

## Reign of terror: On the two years since the Myanmar coup

Myanmar's **junta** must be pushed to **hold talks** with the opposition

Two years after it captured power through a coup, Myanmar's military is struggling to **maintain its grip on** power in a country that has become a land of many **mutinies**. On February 1, the second anniversary of the coup that **toppled** the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi, thousands joined the opposition's **call** for a "silent **strike**" by **shutting** shops and staying at home. The junta's **decision** to extend the **state** of emergency — which would also mean that the August elections the Generals had announced **seeking** political **legitimacy** would be further delayed — **points to** the **regime's** weakening control. This is **certainly** not the **scenario** Gen. Min Aung Hlaing had **anticipated** when he **grabbed** power, **citing** fraud in the 2020 general election which Ms. Suu Kyi's party had **swept**. The Tatmadaw (the military) **imprisoned** the entire government and most of the **ruling party lawmakers**, including Ms. Suu Kyi, **cracked down** on democracy protests and started ruling the country directly — old **tactics** that have helped the Generals to rule through fear. But **unlike** in the past when the military faced democratic **civilian resistance** to its **brutal** rule, Myanmar fell into an armed **civil war** after the February coup. Whatever the military did to take control only made matters worse.

Now the junta is facing multiple crises **in the face of a humanitarian disaster**. The **remnants** of the old government **have** formed an alternative **administration**, the National Unity Government. Several **cells** of the People's Defence Force (PDF), the armed wing of the NUT, **have sprung up** in the otherwise peaceful Buddhist heartlands **carrying out ambushes**. In the **borderlands**, ethnic minority **militias**, which have been fighting the military, **have joined hands with** the urban **guerillas** of the PDF. The junta's response has been **indiscriminate bombings**. Since the coup, some 3,000 civilians have been killed, 40,000 houses destroyed and about 1.5 million people **displaced**. According to the UN, some 17.6 million **people**, roughly a third of Myanmar's population, **will** need humanitarian assistance. The junta is neither interested in nor capable of **addressing** these problems. And the war it is fighting against its own people is not helping the Generals' cause either — a report by the Special Advisory Council for Myanmar, an independent group of international experts, says the junta has stable control over only 17% of the country. This is an **unprecedented** scenario. What Myanmar urgently needs is meaningful **dialogue** between the junta and the opposition to **restore** democracy and start talks with ethnic **rebels**. **Regional and international players**, especially the **Association of Southeast Asian Nations** (ASEAN), China and India, **should** push the Generals to start talks with the opposition.

- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'

[Practice Exercise]

## Vocabulary

1. **Reign** (noun) – rule, incumbency, supremacy, period in office शासन
2. **Coup** (noun) – seizure of political power, takeover तख्तापलट
3. **Junta** (noun) – a group, especially of military officers, who rule a country by force बल प्रयोग से देश पर शासन करने वाले; शासक
4. **Hold talks** (phrase) – to have formal or official discussions about an issue or a situation.
5. **Maintain/keep a grip on something** (phrase) – To maintain strict or tight control over someone or something
6. **Mutiny** (noun) – an act of a group of people, especially sailors or soldiers, refusing to obey the person who is in command सैनिक विद्रोह, बगावत, ग़दर
7. **Topple** (verb) – to cause a leader of a country, etc. to lose his/her position of power or authority किसी देश के नेता को सत्ता या अधिकार के पद से हटा देना
8. **Call** (noun) – demand, Request, plea, appeal मांग
9. **Strike** (noun) – a period of time when people refuse to go to work हड़ताल
10. **Shut** (verb) – close बंद करना
11. **State** (noun) – Condition, situation स्थिति, हालत
12. **Seek** (verb) – Ask for, call on , solicit on मांग करना
13. **Legitimacy** (noun) – validity, justification, soundness, well-foundedness वैधता
14. **Point to** (phrasal verb) – indicate, suggest, be evidence of, evidence, signal, signify इंगित करना
15. **Regime** (noun) – government, administration शासन
16. **Certainly** (adverb) – Surely, definitely, undoubtedly, absolutely निश्चित रूप से
17. **Scenario** (noun) – sequence of events, series of developments, situation परिदृश्य
18. **Anticipate** (verb) – expect, foresee, predict, think likely, forecast पूर्वानुमान करना
19. **Grab** (verb) – clutch, grip, grasp, seize, take, snatch हथियाना
20. **Cite** (verb) – refer to, make reference to, mention, allude to हवाला देना
21. **Sweep** (verb) – win or succeed at easily
22. **Imprison** (verb) – detain, incarcerate, put in prison कैद करना

23. **Ruling** (adjective) – governing, in charge, leading, dominant, controlling, सत्तारूढ़
24. **Lawmaker** (noun) – a legislator; representative सांसद
25. **Crack down on** (phrase) – to take strong action to stop something पर कड़ी कार्यवाही करना
26. **Tactic** (noun) – A plan for attaining a particular goal रणनीति
27. **Unlike** (preposition) – in contrast to; different from के विपरीत; से भिन्न
28. **Civilian** (adjective) – civil, citizen, noncombatant, civic, private citizen नागरिक
29. **Resistance** (noun) – opposition, fight, battle, stand, struggle, confrontation प्रतिरोध, विरोध
30. **Brutal** (adjective) – cruel, savage, vicious, ruthless, barbaric क्रूर
31. **Civil war** (noun) – a war fought by different groups of people living in the same country गृहयुद्ध
32. **In the face of** (phrase) – despite, in spite of, notwithstanding के बावजूद
33. **Humanitarian** (adjective) – compassionate, humane मानवीय
34. **Disaster** (noun) – catastrophe, calamity, misfortune, tragedy, fiasco आपदा
35. **Remnant** (noun) – A small part or portion that remains after the main part no longer exists अवशेष
36. **Administration** (noun) – the management of public affairs; government प्रशासन
37. **Cell** (noun) – Group, sect, unit, faction, section गुट
38. **Spring up** (phrasal verb) – to grow or appear suddenly
39. **Carry out** (phrasal verb) – perform, execute, implement, conduct, accomplish पूरा करना
40. **Ambush** (noun) – a surprise attack by people lying in wait in a concealed position. घात
41. **Borderland** (noun) – Boundary, edge, border, fringe, margin, frontier.
42. **Ethnic** (adjective) – Cultural, racial जातीय
43. **Militia** (noun) – a group of people who are not professional soldiers but who have had military training नागरिक सेना
44. **Join hand with** (phrase) – work together हाथ मिलाना
45. **Guerilla** (noun) – a person who engages in irregular warfare

46. **Indiscriminate** (verb) – random, haphazard, promiscuous, indiscriminating अंधाधुंध
47. **Bombing** (noun) – an attack or attacks on a place or area using bombs, or the activity of attacking in this way बम विस्फोट
48. **Displace** (noun) – Move, shift, relocate, transfer, dislodge विस्थापित करना
49. **Address** (verb) – tackle, see to, deal with, confront, grapple with सुलझाना, निपटाना
50. **Unprecedented** (adjective) – Never having happened or existed in the past अभूतपूर्व
51. **Dialogue** (noun) – conversation, talk, communication, interchange, discourse बातचीत, संवाद
52. **Restore** (verb) – revive, return, rebuild, recover, renew पुनर्स्थापित करना
53. **Rebel** (noun) – insurgent, revolt, mutiny, dissident, maverick विद्रोही
54. **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)** (noun) – The Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or ASEAN, was established on 8 August 1967 in Bangkok, Thailand, with the signing of the ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration) by the Founding Fathers of ASEAN: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand

## Practice exercise

**Direction (Q1 – Q3): Select the best express synonym of the given words** [Editorial page]

- The remnants of the old government have formed an alternative administration, the National Unity Government
  - Opportunism
  - Lapse
  - Leftover
  - Context
- The junta's response has been indiscriminate bombings.
  - Random
  - Cumulative
  - Oversight
  - Robust
- On February 1, the second anniversary of the coup that toppled the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi
  - Overthrow
  - Optimistic
  - Resilience
  - Buoyancy

4. **Idioms & Phrase**

Well, I told Grace she can't go, and now she's dug in her heels as if this party is the most important thing in her life.

- To leave an indelible impression upon one's memory or psyche for the rest of one's life.
  - To take further action connected with it
  - To refuse to change your plans or ideas, especially when someone is trying to persuade you to do so
  - To manage to reach some stage or point of progress.
5. **Direction: Two statements are given below, which are jumbled in any random order. These statements will form a coherent and meaningful paragraph, when arranged in the correct sequence. Arrange the sentences in the right order and answer the questions that follow.**
- Signalling the end of the third wave that began in the last days of 2021,(D)/ end additional COVID-19 restrictions. (E)/ asked States to review and amend or(F)/ the Government, on February 16,(G)/
  - The free movement of people and economic activities may no longer be necessary considering that (A)/Restrictions that hinder(B)/ the third wave seems to be truly coming to an end, the Government noted.(C)/
- ABC, EFDG
  - DGFE, BAC
  - BAC, FDEG
  - FDGE, CBA
  - None of the above

**Direction (Q6 – Q9): Read the given sentences to find out whether there is any grammatical error in them**

6. The decision to open (A)/ offices in Shimla (B)/ were taken at (C)/ the last board meeting. (D)/no error(E)
7. We were so late (A)/ than the meeting (B)/ was almost over (C)/ when he arrived. (D)/no error(E)
8. They waited patient (A)/ for the chairman’s speech (B)/ to end in order (C)/ to begin the discussion. (D)/no error(E)
9. Samay was (A)/ not selected (B)/ for the post (C)/ in spite his hard work. (D)/ no error (E)
10. **Find out the misspelt word**
  - A. Controversy
  - B. Surveillance
  - C. Vicious
  - D. Fascinating

**Direction: Read the passage given below and answer the following questions.**

**(The Hindu Editorial: Warning sign – Dec 16, 2022)**

A crisis that began in April 2020, with PLA transgressions in Ladakh, in the western sector of the boundary, has now appeared to have widened to Arunachal Pradesh. **(1)**/ Another attempted transgression by the Chinese military, this time in the Tawang sector in the eastern section of the India-China boundary, has served as a reminder of the **precarious** state of affairs along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). **(2)**/ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said in Parliament that the Indian Army had forced the PLA to return to its posts.**(3)**/ The Minister’s comments, on December 13, came four days after the incident, details of which were first reported by The Hindu on December 12. **(4)**/An Army statement confirmed the clash. The Opposition, which has criticised the Narendra Modi government’s continuing **(a)**\_\_\_\_\_ on the China border issue, staged a walkout after being denied a discussion.

As troubles now **(b)**\_\_\_\_\_ in Arunachal, the situation in Ladakh still remains unresolved. India is yet to resume **disengagement(A)** in any of the five **patrolling(B)** areas where temporary buffer zones have been **established(C)**, while the Chinese military remains on India’s side of the LAC in two other **friction(D)** points, in Depsang and Demchok. What is clear is that the Chinese military has decided, for reasons still unexplained, to unilaterally change how both sides manage what were previously mutually recognised disputed areas. Managing what has become a live border after three decades of relative peace, and crafting a modus vivendi with China in this new situation, has now emerged as a pressing challenge for New Delhi. This is both a military and a political challenge. Addressing it will require, as a first step, transparency, and taking the Opposition and public along on an issue far too important to be led by apparent considerations over optics. Those considerations also appear to be one factor behind the continuing freeze in high-level political contact with China, with Prime Minister Modi and President Xi Jinping avoiding a formal meeting at two recent multilateral summits. That the leaders have not spoken for more than three years, barring an exchange of pleasantries at the G-20 summit, is an **(c)**\_\_\_\_\_ situation as risks continue to rise along the borders. A resumption of dialogue will, at the very least, allow India to convey its concerns at the highest level. The public also

remains largely \_\_\_\_**(d)**\_\_\_\_ the dark on the events that have transpired along the borders, as well as the developments that led to the loss of life of 20 Indian soldiers, in 2020.

**Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate combinations of words**

11. The Opposition, which has criticised the Narendra Modi government's continuing \_\_\_\_**(a)**\_\_\_\_ on the China border issue, staged a walkout after being denied a discussion.

**Fill the most appropriate option in (a)**

- (i) Reticence
- (ii) Aspect
- (iii) Deposition
- (iv) Respondent

A. Only (i)    B. Only (ii)    C. Only (iii)    D. Both (ii) and (iv)    E. None of the above

12. As troubles now \_\_\_\_**(b)**\_\_\_\_ in Arunachal, the situation in Ladakh still remains unresolved

**Fill the most appropriate option in (b)**

- (i) Aid
- (ii) Peak
- (iii) Manage
- (iv) Flare

A. Only (i)    B. Only (ii)    C. Only (iv)    D. Both (ii) and (iv)    E. None of the above

13. That the leaders have not spoken for more than three years, barring an exchange of pleasantries at the G-20 summit, is an \_\_\_\_**(c)**\_\_\_\_ situation as risks continue to rise along the borders.

**Fill the most appropriate option in (c)**

- (i) Shaky
- (ii) Untenable
- (iii) Damning
- (iv) Calumny

A. Only (i)    B. Only (ii)    C. Only (iii)    D. Both (i) and (ii)    E. None of the above

14. The public also remains largely \_\_\_\_**(d)**\_\_\_\_ the dark on the events that have transpired along the borders, as well as the developments that led to the loss of life of 20 Indian soldiers, in 2020.

**Fill the most appropriate option in (d)**

- (i) Of
- (ii) At
- (iii) In
- (iv) To

A. Only (i)    B. Only (iv)    C. Only (iii)    D. Both (iii) and (ii)    E. None of the above

15. **Identify the part of speech of given highlighted word.**

Managing what has become a live border after three decades of relative peace, and crafting a *modus vivendi* with China in this new situation, has now emerged as a **pressing** challenge for New Delhi.

- A. Noun
- B. Adjective
- C. Adverb
- D. Verb
- E. Interjection

16. **Rearrange the sentence to form a meaningful sentence.**

A crisis that began in April 2020, with PLA transgressions in Ladakh, in the western sector of the boundary, has now appeared to have widened to Arunachal Pradesh. **(1)**/ Another attempted transgression by the Chinese military, this time in the Tawang sector in the eastern section of the India-China boundary, has served as a reminder of the precarious state of affairs along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). **(2)**/ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said in Parliament that the Indian Army had forced the PLA to return to its posts.**(3)**/ The Minister's comments, on December 13, came four days after the incident, details of which were first reported by The Hindu on December 12. **(4)**/

- A. 2341
- B. 1243
- C. 2134
- D. 2143
- E. 4321

17. Given below is a word, followed by three sentence that consist of that word. Identify the sentence (S) that best express (es) the meaning of the word. Choose option 5 'None of the above' if the word is not suitable in any of the sentence

**PRECARIOUS**

- (i) If business premises suffer serious fire damage the landlord usually **precarious** to reinstate the premises.
- (ii) The lorry was lodged in a very **precarious** way, with its front wheels hanging over the cliff.
- (iii) Do the marginalised accord less legitimacy to state and government institutions than the **precarious** and integrated?

- A. Only (i)
- B. Only (ii)
- C. Only (iii)
- D. (i), (ii)
- E. (ii), (iii)

18. **In the following question, a sentence is given with four words marked as (A), (B), (C), and (D). These words may or may not be placed in the correct order. Four options with different arrangements of these have been provided. Mark the option with the correct arrangement as the answer. If no rearrangement is required, mark option (5) as your answer.**



India is yet to resume **disengagement(A)** in any of the five **patrolling(B)** areas where temporary buffer zones have been **established(C)**, while the Chinese military remains on India's side of the LAC in two other **friction(D)** points, in Depsang and Demchok.

- A. A – D
- B. A – B
- C. C – D
- D. B – C
- E. No arrangement

19. In the following question, two statements and five connectors are given. Only one of the connectors from those given can be used to combine the given two statements into one sentence without changing the meaning. Choose that connector as your answer.

- (i) Everyone now knows that the debate on education had been postponed
- (ii) the government can discuss the latest crisis.

- A. So that
- B. Furthermore
- C. In order that
- D. Otherwise
- E. None of these

20. Fill the appropriate preposition in the given blanks

Sequel \_\_\_\_\_ success in life he become extremely rich.

- A. Of
- B. In
- C. Upon
- D. To

## Answers

1. C    2.A    3.A    4. C    5.B    6.C    7. B    8.A    9.D    10.B    11. A  
 12. C    13.B    14. C    15. B    16. C    17.E    18. B    19.A    20.D    **[Practice Exercise]**

## Explanations

- Remnant (noun)** – A small part or portion that remains after the main part no longer exists  
 अवशेष
  - Opportunism (noun)** – expediency, exploitation, taking advantage, Machiavellianism, अवसरवाद
  - Lapse (noun)** – failure, failing, slip, error, mistake, blunder चूक, भूल
  - Context (noun)** – perspective, circumstance, condition, setting, milieu संदर्भ
- Indiscriminate (verb)** – random, haphazard, promiscuous, indiscriminating अंधाधुंध
  - Cumulative (adjective)** – collective, accumulated संचयी
  - Oversight (noun)** – supervision, surveillance, superintendence, inspection निरीक्षण/ निगरानी
  - Robust (adjective)** –strong, vigorous, sturdy, tough, powerful मज़बूत
- Coup (noun)** – seizure of political power, takeover तख्तापलट
  - Optimistic (adjective)** – hopeful, positive, upbeat, bright, confident आशावादी
  - Resilience (noun)** – strength, toughness, hardiness; flexibility, ability to bounce back लचीलाता, तन्यकता
  - Buoyancy (noun)** – progress, improvement, expansion, mushrooming, उछाल
- Dug one's heels in (phrase)** – To refuse to change your plans or ideas, especially when someone is trying to persuade you to do so. अपनी बात पर अड़े रहना
- DGFE, BAC**  
 Signalling the end of the third wave that began in the last days of 2021, the Government, on February 16, asked States to review and amend or end additional COVID-19 restrictions. Restrictions that hinder the free movement of people and economic activities may no longer be necessary considering that the third wave seems to be truly coming to an end, the Government noted.
- (C) 'were' के बदले 'was' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि वाक्य का subject 'decision' singular है।
  - 'was' will be used instead of 'were' because the subject 'decision' of the sentence is singular.
- (B) 'than' के बदले 'that' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'so' का प्रयोग तब 'कारण' बताने के लिए होता है तो इसके बाद 'that' का प्रयोग 'परिणाम' बताने के लिए होता है; जैसे-
  - He is so weak that he cannot walk.
  - 'that' will be used instead of 'than' because 'so' is then used to indicate 'reason' and then 'that' is used to indicate 'result'; like-

- i. He is so weak that he cannot walk.
8. (A) 'Patient' के बदले 'patiently' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'patient' ( धैर्यशील) एक adjective है जबकि 'patiently' ( धैर्यता से) एक adverb, और verb 'waited' की विशेषता adverb बताएगा, न कि adjective.
- 'Patient' will be used instead of 'patiently' because 'patient' is an adjective while 'patiently' (patiently) is an adverb, and the verb 'waited' will characterize the adverb and not the adjective.
9. (D) 'In spite' के बदले 'In spite of' या 'despite' (= in spite of) (= के बावजूद) का प्रयोग होगा
- 'In spite of' or 'Despite' will be used instead of 'In spite'.
10. **Surveillance** (noun) – observation, watch, monitoring, supervision. निगरानी
11. **Reticence** (noun) – Silence, uncommunicativeness, introversion, quietness चुप्पी
- Aspect** (noun) – A distinct feature or element पहलू
  - Deposition** (noun) – statement, evidence, confession बयान
  - Respondent** (noun) – the person who is accused of something in a legal case: प्रतिवादी
12. **Flare** (verb) – (of a situation) suddenly become intense or violent. उग्र होना
- Aid** (verb) – help, assist, support, abet सहायता करना
  - Peak** (verb) – to reach the highest point or value चरम पर पहुँचना
  - Manage** (verb) – To succeed in accomplishing, achieving, or producing, especially with difficulty सफल होना
13. **Untenable** (adjective) – indefensible, unsustainable, weak, unsound, **shaky**, flawed अस्थिर, असमर्थनीय
- Damning** (adjective) – suggesting that someone is guilty दोषारोपणात्मक
  - Calumny** (noun) – defamation, slander, denigration, libel, misrepresentation कलंक, झूठा अभियोग
14. **In the dark** (phrase) – in a state/situation of ignorance. अज्ञान में, अज्ञानता में
15. Here pressing is an **adjective** that describes noun (challenge)
- Pressing** (adjective) – urgent, critical, crucial, acute, desperate, serious अत्यावश्यक
16. (C) **2134**
- Another attempted transgression by the Chinese military, this time in the Tawang sector in the eastern section of the India-China boundary, has served as a reminder of the precarious state of affairs along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). A crisis that began in April 2020, with PLA transgressions in Ladakh, in the western sector of the boundary, has now appeared to have widened to Arunachal Pradesh. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said in Parliament that the

Indian Army had forced the PLA to return to its posts. The Minister's comments, on December 13, came four days after the incident, details of which were first reported by The Hindu on December 12

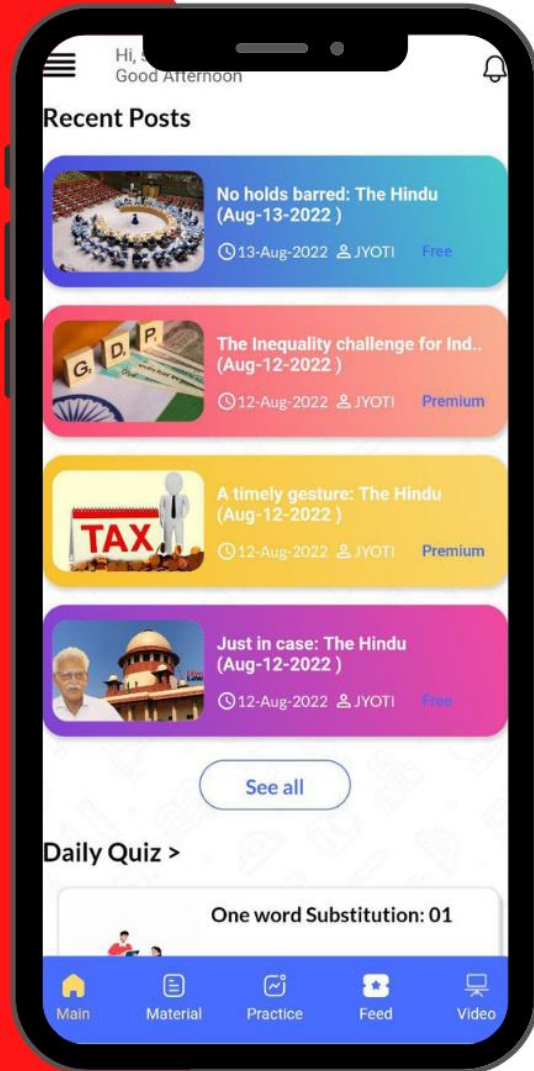
17. **Precarious** (adjective) – unwarranted, risky, dangerous, hazardous, perilous; shaky, unstable, uncertain (state) अनिश्चित

According to the given options only (ii) AND (iii) are contextually correct.

Because the (i) sentence is not giving any meaning and correct sentences should be like

If business premises suffer serious fire damage the landlord usually covenants to reinstate the premises.

18. India is yet to resume patrolling in any of the five disengagement areas where temporary buffer zones have been established, while the Chinese military remains on India's side of the LAC in two other friction points, in Depsang and Demchok.
19. Everyone now knows that the debate on education had been postponed **so that** the government can discuss the latest crisis.



# Learn Vocabulary Through Reading Articles

English Madhyam

