

Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations
New York

Press Release

Leveraging Digital Innovation in Migration Governance – The e-Migrate Experience of India

The Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations organized a side event on the margins of the 2nd International Migration Review Forum on the theme “Leveraging Digital Innovation in Migration Governance – The e-Migrate Experience of India”.

2. In his welcome remarks, Ambassador Harish Parvathaneni reaffirmed India’s vital interest in ensuring and promoting regular migration pathways; called for a clear distinction between migrants and refugees, especially in the application of legal regimes governing and regulating them; touched upon the use of the India digital stack to develop practical solutions for migrants at population scale sharing the example of e-Migrate app; and conveyed India’s readiness to assist friends and partners in adopting such open-source digital platforms for migrant welfare and management.

3. Hon’ble Minister of State Mr. Kirti Vardhan Singh delivered the keynote address, showcasing the e-Migrate portal as a key pillar of India’s digital migration governance framework. He highlighted its role in enhancing transparency, protecting migrant workers, and facilitating safe and regular migration through integrated digital services, verified recruitment systems, multilingual support, and online grievance redressal mechanisms. He further emphasized the use of AI-powered language translation tools to improve accessibility and inclusivity. He noted that the portal currently includes nearly 2,98,000 registered Foreign Employers and 2,457 Active Recruiting Agents, and highlighted the eMigrate Mobile App, which enables users to track applications, verify recruiting agents, and access grievance redressal services.

4. This was followed by an informative exchange of best practices in migration and mobility governance by the Panel Members. Mr. Kim Eling, Senior Director at IOM, commended India’s leadership in digital migration governance. H.E. Mr. Saúl Pacurucu, Vice Minister of Human Mobility of Ecuador, shared Ecuador’s experience with circular migration programmes and digital consular services aimed at creating safe and formal labour mobility pathways. Mr. Levinson C. Alcantara, Assistant Secretary of the Department of Migrant Workers of the Philippines, presented the Philippines’ end-to-end

digital migration governance model, including online orientation programmes, contract verification mechanisms, and welfare support services for migrant workers. H.E. Mr. Abdulaziz M. Alwasil, Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations, outlined Saudi Arabia's labour governance reforms and integrated digital platforms like Qiwa, designed to enhance contractual transparency, labour mobility, worker protection of the large expat community in Saudi Arabia. Mr. Florian Laudi, Commissioner for Multilateral Affairs of Germany, highlighted the growing India-Germany partnership on skilled migration, labour mobility, vocational training, and digital migration systems, emphasizing the mutually beneficial nature of migration cooperation between the two countries.

5. IMRF is the primary forum for UN Member States to review, discuss and share progress on the implementation of the Global Compact on Migration – the first intergovernmental agreement covering all dimensions of international migration. It is convened by the President of the General Assembly and is held once in every four years.

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