MoA between Bangladesh & Myanmar

Why in news?

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Bangladesh and Myanmar had signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) to begin the repatriation Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.

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What is the MoA about?

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- A joint working group including officials from Bangladesh, Myanmar and the UNHCR will be set up.
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- Myanmar would begin to repatriate the refugees within two months.
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What was the need?

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- A military operation by Myanmar in Rakhine, resulted in more than 6,20,000 Rohingya fleeing the province to Bangladesh.
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- This snowballed into a humanitarian crisis in Bangladesh.
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- This further resulted in diplomatic cisis between Dhaka and Naypyidaw.
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- Mediating the issue, China offered a “three-step” solution,\n\n
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1. comprising a ceasefire in Rakhine,
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2. a bilateral repatriation deal for the Rohingya to Myanmar and

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3. long-term solutions including the economic development of the Rohingya areas.
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- China has deep interests in Rakhine, especially in the Kyaukpyu Port.
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- It has oil and energy pipelines to Yunnan province forming part of a $10 billion economic zone in its Belt and Road Initiative.
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Why did Myanmar change its stance?

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- Myanmar government have denied any wrongdoing by the security forces and have thus far been not accepting more repatriation.
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- In September, the Human Rights Council in Geneva voted to extend the mandate of an international fact-finding committee to investigate allegations of human rights violations in Myanmar.
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- UN General Assembly's Third Committee voted overwhelmingly in condemning Myanmar's actions.
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- International human rights agencies have also called for targeted sanctions and an arms embargo.
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- Myanmar's leader Aung San Suu Kyi faced international criticism for not stopping the violence, and several honours given to her for her work in restoring democracy have been revoked.
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- So the turnaround may be ascribed to growing international pressure as well as United Nations resolutions.
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Source: The Hindu

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