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**DAILY**  
**Editorials &**  
**Articles**



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## UPSC 360°

The Hindu & Indian Express Unwrapped – Daily Current Affairs Mastery for UPSC CSE (Clear that it's based on The Hindu editorials / news analyses – very aspirant-friendly)



**THE HINDU**

**The Indian EXPRESS**

### Significance

The crisis in Myanmar is significant due to its impact on regional stability, democratic decline, and humanitarian disaster. It intensifies great power rivalry, challenges ASEAN effectiveness, and affects India's security and connectivity interests, making it a key geopolitical concern in the Indo-Pacific region.

## Myanmar Crisis: From Military Coup to Presidency

### Introduction

- ❖ The **Myanmar military coup 2021** marked the collapse of democratic governance in **Myanmar**, when the military **Tatmadaw** seized power and detained elected leader **Aung San Suu Kyi**.
- ❖ In 2026, the crisis deepened as military chief **Min Aung Hlaing** was declared President. This move is widely seen as an attempt to institutionalize military rule under constitutional legitimacy.

### 1. Political Crisis

#### Military Consolidation of Power

- ❖ Systematic weakening of democratic institutions
- ❖ Exclusion of opposition parties from elections
- ❖ Marginalization or banning of **National League for Democracy (NLD)**
- ❖ Use of constitutional mechanisms to justify authoritarian control

#### Parallel Governance

- ❖ Formation of **National Unity Government (NUG)** by ousted leaders
- ❖ Emergence of dual power centers (military vs democratic opposition)

#### Analysis

- ❖ Example of Electoral Authoritarianism
- ❖ Institutional collapse of democracy
- ❖ Severe legitimacy crisis of the state
- ❖ Transition from democracy to hybrid to military-dominated regime



### 2. Civil War

#### Key Actors

- ❖ Military (Tatmadaw)
- ❖ People's Defence Force (PDF) under NUG
- ❖ Ethnic Armed Organizations (Kachin, Karen, Chin, etc.)

### Ground Situation

- ❖ Large territories outside military control
- ❖ Intensified fighting in border and ethnic regions
- ❖ Guerrilla warfare and asymmetric conflict

### Analysis

- ❖ Transformation into a multi-front civil war
- ❖ Erosion of state sovereignty and territorial control
- ❖ Risk of Myanmar becoming a fragile or failed state
- ❖ Rise of warlordism and localized authority



## 3. Humanitarian and Economic Crisis

### Humanitarian Crisis

- ❖ Millions of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)
- ❖ Thousands of civilian casualties
- ❖ Intensification of the Rohingya crisis
- ❖ Collapse of healthcare, education, and basic services

### Economic Crisis

- ❖ Sharp GDP contraction
- ❖ Collapse of foreign investment and trade
- ❖ Rising unemployment and inflation
- ❖ Disruption of supply chains and banking systems

### Analysis

- ❖ Emergence of a conflict economy (illegal trade, arms economy)
- ❖ Decline in Human Development Indicators (HDI)
- ❖ Reports of widespread human rights violations by the **United Nations**
- ❖ Long-term developmental setback

## 4. Geopolitics

### Major Powers' Role

- ❖ **China**: Strategic and economic support to the military regime
- ❖ **Russia**: Military cooperation and arms supply
- ❖ **Western countries**: Sanctions and diplomatic isolation

### Role of ASEAN

- ❖ Attempted mediation through the Five-Point Consensus
- ❖ Limited success due to lack of enforcement

## Analysis

- ❖ Myanmar as a geopolitical hotspot in the Indo-Pacific
- ❖ Arena for great power rivalry
- ❖ Strategic importance due to connectivity, natural resources, and location

## 5. India's Interests and Impact

### Internal Security

- ❖ Instability along Northeast borders (Manipur, Mizoram)
- ❖ Safe havens for insurgent groups
- ❖ Cross-border arms trafficking risks

### Refugee Crisis

- ❖ Influx of refugees into India
- ❖ Humanitarian concerns versus security challenges
- ❖ Pressure on local administration and resources

### Connectivity Projects

- ❖ Delays in Kaladan Multimodal Project
- ❖ Slow progress of India–Myanmar–Thailand Highway
- ❖ Impact on Act East Policy

### China Factor

- ❖ Expanding Chinese strategic presence
- ❖ Challenge to India's regional influence



## 6. Way Forward

### Inclusive Political Dialogue

- ❖ Engagement between military, NUG, and ethnic groups
- ❖ Move toward a federal democratic framework

### International Pressure

- ❖ Role of the United Nations
- ❖ Targeted sanctions on military leadership
- ❖ Diplomatic isolation combined with negotiation

### Strengthening ASEAN Role

- ❖ Effective implementation of the Five-Point Consensus
- ❖ Regional cooperation for peacebuilding

### India's Balanced Approach

- ❖ Pragmatic diplomacy (engagement without endorsement)
- ❖ Balance between security concerns and humanitarian assistance

- ❖ Protect strategic interests while supporting democratic transition

## Conclusion

Myanmar today stands at the intersection of political instability, civil war, and geopolitical competition. The elevation of **Min Aung Hlaing** as President in 2026 clearly indicates that the crisis is not resolving; rather, military rule is becoming more institutionalized and entrenched.

## MCQs

1. **The 2021 military coup in Myanmar led to the ouster of which political leader?**

- (a) Min Aung Hlaing
- (b) Aung San Suu Kyi
- (c) Thein Sein
- (d) Win Myint

**Answer: (b)**

2. **With reference to the current crisis in Myanmar, consider the following statements:**

- 1. Min Aung Hlaing has been declared President.
- 2. The National Unity Government (NUG) was formed by ousted democratic leaders.
- 3. Large parts of the country are controlled by Ethnic Armed Organizations.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: (d)**

3. **Which of the following is NOT a major actor in Myanmar's ongoing civil conflict?**

- (a) Tatmadaw (military)
- (b) People's Defence Force (PDF)
- (c) Rohingya Solidarity Organisation
- (d) Ethnic Armed Organizations

**Answer: (c)** (Note: While Rohingya groups exist, the primary armed opposition includes PDF and EAOs.)

4. **India's Kaladan Multimodal Project connects India with which country?**

- (a) Bangladesh
- (b) Myanmar
- (c) Thailand
- (d) Sri Lanka

**Answer: (b)**

**Mains Questions**

1. “The 2021 military coup in Myanmar has transformed the country into a multi-front civil war zone with severe humanitarian and geopolitical implications.” Discuss the causes, current situation, and regional impact of the crisis. (15 marks / 250 words)
2. Examine India’s strategic interests and challenges in Myanmar, particularly in the context of border security, connectivity projects, and the China factor. (10 marks / 150 words)
3. “ASEAN’s Five-Point Consensus has had limited success in resolving the Myanmar crisis.” Critically analyse the role of regional and international actors in addressing the Myanmar situation. (15 marks / 250 words)
4. **Essay (250 marks)** “From Democratic Transition to Military Entrenchment: The Collapse of Democracy in Myanmar and Its Lessons for the Region.”

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