Ensuring Safety of Migrants

An estimated 258 million people, about 3% of the world’s population, currently live outside their country of origin. While migration is a positive and empowering experience for many, it is gradually becoming clear that a lack of human rights-based migration governance at the global, regional and national levels, is leading to the routine violation of migrants’ rights. This violation is happening in transit, at international borders and in the countries they migrate to. The vulnerability among the migrants is leading to discrimination, exploitation and marginalisation. They are often living and working in the shadows and afraid to complain. Naturally, it leads to denial of their human rights and fundamental freedom. To address issues related to human rights of migrants and support in their protection, an international conference will take place in Kathmandu from November 12th onwards. More than 60 representatives from 30 countries will participate in the conference. The topics of discussion include Migration Good Governance and the Rights of Migrant Workers; Fair and Responsible Admission of Workers; Irregular Migration; Access of Migrant Workers to Justice and Collaboration with Global Network for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers. International conference on protection of migrant workers from November 12

Pressing Need to Prepare Database on Migrant Labourers

The districts along the India-Bangladesh border region in West Bengal have decided to prepare a database of migrant labourers. The Kulgram killings in the past week, where five Muslim workers were gunned down by terrorists, has again brought attention to the need for maintaining a detailed record of the migrants so that their protection and welfare can be better ensured. The data will also help reach out to families of migrant workers if they are in crisis in other states. The data will draw a clear picture of migrant workers’ present socio-economic status and will identify them by religion.

Recommended Watch - Mediterranea

Jonas Carpignano’s Mediterranea, an unvarnished account of the uneasy welcome that awaits African migrants who undertake the perilous journey by boat to Italy in search of better opportunities. Expanded from the American-Italian writer-director’s 2012 short film A Chjana, the drama builds toward a visceral depiction of the 2010 immigrant riots in the Calabrian town of Rosarno. Carpignano’s film shows that reality with an unblinking, documentary-style gaze. Leaving aside the grim situations of poverty, famine, civil war and genocide that drive the North African exodus, the early scenes in particular provide harrowing insight into the hardships of the journey itself. We witness the dehumanizing process of migrants being herded like cattle in jam-packed trucks or on foot across harsh desert terrain, exploited by unscrupulous traffickers who keep bumping up their fee and robbed by violent bandits.