

RohiNGya

ISSUE

Why In News?

The UN reported - An estimated over 400,000 Rohingya from Myanmar have fled into Bangladesh since August 25, 2017.

What is the "Current Issue"

Muslim militants in Myanmar attacked on security forces in Rakhine state on 25th August, 2017. The Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) claimed responsibility for the attacks. In response, Myanmar military launched the "clearance operations" to root out ARSA which led to violence in the border region & mass exodus of Rohingya Muslims into neighbouring Bangladesh.

Who are "Rohingyas"

After tracing the Rohingya history since 8th century

বাংলা নিপি

They speak a dialect of Bengali, as opposed to the commonly spoken Burmese language



Rohingyas are found as stateless Indo Aryan people from Rakhine State Myanmar



UN described them as "one of the most persecuted minorities" in the world



Myanmar Nationality Law 1982 denied citizenship to Rohingya population



They are an ethnic group, largely comprising Muslims

According to the 1982 Burmese citizenship law, a Rohingyas are eligible for citizenship only if they provide proof that their ancestors have lived in the country prior to 1823. Else, they are classified as "resident foreigners" or as "associate citizens"

Implications For Myanmar



The Rohingya issue is a new challenge to the government of Aung San Suu Kyi after liberation from the military rule.



It can affect Myanmar's external relations especially with its immediate neighbours, e.g. Malaysia



The world community condemned the Myanmar's counter strike as violent acts of civilian government. U.N. described Myanmar's strategy as "ethnic cleansing."



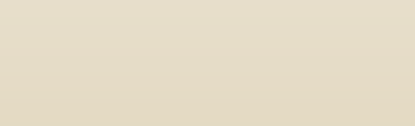
Implications for the Region



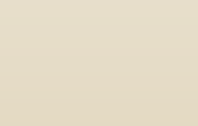
The Rohingya crisis is also posing a security challenge to the South & Southeast Asia.



It has led Humanitarian Crisis, the conflict areas are facing difficulty to access food and medical care.



It poses risk of Radicalization, Islamist extremists can take opportunity to get a foothold in Myanmar.



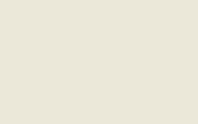
It can also adversely impact the Asia Pacific, the upcoming proposed economic power house.



It has furthered the emergence of a new insurgent group Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army. ARSA is an armed guerrilla outfit commanded by Rohingyas in Saudi Arabia. It demands the right to "self-determination within Myanmar".



Human Trafficking can be last but not the least consequence of the crisis for victims who are trying to escape the violence



It can even weaken the ASEAN organization, the most successful regional organization after the EU.

Implications for India



Apprehensions of illegal migrants to India's North East.

Apprehensions of affecting India's Kaladan Multi-modal Transit Transport project, which is aimed at developing transport infrastructure in south-west Myanmar and India's Northeast.

Apprehensions of alliance between the ARSA and the insurgent groups of Northeast India in their struggle for survival. Consequently it might add a new flavor to ongoing conflicts in Northeast

Moreover PAKISTANI link, is again a problem for India.

India's Balanced Approach

Myanmar & Bangladesh both are equally important to India's counter-insurgency efforts in North East and Act East policy.

India's stand with Myanmar

India did not criticize the conduct of Myanmar because

Under the Neighborhood First & Act East policies Myanmar assumes a key role to connect with Southeast Asia and cut off China from the Bay of Bengal.

As per past experience India's criticism of the military junta in the 80s and 90s had an adverse impact on the bilateral relationship for years.

India's criticism to Myanmar can push it closer to China.

India's stand with Bangladesh

On the other, India has assured all possible help to Bangladesh to tackle the issue.

India started Operation 'Insaniyat' to resolve the humanitarian crisis in Bangladesh due to large influx of Rohingya refugees

India's support to Bangladesh would also strengthen the Sheikh Hasina government, which is facing domestic backlash by the opposition who is known for taking anti-India stands.

Bangladesh is important to India's counter-insurgency efforts and Act East policy.

Way Forward

Myanmar can lay down the seeds for the solution along with the help of World Community.

The international community can give financial aid to the countries who will house the refugees.

Kofi Annan

The report by the Annan-led commission, which argues for a citizenship verification process (the Rohingyas have been stripped of citizenship under Myanmar's 1982 citizenship law) to increase the social and economic participation of the Rohingyas, may offer some useful suggestions.

ASEAN needs to formulate a mechanism to deal with the crisis by equitable distribution of the refugees among member nations.