BHASHINI (BHASHa INterface for India) to enable access to information in regional languages; SBlePay (State Bank of India Electronic Payment System) for provisioning of an additional digital payment gateway with zero transaction charges; Bureau of Immigration for paperless delivery and seamless and hassle free travel of emigrants; Passport Seva Portal for e-verification of Passports, insurance companies for procurement of mandatory Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana (PBBY) insurance policy etc., among others.

7. Role of AI & DPI in governance: The convergence of AI and Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) such as Unique Identification Number (Aadhaar), Unified Payments Interface (UPI), and DigiLocker is transforming Indian public governance into a proactive, efficient, and inclusive system, driving towards a \$1.7 trillion economic impact by 2035. AI combined with DPI is redefining how India governs, delivers public services and drives inclusive growth. This convergence is a structural shift toward anticipatory governance, personalized public services and innovation on a national scale.

8. In addition to the e-Migrate portal, other DPIs include the National Career Service (NCS) Portal and the Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH) and welfare mechanisms to facilitate the safe mobility of Indian nationals.

- The **NCS portal**, launched in 2015, serves as a comprehensive, technology-driven platform connecting job seekers, employers, and training providers within a unified labour market ecosystem. Beyond job matching, it offers career counseling, vocational guidance, access to labour market information, and supports job fairs and employer outreach, aligning domestic workforce supply with both national and international labour market demands.
- Complementing this, the **Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH)**, launched in 2023, provides a digital platform for training, assessment, and certification services. It facilitates skilling opportunities, digital enrollment, issuance of verifiable credentials, and offers services to candidates, training providers, and employers. Through integration with key national systems, SIDH enhances access, transparency, and scalability in India's skilling ecosystem. For seamless delivery, NCS has been integrated with e-migrate and SIDH is also being linked to e-migrate to provide coordinated, streamlined connectivity.
- Additionally, there are mechanisms to ensure protection and welfare of migrants such as the **Consular Grievances Management System (MADAD portal)** for addressing complaints, the **Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana (PBBY)** for insurance coverage, and the **Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF)** for financial assistance in times of distress and emergency.
- These efforts are further reinforced through bilateral and social security agreements with other countries, ensuring legal and social protection for migrants abroad. So far, India has signed **Social Security Agreements (SSAs)** with 23 countries to protect the interests of international workers, including Belgium, Poland, Germany, Hungary, Switzerland,

France, Denmark, South Korea, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Finland, Sweden, Czech Republic, Norway, Austria, Canada, Australia, United Kingdom, Argentina, Brazil, Portugal, Quebec and Japan. These agreements seek to safeguard the interests of migrants abroad by preventing double contribution, ensuring benefit portability, and enabling totalization of benefits.

- India's Diaspora Engagement Policy, based on the **4 Cs - Care, Connect, Celebrate, and Contributions**, complements these initiatives. Through diverse schemes the government strengthens its bond with the diaspora, and encourages the diaspora members to actively partner India's development.

9. Reflecting the growing importance of developing AI-enabled governance systems, India organised the AI Impact Summit, 2026, an international summit on artificial intelligence held in New Delhi, India, from 16 -21 February 2026. It was the fourth in a series of global AI summits. The summit was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 19 February 2026. The AI Impact Summit Declaration underscores the importance of international cooperation and multi-stakeholder engagement across countries centered around the principles of development of human capital.

10. Against this backdrop, a side event showcasing the e-Migrate platform, which is India's success story in migration governance, is proposed to be held at the United Nations during the upcoming second International Migration Review Forum (IMRF). This side event aims to highlight India's experience in leveraging digital technologies such as the e-Migrate portal and other DPIS to strengthen migration governance, and to demonstrate its utility in ensuring end-to-end services to emigrants all through the migration cycle. It also seeks to promote knowledge-sharing among Member States on their national experiences in leveraging digital technologies to support safe, orderly and regular migration. **The tentative flow of programme is enclosed.**

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Tentative Flow of Programme

1:15pm	Introduction by MC
1:15 pm – 1:22 pm	Welcome Remarks by Permanent Representative of India to the UN
1:22 pm – 1:29 pm	Short Video on e-Migrate
1:29 pm – 1:36 pm	Keynote address by H.E. Mr. Kirti Vardhan Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs
1:36 pm –1:43 pm	Remarks by Director General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) H.E. Ms. Amy Pope
1:43 pm – 1:50 pm	Remarks by President of the General Assembly, H.E. Ms. Annalena Baerbock
1:50 pm -1:57 pm	Remarks by PR/ Head of delegation of Germany
1:57 pm – 2:04 pm	Remarks by PR/ Head of delegation of Portugal
2:04 pm – 2:11 pm	Remarks by PR/ Head of delegation of the Republic of the Philippines
2:11 pm– 2:18 pm	Remarks by PR/ Head of delegation of Saudi Arabia
2:18 pm – 2:25 pm	Remarks by PR/ Head of delegation of Ecuador
2:25 pm – 2:30 pm	Interaction with the audience
2:30 pm	Closing remarks
