



Situating Migration in Covid 19 Times and The Federal Perceptions

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Abstract:

Lockdowns, travel restrictions, and social isolation have all but halted global economic activity. Many industries that depend on the availability of migrant workers, such as agriculture and health care, provide extra issues for host countries. In addition to the potential loss of their jobs, earnings, and health insurance, migrants run the danger of spreading disease. This Migration and Development Brief forecasts how these developments may influence international economic migration and remittance trends globally in 2020 and 2021. With few exclusions, the Covid-19 epidemic caused the European Council to impose a travel ban on non-citizens on 17 March 2020. Many nations, including India, have imposed travel restrictions or closed their borders entirely to foreigners wishing to enter the nation as well as residents wishing to leave. These judgments have an impact on numerous people looking for a route to enter Europe. The dynamics of migrant decision-making are directly impacted by health and socioeconomic issues associated with lockdowns, border closures, and in certain cases travel limitations. This article studies on Situating Migration in Covid 19 Times and The Federal Perceptions.

Keywords: Migration, Covid 19, Federal Perceptions, migrant workers,

Introduction

“Migration is an expression of human aspirations for dignity, safety and a better future. It is part of the social fabric, part of our very make-up as a human family”.

Ban Ki Moon

Migration or the movement of the people from the place of origin to the place of destination is an age-old practice aimed to address various disparities—socio-economic, political, cultural, and environmental and others. This concept may at times appear as a conceptual riddle as well as an ideological instrument reflecting the dynamism of the federal governance [1] structure. In a way, it has become one of the parameters for measuring the quotient of development and wellbeing of the population. It is a process that acts as input for formulating, designing and implementing public policies and programmes in various spheres of governance in a federal set

up. Migration tends to draw attention of the government as it is a determinant of the redistribution of the population over time and space.

The subject 'migration' has not garnered the importance that it deserves in an emerging power India. Constitutionally, there has been ambiguity about the concept as it has mostly been assigned implicit mentioning and it is left at the whims of the centre and the states as well as the union territories to situate the notion in determining the nature of policies and governance thereof. For instance, Part II of the Indian Constitution exemplifies provisions with respect to citizenship and hence in the Article 6 and 7 hint at the formal inclusion of migrants as citizens of the country. This is the first instance of the use of the term in the Constitution, but only to point at the equal treatment to be meted out to the migrants as a legal entity of the country. Part III of the Indian Constitution guarantees the citizens with some fundamental rights, broadening their spheres of liberty, equality and in the process rendering them justice. In other words, individual as well as collective aspirations are revered. For example, Article 19 (1) (d), and 19 (1) (e) states that the citizens may move freely in any part of the territory and may reside and settle in any part of the territory. Therefore, this implies implicit inclusion of the migrant workers and their rights in case of intrastate, intra-district or interstate migration. However, this is limited by provision mentioned in Article 19 (5), (6) subject in the interest of the general public and the states are free to act accordingly. Article 21 on the other hand mentions explicitly about the protection of life and liberty. This makes it obligatory for the states to take care of individual's prerogative and in the process formulates, design and implement welfare policies and programmes accordingly.

In this article, the major focus will be on contextualizing and classifying migration and the migrant workers at length. The Constitutional positioning as well as other specific measures pertaining to migration will be discussed. The theoretical perspective of migration through a Covid 19 lens will be situated and the internal migration will be looked into respectively. Some examples will be incorporated to present the current pattern that is quite unusual i.e., reverse migration when the factors of push and pull stand still. The role of the Centre and the States as well as judicial intervention in addressing the miseries of the migrant workers within the territory in Covid 19 times, have been assimilated in this article. [2]

Contextualizing migration and the migrant workers: Applying the federal lens

Migration is the barometer of changing socio-economic and political condition of the national and international levels. It is also a sign of widespread disparities in economic and social conditions between the origin and destination. (UNFPA, 1993). There is no certain etymology for the concept of migration as it varies based on location, situation and understanding. It includes all types of population movement, including place of residence, irrespective of the reasons, their composition and duration. There are some considerations that may help to contextualize the notion of migration broadly:

Socially, migration and the issue of the migrant workers may be seen as a manifestation of structure, processes and purpose that tend to promote movement from the place of origin to the destination and vice versa. For illustration, in case of seasonal or circular migration there are instances of migration and reverse migration hinting at the streams and counter streams of the movement undertaken for survival and sustainability.

Globally, the critical dimensions of the neo-liberal political economy act as a force for short term, midterm and long term movement of the migrant workers. The better wages, quality, life and entitlements act as driving force of migration and an instrument of socio-economic leveler. This may be attributed to emigration and immigration in a globalizing world.

Academically, relative study of the social, political and economic factors situated at the place of origin and the destination provide dependent an independent variables to look into the issue of migration both internal and international, that otherwise would have been mundane paradigm to understand the nature and cause of migration considerably redefining the demography. The aim is to perceive the level of interactions and interconnectedness and realize the significance of the migrant workers strategically as well as pragmatically in a globalizing world.

The contextual understanding of migration and the migrant workers help in articulating the dynamism as it broadens the perspective and approach to deal with the challenges. The issue has gained momentum due to Covid19 that exposed the flaws in the existing scenario. This has also amassed the attention of the Centre and the States, hinting at the evolving cooperative competitive federalism. Initiatives to rehabilitate the distress hit migrant workers have been proposed for 116 districts across six states of northern part, namely Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Odisha. For the purpose skill mapping drive has been undertaken. The following table enlists the distribution of coverage of 116 districts across six States. [3]

Table 1: Skill Mapping of Migrant Workers in COVID 19 times

S.No	State	District
1.	Bihar	32
2.	Uttar Pradesh	31
3.	Madhya Pradesh	24
4.	Rajasthan	22
5.	Odisha	04
6.	Jharkhand	03
Total		116

Source: Author's interpretation

Recently, the Government of India also launched SWADES (Skilled Workers Arrival Database for Employment Support) to harness the skills of Indians returning home from abroad under the Vande Bharat Mission. Similar measures were taken by the States too. Uttar Pradesh is the first state to initiate skill mapping exercise for the migrant workers and Odisha began with the reskilling programme for its returning migrant workers. Such measures are part of the government's overall plan to ensure targeted welfare and job opportunities for the workers who have returned home. This will empower the human resource in general and facilitate a strategic framework for the migrant workers with suitable employment opportunities in particular.

While contextualizing the concept migration and the migrant workers it is commendable to include the sources of data pertaining to seasonal migration that contributes maximum to the volume and stream of migration. "Population pressure on finite resources encourages migration. While urbanization and rural –urban migration are natural outcome of the transition from agriculture based economy to an industrial economy, the extent of such migration is frequently perceived to be excessive and urban population have been concentrated in the largest urban agglomerations in most of the Third World nations in general and in Asia and Pacific regions in particular. The migration is seen, not so much natural outcome of development, but more as a result of distortion in the development process deriving from inappropriate or ineffective planning." (UN, ESCAPE, 1991, Pp. 1-12). The most crucial sources of data for the purpose are Census and National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO), and other sources for having a general understanding are National Population Register, Household Surveys and Labour Force Surveys. These data are of great help for framing and execution of policies and schemes as well as laws for the migrant workers by the Centre and the States. [4]

Let us consider the data of the Census Report, 2011 to contextualize the origin and destination that mention vividly the volume of migrants as high as 45.58 Crore. This hints at the exponential surge by 30% in comparison to the data of Census Report, 2001. The table incorporated below illustrates at migration to, and from the selected States.

MIGRATIONS TO, FROM SELECTED STATES 2011

*Total Migrants includes intra-state migration, migrants from other states and migrants from outside India

**West Bengal: Last residence of 20,05945 individuals shown as outside India;18,96,585 in Bangladesh

STATE TOTAL MIGRANTS*		MIGRANTS FROM OTHER STATES							
		UP	BIHAR	RAJASTHAN	ODISHA	WEST BENGAL	MP	PUNJAB	TOTAL
MAHARASHTRA	5.74 cr	27.55L	5.68 L	5.17L	1.24L	3.10L	8.24L	73,951	90.87L
UTTAR PRADESH	5.65 cr	-	10.73L	2.84L	35,269	2.34L	6.68L	1.42L	40.62L
WEST BENGAL**	3.34 cr	2.39 L	11.04L	57,668	1.42L	-	15,815	18,154	23.81L
GUJARAT	2.69 cr	9.29 L	3.61L	7.47L	1.76L	89,040	2.75L	27,549	39.16L
KERALA***	1.79 cr	12,203	3,904	8,893	12,223	30,470	8,345	3,402	6.54L
PUNJAB	1.37 cr	6.50 L	3.53L	2.02L	11,717	46,958	32,869	-	24.88L
ASSAM***	1.06 cr	35,441	1.47L	22,778	5,153	94,724	2,478	3,617	4.96L
ALL INDIA*	48.58cr	5.43cr							

Source: Census of India 2011

**Kerala:Last residence of 1,53,454 individuals shown as outside India;mostly in Saudi Arabia,UAE,Kenya

***Last residence of 10314 individuals shown as outside India;64,117 in Bangladesh

The Census Report, 2011 on 'migration' reveals that internal migration is an inevitable within as well as out of the State. The data hint at the human resource mobilization due to various factors like employment opportunities, better education, health facilities and marriage. Sequential migration also follows when the movement of the household happens without consensus. Here the dependent variables like wellbeing of the migrant workers and the independent variable like opportunities at the destination, act more as a magnet to keep the pace of development and sustainability intact. The above data reflects the interstate and intrastate migration and its concentration in various States. The origin states or the source states lack initiatives to engage its human resource actively in shaping the well being of the State.[5-6]

CLASSIFICATION OF MIGRATION:

The concept 'migration' though the lack etymology in general, but it may be classified based on factors like rationale and incentives, time and distance in particular. Basically the rationale and incentives are directly proportional to the distance and time bound, i.e., long distance or short distance migration. Hence, rationale and incentives act as independent variables that tend to define the type and duration of the migration.

Migration may be classified as internal migration and external or international migration. Internal migration characterized by intra district, intrastate and interstate movement usually marked by the streams of migration, i.e., rural to rural, rural to urban, urban to rural and urban to urban. Here, the cooperative and competitive federal structure plays crucial role in making effective policies and mitigate the intensity of the flow of migration. This efficiently and effectively redistributes the demography within the territory. International migration is featured by emigration and immigration generally promoting diasporas, the surge in FOREX reserve due to economic remittances at home. The following definitions provide the conceptual clarity of the terminologies with reference to migration. [7]

- Internal Migration is an important factor for the arrangement of the population over time and space with its implication on the systemic structure- community, household and individuals. The objective is to address the challenges pertaining to economic and social distribution of various resources. The main factor contributing to internal migration among females are marriages.
- International Migration is the movement of population to and fro from the country of origin or birth to country of destination mostly due to push and pull factors. It is a global phenomena and a positive force of development, coupled with the right set of policies.
- In migration is the movement of the population specific to a particular area within the territory.
- Out migration is the movement of population out of a particular area within the territory.
- Emigration is the movement of the population outside the origin country to another factored by economic reasons. This may lead to brain drain.
- Immigration is the movement of the population from the outside territory to the origin country due to social, environmental, cultural or political reasons.
- Seasonal migration is basically the movement of population from the origin to destination owing to the seasonal nature of agriculture. In the lean season, the workforce is left with the only choice to move to urban centers and earn livelihood for the time being.
- Circular migration is the repetitive movement of the population typically for the purpose of employment by the migrant workers whether cross country or rural -urban.
- Sequential migration is the movement of the systemic arrangement of the household along with the migrant worker to the destination. This may not be consensual but implicitly forced one. This may lead to abrupt challenges.
- Rural to Rural migration is more commonly observed among women due to marriages.
- Rural to Urban migration is attributed to the level of industrialization and seeking a rise in the standard of living.
- Urban to Urban migration is unusual, triggered by better life chances and cost benefit. This may happen in a stepwise manner.
- Urban to Rural migration is observed in the peripheral zone of the Centre due to its cost effectiveness.

THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVE OF MIGRATION AND THE COVID19 LENS:

The two analytical models, i.e., macro and micro models define the theoretical trajectory of a migration. Some of the illustrious macro models are Ravensteinmodel (Stepwise model), Zipf model (model of least effort), and Stouffer model (Intervening Opportunity model) and others. The most applicable micro model is Lee's model (push and pull model). Following is the brief mentioning of the prescribed models: [8]

1. **Ravenstein model** focuses over the short distance movement of the migrants generally, but long distance may be undertaken if industry and commerce are well developed. Major reason is economic and mostly occurs in a stepwise manner from rural to urban.

2. **The gravity model** treats distance as the main hurdle and states that migrant workers are more likely to get attracted to the closest places to avoid distractions.

3. **Strouffer model** takes the intervening opportunities into consideration and believes in the relative accessibility. This is highly popular among the migrant workers.

4. **Zelinsky model** is basically a transitional model that categorizes the migration in a staged manner namely:

- a. Stage 1: Premodern traditional society
- b. Stage 2: early transitional society
- c. Stage 3: late transitional society
- d. Stage 4: advanced society
- e. Stage 5: future super advanced society

5. **Lee model** is defined by push factors like poverty and political instability at the origin pull factors like economies and job opportunities at the destination. It focuses only on desire and not the ability, hence it is mostly undertaken by unskilled or semi skilled migrant workers. [9]

6. **The neoclassical economic model** is highly structured by the wage differences of any two locations and is linked to demand and supply of labour.

7. **Dual labour market theory** is mainly due to pull factors and is common in the developed regions.

8. **Relative deprivation model** is observed due to awareness of income differences.

9. **The world system model** presents the global perspective where interaction is a crucial factor in bringing social change.

All these models tend unique in their application as some to promote social capillary movement, while others pay heed to the bimodal interplay of push and pull factors respectively. The commonality lies in the ways to deal with challenges faced by the migrant workers. Here the role of the federal governance structure needs to be situated with proper institutional mechanism.

In the light of the above theoretical projection, there is a need to restructure the determinants responsible for migration in time of Covid 19 where new normal is marked by the reverse migration. The push and pull factors seem to be overloaded with accountability and the unprecedented exodus of the migrant workers has become burdensome to the State exchequer of the destination as well as the origin when the economic activities engaging them stand inert. There is a lack of a collaborative approach between the Centre and the States in providing them a cushion to overcome this immediate crisis and formulate skilling programme to harness their caliber strategically in the long run. Reverse migration has followed an unusual path where no certainty to rehabilitate the internal migrant workers in the post Covid 19 times has been proposed explicitly by the Centre and the States. There has been an emerging discourse about the theoretical conceptualization of the new normal defined in terms of physical distancing and distance collaborating. It is still unthinkable of engaging the migrant workers in a way that they do not stand starved. However, the Centre and the States are evolving ways to address such challenges. For instance, skill mapping and skill tapping at the place of origin will help the migrant workers to address their concerns. [10-11]

CONSTITUTIONAL REFERENCE OF THE TERM 'MIGRATION' AND ITS INTERPRETATION IN THE COVID 19 TIMES:

The Indian Constitution is implicitly using the concept in many places, but the ambiguity remains over its valid interpretation. Part II, Part III and Part IV of the Constitution hint at the legal obligation on the part of the State to treat all alike and restrict their prerogatives only to ensure general interest and in preserving the public order and morality. If we try to interpret these texts in the light of presently applied Epidemic Disease Act, 1897, we may be well convinced that the States may make temporary regulations with regard to a person or class of persons to limit the spread of the disease. But the invocation of such Act without a sunset clause hinting at its limitation may amount to unconstitutional appendage. Hence, the measures like nationwide lockdown without thoughtful remedies for the distressed migrant workers created a nervous breakdown, compelling them to walk down for miles to reach their home. Some of them lost their lives while others lost their loved ones, reminding of the unstructured sector flourishing at the cost of their silence. This had exposed the loopholes in the governance structure that otherwise is a manifestation of the structure and process largely defining the purpose. Lockdown has been, henceforth, followed by unlock down in a phase manner reflecting the allegiance to the provisions of the Constitution.

The Schedule VII specifically mentions the division of subjects between the Centre and the States as union list, state list and the concurrent list. Union list with its following entries take cognizance of migration and the migrant workers:

Entry 19: admission into, and emigration from India; passports and visas

Entry 68: survey of India

Entry 69: census

State list mentions the following entries hinting at migration and the migrant workers:

Entry 06: public health and sanitation, hospitals and dispensaries

Entry 09: relief for the disabled and unemployable

Concurrent list envisages the mutual obligation of the Centre and the States to make laws and protect the migrant workers under the following entries:

Entry 23: social security and social insurance, employment

Entry 24: welfare of labour, including condition of work

Entry 29: constitutional powers of States to prevent the interstate spread of communicable diseases

The above Constitutional stand regarding the division of subjects between the Centre and the States is evident and shows that though explicit relief for the migrant workers have not been stated, but the wider interpretation in light of the present situation point at the implied powers vested in the federal governance structure. For instance, in the Covid19 times when reverse migration was experienced heavily across the nation, then Centre as well as the States had to decide to provide them fooding, shelter and some assured income to sustain them during the lockdown. Awareness was also generated regarding the outbreak of the pandemic (Covid19) and the protocol was also explained. Knowledge regarding physical distancing, wearing of masks, promoting hygiene culture and helpline number in case of a health emergency, was dispensed to them. [12-13]

POWER SHARING AND THE EVOLVING FEDERAL EQUATION IN COVID 19 TIMES:

The basic understanding of the federalism in India is attributed to its vast size and the socio-cultural diversity. It is well structured to disseminate efficient governance and also reconcile national unity with regional autonomy. With the asymmetrical dispensation of power distribution both constitutionally and politically, the federal equation has to be accommodative, cooperative, competitive and collaborative. This implies that 'one size does not fit all'; therefore, there is a need to evolve ways that may take addressing of the common challenges as a goal at the levels of federal governance. The basic normative requirements of federalism in the Constitution are explicitly expressed in Part XI and XII. But there is a lot to be explored than that appears. The notions of power sharing in the institutional set up of federalism appear contested and highly contextualized. The vertical power sharing, the horizontal power sharing and the transversal power sharing in a federal system of governance reflect the variants of fusion and separation in allocation of certain issues and competences in decision making. These powers sharing component often idealizes the features of cooperative federalism. But in the present time, the cooperative federalism stands at a tumultuous juncture as the unitary feature of the government seems to operational in a top down manner with no autonomy for the federal units, i.e., the States and Union Territories. For instance, the following measures and provisions were notified and implemented unanimously by the Centre with the binding clauses hinting at the challenged notion of cooperative federalism: [14]

1. In the absence of a legal framework, the Centre invoked Disaster Management Act, 2005 to impose a nationwide lockdown. Section 11(1) and 11(2) mandates a National Plan for the whole country in consultation with the State government for disaster management. This presents the very essence of the cooperative federalism. However, no such mandate was applied in imposing lockdown.
2. Schedule VII specifies the public health as a State subject. But the Centre not only overlooked its specification but overstepped by limiting the scope of dealing with health emergencies by the States. In lieu of being rational, it unilaterally decided the protocol to be followed regarding the health guidelines, imposition of nationwide lockdown and the ways to deal with internal migrants.
3. Suspension of MPLADs for the next 2 years and the diversion of the fund to the Consolidated Fund of India severed the last mile support to the peculiar needs of the constituencies.
4. Invoking of the antiquated EDA, 1897 read along with the Article 19 (5) further raised suspicions over the federal governance as the Centre classified the entire country into district wise zones, further paralyzing the States' sphere of decision making.

In the light of the above context, it is quite evident that that the cooperative federalism stands diluted, and the new type reflects the condition of coercive federalism. States also retaliated by practicing sub national protectionism furthering the plight of internal migrants. However, this perception may be over exaggeration as the new normal triggered by the pandemic not only demand a strong Centre but also allegiances of the States reflecting the notion of transversal power sharing. The existing institutional mechanism like Interstate Council which has remained largely moribund can be rejuvenated to redirect the new cooperative yet accommodative federal trend. For example, the Centre is planning to redefine the categorization of the migrant workers for better realization of social and health benefits to the excluded economic migrants. Cooperative federalism is not an alternative but a necessity to address the challenges posed by the pandemic. Subsequent attempts of establishing coordination between the Centre and the States as well as amongst the States have eased the political action and policy ambiguity amid pandemic regarding health crises and internal migrant sufferings. [15-18]

ROLE OF JUDICIARY IN THE COVID 19 TIMES:

The judiciary is a major determinant of the democratic way of life. It upholds peace, order and good government and also maintains the rule of law. At the present time, when law and order went haywire due to a sudden outbreak of the pandemic the migrant workers miseries were taken up by the Supreme Court suo-motu. It gave the following directions to the Centre and the States as well as Union Territories to be followed in the Covid 19 times: [19]

1. To publish information on all social media platform regarding free food to be offered to the neediest in their vicinity
2. To arrange free transport for the stranded workers to home in 15 days and ordered the railways to provide the States with 171 more Shramik Special trains
3. To submit a response detailing the measures taken for the migrant workers
4. To begin the process of migrant registration at the decentralized level, i.e., police station and local authorities
5. To conduct skill mapping and counseling of the migrant workers

The court directed the Centre and the States to withdraw any complaint or prosecution lodged against migrant workers who had set out on foot from big cities for their native villages to escape starvation, unemployment and disease during the pandemic. The court said “society as a whole was moved by their miseries and difficulties.” Therefore, the States/Union Territories were directed to consider the withdrawal of the complaints/prosecution under Section 51 of the Disaster Management Act. This reflects the humanitarian considerations and respect for the fundamental rights of every citizen irrespective of categorizations and classifications. It also justified the rulings of High Courts as constitutional in taking cognizance of the violation of fundamental rights of the migrant workers. The court also recognized the contributions of the NGOs and individuals in helping the migrant workers to combat pandemic. (The Hindu, June 2020)

The two sets of PILs that were filed, not only set the standard by the judiciary in the Covid 19 times, but also chalked out ways for the Centre and the States to act in cooperation, collaboration, collaboration and coordination to strengthen the federal governance. The sorted PILs are:

1. Writ Petition No. 468/2020: Alakh Alok Srivastava vs. UOI

This case was filed by an advocate practicing in the Supreme Court seeking immediate action to protect the rights of the migrant workers, and also seeking directions for the States to provide them with essential goods like food, drinking water, shelter and medical aid in the distress. The actions taken to address the mentioned demands by the Centre and the States were commendable in the Covid 19 times. The court further directed the UOI to display the daily bulletin on social media in all forms to clear the persisting doubts among the people.

2. Writ Petition with Diary No.10801/2020: Harsh Mander and Anjali Srivastav vs. UOI

This case was filed by social activist, Harsh Mander and RTI activist, Anjali Srivastav and was presented by advocate, Prashant Bhushan in regard to immediate payment of minimum wages to the migrant workers who were hit hard by the Covid 19. States addressed the problem by providing 5kg rations to the migrant workers irrespective of the availability of the ration card and also issued a State helpline number to further address their issues. The Supreme Court further directed the Centre and the States to take care of the migrant workers by providing basic amenities to overcome the risks of starvation and shelter.

The role of the Judiciary in the Covid 19 times has been very crucial when the Centre and the States were not well equipped to resolve the unprecedented challenges and frame laws and provisions to bail out the migrant workers, who otherwise exist without formal recognition. The directions given by the court to the governments helped to ease the systemic risks involved in the structural settings.

WAY FORWARD:

The widening purview of internal migration may be attributed to the secondary sources of data mainly Census and National Sample Survey. The Census gathers information on migrants/non-migrants based on the birthplace, last residence, reason of migration and the duration of residence in the village or town of enumeration. It also investigates about the type and stream of migration. The National Sample Survey provides additional information about expenditure and the nature of economic activity at the destination. It even captures the type of migration. However, the information gathered by National Sample Survey does not provide an alternative to the Census data. Both the sources of data on migration are limited in scope due to their contextual nature of gathering information. Therefore, there is a need to formulate strategies and institutional mechanism to overcome the shortcomings.

Other organization like National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganized Sector (NCEUS), and various Labour Codes namely Codes on Wages (2019), Occupational Safety, on Health and Working Condition (COSH), Social Security, and Industrial Relations may be engaged in formal collection of information with respect to internal migration in the coming time. This will help the Centre as well as the States to bring about rational changes with the optimal inclusion of the human resources based on their level of skill.

The Interstate Migrant Policy Index 2019 (IMPEX), a nonprofit organization has also undertaken active analyses of State level policies for integration of out-of-the-State migrants. It develops its assessment based on eight parameters, namely labour policies, child welfare, housing, social welfare, education, health, sanitation and political participation. There is a need to create a governance structure that engages the State, the Market and the Civil Society and provide a healthy interface in the Covid 19 times. This will address the challenges like non availability of data regarding the migrant workers who lost their lives during the lockdown and their household stand shattered on being left non-compensated.

In the Covid19 times, it is clear that the new normal requires realigning the cooperative and collaborative approach of the Centre and the States to linking-pin model creating mutual accountability and answerability. This is a futuristic goal of evolving the Centre-State relations. Some of the recent initiatives to mitigate the effect of the pandemic are namely Garib Kalyan Yojana, AatmaNirbhar Bharat, creation of Digital Trust and building health infrastructure etc.

We must understand that Covid19 like crisis may resurge in future, so we need to strengthen our internal security (cyber crime, gender abuse) and also create strong mechanism to address the issue of migrant workers who constitute the next billion lacking the last mile finance. Migrant workers who are underbanked, unaccessed, uncredited and uneducated must be reconsidered by the Centre and the States in formulating, designing and implementing of policies and provisions furthering the scope of cooperative federalism. [20]

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