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# **UNDERSTANDING INDIA'S APPROACH TO REFUGEE LAW: A COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS**

AUTHORED BY - ROHAN STHANU

## **ABSTRACT**

India has welcomed many different types of refugees from neighboring nations since gaining independence in 1947. These groups include refugees from the partition of former British Indian territories that are now Pakistan and Bangladesh; Tibetan refugees arrived in 1959; Chakma refugees from modern-day Bangladesh arrived in the early 1960s; other Bangladeshi refugees arrived in 1965 and 1971; Sri Lankan Tamil refugees from the 1980s; and most recently, Rohingya refugees from Myanmar. It was reported in 1992 that India was housing 400,000 refugees from eight different nations.<sup>1</sup>

Through detailed study of legal frameworks for refugees in India, one learns about their background, their current problems, and the way in which the law has been constructed. India manages a complex interplay between the requirements of national security, human rights, and global politics in its stance of the refugee issues. Once significant laws, court rulings, government strategies are reviewed, the nature of India's refugee regime is examined within this complex system.

The 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, International and all other legal instruments on refugee protection, are not ratified by India. India has however failed to immunise the refugees fully but when it comes to protection they have done better. India has an ethical background of assimilation and at the same time, acceptance of varied cultures.<sup>2</sup>

This paper covers the factors, e.g. the contradiction with international agreements, bilateral agreements, negotiations, regional dynamics and more, that impact India's reaction to refugee crises. This literature review is aimed at articulating the gaps and strengths that exist in India's

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.lawyersclubindia.com/articles/refugee-laws-in-india--15100.asp>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.hg.org/legal-articles/why-india-did-not-sign-the-1951-refugee-convention-41414>

refugee protection and policy framework with the hope that it will help to understand the direction of the country's changing role in the global refugee context. The objective of this paper is to critically assess the existing scenario of refugees & asylum seekers in India.

### **RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

1. How does the existing legal framework protect refugees in India?
2. What is the strategy adopted by India to accept and protect refugees?
3. What is the principle of non – refoulment?
4. What is the way forward with legal legislation for refugees?

### **REFUGEES IN INDIA**

Hardeep Singh Puri, the Indian Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, ignited a Twitter debate on August 17 on the number of Rohingya refugees living in the nation's capital. Puri tweeted that the Rohingya population in New Delhi would be moved from camps that resembled slums to apartments in the Bakkarwala neighborhood. They would also be given UNHCR cards, basic facilities, and security from the Delhi police. This "landmark decision," however, was quickly overturned. The Ministry of Home Affairs tweeted within hours that the decision was never granted and that the Rohingya refugees will be returned to camps for detention before being deported to Myanmar, where they would face terrible persecution due to their ethnic and religious beliefs. Despite its seemingly little nature, the Twitter feud attracted national and international media attention since it was indicative of both ineffective government apparatus and India's refugee policy.<sup>3</sup>

India has no national or international refugee policy, which is surprising for a nation whose history is rooted in the forced migration caused by the 1947 Partition and which is home to over 200,000 refugees. Despite the fact that India has long been known as a "safe haven," the lack of a formal law permits the state to handle refugee groups arbitrarily and on a case-by-case basis, guided more by local socio-cultural dynamics, geopolitical and diplomatic incentives, and domestic electoral mandates than by humanitarian, international, or constitutional considerations.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.stimson.org/2022/the-geopolitics-of-indias-refugee-policy/>

## **HISTORY OF REFUGEE IN INDIA**

India's refugee affairs are unique and therefore composed of a complex history with many different influences such as conflicts, colonialism, wars and geopolitics in general. In India's past there were examples when not only it was a refuge for those who wanted to escape from persecution, but it also happened to be one of the places where there was an internal movement of people. It was one of the main streams of literature that comprised the story of the depression of laws and regulation concerning refugees which was meant to cater for all the displaced masses.

- The impact of emancipation and imperial legacy during the colonial period can be seen in modern Asian countries (pre-independence).<sup>4</sup>

The idea of refugees in India existed right in colonial time, especially that when India was divided from British India at 1947. Once British rule ended, the split of India and Pakistan into two nations triggered one of the most massive human migrations where millions of people moved across their tribes and religions.

- Foreigners Act (1946) –

The Foreigners Act of 1946 was passed by the British colonial authority in order to give the British government a controlled input to the final settlement. It created the legal system for determining whether a foreigner is legally entitled to enter, stay within and leave the country. Although it might be mentioned that when the division happened the legislation was not especially for refugees, this law played a key role in managing and coordinating the movement of the displaced population both in the period of the division and even after.

- Tibetan Refugee Crisis (1951)

Emphasize the fact that the 1951 Refugee Convention came at the height of the Tibetan Refugee Crisis but stayed relevant in history.

India, although it did not sign the Refugee Convention of 1951 or its Protocol of 1967, has upheld the non-refoulement principle in most cases according to which no refugee should be sent back when there is an imminent risk of either life or liberty. This concept was brought into sharp relief through the Dalai Lama fleeing to India following the Chinese occupation of Tibet, and millions

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<sup>4</sup> <https://exhibits.stanford.edu/1947-partition/about/1947-partition-of-india-pakistan>

of Tibetans who followed him into exile. The Dalai Lama along with his co-religionists found the shelter in India thanks to which they also could establish their community across the Indian country.<sup>5</sup>

- Bangladesh Liberation War (1971) and Indo-Pakistani Wars were the two significant conflicts that directly or indirectly affected the borders of India.

Neighboring countries' political unrest necessitated India to undertake not one but multiple refugee crises. Millions of Bengali people who became refugees were forced to cross the border and seek sanctuary in India due to the Pakistani Army's persecution and brutality during the 1971 War of Bangladesh independence. India armed the liberation movement and offered humanitarian aid to the refugees which ultimately led to creation of Bangladesh. Besides, the other migrations and movements of people were also brought about by wars between India and Pakistan that took place in 1947, 1965, and 1971 with some of them fleeing to other nations near India.<sup>6</sup>

- The Tamil Refugee crisis, in Sri Lanka.

When Sri Lanka experienced its civil war particularly 1980s and 1990s, there was a huge refugee crisis in the history of India. Numerous refugees of Tamil ethnicity who were seeking a shelter from the violence and persecution have settled in the camps in southern state of Tamil Nadu, India. A vast number of Sri Lankan Tamils found safety in India, which was also crucial in peace keeping efforts to end the insurgency.

- The Precarious Situation of the Rohingya Refugees

The huge numbers of the Rohingya Muslims that are being oppressed in Myanmar are still coming to India. And this is the main cause of the Rohingya refugee crisis. The fate of these refugees appears gloomy as they crowd the congested camp while all the facilities of basic amenities and legal status are absent. Indian reactions to the country have been mixed: while there are officials calling for mercy and humanitarian help, others are more worried about national security issues and are supportive of their deportation. The case raises the question on how to handle such a large group of refugees in the country's complex social and political background and to reconcile humanitarian goals with security needs.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> [Tibetan Refugees - International Campaign for Tibet \(savetibet.org\)](http://TibetanRefugees-InternationalCampaignforTibet(savetibet.org))

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Bangladesh\\_War\\_of\\_Independence](https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Bangladesh_War_of_Independence)

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.refugeesinternational.org/reports-briefs/shadow-of-refuge-rohingya-refugees-in-india/>

## **FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO INDIA'S REFUGEE CRISIS**

In quest of protection in areas like India, refugees usually flee from harsh persecution they face in their own countries. India has been accepting migrants since 1947 even though it is not a party to the 1951 Refugee Convention, demonstrating its accommodating strategy. That include people from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Tibet, and so on.

Strong social links are fostered with many foreigners by India's multireligious, multicultural, and multiethnic nature. For example, the Tamilian Bond during the civil war encouraged Sri Lankan Tamils to think of moving to India. Similar to this, Manipur's love for Myanmar is luring migrants to India from Myanmar. They facilitate travel to India even though they don't directly affect it. Numerous people from Myanmar were able to enter India as a result of the open border.

The government's directive to halt the refugee crisis from Myanmar was not effectively implemented. The Assam Rifles have too few battalions to adequately guard the border. Most of the refugees from Myanmar are still living in the region under the Free Movement Regime. A 16-kilometer area on each side is open to unrestricted access, under an agreement between the two nations.

India's bordering countries have faced a range of challenges since their formation.

Human rights breaches have occurred in Sri Lanka following the civil conflict. The Bangladesh Liberation War and the subsequent military dictatorship are examples of comparable incidents. There is some strategic ambiguity in India's policy reaction because there is no domestic refugee strategy. India has to muster the political will to enact new refugee legislation in order to have a consistent, impartial, and predictable administrative approach to refugees given the rising numbers of forced migration in the region as a result of both conflict and climate change.<sup>8</sup>

## **THE REFUGEE LAW OF INDIA IS AMBIGUOUS STRATEGICALLY**

The 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, which set up who is a refugee and the host nation responsibility, are not ratified by India. Additionally, India directly manages the refugee situations on its own and declines to acknowledge the presence of the UNHCR's administrative authority in its internal borders.

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<sup>8</sup> <https://www.stimson.org/2022/the-geopolitics-of-indias-refugee-policy/>

Of the 200,000 refugees in India only around 46,000 are receiving legal protection from the UNHCR office in Delhi and the rest are either government-recognized or undocumented from the inaugural. These developments have exacerbated the fact that refugees are now the priority for international and national actors, thus, making it harder for them to articulate their political or economic needs, gain access to basic necessities and get a consistent recognition by the state. Though India has always had the reputation of a "safe shelter", the country does not have a formal law that provides the government with an opportunity to relate with incoming refugee groups in any arbitrary and on an as-needed basis.

The principal regulation regarding the treatment of the non-citizens in the Indian subcontinent is the 1946 Foreigners Act. Nevertheless, this law is directed at political and administrative levels and treats them legally and judicially in equal footings with unauthorized migrants, visitors, and foreigners. It has no well-defined "refugee" category which would provide necessary rights. Judicial intervention is infirm and insufficient in light of a violation of the Center's Constitutional rights, so the need for (or) legal definitions arise. The increasing political talk around migration and rising anti-Muslim sentiment under Modi Prime Minister's tenure makes the confusion between refugees and "illegal migrants" more numerous.

Moreover, India's policies of alleged "foreigners" were also affected because of the way Indians themselves dealt with their marginalized groups. As was the case with the example of the 1955 Citizenship Act, which was at first amended in response to the Assam Movement of 1985, requiring all immigrants entering since 1971 to be deported while providing for naturalization for all immigrants who came before 1971. In 2019, the amendment of the CAA (Citizenship Amendment Act) has recognized religion as a condition for the protection issued by the state for all the non-Muslim refugees from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh. Considering that a revolt against a single-pattern policy is somewhat understandable, the fact that the different refugee groups are discriminated against is unavoidable due to the state having no moral mandate together with the all-pervasive anti-Muslim sentiments.

## **"NAVIGATING THE LEGAL LANDSCAPE: REFUGEE LEGISLATION IN INDIA"**

India has a complex framework governing refugee issues within the country. India, lacking a specific refugee law, relies on a combination of historical precedents, administrative measures,

and international conventions to address the needs of displaced populations.

The Foreigners Act of 1946 act as a foundational piece of legislation and examines how India's approach to refugees is shaped by humanitarian concerns, security considerations, and diplomatic relations.

There are also other acts such as the Citizenship act and Passport act which helps to deal with refugees present in Indian border.

- Foreigners Act (1946) –

The Imperial Legislative Assembly passed the Foreigners Act, 1946, giving the Interim Government of India certain authority over problems pertaining to foreigners residing in India. The Act was passed prior to India's independence. Therefore this act was applicable on the present parts of Pakistan and Bangladesh as before independence there were part of the British India.

According to the Act, "a person who is not a citizen of India" is considered a foreigner. According to Section 9 of the Act, it is the responsibility of the individual in question to prove whether or not they are a foreigner if their nationality is not obvious, as stated in Section 8 of the act.

In accordance with the Foreigners (Report to the police) Order, 2001, which was made in accordance with the Foreigners Act 1946, any individual who has reason to believe that a foreigner entered India without proper documentation or is remaining in the country longer than permitted must notify the nearest police station of the foreigner's presence within 24 hours of the foreigner being accommodated in a location that is occupied, owned, or controlled by the foreigner.

The Foreigners Act gives the Indian government the authority to hold someone in custody until they are deported back to their nation of origin.

In the context of Indian refugees, particularly those displaced due to conflicts, persecution, or natural disasters, the Foreigners Act has been invoked both to regulate their presence within India and to manage their return or resettlement. However, the act's primary focus on regulating immigration and maintaining national security has sometimes led to challenges in addressing the unique needs and vulnerabilities of refugees.

India has a history of offering asylum and support to displaced people, even in spite of the Foreigners Act's limits in directly addressing refugee issues. As it navigates the legal framework established by the Foreigners Act, India has attempted to support refugees through administrative

procedures, humanitarian initiatives, and ad hoc measures.

The Foreigners Act and refugee issues have gotten more intricate in recent years, as India has encountered new difficulties with regard to migration, displacement, and asylum. The necessity for comprehensive laws and policies designed especially to address the rights and protection of refugees within India's legal system is becoming more and more apparent as the nation struggles with these problems.

- Passport Act (1967) –

The Indian Parliament's Passport Act of 1967 specifies the conditions of passport issuance, usage, and all related issues. The Immigration Act in some way highlights the conditions of Indian refugees and those within the country who are seeking asylum, and it is not just about passport management alone for Indian citizens.

1. Refugee Travel Documentation: Laws like the Passport Act and related enactments as well as regulation structure are aimed at giving the legal right to travel to anyone residing in India, including refugees. Through persecution, displacement, or many other circumstances, those who are forced into refugee status very seldom have valid passports of their home country. Through this, the Indian authorities would be in a position to provide identity certificates to Indians or special travel permits that could allow them to move both inside and outside of India.
2. Identification and Status: India does this through the Passport Ordinance, which establishes the identification and status of refugees. However, even though they may not have Indian passports, certain Indian authorities may have issued them other documentation, like residency permits or refugee IDs. These documents work as identification belongings and allow making decisions to grant access to social services and workplaces, education and other rights and privileges.
3. Travel limitations: The protection of public order and national security is the key for Indian authorities to apply restrictions on traveling for people, such as refugees, under the Passport Act. The mobility of refugees within India is sometimes restricted, and there are times when they become the subject of travel restrictions meant for them too or

surveillance measure<sup>9</sup>

- Citizenship Act (1955) -

A vital part of the Indian law that defines a citizen is The Citizenship Act, 1955. It elaborates on various ways one can become a citizen, for example through birth, descent, and registration as well as naturalization. Similarly, the act contains provisions regarding citizenship termination and renunciation. It has experienced several revisions throughout history so as to reflect the development in society and aspirations. The principle task of this agency is to regulate citizenship, to make sure that citizenship is in accordance with the law.<sup>10</sup>

- The Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019 (CAA)- has been seen as granting preferential treatment to non-Muslim immigrants from Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan, while excluding Muslim minorities.

With the inclusion of the Citizenship Amendment Act in the Citizenship Act, it introduced two clauses regarding the granting of citizenship to certain religious minorities from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan, namely Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis, and Christians, who had arrived in India even before December 31, 2014 because of religious persecution<sup>11</sup>

### **THE IMMIGRANTS (EXPULSION FROM ASSAM) ACT, 1950**

From the British colonial era forward, Assam had been witnessing a massive influx of immigrants from all over the country. As people moved to the state in quest of fertile land, Bengal turned into one of the main sources of immigration. Following 1947, the reason for the migration wave from Pakistan's eastern areas was the sectarian rioting. The government was concerned about this migration since it put their resources at danger, which prompted them to create the Immigrants (Expulsion from Assam) Act, 1950.

The statute allows for the removal of those immigrants who came to the state of Assam and then relocated to other regions of the nation. These immigrants' permanent residence ended up being

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<sup>9</sup> <https://getlegalindia.com/passport-act/>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.drishtiiias.com/loksabha-rajyasabha-discussions/75-years-laws-that-shaped-india-the-citizenship-act-1955>

<sup>11</sup> [https://blog.ipleaders.in/citizenship-amendment-act-2019-everything-important-you-should-know-about/#Who\\_all\\_are\\_left\\_out](https://blog.ipleaders.in/citizenship-amendment-act-2019-everything-important-you-should-know-about/#Who_all_are_left_out)

a burden and harm to the nation. The interests of India's general populace were jeopardized. This is the rationale behind the creation of the Act, which granted the government the power to drive illegal immigrants off Assamese territory.

- Definition of illegal immigrants:-

A person who enters another country illegally, whether to engage in illicit activity there or for political or economic reasons, is considered an illegal immigrant. According to Section 2(b) of The Citizenship Act, 1955, an illegal migrant is a foreign national who entered India illegally and did not have a valid passport or any other legal travel documents, OR a foreign national who entered the country legitimately and had valid documentation but stayed longer than allowed.

- Verification of illegal immigrants:-

The 1951 Census served as the source of data for the establishment of the National Register of Citizens since Assam had the highest concentration of undocumented immigrants. The plan was to detect illegal immigrants by first gathering information from every resident living in Assam as part of the 1951 Census.

In 2002, the Supreme Court of India struck down a separate tribunal mechanism that Assam had implemented for the purpose of identifying illegal migrants, citing constitutional violations as the reason. Following Partition, an inflow of refugees from what was then East Pakistan led to the enactment of the Immigrants Act 1950. It turns out that the NRC procedure is more intricate than the Ministry of Home Affairs would have people think. The government did not take any significant action until 1965.

- Objective and scope of the Act:-

The legislation was passed in order to provide for the removal of specific immigrants from Assam. The Central Government is now empowered by the Act. The central government believed that their presence would be harmful to the interests of the Indian people as a whole or any group within any Assamese Scheduled Tribe.<sup>12</sup>

### **CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF THE ACT**

A great deal of strain has been placed on the land by the immigrants. In light of the government's ongoing massive expenditures to support a sizable portion of the illegal immigrant population, they made up very little of the government's earnings.

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<sup>12</sup> [https://blog.ipleaders.in/citizenship-amendment-act-2019-everything-important-you-should-know-about/#Who\\_all\\_are\\_left\\_out](https://blog.ipleaders.in/citizenship-amendment-act-2019-everything-important-you-should-know-about/#Who_all_are_left_out)

Eliminating the country's population inflow has become crucial. The real amount of illegal immigrants identified and deported was quite low.

This necessitated increased border patrols and temporary population movement restrictions. Many unlawful voters have their names illegally added to the voting list as a result of illegal immigration.

Better checks needed to be made for the presence of legal documents; while this wouldn't aid in the deportation of all illegal immigrants, it would have undoubtedly eased the state's load significantly.

### **Principle of Non - Refoulment**

A key tenet of international law is non-refoulement, which states that a nation accepting asylum seekers cannot send them back to a place where they would likely face persecution due to their "race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinion" ("refoulement"). In contrast to political asylum, which is granted to those who can demonstrate a legitimate fear of persecution due to their membership in a certain category, non-refoulement is the general repatriation of individuals, including refugees, into conflict areas and other disaster-prone areas. Since it is applicable to governments that are not parties to the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees or its 1967 Protocol, it is a principle of customary international law.

Presently, individuals are purportedly shielded against deportation from nations that have ratified the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, the 1967 Protocol Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, or the 1984 Convention Against Torture by the principle of non-refoulement. Nevertheless, some signatory nations have continued to circumvent the idea of international law by repatriating or expelling individuals, so placing them in the hands of potential attackers.<sup>13</sup>

## **INDIA AND PRINCIPLE OF NON-REFOULEMENT**

Due to the ongoing conflicts and internal issues in the nations that border India, a large number of people cross the border to seek safety here. Nevertheless, India lacks both a domestic legal

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<sup>13</sup> <https://www.legalserviceindia.com/legal/article-319-refugee-and-the-non-refoulement-obligation.html>

framework for asylum protection and ratification of the 1951 Refugee Convention.

India is not a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention. However, it is a signatory to the 2016 New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, which implicitly recognizes the principle of non-refoulement. It has ratified the UN Declaration of Human Rights, which acknowledges the "right of asylum-seekers from persecution" and has a provision akin to the non-refoulement clause. The Indian government has accommodated the entering migrants through its acts, even in the lack of a specific statute for refugee protection. The Indian judiciary has rendered decisions upholding the non-refoulement concept.<sup>14</sup>

In the case of *Ktaer Abbas Habib Al Qutaifi and Anr. v Union of India*, the Gujarat High Court held that Article 21 of the Indian Constitution incorporates the essence of the principle of non-refoulement.

In the case of *Louis De Raedt v Union of India*, the Court iterated that even the non-citizens have right to life, liberty and dignity.

The legal and political assurance that a refugee won't be returned to their home country, where they risk persecution, is a criticism leveled at Indian law pertaining to refugee protection. The fact that the nations surrounding India are not signatories to the Refugee Convention is one of the arguments put forth to show why it is impractical for India to do so. If India does sign, then all asylum-seekers arriving in south Asia will be seeking refuge in India. India has been giving asylum to numerous people from its neighboring countries for many years.

### **HOW TO PROCEED**

India might also take a lesson from how it handled significant refugee arrivals in the past. There is limited opportunity for innovative policies because host states are only able to respond to refugees through repatriation, assimilation, or resettlement in a third nation under the terms of the international humanitarian framework. India's reliance on the discriminatory Citizenship Amendment Act of 2019 and the antiquated Foreigners Act of 1946 contradicts its international reputation. Thus, it is essential to have a comprehensive framework that complies with both international customary law and Indian constitutional law.

India can also adopt some lessons of how it has claimed large numbers of refugees in the past.

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<sup>14</sup> <https://lawbhoomi.com/principle-of-non-refoulement-in-india-under-international-law/>

Notwithstanding, there is a limited room for innovative policies because only re-patriation, assimilation, or resettlement in the third state proved to be the response available to the host states under the international humanitarian framework of aid.

In the Tibetan example, the relative isolation of Tibetan settlements in the steep parts of Himachal Pradesh prevented both market saturation and local hostility. Cooperation between India and quasi-autonomous groups like the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) promoted political self-governance, cultural preservation, and a sense of homeland. Despite being highly context-specific, the Tibetan situation provides a paradigm for cooperation between host countries, civil society organizations in the countries of origin, and international organizations to seek creative solutions outside of the international triadic framework.

India refuses to take such approach, centered on its religious bias and geopolitical motivations, ignoring the need for a coherent refugee policy enduring more than a mere short term. Though, India has to prepare for the unification of its refugee law so that it complies not only with the constitutional law of India and international customary law but also to tackle the security risks because of the presence of unauthorized migrants. A standard refugee policy must make sure the system will have a number of solutions, like providing citizens with legal paths to asylum, and to stop unfair administrative actions like the National Registry of Citizens, from being implemented at the national level, with judicial supervision, cooperation with civil and international organizations, and consideration of international acceptance norms. This will not only help non-nationals of India who get the benefits but readers who hold the citizenship on nominal basis like Dalits, Muslims, the poorest and the people without official documents, who face a challenging legal terrain.

## **CONCLUSION**

Despite having accepted a large number of refugee groups even before international regulations for refugees were formed, the lack of a clear domestic statute and the ad hoc management of asylum status could undermine its soft power and undermine its credibility in the international arena. Chief among the concerns is also a lack of strong political will. Since political parties can exploit these groups during elections, the problem of illegal migration becomes crucial. India must amend its laws to conform to international law as one of the developing nations and a worthy contender for permanent membership in the UN.

This is due to the fact that, even in the absence of local legislation, India is constantly faced with a flood of refugees from many nations, and it has frequently handled these situations in a very humanitarian manner—Tibetan and Sri Lankan refugees being two prime examples. For a variety of reasons, migration is only increasing. India has to enact legislation to address these concerns and ensure openness in administrative processes. It's also unclear how one determines who qualifies as a refugee. The UNHCR office in New Delhi handles asylum seekers from foreign nations, while the Indian government handles those from Tibet and Sri Lanka. The Indian government and UNHCR need to work together more closely.

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