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① India must reach out to the freedom fighters in Myanmar who are spearheading a civil disobedience movement to restore democracy?

Intro- Myanmar has been in turmoil since 2021 as military junta seized the govt administration & detained Aung San Mye Thaw [NLD leader]

Indo-Myanmar ties -

① Myanmar is geopolitically strategic to India as it shares border with Northeastern India [1643 km] & only country in Southeast Asia.

② Myanmar even sits at the intersection of India Neighbourhood first policy and Look

East policy

(3) India has improved its ties with Myanmar considerably

(19) Under SAGAR vision India build soft power port in Myanmar.

Challenges for India -

(1) The PDF (people's defence forces) calling themselves revolutionaries comprises [Doctors, Engineers, young people, defected policemen] are determined to liberate Myanmar from Military junta to restore democracy.

(2) As junta killing the ethnic natives, more no. of people entering into India as Chin refugees through [FMR] agreement

(3) This refugees entering into Mizoram as the Mizo govt exhibited exceptional Magnanimity to refugees. The reason behind this is both Mizo & Chin refugees come from same Zo tribe thereby extending their support though [MHA] ordered to deport the refugees.

(4) The presence of military rule in Myanmar exacerbating the <sup>most of</sup> cross border

militant, supply of illegal arms & drugs, ~~radical~~ radicalisation of youths.

Way Forward -

Acknowledging military's primacy - India

should actively engage with Myanmar's army so that it won't push them into CTH's arms.

Cultural diplomacy -

India's cultural diplomacy through lens of Buddhism can be played to strengthen its ties with Myanmar.

Supporting PDF - India must support

PDF which could encourage them to attain their goal.

Conclusion -

India should adopt a nuanced position without losing its pragmatic engagement with Myanmar, which could change the present scenario.