

Citizenship (Amendment) Act 2019: A Step Towards Combating Statelessness

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Abstract

Every human on the planet earth has a moral right to be associated with a nation for some basic rights that are crucial for human existence in a dignified manner. Many people around the world are stateless who are deprived of basic necessities and protection from external forces. UN High Commissioner for Refugees is working for abovementioned stumbling block since its inception. India has quite many stateless people on its territory. Indian Union Government's negligence has multiplied the concern. It has been a political issue in Assam leading to conflicts, violence, and bloodshed. India needed full-fledged laws and regulations to deal with statelessness. This paper is an attempt to analyze the existing problem of statelessness with the reference to Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019. It is an effort by India for granting citizenship to those stateless people on its territory who have migrated from neighboring countries due to religious persecution.

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INTRODUCTION

“Statelessness makes people feel like their very existence is a crime”¹
~ António Guterres (Commissioner for UNHCR, 2005-15)

The denouement of all revolutionary social change is to establish sanctity and dignity to human life. This paper talks about the concept of nationality covering the problem of Statelessness across the world. Nationality is a legal bond that associates an individual to a particular state. However, statelessness is a situation when a person does not have a link with any state. United Nations through its agency UNHCR has contributed immensely towards the protection of stateless population by ensuring their enjoyment of basic human rights and protection by a nation. Yet, many people worldwide lack effective nationality and also their precise figure is indeterminable.

The rationale behind analyzing statelessness in India is to determine different sects of people who are not having effective nationality on its territory

1 UN Refugee agency launches campaign to eliminate statelessness within 10 years, *UN News*, November 4, 2014, available at <https://news.un.org/en/story/2014/11/482682-un-refugee-agency-launches-campaign-eliminate-statelessness-within-10-years>. (last visited on June 14, 2020).

and to plan out effective ways through which the problem could be dealt with. It is noteworthy that illegal immigrants in India have emerged from neighboring Islamic majority population states. Illegal immigration of these people is mainly due to religious persecution in their own native countries, so to protect their human rights they have entered the territory of India. Illegal migrants in different areas are encroaching upon the land which belongs to the natives of that area. In a country like India land is a limited resource and we already have needs of an abundance population to cater. This paper traces out the history of immigration into India from different regions, at present these people constitute a significant number that cannot be disregarded. Piddling efforts from the past were not enough to absorb the problem for the future, so presently India has amended its Citizenship Act of 1955. The amended provisions protect the religiously persecuted minorities from neighboring Islamic majority countries. However, the amendment has been criticized on the lines of being discriminatory on the basis of religion. The research scrutinizes the provisions of amended legislation and its impact on statelessness in India.

NATIONALITY/CITIZENSHIP

As per the Inter-American Court, nationality is expounded as a political and legal relationship that hitches an individual to a particular nation and tethers him to loyalty, fidelity. Also, capacitates him to ambassadorial protection from the nation.²

“Everyone has the right to a nationality. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality.”³ This is what has been stated in Article 15 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948 which confers on every individual right to be associated with a state. It gives an individual a sense of identity in international comity and also gives some basic social, political rights for existence in the nation and also protects from any external harm. The term nationality has been used interchangeably with citizenship in International Law.

2 *Castillo-Petruzzi et al v. Peru* (1999).

3 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, G.A. Res. 217(III) A, (December 10, 1948).

A link between an individual and nationality was conceded as the fundamental point of citizenship for the very first time by the International Court of Justice⁴. The Court remarked that as per the customs, eminent writers, and judiciary, nationality is expounded a legal link having a thrust in social fact of attachment, interest, sentiments, and having a subsistence with mutual rights and duties.

People who have citizenship of a state take it for granted as they do have a right to elect their representative (democratic nations), right to use basic facilities available to them, right to use medical facilities, right to get educated, right to apply for documentation and depending upon the rights being granted by the state which is important for dignified human existence. On the other hand, stateless people live on the mercy of the nation on whose territory they reside. They do not have legal recognition, cannot have a travel document, and cannot get their marriage registered. Hence, they live their life which is equivalent to a mere animal existence.

STATELESSNESS: HOW IS IT CAUSED

Nationality laws of the state are the prime reason for statelessness, it may be because of the change in existing laws or amendments. These laws are usually based on ethnicity, religion, race, language or gender which renders a sect of the population becoming stateless. In many states a woman is not eligible to pass on nationality to their children, again making them stateless when the father is absent. Also when a father is not known or absent it makes a child stateless.

Another important determinant of statelessness is the variance of existing borders or the formation of a new state, from a pre-existing state. This makes it uncertain for an emerging state to know who all are a part of it, thus it depends upon the nationality laws of the emerging state. Usually, a group of people is left out on the mercy of states. Some people are at risk of losing their citizenship by being away from the state for a longer period.

4 *Liechtenstein v. Guatemala*, ICJ 1(1955).

Statelessness can also result from the conflict in nationality laws of two states. Both the legal rights might be drafted justifiably. However, a clash of interest may come up to light when the laws are enforced simultaneously rendering a sect of population stateless. Suppose one state 'A' grants nationality based on place of birth and the other state 'B' based on descent only. Now a person 'X' took birth in state 'B' & his parents are nationals of state 'A'. Thus rendering 'X' as stateless.⁵

International Law and Statelessness

The matter of nationality is internal to every nation and thus, the municipal law governs it. However, in an advisory ruling, the Permanent Court of International Justice indicated that the issue is primarily a relative one that is reliant on the growth of relations at a global level.⁶ The state must respect other states and international laws.

The first international attempt to combat statelessness was the Hague Convention of 1930. So according to Article 1 of the Convention, every nation is capable of choosing its nationality as per its laid down norms. Also, the foreign nations must acknowledge such law if the same complies with global traditions, agreements, and established legal principles governing nationality.⁷

Drawing a linkage between Stateless, Refugees, and Illegal Immigrants

As mentioned above, a person is referred to as 'stateless' when he/she does not have a nationality of the state where he sets foot in. However, a person is termed a 'refugee' when he flees from his native country because of the dread of being persecuted on the basis of religion, race, or caste.⁸ Further, an

5 "Ms. Marilyn Achiron, *Nationality and Statelessness: A Handbook for Parliamentarians (2005)*, available at <https://www.un.org/ruleoflaw/files/Nationality%20and%20Statelessness.pdf>" (last visited on June 14, 2020).

6 *Tunis and Morocco case*, PCIJ (1923).

7 League of Nations Covenant, Convention on Certain Questions Relating to the Conflict of Nationality Laws The Hague, art. 1 (1930).

8 The United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, 1951, art. 1.

'Illegal Immigrant' is a person who has intruded on the territory of India without legal authorization as per the provision of citizenship law.⁹ These terms have a divergent connotation but the paper refers to them synonymously. The reason is that even if the people are 'refugees' or 'illegal immigrants' on the Indian land, they are still 'stateless' because they do not have citizenship as per Indian laws.

UNHCR & Statelessness

UNHCR is an agency of the United Nations which works for the statelessness population by reducing and assisting them to secure citizenship of a state. It recommends measures to the states to deal with the problem and if necessary revising/ amending their existing laws. It encourages them to adhere to international treaties dealing with it and also spread awareness about the problems related to statelessness.

Two pertinent conventions were developed by the international community to shelter the needs of stateless individuals by securing minimum rights. These are: "Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons 1954"¹⁰ & "Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness 1961".¹¹

"1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons"

The specified convention addresses the issue of *de jure* statelessness. A stateless person is defined as: "a person who is not considered as a national by any State under the operation of its law."¹² However, there is a possibility when a person might be linked to the state but is not able to establish his/her nationality because he/she is not certain as to which state has granted him/her nationality, such an individual is considered as a *de facto* stateless. The definition is narrow and does not include those who do not have evidence to prove nationality.

The de facto stateless are presumed to be refugees since they do not satisfy the notion of

9 The Citizenship Act, 1955 (Act 57 of 1955), s. 2(b).

10 The United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, 1954

11 The United Nations Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, 1961.

12 The United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, 1954, art. 1.

statelessness given under the convention. The framers thought that de facto stateless persons receive global backing under the “1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees”.¹³

The convention prescribes baseline standards of conduct concerning stateless people. These are the rights to an education, a job, and a place to live. However, these prerogatives are not exhaustive. Importantly, stateless people are guaranteed the right to identity, administrative assistance, and travel documents through the convention of 1954.¹⁴

“1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness”

This specified convention laid down standards for nationality laws which were to be followed by signatory states. UNHCR was empowered to assist in presenting the claim to appropriate authorities as a person who is denied nationality would not be having enough financial resources or expertise to ask for relief against a state. Hence, a body was necessary to ensure that no individual shall face injustice and to make sure that the standards of the convention are being followed. At the request of any conflicting parties, the dispute concerning the interpretation or application of the convention shall be brought before the ICJ.¹⁵

The convention seeks avoidance of statelessness at birth but it neither provides for any retrospective citizenship to stateless people nor does it regulate process revocation of nationality. The Convention of 1961 aims to avoid and eradicate statelessness in the coming future. It creates a global framework to assure that everyone has a nationality.¹⁶ The convention further stipulates slender circumstances where a country may strip a person of their nationality.

India has not signed/adopted/ratified any of the two conventions, so India is not abided by these

conventions. However, India has acceded to ICCPR¹⁷, ICESCR¹⁸, CRC¹⁹, and has ratified ICERD²⁰, CEDAW²¹. It has widened the scope for the protection of human rights and refraining from discrimination in nationality.

I Belong

On 2nd November 2014, UNHCR launched ‘I Belong’- a 10-year global campaign to end statelessness in Geneva. It aims to overcome the devastating site of stateless people ambushing millions of humans living on earth by 2024. Every 10 minutes a baby is born stateless.²² Statelessness is a life full of hardships and without health care, employment, education, free movement, the basic necessity to live with human dignity. It is often termed inhuman.

Fruitings from the IBelong campaign

Since the starting of the campaign several achievements have been recorded, some of the latest ones are henceforth stated.

A step by Uzbekistan for 50,000 stateless

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency fighting against the evil of statelessness has recently provided recommendations to the National Authorities of Uzbekistan. Due to the initiation of new legislation in Uzbekistan, around fifty thousand stateless individuals will be granted citizenship. This will be enforced from April 2020. Also, the naturalization process of citizenship is now simplified which will come into force from September of this year.²³

13 The United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, 1951.

14 UN Conventions on Statelessness, *UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency, available at* <https://www.unhcr.org/un-conventions-on-statelessness.html> (Last visited April 17,2020).

15 *Supra* note 5.

16 The United Nations Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, 1961, Introductory Note.

17 The United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966.

18 The United Nations International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1966.

19 The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989.

20 International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, 1965.

21 The United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 1979.

22 #IBelong, *The UN Refugee Agency, available at* <http://www.unhcr.org/ibelong> (Last visited on April 5,2020).

23 Uzbekistan to end statelessness for 50,000 people, *The UN Refugee Agency, available at* <https://www.unhcr.org/news/press/2020/3/5e70b9474/uzbekistan-end-statelessness-50000-people.html> (Last visited on April 5,2020).

West Africa scaling down Statelessness

The Abidjan Declaration on the ECOWAS is an UNHCR initiative in furtherance of the #IBelong Campaign to End Statelessness. Nine out of fifteen members of the Declaration have initiated a domestic course of action to deal with statelessness. In some states with the succor of UNHCR, campaigns for birth registration have started. In Côte d'Ivoire, around 400,000 children have benefitted from the parturition certification of little ones which is reducing their risk of statelessness.²⁴

ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS IN ASSAM

During the pre-independence period of India, landless and land-poor Bengalis migrated from East Bengal (now Bangladesh) into Assam because of the scarcity of land in their region. However, the British administration invigorated this movement of peasants, mostly Muslims. They saw it as a source of land revenue. The population of a Muslim migrant in Assam hiked to a large extent within 1911-1941 as indicated by the census reports. At the time of partition of India into India & Pakistan, East Bengal was renamed as East Pakistan and Pakistan had control over it. During that time numerous Hindu migrated from East Bengal into India who was termed as refugees. However, later Hindu migration was overpowered by Muslim migrants from East Pakistan. Later, following the separation of Bangladesh in 1971 these immigrants were known as Bangladeshi immigrants. Since then they have been immigrating into India, the exact figure is not known but they are estimated to be around 24 million.²⁵ The Indo-Bangladesh border has always been a percolative one which gives an easy opportunity to the immigrants. Once they enter India it is not so difficult for them to obtain citizenship

documents like ration card, aadhar card due to the prevalent corruption amongst politicians and authorities.

Assam Accord

On August 15, 1985, the Indian government and activists of the Assam movement signed a "Memorandum of Settlement", which is well known as the "Assam Accord". Assam Movement was for the preservation of Assamese cultural and traditional values, their political & economic rights led by "All Assam Student Union (AASU)" which were encroached upon by illegal immigrants. The movement was intended to be peaceful, non-violent. However, it later turned out to be a violent one. Under Assam Accord, the government headed by Rajiv Gandhi agreed to deport refugees and immigrants who came after March 25th, 1971.²⁶ The Government of India further concurred to secure international borders to restrict future infiltrations by the construction of barriers like fencing with barbed wires, wall or any other suitable obstacle.²⁷ Since then only a scanty portion of foreigners have been deported. The task of identifying foreigners affected vote bank and attracted allegations of discrimination on religion and ethnicity.²⁸ Hence, hardly enough has been achieved since then. Even after the settlement, there is still a continuous flow of illegal immigration. The conflicts between indigenous communities and illegal immigrants are still prevalent in the territory of Assam. Further, the borders are still permeable which gives immigrants easy access to enter India. Proper security should be employed along the borders and also sophisticated technology like drones should be used to keep surveillance. Otherwise human trafficking, cattle trafficking illegal trade shall continue and millions of illegal immigration will cross the border for their economic survival.

24 West Africa leads on reduction on statelessness, *The UN Refugee Agency*, available at <https://www.unhcr.org/news/press/2020/3/5e5ccaa34/five-years-since-abidjan-declaration-west-africa-leads-reduction-statelessness.html> (Last visited on April 5, 2020).

25 Two crore illegal Bangladeshi living in India: Govt., *Press Trust of India*, November 16, 2016, available at https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/two-crore-illegal-bangladeshi-living-in-india-govt-116111601110_1.html.

26 Assam Accord, United Nations Peacemaker (August 15, 1985), available at https://peacemaker.un.org/sites/peacemaker.un.org/files/IN_850815_Assam%20Accord.pdf.

27 *Id.*

28 Sanjib Baruah, *India Against Itself: Assam and the Politics of Nationality* pg. 160-68 (University of Pennsylvania Press, 1999).

“National Register of Citizens” for Assam

NRC is a record of all genuine of Indian citizens. It consists of their names and other pertinent particulars for their recognition.

After Independence, a nationwide register of citizenship was made in 1951 based on the census reports and the same was done for Assam. Since then, the National Register of Citizenship had not been updated. In accordance with an order given by the Apex Court of India, the process to update Assam's part of NRC started in 2013. It was carefully monitored by the Supreme Court of India. Prateek Hajela was appointed as a state coordinator for the same. Assam is the only state of India where the process of updating the NRC has started for identifying illegal immigrants.

On 31st August 2019, the last reformed NRC for Assam was publicized and thirty-one million people from thirty-three million population got registered.²⁹ However, even if illegal immigrants are identified and their names are deleted from the voter list, it is not feasible for our country to deport them. India has not signed any agreement with Bangladesh regarding the deportation of illegal immigrants, so it won't be physically possible to deport them to Bangladesh. We have to accommodate them in detention camps, also it is not feasible to monitor such a huge number.

INDIAN CITIZENSHIP LAWS

Part II of the Constitution of India consists of seven articles (Article 5-7) that deal with provisions relating to conferment of Indian citizenship. Article 5³⁰ states that at the outset of Indian Constitution domiciled people: those who took birth in India, or whose parents took birth in India, as well as all residents (not less than five years) shall be a citizen of India. A person voluntarily acquiring citizenship of another country loses its Indian citizenship³¹.

29 Government of Assam, *Publication of final NRC*, August 31, 2019, available at <http://www.nrcassam.nic.in/pdf/English%20-Press%20Brief%2031st%20August%202019.pdf>.

30 The Constitution of India, art. 5.

31 The Constitution of India, art. 9.

However, parliament enacted The Citizenship Act, 1955 in the sixth year after adoption of the Constitution to lay down basic laws for the determination of citizenship. The act has been amended in 1986, 1992, 2003, 2005, 2015, and 2019. The 2019 provisions provide a path for religiously persecuted minorities in neighboring states to acquire Indian citizenship.

Need for Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019

The history of India has experienced mass migration from different regions. The Parsi who predominantly lives in Mumbai was originally from the Persian Gulf. They started migrating to Maharashtra and Gujarat around the 8th century due to the religious persecution of Muslims. Muslims migrated to India during the Partition of India by the two-nation theory. The Muslims constituted 9.8% of the total population after the partition.³²

In the course of the partition of East Pakistan & West Pakistan in 1971 millions of Bangladeshi immigrated to India and settled around the city of Kolkata and various other towns of West Bengal, while some settled in Assam and Tripura.

Exodus movement because of persecution of China, around eighty thousand Tibetans traveled past the Himalayas along with the Dalai Lama throughout the time of 1959 to 1960. The immigration persisted and stepped up these numbers to 100,000.³³ Tens of thousands of Sri Lankan Tamil refugees arrived in Tamil Nadu during the breakdown of the civil war in Sri Lanka.³⁴

The Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019 has been enacted to mollify the process of acquiring citizenship for the people who have moved to India from other countries. To consolidate them under a

32 The Hindu, *India's religions by numbers*, March 29, 2016, available at <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/religious-communities-census-2011-what-the-numbers-say/article7582284.ece>.

33 Central Tibetan Administration, *Central Tibetan Administration data*, June 22, 2018, available at <http://www.tibet.net/en/index.php?id=9>.

34 Srilanka Guardian, *Focus on the Tamil Srilankan Tamil Refugees*, November 13, 2009, available at <http://www.srilankaguardian.org/2009/11/focus-on-srilankan-tamil-refugees.html>.

shield of a nation, an effective policy or legislation was important.

Amit Shah (Home Minister of Indian government) pointed out in the parliament that it was a prominent fragment of the manifesto of BJP (ruling party) during the 2019 Lok Sabha elections³⁵. The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 has made some amendments to the Citizenship Act, 1955 in this regard.

Provisions of Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019

The recent amendment brought about a few changes in The Citizenship Act, 1955. These changes are significantly a need of time. Major changes that affect illegal migrants are henceforth stated.

The people belonging to Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi, or Christian communities from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, or Pakistan who have set foot in India on or prior to the last day of 2014 are immune from entering into India or any part thereof by the union government with the possession a passport issued to him shall not be treated as an illegal migrant.³⁶

The Union Government or any other authority as set down is empowered to grant a registration certificate or naturalization certificate to a person referred, and from the day of his admission into India, an individual is considered an Indian citizen.³⁷

The act has made amendments for the abovementioned people in the provisions relating to citizenship by naturalization, by commuting the collective period of habitation or service under the Indian Government for applying for a certificate of naturalization.³⁸

The Central government is empowered under amended section 18³⁹ to insert conditions, restrictions, and manners for granting the certificate of registration or certificate of naturalization. So that

government may soothe the procedure of granting Indian citizenship.

Indian history has experienced diverse migration from neighboring countries over the centuries. Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 is for the stateless people in the territory of India who have faced persecution and are deprived of basic rights which the citizens of a nation enjoy. It is a step that will add to the IBelong campaign which works for stateless people around the world. Millions of stateless people on the territory of India will get the rights and protection of the state.

Criticism for Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019

The act only talks about religious minorities in neighboring states who are not Muslims. The Act has been criticized by the United Nations High Commissioner of Human Rights and has been termed as 'fundamentally discriminatory'. It lacks objectivity and ration and defeats the International obligation of India to not discriminate migrants on the basis of religion. The amendments will be discriminatory in nature for acquiring citizenship.

Michelle Bachelet Jeria, Commissioner for UNHCR approached the Supreme Court of India to have a say in the Citizenship (Amendment) Act by *amicus curiae*.⁴⁰ She contended in her plea that it discriminated against people who are placed at a similar position on the basis of religion and that the discrimination on the basis of documents is flawed. The states have sovereign powers. However, the power must be exercised in the conformity of Human Rights obligations. She appreciated the stated purpose of the act to protect people from religious persecution in their origin countries but was concerned with its impact on certain groups in India. To which Ministry of External Affairs reverted that it is an internal matter of a sovereign state, so no foreign authority has a *locus standi* on the issue.

Honorary President of the International Bar Association Human Rights Institute, Justice Richard Goldstone said that legislation seems to be

40 Rediff, *What does UNHCR intervention on CAA mean?*, (March 4, 2020, 07:33 PM), available at <https://www.rediff.com/news/column/what-does-unhcr-intervention-on-caa-mean/20200304.htm>.

35 Bharatiya Janata Party, *BJP Manifesto 2019*, April 8, 2019, available at <https://www.bjp.org/en/manifesto2019>.

36 The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 (Act 47 of 2019), s. 2.

37 *Id.*, s. 3.

38 *Id.*, s. 6.

39 The Citizenship Act, 1955 (Act 57 of 1955), s. 18(2)(eei).

constitutionally groundless and against the basic its basic structure.⁴¹

Despite being criticized by the International community it is pertinent at this point of time for India to bring out some changes in existing laws as it affects the national growth of the country. Stateless people in turn, use natural resources of the countrymen which are limited in nature.

Judicial stance on CAA

The Supreme Court has segregated out the petitions from Assam with the rest keeping in account the prevalent situation in the concerned state. The present matter is *res subjudice* alongside one hundred forty-four petitions opposing the Citizenship (Amendment) Act of 2019. The three-judge bench comprising of CJI Sharad Arvind Bobde has refused to grant a stay on the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019.⁴²

CONCLUSION

Statelessness is lamenting to the International community. Every individual deserves some basic rights and protection under one nation or the other. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has always worked for the rights of these people in every part of the world and has aimed to eliminate statelessness by 2024. This can be done only with the support of nations across the world. In India, we find numerous people deprived of their nationality. The rationale behind it is a partition of India, a civil war in Sri Lanka, exodus movement from China, and partition of Bangladesh coupled with a lack of regulation by India to deal with the problem. India has not been vigilant to the rising problem of immigrants which has subsisted post-independence. Statelessness in India is also as a result of neighboring countries, their laws for withdrawal of citizenship, discriminatory laws

41 International Bar Association, *The Controversy behind India's Citizenship Amendment Act*, (February 7, 2020), available at <https://www.ibanet.org/Article/NewDetail.aspx?ArticleUid=CB835381-29A6-40DB-894D-CC77BFBA07E2>.

42 *Indian Union of Muslim League & Ors. v. Union of India*, Writ Petition (Civil) No. 1470/2019.

against women, religious persecution of minorities, and land scarcity.

India is already behindhand to deal with illegal immigrants on its territory. This is a time for India to deal with this otherwise their population in the future will grow to such a figure that the government won't be able to cater to their needs and requirements, which may lead to the demand of an independent nation by each of these groups.

Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 received the assent of the Indian President on 12th December 2019 and would further provide modus operandi to those millions of stateless people who have experienced religious persecution in neighboring states. The history of India has experienced mass migration from different regions of the world having divergent religious beliefs. The amended provisions of the Indian Citizenship law would succor the needs of these people by giving them basic rights that stateless individuals are deprived of. It is an effort that would add to the IBelong campaign by UNHCR to eliminate statelessness by 2024.

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