

## **The Displaced: The Kashmiri Pandits and the Sri Lankan Tamils in India**

The notion of Identity has been a key issue in causing human displacements within South Asia. Identity, as a concept, can be looked at from two perspectives. There are some identities that people are born with, while there are others that can be acquired with time and age. An individual may have more than one identity. States play a role in building up some of these. Individuals are given citizenships of countries they are born in or live in. This identity becomes the sole factor behind people differentiating between 'we' and 'them'. The idea of majority and minority, are also created henceforth. What each State does is to strengthen the sense of this identity that one holds towards a particular territory, a group of individuals residing in the same area or belonging to the same ethnic or religious group, culture, social strata and even economic condition. This 'we' feeling often takes a violent turn when people are forced to migrate from one's land into another.

It is in this context that this research paper will try and analyse two groups of forced migrants. The two groups are the Kashmiri Pandits, a group that has lived as Internally Displaced People within India and the other includes the Sri Lankan Tamils, living as Refugees in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu. Both these groups have suffered tremendously due to the effects of war within their respective regions. The State, in both these cases, has played a major role, both positive as well as negative. The research will involve a comparative analysis of the root causes behind the problems faced by both these categories of forced migrants and the kind of support they are given by any authority, both domestic as well as international. It will also focus on India's role in trying to manage two groups of the migrant population. Finally, the paper will end with a discussion on what steps have been taken by countries of South Asia to handle problems related to both IDPs and Refugees.