

Managing Migration

International Headlines



As the United Nations declared a 'climate apartheid', countries across the world must take cognisance of the impact of climate change on migration. The impact of climate change creates a case of double jeopardy for the poor who not only have limited access to resources but are also prone to displacement leading to migration. Estimates show that nearly 40% of the global internal displacement was due to climate change. This is further exacerbated by the lack of recognition of this phenomenon within the global migrant framework. The onus is now upon the developed countries to provide sustainable solutions to address this issue of climate change induced migration.

While the interplay between climate change and migration is fast becoming a global concern, it will have an undue **impact on developing and fragile economics**. UN data predicts that by 2050, 150 to 200 million people will face the risk of migration due to climatic conditions. In the light of the 2030 SDG Agenda of Leaving No One Behind, this must serve as a call for coordinated efforts at a global level. Such discussions must also recognise the dimension of gender and its impact on migration. Climate related migration can adversely affect women and girls who may face barriers to decent work, education and access to nutrition and sanitation. Policies must be designed to address the heterogeneous impact of climate based displacement vulnerable sections of society.



On the National Front



The impact of climate migration is being felt in India too. As per estimates of the NSSO, **floods and droughts form a major reason for migration** within the country. However, policymakers face the challenge of inadequate data in the area of climate migration. Evidence of climate based migration, particularly on the nature of such migration, the seasons and patterns is necessary to prepare urban communities for the onset of climate migration. Currently, urban spaces remain grossly under equipped to deal with this inflow of migrants with limited infrastructural capacity posing a development challenge. This is deepened by the lack of employment opportunities for such migrants who lack the skills needed to secure decent jobs.

Recommended Read of the Week

Amitav Ghosh's latest release 'Gun Island' brings to fore the complexities of climate change, migration and the resultant refugee crisis. Set in New York, Kolkata and Venice, the novel uses fiction to contextualise the real world problems of climate change and how it is fueling the migration discourse in today's world.

