

India's Diaspora Engagement Strategy: An Analysis

Submitted by

Shiv Ratan

Supervisor

Dr. Manan Dwivedi

**Indian Institute of Public Administration
New Delhi**

Certificate

I have the pleasure to certify that Shri Shiv Ratan has pursued his research work and prepared the present dissertation titled “**India’s Diaspora Engagement Strategy: An Analysis**” under my supervision and guidance. The dissertation is the result of his own research, and to the best of my knowledge; no part of it has earlier comprised any other monograph, dissertation or book. This is being submitted to the Punjab University, Chandigarh for the award of the degree of Master of Philosophy (M. Phil.) in Social Sciences in partial fulfillment for the Advanced Professional Programme in Public Administration (APPPA) of the Indian Institute of Public Administration(IIPA), New Delhi.

I find that the dissertation of Shri Shiv Ratan is worthy of consideration and recommend it for the award of M.Phil. degree of Punjab University, Chandigarh.



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Dr. Manan Dwivedi
Supervisor

Indian Institute of Public Administration
I.P. Estate, Ring Road,
New Delhi-110022

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I realize that the topic of my dissertation “India’s Diaspora Engagement Strategy: An Analysis” requires more study than I could do in the limited time available. The mistakes, if any, are my own.

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Abbreviation

AAHOA	Asian American Hotel Owners Association
AAPI	American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin
CAMM	Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility
CII	Confederation of Indian Industry
EC	Emigration Clearance
ECR	Emigration Check Required
EU	European Union
FCRA	Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act
GCC	Gulf Cooperation Council
GFMD	Global Forum on Migration and Development
Global INK	Global Indian Network of Knowledge
GOPIO	Organization of People of Indian Origin
HLCID	High-Level Committee on the Indian Diaspora
HLDDMM	High-Level Dialogue on Migration and Mobility
HRMPA	Human Resource Mobility Partnership Agreement
ICM	India Centre for Migration
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
ICWF	Indian Community Welfare Fund
IDF-OI	India Development Foundation of Overseas Indian
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ITES	Information Technology Enabled Services
IWRC	Indian Worker Resource Centres
KIP	Know India Programme
LMPA	Labour Mobility Partnership Agreement
MEA	Ministry of External Affairs
MGPSY	Mahatma Gandhi Suraksha Pravasi Yojana
MHA	Ministry of Home Affairs
MOIA	Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs

MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NRI	Non-Resident Indian
OCI	Overseas Citizenship of India
OIC	Overseas Indian Centre
OIFC	Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre
OWRC	Overseas Workers Resource Centre
PBBY	Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana
PBD	Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas
PBK	Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra
PBSA	Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award
PBSK	Pravasi Bharatiya Sahayata Kendra
PGOE	Protector General of Emigrants
POE	Protector of Emigrants
PIO	Person of Indian Origin
PMGAC	Prime Minister's Global Advisory Council
RBI	Reserve Bank of India
SCOCAO	Overseas Chinese Affairs Office
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SIP	Know India Programme
SPDC	Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children
SSA	Social Security Agreement
TOKTEN	Transfer of Knowledge Through Expatriate Nationals
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
USA	United States of America
USD	United States Dollars
WB	World Bank

Chapter 1

Outline of the Research Proposal

1.1 Setting the Context

Human migration is an age-old phenomenon that stretches back to the earliest periods of human history. In the modern era, emigration and immigration continue to provide States, societies, and migrants with many opportunities. At the same time, migration has emerged in the last few years as a critical political and policy challenge in matters such as integration, displacement, safe and legal migration, and border management. In 2015, There were an estimated 244 million international migrants globally in 2015 which is about 3.3% of the world's population¹.

India is a major country of origin and transit, as well as a popular destination, for workers across international borders. There are over 30 million Indians overseas, with over 9 million of the Indian diaspora concentrated in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region now known as the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf. Over 90% of Indian migrant workers, most of whom are low- and semi-skilled workers, work in the Gulf region and South-East Asia². The Indian Diaspora is significant in its size, spread, and talent. India has the second-largest diaspora in the world. Estimated at over 30 million and spread across the 205 countries³, Indians have come to be recognized as the 'Knowledge Diaspora'.

¹ International Organization for Migration: The World Migration Report 2018

² International Labour Organization: India Labour Migration Update 2018

³The Ministry of External Affairs data available at http://mea.gov.in/images/attach/NRIs-and-PIOs_1.pdf

Overseas Indians have distinguished themselves from diverse walks of life as scientists, doctors, lawyers, entrepreneurs, writers, and academics. This vast and diverse overseas Indian community grew out of a variety of causes- mercantilism, colonialism, and globalization and over several hundreds of years of migration in different waves.

A key opportunity before India is to find ways to leverage the knowledge, expertise, and skills of Indians diaspora for a meaningful and mutually beneficial contribution to the developmental efforts in India.

The Indian Diaspora has demonstrated the ability and willingness to engage with India as partners in development as well as to promote its interests overseas. There is a need to bring a strategic dimension to the process of India's engagement with overseas Indians. It is important to take a medium to long term view and forge a technology-knowledge bridge that will best serve India as a rapidly growing economic power and meet the expectations of the Diaspora as a significant constituency.

Overseas Indians share strong social and cultural bonds with India. They can and do individually and sometimes collectively invest time, effort, knowledge, and resources in their country of origin. The challenge, however, is to transform this propensity into an institutional development strategy that can achieve targeted and measurable development outcomes. The opportunity that India may now seize is to enable an inclusive and symbiotic relationship – of bringing 'India to the world' and 'the world to India.'

The focus should be on establishing a framework for sustainable engagement to lead the knowledge, expertise, skills, and resources of the vast and diverse overseas Indian community into home country development efforts. Such a framework will pull in the Diaspora as 'knowledge' partners, the institutions in India as 'stakeholder' partners and the governments at the center and in the states as 'facilitators.' The key objective of this exchange will be to draw upon the wide-ranging knowledge base of the Indian Diaspora and deploy technology and innovation across sectors and geographies in India through well-designed projects and programs with targeted and measurable outcomes and give impetus to the development process.

In a rapidly globalizing world, the Diasporic community is both the result as well as the driver of globalization. The Indian Diaspora is characterized by distinct communities across the globe whose uniqueness has been determined by their separation from the home country by space and time. Thus we have the 'old Diaspora' represented by People of Indian Origin who are the decedents of those who migrated in the 19th century as part of the indentured/Kangani system of labor. This community has overcome considerable adversity and today represents an eminently successful Diaspora in the host countries. Several of the representatives of this community today occupy a leadership position in several walks of life and exercise considerable influence on the 'political – economy' as well as the development of their host countries.

We have a large 'new Diaspora' that essentially is a 20th-century phenomenon wherein workers - blue, gray, and white - as well as professionals, went in search of opportunities

to the western world. Today the Indian diaspora represents remarkable and pioneering success in the knowledge-based sectors as scientists, technologists, academics, and entrepreneurs.

The contribution of Indian migrant workers, both highly skilled and low-skilled, has led to India becoming the top recipient of remittances in the world. As per the World Bank report⁴, India received US\$ 78.6 billion during 2018, which is equivalent to approximately 3% of India's GDP. FDI inflows during the same year in India were at US\$ 44.8 billion⁵, emphasizing the importance of remittance flows into the Indian economy.

India's engagement with its Diaspora is symbiotic, the strands of both sides of the relationship equally important to create a resilient and robust bond. To engage with the Diaspora in a sustainable and mutually rewarding manner across the economic, social and cultural space should be at the heart of the diaspora policy. As a new India seeks to become a global player of significance, the time has come for strong and sustained engagement between India and Overseas Indians. The time has also come for Overseas Indians to benefit from the exciting opportunities that India provides.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Based on the recommendation of the High-Level Committee on the Indian Diaspora, a diaspora ministry called "Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs(MOIA)" was set up in 2004

⁴ World Bank Migration and Development Brief 31, April 2019

⁵ FDI inflows available at https://dipp.gov.in/sites/default/files/FDI_Factsheet_27May2019.pdf

to cater to the need of rising aspiration of Indian Diaspora. The MOIA got merged with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in January 2016. Since then the Indian Diaspora matters are dealt with by the Overseas Indian Affairs Division in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). However, less research is available for examining the diaspora engagement strategy after the merger of MOIA with MEA. Facilitating diaspora investment, philanthropy, and knowledge transfer through targeted platforms and initiatives, and leveraging the Indian Diaspora as a strategic resource to enhance India's economic interests will be key for the development imperatives of India.

It is proposed to analyze the current level of India's engagement with its Diaspora vis-a-vis Diaspora engagement policies and programs during the MOIA period and examine the reason for the merger of MOIA with MEA.

1.3 Research Objectives

The purpose of this study is to explore the diaspora engagement efforts and examine the role of Diaspora in migration and development with the following objectives:

- i. To analyze various schemes, programs and bilateral agreements undertaken for the overseas Indian community till the merger of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs(MOIA) with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in January 2016 and status after the merger.
- ii. To examine the effectiveness of Diaspora policies for facilitating international migration from India.
- iii. To study the reason for the merger of MOIA with MEA.

1.4 Research Design

The research design chosen for the study is a case study approach. It is important to examine the theoretical field of diaspora engagement to understand and analyze the Indian diaspora engagement efforts. This requires an extensive review of literature on diaspora, globalization, international migration, totalization agreements and migration and development from a theoretical perspective on the diaspora engagement. The data available in the public domain on the website of the Ministry of External Affairs, RBI, WB, IOM, and UN have been used to substantiate and answer the research questions. In this case study, the program-specific perspectives of the Indian Government's efforts have been presented to explain the results and limitations of the country's complex diaspora engagement efforts. An attempt has been made for an in-depth analysis of the Overseas Citizenship of India(OCI) /PIO (Person of Indian Origin) scheme, Bilateral Agreements, Diaspora Knowledge Networks, International labor migration from India and the Consular Services for migrants to answer to the research questions. Research questions were formulated, given previous knowledge on the subject. The survey conducted from the stakeholders including Indian diaspora and diaspora associations has been examined for the analysis of diaspora engagement status in India.

The goal is to focus on research that supports new understandings in the field of Diaspora Studies by investigating the present state of diasporas engagement strategy in India. The analysis is based on critical writings such as treaties and agreements, reports, on the subject of diaspora, international migration, and development.

1.5 Rationale for the Study

There are very few studies that deal with the Indian diaspora engagement strategy from the policy perspective. This study provides knowledge of diaspora engagement efforts and migration management made by India through various schemes and programs. Diaspora engagement policies can play a significant role in diaspora communities' lives as they can influence the capabilities of the diaspora community and means in which diaspora can contribute to their country of origin. This study establishes the connection between the diaspora engagement efforts, diaspora contributions, and the institutional building for better diaspora engagement strategy. This study can help the policymakers in the Government of India to make policy intervention to make diaspora engagement strategy to be more effective and meaningful. This study also helps to understand the expectation and concerns of the Overseas Indian community in their engagement with India.

1.6 Research Questions

The following questions are raised to understand the characteristics of different diaspora engagement strategy in India:

- (i) How effective is India's engagement with its Diaspora and extent to which they enable and facilitate diaspora contributions to India?
- (ii) What is the status of labor migration and how effective are bilateral agreements like SSAs, HRMPA, and Labour MOUs in facilitating international migration?
- (iii) How has the merger of MOIA with MEA impacted diaspora engagement at the institutional level in India?

1.7 Limitations of the Study

An evident restraint to this study is the limited time frame. If the time frame would have been different, it would have been interesting to collect the primary data from the members of the Indian diaspora community present during the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) convention. It would have been a good opportunity to interact with the overseas Indian Community during the PBD event for obtaining their feedback on the Diaspora engagement strategy in India. However, the next PBD will be held in 2021. Neither the time nor the financial resources are available to conduct such extensive research. An idea for future research would be an in-depth country-specific diaspora study of the overseas Indian community to assess expectation and concerns of Overseas Indians in their engagement with India.

1.8 Literature Review

The existing literature on diaspora engagement including books and articles in journals were reviewed.

1.8.1 Why Engage with the Diaspora?

There has been a massive growth around the world in the interest in Diaspora engagement over recent years. The world is now more globalized, interconnected and interdependent than ever before. In order to fully leverage the advantages of interdependence, companies, countries, and organizations are looking at creating, developing and leveraging complex networks of people to generate social, cultural and economic benefits. Diasporas constitute obvious collectives of people through which networks can be created and mobilized for

mutual benefit. Traditionally Diasporas were looked to for remittances and philanthropy which is, perhaps, to take a limiting view. Now Diasporas are bridges to knowledge, expertise, networks, resources, and markets for their countries of origin. C Raja Mohan and Rishika Chauhan (2015) in the paper 'Modi's Foreign Policy: Focus on the Diaspora' have observed that the novelty of Modi's high-profile engagement with Indians abroad is hopefully the beginning of a process that produces a comprehensive strategy towards dealing with the opportunities and challenges that the diaspora presents. Modi's political emergence, his ambitions for India and his articulation of a special role for the diaspora in India's rise, have generated a surge of optimism and pride within the overseas communities. Without a quick and visible improvement in the ease of doing business and in the ambience for contributing to local economic and development activity, however, many in the diaspora are likely to be once again disappointed. It is quite obvious that without a significant change in the way India operates at home, there is little hope for consequential external contribution by the diaspora. Nevertheless, the big question is whether Modi can leverage the growing weight of the diaspora and its new generations. Amit Kumar Mishra (2016) in his paper 'Diaspora, Development and the Indian State' stated that the government of India is no longer oblivious of the communities of Indian origin abroad, increasingly celebrating the success stories of these people while also recognizing the potential they offer for the country's development. The government has made proactive efforts to engage these communities, and people of Indian origin abroad have responded to these initiatives, making significant contributions in several tangible and intangible forms. However, there are segments of the Indian diaspora, particularly the 'old diaspora' or the descendants of Indian migrants who are citizens in their countries, who

have not responded in the ways expected by the government of India. The policy initiatives by the Indian government to engage the diaspora for development have redefined the normative ways in which the relations between nation, citizens, and diaspora have been articulated and negotiated by the neoliberal post-colonial state. Vidhan Pathak (2017) in his paper 'Diaspora in International Relations: Emerging Role of Indian Diaspora' observed that in present times, India's economic and strategic engagement with the world is increasing. Eventually, India is gearing up to play an important role in world affairs in the current century with its Diaspora emerging as an important factor in its international relations. As India seeks to become a global player of significance, it has started a strong and sustained engagement with overseas Indians. The Indian Diaspora is in a privileged economic position and also enjoys the political influence in various countries and thus could facilitate the Indian foreign policy goals. It can play a positive role in mobilizing support in their respective host countries in favor of India related issues. They can politically lobby and propagate the Indian point of view to the relevant decision making authorities within their host countries. Shreya Challagalla (2018) in her paper 'The Diaspora and India's Growth Story' stated that historically, India has benefitted from its diaspora. Two instances stand out: lobbying for the US-India Civilian Nuclear Agreement Bill in 2008 and their remittance inflow. Today, while there is more potential for the diaspora to contribute to India's growth story, their success will also be a reflection of the Indian government's schemes, policies and outreach activities toward them. Poor schemes coupled with ineffectual implementation will hinder the diaspora's contribution towards the growth of India. In the past, policies towards the diaspora have been inconsistent and often followed by poor implementation. Today, the government's foreign-policy strategy

of a strong outreach to the Indian diaspora stands out. Mohamed Musthafa KT (2018) in his paper 'India and its old Diaspora: Government Policies and its Relevance towards the Indian Grimitiya Diaspora to Connect Home' observed that It is a fact that Indenture labor system played a crucial role in the spread of overseas Indian population across the world. This Grimitiya Diaspora played an important role in both homeland and host land. Now we are in the 100th anniversary of the prohibition of Indenture labor. This is the time to recall the memories of Indenture labor. The government of India has taken a lot of effort to connect Grimitiya Diaspora to the home country. This is the time that Diaspora is more conscious of their homeland. One aspect is that the Prime Minister of India treated Indian Diaspora as a core part of India's foreign policy. For the overseas Citizenship of India scheme, the Government of India had made amendments in the existing act also. But an important problem of the existing policies of the Government of India is that it is not able to represent all Diaspora. It often favors the educationally, politically and too economically advanced sections of diaspora. And it is a challenge to connect the second and third generations of Grimitiya Diaspora to the homeland. But the Government of India has tried to connect its Grimitiya Diaspora through all possible manners and Grimitiya Diaspora also responds positively by giving suggestions to improve the connection between homeland and host land.

1.8.2 How to Engage with the Diaspora

The diasporas can be seen as a tool for economic development if they are engaged properly. It is observed in the IOM (2012) handbook on 'Developing a Road Map for Engaging Diasporas in Development' that since 2001 an increasing number of developing countries

have established ministries whose explicit purpose is to address the needs of diaspora populations by establishing a separate, ministry-level diaspora institution, a government recognizes that traditional ministries such as labor and foreign affairs cannot manage the expatriate portfolio in all its dimensions. This review suggests that unlike other diaspora institutions occupying lower positions in the hierarchy, diaspora ministries generally enjoy more consistent budgetary allocation, more support from the top of government, and, interestingly, a more explicit development-oriented mandate. Their existence also signifies that the government accords diaspora engagement with the highest political importance (which may mark a shift in policy priority, as some of these ministries started as smaller offices within other ministries). Amba Pande (2018) in her paper 'India and its Diaspora: Charting New Avenues of Engagement' stated that Indian diaspora is a diverse construct that has also resulted in differences and contesting interest among them. Very often they fail to emerge as a united force in the host lands. Therefore, India needs to develop an inclusive policy and make all the sections of the diaspora feel connected with India. This will enable them to engage with the mother country in a more positive way and will broaden the scope of diaspora engagement. India also needs to develop credible mechanisms for continuous conversation between the Indians abroad and the Indians at home and the government. Maria Koinova and Gerasimos Tsourapas(2018) in 'How do countries of origin engage migrants and diasporas? Multiple actors and comparative perspectives' observed that Diasporas are considered important for attracting remittances, accounting for over 15% of some developing countries' GDP, as in Armenia, Haiti, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Liberia, Tajikistan, and others. Sending migrants abroad, including as guest-workers, is often a 'safety valve' against unemployment in cash-strapped domestic economies

(Guarnizo, 1998; Tsourapas, 2015, 2018a). Remittances sustain households and reduce poverty. Sending states seek to attract diaspora entrepreneurs as direct investors in small, medium and large enterprises (Brinkerhoff, 2008). Diasporas are also sought for philanthropy (Brinkerhoff, 2008; Sidel, 2003), homeland tourism (Coles and Timothy, 2004) and professional expertise, especially in the engineering, technology, and medical sectors. To counter a ‘brain-drain’, sending states seek to attract diaspora returnees or engage them in temporary or virtual return programs if the permanent return is not viable (Tsourapas, 2015).

1.8.3 Diaspora Knowledge Networks

The Diaspora can assist companies in sending countries by sharing knowledge and contacts; participating in mentoring organizations; training talented youths; and joining think tanks, consultation groups, and advisory councils. Yevgeny Kuznetsov (2006) in the World Bank publication ‘Diaspora Networks and the International Migration of Skills’ noted that the diaspora had played a crucial role in ensuring the first-mover advantage for Indian IT players, helping them exploit market opportunities before players from other low-wage countries such as China. The established model of cooperation between the diaspora community and Indian IT service vendors will need to be replicated in other sectors, such as knowledge process outsourcing and outsourcing of health care services. Further analysis of this experience and the effective adaptation of the existing cooperation model between the diaspora and Indian IT service vendors in several other emerging sectors will prove to be of significant importance in India’s development strategy in the years to come. Gabriela Tejada (2016) in ‘Knowledge Transfers Through Diaspora Transnationalism and Return

Migration: A Case Study of Indian Skilled Migrants' observed that the impact that skilled migration has on development as a result of knowledge transfer occurs through two main channels of engagement: diaspora transnationalism and physical return to the home country. Diaspora knowledge transfer strengthens the transnational nature of migration and has important implications for countries of origin. India represents a good example of this because of the strong presence of Indian skilled professionals and students in industrialized countries. The case of India shows how skilled professionals and students can transfer knowledge and expertise and compensate their home country for skills outflows while they are abroad, as well as after they return. As carriers of knowledge, innovative skills and suitable attitudes towards creativity, skilled migrant returnees frequently ease the transfer of knowledge and skills and encourage a work culture that is suitable for development. Skilled Indian returnees believe that Indian society can benefit from their accumulated resources and from their scientific and professional networks and expertise. However, knowledge transfer may not take place simply because someone returns, as returnees may not be able to convert their technical and specialized expertise due to local contextual and workplace barriers. While the majority of returnees have been able to transfer their knowledge or expertise to their workplace, some faced important obstacles that limited such transfers.

1.8.4 Migration and Development

There is increasing attention to the topic of migration and development. Devesh Kapur (2010) in his book 'Diaspora, Development and Democracy' stated that the cross-border flows of human capital are likely to play an equally influential role in shaping the political and economic landscape over the next fifty years. While a variety of factors-demographics,

technologies, economic structures, domestic politics institutional structures and national security concerns- will mediate the specific characteristics and magnitudes of these flows, there is little doubt that these flows will have a profound and transformative impact on both sending and receiving countries. International migration from India has had four principal economic effects on the sending country. One, the reputation and network capital of the diaspora has played an important catalytic role in the development of India's IT and diamond cutting sectors, both among the largest sources of foreign exchange. Two, the diaspora has been an important source of foreign exchange for India for nearly a quarter-century, from the mid-1970s through the end of the twentieth century. Three, financial flows from the diaspora have been regionally concentrated in the Southern and Western states. These states have been growing faster in any case than their poorer counterparts in the North and East, and, subsequently, international migration has amplified interstate inequalities in India. Last, migration abroad has reinforced two trends in the Indian economy – the bias toward skill-intensive services and capital-intensive manufacturing – since these are the sectors where the diaspora has the most expertise. Vrajlal Sapovadia (2015) in his paper 'Analysing Indian Diaspora: Pyramid Impact on Reforms & Migration Pattern' observed that The total size of the Indian community, the foreign-born of Indian ethnicity (e.g., those born in Fiji or Trinidad), and the U.S.-born children of Indian immigrants surpassed 2.8 million in 2013. India is the largest recipient of migrants' remittances in the world, receiving over \$ 50 billion in 2010, from nearly ten million emigrants. An estimated 15% of these inflows or roughly \$ 8 billion originating from European Union (EU) countries that host about a million Indian migrants, a figure around 0.6 % of India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Around 75% of the flows from the EU to India, or \$ 6 billion, originate from the United Kingdom (UK). Migrants' remittances to India constitute about 4% of total extra-EU

remittance outflows. Indian emigrants in the EU held over \$ 8 billion worth Non-Resident Indian (NRI) deposits, forming nearly 20% of NRI deposits in the Indian banking system. Emigrants in UK and Germany held 70% and 20% of NRI deposits held by Indian emigrants in the EU. Remittance flows as unrequited transfers and emigrant capital flow substantially bolster India's balance of payments at the macro level and support household consumption plans and investment choices at the micro-level. Kadira Pethiyagoda (2017) in his paper 'Supporting Indian workers in the Gulf: What Delhi can do' stated that Indian workers in the Gulf have long faced significant challenges stemming from systematic abuse and discrimination. Due to the low socioeconomic backgrounds of the workers, their lack of political clout, and the importance of their remittances to the Indian economy, until recently, successive Indian governments only offered Band-Aid responses to alleviate their struggle. While there are signs that this has been changing, both in India and the Gulf, progress has been slow. Delhi has many economic and political incentives to be more proactive on the issue. In doing so, it should focus on advocating for workers' rights and conditions bilaterally, capitalizing on existing legislation in Gulf states. It should use multilateral tools where they work. Delhi should make employers and recruitment agencies pay for the cost of their treatment of workers. It should also push all stakeholders to invest in raising awareness and improving the qualifications of migrants. It is time for Delhi's rhetoric to translate to wins for its Gulf diaspora. Jalati K Parida, Sanjay Mohanty and K.Ravi Raman (2015) in 'Remittances, Household Expenditure and Investment in Rural India: Evidence from NSS data' concluded that reveals the levels of development and nature of migration from the poorer states, exhibiting a high percentage of outmigration within the country. The outcome of such migration also has implications for the lower

sections of households with the remittance income largely accruing to the families belonging to the bottom quintiles of the income distribution. This implies that migration helps reduce poverty, as has been expected and evidenced by other countries. The majority of the households spend remittances on food items; the share of expenditure on different heads with respect to receipts of remittance suggests that households receiving remittances on the average spend less (0.24% internal remittance and 2 % international remittance households respectively) than the households not receiving remittance. In contrast to this, households receiving remittances spend more at the margin on investing in human capital and household durables. Situated in the larger body of literature, it is thus revealed that there is an international convergence taking place with respect to the marginal spending behavior of migrants. This behavioral pattern has wider policy implications for a country like India. The large marginal increase in spending on education and health care is of great significance as it helps raise the level of human capital in India. And the marginal increase in spending on household durables reflects the improvement in the standard of living of households due to the receipts of remittance. Since the receipts of remittance increase the average budget share on education and health, with state intervention on human capital formation, remittances would help accelerate overall economic growth in rural India. The provision of better health facilities and increasing the public expenditure on general and technical education by the state would reduce the households' necessity of spending more on such aspects of human development. As a result, they would have more surplus in hand which could then be channeled into saving and productive investments which again would help the rural economy to grow. In terms of equity, the state could further target non-remittance households helping them to improve their status in terms of human capital.

1.9 Literature Gap

Not enough literature is available on the Indian Diaspora engagement strategy after the merger of the erstwhile Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA) with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in January 2016. The study aims to address an important literature gap about the diaspora engagement strategy post the merger of MOIA with MEA and critically examine the various schemes and programs adopted for diaspora engagement in India.

1.10 Methods applied and Data Sources

The research method for the dissertation is qualitative. The Data were collected from annual reports of erstwhile Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA) for the period 2008-2015, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) from 2016-2019. The data relating to migration and remittances were collected from the official websites of the RBI (Reserve Bank of India), WB (World Bank), IOM (International Organization of Migration), ILO (International Labour Organization) and United Nations (UN).

A survey was conducted on the diaspora engagement policies and efforts made by India from few select NRI/PIO and some of the Indian Diaspora association like Global Organization of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO), The American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI), The Asian American Hotel Owners Association (AAHOA), etc. The sample size for conducting the survey of the Indian Diaspora was 50.

1.11 Content of the Research Chapters

Chapter 1 deals with the historical perspective of Indian Diaspora and current trends in migration, development, and remittances.

Chapter 2 deal with various schemes and programs undertaken for the diaspora engagement like Pravasi Bharatiya Divas(PBD), Regional PBD, OCI (Overseas Citizenship of India) card, Know India Programme (KIP), Scholarship Scheme for Diaspora Children(SSDC), Overseas Indian Centre (OIC), Prime Minister's Global Advisory Council (PMGAC) and Non-Resident Indian (NRI) Marriage problems. The institutional mechanism established for economic engagement, philanthropy, and knowledge sharing with the Indian Diaspora has been presented in this chapter. Diaspora can contribute not only in terms of money but also they can invest their time while they are visiting India.

Chapter 3 deals with international migration and the flow of labor from India and their contribution to the Indian economy. India has signed bilateral agreements and MOUs like Social Security Agreements, Human resource Mobility Partnership Agreements and labor MOUs with various countries. This chapter has examined issues relating to bilateral agreements and labor MOUs. India's engagement with some multilateral organization handling matters on International migration like International Organization for Migration (IOM), Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), High-level Dialogue on Migration have also presented in this chapter.

Chapter 4 compares India's Diaspora Engagement with China, Indian and Chinese diaspora in the USA, international student mobility and diaspora institutions in other countries.

Chapter 5 incorporates survey results conducted from the NRIs/PIOs and some of the Indian Diaspora associations like GOPIO, AAPI, etc.

Finally, the answer to the research questions has been discussed in the conclusion. Some policy recommendations for strengthening the diaspora engagement strategy have also been discussed.

Chapter 2

Indian Diaspora Past and Present

2.1 Introduction

The size, spread and the growing influence of overseas Indians today are truly impressive. Estimated at over 30 million in 205 countries, the overseas Indian community comprises of Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) and Non-Resident Indians (NRI). Overseas Indians constitute a significant and successful economic, social and cultural force in the world. This vast and diverse overseas Indian community grew out of a variety of causes – mercantilism, colonialism, and globalization and over several hundreds of years of migration in different waves.

In the precolonial era, traders from India crossed the seas to the Persian Gulf region and the east coast of Africa and overland to Central and West Asia in search of fame and fortune. Another major emigration from the subcontinent in this era was to Southeast Asia. It started as military expeditions by Hindu, and later Buddhist kings of India and resulted in the settlers' merging with the local society. The influence of Indian culture is still felt in Southeast Asia, especially in places like Bali in Indonesia.

During the nineteenth century and until the end of the British Raj, much of the migration was to other colonies as indentured labor for plantations and mines in the Atlantic, Pacific, and the Indian Ocean regions and under the 'Kangani' system to Southeast Asia. The major destinations were Mauritius, Guyana, Trinidad, Jamaica, Fiji, South and East Africa, Malaya, Ceylon, and Burma. The event that triggered this mass migration was the Slavery

Abolition Act passed by the British Parliament on August 1, 1834, which freed the slave labor force throughout the British colonies. This resulted in an extreme shortage of labor throughout the British colonies which were resolved by massive importation of workers engaged under contracts of indentured servitude.

The first wave of today's Indian Diaspora is what we call the "Old Diaspora", and began during the early 19th century and continued until the end of the British Raj. The "Old Diaspora" constitutes 60% of the Indian diaspora, or approximately 17 million PIOs, and is primarily a pre-WW-II phenomenon. The 'New Diaspora', on the other hand, consists of migrants who left India in large numbers from the mid-60s onwards – primarily to developed countries like the UK, US, Canada, Australia, and Western Europe.

In independent India, there have been two distinct categories of migration: the migration that began in the early 1950s as Indians from the subcontinent moved to the United Kingdom, Europe, North America, and Australia. This migration to the western world was permanent and the migrants were mostly educated and well qualified. The second phase was the large outflow of unskilled, semiskilled and skilled workers to the countries in the Gulf region which began in the mid-1970s. This migration was temporary with a large number of workers returning on completion of their contracts.

The vastly different origins and roots of the migrants, the divergent routes and patterns of migration and settlement, the varying degrees of socio-cultural integration with their new homelands and the emergence of new identities and ethos make the overseas Indian

community unique. It is a reflection of the pluralism that India today represents – a confluence of many languages, cultures, and histories.

With increasing globalization, the Indian diaspora is growing and becoming even more visible, successful and influential across a wide variety of sectors and virtually every walk of life. Yet it is difficult to speak of one great ‘Indian Diaspora’. There are communities within communities whose bond with India and the manner and extent of engagement is marked by its own experiences as well as time and distance. A proper understanding of the diversity of the overseas Indian community brings before us the idea of the ‘Global Indians’ and the invisible thread that holds them together and binds them with India, the idea of ‘Indianness’.

Overseas Indians are not merely people of Indian origin who have settled in new or imaginary homelands. They are a representation of India: its peoples, regions, values, and diverse cultures. They recreate in their socioeconomic and cultural institutions a version of India and preserve perceptions of the homeland that they remember. They maintain a real, even if intangible, bond with India, keep renewing it and above all keep returning to the idea of India.

2.2 Indian Labour Migration in Historical Perspective

Indian diaspora is spread across all 6 continents and 205 countries and it is estimated to be around 30 million. The characteristics of this diversified group vary to an astonishing

degree – yet they are all part of the same Indian diaspora. It varies to such an extent that we define three subsets of our diaspora:

- Old Diaspora
- New Diaspora
- Gulf Diaspora

Britain abolished slavery in 1834 and this act was followed by other colonial powers like France, the Netherlands, and Portugal. Their colonies now urgently needed manpower to work the sugar and rubber plantations that were once worked by African slaves. The British established the system of “Indentured labor Migration” from the Indian subcontinent to meet this demand.

In 1834, Britain first began exporting bonded Indian labor to Mauritius. The Dutch and French replicated the British system, and also exported Indian workers to their colonies. In just a decade, this small-scale migration became a mass movement to provide cheap labor to British and other European colonies. Conditions of absolute poverty in many parts of India, and the prospect of gaining wealth overseas, motivated people to sell themselves, and become bonded laborers. Conditions of these journeys were extremely difficult and the mortality was high on British, Dutch and French boats from the sub-continent to these colonies; not much better than the slaver boats that brought black Africans to the plantations of the Southern United States.

Workers for plantations in Mauritius, Suriname, Trinidad, and Fiji were mainly recruited from the present-day states of Bihar and UP. In Guyana and East Africa, laborers originated primarily from Punjab and Gujarat. Given the proximity of Tamil Nadu to French possessions in India like Puducherry, the workers in most French colonies, such as Guadeloupe, Martinique, and La Reunion were Tamils. All these migrants were almost all males. This brutal indenture system lasted until World War I.

In response to severe criticism, Britain abolished the indenture system in 1916. By that time, more than 1.5 million Indians had been shipped to colonies in the Caribbean, Africa, and Asia. During roughly the same period, another form of labor migration was taking place. Tapping the labor surplus of South India, mostly in what is today the modern Indian state of Tamil Nadu, the Colonial bosses of tea, coffee, and rubber plantations in Sri Lanka, Malaysia, and Burma authorized Indian headmen, to recruit entire families and ship them to plantations. About 5 million Indians, mostly poor Tamils, migrated to these countries until the system was abolished just prior to World War II. Around that same time, in addition to low-skilled workers, merchants and traders from Gujarat and Sindh settled in British colonies in the Middle East, and South & East African. For example, Gujarati and Sindhi merchants became shop owners in East Africa, and traders from Kerala and Tamil Nadu were involved in the retail trade, and in money lending, to poor Indian peasants in Burma, Ceylon and Malaya. By the time of the Second World War, the Indian Diaspora was approximately 6 million; out of this over 1 million Indians were in Burma.

The 1990s software boom and rising economy in the US attracted Indians by the boatload. The US Immigration Act of 1990, effective from 1995, facilitated this process further by introducing the H-1B temporary worker program, allowing US businesses to hire foreigners with a minimum of a bachelor's degree in "specialty occupations" including doctors, scientists, engineers, and IT specialists. Indian citizens are far and away from the top recipients of H-1B visas each year. As a result, the Indian diaspora in the US is highly skilled. The US Census Bureau estimates that 77% percent of all ethnic Indians working in the US hold at least a bachelor's degree, and 73% work in management and professional occupations in 2015.

The 1970s oil boom in the Middle East ended up triggering significant migration from India to the Persian Gulf. An increasing number of semi and unskilled workers, primarily from South India, have worked in the Gulf countries on temporary schemes in the oil industry and in services and construction. At one time the fastest-growing segment of our Diaspora, the Gulf Diaspora has now stabilized at around 9 million.

The common thread between all three groups of the Indian diaspora is that they are labor migrants. The more recent migration of skilled and highly skilled labor went to developed countries like the USA, UK, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand and formed a part of the new Indian Diaspora. The lower-skilled, semi-skilled and un-skilled labor went to the Gulf region.

The new Indian diaspora, especially in the United States, is highly organized with many regional and Pan-Indian cultural, professional, religious, and charity organizations. In recent years, Indians have demonstrated their increasing political influence with the election of Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal, South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley, New York Attorney General Preet Bharara, and the formation of the India Caucus in both the Congress and the Senate. Other countries have seen even more Indians elected to major public office. In Canada, currently, there are nine MPs of Indian-origin in that country's parliament – the Canadian House of Commons. In the UK, a record number of 8 Indian candidates including two women have been elected to the British Parliament; and 8 Members of the House of Lords are People of Indian Origin.

The success of Indian Entrepreneurs, CEOs, Scientists, Academics, Media personalities, Filmmakers and IT professionals in the US has created trust in India's intellectual abilities abroad. It has been a major factor in branding India as a source of well-educated and hard-working professionals.

Indian diaspora has also contributed to India's ascendancy in the world, by its achievements in a variety of fields of entrepreneurship, business, academia, science, arts, and culture, in all the countries we have migrated to. Current projections indicate that India will surpass China as the world's most populous country around 2027⁶.

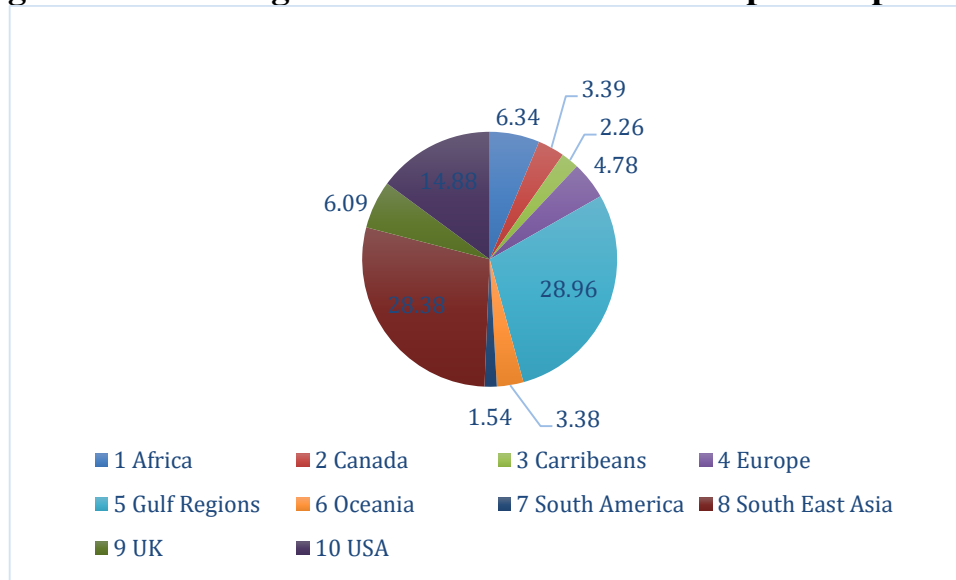
⁶ United Nations World Population Prospects 2019 available at

https://population.un.org/wpp/Publications/Files/WPP2019_10KeyFindings.pdf

India's population will be young and thus highly mobile. Given the conundrum of an expanding middle class in India, juxtaposed against the continuing abject poverty of over half a billion Indians, migration patterns will accelerate.

Region-wide distribution of Indian diaspora is given below in the picture:

Figure 1: Percentage Distribution of Indian Diaspora Population



Source: MEA data available at http://mea.gov.in/images/attach/NRIs-and-PIOs_1.pdf, Accessed on 30.01.2020

2.3 International Migration trends in India

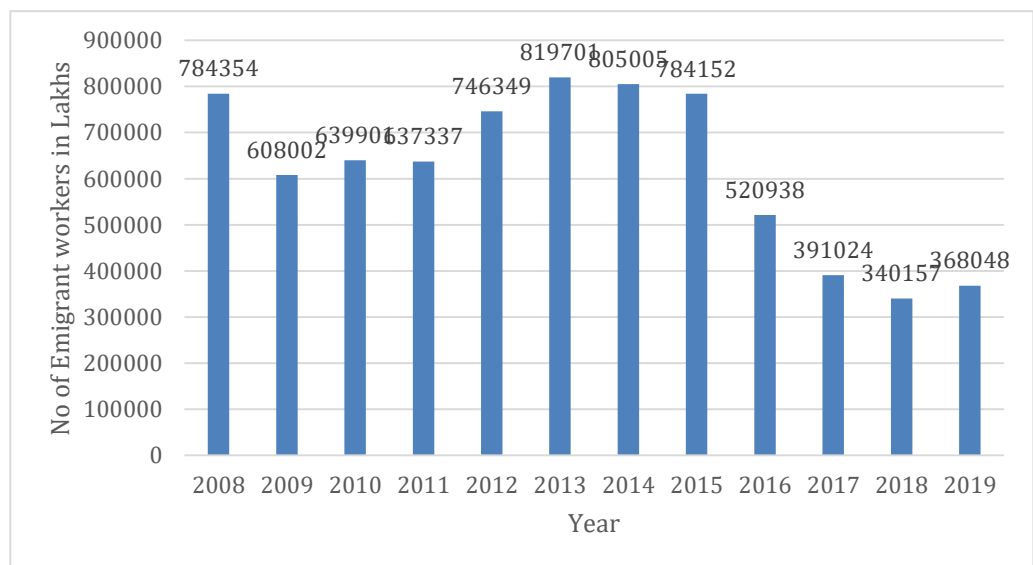
Analysis of international migration trends in India is inhibited by the limited official data available. Data is available only for workers migrating on Emigration Check Required (ECR) passports and to one of the 18 ECR countries⁷. The labor migration data is available mostly for workers who have to register for emigration clearance with the Protector General of Emigrants.

⁷ ECR countries details available at <https://www.mea.gov.in/emigration-abroad-for-emp.htm>

This includes those who have not passed Class 10 at least, are leaving via employment visas into specific sectors or are workers emigrating for the first time to the GCC region, Malaysia and a few other countries.

While exact numbers are not known, several studies point to the presence of larger outflows of labor migration and the presence of large numbers of undocumented migrants in the GCC region. Workers are also migrating on non-ECR passports and beyond ECR countries, for which data is not available. Labor flow to 18 Emigration check required (ECR) countries from 2008-19 is shown below in the graph:

Figure 2: No of Emigration Clearances issued from 2008-2019



Source: <https://emigrate.gov.in/ext/preViewPdfGenRptAction.action> , Accessed on 30.01.2020

Emigration data from MEA shows that 368,048 workers migrated for work legally after completing ECR procedures in 2019, compared to the 340,157 workers who left in 2018. The number for 2017 was 391,024. As per the MEA’s Annual Report 2016–17, this drop

is explained by the decline in crude oil prices and the resulting economic slowdown in the GCC countries.

2.4 Remittance flow to India

Remittances play a crucial role in the life and ethos of a wide range of developing economies, with significant welfare implications. In 2018, low and middle-income economies received US\$529 billion⁸ as remittances. India continues to be the top recipient country with US\$78.6 billion of remittances in 2018 sent by a large pool of skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled Indian migrants across the globe.

In developing countries, including India, migration, and remittances act as a source of sustenance so as to enhance the lifestyle, standard of living and overall development of individuals and regions. Migration could be accumulative or distress-induced, but in either case, the remittances play a significant role as a source of savings and investment in the former and as a means of survival in the latter. Remittances have a direct impact on poverty reduction, as they tend to flow directly to poor households and are used primarily for basic needs such as food, shelter, education and health care. The remittances can reduce recipient household poverty, increase investment in education and health, reduce child labor and increase entrepreneurship. Remittances play a vital role in enhancing family consumption in India.

⁸ World Bank Migration and Development Brief 31, April 2019 available at <https://www.knomad.org/publication/migration-and-development-brief-31>

The remittance flows to India from 2008-2018 and estimated in 2019 is given below in the table:

Table 1: Annual Flow of Remittances to India

Sl No	Year	Remittances Inflow (US\$ million)
1	2008	49977
2	2009	49204
3	2010	53480
4	2011	62499
5	2012	68821
6	2013	69970
7	2014	70389
8	2015	68910
9	2016	62744
10	2017	68967
11	2018	78609
12	2019(estimated)	82203

Source: World Bank Migration and Remittances 2019,
<http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/988911571664813952/Remittance-Inflows-October-2019.xlsx>,
Accessed on 30.01.2020

Chapter 3

Engaging with Diaspora: Indian Experience

3.1 Introduction

A concerted effort to reach out to overseas Indians is one of the key legacies of the former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. He laid the foundation to reach out to the Indian Diaspora by setting up a High-Level Committee on the Indian Diaspora (HLCID) in September 2000 under the chairmanship of Dr. LM Singhvi a former diplomat.

3.2 High-Level Committee on the Indian Diaspora (HLCID)

The HLCID⁹ gave very exhaustive recommendations covering all aspects of Diaspora engagement in India. Some of the important recommendations made by the Committee are as follows:

- Initiatives for outreach to the diaspora, including the annual Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD), Pravasi Samman Awards, and Person of Indian Origin (PIO) card
- The welfare of Indian women married to NRIs/PIOs
- Establishing a welfare fund for repatriated workers in distress
- Negotiating a standard labor export agreement with the host countries

⁹ MEA website available at <https://www.mea.gov.in/images/pdf/2-conclusions-and-recommendations.pdf>

- Launching a compulsory insurance scheme covering the risks faced by overseas workers
- Establishing mechanism for pre-departure program counseling and the provision of legal assistance locally, instituting training programs for human resource development and skill upgradation
- The younger members of the diaspora should be assisted in strengthening their cultural heritage and keeping alive their ancestral language
- Programs should be developed on the pattern of TOKTEN to facilitate the involvement of Diaspora scientists and leverage their knowledge, skills, and technology to Indian scientists.
- An autonomous empowered organization structured on the pattern of the Planning Commission for facilitating diaspora engagement in India.

India is one of the pioneers in recognizing the importance of its Overseas population and establishing an institutional framework for sustainable and mutually beneficial engagement with its Diaspora. This found expression in the establishment of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA) in 2004 to deal with all matters relating to Overseas Indians comprising Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) and Non-Resident Indians (NRIs). The mission of the Ministry was to establish a robust and vibrant institutional framework to facilitate and support mutually beneficial networks with and among Overseas Indians to maximize the development impact for India and enable Overseas Indians to invest and benefit from the opportunities in India.

3.3 Diaspora Engagement Strategy

MOIA had adopted the following strategy for engaging with the Indian Diaspora:

- i. Facilitate Diaspora investment, philanthropy and knowledge transfer through targeted platforms and initiatives, and leveraging the Indian Diaspora as a strategic resource to enhance India's economic interests.
- ii. Establish and brand Diaspora conventions such as PBD into an established institutionalized platform for Overseas Indians and engage with the young Overseas Indians through initiatives such as internships, Study India and Know India Programme to strengthen their bonds with India and expand benefits and facilities in economic, financial, cultural and educational fields in India for OCI.
- iii. Establish institutional arrangements to enhance the outreach capabilities of the Ministry in countries with significant Overseas Indians, particularly workers.
- iv. Preparation of comprehensive and scientific database of emigration and Overseas Indians and periodic surveys to assess expectation and concerns of Overseas Indians in their engagement with India.
- v. Promote empirical, analytical and policy-related research on migration Diaspora related issues through appropriate studies and partnerships.
- vi. Improve the economic migration framework through appropriate bilateral and multilateral arrangements such as Labour MoUs, Social Security Agreements and Mobility Partnerships and partnerships with an international organization to enhance protection and welfare of Non-Resident Indians particularly workers and Positioning India as a preferred source country for economic migration.

- vii. Improve Governance, service-delivery through process re-engineering, training, and ITES.

3.4 Schemes and Programs for Diaspora Engagement in India

3.4.1 Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD)

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) is celebrated on 9th January every year to mark the contribution of the Overseas Indian community in the development of India. Two of the greatest Pravasi Bharatiya namely Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar returned to India and changed the lives of Indians forever. The January 9th was chosen as the day to celebrate as the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas since it was on this day in 1915 that Mahatma Gandhi, returned to India from South Africa and led India's freedom struggle. The PBD conventions are being held every year since 2003. These conventions provide a platform for the overseas Indian community to engage with the government and people of the land of their ancestors for mutually beneficial activities. These conventions are also very useful in networking among the overseas Indian community residing in various parts of the world and enable them to share their experiences in various fields.

During the event, individuals of exceptional merit are honored with the prestigious Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award to appreciate their role in India's growth. The event also provides a forum for discussing key issues concerning the Indian Diaspora.

To connect India to its vast overseas diaspora and bring their knowledge, expertise, and skills on a common platform, the PBD Convention is organized from 7th-9th January every year since 2003.

PBDs held in various places of India so far as follows:

Table 2: Annual Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention

Sl No	Year	PBD Dates	Place
1	2003	9-11 January 2003	New Delhi
2	2004	9-11 January 2004	New Delhi
3	2005	7-9 January 2005	Mumbai
4	2006	7-9 January, 2006	Hyderabad
5	2007	7-9 January, 2007	New Delhi
6	2008	7-9 January, 2008	New Delhi
7	2009	7-9 January, 2009	Chennai
8	2010	7-9 January, 2010	New Delhi
9	2011	7-9 January, 2011	New Delhi
10	2012	7-9 January 2012	Jaipur
11	2013	7-9 January 2013	Kochi
12	2014	7-9 January 2014	New Delhi
13	2015	7-9 January 2015	Gandhinagar
14	2016	7-9 January 2016	New Delhi

Source: MEA website, <https://mea.gov.in/pravasi-bharatiya-divas.htm>

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) is celebrated now once every two years to strengthen the engagement of the overseas Indian community with the Government of India and reconnect them with their roots. The 15th PBD Convention is being held on 21-23 January 2019 in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

PBD conference was not held in 2017 & 2018 instead Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has organized seven PBD Conferences (Panel Discussions) in New Delhi in 2017 & 2018 on issues important to the Indian Diaspora.

The High-Level Committee on the Indian Diaspora (HLCID) had recommended for the observance of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) each year on a suitable date in January to celebrate the constructive role played by the Diaspora, its achievement and goodwill towards India. Many of the Overseas Indian community members visit their family and friends in India during the month of December every year. Therefore, PBD is an important platform to engage with the Indian Diaspora annually.

3.4.2 Regional Pravasi Bhartiya Divas (RPBD)

The Regional Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (RPBD) is organized to allow participation of the Indian diaspora who are unable to attend annual Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in India. The Regional Pravasi Bharatiya Divas have been held at New York, Singapore, The Hague, Durban, Toronto, Mauritius, and Sydney. The first RPBD was held in New York in September 2008. This platform was created to engage with the Indian diaspora in their home countries.

3.4.3 Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards (PBSA)

The Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award (PBSA) is conferred on Non-Resident Indians, Persons of Indian Origin or Organizations or Institutions established and run by Non-

Resident Indians or Persons of Indian Origin, who have excelled in their fields which have enhanced India's prestige in their country of residence and have made:

- Better understanding abroad of India;
- Support for India's causes and concerns in a tangible way;
- Building closer links between India, the overseas Indian community and their country of residence;
- Social and humanitarian causes in India or abroad;
- The welfare of the local Indian community;
- Philanthropic and charitable work;
- Eminence in one's field or outstanding work, which has enhanced India's prestige in the country of residence; or
- Eminence in skills which has enhanced India's prestige in that country (for non-professional workers);
- Philanthropic investments and charitable work in India; and
- For contributions made towards India's Development.

It is conferred by the President of India as a part of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention. PBSA is the highest honor conferred on overseas Indians. 239 no of Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards (PBSA) has been conferred on various eminent overseas Indians during the PBD held from 2003 -2019¹⁰.

¹⁰ PBSA details available at MEA website: <https://mea.gov.in/pravasi-bharatiya-samman.htm>

The High-Level Committee on the Indian Diaspora (HLCID) had also recommended that in addition to the institution of Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards (PBSA), the achievement of Diaspora members should be recognized by naming roads, libraries, schools, etc. after them in their ancestral home villages or districts.

3.4.4 Know India Programme (KIP)

The objective of the Know India Programme is to help familiarize Indian Diaspora youth, in the age group of 18-30 years, with developments and achievements made by the country and bringing them closer to the land of their ancestors. KIP provides a unique forum for students and young professionals of Indian origin to visit India, share their views, expectations, and experiences and to bond closely with contemporary India.

In 2016, the scheme was revamped to increase duration from 21 to 25 days, with a 10-day visit to one or two States and preference given to PIOs from Giritiya countries. Earlier the nomination for participation in the program was through the respective Indian Missions abroad.

An online portal was launched in 2017 exclusively for Know India Programme. Indian-origin youth now submit their applications online for participation in the KIP to the Indian Missions/Posts abroad. A maximum of 40 Indian Diaspora youth is selected for each program and provided full hospitality in India. 90% of the total cost of international airfare is also paid by the MEA. The entire process of applying, processing, etc. is now through a portal.

So far Government of India has organized 59 editions of KIPs and 2061 overseas Indian youth have participated in these programs¹¹.

Know India Programmes is a very good initiative to engage with the younger generation of Overseas Indians. However, there is a need to find out ways and means to engage the younger second and third-generation overseas Indians in a sustained manner through programs like introduction of an internships programs for young overseas Indian academics, introduction of short-term/ semester-based study in India including on democracy, politics, art, culture, etc. for young overseas Indian and designing and implementing a short term visit programs for teaching/research in India.

3.4.5 Study India Programme (SIP)

The Study India Programme was initiated by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs in 2012 as a means of enhancing engagement with the diaspora youth. The objective of the scheme was to enable overseas Indian youth i.e. foreign citizens of Indian origin in the age group of 18-26 years to undergo short term courses in the nature of summer schools to familiarize them with the art & culture, heritage, history, economy and development of India. Such short term courses were aimed at providing an opportunity to the overseas Indian youth to better understand and appreciate contemporary India, foster closer ties with the land of their ancestors and enhance their engagement with India.

¹¹ Know India Programme for young Overseas Indians website: kip.gov.in

The first Study India Programme (SIP) was organized from 25 September-23 October 2012 in Symbiosis Centre for International Education, Pune. This scheme has been discontinued.

3.4.6 Tracing the Roots

A scheme to assist persons of Indian Origin in tracing their roots was launched by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA) in 2008. The Ministry had entered into an MOU with an organization called “**Indiroots**” for implementing the program. As per the program, persons of Indian origin desirous of tracing their roots in India would be required to fill up the prescribed application form and deposit it with the concerned Mission/Posts located in the country of their residence along with a fee. The application was forwarded to “Indiroots” for tracing the roots of the applicant and information received from “Indiroots” including family tree prepared by it would be sent to the applicants through the concerned Indian Mission/Posts. Tracing the roots scheme has been discontinued now. People of Indian origin who went to foreign countries long back, they should be helped in tracing their ancestral home village or town in India.

3.4.7 Scholarship Programmes for Diaspora Children(SPDC)

Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children (SPDC) was introduced in 2006-07 by MOIA to make higher education in Indian Universities/Institutes in different fields (except medical and related courses) in India accessible to the children of overseas Indians (PIOs) and Non- Resident Indian students (NRIs) and promote India as a center for higher studies.

Under the Scheme, PIO/NRI students are awarded scholarship of up to US\$ 4000 per annum for payment of tuition fee, admission fee and post admission services for Under Graduate courses in Engineering, Technology, Humanities, Liberal Arts, Commerce, Management, Journalism, Hotel Management, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and some other courses.

A revamped SPDC was launched from the academic year 2016-17 with extension from 40 to 66 countries (including 17 ECR countries); enhancing the number of scholarships from 100 to 150 with 50 earmarked for Children of Indian Workers in ECR countries. Of these 50 scholarships, 1/3rd are reserved for children of Indian workers in ECR countries studying in India. The entire process of applying, processing, etc. is now through a portal¹².

The scholarship is offered for pursuing courses in Central Universities of India offering Under Graduate Courses, including those pertaining to Information Technology, B.Sc. (Nursing) and B. Pharma in Institutions accredited "A" Grade by NAAC, and Institutions covered under the DASA scheme, National Institutes of Technology (NITs), Schools of Planning and Architecture (SPAs), Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs), etc. Applications are submitted and processed through a portal spdcindia.gov.in. Nearly 800 candidates¹³ were awarded scholarships since inception.

¹² SPDC Portal <https://spdcindia.gov.in>.

¹³ Details available at <https://mea.gov.in/spdc.htm>

3.4.8 Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) Scheme

In response to persistent demands for "dual citizenship" particularly from the Diaspora in North America and other developed countries and keeping in view the Government's deep commitment towards fulfilling the aspirations and expectations of Overseas Indians, the Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) scheme was introduced by amending the Citizenship Act, 1955 in August 2005. The Scheme was launched during the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention 2006 at Hyderabad. The Scheme provides for registration as Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) of all Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) who were citizens of India on 26th January 1950 or thereafter or were eligible to become citizens of India on 26th January 1950 except who is or had been a citizen of Pakistan, Bangladesh or such other country as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, specify.

OCI is not to be misconstrued as 'dual citizenship'. OCI does not confer political rights. The registered Overseas Citizens of India shall not be entitled to the rights conferred on a citizen of India under Article 16 of the Constitution with regard to equality of opportunity in matters of public employment.

A registered Overseas Citizen of India is granted multiple entry, multi-purpose, life-long visa for visiting India, he/she is exempted from registration with Foreign Regional Registration Officer or Foreign Registration Officer for any length of stay in India, and is entitled to general 'parity with Non-Resident Indians in respect of all facilities available to them in economic, financial and educational fields except in matters relating to the acquisition of agricultural or plantation properties'.

Year-wise OCI card issued is as follows:

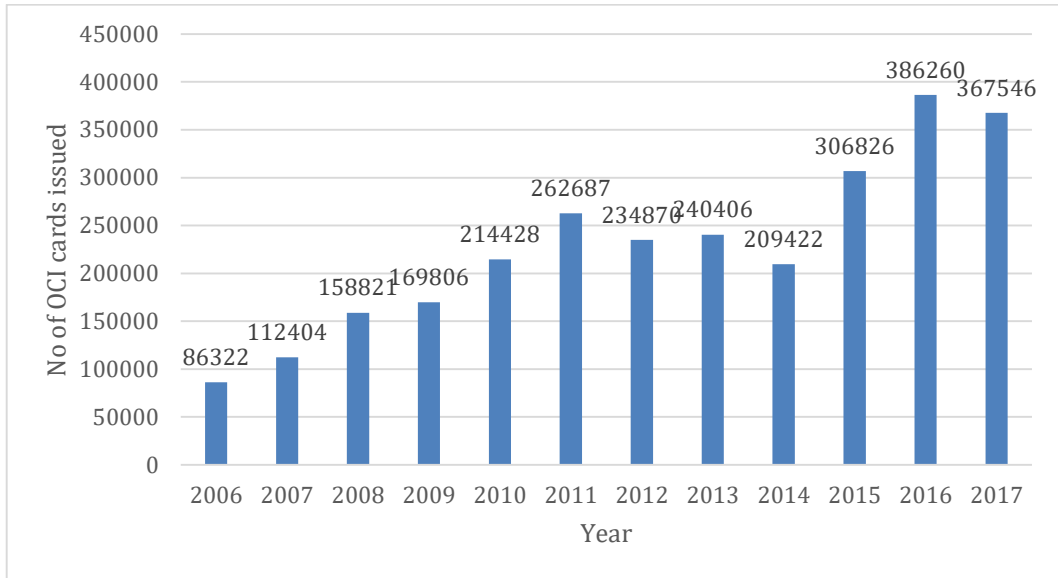
Table 3: Annual Issuance of OCI Cards

Sl No	Year	No of OCI card issued
1	2006	86322
2	2007	112404
3	2008	158821
4	2009	169806
5	2010	214428
6	2011	262687
7	2012	234870
8	2013	240406
9	2014	209422
10	2015	306826
11	2016	386260
12	2017	367546

Source:<https://data.gov.in/catalog/overseas-citizenship-india-oci-details-country-mission>,
Accessed on 28 January 2020

The growth of OCI cards from 2006-2017 is depicted in the graph below:

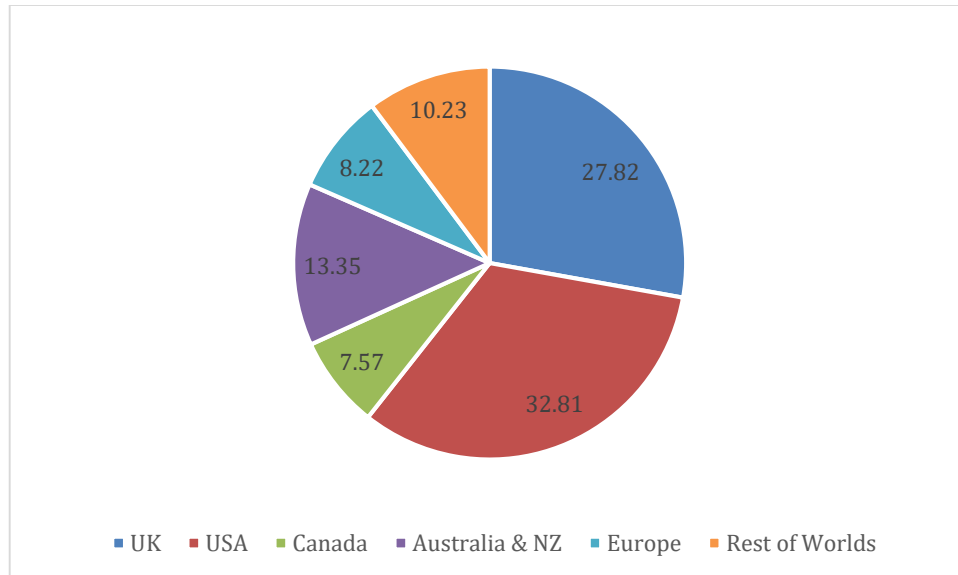
Figure 3: Growth of OCI Cards from 2006-2017



Source:<https://data.gov.in/catalog/overseas-citizenship-india-oci-details-country-mission>, Accessed on 28 January 2020

Percentage distribution of OCIs across the world is as follows:

Figure 4: The Percentage share of OCI across the World



Source:<https://data.gov.in/catalog/overseas-citizenship-india-oci-details-country-mission>, Accessed on 28 January 2020

As per the Annual Report of the Ministry of Home Affairs 2018-19¹⁴, a total of 32,53,912 foreign nationals have been registered as OCI cardholders and 4,14,906 OCI cards have been issued in lieu of PIO cards as on 31.03.2019.

An on-line OCI miscellaneous service¹⁵ is available for re-issuance /issuance of duplicate OCI documents, in case of issuance of new passport, change of personal particulars, viz. nationality, name, change of address/occupation, etc. and loss/damage of OCI registration certificate/visa.

The OCI scheme is one of the most popular schemes amongst the Overseas Indian Community. However, there are problems in the implementation of the scheme. There are few issues which should be publicized widely in the overseas Indian community like OCI registration certificate have to be got re-issued each time a new passport is issued up to the completion of 20 years of age and once after completion of 50 years of age in view of biological changes in the face of OCI cardholder.

There is also a delay in the issuance of OCI cards to the applicants due to inadequate availability of resources in the Indian Mission abroad and a large volume of works relating to OCI.

¹⁴ OCI cards issued: https://mha.gov.in/sites/default/files/AnnualReport_English_01102019.pdf

¹⁵ Available at <https://ociservices.gov.in/>

3.4.9 Providing Legal/Financial assistance to Indian Women Deserted by their Overseas Spouses

The objective of the scheme is to provide financial assistance to needy women in distress due to being deserted/divorced by their overseas spouses, for getting access to counseling and legal services. The counseling and legal services are provided through credible Indian Women's Organisations/Indian Community Associations and NGOs empanelled with the Indian Missions.

The scheme is applicable to 13 countries and has provided grants to 127 women since 2008. Petitioners use this assistance to seek redressal from foreign courts on issues such as restoration of conjugal rights, maintenance, contesting the ex-parte divorce, custody of children, abuse/ harassment by the spouse, etc.

Between January 2016 and 31st May 2019 Ministry of External Affairs (including the Indian Missions abroad) has received and addressed 4698 complaints of distressed Indian women deserted by their NRI spouses. The year-wise data of the complaints addressed are as below:

Table 4: Complaints of distressed Indian women deserted by their NRI spouses

Sl No	Year	Number of Complaints addressed
1	2016	1510
2	2017	1498
3	2018	1299
4	2019	391 (up to 31 st May 2019)
	Total	4698

Source: MEA Website (<https://mea.gov.in/lok-sabha.htm?dtl/31577/QUESTION+NO2912+NRI+HUSBANDS>)

The High-Level Committee on the Indian Diaspora (HLCID) had recommended that a special Cell should be created in the new organizational structure recommended for Diaspora engagement to handle diaspora issues with a mandate to assist in the provision of free legal counseling for the families of the girls contemplating marriage to NRIs/PIOs. Such families should be advised to check the voter or alien registration card of such NRIs/PIOs, their social security number and tax returns for the preceding three years. The bridegroom should be asked to give an affidavit stating his current marital status. This document should be attached to the application for marriage registration. This should be a mandatory prerequisite to the issuance of the marriage registration certificate.

3.4.10 India Development Foundation of Overseas Indians (IDF-OI)

The Indian Diaspora constitutes a significant economic, social and cultural force in the world. Overseas Indians estimated at over thirty million are spread across 205 countries. Diaspora philanthropy is not a new phenomenon. In recent years it has emerged as an integral part of the social development effort in the country. Many overseas Indians and organizations donate generously to various social causes. Overseas Indians have responded to India's development needs too, as catalysts, by connecting with and contributing to initiatives in the social development sectors. Their contributions come in the form of philanthropic capital; time, effort and knowledge; contribution to civil society and direct association with projects in the social sector including education, health care, women empowerment, and rural development.

Diaspora Philanthropy has been sporadic with a few groups or individuals participating, primarily through individual networks such as alumni groups, family trusts, and faith-based associations, rather than through a sustainable and credible institutional arrangement. As a result, the philanthropic capital flow has been far short of the potential that the overseas Indian community holds. The flow of philanthropic capital has been fragmented and dispersed across several social causes and geographies with less than optimal outcomes.

The absence of a credible single window that can lead philanthropic capital into need-based social sectors has resulted in a mushrooming of several small 'less than credible' private institutions and causes with poor accountability seeking Diaspora philanthropy. This can and has, in some instances, eroded the confidence of the overseas Indian in engaging more proactively in philanthropy in India.

The larger overseas Indian philanthropic organizations or individuals are able to comply with the regulatory framework (FCRA) that governs philanthropic activities and institutions in India. The vast majority of the overseas Indian middle class, however, despite strong philanthropic propensities and the ability to individually commit smaller resources, which taken as a group can be considerable, find it difficult to fulfill the requirements of the FCRA and often choose not to participate. As a consequence, the large overseas Indian philanthropist middle class remains outside this area of engagement.

Keeping above in the view, the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs had registered the India Development Foundation of Overseas Indians (IDF-OI) in 2008 as a not-for-profit trust to provide a credible window for Overseas Indian Philanthropy in India's social development.

The objective of the foundation was to facilitate philanthropic activities by Overseas Indians including through innovative projects and instruments such as microcredit for rural entrepreneurs, self-help groups for economic empowerment of women, best practice interventions in primary education and technology interventions in rural health care delivery.

IDF-OI's mandate was revised in May 2015 to channelize contributions from Overseas Indians towards National Mission for Clean Ganga; Swachh Bharat Mission, and social and development projects by State Governments. Since its inception till 31.03.2017, IDF-OI has received a total contribution of Rs. 4.36 crore from Overseas Indians which enabled the construction of Community toilets in Vijayawada, Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh; and a Public toilet in Amritsar, Punjab through Municipalities, State Govt agencies. To enable small and regular contributions to projects and to IDF-OI Pool fund, an online Payment Gateway was launched on 31 July 2016. However, the IDF-OI has been closed down on 31 March 2018¹⁶.

The High-Level Committee for Indian Diaspora too had strongly recommended specific efforts to tap the philanthropic propensities of the Indian Diaspora including the establishment of a central institution for facilitating Diaspora philanthropy. The India Development Foundation was set up by MOIA in line with the HLCID recommendation.

¹⁶ IDF details available at <https://mea.gov.in/IDF-OI.htm>

There is a need to re-establish the institutional mechanism for promoting philanthropy and social development in India by the overseas community, including through philanthropic foundations, self-help groups, and public-private partnerships.

3.4.11 Prime Minister's Global Advisory Council of Overseas Indians

The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA) had constituted the Prime Minister's Global Advisory Council of People of Indian Origin in 2009 to draw upon the experience and knowledge of eminent people of Indian origin in diverse fields from across the world. The Council was chaired by the Prime Minister and the renowned people of Indian Origin across the world were selected as its Members.

The functions of the Council were as follows:

- (i) Serve as a platform for the Prime Minister to draw upon the experience, knowledge, and wisdom of the best Indian minds wherever they may be based;
- (ii) Develop an inclusive agenda for two-way engagement between India and Overseas Indians;
- (iii) Consider ways and means for accessing the skills and knowledge of the Indian diaspora for meeting India's development goals and facilitating investments by Overseas Indians into India; and
- (iv) Institution and capacity building in India to respond to the economic, social and cultural needs of the Overseas Indian community.

The advice of the Council was recommendatory in nature and served as a valuable input for policy formulation and program planning. The first Council meeting was held on 7th January 2010 chaired by the then Prime Minister and attended by eminent Overseas Indians including Prof. Jagdish Bhagwati, Shri. Karan F. Bilimoria, Shri Swadesh Chatterjee, Ms. Ela Gandhi, Shri Rajat K. Gupta, Lord Khalid Hameed, Dr. Renu Khator, Shri Kishore Mahbubani, Shri PNC Menon, Shri L.N. Mittal, Lord Bhiku Chotalal Parekh, Dr. Sam Pitroda, Tan Sri Dato' Ajit Singh, Mr. Neville Joseph Roach, Prof. Srinivasa SR Varadhan and Mr. Yusuffali M.A.

The second PMGAC meeting was held on 7 January 2011 at New Delhi, the third meeting in Jaipur on 7 January 2012 during the PBD 2012 and the fourth meeting of PMGAC were held on 7 January 2013 in Kochi.

Some of the recommendations made by the PMGAC during its meetings were as follows:

- Leveraging the knowledge resources of the overseas community to improve the quality of higher education;
- Operationalizing the idea of flexible learning for imparting quality higher education;
- Ways and means to engage the younger second and third-generation overseas Indians in a sustained manner through Internships for young students, Study India programs and Visits by young academics;

- Strengthen the institutional mechanism for promoting philanthropy and social development in India by the overseas community, including through philanthropic foundations, self-help groups, and public-private partnerships;
- Create a comprehensive and scientific database of overseas Indians;
- Institutional arrangements to address problems faced by the Indian Diaspora;
- Special recognition and honoring of migrant workers under the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas framework;
- Open investment avenues for small and medium investors in the overseas Indian community to enable them to invest in India and benefit from India's economic opportunities through investment instruments such as 'NRI-India Infrastructure Bonds';
- Create an electronic exchange to build a ready pool of experts in different field like health, education, urban development, sanitation, and inventory of master trainers in skill development;
- Policy Coherence and Overseas Indians as Strategic Resource.

PMGAC has not been revived after the merger of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs with the Ministry of External Affairs in 2016. The PMGAC platform was created for engaging eminent overseas Indians for leveraging their experience and strengths in the areas of Science and Technology, education and other social sector development in India.

3.4.12 Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre (OIFC)

MOIA had set up an Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre (OIFC) as a not-for-profit trust in 2007, in partnership with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). The Centre was developed as a ‘one-stop-shop’ for serving the interests of the Overseas Indian community and had the mandate to cover two broad areas: Investment Facilitation and Knowledge Networking.

The objectives of the OIFC were:

- Promote Overseas Indian investment into India and facilitate business partnership, by giving authentic and real-time information.
- Function as a clearinghouse for all investment-related information. This would be done by processing information on a real-time basis through the ICT platform.
- Establish and maintain a Diaspora Knowledge Network by creating a database of Overseas Indians, who would act as Knowledge Diaspora and whose knowledge resources could be accessed using ICT platform.
- Assist States in India to project investment opportunities to Overseas Indians in the infrastructure and social sectors and to bring the Indian States, Indian Businesses and potential Overseas Investors on the same platform and to facilitate the investors to identify the investment opportunities.
- Provide a host of advisory services to PIO and NRIs. These could include matters such as consular questions, stay in India, investment and financial issues, etc.

The OIFC since its inception on 28th May 2007, has taken significant initiatives in its effort to promote and simplify the Diaspora's economic interface with India. In line with its mandate, OIFC continued to serve as an information resource center for the Diaspora, regularly updating them with the state-sector investment opportunities, trends, and economy overviews, through its business networking portal, query address, and monthly e-newsletter – 'India Connect'.

In order to service its subscribers, the OIFC had on its board various categories of partners such as State Government Diaspora/ investment cells; industry players in the areas of banking and financial services, taxation, and market entry services; as well as international business associations serving the interests of the Diaspora in various regions overseas.

OIFC continued to address queries of the Indian diaspora through its online 20x5 live facilitation service, provided specialized advisory and consultation services through its State and Knowledge Partners. Opportunities for investment and business engagement were also showcased through OIFC's Investment & Interactive Meets and Interactive Sessions.

Following the merger of erstwhile MOIA with the Ministry of External Affairs in February 2016, work pertaining to promotion of direct foreign and non-resident investment in industrial and service projects, as well as overall promotion of investment by overseas Indians was allocated to Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) under

Allocation of Business Rules issued in February 2016. Consequently, OIFC has been closed down on 30.03.2017¹⁷.

India is already the highest recipient of remittances from the overseas Indians. However, given the profile of the Indian Diaspora, the investment by overseas Indians has been far short of its potential. While there is high interest amongst overseas Indians to invest in India, there is a need for a market-driven institutional platform for economic engagement with the diaspora that will facilitate a two-way flow of overseas Indian investments into India as well as promote Business-to-Business partnerships of Indian businesses with overseas Indians.

3.4.13 Global Indian Network of Knowledge Network (Global INK)

The emergence of significant Diasporas across the world has in recent years brought into sharp focus two key facts. First, there is a large expatriate population of skilled people from emerging economies in the developed world. Second, overseas communities can and do constitute a significant resource for the development of the countries of origin. The movement of the highly skilled and low skilled workers from less to more developed economies and back opens several new opportunities for development. While the movement of educated, skilled and trained people was for long seen as ‘brain drain’, increasingly countries of origin are beginning to recognize that their diasporas represent

¹⁷ Available at <https://www.mea.gov.in/lok-sabha.htm?dtl/28709>

knowledge in diverse fields and that this knowledge reservoir can be drawn upon as ‘brain gain’. Establishing an institutional framework for sustainable engagement can lead to harnessing the knowledge, expertise, skills, and resources of the vast and diverse overseas Indian community into home country development efforts. Such a framework can pull in the diaspora as ‘Knowledge’ partners, the institutions in India as ‘Stakeholder’ partners and the Government as a ‘Facilitator’. Towards this end, establishing a ‘Global Indian Knowledge Network’ – a dynamic electronic platform for knowledge transfer – supported by a program of training and visits by the overseas Indian knowledge partners would give a fillip to knowledge exchange between the Diaspora and India. The key objective of this exchange was to draw upon the vast knowledge base of the Indian Diaspora and deploy technology and innovation across sectors and geographies in India through well-designed projects with targeted and measurable outcomes.

Today’s world, enabled by information and communication technology (ICT) can offer the opportunity to tap India’s Diaspora knowledge resources through an electronic network that connects Overseas Indians (the knowledge providers) with the development process (the knowledge receivers) in India and empowers them to partner in India’s progress. Such a network can connect people of Indian Origin from a variety of disciplines, recognized as leaders in their respective fields, not just in their country of residence but globally as well, with knowledge users at the national and sub-national levels in India. The Diaspora Knowledge network can serve as a high-level electronic platform to facilitate knowledge transfer from wherever it may be based without the overseas expert having to relocate and can also serve as a strategic ‘virtual think tank’.

MOIA had developed a Diaspora knowledge network called Global Indian Network of Knowledge (Global INK) in 2009 as an electronic platform (www.globalink.in) to connect people of Indian Origin from a variety of disciplines, recognized as leaders in their respective fields, not just in their country of residence but globally as well, with knowledge users at the national and sub-national levels in India.

The Global INK was developed to serve as a high-level electronic platform to facilitate knowledge transfer from wherever it may be based without the overseas expert having to relocate. The Network was designed to serve as a strategic ‘virtual think-tank’. The outcome targeted was the germination of ideas on development, identification of the key elements in addressing the challenges to development and articulating and mapping out solutions through innovation and technological interventions.

This was in line with Transfer of Knowledge through Expatriate Nationals (TOKTEN) program of UNDP as recommended by HLCID. TOKTEN is jointly administered by UNDP and UN Volunteers. It aims to transfer the technical expertise of expatriates through short term consultancies in their countries of origin. These are not envisaged as employment missions, but rather as short-term voluntary services. However, the Global INK platform is not operational now.

3.4.14 Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra

To commemorate the evolution and achievements of Indian Diaspora, a Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra (PBK) has been set-up at Chanakypuri, New Delhi as a state-of-the-art building.

The Kendra was inaugurated on 2 October 2016. The Kendra has, among other facilities, a library; meeting rooms; a 350-seater auditorium; a permanent exhibition space; guest rooms; a Banquet Hall and a restaurant. The model of the Kendra was unveiled on the occasion of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas on 8th January 2008.

An interactive digital museum named ‘Gandhi Ek Pravasi’ is being exhibited on the first floor of the Kendra depicting the life of Gandhiji in South Africa and his return to India; his role in independence movements and his journey of becoming a mass leader in India.

The Library, situated on the second floor of the Kendra, is a valuable repository of material about the Indian Diaspora. It has a collection of over 2800 books related to the trials and tribulations of the Diaspora, their histories, genealogies, evolution, empowerment, education and the present status. It also has a special corner of literature from major Diaspora countries, their current publications, and magazines. Literature in all national languages is available at the library including periodicals, books, and digital material. With an emphasis on digital material, the library provides access to major digital knowledge networks in India.

3.4.15 Overseas Indian Centre

The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs in 2008 had established three number of Overseas Indian Centres in the Indian Missions at Abu Dhabi, Washington DC and Kuala Lumpur as filed offices of MOIA in these countries to look after the interest of the Overseas Indian

Community. However, the Overseas Indian Centres are not active after the merger of MOIA with MEA in 2016¹⁸.

3.5 Mainstreaming Diaspora Policy

The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs had taken initiative for diaspora policy coherence in the key ministries of the government in 2012 as per the recommendation made by the PMGAC. The mainstreaming of Diaspora policy across government is central to achieving strategic outcomes in an increasingly globalizing world. The interests of diverse stakeholders and those of countries of origin as also countries of destination, hitherto, seen as adversarial, center on the question “How can we maximize the development impact of migration for all”?

India was one of the early pioneers to recognize its overseas community as a vast reservoir of resources, skills, and talent and to focus on devoting mainstream policy attention to engage the Global Indian. India was amongst the first countries in 2004, to establish a separate Diaspora Ministry.

MOIA had identified the following six fundamental Strategic Imperatives to be owned and supported on a government-wide basis:

- Transforming Brain-drain to Brain-gain;
-

¹⁸ Overseas Indian Center details available at <https://www.mea.gov.in/overseas-indian-centres-abroad.htm>

- Facilitating Diaspora philanthropy;
- Overseas Indians as a Strategic Resource;
- International Migration- Positioning India as a preferred source country for economic migration;
- Establishing strategic economic depth in new destination countries;
- Protection and Welfare- Providing institutional support to Vulnerable Overseas Indians including women.

However, while this has helped strengthen the economic, social and cultural bond between India and its Overseas community, India is yet to fully reap its full benefits. Equally, while the problems and concerns of Overseas Indians are now beginning to be addressed, considerable work remains to be done. Simply put, engaging the Global Indian is as yet a work in progress and there is a slew of challenges that need to be addressed.

India needs to engage in key areas of technological innovation, scientific research, education and, health care that hold enormous potential for leveraging resources, knowledge, and skills. However, if we are to generate momentum on our engagement and if we are to see tangible outcomes on the ground, in India and abroad; there is an overarching challenge that needs policy attention. The challenge is to achieve internal policy coherence.

A key constraint germane to policy discourse as well as the design and execution of policies, programs, and institutional interventions is that Diaspora and Migration Policy is

not mainstreamed into Development Policy on a Government-wide basis. Engaging the Global Indian is often seen as the concern solely of one ministry, and as running counter to the priorities of other ministries that are part of the engagement, while in fact, the success or failure of a new program or initiative depends on the active participation of the related ministries. This absence of coherence in the policy on engaging the Global Indian has resulted in a fragmented approach.

For a large part, this is both an attitude problem as well as an institutional constraint arising from the absence of convergence of perspectives across the government to recognize the Diaspora as a partner. It is therefore necessary that engaging the Global Indians should be owned by all Departments across the Government if the full potential of this partnership is to be realized.

3.6 Main Development in the Indian Diaspora Policy

The main Developments in the Indian Diaspora Policy are summarized below:

Table 5: Main Development in the Indian Diaspora Policy

Sl No	Year	Main Developments
1	2000	High-Level Committee on Indian Diaspora (HLC) was created by the Government of India in September 2000
2	2001	Submission of HLC Report to the Government in December 2001
3	2003	First Pravasi Bharatiya Divas(PBD) or the day to commemorate diasporic Indians was organized in January 2003

		Institution of Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award (PBSA)
4	2004	<p>The government established the Ministry of Non-Resident Indians' Affairs in May 2004, later renamed the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, as the nodal ministry for all matters relating to the Indian diaspora</p> <p>Know India Programme (KIP) started to help familiarize Indian Diaspora youth, in the age group of 18-30 years</p>
5	2005	Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) Scheme was launched in August 2005
6	2006	<p>Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children (SPDC) was launched</p> <p>First bilateral Social Security Agreement between India and Belgium was signed on 3rd November 2006</p>
7	2007	Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre (OIFC) was set up in 2007 for economic engagement with Diaspora
8	2008	<p>Establishment of the Indian Development Foundation of Overseas Indians (IDF-OI) to promote diaspora philanthropy</p> <p>Creation of Indian Council of Overseas Employment (ICOE) now renamed as India Centre for Migration (ICM)</p> <p>Tracing the Roots scheme launched.</p> <p>Overseas Indian Centre (OIC) established at the Indian Missions at Washington and Abu Dhabi to serve as field formations on matters relating to overseas Indians</p>
9	2009	<p>Constitution of Prime Minister's Global Advisory Council of Overseas Indians (PMGAC)</p> <p>Development of Global Indian Network of Knowledge (Global-INK)</p>

		<p>Indian Community Welfare Fund was set up in 2009 to provide on-site welfare activities for the Overseas Indian Citizens in distress</p> <p>The Overseas Workers Resource Centre (OWRC) was set up in 2009 as a Helpline for assistance and protection of Indians working abroad</p> <p>MOU on Labour Mobility Partnership with Denmark was signed in 2009.</p>
10	2010	<p>The first meeting of the Prime Minister's Global Advisory Council was held in January 2010</p> <p>Indian Worker Resource Centers (IWRCs) now renamed as Pravasi Bharatiya Sahayata Kendra (PBSK) was set up in Dubai on 23rd November 2010</p> <p>The eMigrate Project in 2010 was undertaken with a vision to transform emigration into a simple, transparent, orderly and humane process</p>
11	2011	<p>The second meeting of PM's Global Advisory Council of Overseas Indians was held in January 2011</p> <p>A memorial plaque was unveiled for indentured workers at Kolkata Port Trust on 11 January 2011 to depict the emigration of indentured workers from Kolkata in the 19th and early 20th century.</p> <p>Voting Rights to Non- Resident Indians (NRIs)</p>
12	2012	<p>Mahatma Gandhi Suraksha Pravasi Yojana (MGPSY), a voluntary scheme for protection and welfare of the emigrant workers in Emigration check required (ECR) countries was launched</p> <p>The third meeting of PM's Global Advisory Council of Overseas Indians was held in January 2012</p>

13	2013	<p>The 11th edition of the Pravasi Bhartiya Divas convention was held at Kochi from 7-9 January 2013.</p> <p>The fourth meeting of PM's Global Advisory Council of Overseas Indians was held in January 2013</p>
14	2014	<p>Social Security Agreement between India and Australia was signed on 18th November 2014</p>
15	2015	<p>The 13th PBD was held at Gandhinagar, Gujarat during 7-9 January 2015. This PBD was special as it was the centenary year of the return of Mahatma Gandhi to India in 1915.</p> <p>The format of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) was revised in 2015 with the objective of ensuring sustained and issue-based engagement with the Indian Diaspora. It was decided that the PBD Convention would be held once in two years in India</p> <p>The merger of PIO and OCI Cards</p>
16	2016	<p>The merger of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs with the Ministry of External Affairs in January 2016</p> <p>The Joint Declaration on a Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility (CAMM) between India and the European Union and its Member States was signed on 29 March 2016</p> <p>To commemorate the evolution and achievements of Indian Diaspora, a Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra (PBK) has been set-up at Chanakyapuri, New Delhi. The Kendra was inaugurated on 2 October 2016</p>
17	2017	<p>The Ministry of External Affairs organized the 14th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention from 8-9 January 2017 in Bengaluru</p>

		Youth Pravasi Bharatiya Divas was held on 7 January 2017 to strengthen the connection with young overseas Indians.
18	2018	Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement was signed between India and France in March 2018
19	2019	PBD was organized on 21-23 January 2019 to enable participants to participate in Kumbh Mela at Prayagraj on 24 January 2019 and to witness the Republic Day Parade at New Delhi on 26 January 2019.

Source: Compiled by the author from Annual reports of MOIA/MEA

Chapter 4

Migration and Development

4.1 Introduction

Migration is one of the defining features of the 21st century. It contributes significantly to all aspects of economic and social development everywhere, and as such will be key to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

There are five main conclusions emerged in the Migration and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development¹⁹:

- Migration is a powerful poverty reduction tool, which can contribute to the achievement of all SDGs;
- Migrants can contribute to the provision and delivery of services and to greater development in host countries;
- The specific risks and vulnerabilities of migrants are often overlooked;
- The implementation of existing programs of support for migrants is often weak; and
- There are major data gaps. The poor visibility of migrants in data limits understanding of their needs and reduces the accountability of governments and service providers.

¹⁹Available at <https://www.odi.org/publications/10913-migration-and-2030-agenda-sustainable-development>

Although the relationship between migration and development is increasingly recognized, it remains underexplored. The lack of opportunities and investment in origin countries can drive migration. Migration can improve development and investment in origin countries, fill labor gaps and foster innovation in host countries, and can contribute to development along the journey (or, in ‘transit countries’). It is an effective poverty reduction tool, not just for migrants themselves, but also for their families and their wider communities.

As per the UN International Migrant Stock 2019 report²⁰, the number of international migrants worldwide has reached nearly 272 million, up from 221 million in 2010. Europe hosted the largest number of international migrants (82 million), followed by Northern America (59 million) and Northern Africa and Western Asia (49 million). The regional distribution of international migrants is changing, with migrant populations growing faster in Northern Africa and Western Asia and in sub-Saharan Africa than in other regions

The global number of international migrants has grown faster than the world’s population. Consequently, the share of international migrants in the total population has increased from 2.8 % in the year 2000 to 3.5% in 2019. The share of international migrants in the total population varied considerably across regions, with Oceania (21%), including Australia and New Zealand, and Northern America (16%) recording the highest proportions. In 2019, two-thirds of all international migrants were living in just 20 countries. The largest number of international migrants (51 million) resided in the United States of America, equal to about 19% of the world’s total.

²⁰ Available at <https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/data/estimates2/estimates19.asp>

Germany and Saudi Arabia hosted the second and third largest numbers of migrants worldwide (around 13 million each), followed by the Russian Federation (12 million) and the United Kingdom (10 million).

India was the leading country of origin of international migrants in 2019 with 17.5 million persons living abroad. Migrants from Mexico constituted the second largest “diaspora” (11.8 million), followed by China (10.7 million), the Russian Federation (10.5 million) and the Syrian Arab Republic (8.2 million).

The share of women in the total number of international migrants fell from 49.3% in 2000 to 47.9% in 2019. The share of migrant women was highest in Northern America (51.8%) and Europe (51.4%), and lowest in sub-Saharan Africa (47.5%), and Northern Africa and Western Asia (35.5%).

4.2 International Migration from India

India is a major player in International migration. As a major country of origin, transit, and destination, India has a strategic interest in how international migration policy is articulated. While from a policy perspective, to migrate or not to migrate, is an individual choice exercised by the citizen, India certainly can benefit from a robust, transparent and orderly migration management framework.

The key challenge, however, is to see how India can transform demographic dividend potential into robust avenues for employment of Indian abroad. In a world where barriers

to the movement of goods, capital, and technology are diminishing, the next frontier of globalization will be the mobility of workers and professionals across international borders. The pace and direction of international migration in the future will be shaped substantially by global demography of ageing population in the northern hemisphere and young population in parts of Asia. In most countries of Europe and west large labor, supply gaps are expected to emerge. This asymmetry in the demand for and supply of workers will be a structural problem, not a cyclical one. The most ageing economy will, therefore, have to source foreign workers. If India needs to seize this opportunity, it must focus on building a large workforce that can meet the International standard of skills.

Despite decades of growth in India, the overall proportion of informal workers in total employment (e.g., unorganized sector workers plus informal workers in the organized sector) has remained relatively stable. Hence, a majority of the Indian workforce deals with some level of informality in their employment. According to the Periodic Labour Force Survey²¹ (PLFS) of the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), the unemployment rate was 5.8% among males and 3.8 % among females in rural areas, while the rates were 7.1% among males and 10.8% among females in urban areas. The opportunities to find formal employment with decent wages and job security are restricted. An ILO study²² shows that low-skilled migrant workers are earning approximately 1.5–3 times more in wages in the

²¹ ILO, India Labour Migration Update 2018 available at

https://www.ilo.org/newdelhi/whatwedo/publications/WCMS_631532/lang--en/index.htm

²² Periodic Labour Force Survey, http://www.mospi.gov.in/sites/default/files/publication_reports/Annual%20Report%2C%20PLFS%202017-18_31052019.pdf

destination countries (Kuwait, KSA, and UAE), even when the wages are compared with the highest rate of minimum wages prevailing among the different Indian states. In such a scenario, emigration for work with a formal contract and better wages are major driving motivations to leave.

The flow of Indian emigrant workers to ECR countries from 2008-2019 is shown below in the table:

Table 6: Year-wise Emigration Clearance Granted

Sl No	Year	No of Emigration Clearance(EC) Granted
1	2008	784354
2	2009	608002
3	2010	639901
4	2011	637337
5	2012	746349
6	2013	819701
7	2014	805005
8	2015	784152
9	2016	520938
10	2017	391024
11	2018	340157
12	2019	368048

Source: <https://emigrate.gov.in/ext/preViewPdfGenRptAction.action>, Accessed on 20.01.2020

From the above table, it can be seen that there was a decline in the emigration clearance granted to workers going for employment to ECR countries from 2009-2010. This decline was due to the global financial crisis in 2009. However, there is a sharp decline in the emigration clearance granted from 2016 onward. It could be attributed to the fall in oil prices.

The decision to emigrate for work is influenced by a number of factors, especially the availability of employment at home, within the home country and at the destination. Wages earned, skill levels, living and working conditions, cost of migration and cultural factors also influence such decisions.

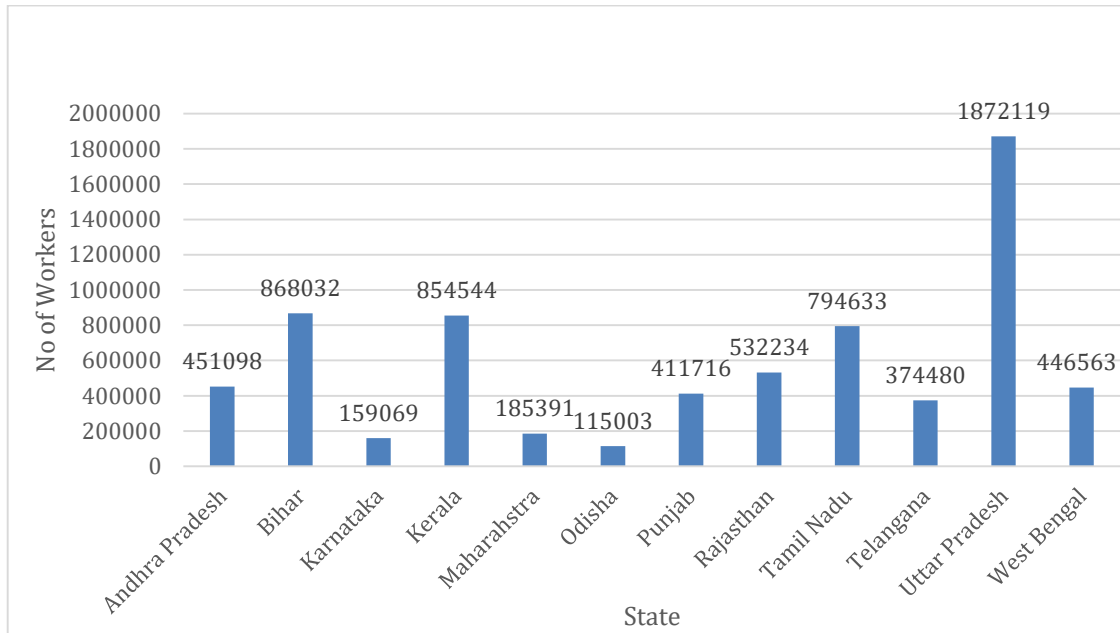
The major labor-sending states and number of labor went to ECR countries is shown below in the table and also represented in the graphical form:

Table 7: Major Labour Sending States to ECR countries in India

SI No	State	No of Workers from 2008-2019
1	Andhra Pradesh	451098
2	Bihar	868032
3	Karnataka	159069
4	Kerala	854544
5	Maharashtra	185391
6	Odisha	115003
7	Punjab	411716
8	Rajasthan	532234
9	Tamil Nadu	794633
10	Telangana	374480
11	Uttar Pradesh	1872119
12	West Bengal	446563

Source: <https://emigrate.gov.in/ext/preViewPdfGenRptAction.action>, Accessed on 20.01.2020

Figure 5: The Major Labour Sending States from India from 2008-2019

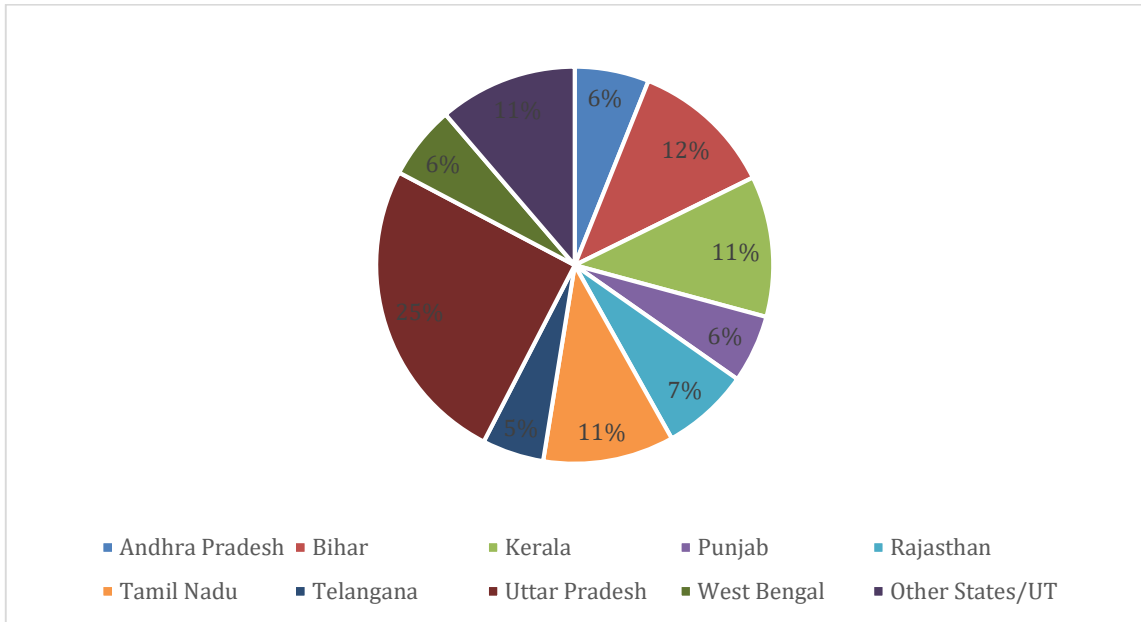


Source: <https://emigrate.gov.in/ext/preViewPdfGenRptAction.action>, Accessed on 20.01.2020

It can be seen from above that Uttar Pradesh is the leading state for sending the maximum no of workers to ECR countries followed by Bihar and Kerala. Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have the youngest population in India.

State-wise share of workers going to ECR countries is as follows:

Figure 6: The Percentage share of Major Labor-sending states from India from 2008-2019

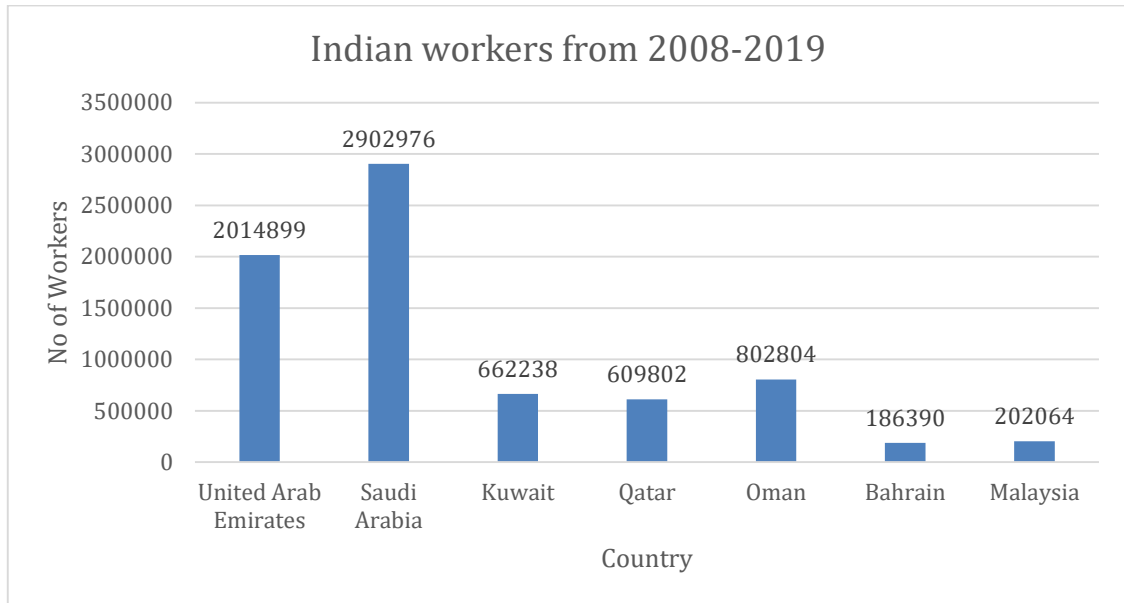


Source: <https://emigrate.gov.in/ext/preViewPdfGenRptAction.action>, Accessed on 20.01.2020

The above graph depicts the top labor-sending states in India to ECR countries; Uttar Pradesh is the leading state followed by Bihar, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Despite a decline in 2016-2019 in the ECR category, it is possible that there are still large numbers of emigrants from Kerala, but that many have graduated into the non-ECR category. High poverty levels, unemployment rates and wage differences between source and destination play an important role in influencing migration choices. The state-wise emigration clearance granted from 2008-2019 is provided in Annexure -I.

Major destination ECR countries for Indian workers are depicted in the following graph:

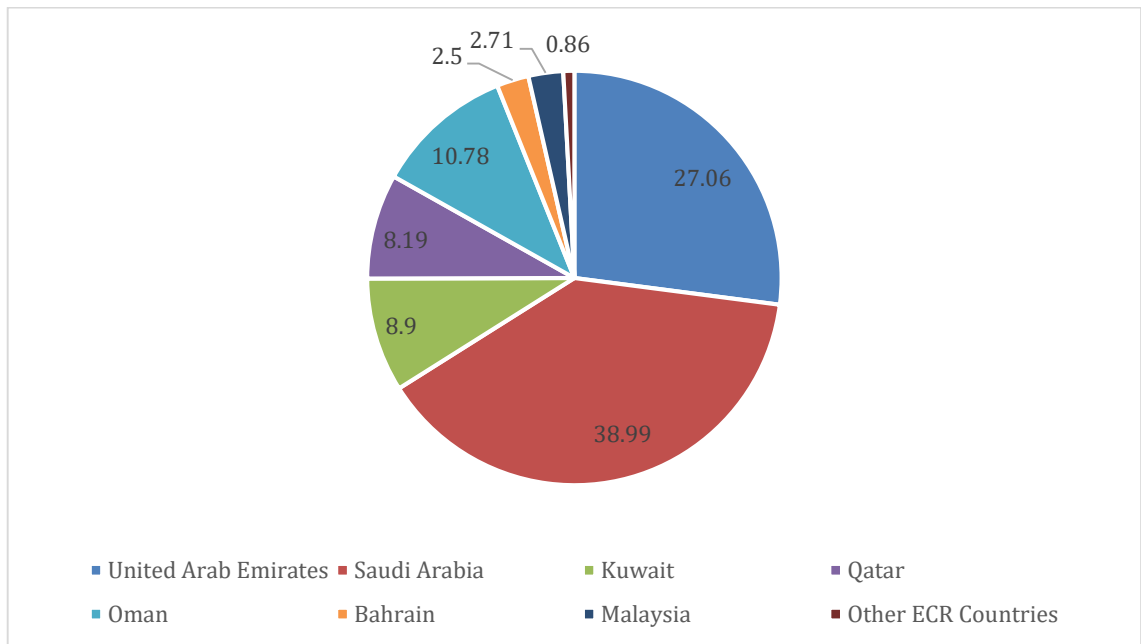
Figure 7: The Major Destination ECR countries for Indian workers from 2008-2019



Source: <https://emigrate.gov.in/ext/preViewPdfGenRptAction.action>, Accessed on 20.01.2020

ECR country-wise % share of Indian workers is depicted in the following graph. It can be seen from this graph that Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates are the preferred destination countries for Indian workers going for employment in ECR countries. The ECR country-wise emigration clearances granted are provided in Annexure-II.

Figure 8: The Percentage share of Indian Workers to ECR countries from 2008-2019



Source: <https://emigrate.gov.in/ext/preViewPdfGenRptAction.action>, Accessed on 20.01.2020

Skills are an important factor in determining wages and the overall migration experience. Low-skilled workers, usually ECR migrants, are more vulnerable to wage exploitation and unacceptable living and working conditions. The Indian government has initiated schemes and programs such as the Skill India initiative to focus on skilling workers and providing training and certification in addition to pre-departure orientation.

ECR flows is a very small proportion of the total labor force in India estimated at nearly 519 million²³ but in comparison with the annual addition to the labor force in the past two decades (at an average of 7 million to 8 million workers per year), the labor outflow figures

²³ Available at <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.TLF.TOTL.IN>

are quite significant, and foreign employment destinations have acted as a crucial safety valve for the Indian labor market. This is particularly important given that the country's employment growth has been much lower in recent years, with some states being more adversely affected than others.

4.3 Remittances and the Indian Economy

The contribution of migrant workers, both highly skilled and low-skilled, has led to India becoming the top recipient of remittances in the world, with over US\$ 78.6 billion received in 2018. FDI inflows for the same year in India were at US\$ 42.3 billion²⁴, underscoring the importance of remittance flows into the Indian economy.

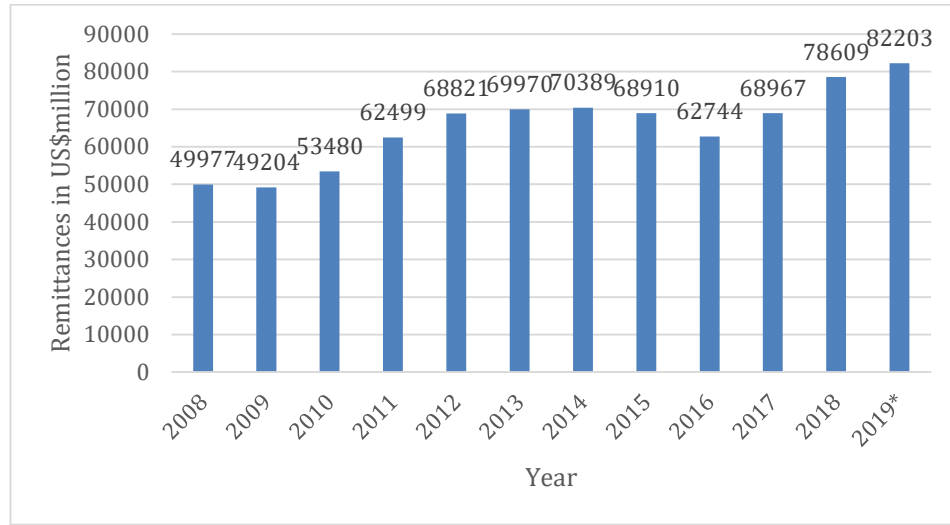
There was a 9% decline in remittances to India in 2016, a trend in line with most other countries in Asia. This decline was due to a host of cyclical factors like the global economic slowdown, especially in the GCC countries, the Russian Federation and Europe. Further, the weakening of the euro and the pound versus the dollar led to a sharper decline in remittances.

Remittances from the GCC make up 52% of remittances received in India and hence, the cyclical decline would have been far more pronounced for India in 2016.

Inward remittances to India from 2008-18 and estimated in 2019 are shown below in the picture:

²⁴ World Investment Report 2019 available at https://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/wir2019_en.pdf

Figure 9: Remittance inflow to India from 2008-2019 (in US\$ million)

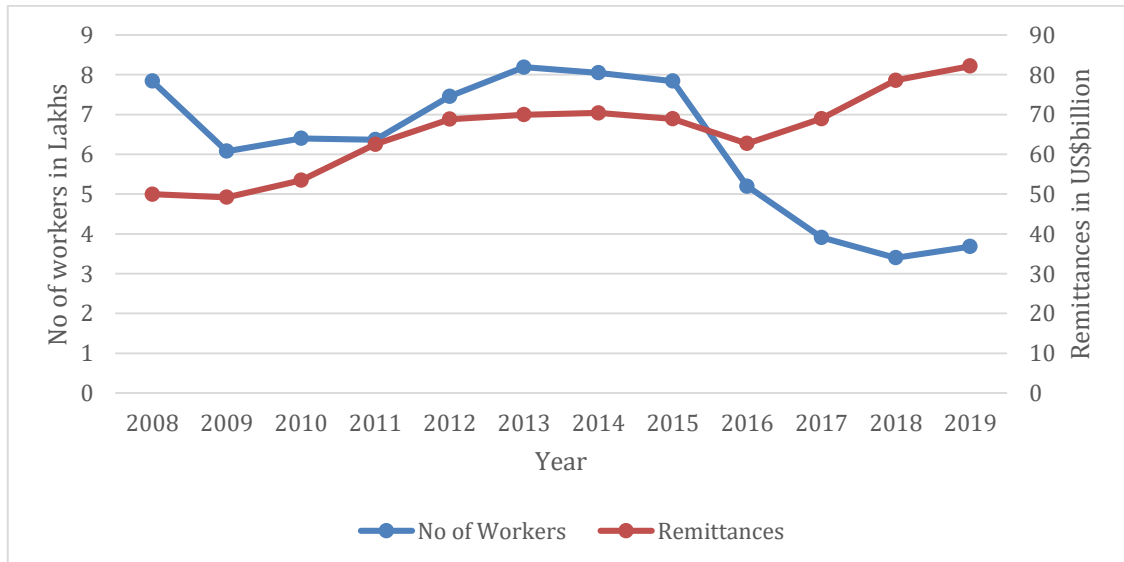


*Estimated

Source: World Bank Migration and Remittances 2019,
<http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/988911571664813952/Remittance-Inflows-October-2019.xlsx>,
 Accessed on 30.01.2020

Inward remittances to India from 2008-18 and estimated in 2019 vs no of workers went for employment to ECR countries is shown below in the graph:

Figure 10: No of Workers vs. Remittances from 2008-2019



Source: World Bank Migration and Remittances 2019 &
<https://emigrate.gov.in/ext/preViewPdfGenRptAction.action>

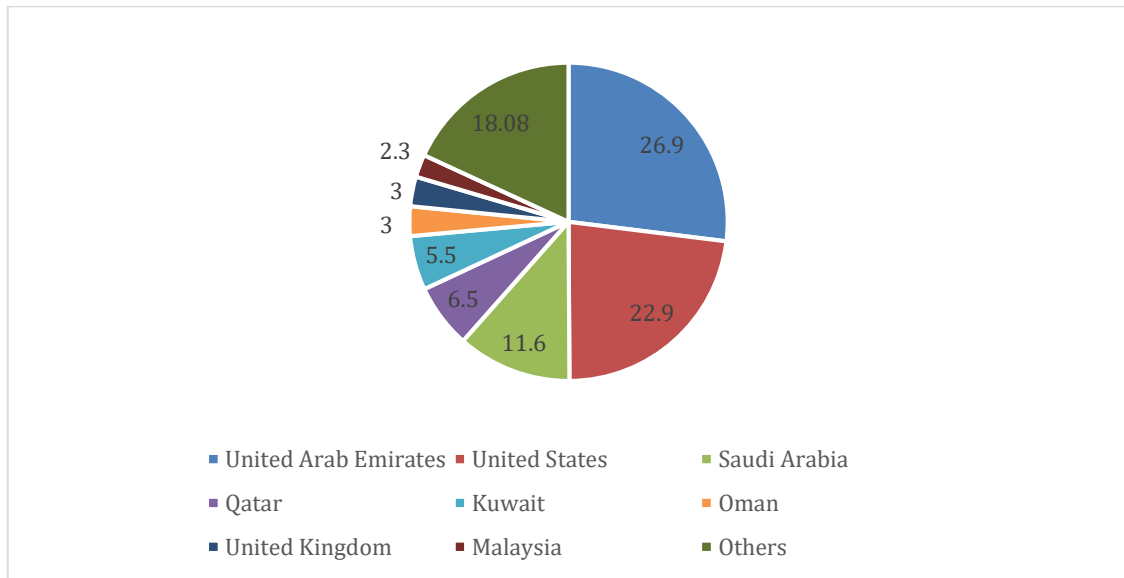
Globally, the remittance market is serviced by commercial banks, money transfer operators (MTOs), foreign exchange houses and post offices as well as a wide variety of commercial entities acting as agents and sub-agents. Banks play a prominent role in intermediating remittances flowing into India.

As per RBI's India's Inward Remittances Survey 2016-17²⁵, Remittances to India were mostly routed through private sector banks (74.2%), followed by public sector banks (17.3 %) and foreign banks (8.5 %). 82 % of the total remittances received by India originated from eight countries, viz., the United Arab Emirates, the United States, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman, the United Kingdom, and Malaysia. Kerala, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu together received 58.7% of total remittances. The size-wise analysis shows that 70.3 % of all reported transactions were of more than US\$ 500 and only 2.7% were of less than US\$ 200. More than half of remittances received by Indian residents were used for family maintenance, i.e., consumption (59.2%), followed by deposits in banks (20%) and investments in landed property and shares (8.3%).

²⁵ RBI's India's Inward Remittances Survey 2016-17 available at

https://www.rbi.org.in/scripts/BS_ViewBulletin.aspx?Id=17882

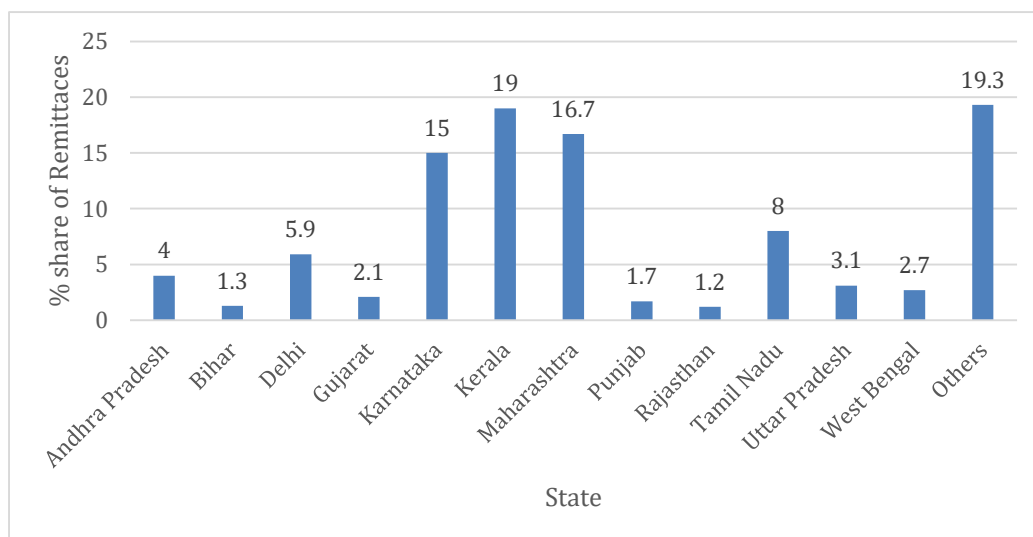
Figure 11: Country-wise share in Total Remittances (in %)



Source: RBI India's Inward Remittances Survey 2016-17

The survey reveals that 58.7% of total remittances were received by four states namely Kerala, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu. The flows of remittances broadly mirror the State-wise composition of the stock of overseas migrants. The Southern States dominated with a combined share of 46 % in total remittances.

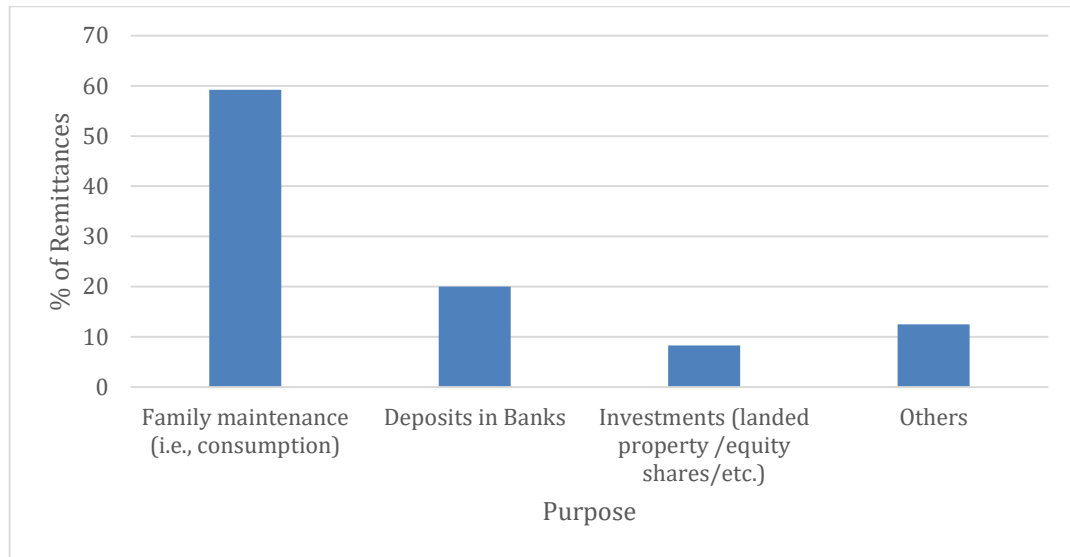
Figure 12: The State-wise share of Remittances (in %)



Source: RBI India's Inward Remittances Survey 2016-17

Distribution of Remittances for purpose is depicted in the following graph:

Figure 13: Purpose of Remittances (in %)



Source: RBI India's Inward Remittances Survey 2016-17

It is estimated that more than half of remittances received by Indian residents were used for family maintenance (i.e., consumption), followed by deposits in banks (20%) and investments in land property and shares (8.3%).

4.4 Protection and Welfare of Emigrants

4.4.1 Indian Community Welfare Fund(ICWF)

Indian Community Welfare Fund was set up in 2009 to provide on-site welfare activities for the Overseas Indian Citizens who are in distress. The ICWF is aimed at assisting Overseas Indian nationals in times of distress and emergency in the most deserving cases on a means-tested basis. The Fund was initially set up in 17 ECR countries and Maldives however as it emerged as an important tool to assist Overseas Indian Nationals, it was

extended to all Indian Missions and Posts abroad. There is no budgetary support for the fund. Its key source of funding is service charge levied by Missions on Passport, Visa and other Consular services. The Fund has become self-sustainable in all the Missions/Posts and its global corpus is around Rs. 400 crores (as on June 2019).

The revision of ICWF guidelines w.e.f 1st September 2017²⁶ have provided Indian Mission/Posts abroad greater flexibility in swiftly addressing requests for assistance by Indian nationals abroad.

The revised guidelines cover three key areas:

- (a) Assisting Overseas Indian nationals in distress situations;
- (b) Support for the community welfare activities; and
- (c) Improvement in Consular services.

Apart from assisting Indian nationals in distress abroad, ICWF has been a critical support in the emergency evacuation of Indian nationals in conflict zones in Libya, Iraq, Yemen and in South Sudan. It has also been extensively used in other challenging situations like assistance extended to undocumented Indian workers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia during the Nitaqat drive in 2013 and Amnesty drive in 2017. Over 145000 people have benefitted from the Fund, out of which around 93000 have benefitted from the Fund since 2014. The ICWF expenditure incurred from 2013-2016 in 18 ECR countries is given below:

²⁶ ICWF guidelines available at <https://mea.gov.in/icwf.htm>

**Table 8: ICWF expenditure incurred from 2013-2016
in 18 ECR countries**

(In Indian Rupees)

Sl no	ECR Country	2013	2014	2015	2016 (upto15-07-2016)
1	Afghanistan	1,45,759	2,86,144	12,95,496	1,71,619
2	Bahrain	15,67,448	23,82,454	28,50,598	9,24,957
3	Indonesia	5,29,964	3,43,347	4,65,901	1,08,070
4	Iraq	6,85,958	30,97,21,165	3,27,26,567	3,65,582
5	Jordan	4,01,283	3,09,352	2,86,116	10,93,670
6	Kuwait	90,37,045	90,94,236	61,06,566	33,59,640
7	Lebanon	30,219	1,32,118	6,50,583	4,19,552
8	Libya	3,49,470	93,70,862	15,09,750	27,386
9	Malaysia	91,40,531	2,37,96,137	1,59,05,176	3,16,66,573
10	Oman	6,98,14,871	1,11,28,456	95,09,730	88,28,881
11	Qatar	33,50,623	38,86,447	85,85,479	51,05,151
12	Saudi Arabia	4,80,43,405	3,16,79,258	2,75,67,790	1,88,01,871
13	Sudan	1,10,925	-	-	-
14	Syria	-	-	55,881	1,69,033
15	United Arab Emirates	9,58,29,176	33,98,12,771	20,44,38,364	3,09,02,327
16	Yemen	1,22,756	11,98,731	2,17,86,607	2,77,690

Source: MEA Website, https://mea.gov.in/lok-sabha.htm?dtl/27170/QUESTION_NO1765_ICWF

4.4.2 Overseas Workers Resource Centre (OWRC)

The Overseas Workers Resource Centre (OWRC) was set up in 2009 as a Helpline for assistance and protection of Indians working abroad and those who are desirous of going abroad for jobs. The mandate of the OWRC is to provide the following:

- Information dissemination on matters relating to emigration.
- Registering, responding to and monitoring complaints received from emigrant workers.

- Grievance redressal and follow-up with the stakeholders.

The OWRC consists of a 24 x 7 Helpline with number 1800 11 3090 which can be accessed on a toll-free basis, anywhere from India. The OWRC will also provide walk-in-counseling to potential emigrant workers.

4.4.3 Indian Workers Resource Centre (IWRC)

The IWRC at Dubai was inaugurated by the Hon'ble President of India on 23rd November 2010. The center aims to disseminate information, register, respond and monitor complaints as well as provide for grievance redressal system and follow up with stakeholders. The center has a 24x7 helpline, provides grievance redressal and counseling and also manages a shelter home for runaway housemaids and deserted housewives, etc.

Indian Worker Resource Centres (IWRCs) now renamed as Pravasi Bharatiya Sahayata Kendra²⁷ (PBSK) have also been set up in Sharjah (UAE), Riyadh and Jeddah (Saudi Arabia) and Kuala Lumpur to provide guidance and counseling on all matters pertaining to overseas Indian workers.

Kshetriya (Regional) Pravasi Sahayata Kendra (KPSK) has also been set up in Kochi, Hyderabad, Chennai, and Lucknow to assist emigrants or their relatives to redress their problems/complaints regarding overseas employment.

²⁷ Available at <https://www.mea.gov.in/owrc-and-pbsk.htm>

4.4.4 MADAD: Consular Services Management System

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) had in February 2015 launched an online web portal for Consular Services Management System named MADAD to extend a helping hand to Indians abroad requiring consular assistance. All Indian Missions and Posts abroad as well as the MEA's Branch Secretariats in Chennai, Guwahati, Hyderabad, and Kolkata, are associated with this portal for consular grievance tracking and follow-up. The MADAD online portal has led to qualitative improvement in the handling of consular grievances, through online forwarding, tracking, and escalation until their eventual resolution. It allows direct registration of the grievances by the members of the public and effective tracking of the entire grievance handling process thereafter. As on 5 February 2020, 136610 persons are registered on the MADAD Portal, 57,376 grievances have been registered out of which 49,773 grievances²⁸ have been resolved.

4.4.5 Awareness-cum-Publicity Campaign

The Awareness-cum-Publicity Campaign was undertaken through the print and electronic Media since 2007 on the following four issues:

- i) Problems faced by emigrant workers and the legal Emigration Process;
- ii) The problem relating to NRI Marriages;
- iii) Problems relating to Indian Housemaids overseas; and
- iv) Overseas Workers Resource Centre;

²⁸ MADAD details available at <http://www.madad.gov.in/AppConsular/welcomeLink>, Accessed on 5th February 2020

The Awareness Campaign was necessitated by the fact that the outflow of potential Emigrants going overseas in search of jobs has substantially increased. This number was expected to increase further in the coming years as the demand for Indian labor was increasing. The objectives of the Awareness Campaign were to create wider awareness among the potential emigrants about the Legal Immigration Process, precautions to be taken against illegal practices by fraudulent recruiting Agencies, problems faced by Housemaids abroad and problems in NRI marriages. The campaign strives to provide information to those who are facing such problems.

4.4.6 E-Migrate: Emigration Management Project

The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs had undertaken an Emigration Management system called the e-Migrate Project in 2010 with a vision to transform emigration into a simple, transparent, orderly and humane process. The Project is an effort towards strengthening the regime of regular migration from India.

The e-Migrate system fully automates the operations of offices of Protector of Emigrants (PoE) and Protector General of Emigrants (PGoE). Also, all key stakeholders in the emigration lifecycle like Indian Missions, PGoE, PoE, Employers, Project Exporter, Recruiting Agents, Emigrants, and Insurance Agencies are electronically linked on a common platform.

The e-Migrate portal²⁹ is meant to be accessed by the general public. Prospective Recruiting

²⁹ e-Migrate portal available at <http://www.emigrate.gov.in>

Agents (RA) can apply for registration. Prospective Employers and Project Exporters (PE) can apply for accreditation. Emigrants can also apply for direct Emigrant registration. In addition, emigrant grievance and Information about an Emigrant can also be submitted on this website. Emigrate has also been Integrated with Passport System for validation of Emigrant's passport details. Also integrated with the Bureau of Immigration (BoI) system for validation of Emigrant's Emigration Clearance status at International Airport.

4.4.7 India Centre for Migration (ICM)

The Indian Council of Overseas Employment (later renamed as India Centre for Migration) was established in 2008 by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs as a not for profit society to serve as a strategic ‘think-tank’ on matters relating to overseas employment markets for Indians and overseas Indian workers. The India Centre for Migration (ICM) now serves as a research think-tank on matters related to International Migration.

ICM was established to devise and execute medium to long term strategies on emigration of Indians overseas for education, employment, business or as independent professionals; monitor, study and analyze the trends in the International Labour Markets; develop and sustain a national strategy to be globally competitive as a country of origin; devise strategies to facilitate legal and safe migration of Indians overseas and position India as a preferred country of origin for skilled, trained and qualified workers.

ICM³⁰ undertakes research and studies on the migration of Indian workers for overseas employment and supports informed policymaking. ICM also partners with individuals, institutions, and governments to drive empirical, analytical and policy-related research; enhance capacities and pilot good practices in international migration and its governance.

4.4.8 Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana(PBBY)

The Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana (PBBY) is a mandatory insurance scheme aimed at safeguarding the interests of Indian emigrant workers falling under the Emigration Check Required (ECR) category going for overseas employment to ECR countries. The Scheme initially launched in 2003, has been amended in 2006, 2008 and 2017 with the overarching objective of strengthening the coverage of emigrant workers.

The scheme, comprehensively revamped w.e.f 1st August 2017 in consultation with all stakeholders, had been made simple and more beneficial for emigrant workers. Presently, the scheme provides an insurance cover of Rs. 10 lakhs in case of accidental death/permanent disability at an insurance premium of Rs. 275 and Rs. 375 for a period of two and three years respectively. The revised scheme has also been made compulsory for various professions falling under work categories under Section 2(o) of the Emigration Act, 1983 irrespective of the passport categories.

³⁰ India Centre for Migration details available at <https://www.mea.gov.in/icm.htm>

Table 9: Financial Year-wise details of premium paid, number and amount of claims settled

Details	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19 (01.04.2018- 31.12.2018)	Total
Premium collected for PBBY (In Lakhs)	2572.11	2164.38	1400.22	1110.97	777.83	8025.51
Number of claims Settled	336	221	109	89	57	812
Amount of Claims settled (In Lakhs)	2055.08	1873.64	1048.86	816	541.8	6335.38

Source: MEA Website (<https://www.mea.gov.in/lok-sabha.htm?dtl/30982/QUESTION+NO485+PRAVASI+BHARTIYA+BIMA+YOJANA>), Accessed on 29.01.2020

4.4.9 Mahatma Gandhi Pravasi Suraksha Yojana (MGPSY)

The overseas Indian workers have traditionally been excluded from access to formal social security and retirement savings schemes available to residents of the ECR countries. Overseas Indian workers remit most of their incomes to their families in India. But these remittances do not result in any savings for either resettlement or old age and only cause a temporary improvement in the consumption expenditure of their families. This population is also excluded from pension and social security schemes available to formal sector workers in India. Without a policy intervention aimed at encouraging savings for return and resettlement and for old age, a majority of the overseas Indian workers will face acute poverty when they return to India and also when they are too old to work.

Based on needs analysis and consultations with stakeholders, the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs had introduced the Pension and Life Insurance Fund for Overseas Indian

Workers called Mahatma Gandhi Pravasi Suraksha Yojana in 2012. The objective of the scheme was to provide Overseas Indian workers to voluntarily save for their return and resettlement, save for their old age and obtain a low-cost Life Insurance cover against natural death.

The Mahatma Gandhi Suraksha Pravasi Yojana (MGPSY), a voluntary scheme with the objective of protection and welfare of the emigrant workers and to address their social security issues in Emigration check required (ECR) countries. However, the Scheme has been closed w.e.f 1st April 2017³¹.

4.5 Bilateral Cooperation

4.5.1 Bilateral Labour Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs)

To ensure the protection and welfare of the migrant workers, the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has entered into bilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the major labor receiving countries. The details of the MoU signed are given below in the table:

³¹ MGPSY details available at <https://mea.gov.in/mgpsy.htm>

Table 10: Bilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by India

S.N.	Name of the Country	Title of the MoU	Date of Signature
1	Jordan	MoU on Manpower between the Government of India and the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.	22.10.1988
2	Qatar	Agreement on Manpower Employment between the State of Qatar and the Republic of India Additional Protocol to the Agreement between the Republic of India and the State of Qatar on the regulation of the employment of Indian Manpower signed on 11 th April 1985.	11.4.1985 20.11.2007
3	UAE	MoU between the Government of UAE and Government of India in the field of Manpower. Revised MOU between the Government of UAE and Government of India	13.12.2006 13.9.2011
4	Kuwait	MoU on Labour, Employment and Manpower Development between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the State of Kuwait.	10.4.2007
5	Oman	MoU between the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs in the Republic of India and the Ministry of Manpower in the Sultanate of Oman in the field of Manpower.	8.11.2008
6	Malaysia	MoU on Employment of Workers between the Government of India and the Government of Malaysia	3.1.2009
7	Bahrain	MoU between the Republic of India and the Kingdom of Bahrain on Labour and Manpower Development	17.6.2009

8	Saudi Arabia	Labour Cooperation between India and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on Domestic Service Workers' Recruitment	2.1.2014
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Source: MEA Website, https://mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/26467/Memorandum_of_Understanding_MOUs, Accessed on 05 February 2020

The following broad principles have been built into these MoUs:

- (a) Declaration of mutual intent to enhance employment opportunities and for bilateral cooperation in the protection and welfare of workers.
- (b) The host country takes measures for the protection and welfare of the workers in the organized sector.
- (c) Statement of the broad procedure that the foreign employer shall follow to recruit Indian workers.
- (d) The recruitment and terms of employment to be in conformity of the laws of both the Countries.
- (e) A Joint Working Group (JWG) to be constituted to ensure the implementation of the MoU and to meet regularly to find solutions to bilateral labor problems.

Regular meetings of JWG are held for resolving bilateral labor issues and also for monitoring the implementation of the MOU. The JWG serves as a platform to deal with issues such as model contract, minimum wages, documentation requirements, labor dispute redressal, retention of passports, substitution of contracts, dealing with recalcitrant employers, practical solutions to problems of exploitation and abuse of

workers, regulation of intermediaries, sharing of experience in manpower deployment, exchange of information on legislative and administrative measures and exchange of labor market information, etc.

4.5.2 Bilateral Social Security Agreement(SSA)

Most of the developed countries have an umbrella social security system mandated by law and funded through mandatory periodic contributions in the form of tax from all working people and their employers in order to provide multiple benefits like old-age pension, disability insurance, health insurance, and unemployment insurance, etc. Generally, this social security tax is in the form of a fixed percentage of income subject to a maximum lump sum limit. All expatriate workers are also required to pay social security tax as per the law of that country.

Often Indian workers or professionals are sent to these countries by their Indian employers on short term contracts. During this period, they continue to make social security contributions in India as per the Indian law. As such, they are compelled to pay the contribution in both countries under their respective laws during this period. Indian workers often do not get any benefit from the social security contribution made abroad after they return to India or relocate elsewhere on completion of the term of the contract. This happens because most countries do not allow the export of social security benefits. There is also a loss of contribution paid under the host country system for want of fulfilling the minimum insurance period under their law. Another disadvantage is that due to the high rate of social security tax, the Indian companies become less competitive while bidding for projects in

these countries. All these issues, in varying degrees, affect the expatriates working in India too.

Bilateral social security agreements can protect the interests of such expatriate workers on a reciprocal basis by providing for exemption from social security contribution in case of short-term contracts, exportability of pension in case of relocation to the home country or any third country and totalization of the contribution periods pertaining to both countries. Such agreements also make companies more competitive in each other's territory since exemption from social security contribution in respect of their employees substantially reduces costs.

Indian workers posted abroad by their Indian employers are subjected to double contributions. They have to continue to make social security contributions in India as per Indian law and yet are compelled to pay contribution under the host countries legislation too. In case of relocation to India, the workers do not get any benefit from the social security contribution made abroad, because the host country legislation would not allow the export of social security benefits. Due to the minimum contribution period criteria, a worker staying abroad for a lesser period loses all the contribution.

Bilateral Social Security agreements can protect the interests of Indian professionals by providing the following benefits:

- Exemption from social security contribution for the posted (detached) workers (provided the worker is covered under the Indian social security system and continues to pay his contribution to the Indian system during the period of contract)
- Exportability of benefits in case of relocation to India or any other country after having made social security contribution
- Totalization of the periods of contribution pertaining to both countries for the purpose of assessing eligibility for benefit/pension under the legislation of each country

India has signed bilateral SSA with the following countries:

Table 11: Bilateral Social Security Agreement (SSA) signed by India

Sl No	Name of SSA Agreement	Date of Signature
1	Understanding on Social Security Agreement Between India and Quebec (not in force)	26.11.2013
2	Social Security Agreement Between India and Australia (in force)	18.11.2014
3	Social Security Agreement Between The Republic of India and The Swiss Confederation (in force)	3.9.2009
4	Social Security Agreement between The Republic of India and The kingdom of Norway (in force)	29.10.2010
5	Social Security Agreement between The Republic of India and The Kingdom of Denmark (in force)	17.2.2010
6	Social Security Agreement between India and Luxembourg (in force)	30.9.2009

7	Social Security Agreement between India and the Netherlands (in force)	22.10.2009
8	Social Security Agreement between India and Belgium (in force)	3.11.2006
9	Social Security Agreement between India and the French Republic (in force)	30.9.2008
10	Social Security Agreement on Social Insurance between India and Germany (in force)	8.10.2008
11	Social Security Agreement between India and Hungary (in force)	2.2.2010
12	Social Security Agreement between India and the Czech Republic (in force)	9.6.2010
13	Social Security Agreement between India and Japan (not in force)	16.11.2012
14	Social Security Agreement between India and Sweden (in force)	26.11.2012
15	Social Security Agreement between India and Finland (in force)	12.6.2012
16	Social Security Agreement between India and Canada (in force)	6.11.2012
17	Social Security Agreement between India and the Republic of Korea (in force)	19.10.2010
18	Social Security Agreement between India and Austria (in force)	4.2.2013
19	Social Security Agreement between India and Portugal (not in force)	4.3.2013
20	Comprehensive Social Security Agreement between India and Germany (not in force)	12.10.2011

Source: MEA website, https://mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/26465/Social_Security_Agreements,
Accessed on 05 February 2020

SSA ensure that the employees of the home country do not remit contribution in that country, get the benefit of totalization period for deciding the eligibility for pension, may get the pension in the country where they choose to live, and the employers are saved from making double social security contributions for the same set of employees. The Employees Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) is the implementing agency and is authorized to issue the Certificate of Coverage (COC) to the employees posted to the countries having signed Agreements with the Government of India. The status of Certificate of Coverage (COC) issued by the EPFO is as follows:

Table 12: Certificate of Coverage (COC) issued by the EPFO

Sl No	Social Security Agreements (SSAs)	Total number of COC issued as on 30.10.2019	No of Active COC as on 30.10.2019
1	India-Belgium	26911	4073
2	India-Germany	66471	8331
3	India-Switzerland	19125	1891
4	India-Denmark	7963	1617
5	India-Luxembourg	1249	299
6	India-France	9616	1232
7	India-South Korea	2036	116
8	India-Netherlands	34111	5937
9	India-Hungary	2108	424
10	India-Finland	5060	796
11	India-Sweden	19149	3450
12	India-Czech Republic	968	321
13	India-Norway	6275	1507
14	India-Austria	1116	159
15	India-Canada	16412	5673

16	India-Australia	36170	10981
17	India-Japan	9393	3412
18	India-Portugal	98	41
	Total	264231	50260

Source: Data collected by the author from EPFO as on 06 February 2020

4.5.3 Labour Mobility Partnership

The objectives of Labour Mobility Partnership with various countries were basically for promoting orderly migration, preventing and combating illegal migration, ensure smooth mobility of academics and students, protection and welfare of workers and all other related issues. Though the MoU does not create any right or obligation under International Law, it provides a framework for ensuring regular migration of Indian skilled work-force and their protection and welfare abroad. This becomes more and more important as the demand for a young and skilled workforce, professionals and academics increases in the overseas market especially in view of India's demographic advantage.

As a major country of origin, transit, and destination and having a considerable demographic advantage over the medium term due to its young population; India has a strategic interest in the discourse on international migration. It is not the avowed policy of the Indian government to encourage or push migration. However, with a significant number of Indians abroad, India needs to pursue, on a bilateral and multilateral basis, interests of its migrant population abroad. India subscribes to the view that emigration is an economic process that must be choice-based, rights-based and which remains orderly and humane. It

implies that India is willing to engage with destination countries so that migratory flow is facilitated, remains legal, it addresses the supply-demand gaps, protects the interests of overseas Indian workers and combats irregular migration. In short, India takes a comprehensive view of the migration taking into account all forms of migratory flow, namely, workers, students, academicians, skilled workers, professionals, and irregular migrants.

The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has signed an MOU on Labour Mobility Partnership with Denmark in 2009. The salient features are as under:

- a. Facilitating legal migration by removing undue barriers and securing labor market access
- b. Combating and preventing all forms of irregular migration
- c. Enhancing the protection and welfare of migrants
- d. Engaging in bilateral and multilateral cooperation for improving the management of international migration.

The first Joint Working (JWG) meeting was held in 2010 and the second JWG meeting was held on 8 August 2018. The third JWG meeting was held on 4-5 November 2019 New Delhi to explore the possibility for implementation of MOU.

4.5.4 Migration and Mobility Partnerships

Migration and Mobility Partnerships are aimed at harnessing India's demographic dividend and fostering mobility for our students, academics, researchers, business people, professionals, entrepreneurs and strengthening cooperation on issues related to irregular migration and human trafficking.

Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement was signed between India and France during the State visit of the French President in March 2018³². This is the first such agreement signed with the European Union Member State. The negotiation on Migration and Mobility with France was initiated during the erstwhile MOIA during 2012-13.

4.6 Multilateral Cooperation

4.6.1 India-EU Joint Declaration on Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility (CAMM) and High-Level Dialogue on Migration and Mobility (HLDMM)

The Joint Declaration on a Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility (CAMM) between India and the European Union and its Member States was signed on 29 March 2016. CAMM is largely a broad and flexible vision document on the issue of Migration and Mobility for both sides.

³² Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement available at <https://www.mea.gov.in/Portal/LegalTreatiesDoc/FR18B3321.pdf>

India-EU Dialogue on Migration and Mobility (HLDMM) provides an overall steering mechanism for the implementation of CAMM.

India - EU High-Level Dialogue on Migration and Mobility was held in New Delhi on 2nd July 2012 during the period of erstwhile MOIA. The fourth meeting of HLDMM was held in Brussels in April 2017 and the fifth meeting was held on 11 July 2019 in New Delhi³³.

4.6.2 Engagement with IOM and Regional Consultative Process on Migration and Mobility

I. International Organization for Migration (IOM)

International Organization for Migration (IOM) was set up in 1951 as the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (IEM) to help resettle people displaced by World War II.

Gradually it has broadened the scope of its activities and became a larger entity in the background of migration in the 21st century.

India became a member state of IOM in 2008 during the time of erstwhile MOIA. IOM has acquired the status of a UN-related organization from 19 September 2016.

³³ HLDMM, <https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/31593>

/5th+IndiaEU+High+Level+Dialogue+on+Migration+and+Mobility+in+New+Delhi+on+11+July+2019

II. Colombo Process

The Colombo Process is a regional consultative process on the management of overseas employment and contractual labor for countries of origin in Asia. The eleven-member countries for the process are Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam, and eight destination country participants are Bahrain, Italy, Kuwait, Malaysia, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.

The Process is non-binding and decision making is by consensus. The process is coordinated through Permanent Missions of Member States at the UN in Geneva. India has been a member of the Colombo process since its inception in 2003.

The Process is governed by Ministerial Consultations wherein recommendations and action plans are discussed and adopted by the Ministries of the participating countries. So far six Ministerial Consultations have been held in Colombo (2003), Manila (2004), Bali (2005), Dhaka (2011), Colombo (2016) and Kathmandu (2018).

There are five Thematic Area Working Groups (TAWGs) i.e.

- (a) Skills and Qualification Recognition (chaired by Sri Lanka);
- (b) Fostering Ethical Recruitment (Chaired by Bangladesh);
- (c) Pre-Departure Orientation and Empowerment (chaired by the Philippines);
- (d) Remittances (chaired by Pakistan); and
- (e) Labour Market Analysis (chaired by Thailand).

III. Abu Dhabi Dialogue(ADD)

It is a regional, voluntary and non-binding consultative Process, comprising of the Member States of the Colombo Process and six Gulf countries of destination: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates as well as Malaysia.

It was established in 2008 as a forum for dialogue and cooperation between Asian countries of labor origin and destination countries to facilitate regional cooperation on contractual labor mobility, sharing of best experiences and learning from one another's experience. India has been a member of ADD since 2008.

Ministerial Consultations have been held in Abu Dhabi (2008), Manila (2012), Kuwait (2014), Colombo (2017) and Dubai (2019).

The bilateral and multilateral cooperation in Abu Dhabi Dialogue is along the four workstreams i.e.

- (a) Comprehensive Information and Orientation Programming(CIOP);
- (b) Strengthening Joint Country of Origin (COO) and Country of Destination (COD)
Government Oversight and monitoring of Recruitment Practices;
- (c) Certification and Mutual Recognition of Skills; and
- (d) The Future of Domestic Work in the Gulf.

IV. Global Forum on Migration and Development(GFMD)

The Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) was created upon the proposal of the then UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in September 2006 at the UN General Assembly High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (HLD).

It is based on an open discussion format and is voluntary, informal and non-binding in nature. It has a membership of states, civil society, and businesses and broadly serves as a platform towards generating awareness, sharing experiences and best practices among the participating stakeholders.

The first meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development took place on 9-11 July 2007 in Brussels. The second meeting of the GFMD was held from 27-30 October 2008 in Manila.

Chapter 5

Diaspora Engagement in India & China and Diaspora Institutions in other countries

5.1 Introduction

The comparison of diaspora policies in two countries having a large diaspora population overseas- India and China allow us to identify similarities as well as differences in patterns of public policies for Diasporas.

According to the Labour Bureau's Indian Labour Report, 300 million youth will enter the labor force by 2025, and 25% of the world's workers in the next three years will be Indians³⁴. India is one of the youngest nations in the world with more than 62% of its population in the working-age group (15-59 years), and more than 54% of its total population below 25 years of age. It is further estimated that the average age of the population in India by 2020 will be 29 years as against 40 years in the USA, 46 years in Europe and 47 years in Japan. By 2050, only 19% of India's population will be aged over 60 as compared to 39% in the US and 30% in the case of China. By 2022 countries like the USA, UK and China will fall short of skilled labor by 17 million, 2 million and 10 million respectively while India will have a surplus of almost 47 million in the age group of 19-59 years³⁵.

³⁴ Labour Bureau's Indian Labour Report at <http://labourbureaunew.gov.in/>

³⁵ National Policy for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship 2015 available at <https://www.msde.gov.in/assets/images/Skill%20India/policy%20booklet-%20Final.pdf>

Therefore, India has a clear-cut demographic advantage that does not apply to China. The out-migration would serve as a natural outlet in the future which will also help meet the demands of other countries.

5.2 Diaspora Engagement in India

India has recognized its diaspora as a strategic resource and has adopted a multi-pronged strategy to engage at various levels for symbiotic and mutually beneficial relationship. The MOIA was established in 2004 to deal with the Indian diaspora with the following objectives:

- Facilitate sustained, symbiotic and strategic engagement of Overseas Indians with India and offer them a wide variety of services in economic, social and cultural matters.
- Extend institutional support for individual initiatives and community action to harness the knowledge, skills, and resources of Overseas Indians to supplement the national development efforts.
- Transforming management of emigration through appropriate domestic interventions and international cooperation.

To fulfill its mandate, the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs created the following institutional arrangements:

- The Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre (OIFC), a not-for-profit trust in partnership with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), serve as a one-stop-shop for economic engagement, investment, and business.
- The India Development Foundation (IDF), a not-for-profit trust to serve as a credible single window to facilitate Diaspora philanthropy and lead Overseas Indian philanthropic capital into India's social development effort.
- India Centre for Migration (ICM), a not-for-profit society to serve as a strategic 'think-tank' on matters relating to Overseas employment markets for Indians and Overseas Indian workers.
- The Global Indian Network of Knowledge (Global-INK), a robust electronic platform that will facilitate the transfer of knowledge with the objective of leveraging the expertise, skills, and experience of Overseas Indians.
- The Prime Minister's Global Advisory Council of Overseas Indians, to serve as a high-level body to draw upon the talent of the best Overseas Indian minds wherever they might reside.
- Overseas Indian Centers (OIC) at the Indian Missions at Washington and Abu Dhabi, to begin with, to serve as field formations on matters relating to Overseas Indians.

The government has come up with various institutions/schemes to address various aspects of diaspora engagement in India. Some of these important initiatives for Indian diaspora are the Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) card, Bilateral Social Security Agreements (SSA) to eliminate the double payment of social security contributions; Bilateral Labor

MoUs on a bilateral basis to ensure protection and welfare for Indian workers; the Labor Mobility Partnership Agreement; the Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) to support welfare services for overseas Indian workers; the Overseas Workers' Resource Centre (OWRC) and Pravasi Bharatiya Sahayata Kendra (PBSK) to provide information and assistance for migrants and their families; the E-governance Project to manage the emigration process and the India Centre for Migration to help Indian migrants move up the value chain and position India as a preferred source of qualified and skilled human resources.

The implications, both direct and indirect, of diaspora engagement, are many folds. India's experience with the IT industry can be cited as one of the best examples of these after-effects. However, India has a long way to go before it can fully translate the brain drain into brain gain by capacity building and engaging diaspora talent/resources.

With so many Indians today at such high positions in various fields as scientists, engineers, doctors, businessmen, and so on, India surely has enough to learn from them and use their expertise for the domestic development. Hence, with some policy initiatives, the Indian government can further connect to its diaspora worldwide, multiply the economic value of diaspora contributions, use their talent and industriousness and make it more attractive for them to step up participation in India's development.

5.3 Chinese Diaspora Engagement

The overseas Chinese enjoy an extremely strong sense of shared identity as well as a powerful attachment to China, feelings that tend to override regional and political differences. They have played a crucial role in China's economic growth, providing the lion's share of inward investment. But this is not solely due to the patriotic feeling one has towards his motherland but due to China's policies and institutional apparatus for extensive diaspora engagement.

China's growing economy is attracting more foreigners and it also stimulates the return of those Chinese who work or study abroad. Cultural proximity is another factor that encourages overseas Chinese to return. Due to a diaspora population that has grown to more than 50 million, of which 32 million live in Southeast Asia, over the course of recent decades the Chinese government has adapted its policies to respond to this reality.

There are several programs such as the Changjiang Scholars Programme³⁶ or the 100 Talents Programme which offer high salaries and research funds for overseas Chinese. Similarly, 1,000 Talents and 10,000 Talents program offer high-level academic positions to senior Chinese scholars with PhDs up to 20 times higher than what local faculty make. It also seeks to draw innovators in specialist engineering and high technology sectors that will create companies or jobs in China. Also, China's "Roots-Seeking" programs for overseas youth promote the Chinese language and culture abroad.

³⁶ Changjiang Scholars Programme available at <https://en.ses.ustc.edu.cn/7387/list.htm>

It has over the last two decades aggressively courted the return of its highly-skilled diaspora through a variety of employment and scholarship programs.

A lot more, however, has to be done to reap benefits from the Indian diaspora. To start with, challenges such as poor infrastructure, red tape, labor market regulations, etc., need to be taken care of which prevents a PIO or NRI from investing in India. While India also has programs like “Know India program”, but they are not extensive like in China, considering the number of intakes that India has is around 200 each year and China around 30,000. India's record in offering lucrative employment opportunities to the overseas Indians also has its problems in comparison to the Chinese “1,000 talents” program or “twelve words” support for overseas studies and encouraging the return of students. The Chinese Scholarship Council sponsors around 3,000 citizens annually to undertake studies or research in more than 80 countries. India has nothing of the sort that comes remotely close and its scholarship program for diasporic children is only limited to 150 per year and only for undergraduate and some other courses.

Although the focus of the Chinese and Indian governments differ in their engagements with its diaspora both recognize diaspora not just as a source of economic remittances but also of social remittances in the form of access to markets, knowledge, foreign capital, know-how, expertise, ideas, and best practices. India however, needs to ramp up its efforts to reap the full potential of its diaspora.

5.4 Indian Diaspora in the USA

Immigrants from India first arrived in the United States in small numbers during the early 19th century, primarily as low-skilled farm laborers. There is approximately 2.4 million³⁷ Indian immigrants resident in the United States as of 2015.

In 1960, just 12,000 Indian immigrants lived in the United States, representing less than 0.5 percent of the 9.7 million overall immigrant population. Migration from India substantially increased between 1965 and 1990 as a series of legislative changes removed national-origin quotas, introduced temporary skilled worker programs, and created employment-based permanent visas. Indians were the top recipients of high-skilled H-1B temporary visas in 2016 and were the second-largest group of international students in the United States.

Today, the majority of Indian immigrants are young and highly educated and have strong English skills. Many works in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields. From 1980 to 2010, the population grew more than eleven-fold, roughly doubling every decade.

³⁷ Indian immigrants in the US available at <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/indian-immigrants-united-states>

In 2011-15, more than half of immigrants from India resided in five states: California (20%), New Jersey (11%), Texas (9%), New York, and Illinois (7% each). The top four destination counties were Santa Clara County in California, Middlesex County in New Jersey, Cook County in Illinois, and Alameda County in California. Together, these four counties accounted for about 15% of the total Indian population in the United States.

Overall, Indian immigrants have much higher educational attainment compared to the foreign- and U.S.-born populations. In 2015, 77% of Indian adults (ages 25 and over) had a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 29% of all immigrants and 31% of native-born adults. Notably, among college-educated Indian immigrants, more than half had an advanced degree.

The high educational attainment of Indian immigrants is a result of the specific channels they use to enter the United States. Many Indians arrived either as international students or H-1B workers, to fill jobs that usually require a university degree, and often stay to pursue permanent residence. Indian citizens were the top recipients of H-1B visas, accounting for 74 percent of the 345,000 petitions (initial and for continuing employment) approved by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) in FY 2016.

Nearly 166,000 Indian immigrants were enrolled in U.S. higher education institutions in the 2015-16 school year, comprising 16% of the 1 million international students overall. Students from India were the second-largest foreign group after Chinese (328,000), according to the Institute of International Education. Approximately 80% of Indian

immigrant students were enrolled in STEM majors. Students from India accounted for 14% of all temporary visa holders earning doctorates at U.S. colleges and universities in 2015, 85% of whom intended to stay in the United States after receiving their degrees, according to the Survey of Earned Doctorates.

The foreign-born from India participated in the labor force at a slightly higher rate than the overall immigrant and native-born populations. In 2015, about 68% of Indian immigrants ages 16 and over were in the civilian labor force, compared to 66% and 62% of the foreign- and native-born populations, respectively. Indian immigrants were roughly twice as likely to be employed in management, business, science, and arts occupations, at 73%, compared to the overall foreign- and native-born populations, at 31% and 38%, respectively.

In 2015, 45% of the 2.4 million Indian immigrants in the United States were naturalized U.S. citizens, compared to 48% of the overall foreign-born population. Indians are more likely to have arrived in the United States recently, compared to immigrants overall. Thirty-one percent of Indian immigrants arrived in 2010 or later, versus 16% of the total foreign-born population. Another 31% arrived between 2000 and 2009, and 38% before 2000.

The Indian diaspora in the United States is comprised of approximately 3.9 million individuals who were either born in India or reported Indian ancestry or race, according to the U.S. Census Bureau 2011-15.

5.5 Chinese Diaspora in the USA

The population of Chinese immigrants in the United States has grown nearly seven-fold since 1980, reaching almost 2.5 million³⁸ in 2018, or 5.5% of the overall foreign-born population. After immigrants from Mexico and India, the Chinese represented the third largest group in the U.S. foreign-born population of nearly 45 million in 2018. The number of immigrants from China residing in the United States nearly doubled from 1980 to 1990, and again by 2000. Since then the population continued growing but at a slower pace.

China is the main source of foreign students enrolled in U.S. higher education, and its nationals received the second-largest number of employer-sponsored H-1B temporary visas in the fiscal year 2018, after Indians. Chinese nationals received nearly half of the EB-5 investor green cards in 2018. Compared to the overall foreign- and native-born populations in the United States, Chinese immigrants are significantly better educated and more likely to be employed in management positions. Almost 30% of Chinese who obtain lawful permanent residence in the United States (also known as getting a green card) did so through employment-based routes; the remainder qualified through family ties or as asylees.

Roughly half of the Chinese immigrants reside in just two states: California (32%) and New York (19%). The top four counties by concentration in the 2014-18 period were Los Angeles County, California; Queens and Kings County, New York and San Francisco County, California. Together, these four counties accounted for one-quarter of the overall

³⁸ Chinese immigrants in the US: <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/chinese-immigrants-united-states>

Chinese-born population in the United States. As of 2014-18, the greater New York City, San Francisco, and Los Angeles metropolitan areas had the largest number of Chinese immigrants. These three metro areas accounted for about 43% of Chinese immigrants.

Chinese immigrants participate in the labor force at a lower rate than the overall immigrant and native-born populations. In 2018, almost 60% of Chinese immigrants ages 16 and over were in the civilian labor force, compared to 66% and 62% of the total foreign- and native-born populations, respectively. More than half of Chinese immigrants were employed in management, business, science, and arts occupations versus 33% of the overall foreign-born and 40% of the native-born population.

In 2018, 53% of all Chinese immigrants in the United States were naturalized U.S. citizens, a share slightly higher than for the overall foreign-born population (51%). Compared to all immigrants, Chinese immigrants are more likely to have arrived in the United States recently. Thirty-four percent of Chinese immigrants arrived in 2010 or later. Another 24% arrived between 2000 and 2009, and 42% before 2000.

The Chinese diaspora in the United States is comprised of approximately 5.5 million individuals who were either born in China or reported Chinese ancestry or race, according to the 2018 Census Bureau.

5.6 Student Mobility

It is no secret that China has been the engine of growth in global student mobility for the better part of two decades now. But that rapid growth has slowed in recent years due to a combination of demographic trends and increasing higher education capacity at home. In fact, somewhere around 2014, India began to outpace China in terms of year-over-year growth. Over the past five years, India has become not only the world's second-largest sending market – after only China – but also one of the fastest-growing sources of outbound students.

Data from the Indian Ministry of External Affairs reveals that there were nearly 753,000 Indian students abroad as of July 2018³⁹. Recognizing that there is likely some rounding in the numbers reported by Indian diplomatic posts, those statistics reveal that roughly three in four (72%) go to five leading destinations: The United States (211,703 as of July 2018), Canada (124,000), Australia (87,115), Saudi Arabia (70,800), and the United Arab Emirates (50,000). As per the Open Doors Report on International Educational Exchange 2019⁴⁰ - Number of Indian Students to the USA during 2018/19: 202,014.

³⁹ Indian students abroad available at <https://www.mea.gov.in/rajya-sabha.htm?dtl/30181/QUESTION+NO964+DATA+BANK+OF+STUDENTS+GOING+ABROAD>

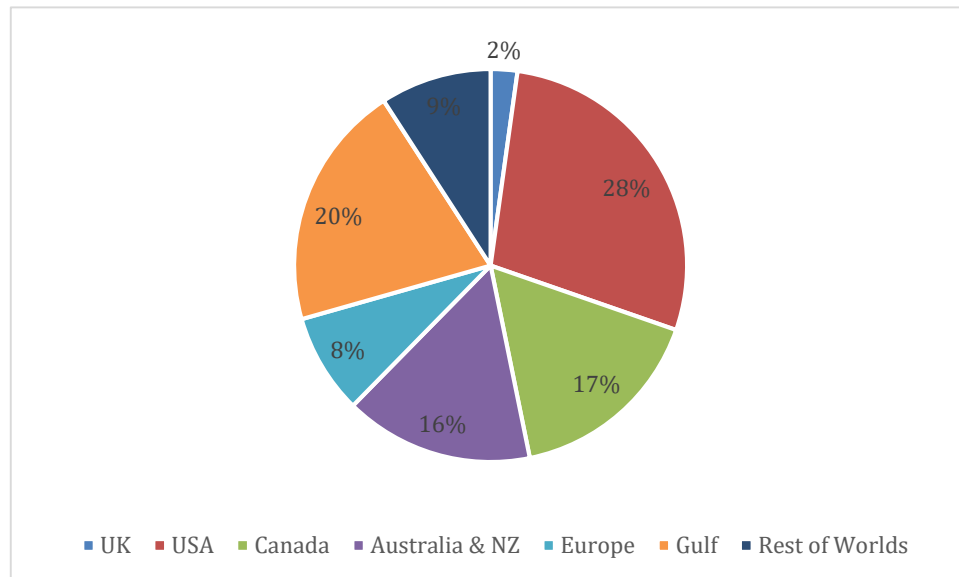
⁴⁰ Open Doors Report available at <https://www.iie.org/en/Research-and-Insights/Open-Doors/Open-Doors-2019-Media-Information>

China and India remain the top two countries of origin for international students, comprising 52 percent of the total number of international students in the United States.

The estimated number of Indian students pursuing studies in foreign Institutions as on 18.07.2018 is 752725. Indian students are studying abroad, spending over USD 20 billion⁴¹ annually.

The distribution of Indian students abroad is as follows:

Figure 14: Percentage-wise distribution of Indian Student in foreign countries



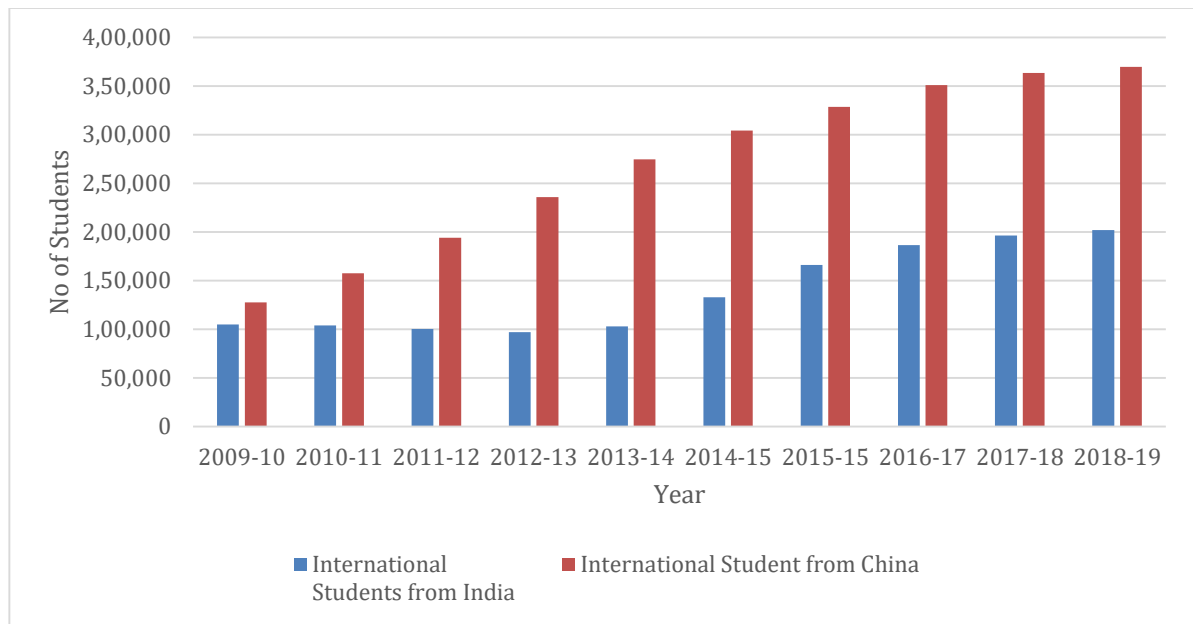
Source: MEA website, www.mea.gov.in

⁴¹ The Associated Chambers of Commerce & Industry of India (Assocham) website at <https://www.assochem.org/newsdetail.php?id=6781>

India, China accounts for over 50% of international students in the US. The data from the US Department of Commerce stated that international students contributed USD 44.7 billion to the US economy in 2018, an increase of 5.5% from the previous year. Students from India and China account for more than 50% of international students, said the report that was released by the Institute of International Education (IIE) and US Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

The annual flow of international students from India and China from 2009-10 to 2018-19 is depicted in the diagram below:

Figure 15: Annual flow of international students from India and China from 2009-10 to 2018-19



Source: <https://www.iie.org/Research-and-Insights/Open-Doors/Fact-Sheets-and-Infographics/Leading-Places-of-Origin-Fact-Sheets>, Accessed on 12.02.2020

5.7 Diaspora Engagement Institutions in other Countries

Recognizing diaspora as a resource, some developing countries have established institutions to more systematically facilitate ties with their diasporas, defined as emigrants and their descendants who have maintained strong sentimental and material links with their countries of origin. The number of countries with diaspora institutions has increased especially in the last twenty years.

National bodies established to address diaspora issues are found in both destination countries as well as countries of origin. These diaspora institutions are mainly six types, depending on whether they function at a ministry, sub ministry, national, or local level; are part of a consular network; or are a quasi-governmental institution. Understanding the differences between these types is useful: an institution's position within the government hierarchy in many ways affects its influence within and outside the government, as well as its mandate and effectiveness.

5.7.1 Ministry-Level Institutions

Since 2001 an increasing number of developing countries have established ministries whose explicit purpose is to address the needs of diaspora populations. Twenty-six of the countries examined have a separate diaspora ministry. Twelve of these ministries are dedicated solely to diasporas.

Table 13: Countries with Ministry-Level Diaspora Institutions

Country	Institution	The stock of Emigrants 2017	The stock of emigrants as % of the total population of 2017
Armenia*	Ministry of Diaspora	968,686	33
Algeria	Ministry of National Solidarity, Family and the National Community Abroad	1,833,302	4
Azerbaijan*	State Committee on Affairs of the Diaspora	1,215,260	12
Bangladesh*	Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment	7,796,958	5
Benin	Ministry for Foreign Affairs, African Integration, the Francophone community, and Beninese Abroad	657,594	6
Comoros	Ministry of External Relations and Cooperation of the Diaspora	1,17,846	14.8
Dominica	Ministry of Trade, Industry, Consumer, Diaspora Affairs	73,955	106.6% **
Georgia*	State Ministry for Diaspora Issues	8,75,753	16.6
Haiti*	Ministry of Haitians Living Abroad	12,92,950	13.2
India***	Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs	1,64,44,830	1.1
Indonesia	Ministry of Manpower and Transmigration	42,47,814	1.6
Iraq	Ministry of Migration and Displaced	19,32,429	7
Israel	Ministry of Information and Diaspora	3,56,070	4.6
Lebanon	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants	8,16,841	18
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*	Agency for Emigration	5,64,949	30.2

Mali	Ministry of Malians Abroad and African Integration	11,43,309	5.4
Morocco*	Ministry Charged with the Moroccan Community Residing Abroad	30,47,116	9.1
Niger	Ministry of African Integration and Nigerians Abroad	3,83,917	1.6
Pakistan*	Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis	60,98,502	3.4
Senegal*	Ministry of Senegalese Abroad	6,43,640	3.8
Serbia	Ministry of Religion and Diaspora	10,14,577	18
Slovenia*	Government's Office for Slovenians Abroad	1,77,202	8.3
Somalia	Ministry for Diaspora and Community Affairs	20,32,921	18.7
Sri Lanka*	Ministry of Foreign Employment Promotion and Welfare	17,28,372	8.7
Syrian Arab Republic	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates	77,76,231	18.2
Tunisia	Ministry of Social Affairs, Solidarity, and Tunisians Abroad	7,85,623	6.2

*Ministry dedicated to the diaspora. ** According to the World Bank, the stock of emigrants as a percentage of the population is defined as the ratio of emigrants of a country to the population—not the sum of population and migrants. Because of this definition, this ratio may exceed 100 percent in certain cases.

*** India's Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs merged with the Ministry of External Affairs in 2016

Sources: IOM Publication 2011 on Developing a Road Map for Engaging Diasporas in Development & <https://www.knomad.org/data/migration/emigration>, Accessed on 01.02.2020

By establishing a separate, ministry-level diaspora institution, a government recognizes that traditional ministries such as labor and foreign affairs cannot manage the expatriate portfolio in all its dimensions. Diaspora ministries generally enjoy more consistent

budgetary allocation, more support from the top of government, and, interestingly, a more explicit development-oriented mandate.

5.7.2 Institutions at the Sub-Ministry Level

Other countries have institutionalized diaspora engagement at the sub-ministry level by creating special offices, typically under the ministry of labor and/or foreign affairs.

Table 14: Countries with Sub Ministry-Level Diaspora Institutions

Country	Institution	The stock of Emigrants 2017	The stock of emigrants as % of the total population of 2017
Albania	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Diaspora Department	1,194,524	41
Brazil	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Undersecretary-General for Brazilian Communities Abroad	1,708,083	1
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees, Department of Diaspora	1,638,113	47
Burundi	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Directorate of Diaspora	466,962	4
Chile	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, General Office for Consular and Immigration Services; Office for Chileans Abroad. Ministry of the Interior and Public Security, Department of Immigration and Migration	628,656	3.5

Egypt	Ministry of Manpower and Emigration, Emigration Sector	34,44,832	3.9
El Salvador	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Vice Ministry for Salvadorans Abroad	15,59,934	25
Ethiopia	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Diaspora Affairs Directorate General; Ministry of Capacity Building, Diaspora Coordinating Office	8,47,712	0.8
Eritrea	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Department of Eritreans Abroad	6,45,445	7.8
Germany	German Technical Cooperation, Sector Project on Migration and Development	41,42,199	5.1
Ghana	Ministry of Interior, National Migration Unit	8,65,204	2.8
Mexico	Secretariat of Foreign Affairs, Sub secretariat for North America; Institute for Mexicans Abroad	1,18,81,712	10.7
Netherlands	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Migration and Development Division	10,19,145	6
Peru	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Undersecretary for Peruvians Abroad	14,87,776	4.8
Philippines	Department of Labour, Overseas Workers Welfare Administration; Department of Labour, Philippine Overseas Employment Administration; Department of Foreign Affairs, Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers' Affairs	59,70,193	6.2

Romania	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Department for Relations with the Romanians Abroad	36,62,849	17.2
Uruguay	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Directorate-General for Consular Affairs and Expatriate Ties	3,51,045	10

Sources: IOM Publication 2011 on Developing a Road Map for Engaging Diasporas in Development & <https://www.knomad.org/data/migration/emigration>, Accessed on 01.02.2020

5.7.3 Other Government Institutions at the National Level

Some diaspora institutions fall short of full ministry standing but still report directly to the highest executive body. Seventeen countries in this review had such institutions.

Table 15: Countries with Other Types of Diaspora Institutions at the National Level

Country	Institution	The stock of Emigrants 2017	The stock of emigrants as % of the total population of 2017
Bulgaria	State Agency for Bulgarians Abroad	1,475,224	21
Chile	Interministerial Committee for Chilean Communities Abroad	6,28,656	3.5
China	State Council, Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of the State Council; Overseas Chinese Affairs Committee	1,00,60,253	0.7
Egypt	Higher Committee on Migration	34,44,832	3.9

Guatemala	National Council for Migrants from Guatemala	10,71,030	6.7
Hungary	The Secretariat of Hungarians Living Abroad	7,05,169	5.8
Mali	Consultation Framework on Migration	11,43,309	5.4
Mexico	National Council on Mexican Communities Abroad	1,18,81,712	10.7
Morocco	Interdepartmental Committees	30,47,116	9.1
Niger	Committee in Charge of Migration	3,83,917	1.6
Nigeria	Technical Working Group and Interministerial Committee on Migration	13,09,063	0.6
Philippines	Office of the President, Commission on Filipinos Overseas; Committee on Overseas Workers Affairs	59,70,193	6.2
Poland	Interministerial Team on Migration Questions	42,94,300	10.2
Portugal	Council of Ministers, the High Commission for Immigration and Intercultural Dialogue	22,89,642	19.4
Sierra Leone	Office of the President, Office of the Diaspora	3,74,691	5.4
Slovakia	Government Office of the Slovak Republic, Office for the Slovaks Living Abroad	6,12,186	10.9
Switzerland	Federal Office for Migration	6,44,174	8

Sources: IOM Publication 2011 on Developing a Road Map for Engaging Diasporas in Development &

<https://www.knomad.org/data/migration/emigration>, Accessed on 01.02.2020

China's Overseas Chinese Affairs Office (SCOCAO) is uniquely positioned within the Chinese central government. SCOCAO is an administrative office under the State Council,

the country's highest executive body. SCOCAO supports the premier and assists in a wide range of activities. These include establishing databases of information categorized by city, county, and province (so that overseas Chinese can find their ancestral roots, homes, and properties), and operating two universities catering mainly to the Chinese diaspora.

Other governments have created intergovernmental and parliamentary committees to coordinate actions on both the executive and legislative fronts. Created in 2002, the National Council on Mexican Communities Abroad includes the secretaries of various ministries, including the interior; foreign affairs; finance and public credit; agriculture, livestock, and rural development, fisheries and nutrition; public education; environment and natural resources; health; tourism; and labor and social welfare.

5.7.4 Institutions at the Local Level

Diaspora engagement does not stop at the national or federal level. The diasporas are often inclined to engage at the local level, usually in their place of origin, where they are familiar with the context and, in many cases, still have family ties. Thus, it is not surprising that special offices for diasporas have sprung up locally. Five countries in this review have created institutions at the local level.

Table 16: Countries with Diaspora Institutions at the Local Level

Country	Institution	The stock of Emigrants 2017	The stock of emigrants as % of the total population of 2017
El Salvador	National Secretariat for Migrants (various states)	15,59,934	25
India	Government of Kerala, Department of Non-Resident Keralite's Affairs; Government of Gujarat, Non-Resident Indian Division	1,64,44,830	1.1
China	The Overseas Chinese Affairs Office (SOCAO) of Shanghai Municipal People's Government	1,00,60,253	0.7
Somalia	Office for Development and Partnership with the Puntland Diaspora Community.	20,32,921	18.7
Mexico	National Coordination for State level Migrant Affairs Offices (various states)	1,18,81,712	10.7

Sources: IOM Publication 2011 on Developing a Road Map for Engaging Diasporas in Development & <https://www.knomad.org/data/migration/emigration>, Accessed on 01.02.2020

China has one of the most expansive networks of local diaspora offices. SCOCAO is replicated in 30 provinces as well as in some cities and townships across China. Although local diaspora offices get their overall policy direction from the central government office, they function with relative independence and are allowed to adopt innovative methods to attract diaspora investments. Since 2004, the Economic and Technology Division of the

Shanghai government's Overseas Chinese Office has strengthened alumni associations in the United States for all of its universities. The goal is to let Chinese graduates living in the United States know about business and research opportunities in Shanghai. To coordinate its implementation of national diaspora policies, the central government annually convenes local diaspora offices.

Local-level diaspora institutions are positioned to design programs in tune with home-country community needs and opportunities. With proper coordination, they can complement the activities of higher-level institutions and even share the cost of engagement. Diaspora members can also more easily monitor their contributions and investments at the local level and more effectively hold their officials accountable, thus increasing the likelihood of successful programs.

Chapter 6

Analysis of the Indian Diaspora Survey Questionnaire and Findings

6.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the survey of Indian Diaspora conducted from 25th January 2020-29th February 2020 to answer the question of how the Government can engage with its diaspora for symbiotic and mutually beneficial relationship and contributions of the diaspora to the India. It presents the findings of what the government is currently doing in order to engage with the overseas Indian community. Findings from the Indian diaspora survey questionnaire will answer whether the diaspora is willing to be engaged and how they are willing to be engaged by the government in its development efforts.

6.2 Survey Questionnaire

The objective of the survey was to gain insight into if the Indian diaspora is willing to engage with the Indian government in its development agenda as well as understand how can the government better engage with the diaspora. The main data collection method was a survey questionnaire. A questionnaire was designed for conducting a survey of Indian diaspora spread across the world. A copy of the survey questionnaire hosted as Google form is provided in Annexure-III. The questionnaire was hosted on the google form and the link was shared with some of the prominent members of the Overseas Indian community and Overseas Indians associations across the World. The 45 survey questionnaire was sent to the following Overseas Indian diaspora associations:

- Global Organization of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO)
- Global Organization of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) International (Europe, Malaysia, Australia & New Zealand, USA)
- American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI)
- National Council of Asian Indian Associations(NCIA) Washington DC
- Aligarh Alumni Association of Virginia
- Federation of Indian Associations(FIA) Chicago
- The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE)
- Federation of Kerala Associations in North America
- Telugu Association of North America (TANA)
- Asian American Hotel Owners Association (AAHOA)
- Indian Diaspora Council

6.3 Questionnaire Design

It was important to understand the profile of the survey respondents. The questionnaire included questions on the profession, educational level, citizenship, etc. The questionnaire included a total of 45 questions. The research targeted highly educated members of the Indian Diaspora who are willing and have the expertise to impact India's development agenda. The questions like current occupation, the highest degree of education, etc. were all to establish the level of skill of the respondents. The questionnaire also included questions on consular issues affecting the diaspora community, diaspora engagement, remittance, investing in India and engaging diaspora in social sector development.

The final question was to provide suggestions on how to better engage with the diaspora; therefore, the question, as to what can the government do more to encourage its expatriate community in contributing to the country's development, was asked. It is important to understand from the skilled migrants, what they think the government should be doing; as they are the target group the government should be engaging for development potential.

6.4 Sampling Selection

It was important that the questionnaires were disseminated to the Indian diaspora in different countries abroad, in different age groups and in different fields in order to get a good overview of the different diaspora. However, the sample size was a big limitation in this research as the aim of the study was to get around 50 respondents to the questionnaire from the overseas Indian community across the world. A total of 52 respondents have answered the survey questionnaire.

The target sample size of the respondent was set according to the available time needed to complete the research. However, in order to get a more representative sample, the number of respondents should be more. The Snowball sampling method was used in this research. The questionnaire was sent to some of the prominent members of the Overseas Indian community and some Overseas Indian diaspora associations abroad.

6.5 Questionnaire Findings

The survey questionnaire yielded the following research findings:

6.5.1 Respondents' Profile

There were a total of 52 survey questionnaire respondents. Their countries of residence included the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and Trinidad and Tobago. They are all very highly educated and skilled professionals. Respondent professions included those working in several sectors including, science, engineering, consulting, medical/health care, banking/finance, information technology, and researchers. 30% responded told that the primary reason for leaving India is education, 42% told employment/business, 10% moved with family and 8% due to marriage. 51% told that their parents are living in India. 20 % told that they visit India more than once every 6 months, 38% told that they visit every year and 30% told that they visit India once every two years. 60% responded that they stay 2-4 weeks during their visit to India and 22% for 1-2 weeks. 82.4% told that they visit friends and family in India.

Table 17: Details of Respondents' Countries

Country/Citizenship	Number of Respondents
USA	28
UK	7
Australia	3
Canada	1
Trinidad and Tobago	1
Bahrain	2
NRIs	10

Table 18: Details of Educational Qualifications

Degree	Number of Respondents
Bachelor's	11
Master's	28
PhD	6
Others	6

6.5.2 Remittance

51% of them responded that they send remittances to family members or friends in India. 35.9% told that they send remittance to their parent, 17.9% send remittance to extended family members (i.e. aunts, uncles, cousins, grandmother, grandfather) and 12.8% send to the community organization. 12.5% told that they send remittance monthly, 22.5% send

quarterly and 12.5% send annually. 44.2% send remittances through banks, 23.3% use Internet-based transfer services, 9.3 % in cash through friends or family and 4.3% through western union. While responding about the purpose of the remittances, 41.9% of respondents told that they send remittances for financial support for family or friends, 11.6% send contributions for development projects and 16.3% for personal investment.

6.5.3 Investing in India

49% of respondents told that they have properties/ assets in India. 27.5% have an investment in India. 43.1% of respondents told that they are interested in making an investment in India. 19.4% responded are interested in investing in infrastructure projects, 16.7% in financial services, 13.9% in manufacturing, 11.1% in agriculture and 16.7% in IT and ITES.

6.5.4 Social Sector Development

39.2% responded told that they are interested in contributing or donating to development projects in India. 16.3% are interested in health care provision, 41.9% in education, 14% in child care and 14% in infrastructure development. 17.8% respondent are interested in development initiatives e.g. NGO work, youth development, health, etc., 33.3% interested in skills transfer e.g. consulting, training, coaching, mentoring, professional development, 17.8% are interested in volunteering, 11.1% are interested in social activities e.g. social development issues like gender, inclusion, etc. and 11.1% for development of

business/enterprise. 71.4% responded told that a desire to ‘give back’ and contribute to India motivate them to engage with India.

6.5.5 Consular Issues

54.9% of respondents hold OCI cards. 20.5% told that OCI issuance in their country takes less than a month time, 29.5% told that it takes 1-2 months and 18.2% told that it takes 2-3-month time to get OCI cards in their country of residence. 72% of respondents are aware of the merger and the conversion of PIO cards into OCI cards. 52.9 % responded that they are aware that OCI card has got to be re-issued each time a new passport is issued up to the completion of 20 years of age and once after completing 50 years of age. 13.7% told that Consular services in their country are excellent, 29.4% told that it is very good and 37.3% told that consular services need improvements in their country of residence. 90% of respondents told that they don’t know about the MADAD portal (www.madad.gov.in) for registering any grievance related to consular services offered by Indian Missions/Posts abroad.

6.5.6 Diaspora Engagement

29.5% of respondents are associated with various overseas Indian community associations. 78% of respondents have not attended Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas. Only 20% of respondents have attended PBD. 64.7% responded that they are not aware that Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) is being held now once in two years. 48.9% responded that Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) should be held during the month of December. 51.1% responded also told that Regional PBD should be held every year. 57.1% responded told that they are not aware of

various Diaspora engagement initiatives of India. Only 14.3% told that they are aware of the Diaspora engagement initiatives. 19.6% responded told that the merger of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs with the Ministry of External Affairs in 2016 has impacted Diaspora Engagement in India and 72.5% are not sure about it. 28.6% responded told that the current level of engagement with Diaspora by India is good, 10.2% told it is very good and 38.8% told that it needs improvement. 77.6% of respondents feel that the Prime Minister's Global Advisory Council of People of Indian Origin (PMGAC) should be re-established in India. 66% of respondents told that separate Ministry for Diaspora should be created for meaningful Diaspora Engagement in India.

6.5.7 Encouraging the Diaspora Community in Contributing to India's Development

Suggestions received on the question about 'what can the Indian Government do more to encourage its Diaspora community in contributing to the country's development' are as follows:

- Be inclusive for diaspora engagement and promote the free transfer of funds and tax breaks for investments in various projects in India.
- Encourage talented NRI's to participate more in number and thus make a difference
- A lot of things in India still happen on physical paper forms. This should be reduced and made digital. Opening a company or investing in India is a big hassle and has a lot of costs even if the company is not making revenue. In the US, one can register a company, file taxes online all with digital signatures without printing or physically signing any paper. The government of India needs to make it easier for the diaspora to invest and establish companies in India with minimal paperwork.

This will help bring more wealth back into the country which can directly be used to hire and create more employment in India.

- Diaspora's engagement at the root level is minimal. The respect for the talent and knowledge is non-existent unless one makes it to the 'cover of Time' magazine. But there is so much talent that can be tapped to re-skill India and mentor many candidates.
- Ensure law and order, eliminate corruption and focus on quality.
- Re-establish MOIA and direct Ministry level connection with the global Indian community.
- Access to key officials or Minister in the field of Infrastructure
- Allow dual citizenship
- Actually engage and also ensure that diaspora given the help and acknowledgment necessary.
- Continue to engage those who have excelled in their field of studies in U.S Canada etc. to give their expertise back to India. It is time to pay back.
- Many professional retirees and those who left India before partition have lost contact with their families but still, have a great desire to help the less fortunate back in India. Keep working on the cleanliness, safety, honesty and train tour guides with accurate History.
- Setting up affordable Guest Houses, local transportation and Honest Travel Agents to encourage overseas Indians and others to visit the major Centres of India. There are many horrible stories of lost passports, dishonesty of travel agents, etc.

- Embassy personnel needs more education on how to get the best out of the Communities. Have a friendlier ambience at the Embassy/Consulate.
- Involve community leaders from the USA and engage them, as they did during ‘Indo US Civil Nuclear Deal’
- Reduce bureaucracy and become transparent. Corruption is the biggest issue why Diaspora doesn’t trust. Political interference at all levels, including judicial corruption is a blocker.
- Ongoing awareness campaigns, easy access to information. Information should be customer-centric and easily understandable.
- The outreach programs seem to be targeted mostly at wealthy people, and not the middle class. Additionally, it seems much more political than social.
- Engage with the diaspora more frequently. Engagement/show government vision
- The Indian government should engage with informed and motivated people from the global girmit (Indian indenture) diaspora in order to clearly understand what this diaspora is, what their needs and requirements are and how to engage with the global girmit diaspora to motivate them to contribute in India, the land of their ancestors. The Indian government must not lump the global girmit diaspora with the rest of the Indian diaspora. An informed and honest engagement with the global girmit diaspora will benefit both India and the descendants of the global girmit diaspora. If the Indian government reaches out to the global girmit diaspora, the girmit diaspora will reach out, engage with and assist the 30 to 50 million Indians from whose families young men, women, and children were stolen 140-180 years ago and transported to the British and other colonies.

6.5.8 Suggestions about Measures to Improve India's Diaspora Engagement Strategy

Suggestions received on the question about ‘would you like to suggest some measure to improve India's Diaspora Engagement Strategy’ are as follows:

- Have the embassies/consulates more people-friendly rather than one of upmanship at the service windows. Follow the US and other countries embassy/consulate where information and service are easily available and treatment meted to its citizens be it past or present.
- Take steps to involve members of all overseas Indian communities.
- The engagement strategy should be focused on solving problems for Indian diaspora vs engaging without a purpose. Some problems that could be solved:
 - Reduce/eliminate paperwork, embrace digital documents.
 - Rethink the need for an OCI card. Why can't people retain Indian passport even if they become a citizen of another country?
 - And if there is an OCI card can it be a Digital/Mobile card mapped to individual's fingerprints also taken digitally?
 - Make it easier for the diaspora to invest in India. (Investment should not be mixed with the donation. Investment is similar to but unlike donation has the expectation of reaping returns and creating win-win scenarios) E.g. Members of diaspora creating a business in India remotely employing citizens which indirectly helps their business grow. Engaging such diaspora would only be feasible if the paperwork in establishing a company in India eliminated and made completely digital. Ministry of

Diaspora if established may have to work with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs to make that possible.

- Opening of regional centers in most states in the USA - ideally, one for every 200 miles in most densely populated states like New Jersey, New York, Texas, California, Illinois, and Florida. These centers should act as catalysts in forging all local diaspora organizations as nodal points of interaction with the diaspora. Distant centers will not help. All communication should be 2-way and engagements deep-rooted - back and forth between India and diaspora spread worldwide. the Diaspora Centres should be manned by people from MOIA who have the responsibility and authority to take positive actions to benefit the engagement and help raise the level.
- Active agenda of cultural, historic and economic engagement by the overseas ministry with direct high-level connection with the global Indian community
- Harness some of the expertise and skills available overseas. Continue to invite them to contribute their expertise and offer lectures to the Youths around India People need to share their stories of how they kept our Heritage after living away from India so many years despite harsh conditions overseas. Set up video conferencing in villages for some of to offer free classes in math, science, and English, etc.
- Invite some to offer camps in villages for women and children and to live with local families during their stay. Student scholarships to study the scriptures so they can return home to teach in their respective Communities.
- Small groups can visit India during December when the weather is good as an educational group to meet and interact with local school children. India

International School will love to take the lead. This will include kids, whose parents are from the U.S, Canada, Africa, Trinidad, Guyana, etc.

- Switch from neglecting Diaspora, engage them. Maybe more engagement through regional communities (Like a Malayali Association or Tamil Association).
- Embassy personnel should be more helpful and responsive. Move away from showing India as a third world country.
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has never done and can never do a better job in strengthening the People to People relationship which is so necessary. WE MUST CONTINUE AND BUILD ON THAT ENGAGEMENT FOR MUTUAL BENEFIT.
- The Indian Government should have a Ministry for Girit Diaspora to address engage with the Global Girit Diaspora consisting of some 12-15 million descendants of global Giritiyas, many of who regard India as their motherland.
- Improve engagement, make it easy to fund business and also invest, obviously enable movement of money both ways and harness some of the expertise and skills available overseas

Chapter 7

Conclusion

7.1 Introduction

The Government of India established a dedicated Ministry for its overseas population as per the recommendation made in the report of the High-level Committee on the Indian diaspora (HLCID). The Ministry of Non-Resident Indian Affairs was established in May 2004. Till the establishment of a separate ministry, it was the subject of the Ministry of External Affairs. In September 2004, the Ministry of Non-Resident Affairs was renamed as the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA). Shri Vayalar Ravi was the first Minister of this ministry. It was a major step towards its Diaspora from the Government of India.

7.2 Diaspora Engagement Strategy During MOIA vs. MEA

The diaspora engagement strategy during MOIA vs. MEA can be summarized as follows on the basis of information available at the MEA website and annual reports:

Table 19: Diaspora Engagement Strategy During MOIA vs. MEA

Sl no	MOIA	MEA
1	Establishment of MOIA in May 2004	
2	Know India Programme (KIP) was started in 2004	KIP was revised in 2016 to increase duration from 21 to 25 days, with a 10-day visit to one or two States and

		preference given to PIOs from Girmitya countries
3	Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) Scheme was launched in August 2005	The Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) Card was merged with OCI in January 2015
4	The Study India Programme(SIP) was initiated in 2012	SIP has been discontinued
5	Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children (SPDC) was launched in 2006	SPDC was revised from the academic year 2016-17 with extension from 40 to 66 countries and enhancing the number of scholarships from 100 to 150 with 50 earmarked for Children of Indian Workers in ECR countries
6	20 Bilateral Social Security Agreements were signed during 2006-15	No further progress has been made after the merger of MOIA with MEA
7	Bilateral Labor MoUs signed with Qatar, UAE, Kuwait, Oman, Malaysia, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia between 2007-2014	No progress made for the signing of MoU with any other country after the merger of MOIA with MEA
8	Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre (OIFC) was set up in 2007 for economic engagement with Diaspora	OIFC has been closed down on 30.03.2017
9	Establishment of the Indian Development Foundation of Overseas Indians (IDF-OI) to promote diaspora philanthropy in 2008	IDF-OI has been closed down on 31 March 2018
10	The model of the Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra(PBK) was unveiled on the occasion of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas on 8th January 2008	The PBK was inaugurated on 2 October 2016

11	Creation of Indian Council of Overseas Employment (ICOE) now renamed as India Centre for Migration (ICM) in 2008	The India Centre for Migration (ICM) now serves as a research think-tank on matters related to International Migration
12	Tracing the Roots scheme in 2008	Tracing the roots scheme has been discontinued
13	Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) was set up in 2009	ICWF guidelines revised in September 2019 for greater flexibility
14	Established of Overseas Indian Centres in the Indian Missions at Abu Dhabi, Washington DC and Kuala Lumpur	Overseas Indian Centres are not active after the merger of MOIA with MEA
15	Constitution of Prime Minister's Global Advisory Council of Overseas Indians (PMGAC) in January 2009	PMGAC has not been reconstituted after the merger of the MOIA with MEA
16	Global Indian Network of Knowledge (Global-INK) in 2009	The Global INK platform is not operational now
17	The Overseas Workers Resource Centre (OWRC) was set up in 2009	OWRC working as 24 x 7 Helpline for emigrant workers
18	Indian Worker Resource Centres (IWRCs) now renamed as Pravasi Bharatiya Sahayata Kendra (PBSK) was set up in Dubai on 23 rd November 2010	IWRC has been renamed as Pravasi Bharatiya Sahayata Kendra (PBSK)
19	MOU on Labour Mobility Partnership with Denmark was signed in 2009	Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement was signed between India and France in March 2018
20	e-Migrate Project was undertaken in 2010	The e-Migrate is operational and fully automates the operations of offices of Protector of Emigrants (PoE) and Protector General of Emigrants (PGoE)

21	A memorial plaque was unveiled for indentured workers at Kolkata Port Trust on 11 January 2011	
22	Mahatma Gandhi Suraksha Pravasi Yojana (MGPSY) was launched in 2012	The scheme has been closed w.e.f 1 st April 2017
23	The Pravasi Bharatiya Divas(PBD) was held from 2005-2015	Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) is celebrated now once every two years
24		The Ministry of External Affairs organized the 14th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention from 8-9 January 2017 in Bengaluru & 15 th PBD on 21-23 January 2019 in Varanasi
25	Youth PBD was held in 2014	Youth PBD was held on 7 January 2017 to strengthen the connection with young overseas Indians
26	The 13 th PBD was held at Gandhinagar, Gujarat during 7-9 January 2015. This PBD was special as it was the centenary year of the return of Mahatma Gandhi to India in 1915.	The format of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) was revised in 2015 with the objective of ensuring sustained and issue-based engagement with the Indian Diaspora. It was decided that the PBD Convention would be held once in two years in India
27		The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) launched in February 2015 an online Consular Services Management System named MADAD in February 2015
28	The merger of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA) with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in January 2016	

29	The Joint Declaration on a Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility (CAMM) between India and the European Union and its Member States was signed on 29 March 2016
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Source: Compiled by the author from Annual reports of MEA and www.mea.gov.in

7.3 Reason for the Merger of MOIA with MEA

The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs merged into the Ministry of External Affairs on 7th January 2016. The reason cited by the Government to merge the two Ministries was that it will bring better synergy for realizing the objectives of bringing Indian Diaspora closer to India. Most policies, programs, schemes and initiatives of MOIA were being implemented through MEA and Indian Missions/Consulates abroad. Matters pertaining to Indian nationals abroad, their welfare and protection are also taken up by MEA and the Indian Missions abroad. The MEA handling the Overseas Indian Affairs would bring in more efficiency in handling matters related to Indian Diaspora⁴².

The MOIA was a very small Ministry and dependent upon MEA for the matters pertaining to Indian Nationals abroad and all the Diaspora activities were undertaken through Missions and Posts abroad, which were controlled by the MEA. Due to such an arrangement, there were unnecessary delays in the implementation of decisions, schemes, programs for the Diaspora. Moreover, during all those years MOIA received a very meager fund allocation and was not able to utilize even the small allocation.

⁴² Available at <https://mea.gov.in/lok-sabha.htm?dtl/26492>

MOIA had established three number of Overseas Indian Centers(OIC) at Abu Dhabi and Washington DC and Kuala Lumpur for its outreach to Indian Diaspora located in Gulf and North America. However, these centers could not be fully functional in terms of their outreach activities since these centers were operating in the overall supervision of Indian Missions.

A range of schemes and programs were implemented and awareness programs, conferences, and seminars were organized by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs during its existence. The Ministry was very effective in dealing with the situation of Indian nationals abducted in Iraq and their safe return to India. It came as a surprise to many when the government decided to merge MOIA with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in January 2016. A better strategy would have been bringing operational synergy between MOIA and MEA. These two miniseries would have been complementary to each other in handling the matters relating to the Indian diaspora. Even MEA alone cannot cater to the need of Indian diaspora properly due to the enormous size of diaspora spread across the world since the Indian Missions and Posts are overburdened due to lack of adequate resources.

MOIA had established several institutional mechanisms to engage with the Diaspora as well as for protection and welfare of Indian emigrant workers in ECR countries like OIFC for economic engagement, IDF-OI for philanthropy and social sector development, Global INK for skill and knowledge sharing, ICM for International migration policy think-tank, PMGAC – a high-level diaspora engagement mechanism, ICWF for welfare of workers,

OWRC/IWRC for information dissemination and grievance redressal, Overseas Indian centers, etc. Since MOIA was very small, it created several institutional mechanisms and entered into a partnership with various organizations to cater to the need of the Indian diaspora. Over a period of time, these institutional mechanisms would have yielded better results. All the ministries and government departments in India are dependent on the Ministry of External Affairs for foreign partnership and collaboration. Similarly, MOIA was also dependent on the MEA for the implementation of its policies and programs overseas. Perhaps one of the most important reasons for the merger was MEA's antipathy towards MOIA since, in a very short period of time, MOIA has made its presence felt in the area of diaspora engagement and protection and welfare of emigrants.

7.4 Impact on Diaspora Engagement

While the engagement of the diaspora has picked up over the years, it has intensified in recent years and mega diaspora events are being organized overseas during VVIP visit abroad. The diaspora engagement has emerged as an important component of contemporary Indian foreign policy. However, the diaspora engagement efforts are yet to produce desired results in the form of large investments and economic participation of the Indian diaspora in India's economic flagship initiatives like Make in India. The current diaspora policy is also probably inclined towards more high-profile diaspora, particularly engaging the diaspora in the West. The challenge of the policy also remains in the deeper engagement of the Indian diaspora, heterogeneous in social, economic and demographic characteristics, across the world. Specific challenges are expected to arise in the Middle East where a large section of the Indian diaspora is often under stressful and difficult

working conditions. The treatment of these overseas Indian workers needs to be integrated carefully within a broad diaspora policy, particularly in handling difficulties like sudden lay-offs and retrenchment of emigrant workers.

The establishment of the MOIA as a separate 'services' ministry in May 2004 was the culmination of this strategic shift in the Indian Diaspora policy. Several initiatives taken by the MOIA were not only to connect with the global Indian diaspora but also to deal with the welfare of Overseas Indian community, most noticeably, the signing of several of labor and social security agreements with foreign countries and creation of Indian Community Welfare Fund in all the Indian Mission across the world.

The annual labor flow of Indian workers to ECR countries is decreasing since 2016 i.e. after the merger of MOIA with MEA in January 2016. Protection of emigrants against exploitation and abuse is not possible in the absence of commitment of the Government of the host country. To secure such commitment, India signed labor agreements with Jordan and Qatar in the 1980s. After its creation in 2004, the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs made concerted efforts to enter into Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the major labor receiving countries for bilateral cooperation towards the protection and welfare of Indian emigrants including women migrants. The labor MoUs were signed with UAE, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, Malaysia, Bahrain, and Saudi Arabia. However, further, no progress has been made for MoUs with other countries after the merger of MOIA with MEA in 2016. The labor MoUs are a very effective mechanism for the protection and welfare of around seven million Indian workers in the Gulf.

The first bilateral Social Security Agreement was negotiated and signed with Belgium in 2006 by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs. Subsequently, MOIA negotiated and signed a bilateral Social Security Agreement with 17 other countries. As per EPFO data, a total of 264231 Indian professionals have got the benefit from the bilateral Social Security Agreement as on 30.10.2019. However, no further SSA has been signed after the merger of MOIA with MEA in January 2016.

The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs also negotiated and signed the first MOU on Labour Mobility Partnership with Denmark in 2009. The MOU is yet to be implemented by the MEA. There is no progress in negotiation and signing of Labour Mobility Partnership with other countries after the merger of MOIA with MEA in 2016.

Many of the schemes and programs are undertaken for diaspora engagement like OIFC, IDF-OI, PMGAC, Tracing the roots and Global INK after the merger of MOIA with MEA has been closed down. Some of the initiatives taken by the MOIA for the protection and welfare of Indian emigrants have also been closed down like MGPSY after the merger of MOIA with MEA.

At the policy implementation level, the merger certainly had a disruptive impact. Instead of a merger, a better approach would have been strengthening the institutional mechanisms established by MOIA to continue with the already implemented policies and programs. A minor bit of duplication was expected in the functions of the two ministries – MOIA and

MEA, and it was not dependence or duplication per se but cooperative governance for effective delivery of services to the Indian diaspora.

The efficiency in addressing diverse diaspora issues will only enhance with a dedicated ministry when considering the phenomenal number of Indian emigrants and the diversity of the countries they have migrated to work and settle down. The current focus of the government on diaspora business and investment, as well as a one-size-fits-all approach of tying up their welfare with initiatives such as Digital India, make in India, innovation and entrepreneurship, soft-power-yoga, and the Bollywood-Hollywood cultural connect will exclude the majority of the blue-collar unskilled workers, especially in the ECR countries. The myriad issues affecting emigrants - harassment or desertion of Indian women by their overseas spouses, fraudulent marriages by NRIs, registered and unregistered recruiting agents, problem of salary for emigrant workers in ECR countries, increasing instances of suicides, the case of domestic workers or the question of rehabilitation and resettlement of returnees from abroad justifies further strongly the indispensability of a full-fledged ministry.

Conversion of MOIA into just an Overseas Indian Affairs Division in the MEA has certainly pushed such matters to the side-lines since they fall outside the primary foreign policy objectives of conducting political and economic diplomacy with the world. While dealing with situations of conflicts in the emigrated lands can only be conducted with the coordination of the MEA, rehabilitation on return or dealing with the impact of migration on families left behind could most effectively be undertaken by a separate diaspora

ministry. Thus, re-establishing diaspora ministry will significantly enhance a coherent and practical diaspora policy as well as the executive capacity of the government to prioritize diaspora welfare from otherwise competing for demands of bilateral and multilateral foreign affairs.

7.4 Policy Recommendations

The relations between the Indian diaspora and their native land India can be promoted for mutual interests if the following steps can be considered by the government:

- To organize Pravasi Bhartiya Divas (PBD) every year, in place of it being organized biennially since 2015, as it would provide an opportunity for interactions between the diaspora and government authorities.
- The government should consider reviving the earlier policy of having a dedicated Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs in place of the present Overseas Indian Affairs Division in the Ministry of External Affairs. This will strengthen India's bonds with its diaspora.
- India should focus on engaging with the younger generation of Overseas Indians. The capacity of Know India Programme (KIP) should be enhanced to the tune of bringing about 50000 youths every year to India. When the youth stay in India and learn various professions, automatically, they will develop an emotional attachment to India and will be the future brand ambassador of India. It would also help them to feel "Indian" and develop a sense of belonging to India.

- Indian Missions should appoint more community officers who can actively engage with both NRIs and PIOs communities in their respective countries. Officers in the Missions do know a lot about the country but have no idea about the Indian communities and their concerns. The government should train the officers about the various Indian communities present in the host countries.
- To establish an institutional mechanism for promoting diaspora philanthropy and volunteering in India.
- To re-establish Diaspora Knowledge Network to share expertise available in the Indian Diaspora for promoting knowledge sharing and research. Create an electronic exchange to build a ready pool of experts in different field like health, education, urban development, sanitation, and inventory of master trainers in skill development
- Promoting a greater engagement of Overseas Indians through an appropriate institutional mechanism in Indian Diplomatic Missions abroad.

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Annexure-I: The State/UT-wise Emigration Clearance Granted from 2008-2019

States/UT	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Mizoram	8	2	2	0	3	5	1	2	1	2	1	3
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	17	3	4	8	3	12	15	10	8	11	3	8
Nagaland	10	5	8	11	10	15	9	14	1	2	5	3
Daman and Diu	27	8	11	12	13	20	23	13	32	25	37	20
Sikkim	18	12	11	14	13	33	16	12	15	7	13	7
Manipur	30	18	11	16	20	35	10	28	16	18	12	10
Lakshadweep	23	19	18	39	30	70	15	4	4	5	0	1
Meghalaya	24	21	22	54	39	78	7	11	9	9	5	7
Chhattisgarh	81	54	77	94	97	131	2013	243	187	123	109	120
Andaman and Nicobar	86	75	80	116	111	197	84	29	17	13	12	11
Arunachal Pradesh	151	181	188	184	153	246	69	15	3	3	0	5
Puducherry	389	307	225	212	256	353	427	517	302	336	312	281
Tripura	594	325	451	481	515	537	965	2244	2905	1365	1218	1643
Uttarakhand	524	623	742	774	823	1149	3511	4843	3288	2172	2081	3323
Himachal Pradesh	1337	770	824	879	841	1256	1290	1182	774	666	399	431
Chandigarh	1674	970	956	1081	1215	1715	1328	453	218	139	101	125
Haryana	1782	1046	1173	1117	1339	1959	2178	2690	1978	1548	1382	1475
Goa	2171	1649	1380	1407	1820	1987	1775	1182	834	666	641	627
Assam	1521	1784	1557	1490	2466	2828	4073	4310	3876	2557	1667	2632
Madhya Pradesh	2324	1886	2129	2470	2832	2891	1683	2034	1334	995	974	1145

Delhi	4463	2497	2573	2505	3376	3793	2642	2501	1783	1211	1107	1485
Jharkhand	3550	3546	3910	4214	4708	4534	7839	7629	4924	3930	3664	3348
Jammu & Kashmir	3595	4291	4074	4336	5278	6802	4441	4749	4364	2089	2704	4540
Odisha	8813	6561	7337	7290	6999	8865	13049	15267	12314	11200	9832	7476
Gujarat	15525	9131	8233	8467	7490	10635	7894	6878	4544	4266	3314	3688
Karnataka	20789	18539	17215	15719	17925	17804	15055	11940	6471	5231	4267	5316
Maharashtra	24616	19116	18065	16960	19236	19582	19111	15296	10443	7851	7449	7666
West Bengal	25661	21177	27842	29272	36948	41898	51581	64609	53346	36599	28648	28982
Punjab	54254	26969	28877	30195	37539	44949	48450	46574	31860	27607	19777	14665
Telangana	48416	27161	30858	33010	42252	48697	38521	36402	25081	17609	13085	13388
Andhra Pradesh	43613	42023	44193	43193	50233	51176	53103	45301	27005	17725	15528	18005
Rajasthan	63898	44670	47636	43612	50359	61213	48133	46108	35167	32184	30272	28982
Bihar	59689	50162	60414	69473	78160	83385	98748	107586	76385	69426	59181	55423
Tamil Nadu	93646	77665	84415	72277	83972	86134	83205	73065	42542	38341	31588	27783
Kerala	163737	119188	103889	88040	98132	96868	66055	43157	25166	16643	14496	19173
Uttar Pradesh	137298	125548	140501	158315	191143	217849	229496	237254	143741	88450	86273	116251
Total	784354	608002	639901	637337	746349	819701	805005	784152	520938	391024	340157	368048

Source: Emigration Clearance Related Report, <https://emigrate.gov.in/ext/preViewPdfGenRptAction.action>

Annexure-II: The ECR Country-wise Emigration Clearances Granted from 2008-2019

Name of Country	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
United Arab Emirates	317131	129581	130608	141627	141362	202980	224043	225718	163716	149962	112059	76112
Saudi Arabia	227657	280991	274544	293880	356489	353565	330002	308380	165355	78611	72399	161103
Kuwait	30154	41729	37632	45164	55843	72628	80420	66579	72384	56380	57613	45712
Qatar	76888	46239	45562	42556	63137	78380	75997	59384	30619	24759	34471	31810
Oman	81549	74644	105513	75671	84503	63554	51319	85054	63236	53332	36037	28392
Bahrain	29105	17381	15078	14912	20148	17317	14207	15623	11964	11516	9142	9997
Malaysia	13571	10899	20631	17966	21230	22323	22927	20908	10604	14002	16370	10633
Jordan	1375	854	2555	1432	1800	1462	2133	2047	2742	2341	1941	3941
Iraq	0	0	390	1241	925	6553	3054	1	0	0	0	162
Afghanistan	403	347	256	496	114	154	127	70	0	0	0	2
Indonesia	30	9	3	22	11	38	29	6	1	10	10	0
Thailand	16	6	5	28	9	16	53	10	1	0	6	24
Lebanon	67	189	765	547	288	281	313	341	316	110	109	160
Sudan	807	708	951	1177	489	144	255	29	0	1	0	0
Syria	74	0	2	118	0	10	0	1	0	0	0	0
Yemen	533	370	208	29	0	3	4	1	0	0	0	0
Libya	4994	4055	5198	471	1	293	122	0	0	0	0	0
Total	784354	608002	639901	637337	746349	819701	805005	784152	520938	391024	340157	368048

Source: Emigration Clearance Related Report, <https://emigrate.gov.in/ext/preViewPdfGenRptAction.action>

Annexure-III:Indian Diaspora Survey Form

Dear Friends,

My name is Shiv Ratan and I am Director in the Ministry of Communications, Government of India, New Delhi. I am currently undergoing a M.Phil course on Advanced Professional Program in Public Administration (APPPA) from Indian Institute of Public Administration (<https://www.iipa.org.in/>), New Delhi.

I was Counsellor (Community Affairs) in the Embassy of India, Washington DC during 2013- 16 and was responsible for OCI/PIO scheme and engaging with Indian Diaspora. I was also Director in the erstwhile Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs(MOIA) from 2008-13.

I have undertaken a research project on “India's Diaspora Engagement Strategy: An Analysis” as part of my program on APPPA. I need your help and support in answering the questions as given below for recommending to strengthen the India’s diaspora engagement strategy.

Information being collected will be used only for the research purpose and it will not be used for any other purpose.

Kindly specify your most appropriate response while answering the questions. If you have any question, kindly feel free to contact me on shivratan95@gmail.com/shiv.ratan@gov.in.

With regards,

Shiv Ratan
+919871114592

1. Name :

2. Sex :

- Male
 Female

3. Age :

- < 18
- 19-29
- 30-39
- 40-49
- 50-59
- > 60

4. What is the highest level of education you have achieved?

- Bachelor's degree
- Master's degree
- PhD
- Other: _____

5. What is your profession?

- Accounting/Finance/Banking
- Consulting/Corporate Strategy
- Education/Training
- Engineering
- Government
- Health care/Medical
- IT/Technology
- Science/Research
- Other: _____

6. What was your primary reason for leaving India?

- Education
- Employment/business
- Moved with family
- Marriage
- Other: _____

7. Are any of your immediate family members (spouse, children, parents) living in India?

- No
- Yes - spouse
- Yes - children
- Yes – parents

8. On average, how often do you return to India?

- More than once every 6 months
- Once a year
- Once every two years
- Once every three years
- Less than every three years

9. On average, how long do you stay in India when you visit?

- Less than 1 week
- 1–2 weeks
- 2–4 weeks
- 1–2 months
- 3–6 months
- 6 months–1 year
- More than 1 year

10. For what purpose do you visit India?

- Holiday
- To visit friends and family
- Business
- Education
- Other: _____

11. What is your current Nationality?

- British
- US citizen
- Canadian
- Australian
- Other: _____

12. What is your Country of Residence?

- UK
- USA
- Canada
- Australia
- Other: _____

13. Do you hold OCI/PIO card?

- PIO Card
- OCI Card
- None

14. How long does it take to get OCI/PIO card in the Country of your residence?

- < 1 Month
- 1-2 Months
- 2-3 Months
- > 3 Months
- Other: _____

15. Are you aware of merger and the conversion of PIO cards into OCI cards?

- Yes
- No
- Other: _____

16. Are you aware that OCI card has got to be re-issued each time a new passport is issued up to the completion of 20 years of age and once after completing 50 years of age?

- Yes
- No
- Other: _____

17. How is your experience in dealing with Embassy/Consulate for Consular services (Passport, OCI/PIO/Visa/attestation) in your country of residence?

- Excellent
- Very Good
- Good
- Needs improvement
- Other: _____

18. Do you know about MADAD portal (www.madad.gov.in) for registering any grievance related to consular services offered by Indian Missions/Posts abroad?

- Yes
- No
- Other: _____

19. Do you send remittances to family members or friends in India?

- Yes
- No

20. Who do you send remittances to?

- Spouse
- Children
- Parents
- Dependents
- Extended family members (i.e. aunts, uncles, cousins, grandmother, grandfather)
- Friends
- Community organizations
- Other: _____

21. How often do you send money?

- Monthly
- Quarterly
- Annually
- Other: _____

22. How do you remit funds to India?

- Bank transfer
- Western Union
- Independent money brokers
- Internet-based transfer services
- In cash form through friends or family
- Other: _____

23. Why do you send remittances to India?

- Financial support for family or friends
- Contributions for development projects
- Personal investment
- Debt service
- Personal obligation
- Other: _____

24. Do you have any properties/ assets in India?

- Yes
- No

25. Do you have any private investments in India?

- Yes
- No

26. Are you interested in making a private investment in India?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

27. If yes, what type of investment is of interest to you?

- Manufacturing
- Financial services
- Agriculture/horticulture
- Transport
- IT/ITES
- Infrastructure
- Tourism
- Other: _____

28. Are you currently interested in contributing or donating to development projects in India?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

29. Which development projects are you interested in supporting?

- Education
- Health care provision
- Infrastructure development
- Faith-based organizations
- Women's associations
- Childcare
- Microfinance initiatives
- Other: _____

30. What type of support would you be interested in contributing?

- Business/enterprise
- Cultural activities
- Development initiatives e.g. NGO work, youth development, health etc.
- Social activities e.g. social development issues like gender, inclusion etc.
- Skills transfer e.g. consulting, training, coaching, mentoring, professional development
- Volunteering
- Other: _____

31. What motivate(s)/motivated you to engage with India?

- A desire to 'give back' and contribute to India
- Family and/or friends
- New opportunities to explore in India
- Personal interest in India
- India represents a viable market/enabling environment
- Other: _____

32. Are there any barriers or restrictions that exist that could stop you from contributing to India's development?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure
- Other: _____

33. If yes, what are these barriers?

- Financial constraints
- Work commitments
- Political/legal
- Other: _____

34. Do you belong to a Diaspora network?

- No
- Academic
- Work-based
- Government
- Indian Community Association
- Other: _____

35. Have you attended Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas (PBD)/ Regional PBD?

- Yes
- No
- Other: _____

36. Are you aware that Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas (PBD) is being held now once in two years?

- Yes
- No
- Other: _____

37. Do you think Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas (PBD) should be held during the month of December?

- Yes
- No
- Other: _____

38. Do you think Regional PBD should be held every year?

- Yes
- No
- Other: _____

39. Are you aware of various Diaspora engagement initiatives of India?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure
- Other: _____

40. Do you think the merger of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs with the Ministry of External Affairs in 2016 has any impact of Diaspora Engagement in India?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure
- Other: _____

41. How do you rate the current level of engagement with Diaspora by India?

- Excellent
- Very Good
- Good
- Needs improvement
- Other: _____

42. Do you think the Prime Minister's Global Advisory Council of People of Indian Origin (PMGAC) should be re-established in India?

- Yes
- No
- Other: _____

43. Do you think a separate Ministry for Diaspora should be created for meaningful Diaspora Engagement in India?

- Yes
- No
- Other: _____

44. What can the Indian Government do more to encourage its Diaspora community in contributing to the country's development?

45. Would you like to suggest some measure to improve India's Diaspora Engagement Strategy?

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR COOPERATION!
