**Kamata's Opportunity: Germany's Shifting Attitude Towards Immigration**

"It is the job of companies to look for skilled workers. And we will then blow away the bureaucratic hurdles" Hubertus Heil, labour minister, Germany. **Germany's economy is at risk as the labour market is struggling to fill the skilled labour shortage.**

A survey released by Germany's Chambers of Commerce found that 56 percent of the companies are grappling with lack of skilled labour, causing a huge risk to their businesses. Further, data from the Institute for Employment Research found that the country has 1.36 million vacancies in the current year, as compared to 873,000 four years ago. The major areas of shortfall of employees are the construction sector which is 80 percent, and healthcare which is even higher. Therefore, Germany has started shifting its attitude towards immigration especially from outside Europe. As an outcome, the Finance Minister of Germany Olaf Scholz has agreed to bring flexibility to the country's immigration law. **This provides a great opportunity for Karnataka.** However, the state needs to focus its skilling efforts in the direction of Germany's labour market requirement. In 2015, the country had allowed one million refugees to fill the workforce but lack of German-language skills and the inability by most refugees to prove any qualifications became the biggest hurdle. To make the most out of the prospect, Karnataka's skilling initiative must focus significantly on country specific language skilling course.

**Kerala is the Dreamland for Internal Migrants**

A study conducted by Centre for Migration and Inclusive Development (CMID) has found that Kerala has become the home for internal migrants. **More than 30 lakh internal migrants comprise 194 districts of different states of the country are living in Kerala.** One of the reasons for rapid internal migration to Kerala is receding labour population of Kerala origin. As majority of them have migrated abroad for work, specially to gulf. Some of the facts revealed by the study include:

- A majority of the internal migrants are Bengali speaking Muslims from Assam and West Bengal
- Seven of the nine districts in Assam, where Muslims comprise more than 50 percent of the population, according to Census 2011, are important sources of migrant workers in Kerala
- Muslim migrant corridors have evolved in both Assam and Kerala
- Migrants from 33 largest ST-dominated districts with the largest SC population are in Kerala
- Christians from the Kandahamal district of Odisha constitute a major chunk of the migrant community. Socio-economic backwardness and persecutions were the reasons for them to migrate.

**Book Review: Women in the Cities of Asia: Migration and Urban Adaptation**

The book provides a historical perspective and a global context for female migration. It looks at female migration from the perspective of social relationships, especially family linkages both before and after marriage. It puts forth a substantial body of demographic data and also discusses various aspects of female migration and policies for urban women. The book presents a comparative analysis of the geographic mobility of women in Asia to examine the extent to which women are participating in the migration process, especially in the cities. It addresses the relevance of urban/rural differentials in employment and income for female migrants, including wives accompanying migrant husbands. The book deals with the interrelationships between social structure and labour mobility, especially as they pertain to women. One of the chapters of the book is focused on the pattern and characteristics of rural to urban migration of women in India. It discusses the policy implications with special reference to the urban poor.