



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS –JULY 22, 2021

TAMIL NADU

- **The Union government – is planning to construct a heritage village and tourism at Singaperumal Koil as part of efforts to promote rural tourism.**
- ✓ The government has sanctioned Rs.25 Lakh under the Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission based on the suggestion presented by the state government
- ✓ This was announced by Minister of tourism Kishen Reddy in a written reply in the Lok Sabha on July 20.
- ✓ The money is sanctioned under 'critical gap funding' under which funds will be sourced from different centre and state schemes.
- ✓ The Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission aims to develop heritage villages and develop rural tourism
- ✓ Under the mission, sightseeing tours will be organised for tourists to explore the villages and learn about the local culture and arts
- ✓ The village will capture the art, culture and traditions unique to the district.
- ✓ Skill training and economic activities associated with the region will be offered to the people alongside the heritage village.
- ✓ Singaperumal Koil, located at 40km from Chennai, and six nearby villages - Appur, Chettipuniyam, Guruvanmedu, Kolathur, Reddiplayam and Venkatapuram - are already notified as a cluster for implementing 'Rurban' mission
- ✓ The mission aims to bridge the gap between urban and rural areas by providing economic, livelihood and physical infrastructure facilities in rural areas.
- ✓ Tourism promotion is one of the elements of the project
- ✓ The states or union territories have proposed the activities related to tourism promotion under Integrated Cluster Action Plan.
- ✓ The funding under the mission is shared in a ratio of 60:40 for the states
- ✓ Under the mission, women of the villages are brought together and are being provided training for livelihood.
- ✓ The mission says that the rural-urban divide in Tamil Nadu is 3.10%, much less than the national average.

- ✓ The scheme is expected to reduce the gap further and also promote rural and heritage tourism.
- ✓ A similar attempt is being made effectively in Jharkhand under the Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission.

INTERNATIONAL

- **Saudi female officers – were allowed to guard Islam’s holiest sites in Mecca during the Haj pilgrimage for the first time**



- ✓ Since April, dozens of Saudi women soldiers have been deployed as part of the security services to monitor pilgrims in Mecca and Medina, the birth places of Islam.
- ✓ Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, under his reform plan “Vision 2030”, lifted a driving ban on women and granted them more control over family matters.
- ✓ The Haj ministry also officially allowed women of all ages to make the pilgrimage without a male relative on the condition that they travel together in a group.

COMMITTEES

- **Union aviation minister Jyotiraditya Scindia - has formed three advisory groups covering all areas of the Covid-hit aviation sector.**



- ✓ The groups, comprising industry leaders, will ensure the improvement in the industry-government coordination to revive the aviation sector
- ✓ They will be meeting the Aviation Minister every month to apprise him of the critical steps needed to be taken to revive the aviation sector.
- ✓ Based on the suggestions, the Minister will decide what needs to be done to improve the overall financial health of the sector that will lead to better connectivity, both domestic and international.
- ✓ The three advisory groups comprise of airlines, airport operators and MRO, cargo carriers and ground handling companies.
- ✓ The groups shall meet regularly to discuss issues and resolve challenges facing each sector.
- ✓ Apart from the Union aviation minister and the minister of state, these groups will have top officials from the ministry and organisations like AAI, DGCA and AERA alongwith key representatives from private sector.
- ✓ The airline group has three promoters — IndiGo's Rahul Bhatia, SpiceJet's Ajay Singh and GoAir's Ness Wadia alongwith CEO/ CMDs — AirAsia India's Sunil Bhaskaran, Vistara's Bhaskar Bhat, Air India's Rajiv Bansal and Alliance Air CEO.
- ✓ This group will advise on issues like how to enhance domestic and international connectivity, enhance passenger experience, improve financial viability of airlines and on regulatory matters.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **Union Environment Minister, Bhupender Yadav – to address the G20 ministerial meeting on environment and climate change on July 22**



- ✓ The two-day Environment Ministerial Meeting of the G20 countries is scheduled to be held in Naples, Italy
- ✓ Minister of State for Environment Ashwini Choubey is also part of the delegation taking part in the meeting
- ✓ The meeting is being held in hybrid format and India shall participate the meeting through video conferencing

- ✓ The 16th G20 Summit, under Italian Presidency, will have a primary theme of 'People', 'Planet' and 'Prosperity'.
- ✓ The meeting is expected to discuss the EU's recent proposal on the world's first carbon border tax.
- ✓ Under this proposal, the 27 EU nations will impose border tax on imports of carbon-intensive goods.
- ✓ The tax plan, yet to be legally formalised, will come into force from the year 2026.
- ✓ India has held a view that any such unilateral carbon border adjustment will be discriminatory and against the principles of equity and CBDR-RC (common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities)
- ✓ The meeting will also focus on reaching a positive outcome at the crucial 26th session of the UN climate change conference (COP26) in Glasgow, UK in November.
- ✓ Environment ministers of G20 nations will also make interventions during the sessions to protect the planet and on making joint efforts for sustainable use of resources.

DEFENCE

- **The Defence Research & Development Organization (DRDO) - has successfully flight tested the New Generation Akash surface-to-air Missile (Akash-NG) on July 21 from Integrated test range in Balasore off the Odisha coast**



- ✓ The new version of the Akash missile (Akash-NG) can strike targets at a distance of around 60 km and fly at a speed of up to Mach 2.5.
- ✓ The new missile system has been developed by the DRDO's lab in Hyderabad in collaboration with other wings of the research agency.
- ✓ The earlier version of the Akash missiles can intercept hostile aircraft, helicopters, drones and subsonic cruise missiles at a range of 25 km
- ✓ Akash missiles have already been inducted in large numbers, with orders worth around Rs.24,000 crore being placed

- ✓ On the same day, the DRDO has also successfully conducted the flight test of an indigenously developed man-portable anti-tank guided missile, which has a strike range of 2.5 km
- ✓ The low weight, fire and forget, anti-tank guided missile was launched from a man-portable launcher
- ✓ The missile hit the target, a dummy tank, in direct attack mode and destroyed it with precision

SPORTS

- **Australian city, Brisbane - was awarded the rights to host the 35th Olympic Games, scheduled to be held in 2032**



- ✓ With this, Brisbane became the third Australian city to host the Summer Games after Melbourne (1956) and Sydney (2000).
- ✓ International Olympic Committee president Thomas Bach confirmed the result after delegates voted 72-5 with 3 abstentions at the IOC session in Tokyo on July 21
- ✓ The project will see events staged across Queensland, including in Gold Coast, which hosted the 2018 Commonwealth Games.
- ✓ Brisbane's victory looked a certainty after it was unanimously proposed as the single candidate for 2032 by the IOC's 15-strong executive board in June.
- ✓ The IOC gave Brisbane exclusive negotiating rights in February.
- ✓ Brisbane's renowned cricket stadium, known as the Gabba, will be upgraded and may host the sport at the Games.
- ✓ Cricket was played once at the Olympics, at the 1900 Paris Games.
- ✓ Paris will host the summer Olympics Games in 2024, while Los Angeles in USA will conduct the Games in 2028
- ✓ The awarding of the 2032 Olympics was the first to take place with a new election method adopted in June 2019

FORCED DISPLACEMENT IN 2020 – A REPORT

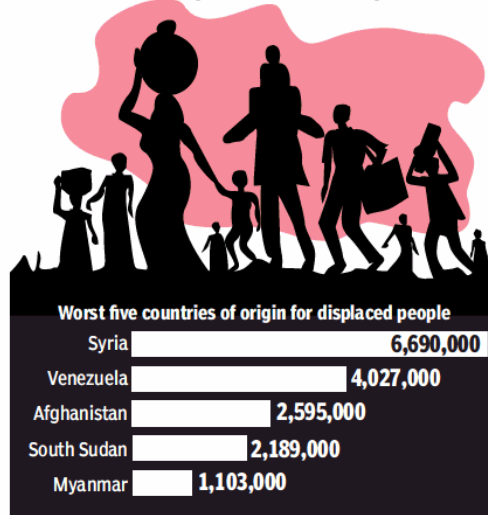
No. of people fleeing violence has doubled in last 10 years

More Than 80 Million People Are Displaced Across The World

> There are 82.4 million people today who have been thrown out of their home, and even pushed out of their country, violently. In 2010, they numbered only 41 million, says the **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees** (UNHCR) latest report, 'Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2020'

> Persecution, violence, conflict, human rights violations, and other events that seriously disturb public order are on the rise, the report says, and they are extracting a heavy toll in terms of human suffering

> The report shows 8 out of 10 people displaced across borders are from just 10 countries

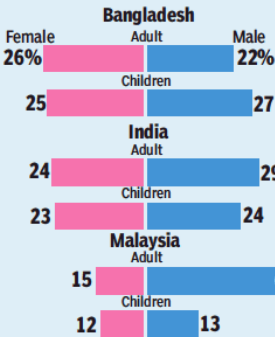


Plight of the Rohingya

> About 1.1 million stateless Rohingya have fled violence in Myanmar in successive waves of displacement, and thousands of them are stranded in camps in India

> Data shows the Rohingya in Bangladesh, India and Nepal are probably present as families, because the ratios of male to female and young to old are balanced. But in Malaysia, 80% of the adult Rohingya are male, and children make up just 25% of the population

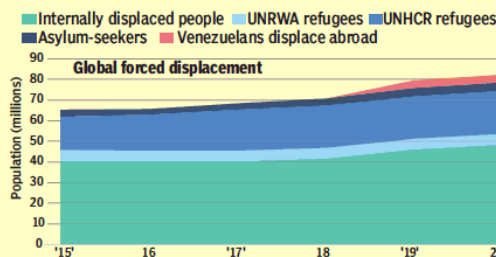
Population structure of stateless Rohingya living in:



No respite in Covid year

> The UN Secretary-General called for a global ceasefire in March 2020, to slow down the spread of Covid, but people were forced to flee their homes throughout the year

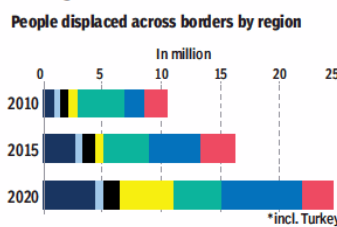
> Overall, 26.4 million of the 82.4 million forcibly displaced people are refugees, while 48 million are internally displaced persons and 4.1 million are asylum-seekers



■ East and Horn of Africa, and Great Lakes ■ Southern Africa ■ West and Central Africa ■ Americas ■ Middle East/North Africa ■ Asia and Pacific ■ Europe

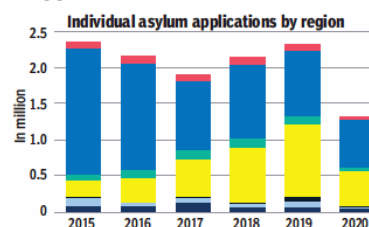
Countries less welcoming now

Many countries are restricting or denying asylum to those fleeing conflict and persecution. Only 7,65,200 people were granted international protection compared with 9,52,800 in 2019



Fewer asylum applications

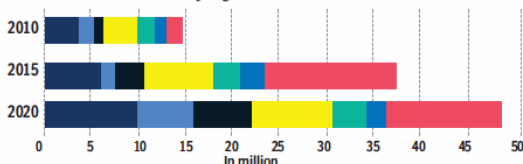
In 2020, 1.3 million new asylum applications were registered, as against 2.3 million in 2019



Internal displacement increased

The number of people displaced inside their own countries (IDPs) due to armed conflict, generalised violence or human rights violations grew for the third consecutive year in 2020, touching 48 million – a record

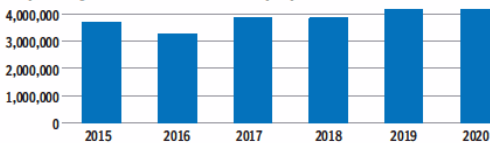
IDPs of concern to UNHCR by region



4.2 million people stateless

Not all displaced people who fled managed to secure recognition elsewhere. At least 4.2 million weren't considered nationals by any country at the year-end

Reported global number of stateless people



Text: Chethan Kumar; Graphic: Anil Dinod