International Headlines

Trump’s decision to dump potential Latin American migrants into Mexico presents multiple problems. Not only does this signal the gross abuse of power by the United States, it will also cause immense social and economic pressures on Mexico. The effect of such a deal can be gauged from Mexico’s unpreparedness in dealing with the large inflow of migrants. Using trade as a tool to curb and shift the incidence of migration must be seen as warning bells for the future of migrants who believe in the ‘American Dream’.

As the United Kingdom gears up to face the realities of Brexit, policies must focus on ensuring that labour shortages due to visa restrictions are minimised. According to the Migration Observatory, relaxed enforcement of the minimum threshold for visas and providing exemptions to certain sectors are helping ease the burden of employment migration. While these regulations are enforced currently for non-EU migrants, this may soon change as Brexit comes into force. However, the UK must not adopt a one-size-fits-all policy by providing small and medium businesses who employ low skilled workers the capacity to deal with these shifts.

On the National Front

The revival of traditional home based industries may be the solution to curb the mounting challenge of rural to urban low skilled and precarious migration. These opportunities not only provide an alternative and sustainable livelihood in the time of the fractured agrarian crisis but also provide impetus to female employment.

Policy Watch

India’s draft Emigration Bill 2019 must go beyond setting up of institutional architecture and instead focus on inclusion of all forms of migration occurring today. This calls for a shift in understanding the term ‘migrant’ to include all forms of migration including undocumented labour and dependent migration. This will not only help in providing adequate safeguards but will also help in filling in the much needed data gaps surrounding migration.