

1. Rohingya crisis is not just an issue of Myanmar, it is impacting the whole region and India's response to it will determine its aspirations as a South Asian power. In this reference examine the need of India's response and suggest how India shall response to this crisis? (12.5 Marks)

Answer:

Rohingyas are the world's most discriminated Muslim minorities living in Rakhine state of Myanmar which is a Buddhist dominated country. Citizenship has been denied and their basic rights are constrained. They are seen as illegal migrant from Bangladesh. Government has been accused of human right violation and conducting frequent raids on minority camps which lead to the migration of these minorities in neighbouring countries like Malaysia, Bangladesh and even India. Rohingya survivors have described rape, murder and arson at the hands of soldiers - accounts that have raised global alarm and galvanised protests around Southeast Asia. These people can be used by radical groups & terrorist organisation to spread disturbance and violence in the region thus a security issue can be evolved for whole region.

India has been committed to respect basic human rights of each community and is a reckoning force in the region to maintain security and stability.

India also needs to respond to the crisis on following account:

- Common border with Myanmar can have a spill over effect in the Indian Border States and there could be spread violence, instability and distress migration.
- Cross-border trade can be negatively impacted and further expansion would be a challenging task.
- India is alleged of giving attention to the plight of Hindu minorities in Bangladesh and Pakistan by the policymakers. Whereas persecution of Muslim minorities (Rohingya) has been given low priority thus an Image makeover is required for Indian government.
- Myanmar is the gateway to the ASEAN countries. Hence, Myanmar's stability is at the core for our Act east policy and NE development.

On account of these factors India should response to the crisis as a responsible power in the region.

- India has a robust civil society, media and human rights groups which must urge the Myanmar government to end violence against Rohingya.
- India using its experience can educate nascent democratic government of Myanmar on minority protection, diversity, pluralism and secularism.
- India can actively participate and debate issue in international forum a like UN, ASEAN and urge Myanmar to consider Rohingya as its citizens and provide for their protection.
- Countries bordering Myanmar like India, China, and Bangladesh can come together by formulating a mechanism to deliberate on the crisis and to find out feasible solutions.
- India can also provide humanitarian assistance to the refugees by accommodating them in refugee camps in India and providing them adequate facilities for their safe repatriation and reintegration.

If India wants to project itself as a regional leader, it has to rise above narrow economic and geo-political interests and take a stance consistent with the moral and spiritual values with which it identifies. The crisis not only holds humanitarian significance, but also bears security implications for India and the region thus Indian response is much awaited.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Answer the following Questions

(12.5 Marks)

1. As a rising China challenges the US primacy in Asia, navigating between Beijing and Washington is a major challenge for India. How shall India respond in order to find a new balance?
2. Stability in Afghanistan is beneficial for both India and Pakistan in particular and region in general. In this light discuss the significance of Heart of Asia Conference. Also critically analyse the Amritsar Declaration in this regard.