

NEWS TODAY

THE GLOBAL TRENDS: FORCED DISPLACEMENT IN 2022 REPORT BY THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL (UNHRC)

● **Report provides data on** Refugees Asylum seekers, Internally displaced, Stateless persons, and People who have returned to their countries or areas of origin

● **Key highlights of the report**

- Around **108.4 Mn people** were forcibly displaced worldwide as a result of fear of persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations
 - The number of people who **migrated forcefully due to social and climate crises** in 2022 was 21% higher than in 2021 — the most significant increase ever.
 - 30% of forcefully displaced were children.
- **76 % of the world's refugees** are hosted by Low- and middle-income countries.



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency
Established in 1950

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)



HQ
Geneva, Switzerland

Objectives: Saving lives, protecting rights and building a **better future for refugees, forcibly displaced communities and stateless people.**

Functions: To ensure that everybody has the right to seek asylum and find safe refuge, having fled violence, persecution, war or disaster at home.

India is not party to the 1951 Refugee Convention or its 1967 Protocol and does not have a national refugee protection framework.

- Around **4.4 Mn people** are stateless or of undetermined nationality, which is 2% more than that of 2021.
- **6 million displaced people** returned to their areas or countries of origin in 2022.

● **Recommendations**

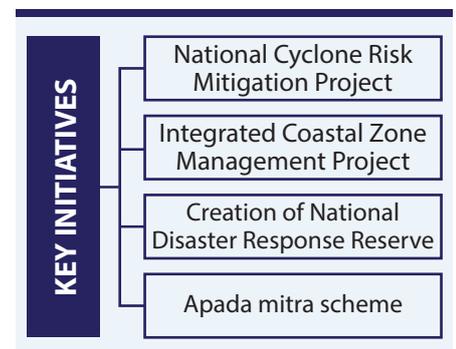
- Durable **solutions like voluntary repatriation and resettlement in a third country** can be done in a phased manner.
- By **enhancing refugees' self-reliance** by building their capacities and ease pressure on host countries.
- **Through Local integration** the refugees can build new lives in host countries.
- **Ensuring Safety and security of internally displaced people** and provide them better access to livelihood.

CYCLONE MITIGATION AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT

- With cyclone 'BIPARJOY' expected to land in Gujarat's Saurashtra and Kutch regions, Indian Navy is preparing to undertake Humanitarian and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations.
- **The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has developed comprehensive guidelines** for the management of cyclones with the aim of mitigating their impact.
 - These guidelines serve as a valuable resource for ministries, departments of the Government of India, and state governments to develop their disaster management plans specifically for cyclones.

● **Preparedness measures**

- **Hazard Mapping:** Using hazard mapping, one can predict the vulnerable areas affected by the storms
- **Engineered Structures:** The public infrastructure of the country should be designed keeping in mind the hazard mapping of the cyclone.
- **Vegetation Cover Improvement:** To increase the water infiltration capacity, improving vegetation cover is of high importance specially mangrove plantation.
- **Saline Embankment:** Along the coast, saline embankments help protect habitation, agricultural crops, and other important installations.
- **Early warning system:** Provide cyclone forecasting, tracking and warning systems
- **Awareness of the public:** The governments at all levels should initiate programs bringing awareness about the natural calamities and making provisions for higher local participation in the mitigation process.



MOST INTERNET SHUTDOWNS IN LAST 3 YEARS TO CURB PROTESTS: REPORT

- The report was released by the **Internet Freedom Foundation (IFF) and Human Rights Watch (HRW)**.
- **Internet shutdowns** include actions that restrict access to the internet completely, or slow down speed, or restrict certain content.

• Key Highlights of the Report:

- **18 state have shut down** the internet at least once from 2020 to 2022.
 - **The most number of shutdowns** were observed in Rajasthan.
 - The report does **not include internet shutdowns in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir**.
- **Local authorities used internet shutdowns** in response to protests(53 cases), to prevent cheating in school examinations(37 cases), in response to communal violence(18 cases).

• Impact of Internet Shutdowns

- **Economic Impact:** Given the increasing reliance of businesses and trade on digital technologies, have serious repercussions for all economic sectors.
- **Impact on fundamental rights** such as right to speech, conduct business, express dissent, and movement of the people in a state
- **Impact fundamental services** such as education, health care and other public services.
- **Risk to privacy:** It exposes users to privacy and security risks.

SKILL IMPACT BOND (SIB) INITIATIVE SKILLED NEARLY 18,000 FIRST-TIME JOB SEEKERS

- **The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) in 2021** had launched the **\$14.4-million SIB for skilling in India** in collaboration with **global partners**.
 - NSDC is under the aegis of the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)**.
- **Skill Impact Bond is India's first development impact bond for skilling and employment**, with the goal of benefitting 50,000 young Indians over four years, 60% of whom would be women.
 - It is **one of the public-private partnership (PPP) models** in India in the **skilling and employment sector**.
- It shifts the focus from **inputs to performance and results**. (See image)
- **Significance**
 - Address the **negative impact of the pandemic on women and employment**.
 - **Remove barriers to women's retention** in the workforce.
 - Emphasis is on **providing employment to trainees**, rather than just a **training certificate**.
 - **Leverage private sector capital and expertise**, with a focus on achieving results.
 - The collaboration also aims at **strengthening the capacity of India's technical and vocational education ecosystem through knowledge exchange, evidence and data generation and mainstreaming good practices**.



Legal Provisions for Internet Suspension

Currently, suspension of telecom services (including internet shutdowns) is **governed by Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency & Public Safety) Rules, 2017**, notified under Indian Telegraph Act, 1885.

- 2017 Rules provide for **temporary shutdown of telecom services in a region on grounds of public emergency** (up to 15 days at once).
- The law empowers **senior bureaucrats from the home ministry and Centre and state levels to order shutdowns**.

TAMIL NADU WITHDRAWS GENERAL CONSENT ACCORDED TO CBI TO PROBE CASES IN STATE

- The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is governed by **The Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act of 1946**, which requires the investigative agency to **obtain the consent of state governments before it can investigate a crime in a particular state**.
- The consent of the state government to CBI can be either **general or case-specific**.
 - **General consent is normally given by states to help CBI to conduct a seamless investigation of corruption cases against central government employees in their states.**
 - **General consent is consent by default.**
 - **Recently multiple States have withdrawn General Consent** like West Bengal, Mizoram, Punjab etc.
 - **In case Specific consent, CBI would have to apply to the state government in every case.**
- **If specific consent is not granted**, the CBI officials will not have the power of police personnel when they enter that state.
- **Exception to general consent**
 - **The Supreme Court and High Courts can order CBI to investigate** a crime anywhere in the country without consent of the state.
 - **Consent does not apply in cases where someone has been caught red-handed taking a bribe.**
 - Withdrawal is **not applicable to cases in which the investigation is already in progress**.

THE UNIFORM CIVIL CODE (UCC): 22ND LAW COMMISSION SEEKS PUBLIC, RELIGIOUS BODIES' VIEWS

- The 22nd Law Commission will conduct a comprehensive reevaluation of the UCC in light of its importance and the multitude of court rulings, ensuring a thorough examination of the subject.
- **Previously, in 2016, the Ministry of Law and Justice**, made a reference to the Law Commission to **examine all matters relating to the implementation of a UCC.**
- To this reference, **the Law Commission** had furnished a **consultation paper on "Reform of Family Law" in 2018. The paper stated:**
 - The UCC was **"neither necessary nor desirable at this stage"**
 - It recommended that **existing family laws** be **amended and codified** to **tackle discrimination** and **inequality in personal laws.**
- The UCC calls for formulation of **one law to be made applicable to all religious communities** in matters such as marriage, divorce, inheritance, and adoption.
 - It is intended to **replace the system of fragmented personal laws**, which currently governs interpersonal relationships and related matters **within different religious communities.**
- DPSP under Article 44 provides that State shall endeavour to **secure for all citizens a UCC throughout the territory of India.**

ALSO IN NEWS

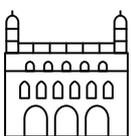
 <p>HDI for Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Union government is to design a survey that can gauge the Human Development Index (HDI) specifically for about 28 lakh people of the PVTGs.• The aim is to understand how government schemes have benefited the PVTGs to uplift their lifestyles and livelihood.<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The research work will also look into the areas where improvement is required.• PVTGs constitute the most vulnerable section among tribals and inhabit isolated, remote and difficult areas in small and scattered hamlets/ habitat.
 <p>International Energy Agency (IEA)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• IEA said that it would review all its membership conditions for India's inclusion.<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ India, is an associate member since 2017.• Criteria for Membership<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ A candidate must be a member of the OECD.➤ Member countries are required to ensure oil stock levels equivalent to no less than 90 days of net imports.➤ A demand restraint programme to reduce national oil consumption by up to 10%.• The IEA was founded in 1974 to ensure the security of oil supplies.<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ It is made up of 31 member countries, 11 association countries, and 4 accession countries.
 <p>Great Indian Bustard</p>	<p>About GIB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• It is an agro-grassland bird endemic to the Indian Subcontinent.• It is an omnivorous bird.• The species has a current viable population of 100- 125 individuals in India, and mainly survives in the Thar Desert of Rajasthan(about 100 individuals).• IUCN status: Critically Endangered• Threat: habitat loss and alteration as a result of widespread agricultural expansion, collisions with high tension electric wires, fast moving vehicles and free-ranging dogs in villages.
 <p>Bio-stimulants</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The agriculture ministry has come out with draft guidelines specifying data and trail report required for registration of Bio-stimulants.• It is mandatory for a person to manufacture or import any bio-stimulants under schedule VI of Fertiliser Control Amendment Order 2021.• About Bio-stimulants<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ These means compounds, substances and products including microorganisms whose functions when applied to plants/seeds/ rhizosphere is to regulate and enhance a crops physiological processes.➤ These product reduce the need for fertilizers and increase plant growth, resistance to water and abiotic stresses.

 <p>River Sonai</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Border forces of India and Bangladesh have agreed to construct a bailey bridge over the River Sonai. The river originates in Assam and is considered as a part of the Barak River system. It is the only left bank tributary of the Barak river and joins it at Dugripar Village. It runs for around 145 kms before merging with Barak and has a catchment area of around 2875 Sq km. The Barak Bhuban wildlife sanctuary is located between the Barak and the Sonai rivers.
 <p>Gravitational Lensing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Astronomers have recently captured four images of the same background supernova being gravitationally lensed. About Gravitational lensing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is an effect on light from a background source that arises as a result of the curvature of spacetime, the three dimensions of space and time united into a single entity, caused by mass. An important consequence of this lensing distortion is magnification, allowing us to observe objects that would otherwise be too far away and too faint to be seen. It was first predicted in 1915 by Albert Einstein.
 <p>Enceladus</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NASA's Cassini spacecraft has found phosphorus in water geysers of Enceladus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phosphorous is considered as the building block of DNA, which also forms Chromosomes and carries genetic information. Enceladus is the second nearest of major regular moons and the brightest of all moons of Saturn. It is an icy moon, which harbours enormous ocean of liquid water beneath its crust. Earlier analysis of Enceladus' ice grains has revealed that it has concentrations of sodium, potassium, chlorine, and carbonate-containing compounds.
 <p>Janjatiya Khel Mahotsav (JKM)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first ever Janjatiya Khel Mahotsav got concluded in Kalinga Institute of social science, Bhubaneshwar. The sports meet had garnered the participation of around 5000 tribal athletes from 26 states. JKM is expected to serve as a platform to highlight the rich and indigenous sporting traditions of India's tribal communities.
 <p>Places In news</p>	<p>Belarus(Capital-Minsk)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Russia plan to deploy Russian Nuclear Weapons in Belarus. Political boundary: It is a landlocked country in eastern Europe. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is bordered by Lithuania and Latvia to the northwest, by Russia to the north and east, by Ukraine to the south, and by Poland to the west. Geographical features <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major river: Dnieper,Byarezina, Pripet,Mukhavyets . Highest point: Dzyarzhynskaya Hill Lakes: Narach, Osveyskoye, and Drysvyaty. 

Errata: In News Today Dated 13th June, 2023, under subheading 'Geographical Indications (GI) tag' of 'Also in News' 'Kumta of Uttara Karnataka' is mentioned. Correct information is 'Kumta of Uttara Kannada district of Karnataka'.



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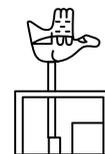
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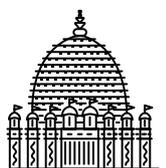
PUNE



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CHANDIGARH



GUWAHATI