

Migrant Integration Policy Index (MIPEX) -2020

January 14, 2021

In news : As per fifth edition of Migrant Integration Policy Index (MIPEX), India ranked the lowest among 52 countries assessed for key indices of migrant inclusivity in 2020

What is Migrant Integration Policy Index (MIPEX)?

MIPEX is a unique tool which **measures policies to integrate migrants in countries across five continents**, including all **EU Member States** (including the UK), other European countries (Albania, Iceland, North Macedonia, Moldova, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland, Russia, Turkey and Ukraine), **Asian countries** (China, India, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, and South Korea), **North American** countries (Canada, Mexico and US), **South American** countries (Argentina, Brazil, Chile), and **Australia and New Zealand in Oceania**.

MIPEX2020 consists of 58 indicators that have been updated for the period 2014-2019.

The project identifies and measures integration policies in eight policy areas:

1. Labour market mobility
2. Family reunification
3. Education
4. Political participation
5. Permanent residence
6. Access to nationality
7. Anti-discrimination and
8. Health.

Global perspective

Top Ten countries (average score: 75/100). Countries in this

group represent the top ten out of the 52 MIPEx countries. They adopt a comprehensive approach to integration, which fully guarantees equal rights, opportunities and security for immigrants and citizens. Policies in these countries generally encourage the public to see immigrants as their equals, neighbours and potential citizens.

Top Ten

1. Canada (80)
2. Finland (85)
3. New Zealand (77)
4. Portugal (81)
5. Sweden (86)
6. Australia (65)
7. Belgium (69)
8. Brazil (64)
9. Ireland (64)
10. USA (73)



1. Comprehensive Integration - Top 10	2. Comprehensive Integration (slightly favourable)
3. Temporary Integration (slightly favourable)	4. Equality on paper (halfway favourable)
5. Comprehensive integration - Halfway favourable	6. Temporary integration (halfway unfavourable)
7. Immigration without integration	8. Equality on paper (halfway unfavourable)
9. Equality on paper (slightly unfavourable)	10. Immigration without integration (most unfavourable)

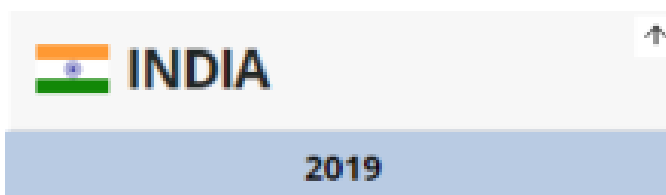
What does the index say about India?

Following are the key findings and suggestion of the MIPEX;

- While most countries, including China and Indonesia, have improved their integration policies over the past five years, India has not yet developed immigrant integration policies.
- According to it, India did not follow the international reform trends of other MIPEX countries (+2 points on average).
- International migrants in India face many obstacles to integration under the slightly unfavourable policies in India, which ranked last out of 52 MIPEX countries.
- India scores 24 on the 100-point MIPEX scale, while the average MIPEX scored 50/100. Among MIPEX countries, Indian policies are most similar to Indonesia's.
- The obstacles facing migrants in India are greater than in the other Asian MIPEX countries.
- India's approach to integration is categorised by MIPEX as 'immigration without integration' because Indian policies refuse to recognise India as a country of immigration.
- Although immigrants are able to settle long-term in India, they are denied basic rights and equal opportunities to participate in society.
- In fact, access to basic rights and equal opportunities are weaker in India than in nearly all MIPEX countries.
- India's approach to integration matters because its policies influence whether or not integration works as a two-way process.
- The way that governments treat immigrants strongly

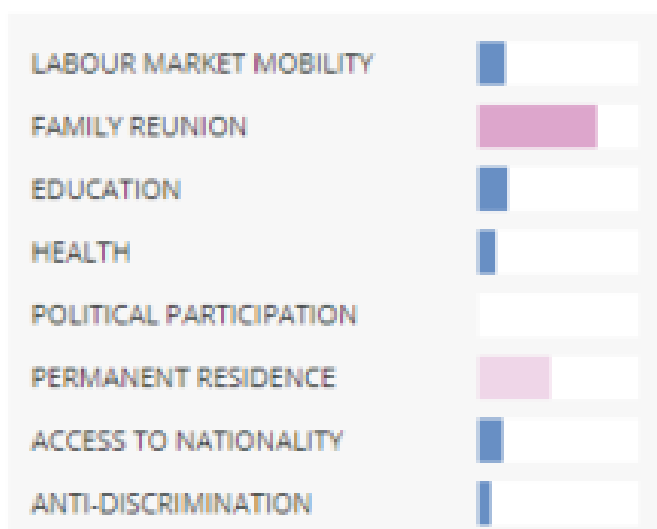
influences how well immigrants and the public interact and think of each other. India's current policies encourage the public to see immigrants as subordinates and foreigners.

- Furthermore, many obstacles emerge for immigrants in nearly all areas of life in India, with the exception of family reunification and permanent residence policies.
- Anti-discrimination policies, health and political participation policies emerged as particularly unfavourable for integration.
- Compared to the situation in the other 52 MIPEx countries, international migrants in India are confronted with the weakest anti-discrimination policies and migrant health policies and some of the most unfavourable migrant education, nationality and political participation policies.



Rank: **Integration denied**

MIPEx Score (with Health): **24**



Other key highlights

- **Labour market mobility: Unfavourable:** Immigrants with the legal right to work face major obstacles to access the labour market, with no general and targeted support to improve their professional skills or opportunities.
- **Family reunification: Slightly favourable:** Although many foreign citizens are favourably eligible to apply for their close family members, these reunited families are made entirely dependent on the sponsor for their integration.
- **Education: Unfavourable:** Like other countries with small numbers of foreign pupils, India does relatively little to encourage them across the education system or support diversity at school, although basic targeted support is available.
- **Health: Unfavourable:** Legal migrants and asylum seekers face additional requirements to access the Indian health system and enjoy little information or support targeted to meet their specific health needs.
- **Political participation: Unfavourable:** Immigrants are fully denied the opportunity to participate in public life in India, as foreign citizens have no right to vote, support or consultation by policymakers.
- **Permanent residence: Halfway favourable:** The path to permanent residence for newcomers in India is mainly linked to their ability to fulfil its economic requirements, but even permanent residents are denied equal treatment with Indian nationals in key areas of life like social security and assistance.
- **Access to nationality: Unfavourable:** The path to Indian citizenship is long (>10 years) and burdensome, as India has not followed international reform trends to open up dual nationality for foreign citizens or birthright citizenship entitlements or their Indian-born children.
- **Anti-discrimination: Unfavourable:** Foreign citizens who are victims of ethnic, racial, religious or nationality discrimination have little chance to access justice in India, as they are not covered by anti-discrimination

laws or a dedicated independent equality body