

immigrant governments such as Italy, Hungary, Austria etc., countries of the European Union (EU) have not come to agreements on reforms of EU asylum laws and fair distribution of responsibility regarding refugees. Even the USA which has historically been sympathetic to the cause of refugees has minimised its intake of refugees in the recent years.

In this context, protection of refugees should be a collective concern of all nations and not just a select few that bear the burden because of geographical proximity for the following reasons:

- **Establishing an effective framework:** Countries were caught off-guard by the recent humanitarian refugee crisis, without an effective framework for sharing and using information to capture early signals of impending surges in demand.
- **Giving a chance at life with dignity:** Pooling up resources of all nations would help stepping up efforts to help refugees and vulnerable migrants integrate with the society, find livelihood and make a life. Moreover, humanitarianism demands that refugees be accorded respectful treatment and meaningful assistance in the event of distress.
- **Sharing burden and responsibility:** International cooperation is particularly important when countries, especially developing countries, end up hosting a large number of refugees for long periods of time, without necessarily having sufficient resources. In such situations, other countries can contribute by providing financial and technical assistance, and by formulating refugee resettlement programmes.
- **Security issues demand cooperation:** An absence of international cooperation to ensure adequate assistance, protection and solutions to refugees may increase the risk of irregular onward movements, often through transnational smuggling networks, or aggravate tensions between refugees and host communities. Thus, further enhancing the security issues. Moreover such scenarios lead to extreme steps such as border closures etc. leading to economic costs for the global community as well.
- **Legal obligation:** Nations that have signed the 1951 Refugee Convention or its 1967 Protocol are legally obligated to protect refugees and respect fundamental protection principles, such as non-refoulement (it forbids a country receiving asylum seekers from returning them to a country in which they would be in likely danger of persecution) and non-expulsion. Even non-signatories to the Convention are obliged to respect the principles.

Thus, protecting refugees is a shared responsibility and only by working together can nations provide effective protection that they deserve. Nations should adopt pragmatic refugee policies guided by principles of humanism and empathy. International cooperation is not just a key principle of the international refugee regime, but a practical necessity in order to improve responses to many refugee situations.

8. What is red-tapism? Why is it considered a hurdle in the process of transitioning towards citizen centric governance? (150 words) 10

Approach:

- Introduce the answer with the meaning of red-tapism.
- Explain why it is considered a hurdle towards citizen centric governance.
- Conclude the answer appropriately.

Answer:

Red-tapism is defined as “**rules, regulations and procedures that entail a compliance burden without advancing the legitimate purposes they were intended to serve.**” It is basically excessive norms and regulations that end up creating redundancy and thwarting progress in the day-to-day functioning of administration thus impeding overall governance.

Bureaucracies around the world are expected to adhere to rules and procedures, which are important for good governance. But, citizens today expect more transparent, accessible, and responsive services from the public sector and these rules and procedures are cumbersome at times and do not serve their purpose.

In this context, red-tapism is usually considered a hurdle in the process of transitioning towards citizen centric governance due to the following reasons: