Indo-Myanmar ties

What is the issue?

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India needs to move swiftly to build on its friendly ties with Myanmar

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What are the highlights of PM’s recent visit to Myanmar?

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- The trip’s timing was awkward because Myanmar’s army had launched brutal counter-attack against Rohingya rebels in Rakhine province which lies close to Mizoram.
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- India chose to ignore worldwide condemnation of the assault which has sent 1,25,000 fleeing to Bangladesh.
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- It issued a statement condemning “the recent terrorist attacks in northern Rakhine State, wherein several members of the Myanmar security forces lost their lives”.
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- India has taken the view it must be sensitive to Myanmarese fears of secessionist ethnic groups.
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- Eight MOUs were signed between both the nations during this visit.
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Why Myanmar is important to India?

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- India shares a 1,640-km border with Myanmar, is central to its strategic North-East considerations.
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- India’s keen to keep Myanmar in its orbit, mindful of how China is courting its neighbour.

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- Myanmar is in need of more diplomatic friends as it has irritants with its neighbours like Thailand and Laos.
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- Thus Myanmar has been one diplomatic success for India in its backyard.
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What can be done?

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- India needs to build on its firmer relations by boosting its economic interests in the country.
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- The Sittwe port build by India in troubled Rakhine province, but I has not been maintained India need to concentrate on that.
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- India could encourage creation of a fisheries industry in the area.
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- India need to push forward in many ways and the Government has been generous with foreign aid.
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Source: Business Line

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