

FOR CAA

- CAA aims to protect individuals who have sought refuge in India due to religious persecution
- CAA does not favour any one or two religions for granting citizenship
- CAA is as per the spirit of the Nehru-Liaquat pact
- This act would differentiate between persecuted communities seeking refuge and illegal immigrants
- Amit Shah said 3 nations from where persecuted minorities come are Islamic nations and asked, "Can Muslims be religiously persecuted there?"
- CAA aims to fast-track citizenship process
- Govt says at least 31,000 minorities from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh could benefit from it
- CAA opens the door for illegal migrants from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan and their India-born children who are non-Muslim to acquire Indian citizenship
- It is believed that Hindus and Sikhs should have a natural home in India, since they have 'no other country to call their own'
- Beneficiaries will get voting rights
- It will give them fundamental rights too
- Shah says CAA does not have any provision to impact the citizenship of India's 20 crore Muslims
- It offers beneficiaries a shield against eviction
- Centre claims CAA is not Assam-centric. It applies to the whole country and does not affect Assam Accord

AGAINST CAA

SHOULD CITIZENSHIP BE BASED ON RELIGION?



- It targets Muslims. CAA & NRC can reportedly eliminate 20 crore Muslims' citizenship
- 1st instance of religion being a criterion for citizenship, thereby violating principles of secularism
- CAA ignores Shia, Balochi, and Ahmadiyya Muslims in Pakistan, Hazaras in Afghanistan, Rohingyas from Myanmar, Tamils from Sri Lanka, Jews and atheists. Govt claims Rohingyas and Sri Lankan Tamils are victims of ethnic and not religious persecution
- It violates Article 14, which guarantees Right to Equality
- Human Rights Watch says the law is discriminatory against Muslims
- Citizenship to illegal immigrants may increase job competition, affecting opportunities for locals. It will also create housing and land resource issues
- Critics claim the law has been implemented before elections to polarise voters
- No mechanism for the government to differentiate between illegal migrants and those persecuted
- Research and Analysis Wing says it can be used by foreign intelligence agents to infiltrate legally
- Historians and critics claim CAA and NRC are steps towards creating a Hindu Rashtra
- There is unequal wait times for citizenship based on religion of persecution. For example, a Parsi fleeing persecution from Iran has to wait for 11 years to apply for citizenship, while a Parsi from Afghanistan can apply after 5 years
- 200 petitions against CAA are pending before SC

ANTI-CAA PROTESTS

The passage of the Act triggered protests across India, which led to the arrest of activists and leaders. While some were released, the others are still in jail

Assam saw violent protests. Japan PM's summit was cancelled

6M in Kerala formed human chain; protests broke out in Bengal too

76 Deaths | 750 Injured

Women protested in Delhi's Shaheen Bagh for 51 days, blocking a highway. JNU, Jamia students also took part. Clashes between students and police led to Delhi riots, killing 42 in 36 hours

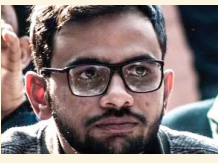
Protests were held in B'uru, Kolkata, Delhi, Mumbai, Hyd and Jaipur

Celebrities who joined the protests were Deepika Padukone, Anurag Kashyap, Swara Bhasker, Farhan Akhtar, Manoj Bajpayee, Shabana Azmi, Zeeshan Ayyub and late Sushant Singh Rajput



ARRESTS

Student activist Umar Khalid was arrested in 2020 under UAPA. His bail hearing in SC has been delayed 14 times. He is still in jail without trial



On 26 April, 2020, Jamia alumni Shifa ur-Rehman was arrested for allegedly inciting communal violence. He is still in Tihar Jail, Delhi

Muslim activist Gulfisha Fatima was arrested on 9 April, 2020, for rioting. UN experts called for her release. She is still in Tihar Jail



Assam MLA Akhil Gogoi was arrested by NIA in 2019 and was granted bail after 567 days in jail. He is vocal against Centre over CAA

Md Kafeel Khan, doctor and author, was held in 2019 for "inflammatory speech". He got bail, but was re-arrested under NSA. He was released in 2020



ACQUITTED

BJP leader Vinay Varshney was accused of shooting dead a protester, Mohammad Tariq, in Aligarh. However, he was acquitted on 6 July, 2022



Many BJP leaders were accused of giving hate speeches that led to riots in Delhi. But police did not file any complaint. No action was taken in at least eight complaints. Those named in the complaints include BJP leader Kapil Mishra, Karawal Nagar MLA Mohan Singh Bisht, former Mustafabad MLA Jagdish Pradhan, Baghpat MP Satya Pal Singh, and councillor from Johripur Kanhaiya Lal. Mishra was allegedly accompanied by people carrying guns, swords and tridents to a protest site

NO ACTION AGAINST BJP LEADERS

- Anurag Thakur was accused of exhorting a crowd to "shoot the traitors". Yogi Adityanath allegedly told protesters, "if they don't understand through words, we will make them understand through bullets"
- BJP MP Parvesh Verma allegedly threatened to rape women protesters. Thakur and Verma got EC notice but no action was taken
- In 2020, Tejasvi Surya said in Parliament that days of "Mughal Raj" were not far away for Delhi if "patriotic Indians don't stand up"
- 170 activists sent a letter to PM Narendra Modi over hate speeches made by BJP leaders. Again, no action was taken



BJP MP Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma

Centre notifies CAA after 4 years of passing bill

- The Centre notified the rules for CAA on 11 March, 2024, ahead of Lok Sabha polls
- Govt launched a web portal and mobile app — CAA-2019 — for online applications for citizenship
- Soon, protests broke out in Assam but were contained
- Oppn leaders such as Mamata Banerjee said they will protest against CAA; DMK vowed to repeal CAA in their poll manifesto
- Kerala govt, Asaduddin Owaisi moved SC seeking stay on CAA

Documents needed for CAA citizenship

- Passport/ residential permit from Afghanistan, Bangladesh or Pakistan
- Proof providing ancestry
- Proof of citizenship: Birth/educational certificates, identity document and licences issued by Afghan, B'desh, or Pak govt, land records, PAN Card, bank or post office account records, marriage certificate, insurance policies, employment document

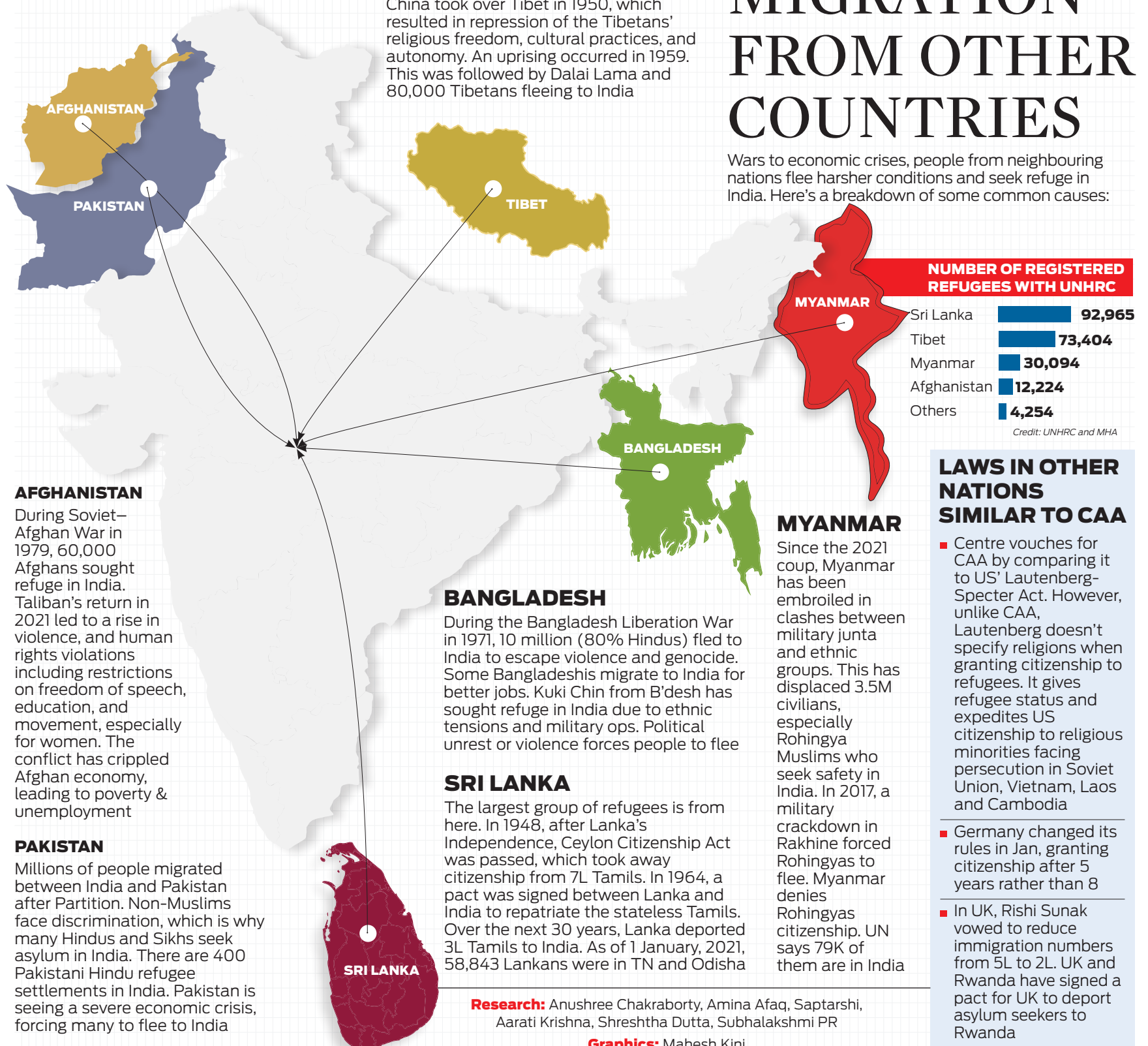


TIBET

China took over Tibet in 1950, which resulted in repression of the Tibetans' religious freedom, cultural practices, and autonomy. An uprising occurred in 1959. This was followed by Dalai Lama and 80,000 Tibetans fleeing to India

MIGRATION FROM OTHER COUNTRIES

Wars to economic crises, people from neighbouring nations flee harsher conditions and seek refuge in India. Here's a breakdown of some common causes:



AFGHANISTAN

During Soviet-Afghan War in 1979, 60,000 Afghans sought refuge in India. Taliban's return in 2021 led to a rise in violence, and human rights violations including restrictions on freedom of speech, education, and movement, especially for women. The conflict has crippled Afghan economy, leading to poverty & unemployment

PAKISTAN

Millions of people migrated between India and Pakistan after Partition. Non-Muslims face discrimination, which is why many Hindus and Sikhs seek asylum in India. There are 400 Pakistani Hindu refugee settlements in India. Pakistan is seeing a severe economic crisis, forcing many to flee to India

BANGLADESH

During the Bangladesh Liberation War in 1971, 10 million (80% Hindus) fled to India to escape violence and genocide. Some Bangladeshis migrate to India for better jobs. Kuki Chin from B'desh has sought refuge in India due to ethnic tensions and military ops. Political unrest or violence forces people to flee

SRI LANKA

The largest group of refugees is from here. In 1948, after Lanka's Independence, Ceylon Citizenship Act was passed, which took away citizenship from 7L Tamils. In 1964, a pact was signed between Lanka and India to repatriate the stateless Tamils. Over the next 30 years, Lanka deported 3L Tamils to India. As of 1 January, 2021, 58,843 Lankans were in TN and Odisha

MYANMAR

Since the 2021 coup, Myanmar has been embroiled in clashes between military junta and ethnic groups. This has displaced 3.5M civilians, especially Rohingya Muslims who seek safety in India. In 2017, a military crackdown in Rakhine forced Rohingyas to flee. Myanmar denies Rohingyas citizenship. UN says 79K of them are in India

LAWS IN OTHER NATIONS SIMILAR TO CAA

- Centre vouches for CAA by comparing it to US' Lautenberg-Specter Act. However, unlike CAA, Lautenberg doesn't specify religions when granting citizenship to refugees. It gives refugee status and expedites US citizenship to religious minorities facing persecution in Soviet Union, Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia
- Germany changed its rules in Jan, granting citizenship after 5 years rather than 8
- In UK, Rishi Sunak vowed to reduce immigration numbers from 5L to 2L. UK and Rwanda have signed a pact for UK to deport asylum seekers to Rwanda

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