

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION OUTLOOK 2023

Recently, the 'International Migration Outlook 2023' was released by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).



Key findings of the International Migration Outlook 2023:

- India saw the **highest migration flows** to Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries in 2021 and 2022.
- In terms of nationalities, 0.13 million Indian citizens acquired the nationality of an OECD country in 2021.
- **Inflows of refugees from Ukraine** reached the highest level on record, OECD-wide, due to the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war; more than 10 million people have become either internally displaced or refugees in the OECD region.
- In terms of workers, migration flows from India (+172 percent), Uzbekistan (+122 percent), and Turkey (+240 percent) rose sharply, making them primary countries of origin after Ukraine.

Key facts about OECD

- It is an international **organisation of 38 countries** committed to democracy and the market economy.
- Its members are typically democratic countries that support free-market economies.
- It was established on December 14, 1960, by **18 European nations**, plus the US and Canada.
- **Goal:** To shape policies that foster prosperity, equality, opportunity, and well-being for all.
- It publishes economic reports, statistical databases, analyses, and forecasts on the outlook for economic growth worldwide.
- The organisation also seeks to eliminate bribery and other financial crimes worldwide.
- It **maintains a so-called "black list" of nations** that are considered uncooperative tax havens.
- **India is one of the many non-member economies** with which the OECD has working relationships in addition to its member countries.
- **Headquarters:** Paris, France.

SUBSCRIBER IDENTIFICATION MODULE (SIM) CARD

The Subscriber Identification Module (SIM) cards are the ID cards of the cellular world, and they have evolved in step with cellular networks.



About the Subscriber Identification Module (SIM) card:

- It is an **integrated circuit, or a microchip**, that identifies the subscriber on a given network.
- In order for a mobile phone to connect to any cellular network that follows **the Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM)** standard, a SIM card is mandatory.
- This relationship is established using a unique authentication key—a piece of data that a user needs to ‘unlock’ access to the network.
- Every SIM card stores this data, and it is designed such that the user can’t access it through their phone.
- Instead, signals sent by the phone into the **network are 'signed' by the key**, and the network uses the signature to understand whether the phone’s connection is legitimate.
- SIM cards also store information about **its own ID number** (the integrated circuit card identifier), **the IMSI**, the subscriber’s **location area identity** (i.e. their current location), a list of preferred networks (to whom the subscriber can connect when roaming), and, emergency numbers.

How does a SIM card work?

- SIM cards are **designed according to the ISO/IEC 7816** international standard maintained by the **International Organisation for Standardisation** and the **International Electrotechnical Commission**.
- It applies to electronic identification cards, including smart cards.
- In this standard, the card itself consists of the integrated circuit, which is glued to a **silicon substrate** on the top side.

- On the other side of the substrate are **metal contacts**, which form the gold-coloured side of the SIM card.
- Wires connect the integrated circuit from its bottom side to the metal contacts on the top side, and the contacts interface with the phone's data connectors.
- The metal contacts have a segmented appearance. Each segment is called a pin and **has a specific purpose**.
- When a subscriber dials a recipient's number, the phone sends data via the network—signed by the key on the SIM card—to a telephone exchange.
- If the recipient is connected to the same exchange, the network establishes their identity, and the call is routed to them.
- If the recipient is 'located' elsewhere, a computer connected to the network routes the call there according to the most optimal route.

WHAT IS UMEED SCHEME?

A self-help group (SHG) recently launched a flower nursery as part of the UMEED scheme in Budgam.



About the UMEED scheme:

- The UMEED scheme under the **Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM)** is a centrally sponsored scheme to encourage women to be self-dependent and self-sufficient.
- The main objective of the scheme is to **help the rural poor across Jammu and Kashmir**.
- It also encourages women to make small savings so that their Self-Help Groups (SHGs) eventually become bankable at a reduced rate of interest.
- It helps women entrepreneurs exhibit and market their products.
- It is implemented by the **Jammu & Kashmir State Rural Livelihoods Society**.

Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM):

- It is a **poverty alleviation programme focusing on women empowerment through self-managed and sustainable institutional platforms of women, financial inclusion, and sustainable livelihoods.**
 - The Mission **aims to reduce poverty by building strong grass-root institutions** for the poor in Jammu and Kashmir, engaging them in gainful livelihood interventions and **ensuring appreciable improvements in their income** on a sustainable basis.
 - **Under the National Flagship Programme** of the Government of India, the **National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM)** is implemented in **J&K as JKRLM** popularly known as **UMEED.**
 - The scheme **provides rural women with various platforms** (self-help groups), Village Organization, Cluster Level Federation and Block Level Federations) **at the block level.**
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ARTICLE 142 OF THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION

The Supreme Court recently directed sale of ancestral property of a man to pay arrears of maintenance of Rs. 1.25 crore to his wife under its inherent powers under Article 142.



About Article 142 of the Indian Constitution:

- It deals with the **Supreme Court's power to exercise its jurisdiction and pass an order for doing complete justice in any cause or matter pending before it.**
- It provides the apex court with a **special and extraordinary power** and is meant to **provide justice to litigants who have suffered traversed illegality or injustice** in the course of legal proceedings.
- **Article 142(1) states that** “The Supreme Court in the exercise of its jurisdiction, may pass such decree or make such order as is necessary for doing complete justice in any cause or matter pending before it, and **any decree so passed or order so made shall be enforceable throughout the territory of India in such manner as may be prescribed by or under any law made by Parliament** and, until provision in that behalf is so made, in such manner as the President may by order prescribe”.

- Article 142 allows the Supreme Court to **deliver justice in exceptional cases where existing provisions or laws are not applicable.**
- **If a legislative enactment seeks to make unenforceable the decree or order of the Supreme Court made under Article 142** in relation to the cause and the parties between whom it was made, **such law would be void for contravening Article 142 [8].**

Significant cases where Article 142 was invoked:

- **Babri Masjid Case:** The article was used in the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land dispute case and was instrumental in the handover of the disputed land to a trust to be formed by the union government.
- **Bhopal Gas Tragedy:** The SC invoked its plenary powers in the Union Carbide vs Union Government case and intervened to provide compensation to victims of the deadly Bhopal Gas Tragedy.

INTELLIGENCE BUREAU

The Delhi High Court recently ruled that the Intelligence Bureau stands exempted from the rigours of RTI Act by virtue of Section 24 (Act not to apply to certain organisations) thereof.



About the Intelligence Bureau (IB):

- IB is an **internal intelligence agency of India** that is used to **gather intelligence from within India** and also **execute counter-intelligence and counter-terrorism tasks.**
- In addition to domestic intelligence responsibilities, the IB is particularly **tasked with intelligence collection in border areas, following the 1951 recommendations of the Himmatsinhji Committee** (also known as the North and North-East Border Committee), a task entrusted to military intelligence organizations, prior to independence in 1947.
- It comes **under the administrative control of the Ministry of Home Affairs.**

- The IB activities are **highly confidential**, and no publications other than the internal ones reveal their arcane workings.

Other Functions:

- Another major activity of the IB is **passing on intelligence information to other Indian intelligence agencies as well as the police.**
- It is **responsible for granting basic safety clearances to Indian diplomats and judges** before their national oath.
- It is also **authorized to carry out wiretapping without a warrant.**

Composition:

- The Bureau comprises **employees from law enforcement agencies, mostly from the Indian Police Service (IPS) or the Indian Revenue Service (IRS), and the military.**
- The **Director of Intelligence Bureau (DIB)** has always been an IPS officer.

SRI LANKA OFFERS FREE VISAS TO INDIANS TO REVIVE TOURISM

Why in news?

- Sri Lanka has waived **visa fee** for Indians and tourists from six other countries, as part of its efforts to boost tourist arrivals.
- This step is aimed at helping rebuild the island nation's battered economy following last year's financial crash.

Economic Crisis in Sri Lanka



- Sri Lanka is currently in an economic and political crisis of mass proportions, recently culminating in a default on its debt payments.
- There are several reasons for this crisis and the economic turmoil has sparked mass protests and violence across the country.
- Following is a brief timeline of events which eventually led to the crisis:
 - **2009**

- In 2009, a decades-long civil war in the country ended and the government's focus turned inward towards domestic production.
- However, **a stress on local production and sales, instead of exports, increased the reliance on foreign goods.**
- **2020**
 - Covid-19 pandemic affected the tourism industry. Prior to the pandemic, tourism was the third-largest source of foreign exchange inflows to Sri Lanka, accounting for about 5% of the country's GDP.
 - It was also a major source of foreign exchange reserve.
 - With supply of foreign exchange drying up, the value of Sri Lankan rupee started depreciating thereby making the imports costlier.
- **2021**
 - The Sri Lankan government introduced a ban on foreign-made chemical fertilizers. The ban was meant to counter the depletion of the country's foreign currency reserves.
 - However, with only local, organic fertilizers available to farmers, **a massive crop failure occurred.**
 - As a result, Sri Lankans were subsequently forced to rely even more heavily on imports, further depleting reserves.
- **2022**
 - A severe financial crisis saw mass protests and shortages of essentials such as fuel in 2022.
 - In June 2022, then Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said in parliament that the economy had collapsed, leaving it unable to pay for essentials.

Help Extended by India

Four-pillar economic cooperation arrangement between India and Sri Lanka

- In December 2021, India and Sri Lanka agreed to a four-pronged approach to help mitigate Sri Lanka's economic crisis.
- The agreement included following initiatives:
 - **Urgent food and health security package**

- This includes extension of a line of credit to cover the import of food, medicines and other essential items from India to Sri Lanka.
- **Addressing the balance of payment issues**
- It includes a **currency swap agreement** to deal with Sri Lanka's balance of payment issues.
- In the swap arrangement, a country provides dollars to a foreign central bank, which, at the same time, provides the equivalent funds in its currency to the former.
- **Energy security package**
- It includes a line of credit to cover the import of fuel from India, and an early modernisation project of the Trinco oil farms that India has been pursuing for several years.
- **Growth and employment generation by facilitating Indian investments in different sectors.**

Other steps taken by India to help Sri Lanka

- In March 2022, India announced a \$ 1 billion line of credit to Sri Lanka as part of its financial assistance to help the island nation deal with its economic crisis.
- With this, India provided a total financial assistance of \$2.4 billion since January 2022.
- Along with India's financial assistance, Indian made investments in renewable energy, ports, logistics, infrastructure & connectivity to help Sri Lanka in repairing its economy.

CHINA TO BUILD THE WORLD'S LARGEST GHOST PARTICLE DETECTOR

Why in news?

- China is building an enormous telescope in the western Pacific Ocean. Its job will be to detect "ghost particles", also known as neutrinos.
- China says its new telescope, called **Trident**, will span 7.5 cubic km in the South China Sea.
- As per experts, its size will allow it to detect more neutrinos and make it 10,000 times more sensitive than existing underwater telescopes.

What is Neutrino?

- **Background**
- For a long time, scientists thought atoms were the smallest particle in existence.

- This was before discovering that atoms are themselves comprised of even tinier “subatomic” particles:
 - protons (which have a positive charge), electrons (negative charge) and neutrons (no charge).
 - **About**
 - A neutrino is a subatomic particle that is very similar to an electron, but has **no electrical charge** and a **very small mass**, which might even be zero.
 - Neutrinos were long believed to be massless, until scientists found evidence that they do have a very small mass.
 - Neutrinos are one of the most abundant particles in the universe.
 - Nuclear forces treat electrons and neutrinos identically.
 - Neither participate in the strong nuclear force, but both participate equally in the weak nuclear force.
 - Every time atomic nuclei come together (like in the sun) or break apart (like in a nuclear reactor), they produce neutrinos.
 - **Neutrino- a ghost particle**
 - Neutrinos’ weak charge and almost non-existent mass have made them notoriously difficult for scientists to observe.
 - They can only be seen when they interact with other particles.
 - The rarity of interactions with other particles makes them almost impossible to track.
 - That is why they are called ghost particles — the vast majority skirt around undetected.
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