

September 27th news:

International issues:

- **480000 Rohingyas fled to Bangladesh: UN**

According to the United Nations report released on 26th September, around 480,000 Rohingya Muslims have fled to Bangladesh since violence broke out in Myanmar on August 25, increasing its estimate by 45,000 in two days. It also said numbers crossing the border had started to rise again. The UN gave a figure of 435,000 Rohingya arrivals on 24th September.

Who are Rohingyas?

The Rohingya are often described as "the world's most persecuted minority". They are an ethnic group, majority of whom are Muslim, who have lived for centuries in the majority Buddhist Myanmar. Currently, there are about 1.1 million Rohingya who live in the Southeast Asian country.

The Rohingya speak Rohingya or Ruaingga, a dialect that is distinct to others spoken in Rakhine State and throughout Myanmar. They are not considered one of the country's 135 official ethnic groups and have been denied citizenship in Myanmar since 1982, which has effectively rendered them stateless.

During the more than 100 years of British rule (1824-1948), there was a significant amount of migration of labourers to what is now known as Myanmar from today's India and Bangladesh. Because the British administered Myanmar as a province of India, such migration was considered internal, according to Human Rights Watch (HRW).

The migration of labourers was viewed negatively by the majority of the native population.

After independence, the government viewed the migration that took place during British rule as "illegal, and it is on this basis that they refuse citizenship to the majority of Rohingya," HRW said in a 2000 report

This has led many Buddhists to consider the Rohingya to be Bengali, rejecting the term Rohingya as a recent invention, created for political reasons

National issues:

- **Divyang Sarathi launched**

Centre on 26th September launched Divyang Sarathi - an accessible and comprehensive mobile App for easy information dissemination to Divyangjans. The unique features of the App are its audio notes embedded in it which converts the written information into an audio file.

Economy:

- Govt sets up DPIDF

The government has set up the Dairy Processing and Infrastructure Development Fund, DPIDF, worth Rs 10,881 crore to boost the dairy sector. According to Union Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh, 95 lakh farmers from about 50,000 villages will be benefited through DPIDF.

- Electronic Negotiable Warehouse Receipt (e-NWR) System launched

Consumer Affairs and Food Minister Ram Vilas Paswan, on 26th September launched the Web Portal of Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA) and Electronic Negotiable Warehouse Receipt (e-NWR) System in New Delhi. This system will have no chances of any tempering, mutilation, fudging, loss or damage. NWRs will facilitate an easy pledge financing by banks and other financial institutions, smooth trading on various trading centres like commodity exchanges, electronic National Agriculture Markets (e-NAM).

- India slips a notch in global competitiveness

India's rank is down by a single position in the World Economic Forum's annual Global Competitiveness Index. Issued on 26th September, it places India at 40th among 137 economies for the 2017-18 report, down from 39th position in 2016-17. However, this is the country's highest score, under a new methodology. In 2016-17, India had jumped 16 positions, from 55th rank a year before.

The index this year measures national competitiveness. Defined as the set of institutions, policies and factors that determine the level of productivity. Of the three sub-indexes, India has progressed the most in the efficiency enhancers category, up four positions to 42nd rank

However, in the other two sub-indexes, basic requirements and innovation & sophistication, India stands at 63rd and 42nd positions, respectively.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi forms Economic Advisory Council

Prime Minister Narendra Modi reconstituted the Economic Advisory Council (EAC) to guide him on economic issues and appointed economist Bibek Debroy as its chairman. Debroy is a member of government think tank Niti Aayog. The four other part-time EAC members are Surjit Bhalla, Rathin Roy, Ashima Goyal and Ratan Watal

Persons in news:

- ONGC Chairman Shashi Shanker

Shashi Shanker has been appointed Chairman and Managing Director of India's biggest oil and gas producer, ONGC, till March 2021. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) named Shanker, who is currently Director (Technical and Field Services) at ONGC, as CMD till his superannuation.