



Civil War in Myanmar

For Prelims: Civil War in Myanmar, Foreigners Act of 1946, Refugees.

For Mains: Civil War in Myanmar, Security challenges and their management in border areas.

[Source: TH](#)

Why in News?

Recently, due to the ongoing Civil War in Myanmar, 1,500 nationals of Myanmar took refuge in Mizoram's Champhai district following an intense gunfight between the **Myanmar Army, and pro-democracy militias** in the country's western Chin State abutting Mizoram.



What is a Civil War?

- A civil war is a **prolonged conflict between organized groups** within the same country or nation.

- It involves armed confrontations between **factions or groups with distinct social, political, or ideological differences**, all vying for control or dominance over the nation's governance, territory, or resources.

What is Background of the Current Civil War in Myanmar?

- **2020 Elections and Military Coup:**
 - In the November 2020 elections, Aung San Suu Kyi's party National League for Democracy (NLD) won the election. However, the **military junta, known as the Tatmadaw**, claimed electoral fraud without substantial evidence and rejected the election results.
 - In February, 2021, the military **staged a coup, detaining Aung San Suu Kyi** and other elected leaders, declaring a **state of emergency, and seizing control of the government.**
- **Protests and Resistance:**
 - The coup triggered widespread protests across Myanmar, with citizens demanding the **restoration of democracy and the release of detained leaders.**
 - Civil servants, activists, and various groups joined the civil disobedience movement, **staging strikes and demonstrations.**
- **Formation of Resistance Forces:**
 - As the Tatmadaw intensified its crackdown on dissent, opposition groups, including **Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs)** and armed civilians, formed the **People's Defence Forces (PDFs)** to resist the military junta.
 - These groups aligned themselves with the **National Unity Government (NUG)**, established by ousted lawmakers, aiming to challenge the military's authority.
- **Current Scenario:**
 - Fighting has also broken out elsewhere in the country, led by various local resistance forces — in the Rakhine State, Kayin State, Sagaing region bordering Manipur, and Chin State bordering Mizoram.

What does Ongoing Civil War in Myanmar Mean for India?

- **Balanced Stance:**
 - India has so far walked a fine line between expressing concern at the “interruption” of democracy in Myanmar, and **engaging with the junta to protect its “vital interests”.**
- **Immediate Concern for India:**
 - The influx of Myanmarese nationals in the border states of the Northeast.
 - This too at a time when the situation in Manipur remains volatile.
- **Capturing of Two Important Towns by Rebels:**
 - The anti-junta forces have captured two important towns close to the only two border crossing points between Myanmar and India. These are:
 - Rikhawdar, close to Zokhawthar in Mizoram, and
 - Khampat in Sagaing region, around 60 km from Moreh in Manipur.
 - The latter (Khampat in Sagaing region) is also part of the proposed India-Myanmar-Thailand trilateral highway project.

What is the Current Legislative Framework in India to Handle Refugees?

- India treats all foreigners whether **illegal immigrants, refugees/asylum seekers** or those overstaying visa permits under
 - **Foreigners Act of 1946:** Under Section 3, the central government is empowered to detect, detain and deport illegal foreign nationals.
 - **Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920:** Under Section 5, authorities can remove an illegal foreigner by force under Article 258(1) of the Constitution of India.
 - **Registration of Foreigners Act of 1939:** Under this, there is a mandatory requirement under which all foreign nationals (excluding overseas citizens of India) visiting India **on a long-term visa (more than 180 days)** are required to register themselves with a

Registration Officer within 14 days of arriving in India.

- **Citizenship Act, 1955:** It provided provisions for renunciation, termination, and deprivation of citizenship.

- Further, **Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019 (CAA)** seeks to provide citizenship to Hindu, Christian, Jain, Parsi, Sikh, and Buddhist immigrants persecuted in Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Afghanistan.

- **India issued a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)** to be followed by all concerned agencies while dealing with foreign nationals who claim to be refugees.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Prelims

Q. Consider the following pairs: (2016)

	Community sometimes mentioned in the news	In the affairs of
1.	Kurd	Bangladesh
2.	Madhesi	Nepal
3.	Rohingya	Myanmar

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

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

Ans- (c)

Mains

Q. How does illegal transborder migration pose a threat to India's security? Discuss the strategies to curb this, bringing out the factors which give impetus to such migration. **(2014)**