India and Rohingyas conflict

Why in news?

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Myanmar has recently increased military deployment in the northern Rakhine area as part of its counter-insurgency efforts against Rohingyas.

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Who are Rohingyas?

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- The Rohingya are an ethnic Muslim group in the majority Buddhist country
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- They reside predominantly in Rakhine state and speak a Bengali dialect.
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- They are not recognised by the Myanmar government as an official ethnic group and are therefore denied citizenship.
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- While it is claimed that there were no Rohingyas in Myanmar before the British brought ‘Bengalis’ to Burma, there is sufficient evidence to show for the Rohingyas’ pre-existence.
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- They are often said to be the world's most persecuted minority.
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What is the recent problem?

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- In the past ten months alone, nearly 100,000 more Rohingyas have been displaced, with three-fourths of them seeking refuge in Bangladesh and

India.
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- The fundamental reasons for the violation of the human rights of the Rohingyas.
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- They suffer "mass atrocities" perpetrated by security forces in the northern part of Rakhine state.
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- There has been no effective international pressure to roll back such policies.
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- Neighbouring countries like Bangladesh, India and Indonesia have raised the issue with Myanmar only when the refugees became economically burdensome.
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How is India affected by this issue?

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- **Migration -** In India, there are nearly 40,000 Rohingya refugees, with 16,500 registered with the office of the United Nations Human Rights Commissioner.
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- **Islamic extremism -** Efforts of radical Islamists to influence some of the Rohingya youth, to capitalise on the situation and promote anti-India activities is possible
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- **Political tensions -** They are spread over several cities and states Jammu, New Delhi, Jaipur and some places in Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and the north-east.
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- There are a few places in the country where politically instigated attempts are being made to re-locate them.
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- **North-East security -** India has a stake in the security conditions in upper western Myanmar adjoining the Naga self-administered zone where the Khaplang faction of the National Socialist Council of Nagalim operates.
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What should be done?

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- Short-term Indian financial assistance for better rehabilitative measures in Rakhine may not be effective in the present circumstances.
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- India's diplomacy need to induce Myanmar to take actions of its own political stability, internal security and social harmony.
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Source: IDSA

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