

A sustainable refugee policy is a necessary step to intelligently manage population movements and ensure transparency in Indian administrative actions. Discuss.

→ According to the United Nations, over 20 million people are refugees and India houses almost 2 lakh of them.

→ India has taken part in almost 49 peacekeeping missions and also accepted refugees of partition and rehabilitation in the past. This poses a need for India to have a sustainable refugee policy.

Need for a refugee policy in India

→ In spite of India having border issues and security threats, India extends its humanitarian assistance to the refugees who try to find ground in the country.

→ India has the second largest number of refugees after Bangladesh and has refugees from 1980's Sri Lanka, Zoroastrians from Iran and some from Afghans also.

→ Refugees bridge the labour gap in the market and are largely employed in retail, hospitality, manufacturing and food industries. Hence they contribute to the economic activity.

→ India assures the rule of law to the people residing in it. A formulated refugee policy may prove beneficial.

Benefits of enforcing a refugee policy.

- It showcase India's leadership abilities at a global level and improves funding.
- Helps to ensure accountability and transparency in bureaucracy.
- Refugee's enter India for either economic, social, ~~or~~ political, security reasons. Hence ensuring a policy for them enhances India's global image.
- Formulating policy based on India & refugee's home land rules can help to reduce tiff or clash with that particular home land.
- Legislating a policy differentiates the role of the government, judiciary and the UN.

Way forward

- While safeguarding national and security interests the interest of refugees must also be considered.
- A fine line of approach of treating them on basis of charity and expecting them to self survive after initial help is necessary while laying down a national refugee policy.