

Important Vocab for the Editorial

1. **mayhem** (noun) – disorder, turmoil, chaos, havoc, disorganization.
2. **Armed Forces' Day** (noun) – the professional holiday of the Tatmadaw (lit. 'Armed Forces'), celebrated IN Myanmar (Burma) annually on 27 March.
3. **Tatmadaw** (noun) – literally meaning 'Armed Forces' in Burmese; Tatmadaw is the official name of the armed forces of Myanmar (Burma).
4. **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)** (noun) – a regional grouping that promotes economic, political, and security cooperation among its ten members: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.
5. **junta** (noun) – a military group that takes over the government by force.
6. **shockwave** (noun) – shocking news of something bad/unpleasant happened unexpectedly; a severe disruption/disturbance.
7. **deep concern** (noun) – great (feeling of) worry.
8. **call for** (phrasal verb) – require, publicly ask/necessitate, demand.
9. **rule of law** (phrase) – it is described as “a principle of governance in which all persons, institutions and entities, public and private, including the State itself, are accountable to laws that are publicly promulgated, equally enforced and independently adjudicated, and which are consistent with international human rights norms and standards.
10. **uphold** (verb) – confirm, endorse/approve, vindicate/validate.
11. **short of** (phrase) – less than.
12. **condemn** (verb) – censure, criticize, castigate; destine, damn.
13. **attaché** (noun) – an official at an embassy usually with special responsibility for something; envoy, diplomat, consul, representative.
14. **Naypyidaw** (proper noun) – the capital city of Myanmar (Burma).
15. **gun down** (phrasal verb) – shoot down, mow down, kill.
16. **prolonged** (adjective) – continuous, ongoing, protracted, unending, unrelenting.
17. **trigger** (verb) – cause, prompt, set off, bring about.
18. **cultivate** (verb) – seek the friendship of, seek the favour of, try to win over, try to get someone on one's side, woo.
19. **ties** (noun) – association, relationship, bond, connection.
20. **civilian** (adjective) – non-military, non-combatant, civil.
21. **growing** (adjective) – increasing.
22. **appeal** (noun) – plea, call, earnest/urgent request.
23. **bloodshed** (noun) – killing, carnage, massacre.
24. **unperturbed** (adjective) – untroubled, undisturbed, unworried, unmoved.
25. **regime** (noun) – government.
26. **civilian** (noun) – non-military person, non-combatant, ordinary citizen.
27. **coup** (noun) – a sudden and violent regime change, seizure of power, (illegal) takeover of power.
28. **resort to** (verb) – use, utilize, turn to, have recourse to.
29. **calculate** (verb) – expect, anticipate, reckon, intend, assess.

30. **swift** (adjective) – rapid, quick, speedy.
31. **repression** (noun) – suppression, oppression, quelling, restraining/stifling.
32. **extinguish** (verb) – eradicate, eliminate, wipe out, remove, put an end to.
33. **fire** (noun) – energy, vigour, sparkle, enthusiasm.
34. **erupt** (verb) – break out, flare up, blow up, boil over, start suddenly.
35. **usurp** (verb) – take over, appropriate, seize.
36. **decade** (noun) – a period of ten years.
37. **transition government** (noun) – interim/temporary government.
38. **resistance** (noun) – opposition, refusal, denial.
39. **challenge** (noun) – problem, trouble, obstacle, difficult task.
40. **brink** (noun) – edge/verge/end (of something).
41. **scarce** (adjective) – insufficient, deficient, inadequate.
42. **rocket** (verb) – soar, increase rapidly, escalate.
43. **bring someone/something to their/its knees** (phrase) – to overpower someone/something and make their/its condition extremely weak; overwhelm, defeat, destroy, crush/thrash.
44. **pandemic-battered** (adjective) – ruined/destroyed by pandemic.
45. **pandemic** (noun) – the worldwide spread of a new disease; The illness spreads around the world and typically affects a large number of people across a wide area.
46. **bring back** (phrasal verb) – cause someone/something to return to; reintroduce.
47. **so far** (phrase) – until now, up to the present, up to this point.
48. **worse still** (phrase) – still worse; even worse.
49. **insurgent** (adjective) – rebellious, dissident, rioting, seditious, subversive.
50. **throw one's weight behind** (phrase) – to use one's power (influence) to support someone/something.
51. **unlikely** (adjective) – doubtful, implausible, improbable, questionable.
52. **give up** (phrasal verb) – stop, discontinue, abandon, renounce, forgo.
53. **on one's own** (phrase) – alone, all alone, by oneself, all by oneself, independently, single-handedly.
54. **nudge** (verb) – push, prod, encourage.
55. **concession** (noun) – compromise, adjustment.
56. **vie** (verb) – compete strongly with someone to get/achieve something; fight, contend, lock horns.
57. **influence** (noun) – power, sway, leverage, authority.
58. **ambivalent** (adjective) – having mixed feelings about someone or something; equivocal, in two minds, uncertain, doubtful, undecided, inconclusive.
59. **antagonise** (verb) – alienate, estrange, make hostile/make unfriendly.
60. **interest** (noun) – common concern; benefit, advantage.
61. **heap on** (phrasal verb) – load on, shower on; give, provide.
62. **the way forward** (phrase) – something (a plan/action) that leads to success in the future.

Mayhem in Myanmar: On the violence during Myanmar's Armed Forces' Day

APRIL 07, 2021 00:02 IST

India, China and countries in ASEAN should pressure the junta to restore democracy

The violence of March 27, Myanmar's Armed Forces' Day, in which over 100 protesters were killed, has sent shockwaves. India, which initially expressed its "deep concern" and called for the "rule of law" and "the democratic process" to be upheld, had stopped short of directly condemning the junta's violence. It had also sent a representative to attend Saturday's celebrations. But on the day India's defence attaché, along with the representatives of seven other countries, including China, Pakistan and Russia, was attending a massive military parade in Naypyidaw, the junta was gunning down its people. The violence and the prolonged crisis seem to have triggered a stronger response from several capitals, including New Delhi. On April 2, India, which has cultivated deep ties with Myanmar's civilian and military leaderships, condemned "any use of violence" and called for "restoration of democracy". There is growing international appeal for ending the bloodshed, but the junta seems unperturbed. Even after the March 27 killings, protests and regime violence continue. According to independent agencies, the junta has killed over 570 civilians, including 46 children, since the February 1 coup.

When the regime resorted to violence, it may have calculated that swift repression would extinguish the fire for freedoms, like in 1988 and 2007. But there is a fundamental difference this time. If in the past the protests erupted against the continuing military rule, in February, the military usurped power from an elected government after a decade of partial democracy. Those who enjoyed at least limited freedoms, first under the transition government and then under Aung San Suu Kyi, have built a stronger resistance to the junta this time. Street protests are not the

only challenge the Generals are facing. The banking system is on the brink of collapse with most staff on strike. Cash is scarce and prices of essential goods are rocketing. Industrial workers are also on strike, bringing the pandemic-battered economy to its knees. The Generals' efforts to bring bank and government employees and port and industrial workers back to work have been unsuccessful so far. Worse still, armed insurgent groups have thrown their weight behind the protesters, triggering fears of a wider civil conflict. The Generals are unlikely to give up power on their own. They should be nudged to end the violence and make concessions. Initially, India and China, both vying for influence in Myanmar, were ambivalent in condemning the junta's violence because they did not want to antagonise the Generals. But an unstable Myanmar is not in the interest of any country. India, China and other countries in ASEAN should heap pressure on the junta and work towards restoring democracy in Myanmar, which is the only way forward.

GUPTA