

UK To Include India In Its Safe States List. What It Means

Why In News

- The UK government has announced plans to include India in a list of "**safe states**,"- a move aimed at **expediting the repatriation process** for individuals who have entered the UK from India through unauthorized means.
- This would speed up the process of returning Indians who travel from the country illegally and rule out their chance of seeking asylum in Britain.



Why It Is Needed

- UK witnessed **an increase in arrival** of small boat from India and Georgia over the past year.
- This step is in line with a promise made in January 2023 by Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, to "**stop the boats**".
- The so-called small boat arrivals comprised approximately 45% of the total asylum applications made in **2022, which was close to 89,000**.
- This prompted the government to reassess its approach and take steps under "**Illegal Migration Act 2023**" against asylum seekers from these countries, according to the Home Office.
- Over the past year, the UK has witnessed a rise in small boat arrivals from **India and Georgia**.



Aim Of The Move

- **Strengthening the country's immigration system** and help prevent abuse by people making unfounded protection claims.
- Currently, people are exploiting country's immigration system and making dangerous and illegal journeys to the UK from fundamentally safe countries.



Impact Of This Inclusion

- This inclusion of India in the safe states list **rules out the chances of Indians seeking asylum in Britain.**
- All the countries listed in the list are considered by UK government to be safe, **stable and free** from widespread human rights abuses.
- Indians who travel to UK illegally will have **spare chances of seeking asylum** in Britain.



- The inclusion of India in the safe states list will make it difficult for Indians travelling illegally to seek asylum in Britain.
- This will also enable the **UK to detain illegal immigrants** or order their **prompt return to a safe third country** or their country of origin.
- Under this rule, UK could detain illegal immigrants or order their prompt return to a safe third country or their country of origin.

Countries In The UK Safe States List

- UK Home Office also decided to include Georgia to its list of safe states apart from India. **Other nations deemed safe** by UK include Albania, Switzerland along with European Union (EU) and European Economic Area (EEA) states.

