

### INDIA'S POLICY ON THE ROHINGYAS

**SYLLABUS:** GS PAPER-II & III (CHALLENGES TO INDIA'S INTERNAL SECURITY, INDIA & ITS NEIGHBORHOOD)

**CONTEXT:** Recently, Union Housing Minister Hardeep Singh Puri tweeted that Rohingya refugees would be shifted to flats meant for economically weaker sections (EWS), and provided with basic amenities and police protection.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) under Amit Shah issued a clarification saying that no such direction had been given to provide EWS flats to "Rohingya illegal foreigners."

#### ABOUT ROHINGYA MUSLIMS

- Rohingya Muslims, **indigenous to Rakhine state (also known as Arakan) in Myanmar**, are described by the United Nations as one of the most persecuted minorities in the world.
- They fled their homes in 2017 to escape an alleged crackdown by the Myanmar's military.
- To escape the discrimination and violence in Myanmar, minority Rohingya Muslims have for decades fled from the Buddhist-majority country to neighboring Bangladesh and other countries, including India.

#### WHERE DO ROHINGYA LIVE IN DELHI?

- The Rohingya live in hutments in the densely populated Kalindi Kunjand Madanpur Khadar areas in Delhi which are contiguous with Uttar Pradesh.
- Officially, about 1,200 Rohingya have been identified as among the first batch to have arrived in Delhi in 2012. After they protested outside the UNHCR (UN Refugee Agency) office in Delhi, they were provided with refugee cards.
- The **Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO)**, responsible for tracking foreigners and their visas, has been requesting space at a new location for the Rohingya from the Delhi government since 2021.
- The FRRO is under the administrative control of the MHA.

#### INDIA'S STAND ON REFUGEES

- India is not a signatory to the **1951 UN Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol**.
- All foreign undocumented nationals are governed as per the provisions of the **Foreigners Act, 1946, the Registration of Foreigner's Act, 1939, the Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920 and The Citizenship Act, 1955**.
- The foreign nationals who enter the country without valid travel documents are treated as illegal immigrants.
- There is no national law on refugees at present. Only Standard Operating Procedures are issued by the MHA to deal with foreign nationals in India, who claim to be refugees.

#### INDIA'S APPROACH TOWARDS ROHINGYAS

- India signed a **MoU on Rakhine State Development Programme with Myanmar that aimed at "socio-economic development and livelihood initiatives in Rakhine State"**

including “a project to build prefabricated housing in Rakhine State to meet the immediate needs of returning people.”

- India has pledged US\$25 million for a five-year development project in Rakhine State.
- At the invitation of the Myanmar government, India joined the UNSC delegation that visited Myanmar along with three other neighbors—China, Laos, and Thailand.
- On the side-lines of United Nations General Assembly, **U.K. hosted a meeting** and India abstained on a resolution calling for an end to military action while 135 countries voted in favor of the resolution with 26 abstentions.

## ISSUES AND CONCERNS TO INDIA'S SECURITY

- **Threat to National Security:** The illegal immigration of Rohingyas into India and their continued stay in India is found to be having serious national security ramifications.
- **Clash of Interests:** It impacts the interests of local populations in the areas seeing large-scale influxes of illegal immigrants.
- **Political Instability:** It increases the political instability when leaders start mobilizing the citizen's perceptions of the against the migrants to grab political power.
- **Rise of Militancy:** The persistent attacks against the Muslims perceived as illegal migrants have given way to radicalization.
- **Human trafficking:** In recent decades, trafficking of women and human smuggling has become quite rampant across the borders.
- **Disturbance in Law and Order:** The rule of law as well as the integrity of the country is undermined by the illegal migrants who are engaged in illegal and anti-national activities.



## HOW FREE BASICS CAN HELP INDIA GROW RICH?

**SYLLABUS:** GS PAPER-III (INCLUSIVE GROWTH)

**CONTEXT:** While India is witnessing the debates on the merits of free basic facilities, countries like South Korea, Finland, and Canada have made some Universal Basic Income (UBI) experiments.

### REASONS FOR INDIA TO PROVIDE FREE BASIC FACILITIES

- **Redistribution of wealth:** The UBI can be a means to correct growing income equality in modern society.

- **Sustenance of the level of consumption:** According to the **pro-market people** such as Elon Musk, French economist Thomas Piketty etc., the UBI is helpful in sustaining the level of consumption in the economy.
- **Historical evidences:** There are some historical experiences related to the benefits of free basic facilities in western countries.
- **Make population employable:** Free education and health care reduces out-of-pocket expenditure and make the population more employable.
- The free education and healthcare have benefitted Germany. It implemented the **Bismarckian pension model in 1889** which arose to help the landless workers migrate to cities amid rapid industrialization.
- **Limitation of Contribution Based Models:** Most of the workers in India are engaged in the unorganized sector. Thus, a contribution-based model will help only salaried people, whose number was only 24% in 2019.
- The contribution-based model has been implemented in old age and disability schemes but these schemes exclude a large number of people.

## PRELIMS FACTS

### HEALTH STAR RATING

- A new study in India has found that warning labels on food packets are most effective in helping consumers identify foods “high in sugar, saturated fat and sodium” as compared with other labelling formats.
- It found that on most parameters, the Health Star Rating (HSR) format was least effective.
- The “health-star rating system” **gives a product 1/2 a star to 5 stars based on salt, sugar, and fat content.**
- The underlying premise of the HSR is that positive ingredients such as fruits and nuts can offset negative nutrients such as calories, saturated fat, total sugar, sodium to calculate the number of stars ascribed to a product.

### PANCH PRAN FOR BETTER INDIA

- Recently, the Prime Minister laid out **PanchPran (Five Vows) to be completed by 2047** when India will celebrate its 100 years of Independence.
- The five vows are as follows:

**Moving forward with bigger resolves and resolve of a developed India:** It is about inculcating a culture of thinking big and at scale. For instance, the digital payments success story best illustrates the success of the first pran.

**Erasing all traces of servitude:** It emphasizes upon societal change and decolonizing the minds of citizens. For instance, after India’s engagement, the debate on Net Neutrality has ended in many countries.

**Being proud of India’s legacy:** It is about taking pride in India’s civilizational heritage. India is having the world’s oldest civilizational sites, the most vibrant cultural and social festivities, the most diverse tourism sites, and the oldest texts in literature as well as science.

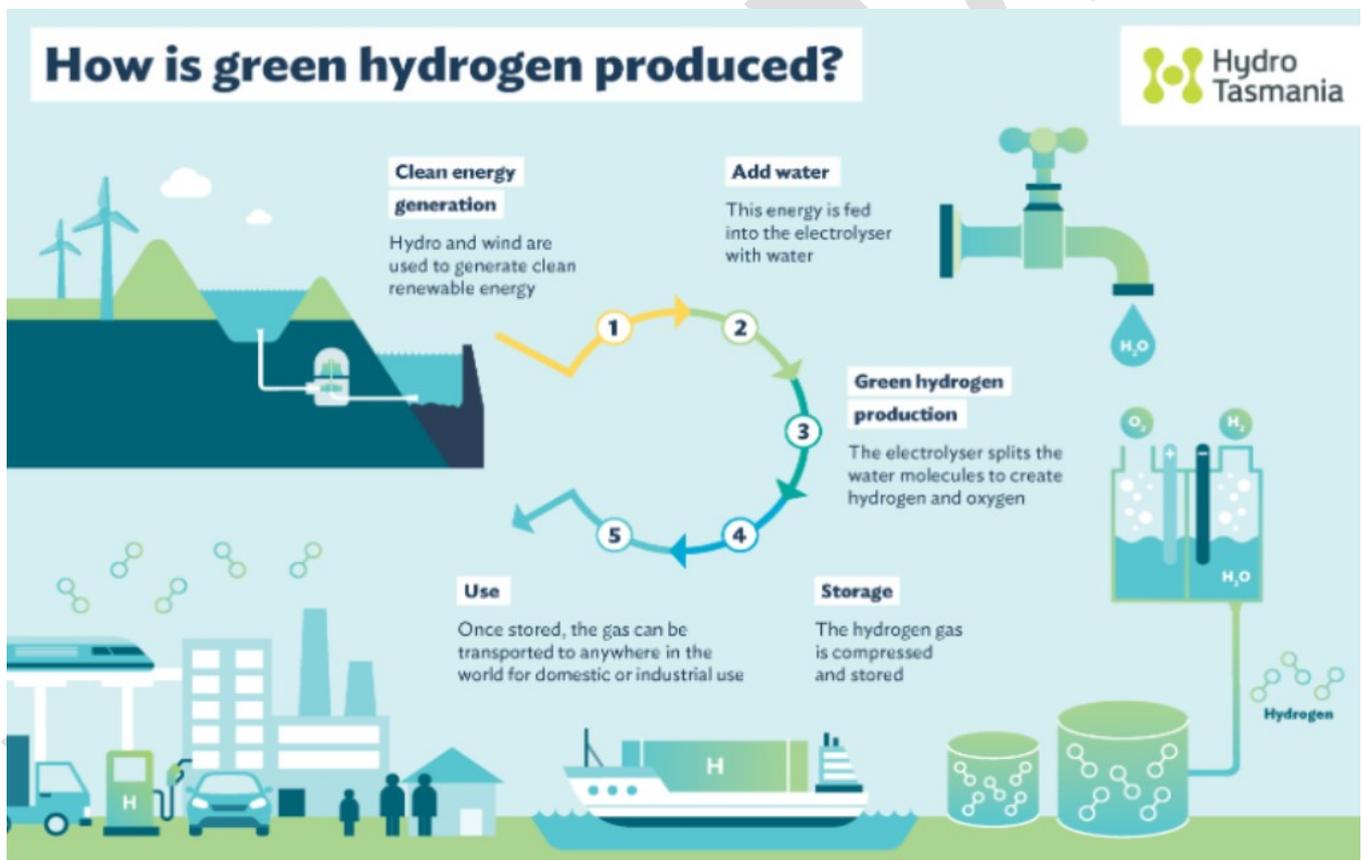
**The strength of unity:** It focusses about unity and togetherness. It is vital to pool the strength of the nation towards one common goal and avoid parochial interests.

**Duties of citizens including PM and CMs:** Governments alone can rarely affect mass change unless people play a proactive role.

- If considered intensely, the Panchpran can be an agenda for a radical transformation of society and nation.

## GREEN HYDROGEN

- Engineering and construction firm Larsen & Toubro, commissioned its first green hydrogen plant at its complex here in Gujarat.
- Hydrogen **produced by electrolysis using renewable energy** is known as Green Hydrogen. It has no carbon footprint.
- It is a clean-burning molecule, which can decarbonize a range of sectors including iron and steel, chemicals, and transportation.
- Green hydrogen energy is **vital for India to meet its Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) Targets** and to ensure regional as well as national energy security, access, and availability.
- It can act as an energy storage option, which would be essential to the intermittencies (of renewable energy) in the future.
- For long distance mobilizations, either for urban freight movement within cities and states or for passengers, Green Hydrogen can be used in railways, large ships, buses, or trucks, etc.



## TANNER SCALE

- Tanner scale, also known as **Sexual Maturity Rating**, is a scale to document and track the development as well as sequence of secondary sex characters of children during puberty.
- The **boys** (for genital development and pubic hair growth) and girls (for breast development and pubic hair growth) are rated on a **five-point scale**.

## TASMANIAN TIGER

- Scientists in the US and Australia have embarked on a \$15-million project to resurrect the thylacine or Tasmanian Tiger, a marsupial that went extinct in the 1930s, using gene-editing technology.
- The ambitious project aims to reintroduce the animal to its **native place Tasmania to revive the region's lost ecological balance.**
- Even though the species earned its nickname Tasmanian Tiger because of the stripes along its back, it was a slow-paced carnivorous that usually hunted alone or in pairs at night.
- The sharply clawed animal had a dog-like head and ate kangaroos, other marsupials, small rodents, and birds.

### What is a Tasmanian tiger?

The thylacine, or Tasmanian tiger, is a large carnivorous marsupial believed extinct for more than 80 years.

