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September 25, 2020; 3:30 PM
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Speaks on:

From the Globe back to India: What Next for Return Migrants?

Abstract

The COVID 19 pandemic caused great disruption to the world economy and, as a result, has led to widespread return of migrant workers from their destinations due to a loss of livelihoods. India, being one of the largest senders of migrant workers in the world will be particularly hit, with migrants returning from all parts of the globe and especially the Gulf Cooperation Council countries — which host around 10 million Indians. This talk will focus on the impacts of return migration to India. Through an estimation of the number of return migrants and the conditions in which they are expected to return, it will focus on its economic and social impacts. Finally, the talk will also highlight some key policies to enact in order to facilitate the rehabilitation and re-integration of these migrants back into Indian economy and society. It will also look forward at the various ways in which new corridors of migration can be encouraged in the future.

About the speaker:

Dr S. Irudaya Rajan is Professor at the Centre for Development Studies (CDS), Kerala. He is Chair of the KNOMAD Thematic group on internal migration and urbanization, managed by the World Bank. With more than three decades of research experience at the CDS, he has coordinated eight major migration surveys in Kerala since 1998 (with Professor K. C. Zachariah); conducted migration surveys in Goa (2008), Punjab (2011) and Tamil Nadu (2015); also provided technical support to the Gujarat Migration Survey (2010). He has published extensively in national and international journals on social, economic, demographic, psychological and political implications on migration. He is editor of the annual series 'India Migration Report' (Routledge) since 2010 and the editor-in-chief of the Journal, Migration and Development, (Taylor and Francis), since 2012. He works closely with the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India and Department of Non-Resident Keralite Affairs, Government of Kerala.