

India, Myanmar hold talks, discuss return of displaced Rohingya

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: India and Myanmar held the 17th round of Foreign Office Consultations to review bilateral ties with focus on defence and security ties. The two countries discussed the situation in the Rakhine state and the return of displaced Rohingyas as Myanmar's army and civilian leadership, according to an AFP report, on Friday held a rare "national security" meeting to discuss an internal investigation into the Rohingya crisis.

While the Indian side was led by foreign secretary Vijay Gokhale, Myanmar was represented by U Myint Thu, permanent secretary, Myanmar ministry of foreign affairs.

During the discussions, the two sides reviewed the complete range of bilateral relations, including high level visits, security and defence related issues, boundary matters and border management, trade and commerce, development cooperation, connectivity, cultural and consular matters.

"They also exchanged views on sub-regional, regional and global issues of mutual interest," said the government in a statement.

During his stay in India, the Myanmar permanent secretary will also visit places of

The two countries held a rare 'national security' meeting to discuss an internal probe into the issue of Rohingya, according to an AFP report



historical and cultural significance in the capital, it added.

Foreign minister Sushma Swaraj had last month paid a two-day visit to Myanmar, during which she met the country's President U Win Myint and, state counsellor and minister for foreign affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

During her visit, boundary and border related issues, peace and security matters, developments in the Rakhine state were discussed. The AFP report said that the meeting — only the third of its kind since Aung San Suu Kyi's government took power in 2016 — followed a deal to allow the UN to enter Rakhine to assess when refugees may be able to return.