

## **China Mediates for the Rohingya Crisis**

### **Why in news?**

\n\n

China's is mediating between Bangladesh and Myanmar to resolve the Rohingya crisis.

\n\n

### **What are the developments?**

\n\n

\n

- A military operation by Myanmar in Rakhine, resulted in around 600,000 Rohingya fleeing the province to Bangladesh.

\n

- This snowballed into a humanitarian crisis and a war of words between Dhaka and Naypyidaw.

\n

- In this background that China stepped in with its three-point plan.

\n

- Subsequently, an agreement was reached between Myanmar and Bangladesh to repatriate Rohingya refugees.

\n

- If the agreement took effect successfully, China had promised economic assistance for the long-term development of Rakhine.

\n

\n\n

### **Why has China been pro-active?**

\n\n

\n

- China has put pressure on Myanmar because a protracted conflict in Rakhine will be decidedly against Beijing's economic interests.

\n

- Rakhine is an important link in its Belt and Road Initiative and China is building a \$7.3 billion deep-water port in the province.

\n

- It has also invested \$2.45 billion to build an oil and gas pipeline connecting coastal Rakhine to Yunnan province in Southern China.

\n

\n\n

### **What are the challenges?**

\n\n

\n

- While the signing of a repatriation deal suggests some positives, the details of the agreement are very preliminary.

\n

- The agreement had mandated an immediate ceasefire in Rakhine to halt further displacement which hasn't been declared yet.

\n

- Also, the number of Rohingya who will be sent back or the timeline for repatriation hasn't been revealed.

\n

- It is also not clear whether the refugees themselves want to go back to a place they had fled in such perilous circumstances.

\n

- There is also no indication thus far, that a resettlement plan is taking shape.

\n

\n\n

### **What is the way forward?**

\n\n

\n

- China sees the Rohingya crisis as an economic problem, given that it has been proposing a development centric solution.

\n

- While economic assistance is essential, the real problem is arguably deeply political, and thereby needing a political solution.

\n

- Unless Myanmar takes efforts to recognize Rohingya as full fledged citizens, any deal is doomed to fail.

\n

\n\n

\n\n

**Source: The Hindu**

\n

