

17 – 11 – 2021

News: Internal Displacement

- According to a report (**Mid-Year Trends 2021 Report**) by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), **nearly 51 million people were internally displaced across 33 countries due to conflict and violence in the first six months of 2021.**
- The combination of **Conflict, Covid, Poverty, Food insecurity and the Climate emergency** has compounded the humanitarian plight of the displaced, **most of whom are hosted in developing regions.**
- **Africa is the region that is most vulnerable in terms of the numbers of displaced persons.**
- Internal displacement describes **the situation of people who have been forced to leave their homes but have not left their country.**
- **Factors of Displacement: Millions of people are uprooted from their homes or places of habitual residence each year in the context of conflict, violence, development projects, disasters and climate change and remain displaced within their countries' borders.**

Internal displacement is based on two components:

- The **person's movement is coerced or involuntary** (to distinguish them from economic and other voluntary migrants);
- The **person stays within internationally recognised state borders** (to distinguish them from refugees).
- **Difference from Refugee:** According to the 1951 Refugee Convention, a **“refugee” is a person who has been persecuted and forced to leave his native country.**
- A precondition of being considered a refugee is that **a person crosses an international border.**
- Unlike refugees, **internally displaced people are not the subject of any international convention.**
- At the international level, **no single agency or organisation has been designated as the global lead on protection and assistance of internally displaced persons.**
- However, **there are United Nations Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement.**
- **India has no national policy and legal institutional framework to deal with either refugees or IDPs.**
- **India has not ratified the 1951 Convention and 1967 Protocol and does not permit UNHCR access to most refugee groups.**

- In the absence of a permanent institutional structure to oversee refugee issues, the granting of refugee status has been at the discretion of the political authorities.

Factors of Internal Displacement in India:

- **Secessionist Movements:** Since independence, north-east India has witnessed two major armed conflicts – the Naga movement and Assam movement.
- Jammu & Kashmir's war between state forces and militants, had led to mass exodus of the Kashmiri Pandits.
- **Identity-based Autonomy Movements:** Identity-based autonomy movements, such as in Bodoland, Punjab, Gorkhaland and Ladakh, have also led to violence and displacement.
- **Localized Violence:** Internal displacement has also arisen from caste disputes (as in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh), religious fundamentalism and the 'son-of-the soil policy (aggressive denial of residency and employment rights to non-indigenous groups).
- **Environmental and Development-induced Displacement:** In order to achieve rapid economic growth, India has invested in industrial projects, dams, roads, mines, power plants and new cities which have been made possible only through massive acquisition of land and subsequent displacement of people.

News: Country's first fisheries business incubator launched in Haryana's Gurugram costing Rs. 3.23 crore

- Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying recently inaugurated the country's first-of-its kind, dedicated business incubator to be known as LINAC- NCDC Fisheries Business Incubation Centre (LIFIC) in Haryana's Gurugram costing Rs. 3.23 crore to nurture fisheries start-ups under real market-led conditions.
- To begin with, the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), an implementing agency for the LIFIC, has identified the first batch of ten incubatees from four states—Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra. Out of them, 6 are from newly-created Fish Farmers Producer Organizations with the support of the financial grant under the PMMSY.
- The Centre will serve as a 'milestone' in future for the fisheries sector which is being given a big push under the central flagship Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) launched last year.

Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)

- Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) is a **flagship scheme for focused and sustainable development of the fisheries sector in the country** as a part of the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.
- **Insurance coverage for fishing vessels is being introduced for the first time under PMMSY.**

It aims to:

- Adopt '**Cluster or Area-based Approaches**' and **create fisheries clusters through backward and forward linkages.**
- Focus especially on **employment generation activities** such as seaweed and ornamental fish cultivation.
- **Address critical gaps in fish production and productivity, quality, technology, post-harvest infrastructure and management, modernisation and strengthening of the value chain, traceability, establishing a robust fisheries management framework and fishers' welfare.**
- **Consolidate the achievements of the blue revolution and bring new interventions** such as fishing vessel insurance, support for new/up-gradation of fishing vessels/boats, integrated aqua parks, e-trading/marketing, etc.

Targets

- Enhance fish production by an additional 70 lakh tonne and increase fisheries export earnings to Rs.1,00,000 crore by 2024-25.
- Double the incomes of fishers and fish farmers.
- Reduce post-harvest losses from 20-25% to about 10%.
- Generate an additional 55 lakhs direct and indirect gainful employment opportunities in the fisheries sector and allied activities.

Budget and Time Period

- An estimated investment of Rs. 20,050 crore for a period of 5 years from financial year (FY) 2020-21 to FY 2024-25 in all States/Union Territories.
- This investment is the highest ever in the fisheries sector yet.

It will be implemented as an umbrella scheme with two separate components namely:

- **Central Sector Scheme:** The project cost will be borne by the Central government.
- **Centrally Sponsored Scheme:** All the sub-components/activities will be implemented by the States/UTs and the cost will be shared between Centre and State.

News: Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) – 2021 Conclave of Chiefs held at Paris, France

- The 7th edition of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) Conclave of Chiefs is being hosted by French Navy at Paris from 15 - 16 Nov 21. Vice Admiral R Hari Kumar, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command, is leading a two member Indian Naval delegation for this Conclave.
- The Conclave of Chiefs is being attended by Chiefs of Navies/ Heads of Lead Maritime Agencies of IONS nations.
- Various bilateral interactions are also being conducted on the side-lines of the Conclave to facilitate a greater degree of maritime cooperation and understanding between the IONS nations.
- The 7th edition of IONS Symposium was held at Le-Reunion from 28 Jun - 01 Jul 21 in hybrid format due to COVID protocols.
- During the Symposium, it was agreed upon to conduct the extant Conclave of Chiefs at Paris.

Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS)

- Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) was conceived by the Indian Navy in 2008 as a forum which seeks to enhance maritime co-operation among Navies of the littoral states of the Indian Ocean Region by providing an open and

inclusive platform for discussions on regionally relevant maritime issues that would lead to common understanding on the way ahead.

- The inaugural edition of IONS was held in Feb 2008 at New Delhi, with Indian Navy as the Chair for two years.
- The IONS Chair is presently held with France.

Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)

- Indian Ocean Rim Association is an international organization consisting of 23 states bordering Indian Ocean.
- Established in 07th March 1997, IORA has its Headquarters in Ebene, Mauritius.
- Members of the grouping are Australia, Bangladesh, Comoros, France, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Somalia, Mozambique, Oman, Seychelles, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, UAE and Yemen.
- Dialogue Partners are China, Egypt, Germany, Italy, Japan, UK, US, Turkey and South Korea.
- France became the 23rd member in December 2020 to join. This is probably the first time that a country whose mainland is not on the Indian Ocean has been

brought into the fold of the IORA. France applied for membership citing its overseas territory of Réunion Island in the western Indian Ocean.

- France first joined IORA as a dialogue partner in 2001, just four years after the association was formed.
- Since all decisions in IORA are taken by consensus, objection from even a single country stops a process.
- The membership is open to “sovereign states of the Indian Ocean Rim willing to subscribe to the principles and objectives of the Charter”.