



Uyghur Rights Abuse

Why in News?

Recently, according to a report by [United Nations](#), China is conducting serious human rights violations against [Uyghurs](#) that may amount to crimes against humanity.



What are the Key Highlights of the Report?

- **Persecution of Uyghurs:**
 - The report accuses China of sweeping a million or more people from minority groups into **detention camps where many have said they were tortured**, sexually assaulted, and forced to abandon their language and religion.
 - **Ruthless campaign:**
 - There is a ruthless campaign against extremism in the far western province of [Xinjiang](#) that also included draconian birth control policies and all-encompassing restrictions on people's movement.
- **Set-up Independent International Body:**
 - Human rights groups renewed calls for the UN Human Rights Council, to **set up an independent international body to investigate the allegations**.

Who are Uyghurs?

▪ **About:**

- The Uyghurs are a predominantly **Muslim minority Turkic ethnic group**, whose origins can be traced to **Central and East Asia**.
 - The Uyghurs speak their own language, similar to Turkish, and see themselves as culturally and ethnically close to Central Asian nations.
- The Uyghurs are considered to be one of the **55 officially recognized ethnic minority communities in China**.
 - However, China recognizes the community only as a regional minority and **rejects that they are an indigenous group**.
- Currently, the **largest population of the Uyghur ethnic community** lives in the **Xinjiang region** of China.
 - A significant population of Uyghurs also lives in the neighbouring Central Asian countries such as **Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan**.
 - **Xinjiang** is technically an autonomous region within China — its largest region, rich in minerals, and **sharing borders with eight countries**, including India, Pakistan, Russia and Afghanistan.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

Q. Consider the following pairs: (2016)

Community sometimes in the affairs of mentioned in the news

1. Kurd — Bangladesh
2. Madhesi — Nepal
3. Rohingya — Myanmar

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- (a) 1 and 2
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3
- (d) 3 only

Ans: (c)

- **Kurd: They are one of the indigenous peoples of the Mesopotamian plains and the highlands in what are now South-eastern Turkey, North-eastern Syria, northern Iraq, North-western Iran and South-western Armenia.** They also adhere to a number of different religions and creeds, although the majority is Sunni Muslims. Hence, pair 1 is not correctly matched.
- **Madhesi: It is an ethnic group living mainly in the southern plains of Nepal,** close to the border with India. Madhesis are predominantly Hindus with some Muslims and Christians. Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.
- **Rohingya: They are an ethnic group, largely comprising Muslims, who predominantly live in the Western Myanmar province of Rakhine.** They speak a dialect of Bengali, as opposed to the commonly spoken Burmese language. According to Myanmar authorities, they are not the authorized citizens of the country. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched. Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

[Source: IE](#)

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