

NEWS TODAY

UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR) GLOBAL TRENDS REPORT

• UNHCR works for **rights and future** for refugees, forcibly displaced communities and stateless people.

➤ It was **created in 1950, during the aftermath of the Second World War**, to help millions of Europeans who had fled or lost their homes.

Key highlights

➤ **At least 100 million people were forced to flee their homes** in the past decade.

➔ **40% are Children** among the displaced.

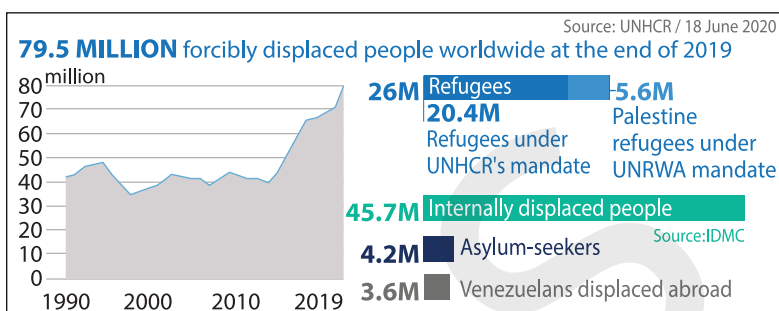
➤ **Forced displacement has almost doubled** since 2010 (41 million in 2010 vs 79.5 million in 2019).

➤ **80% of world's displaced people** are in countries or territories affected by acute water scarcity, food insecurity and malnutrition.

➤ **Five countries account for two-thirds of people displaced across borders:** Syria, Venezuela, Afghanistan, South Sudan and Myanmar.

➤ **85% are in developing countries**, generally a country neighbouring the one they fled.

➤ There are around **1,95,105 refugees in India at end of 2019**.



RAJYA SABHA (RS) ELECTIONS TO 19 SEATS ACROSS 8 STATES CONCLUDED

• RS is a permanent body (not subject to dissolution), and **one-third of its members retire every second year**.

➤ Their seats are filled up by **fresh elections and presidential nominations** at the beginning of every third year

➤ Members of RS are **elected by the elected members of state legislative assemblies**.

➔ It is held in **accordance with the system of proportional representation** by means of the single transferable vote.

• Seats are allotted to **states and UTs in RS on the basis of population** as mentioned in **Fourth Schedule of Constitution**.

➤ **Article 80 lays down maximum strength of RS as 250**, out of which 12 members are nominated by President and 238 are representatives of States and UTs.

➤ Term of office: **6 years**.

➤ A member elected in a by-election remains member for the remainder of the term of the member who had resigned or died or disqualified.

• **Article 84 lays down the qualifications**

➤ Person must be a citizen of India

➤ not less than 30 years of age

➤ must possess such other qualifications as may be prescribed under any law made by Parliament.

SIDBI ENGAGED AS IMPLEMENTATION AGENCY FOR PM STREET VENDOR'S ATMANIRBHAR NIDHI (PM SVANidhi)

• MoU was signed between **Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** to engage SIDBI as Implementation Agency for the scheme.

➤ SIDBI will **manage the credit guarantee to the lending institutions** through Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises.

➤ SIDBI will **leverage the network of lending Institutions like** Scheduled Commercial Banks, NBFC, Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs), Small Finance Banks, etc. for its implementation.

➔ It is for the first time that MFIs/ NBFCs/ SHG Banks have been allowed in a scheme for urban poor due to their ground level presence and proximity to urban poor.

➤ It will also **develop a customized and integrated IT Platform**.

• SIDBI acts as **principal Financial Institution for promotion, financing and development of MSME sector** & for co-ordination of functions of institutions engaged in similar activities.

• **PM SVANidhi was launched for providing affordable Working Capital loan to street vendors** to resume their livelihoods that have been adversely affected due to Covid-19 lockdown.

➤ **Vendors can avail a working capital loan of up to Rs. 10,000**, which is repayable in monthly instalments in tenure of one year.

SPECIAL REPORT ON SUSTAINABLE RECOVERY BY INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY (IEA)

• **In response to COVID-19 pandemic, IEA has produced a Sustainable Recovery Plan (SRP)** for actions that can be taken over the next three years.

➤ IEA is **intergovernmental organization** to help countries provide secure and sustainable energy for all.

About SRP

• It focuses on **cost-effective measures spanning six sectors**. It sets out the policies and targeted investments for making energy systems cleaner and more resilient.

➤ **Electricity:** Accelerate the deployment of low-carbon electricity sources like new wind and solar and expansion and modernisation of electricity grids.

➤ **Transport:** Increase the spread of cleaner transport such as more efficient and electric vehicles etc.

➤ **Buildings:** Improve energy efficiency of buildings and appliances.

➤ **Industry:** Enhance efficiency of equipment used in industries such as manufacturing, food and textiles.

➤ **Fuels:** Make production and use of fuels more sustainable.

➤ **Emerging low-carbon technologies:** Boost innovation in crucial technology areas including hydrogen, batteries, carbon capture utilisation and storage, and small modular nuclear reactors.

• **SRP is expected to:**

➤ add 1.1 percentage points to global economic growth each year.

➤ Save or create roughly 9 million jobs a year

➤ Make 2019 definitive peak in global emissions

SUKHNA LAKE DECLARED AS WETLAND

- Chandigarh Wetlands Authority issued a notification for the **declaration of Sukhna Lake as a wetland under Wetland (Conservation and Management) Rule 2017** (Wetland Rules).
 - Sukhna Lake is a **man-made lake in Chandigarh** built-in 1958. It is situated at foothills of Shivalik Hills and was designed to collect runoff water from the Hills.
 - Earlier, the lake **was also declared a living entity/legal person.**
- List of wetlands in India is developed based on **wetlands definition of the Ramsar Convention (ratified by India).**
 - It **defines wetlands** as 'areas of marsh, fen, peatland or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which, at low tides, does not exceed six meters.
- Wetland Rules, 2017 were notified under provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986** to protect wetlands across the country.
 - Wetlands can be **notified by Centre, State and UT Administration.**
 - It **gives states/UTs powers** to keep a watch on prohibited activities.

WHAT IS NOT ALLOWED

- Commercial mining
- Setting up of industries
- Establishment of large scale commercial live stock and poultry farms
- No permanent construction (except for boat jetties) within 50 metres
- Feeding of fish and migratory birds by public
- Solid waste dumping
- Discharge of untreated waste and effluents from industries, cities, towns, villages and other human settlements
- Poaching except angling with due permission from the department
- Use of plastic carry bags

ALSO IN NEWS

<p>Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (EAG)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recently, virtual meeting of EAG was held. EAG is a regional body comprising nine countries: India, Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Belarus. Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing threat of international terrorism Ensure transparency, reliability and security of financial systems of states Integration of members into international infrastructure for combating money laundering and terrorism financing It is an associate member of Financial Action Task Force, an inter-governmental body to combat money laundering and terrorist financing.
<p>No global tender for up to Rs 200-crore govt purchase</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade notified that only suppliers with local value addition of minimum of 20% will be allowed to bid in government procurement of up to Rs 200 crore. This is to ensure that local businesses, small and medium ones, don't face unfair competition from large foreign companies as announced under Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan. Earlier, government has reserved 25% for MSME sector in all its purchases, including through Government e-Marketplace portal.
<p>AR Dave Committee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It made recommendations to make Securities and Exchange Board of India enforcement mechanism more robust and efficient. It identified four main areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce timeline for passing final orders Quantifying alleged gains while levying penalties Interplay between SEBI norms and provisions of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC). Improving recovery processes
<p>National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recently, Former RBI Governor Urjit Patel is named Chairman of NIPFP. It is autonomous research institute under Ministry of Finance, registered under Societies Registration Act, 1860, founded in 1976. Its mandate includes assisting Central, State and Local governments in formulating and reforming public policies by providing an analytical base.
<p>SATYABHAMA (Science and Technology Yojana for Aatmanirbhar Bharat in Mining Advancement) Portal</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It aims to promote research and development in the mining and minerals sector. It allows online submission of project proposals, monitoring of projects and utilization of funds / grants. It is designed, developed and implemented by National Informatics Centre. Portal is integrated with NGO Darpan Portal of NITI Aayog. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NGO-Darpan is a platform that provides space for interface between Voluntary Organizations (VOs)/NGOs and key Government Ministries / Departments / Government Bodies.
<p>Rapid antigen tests</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has approved this test for diagnosis of COVID-19. It is a test on swabbed nasal samples that detects antigens (foreign substances that induce an immune response in the body) that are found on or within SARS-CoV-2 virus. This test takes less time (30 minutes) than RT-PCR test (2-5 hours).
<p>Favipiravir</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) has approved anti-viral drug favipiravir for "restricted emergency use" in mild to moderate cases of COVID-19. It has shown positive results in Japan, China and was approved in Russia for COVID-19 treatment. Earlier, Remdesivir also got emergency use authorisation in India.

