

1. **stand-off** (noun) – deadlock, stalemate, impasse (in a dispute/conflict).
2. **economic distress** (noun) – (economic) hardship, adversity, trouble/difficulty.
3. **oust** (verb) – overthrow, remove, unseat/dismiss.
4. **daunting** (adjective) – intimidating, challenging, disconcerting/ unsettling.
5. **call for** (phrasal verb) – require, publicly ask/necessitate, demand.
6. **uprising** (noun) – insurgency, revolution, rebellion.
7. **bid** (noun) – attempt, effort, endeavour/try.
8. **break rank** with (phrase) – fail to maintain unity (solidarity) and to publicly disagree with one's own group.
9. **topple** (verb) – overthrow, oust, depose, unseat, dethrone.
10. **seize** (verb) – take possession of, conquer, take over,
11. **rig** (verb) – manipulate, arrange fraudulently, influence/distort.
12. **sanctions** (noun) – action taken, or an order given to force a country to obey international laws by limiting or stopping trade with that country, by not allowing economic aid for that country, etc
13. **batter** (verb) – damage, impair, mar/spoil.
14. **render** (verb) – depict, portray, represent.
15. **setback** (noun) – problem, difficulty, issue.
16. **so far** (phrase) – until now, up to the present, up to this point.
17. **go through** (phrasal verb) – suffer, experience, endure.
18. **break down** (phrasal verb) – stop working, cease to function/work, go wrong.
19. **pressing** (adjective) – important, high-priority, critical/crucial.
20. **unaddressed** (adjective) – unnoticed, not considered, concealed.
21. **inflation** (noun) – simply meaning “cost of living”; increase of price level of goods & services and vice versa decrease of currency value.
22. **sky-high** (adjective) – high, imposing, elevated.
23. **scant** (adjective) – little, minimal, negligible/meagre.
24. **fled** past and past participle of **flee** (verb) – escape, abscond, run away/take flight.
25. **owing to** (phrase) – because of, as a result of, on account of.
26. **woes** (noun) – trouble, difficulty, problem.
27. **durability** (noun) – longevity, resilience, strength.
28. **predecessor** (noun) – previous holder of the post; forerunner, precursor, antecedent.
29. **narrative** (noun) – a representation of a particular situation; description, statement, portrayal.
30. **lack** (verb) – be without, have need of/be devoid of, require.
31. **legitimacy** (noun) – reasonableness, justification, validity.
32. **pivotal** (adjective) – central, crucial, vital/critical.
33. **over-reliance** (noun) – excessive dependency.
34. **backfire** (verb) – rebound/boomerang, come back, have an adverse effect.
35. **imperialist** (noun) – a person who supports or practises imperialism.
36. **chaos** (noun) – disorder, turmoil, confusion/disruption,
37. **backing** (noun) – support, help, assistance/aid.
38. **the way forward** (phrase) – something (a plan/action) that leads to success in the future.
39. **primacy** (noun) – priority, greater importance, preference.
40. **confrontation** (noun) – conflict/fight, tussle, face-off.

Endless crisis: on Maduro-Guaidó stand-off(रुकावट)

The Maduro-Guaidó stand-off is *deepening*(गहरा हो जाना) Venezuela's economic *distress*(परेशानी)

41. Venezuelan Opposition leader Juan Guaidó has been trying to *oust* (निकालना)President Nicolas Maduro for months. Last week, in his most *daunting*(चुनौतीपूर्ण) effort yet, he *called for*(माँगना) a military *uprising*(विद्रोह). Hours later, the U.S., which has recognised him as Venezuela's President, supported his *bid*(प्रयास). A few soldiers *broke ranks*(– fail to maintain unity (solidarity) and to publicly disagree with one's own group.) with the military and joined him, along with tens of thousands of protesters who battled for two days with police and government supporters. Still, Mr. Guaidó failed to *topple* (गिरा देना) the Maduro *regime*(शासन). This was the third major attempt by Mr. Guaidó to *seize*(अधिकार में लेना) the government. In January he declared himself President, saying Mr. Maduro's presidency was not *legitimate* (जायज)as he had “*rigged*(हेर-फेर करना)” last year's election. Since then, the U.S. has *imposed* (थोप देना) *sanctions* (प्रतिबंध)on top Venezuelan government officials and the state-run oil company PDVSA on the calculation that these would make the already *battered* (बिगड़ा हुआ) Venezuelan economy worse, *rendering* (बना देना) Mr. Maduro even more unpopular. In February, Mr. Guaidó launched another bid when he went to the Colombia border to accept U.S. aid, which the government had rejected. He called for mass protests, but Mr. Maduro survived. Last week's failed attempt was Mr. Guaidó's biggest *setback* (रुकावट)so far.

It is *evident* (प्रत्यक्ष)that Venezuela is going through serious political and economic crises.

Governance has broken down, with state institutions at war against one another. Mr. Guaidó is the President of the National Assembly and has the support of most Opposition parties. Mr. Maduro has the support of the executive branch, the military and the judiciary. While they fight, the most *pressing*(जरूरी) problems remain *unaddressed*(not solved). Inflation is *sky-high*(बहुत ऊँचा), food and medicine are *scant*(कम), and millions have *fled* (फरार होना)the country *owing to*(because of) its economic *woes*(दुःख). Mr. Guaidó says he will solve the problems after Mr. Maduro is ousted. But the way he is trying to achieve his goal has pushed the country deeper into *misery*(मुसीबत). The Opposition miscalculated the durability of the Maduro regime. Mr. Maduro's Socialist Party, thanks to the pro-poor policies under his *predecessor*(पूर्वाधिकारी) Hugo Chavez, still *commands*(पाना) loyal support among sections of society, especially among the poor. Second, even if the Opposition parties' *narrative*(बयान) that Mr. Maduro lacks *legitimacy* (सच्चाई)is accepted, the military's support is *pivotal* (important, बुनियादी)if they want to remove him by force. Repeated attempts by Mr. Guaidó to win over the military have failed. Third, his over-reliance on the U.S. seems to have *backfired*(उलटना). It only strengthened Mr. Maduro's argument that “*imperialists*(साम्राज्यवादी)” are behind the *chaos*.(उथल-पुथल) Mr. Maduro also has the *backing*(support)of **Russia**, China and Cuba.

The way forward is not further clashes, but mutual talks aimed at *resolving(solving)* their differences and giving *primacy*(प्रधानता) to *rebuilding*(फिर से बनाना) both the economy and the governance system. If they continue on the path of *confrontation*(मुकाबला), Venezuela will be in permanent crisis.

Gupta Classes