

**CIRCULAR MIGRATION****Circular migration: looking at both sides of the debate****Introduction:**

- Circular migration is a type of movement in which people travel from one location (the destination country) to another (the country of origin) based on the availability of jobs.

**Definition:**

- This effectively means that instead of migrating permanently or temporarily (moving for a period of time to complete any contract based labour) to another location, people move to different locations for a brief period of time when work is available. It is a phenomenon mostly among low income groups who migrate to avail of seasonally available jobs in another country, city, place etc.
- Circular migration became quite popular in the 60s and 70s with the advent of globalisation and development. Increased access to modern forms of transport and communication, social networks and the growth of multinational corporations have aided the advent of circular migration.

**Circular migration is characterized as meeting the following criteria:**

- a transient stay at the destination city
- Multiple entry into the destination country are possible.
- During the period of residence, there is freedom of movement between the country of origin and the country of destination.
- a legal right to remain in the country of destination
- migrant rights protection
- In the destination country, there is a healthy demand for temporary labor.
- If you have completed at least 'two loops' between two countries, you are considered a circular migrant.

**In terms of public policy**

- With the increasing fluid movement of people, migration policy is one of the world's most contentious issues. Citizens moving from the Global South to the West in quest of better job prospects or a higher standard of living cause brain drain in their home nations and competition for citizens in the destination countries.
- Similarly, the movement of people from rural to urban parts of the same country causes infrastructure collapse and agrarian stagnation. As a result, any type of migration has become a policy risk.
- Circular migration, on the other hand, is currently considered as the greatest path ahead, as development and individual economic success may be balanced. It is regarded as a balanced migration method that considers migration not only from the perspective of the receiving country but also from the perspective of the sending country.
- Migration, particularly international migration, benefits the country of origin because of the flow of remittances, which boosts and aids the domestic economy. Foreign capital inflows (for example, FDI) will benefit the economy by providing more infrastructure, more jobs, and, as a result, a higher standard of life.
- However, large-scale transnational migration will result in brain drain, in which the most talented people in your country will use their intelligence and ingenuity to help another country advance.
- From the standpoint of the host nations, particularly those in the West, a smaller population and greater access to education has resulted in a significant shortage of low-wage, low-skilled occupations that migrants have been able to fill.
- However, the inflow of migrants has produced a wide range of fears and cultural tensions in the host populations, with the majority of them now advocating for migration limitations, if not an outright prohibition. Circular migration tries to alleviate all of these concerns.
- The negative consequences of brain drain will be reduced, and brain circulation will be encouraged, in which the individual can use his talents in both nations while still contributing to remittances.

**Circular migration within India**

- In India, internal migration, which is migration within a particular country or State, has almost always been circular. With the advent of jobs in the manufacturing, construction and services sector, there has been a huge flow of migrants from rural areas to urban cities.
- Between 2004–2005 and 2011–2012, the construction sector witnessed one of the largest net increases in employment for all workers, specifically for rural males. This has led to rural populations and their economy dwindling and urban spaces, while booming, witnessing infrastructural collapse as they are unable to properly house incoming populations.
- In India, the uneven development post liberalisation, has led to a lot of inter- State migration, with States like West Bengal, Odisha and Bihar having some of the highest rates of outmigration. Initially, while most of the migration was to Delhi, nowadays it has increased to southern States as well.

- Some reports have even stated how women get more autonomy and decision making power in the family due to the absence of men who migrate.

**Circular migration problems in India:**

- Rural circular migrants, on the other hand, are frequently at the mercy of middlemen or brokers in such travel, particularly to southern states where the language barrier is a significant hurdle. They are designed to work in unsanitary and dangerous situations with little to no protective equipment.
- Furthermore, indigenous wage groups and unions dislike these migrants since they are perceived to be stealing their jobs by accepting to work for lower salaries.
- According to the study, this type of travel is essentially subsistence migration – the bare minimum. The migrants can barely provide for themselves and their families, with no room for asset accumulation or savings.

**Conclusion:**

- It is high time that States start actively formulating policy to understand the extent of circular migration. While some States like Kerala have announced health insurance schemes for migrant workers (Awaraz Health scheme), there needs to be more effort to ensure migrants rights. The precarity of workers needs to be addressed and there should be more efforts to integrate them in the destination States.

**POLITY & GOVERNANCE****Without a caste count caste, there can be no honest politics**

**Context:** Recently, Bihar state government released the 2022 caste-based survey. For far too long, any decision to collect caste data has been seen as self-evidently “political”, whereas the equally deliberate decision to not collect it has somehow been placed outside or beyond politics.

**Earlier caste-based census activities:**

- Previously, the states of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, as well as the Union government (in the ill-fated Socio Economic and Caste Census 2011), obtained full caste data but never disclosed it for unknown reasons.
- On the other hand, the Bihar government has yet to produce critical supplemental data (on the socioeconomic position of caste groups) that will allow us to make social meaning of the publicly available caste counts.

**Politics based on caste**

- As per, Max Weber’s famous dictum about the modern state. Today, states are no longer defined by their monopoly over legitimate violence within a specified territory. They are defined as much, or even more, by their monopoly over aggregated social statistics.
- Nation-wide numbers are priceless resources crucial for the exercise and maintenance of political power in modern electoral democracies because they are critical to the management of public perceptions, beliefs, and feelings.
- And totalitarian regimes need to control social statistics — numbers that describe our collective self — are always big news precisely for that reason.
- That is why the first moves towards authoritarianism are often aimed at controlling institutions that produce social statistics on growth, employment, health, and inflation — in general, numbers that say something about the well-being (or otherwise) of the electorate.
- Caste data is a special case within the more general category of social statistics. It tells us about the smaller identity-containers (castes) that form the larger national whole.

**Two sides of caste-based census:**

- CBC is important because this data has the potential to highlight social inequalities, likely to lead towards social discontent and tension, which in turn threaten to weaken or break the political hegemony of the ruling regime.
- And it is also the inescapable first step towards an honest political engagement with the real differences and disparities of caste.
- Caste must be counted because it counts — it is arguably the most important regulator of life chances today. This means that caste differences are real differences. To call for “unity” without addressing these differences is to practice dishonest politics.
- Just as courage is not the absence of fear (which could be mere foolishness) but its overcoming, true political unity is the negotiated overcoming of differences, not their denial or suppression.
- However, the strongest, most enduring and common argument against caste enumeration has been that it will harden caste divisions and delay or prevent the movement towards a casteless society.
- There is some truth here, but it is overshadowed by a larger and more compelling truth — the realities of caste inequalities in the present must be acknowledged and addressed before we can arrive at a caste-free future. To censor or suppress caste divisions is not to overcome them.

**A data-driven approach to better design and implementation of plans and programs for the welfare of the vulnerable:**

- In a data-driven economy, this survey will reveal not only the exact number of Dalits and Backward Classes, but also their levels of education, standard of living, occupation (private, government, gazetted, non-gazetted, etc.), work efficiency, other sources of income, the number of earning members in the family, and so on.
- Accurate data on the number of dependents on one person, the number of castes in the village, and so on will be available, assisting the state government in developing development programs.
- With the help of data, backward castes can be reinforced by providing them with reservation. The caste census will allow us to learn about any caste's economic, social, and educational standing. This will make it easy to plan for their improvement.

**Conclusion:**

- This survey data not only presents a detailed picture of caste demographics but also raises important questions about representation, social justice, and political strategies in Bihar and India as a whole.
- However, it is necessary to ensure that this information should be used constructively for targeted development rather than misused for identity-based politics.

**PRELIM FACTS**

**1. Sanwariya Seth Temple**

**Context:** The Prime Minister recently visited the Sanwariya Seth Temple in Chittorgarh, Rajasthan, to pray.

**About:**

- It is a Hindu temple devoted to Lord Krishna and his adored child form known as "Sanwariya Seth" or "Shyam Seth."
- It is situated in the village of Mandaphia in Rajasthan's Chittorgarh district.
- It was constructed in 1840 A.D.

**Architecture:**

- The temple is built in the classic Rajasthani style, with exquisite carvings, domes, and brilliant colors.
- The temple's main construction is made of white marble.
- The walls, pillars, and ceilings of the temple are ornately carved. These carvings feature Hindu mythology subjects as well as other elements.
- The temple has several domes that are embellished with decorative motifs.
- The temple's spire, or shikhar, is a tall, tapering tower that rises above the main shrine.
- A black stone statue of Lord Krishna is erected in the temple's sanctum sanctorum.
- The temple includes large pillared rooms where worshipers and guests can congregate.

**2. Sea Mount**

**Context:** In the Andaman Sea, two Indian scientists from the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) and their team discovered an active submarine volcano (Crater Seamount).

**About Seamount:**

- It is an underwater mountain formed through volcanic activity.
- These are recognised as hotspots for marine life. Like volcanoes on land, seamounts can be active, extinct, or dormant volcanoes.
- These are formed near mid-ocean ridges, where the earth's tectonic plates are moving apart, allowing molten rock to rise to the seafloor.
- The planet's two most-studied mid-ocean ridges are the Mid-Atlantic Ridge and the East Pacific Rise.
- Some seamounts have also been found near intraplate hotspots—regions of heavy volcanic activity within a plate—and oceanic island chains with volcanic and seismic activity called island arcs.
- These are formed when molten rock comes up from below the tectonic plate.

**Significance of seamounts**

- They provide information about the mantle's composition and how tectonic plates evolve.
- These are helpful in understanding their influence on how water circulates and absorbs heat and carbon dioxide.
- They are good places for life because they can cause localised ocean upwelling, the process by which nutrient-rich water from deep within the ocean moves up to the surface.

**3. Controller General of Accounts (CGA)**

**Context:** The Central Government's fiscal deficit in the first five months of 2023-24 touched 36 percent of the full-year target, according to the data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA).

**About:**

- The Principal Accounting Adviser to the Government of India is CGA, who works at the Ministry of Finance's Department of Expenditure.

- It was founded in October 1975 to oversee concerns concerning the departmentalization of the Union's accounting.

**Functions:**

- CAG is in charge of developing and maintaining a technically effective management accounting system.
- The Office of the CGA produces monthly and annual analyses of the Union Government's expenditures, revenues, borrowings, and different fiscal indicators.
- It also develops policy for the Central and State Governments concerning general accounting concepts, formats, and procedures.
- It oversees the payment, receiving, and accounting processes in the Central Civil Ministries/ Departments.
- It is responsible, through its Internal Audit Units in the respective Ministries/Departments, for maintaining the necessary technical accounting standards in the departmentalized accounting offices, as well as monitoring the financial performance and effectiveness of various programs, schemes, and activities of the civil ministries.
- It also manages banking arrangements for the disbursement of government expenditures and the collecting of government receipts, and it works with the Central Bank to reconcile the Union Government's cash balances.
- Through its web-based Audit Para Monitoring System (APMS), CGA is also responsible for coordinating and monitoring the progress of the submission of corrective/remedial action taken notes (ATNs) on the recommendations contained in Public Accounts Committee (PAC) reports as well as Comptroller & Auditor General (CAG) reports.
- It also looks after the pensions of the Central government employees.

**4. Nobel Prize in Physics 2023**

**About**

- The Nobel Prize in Physics for 2023 has gone to three scientists whose work made it easier to observe electrons, and which has potential applications in the field of diagnosing diseases and developing electronic gadgets.

**Key details:**

- **Those who shared the prize are:**
  - Anne L'Huillier,
  - Pierre Agostini, and
  - Ferenc Krausz
- They have been awarded for their experiments which have given humanity new tools for exploring the world of electrons inside atoms and molecules.
- They have demonstrated a way to create extremely short pulses of light that can be used to measure the rapid processes in which electrons move or change energy.

**The scientists' work:**

- An atom, a tiny unit into which matter can be divided, is composed of a nucleus of protons and neutrons, and electrons that travel around this nucleus.
- Electrons move so fast that it is impossible to observe them in real time.
- The work of the scientists has brought humanity closer to observing and studying the movement of electrons, by producing pulses of light that last only attoseconds, which is  $1 \times 10^{-18}$  of a second.
- This can be compared to a high-shutter-speed camera.
- If a normal camera is used to capture a moving train, the image will be blurred.
- But a high shutter-speed camera can freeze motion and capture a clear image of the train.

**How did they accomplish this?**

- When a laser light wave went through a noble gas, it reacted with the atoms, providing extra energy to some electrons, which was subsequently emitted as light.
- They succeeded in producing and studying a series of consecutive light pulses [or flashes of light] in 2001, with each pulse lasting only 250 attoseconds.
- They also succeeded in isolating a single light pulse lasting 650 attoseconds.
- These light flashes enabled the creation of photographs of atomic processes.

**The importance of the work:**

- Attosecond physics allows us to better comprehend mechanisms governed by electrons.
- One prospective application is to investigate molecular alterations in blood in order to identify illnesses.
- A deeper understanding of how electrons flow and transmit energy can also aid in the development of more energy-efficient electronic devices.

### 5. Exercise Sampriti

**Context: India and Bangladesh commenced the 11th edition of annual joint military exercise, SAMPRITI in Umroi, Meghalaya.**

**Key details:**

- This exercise, alternatingly organised by both countries, signifies strong bilateral defence cooperation initiatives.
- It first started in Jorhat, Assam in 2009.
- The exercise has witnessed ten successful editions till 2022.

### ANSWER WRITING

**Q. What are the causes and implications of the Khalistan issue in India? How can India address the Khalistan issue?**

**Introduction**

- The Khalistan problem refers to a separatist Sikh movement seeking to establish a Sikh nation inside the Punjab region.
- The movement's origins can be traced back to historical, theological, linguistic, and political elements that molded Sikh identity and consciousness.
- The movement has resulted in violence, terrorism, communal confrontations, and breaches of human rights, hurting both India and the Sikh population.

**Causes of the Khalistan Issue:**

- The partition of India in 1947, which resulted in the division of Punjab and the loss of Sikh holy sites in Pakistan.
- The linguistic reorganization of states in 1966, which created a Sikh-majority Punjab but also reduced its territorial size and economic potential.
- The Anandpur Sahib Resolution of 1973, which demanded greater autonomy and cultural rights for Punjab, but was seen as a secessionist threat by the central government.
- The rise of Jarnail Singh Bhindra Wale, a militant leader who advocated for a separate Khalistan and mobilized his followers against the perceived oppression and discrimination by the Hindu majority.
- The Operation Blue Star of 1984, which was a military assault on the Golden Temple, the holiest shrine of Sikhs, to flush out Bhindra Wale and his armed supporters.
- This resulted in heavy casualties and damage to the temple and sparked widespread anger and resentment among Sikhs.
- The assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi by her Sikh bodyguards in 1984, which triggered anti-Sikh riots across India, killing thousands of Sikhs and displacing many more.
- The emergence of various militant groups and factions that carried out violent attacks against the state and civilians, both in India and abroad, throughout the 1980s and 1990s.

**Implications of the Khalistan Issue:**

- The consequences of the Khalistan issue include the loss of lives, property, and human rights as a result of violence, terrorism, counterterrorism, and communal confrontations.
- The deterioration of trust, unity, and collaboration among various populations, particularly Hindus and Sikhs, inside Punjab and beyond India.
- Alienation and radicalization of some Sikh youngsters who feel excluded and discriminated against by mainstream culture and politics.
- External meddling and influence, such as Pakistan, which has supported and funded various Khalistani groups for strategic reasons.
- The harm done to India's image and repute as a secular and democratic society that values variety and pluralism.

**Measures to Address the Khalistan Issue:**

- **Dialogue:** The Indian government should engage in dialogue with various sections of the Sikh community, including moderates, radicals, and diaspora groups, to understand their grievances, aspirations, and perspectives. The dialogue should be based on mutual respect, trust, and goodwill, and should aim at finding common ground and building consensus on contentious issues.
- **Development:** The Indian government should invest in the economic development of Punjab and ensure that it gets its fair share of resources, opportunities, and benefits. The government should also address the problems of unemployment, drug abuse, environmental degradation, and agrarian distress that plague Punjab. The government should also promote Punjab's culture, heritage, and tourism potential.
- **Justice:** The Indian government should ensure justice for the victims and survivors of the violence and human rights violations that occurred during the Khalistan movement. The government should also punish the perpetrators and instigators of the anti-Sikh riots and other crimes. The government should also offer compensation, rehabilitation, and reconciliation to the affected families and communities.

- **Aggressive Diplomacy:** Government should adopt aggressive diplomacy to counter the propaganda originating on foreign soil such as Canada.

**Conclusion**

- The Khalistan problem is difficult and delicate, requiring the government to take a comprehensive and inclusive response. While preserving India's unity and integrity, the government should address the legitimate grievances and aspirations of the Sikh community in a peaceful and democratic manner.

**MCQs**

- With reference to the Karman Line, consider the following statements:  
1. The Karman Line is an imaginary boundary located at 100 km above sea level that separates Earth's atmosphere from space.  
2. The Karman Line was established in the 1960s by NASA, the United States' space agency.  
Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?  
a) 1 only                      **b) 2 only**  
c) Both 1 and 2              d) Neither 1 nor 2
- Consider the following pairs:  

<b>State</b>	<b>Tribes</b>
1. Arunachal Pradesh	a. Mismi
2. Assam	b. Khasis
3. Nagaland	c. Zeliang

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?  
a) 2 only                      **b) 1 and 3 only**  
c) 2 and 3 only              d) 1, 2 and 3
- Regarding the Pink Bollworm, consider the following statements:  
1. PBW is a destructive pest that primarily affects wheat crops.  
2. It is native to Africa.  
3. Genetically modified Bt cotton seeds have lost their efficacy in combating PBW due to the insect's resistance.  
How many of the statements given above are correct?  
**a) Only one**                      b) Only two  
c) All three                      d) None
- Consider the following statements regarding Global Framework on Chemicals:  
1. The Global Framework on Chemicals was recently adopted by the G20.  
2. The International Conference on Chemicals Management was recently organised by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).  
3. UNEP is responsible for guiding and monitoring the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) process.  
4. SAICM is a binding policy framework to address the challenges related to the adoption and implementation of national policies to safely manage chemicals.  
Which of the statement/s given above is/are not correct?  
a) 1 and 2 only                      **b) 1, 3 and 4 only**
- Sanwariya Seth Temple, recently seen in the news, is located in:  
a) Uttar Pradesh              b) Odisha  
**c) Rajasthan**                      d) West Bengal
- Consider the following statements in relation to the Controller General of Accounts (CGA):  
1. It is the Government of India's Principal Accounting Adviser.  
2. It reports to the Ministry of Finance's Department of Expenditure.  
3. It oversees banking procedures for the disbursement of government funds.  
How many of the above statements are correct?  
a) Only one                      b) Only two  
**c) All three**                      d) None
- Consider the following statements about the Earth's Inner Core:  
1. It is mostly made up of iron and nickel.  
2. It has an excellent thermal and electrical conductivity.  
3. It revolves at a slower rate than the rest of the world.  
How many of the above statements are correct?  
a) Only one                      **b) Only two**  
c) All three                      d) None
- Which one of the following best describes the term 'Exclusome', seen in the news recently?  
a) A type of cellular membrane in plant cells  
b) A circular DNA structure found in bacterial cells  
c) A form of genetic material in prokaryotes  
**d) An organelle in mammalian plasma cells**
- Consider the following statements in relation to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC):  
1. It is sometimes referred to as the Palermo Convention.  
2. It is concerned with the trafficking of people and migrants over international borders.  
3. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is the lead agency in India dealing with UNTOC.  
How many of the above statements are correct?  
a) Only one                      b) Only two  
**c) All three**                      d) None
- Consider the following statements regarding the International Coral Reef Initiative:  
1. The United Nations Environment Programme initiated it.  
2. India is a participant in the effort.  
Which of the above statements is/are correct?  
a) 1 only                      **b) 2 only**  
c) Both 1 and 2                      d) Neither 1 nor 2