

## **October 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> news:**

### **International:**

#### **- Trump refuses to sign off on Iran nuclear deal**

US President, Donald Trump has condemned Iran as a fanatical regime and refused to continue signing off on a landmark international nuclear deal. According to Trump....

- Iran has already violated the 2015 deal, which imposed curbs on Iran's nuclear capability in return for easing international embargoes.
- Congressional leaders are already drafting amendments that will curb the ballistic missile development and eliminate expiry dates on restrictions to Iran's nuclear development.

Meanwhile, in a joint statement, the UK, Germany and France said they are concerned by Trump's move but remain committed to the deal. Russia said it remains committed to the deal and is opposed to the use of aggressive and threatening rhetoric in international relations.

### **National issues:**

#### **- SC Urges Centre to Look at Rohingya Issue as a Humanitarian One**

The Supreme Court on 13<sup>th</sup> October asked the Centre not to treat the Rohingya Muslims issue as a national security issue but consider it as a humanitarian and human rights issue.

Though the court stopped short of staying the government's plans to deport Rohingya refugees in its written order, oral observations made by the bench and the leave it granted lawyers representing refugee rights to approach the court in the event of "any contingency" means it is unlikely to allow any actual deportations until it finally disposes of the matter.

### **Rohingya Issue in brief**

- Despite living for centuries in Myanmar, the Rohingya, who are mostly Muslim, have been denied citizenship and have been rendered stateless. In February 2017, a United Nations report had documented numerous instances of gang rape and killings, including of babies and young children, by Myanmar's security forces. Now, the army's viciousness, already unimaginably ghastly, has escalated even further.
- By any account, the Rohingya are at the centre of a humanitarian catastrophe of terrifying proportions.
- Repercussions of the violence in Myanmar are now being felt around the globe, particularly in nearby countries; in India, where scores of Rohingya are lodged — reportedly totalling 40,000.
- The Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Kiren Rijiju said on Rohingyas are all illegal immigrants. They have no basis to live in India.

### **The case in court**

- Indeed, it is precisely such an argument that a pair of Rohingya refugees, Mohammad Salimullah and Mohammad Shaqir, have made in a petition filed in the Supreme Court.
- Their submissions rest on two broad planks: one, that any deportation would violate their fundamental rights to equality and to life, under Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution, and, two, that any action by India in returning them to Myanmar would infringe international law, particularly the principle of non-refoulement.
- The principle of non-refoulement is articulated in Article 33 of the 1951 Convention. It mandates that no state shall expel or return a refugee to “the frontiers of territories where his life or freedom would be threatened on account of his race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion”.
- However, it allows for an exception in cases where there are “reasonable grounds” for regarding a refugee as a “danger to the security of the country.” What’s more, the Convention also excludes generally from refugee status individuals guilty of, among other things, committing war crimes or crimes against peace and humanity.
- Now, India is not a party to the 1951 Convention. But India needs to heed the existence of sources of law that stretch beyond treaty obligations. These include norms of customary international law, where binding rules have been crystallised as a result of the practice of states.
- The principle of non-refoulement is widely regarded as one such rule. In fact, some scholars argue that the principle is so well enshrined that it constitutes a peremptory norm from which no derogation whatsoever is permitted.
- But even if one were to discount such arguments, there is no denying that non-refoulement is now nearly universally accepted as constituting a fundamental rule of international law.
- ***On 13<sup>th</sup> October Judgment delivered to treat this issue on humanitarian grounds***

- **Rajasthan assembly first in India to call motions online**

Going digital, the Rajasthan assembly has become the first in India to call attention and adjournment motions and proposals online from legislators to send them to the state government. Speaker Kailash Meghwal inaugurated the new system by sending a call for an attention motion to the state government with a click of mouse. The system is expected to save time, labour and use of paper in the functioning of the assembly, and also help legislators in bringing attention to urgent public issues

**Bilateral issues:**

- **India, Sri Lanka Vow To Find Permanent Solution To Fishermen Issue**

India and Sri Lanka on 14<sup>th</sup> October vowed to find a permanent solution to the vexed fishermen issue at the earliest. The two sides held ministerial-level talks on the issue during which various aspects related to it were discussed. The talks were held between Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Radha Mohan Singh and Sri Lanka's Fisheries Minister Mahinda Amaraweera. The Ministers agreed that a permanent solution to the fishermen issues should be found at the earliest

## **Economy issues:**

### **Economic issues**

#### **- IMF for 3-pronged approach for structural reforms in India**

The International Monetary Fund has suggested a three-pronged approach for structural reform in India that includes addressing the corporate and banking sector weaknesses, continued fiscal consolidation through revenue measure, and improving the efficiency of labour and product markets.

Deputy Director Asia Pacific Department of IMF, Kenneth Kang, said the favourable outlook for Asia was an important opportunity for India to push forward with difficult reforms.

According to IMF's Regional Economic Outlook, India's growth slowed in recent quarters due to the temporary disruptions from the currency exchange initiative demonetisation that took place in November 2016, and the recent roll-out of the Goods and Services Tax (GST).

The report, however, went on to say that the growth in 2017 was revised downward to reflect the recent slowdown, but is expected to accelerate in the medium term as these temporary disruptions fade.

### **Important suggestions**

- Need to reduce the number of labour laws, which are currently around 250 across the central and the state level
- Improving infrastructure in the country
- Closing the gender gap, which may help a great deal in boosting the employment opportunities for women

#### **- HPCL becomes first Indian Oil Marketing Company to launch lubricants in Myanmar**

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd has become the first Oil Marketing Company (OMC) from India to mark its presence in the lubricant market in Myanmar. HPCL has chosen commercial hubs of Yangon and Mandalay

## **Persons in news:**

#### **- UNESCO new chief Audrey Azoulay**

Audrey Azoulay has been elected to become the next chief of UNESCO - the UN's education, science and culture agency. Azoulay, a former French culture minister, defeated Qatar's Hamad bin Abdulaziz al-Kawari in the final 30-28 vote after she won a runoff with a third finalist from Egypt earlier on 13<sup>th</sup> October.