

## 1. What is the Rohingya Muslims issue? How is it affecting India's interests and relations with Myanmar? Examine.

### Introduction

The Rohingya refugee crisis refers to the mass migration of Rohingyas (Rohingya Muslim people) from Myanmar (Burma) to Bangladesh, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and India. Described by the UN as the world's most persecuted people, 1.1 million Rohingya people live in Myanmar. They live predominantly in Rakhine state, where they have co-existed uneasily alongside Buddhists for decades.

### Body

- Few years ago, religious and ethnic tensions between the Rohingya Muslims and the Rakhine Buddhists (who make up the majority of the population in Myanmar) escalated into widespread, deadly rioting. Hundreds of thousands were forced to flee. Since then, ongoing violent attacks have forced even more people to leave their homes.
- They were not granted full citizenship by Myanmar. They were classified as "resident foreigners or associate citizens". They speak a dialect of Bengali and not Burmese. The Rohingya population is denied citizenship under the 1982 Myanmar nationality law. Myanmar law does not recognize the ethnic minority as one of the eight national indigenous races.
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Rohingya Migration



receiving Rohingya refugees and allowing them to settle in the different parts of the country over the years, especially after the communal violence in the state of Rakhine in 2012. According to the Ministry of Home Affairs, there are approximately 40,000 Rohingyas living in India. They have reportedly reached India from Bangladesh through the land route over the years.

- However, India considers the refugee crisis as an internal affair of Myanmar. India took the side of the Myanmar government because it was concerned that raising the issue publicly might push Myanmar towards China as it was building relations with the then newly formed quasi-democratic government.

- India also has economic interests with its companies holding stakes in Shwe Gas field off the coast of Rakhine State. Along with energy interests and plans to build cross-border pipelines, India also has a connectivity interest to link its landlocked northeastern region with the Bay of Bengal through Rakhine State
- These include a joint project with Myanmar that includes development of port at Sittwe, inland-waterway in the Kaladan River, and road construction to connect it with India's Northeast. Instability in the Rakhine State could have adverse effects on these interests.
- The crisis has also acquired a security dimension with concerns being raised over the infiltration of Islamic extremism amongst the Rohingyas, who have grown increasingly desperate over their plight. The massive refugee outflow has created a serious humanitarian crisis that carries implications on regional stability and security.
- In 2017, India launched "Operation Insaniyat" to provide relief assistance for the refugee camps in Bangladesh. India's decision to extend help fits into its desire to de-incentivise Rohingya refugees entering into India. Further, India would maintain constructive engagement with both Myanmar and Bangladesh, and that the international community needs to handle the situation with restraint, keeping in mind the welfare of the population.
- In 2012 December, India's external affairs Minister visited Rakhine and donated 1 million dollars for relief. India signed a development programme for Rakhine State in Myanmar late last year which was designed to assist the Myanmar government in Rakhine State to build housing infrastructure for displaced persons.
- The Rohingya refugees, while under the jurisdiction of the national government, cannot be deprived of the right to life and personal liberty. The chapter on fundamental rights in the Constitution differentiates citizens from persons. While all rights are available to citizens, persons including foreign citizens are entitled to the right to equality and the right to life, among others.

### Conclusion

The Indian approach towards the Rohingya crisis has been viewed as contradicting its traditional position on refugees. As the Rohingya crisis unfolds, there is still a lot that India can do to facilitate the finding of long-term solutions. These actions will be key in determining India's regional and global standing as well as relations with Myanmar.

**2. Do you think the implementation of a nationwide National Register of Citizens in would actually strengthen India's ties with the neighbours? Critically evaluate.**

### Introduction

Recently, according to the ministry of external affairs, India has reached out to countries across the world, especially its neighbours, on the issues of the new

citizenship law and the proposed National Register of Citizens to make sure that the relationship between India and its neighbours remains strong and without any misgivings.

### Body

- The National Register of Citizens (NRC) holds all the important information of the Indian citizens required for their identification which will be maintained by the Government of India. The legal framework for NRC is laid down in the Citizenship Act of 1955 as amended in 2004.
- The issue of illegal immigration is majorly between India and Bangladesh, due to historical factors, rather than any other neighbour. NRC is an exercise to stem the tide and deal with the issue of illegal immigration.
- In this regard, the implementation of a nationwide NRC would help strengthen India's relations with her neighbours in the following manner:
- NRC exercise would be completely an internal matter of India and as a sovereign nation which respects others sovereignty, India has every right to carry out actions internally, which it deems fit.
- Illegal immigration from Bangladesh, comprising both Hindus and Muslims, is an important issue from the national security perspective of India. A large number of Bangladeshi immigrants are illegally living in India. Bilateral dealings of such an important issue thus becomes important.
- The issue is further complicated as sometime back, the Rohingya refugees originally from Myanmar started infiltrating into India through Bangladesh. Association of some Rohingyas with terrorist organisations make it an internal security for India and needs to be dealt with concerned parties where relations will stabilise with resolution of the problem.
- Bangladesh has already documented its citizens and maintains a biometric record of them. The National Identity Registration Wing (NIDW) was created within the Bangladesh Election Commission for that purpose. India too is justified in undertaking a similar exercise. This will help India get a grip on the problem.
- Once the documentation of citizens is done in India, both sides can share their database. This will help manage the problem in a much more amicable manner. As the India-Bangladesh relationship is currently strong and trust levels on both sides are high, this is the right time to deal with the issue of illegal migration.
- As the NRC exercise would help in establishing a detailed database of citizens for India, it would help in dealing with illegal immigration and as the issue of illegal immigration is concerned mainly only with India-Bangladesh relations, India's relations with its other neighbours would largely be unaffected.

At the same time, many have argued that NRC exercise would not strengthen India's relations with its neighbours due to the following factors:

- The partition of India along religious lines had left India with extraordinary challenges about sustaining religious harmony at home and maintaining reasonable relations with Pakistan and Bangladesh. This Pandora's box would open again affecting relations, especially with Bangladesh.
- India's Neighbourhood first and Act East policy could be affected as a result of the NRC exercise and its outcomes where Bangladesh and Myanmar might face the inflow of disenfranchised people from India.
- Regional destabilization could create serious ramifications not just for South Asia, but the wider Indo-Pacific as well. Bangladesh is already struggling under the weight of the refugee crisis of the Rohingya fleeing violence in Myanmar — any added people movement would be beyond its capacity to facilitate and require a significant international response.
- The rhetoric of minority persecution in neighbouring countries embedded in CAA-NRC exercise would certainly affect India's image and relations with concerned neighbours.
- This phenomenon is in line with the growing global trend where internal matters are affecting countries relations with others and in case of India, Bangladesh is clearly affected as India would handover illegal immigrants to it after the NRC exercise.
- China would certainly try to exploit the faultlines between India and its neighbours emerging out of the NRC exercise. This would help it in its string of pearls strategy against India in India's neighbourhood.

### Conclusion

The issue of illegal migration in the neighbourhood relationships cannot be swept under the carpet. It will continue to be a stumbling block in the sustenance of a stable relationship. It will be better if all sides look at the issue dispassionately especially when the trust levels are high and the NRC exercise may be a means towards the ends of a sustainable neighbourhood relations.

### 3. How do immigration policies of developed countries affect India's interests?

#### Introduction

Immigration is coming to a foreign country with the intention of permanently living there whereas Emigration is leaving a resident country with the intent to settle elsewhere. Immigrants generally take up that job which people in the host country (the country to which people have fled) will not or cannot do.

Migrant workers often work longer hours and for lower salaries which benefits host nations. Immigrants contribute to the diversity of the host country and thus also increase tolerance and understanding in the society.

#### Body

##### Some immigration policies of developed countries

- European Union



- Divergent national approaches to accepting Asylum Seekers.
  - Using EU budgets to support refugee integration.
  - Strengthening external borders.
  - Collaborating with third countries to cut off transit routes.
  - Tying Foreign Assistance to stemming migration
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- Hungary has restricted illegal immigration by suspending the acceptance of asylum seekers sent back to it by other EU states.
  - U.S. has also made some changes in its Immigration policy.
  - Italy has called for detention and deportation of migrants, who it blames for the instability and threats in the country.
  - Dutch has adopted a zero tolerance approach towards those immigrants who are unwilling to sign up to the country's way of life.

As per UN report, India is leading country of origin of international migrants with a 17.5 million strong diaspora.

#### **Effect of immigration policies of developed countries on India**

- Recent merit-based immigration system of US — one that admits people who are skilled – has been welcomed by Indian professionals.
- Remittances of India hit adversely. Ex: Kerala remittance was nearly 40% of their GDP in 2011-2014 but after that there was sharp decline in remittances.
- It will increase unemployment as people who are not getting jobs overseas needs job in India.
- When it comes to the IT industry, due to immigration policies like H-1B Visa of U.S, initially the Indian companies will be pressurized to hire Indian talent, but eventually, it will help in overall growth.
- Due to strict immigration policies of west India can attract more talent. Make in India program can get thrust due to this.

#### **Conclusion**

Immigration policies of developed countries poses challenges in short term. However with skill development and New Industrial Policy India can gain advantage out of the situation.

#### **4. Expand upon the concept of 'common but differentiated responsibility'. What has been the stance of major developed countries on this principle?**

#### **Introduction**

Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities is a principle within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It acknowledges the different capabilities and differing responsibilities of individual countries in addressing climate change.

Reflecting CBDR-RC, the Convention divided countries into “Annex I” and “non-Annex I,” the former generally referring to developed countries and the latter to developing countries. Under the Convention Annex I countries have a greater mitigation role than non Annex-I countries.

CBDR-RC and the annex classifications were codified in the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, and Annex I country emissions reductions were legally bound.

### Body

#### Stance of major developed countries on this principle

Developed countries are not in full agreement with the broader interpretation of CBDR that allows for its application to general sustainable development.

- The United States accepts the special leadership role of the developed countries based on their industrial development, wealth and technical expertise capabilities.
- Developed countries have the stand that they do not accept international obligations or liabilities, or any diminution in the responsibilities of developing countries.
- United States of America has effectively fundamentally rejected the principle. U.S has also pulled out of Paris agreement.
- Most developed countries do not reject the basic premise of differentiated responsibilities. The issue is not the differentiation between countries per se, but rather the reliance on only two (indeed anachronistic) categories: industrialised and developing countries.
- Developed countries are calling for all countries to be differentiated according to their economic capacity.
- Developed countries are calling for a new mode of applying the 'common but differentiated responsibilities' principle to make it acceptable to all state parties to the climate international legal instruments.

### Conclusion

The CBDR still remains the most potent principle to bring all states to the round table for **fair negotiations** on climate change. Sacrifices must be made to mitigate climate change by the big polluters, especially the US.

**5. How is Brexit going to affect India? Do you see an emerging trend of isolationism in the world? Examine.**

## Introduction

Brexit deal was signed recently after 4 yrs negotiations between UK and EU which happened due to the reasons like migration policies of EU, funding and so on. With the 11-month transition period in place India and UK has to come up with plan to utilize the opportunities opened up because of it.

## Body

### Impact on India due to Brexit:

- India is the third largest source of FDI for UK. There are more than 800 Indian companies in Britain. With BREXIT, the business of these companies will be affected. With the fluctuation in exchange rates, the bottom line of these companies will suffer.
- The key sectors including IT sector, metals, oil, aviation, pharmaceuticals, healthcare, agritech, food, and drink which will take a hit.
- Movement of skilled labour from India will be impacted as Brexit was fought mainly on argument of tighter immigration policies.
- Rupee may depreciate because of the double effect of foreign fund outflow and dollar rise.
- The impact on stock market for short term is a possibility.
- Brexit has resulted in depreciation of Euro and Pounds. India's Forex (currently a record 363 billion dollars) may diminish, particular if the currency is stored in Euros or Pound (this comes around 20% of total forex).
- Many Indian companies are listed on the London Stock Exchange and many have European headquarters in London. Brexit will take away this advantage.
- However, Britain can sign bilateral agreements free of restrictions imposed by EU. India can sign a new trade agreement with Britain which can happen sooner than EU included.

### Rise of isolationism:

- Protectionist policies of USA are showing the rising trend of isolationism.
  - trade war with China,
  - imposition of taxes on Iron and steel industries, Taxing automobile exports from India
  - exit from TPP
  - Withdrawal from Paris deal etc.,
- Brexit has triggered similar moves in countries like Germany which are calling for strict laws on immigration and movement of people.
- WTO as an institution is being diluted E.g. delay in appointment of appellate bodies. The same is happening for other multilateral institutions as well E.g. China defying the rule of UNCLOS, USA defying UN resolution on Israel and Iran etc.,

- Exit of countries from multilateral organizations following adverse ruling. E.g Russia leaving ICC after issue regarding Ukraine.

However, multilateralism and integration is still in play and can be seen in many instances like

- Negotiations of new multilateral trade agreements like RCEP, African continental free trade area and so on.
- Calls from developing countries like India, South Africa to strengthen united nations, improve representation to make the institution more representative.
- coordination to improve global commons and issues like climate change (paris deal), terrorism (SCO) and so on.
- Even the perceived protectionist USA is coming up with in negotiations and regional groupings like Quad, has increased defence ties with India and so on.

### **Conclusion**

Thus, there is clearly a rising trend of isolationism. The need is to strengthen regional cooperation and integrating with the global value chain through trade deals. Countries have to realize that only an integrated approach to deal with the rising issues of security, trade uncertainties and climate change to have a sustainable development.

