



Rohingya Muslims in India

For Prelims: National Investigation Agency (NIA), Rohingya Muslims, United Nations , South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol.

For Mains: Security Concern of India & its Neighbourhood.

Why in News?

Recently, the [National Investigation Agency \(NIA\)](#) has arrested six people who were allegedly part of a syndicate involved in the illegal trafficking of [Rohingya Muslims](#) into **Indian territory**.



Who are Rohingya Muslims?

- Rohingya Muslims are described by the [United Nations](#) as the most persecuted minority in the world.
- They fled their homes in 2017 to escape an alleged **crackdown by the Myanmar military**.
- To **escape discrimination and violence in Myanmar**, minority Rohingya Muslims have for decades fled from the Buddhist-majority country to neighbouring Bangladesh and other countries, including India.

What are Issues & Concerns to India's Security?

- **Threat to National Security:** The continuance of the illegal immigration of Rohingyas into India and their continued stay in India is found to be having serious national security ramifications and poses serious security threats.
- **Clash of Interests:** It impacts the interests of local populations in the areas seeing large-scale influxes of illegal immigrants.
- **Political Instability:** It also increases the political instability when leaders start mobilising the perception of the citizens of the country against the migrants by the elites to grab political power.
- **Rise of Militancy:** The persistent attacks against the Muslims perceived as illegal migrants have given way to radicalisation.
- **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 and integrity of the country are undermined by the illegal migrants who are engaged in illegal and anti-national activities.

What is the National Investigation Agency?

- It was constituted under the **National Investigation Agency (NIA) Act, 2008**. It is a central agency to investigate and prosecute offences:
 - Affecting the sovereignty, security and integrity of India, security of State, friendly relations with foreign States.
 - Against atomic and nuclear facilities.
 - Smuggling in High-Quality Counterfeit Indian Currency.
- It **implements international treaties, agreements, conventions and resolutions** of the United Nations, its agencies and other international organisations.
- Its objective is also to **combat terror in India**. It acts as the **Central Counter-Terrorism Law Enforcement Agency**.
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi.

Way Forward

- **Need for Refugee Protection Framework:** In spite of not being a party to the [1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol](#), India has been one of the largest recipients of refugees in the world.
 - Therefore, if India had domestic legislation regarding refugees, it could have deterred any oppressive government in the neighbourhood from persecuting their population and making them flee to India.
- **SAARC Framework on Refugees:** India should take the initiative to encourage other countries in the [South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation \(SAARC\)](#) to develop a SAARC convention or declaration on refugees.

[Source: IE](#)

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