

IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS

1. **Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)** (noun) – it is a multilateral treaty established (in 1996) to ban all nuclear tests in all places for all time. The CTBT is a “zero-yield” treaty, but it has failed to enter into force even after a quarter century.
2. **zero yield** (noun) – it refers to a nuclear test where there is no explosive chain reaction of the sort caused by an atomic bomb nuclear warhead.
3. **comprehensive test ban** (noun) – it is defined as “zero yield test ban that would prohibit supercritical hydro-nuclear tests but not subcritical hydrodynamic nuclear tests.
4. **nuclear arms race** (noun) – an arms race competition for supremacy in nuclear warfare between the United States, the Soviet Union, and their respective allies during the Cold War.
5. **nuclear weapon explosive yield** (noun) – a nuclear weapon (bomb) is measured in terms of its explosive yield, which is referenced in terms of “tons,” “kilotons,” and “megatons” of the TNT explosive power they put off. For example the explosive yield from a conventional bomb would be about 500 pounds (250 kilograms). The largest conventional weapon in the U.S. arsenal “Mother of all Bombs,” or MOAB is around 11 tons, about 44 times the size of a conventional bomb.
6. **low-yield weapons (bombs) can range** (noun) – low yield nuclear from .1 kilotons to 10, 20, or 50 kilotons. A low-yield nuclear weapon is equivalent to 100 MOABs. That is equivalent to the sizes of bombs dropped by the U.S. over Nagasaki (Fat Man Bomb of about 20 kiloton) and Hiroshima (Little Boy bomb of about 15 kilotons) at the end of World War II.
7. **TNT (trinitrotoluene)** (noun) – TNT is one of the most popular explosive compounds. The energy released in an explosion of 1 gm of TNT is approximately 4000 Joules. It is common to measure the power of an explosion by asking how much TNT would be needed to produce an explosion as powerful.
8. **nuclear deterrence** (noun) – the strategic concept of deterrence aims to prevent war. It is the justification virtually every nuclear state uses for maintaining nuclear arsenals (weapons) to deter (& intimidate/threaten) an enemy from attacking it.
9. **entry-into-force provisions** (noun) – provisions of the treaty determine the date on which the treaty enters into force, often at a specified time following its ratification or accession by a fixed number of states.
10. **hydro-nuclear testing** (noun) – In hydro-nuclear testing (nuclear weapon tests), fissile isotopes, such as uranium-235, uranium-3 and plutonium-239, are subjected to explode to deliver “full” near yield. It is called “supercritical” because there will be critical mass formed, i.e., self-sustaining nuclear fission chain reaction will occur.
11. **ratification** (noun) – an act by which a State (Country) signifies an agreement to be legally bound by the terms of a particular treaty. To ratify (approve) a treaty, the State first signs it and then fulfils its own national legislative requirements. Once the appropriate national organ of the country (e.g. Parliament) follows domestic constitutional procedures and makes a formal decision to be a party to the treaty.
12. **hydrodynamic testing** (noun) – In hydrodynamic testing, non-fissile isotopes, such as uranium-238 and plutonium-242, are subjected to enough pressure. It is called “subcritical” because there will be no critical mass formed, i.e., a self-sustaining nuclear fission chain reaction will occur.

- (Hydrodynamics refers to the physics involved when solids, under extreme conditions, begin to mix and flow like liquids).
13. **radionuclide** (adjective) – relating to a radioactive nuclide, radioisotope or radioactive isotope; is an atom that has excess nuclear energy, making it unstable (nuclide is a type of atom whose nuclei have specific numbers of protons and neutrons).
 14. **hydroacoustic** (adjective) – relating to the study of sound waves in the water and its applications. Hydroacoustic monitoring involves recording signals that show changes in water pressure generated by sound waves in the water.
 15. **Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF)** (noun) – this treaty required the United States and the Soviet Union to eliminate and permanently agree to give up/renounce all of their nuclear and conventional ground-launched ballistic and cruise missiles with ranges of 500 to 5,500 kilometers.
 16. **The New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START)** (noun) – an agreement for nuclear arms reduction between the United States and Russia, establishing a limit on deployed strategic warheads.
 17. **lockdown** (noun) – an emergency protocol implemented by the authorities that prevents people from leaving from a place; An extended state of confinement/encirclement/isolation of a person by the authority.
 18. **stigma** (noun) – shame, disgrace, dishonour, discredit; Stigma occurs when society labels someone as disgraced or less desirable. Stigma involves three elements; a lack of knowledge (ignorance), negative attitudes (prejudice) and people behaving in ways that disadvantage the stigmatised person (discrimination).
 19. **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.
 20. **metropolitan city** (noun) – a region consisting of a densely populated urban core and its less-populated surrounding territories, sharing industry, infrastructure, and housing.
 21. **humanitarian cost** (noun) – It is difficult to define what criteria should be used to determine the actual (humanitarian) cost of a disaster. Theoretically, one could measure: the total reported insured losses; the total financial value of all assets lost which can be directly attributed to the disaster; the total value of all assets lost plus lost income and productivity during the disaster; or, all the above plus future losses yet to be realized as a result of income not earned by those who are dead or injured. (e.g. climate change will have a significant impact on humanitarian costs and the increase could range from a % increase).
 22. **economic cost** (noun) – the combination of losses of any goods that have a value attached to them by any one individual. The measure of the alternative opportunities foregone in the choice of one good or activity over others.
 23. **unorganised sector** (noun) – unorganized sector means an enterprise owned by individuals or self-employed workers and engaged in the production or sale of goods or providing service of any kind whatsoever, and where the enterprise employs workers, the number of such workers is less than ten.
 24. **incidence** (noun) – refers to the number of new cases that develop in a given period of time whereas “prevalence” refers to the number of cases of a disease that are present in a particular population at a given time.

25. **panic buying** (noun) – the buying of essential commodities (products such as rice, wheat, vegetables, hand sanitiser, etc..) in large quantities due to rumours causing forthcoming shortages.
26. **social/physical distancing** (noun) – a term means actively avoiding crowded public places, is a key element in decreasing the rapid spread of COVID-19. This is an effort intended to limit exposure by reducing face-to-face contact and preventing spread among people in community settings.
27. **quarantine** (noun) – a process of separating out people, animals and things (such as plants) from others for a period of time in order to control/restrict the spread of a contagious disease; Quarantine is imposed to separate and restrict the movement of persons, who may have been exposed to infectious disease, but not yet known to be ill.
28. **personal protective equipment (PPE)** (noun) – safety gear; protective clothing, helmet masks, goggles, gloves or other garments or equipment designed to protect the wearer's body from injury/disease.
29. **state capacity** (noun) – the ability of a state to collect taxes, enforce law and order, and provide public goods. ('BIMARU' is an acronym for Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. It was used to refer to the poor economic conditions' of those states).
30. **new (world) order** (noun) – the arrangement of power and authority that provides the system for the conduct of diplomacy and world politics in relation to the entire world.
31. **geopolitical** (adjective) – relating to the study of the geographical factors (a country's position on the earth, size, climate, and natural resources & etc..) in world politics and inter-state relations.
32. **geo-economic** (adjective) – relating to the use of economic interests to promote and defend national interests, and to produce beneficial geopolitical results; relating to the use of economics as an instrument/tool of state power.
33. **foreign direct investment (FDI)** (noun) – Investment from one country into another (normally by companies rather than governments) that involves establishing operations or acquiring tangible assets, including stakes in other businesses.
34. **containment** (noun) – an act of keeping something (harmful) under control (it means quickly identifying cases of coronavirus through testing, placing infected individuals in isolation, tracking who infected persons might have been in contact with and potentially quarantining those who came into contact with infection so that the disease doesn't continue to spread).
35. **dormitory** (noun) – a building with e bed rooms for a number of workers in a suburb residential areas (proximity to transit, amenities, and their jobs in the city); hostel block (in case of students), boarding house.
36. **mutual fund** (noun) – a type of investment in which investors pool their money together t buy a portfolio (range) of stocks, bonds or other securities in order to take advantage of diversification and professional portfolio (investments, shares/securities/bonds) management at a reasonable cost.
37. **liquidity** (noun) – the availability of liquid assets; liquidity means liquid assets; cash; (liquid asset is an asset which can be easily sold/converted into cash without losing its value); a measure of activity (i.e. the ability to buy or sell easily) in a market.
38. **financial stability** (noun) – financial stability is a condition where the financial system is able to withstand internal or external economic shocks and also able to smoothly conduct its core tasks.

39. **debt funds** (noun) – debt funds are mutual funds that invest in “fixed income” securities like government securities, debentures, corporate bonds and other money-market instruments. The debt mutual funds lower the risk factor considerably for investors. This is a relatively stable investment avenue that could help to generate wealth.
40. **capital market** (noun) – a market where buyers and sellers engage in trade of financial securities like bonds, stocks, etc. The buying/selling is undertaken by participants such as individuals and institutions.
41. **redemption** (noun) – it is a process of withdrawing units from a mutual fund scheme and getting the money back from your investment at the net asset value prevailing on that day; exchange swapping, return/recovery.
42. **assets under management (AUM)** (noun) – it is the “total market value” of all the financial assets/ capital which a financial institution such as a mutual fund, venture capital firm, or broker manages on behalf of its clients and themselves.
43. **credit Quality security/bond** (noun) – a measure of how likely a bond/security issuer is to repay its loan to the investors. Credit quality rating (CQR) serves as a tool for investors assess the weighted average portfolio credit quality of a debt mutual fund scheme (before investing money in it).
44. **non-banking financial company (NBFC)** (noun) – a company incorporated under the Company Act 2013 or 1956 which is engaged in the business of loans and advances, acquisition of stocks, equities, debt etc issued by the government or any local authority. The main objective of this type of a company is to accept deposits under any scheme or manner.
45. **invisible hand** (noun) – a metaphor describing the unintended greater social benefits and public good brought about by individuals acting in their own self interests. The eighteenth-century economist Adam Smith develop the concept of the “Invisible Hand”.
46. **basic material needs** (noun) – availability of a blanket, shoes and two set f clothes. These three items should be modified at country level if other basic needs are considered more important (sleeping ma sheets, school books, soap, etc.). Food, education and medical care are also considered essential survival needs.
47. **community transmission** (noun) – community spread/transmission means spread of an illness/disease for which the source of infection is unknown. An infected person has no travel history to an affected area and no known contact with a person previously diagnosed with a particular disease. It is possible the patient is exposed to a returning traveler who is infected.
48. **local transmission (cluster)** (noun) – local spread/transmission means spread of an illness/disease for which the source of infection is known. An infected person has travel history to an affected area. We could able to identify and trace individual cases, and ring-fence a cluster (of them) to prevent the spread of infection.
49. **RT-PCR testing** (noun) – Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) Testing; it is one of the most accurate laboratory methods for detecting, tracking, and studying the coronavirus. It is a nuclear-derived method for detecting the presence of specific genetic material from any pathogen, including a virus. (pathogen is a bacteria/virus that causes disease).
50. **Northern Alliance** (noun) – it is also known as e United Islamic Front for Salvation of Afghanistan (UIFSA), was a coalition of militias seeking to topple the rule of the Taliban throughout Afghanistan.

51. **South Block of the Prime** (noun) – South Block is a metonym of Prime Minister’s Office. (The Secretariat Building (consists North & South Block) or Central Secretariat is where the Cabinet Secretariat is housed, which administers the Government of India. The South Blockhouses the Prime Minister’s Office, Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of External Affairs). (Metonym is used as an alternative for something else with which it is closely related/associated).
52. **watershed (moment)** (noun) – it used to mean ‘important changes’ or the ‘turning point’ in a situation or event. The event that marks a historic change; historic, milestone, landmark (moment).
53. **sanctions order given to force a country** (noun) – action taken, or an to obey international laws by limiting or stopping trade with that country y not allowing economic aid for that country, etc.
54. **strategic interest** (noun) – it is a broad term that usually requires a relationship between two parties/countries that is mutually beneficial to both of them. The benefits can come in the form of increased safety, Better Trade relations, access to financial markets etc.
55. **democratic socialist** (noun) – a person who believes in the idea of that both the economy and society should be run democratically-to meet public needs, not to make profits for a few. (democratic socialism is a call for the democratically-elected (government) to use the public sector to promote greater equality and opportunity).
56. **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.
57. **presumptive nominee** (noun) – In United States presidential elections, the presumptive nominee is a presidential candidate who is assumed to be their party’s nominee, but has not yet been formally.
58. **swing State** (noun) – it refers to any (U.S) state that could reasonably be won by either the Democratic or Republican presidential candidate by a swing in votes. “Red state” refers to states of the United States whose voters predominantly choose Republican Party (red) presidential candidates where as “blue state refers to states of the United States whose voters predominantly elect Democratic Party (blue) presidential candidates.
59. **ivory tower** (noun) – a place where people are happily separated from the rest of the world and so they have no knowledge or experience of the practical proems of everyday life (e.g. a place of learning like college/university).
60. **case fatality rate/ratio** (noun) – in epidemiology, the proportion of people who die from a particular disease compared to all individuals diagnosed with the disease over a certain period of time.
61. **immunisation** (noun) – the process whereby a person is made immune or resistant to an infectious disease, typically by the administration of a vaccine. Vaccines stimulate the body’s own immune system to protect the person against subsequent infection or disease.
62. **convalescent plasma transfusion** (noun) – it outlines the steps required to collect convalescent whole blood or plasma from COVID-19 disease recovered patients for transfusion to patients with early symptoms, as an empirical (observed) treatment modality (a particular method).
63. **green revolution** (noun) – it was the result of a sequence of scientific breakthroughs and development activities (in 1930s-1960s) that successfully increased food production.

64. **the last mile** (noun) – (in electricity/telecommunications) it describes the final part/leg of the electricity distribution/telecommunications network chain that physically reaches the end-user's premises (customer's house).
65. **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)** (noun) – a composite (combined/complex) indicator that measures the changes in the volume of production of a basket of industrial products during a given period with respect to the volume of production in a chosen base period.
66. **“ship to mouth” situation** (noun) – a situation in which (food) products come to the consumer (people) by importing them from the foreign countries, instead of producing them sufficiently in one country.
67. **“right to food” commitment** (noun) – it implies the right to food at appropriate nutritional levels and the quantum of relief to those in distress must meet those levels in order to ensure that this right is actually secured and does not remain a theoretical concept.
68. **value addition** (noun) – it refers to increasing the economic value of a commodity through particular production processes, (e.g., organic produce). It can also be described as the process that transforms the raw agricultural product into something new through packaging, processing and other presses that change a product from its original raw form (e.g., Peanut Brittle, Burfi/Barfi, Chikki).
69. **hidden hunger** (non) – a lack of vitamins and minerals. Hidden hunger occurs when the quality of food people eat does not meet their nutrient requirements, so the food is deficient in micronutrients such as the vitamins and minerals that they need for their growth and development.
70. **economic empowerment** (noun) – the capacity of women and men to participate in, contribute to and benefit from growth processes in ways that recognise the value of their contributions, respect their dignity and make it possible to negotiate a fairer distribution of the benefits of growth. Economic empowerment increases women's access to economic resources and opportunities including jobs, financial services, property and other productive assets, skills development and market information.

IDIOMS & PHRASES

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. by/on foot (phrase) – by walking (instead of travelling by a bus/train or using other transport). 2. hold a mirror (phrase) – metaphorically, it usually means reveal to someone what they look like to the rest of the world; (to reveal true reflection only). 3. prepare the ground (phrase) – to pave the way, plan/organize, make it easier for future (development). 4. the new normal (phrase) – an earlier unusual situation that comes a standard now. 5. on the surface (phrase) – seemingly, apparently, evidently, ostensibly; considering outward appearances (of something). | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. speak volumes (phrase) – to show/explain something (a situation) very clearly. 7. a new lease of life (phrase) – an improved and energetic life after making something better than before. 8. in someone's wake (phrase) – use ay what is left behind by someone/something. 9. room for manoeuvre (phrase) – an opportunity to change something (tactfully/carefully). 10. out on a limb (phrase) – vulnerable; in a difficult, isolated position (with no support from others). 11. cheek by jowl (phrase) – very close together, with each other closely, jointly. |
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12. **conspicuous by one's absence** (phrase) – (of someone/something) not in a place or situation where you think it/they should be.
13. **cross one's mind** (phrase) – (of a thought) happen to one, particularly only in a short time.
14. **put all its eggs in one basket** (phrase) – don't take the risk of depending on the success of one thing.
15. **leave someone with no option/choice** (phrase) – to make someone to do something (a necessary thing) quickly.
16. **firmness of purpose** (phrase) – will power, resolute determination, strength of character.
17. **case in point** (phrase) – example, instance, sample.
18. **in that regard** (phrase) – (in that) consideration, particularity, detail/fact.
19. **move up a gear** (phrase) – to start to do something (energetic, vigorous, or effective) than previously.
20. **take shape** (phrase) – become clear/ definite, become tangible develop, emerge, appear.
21. **take someone for granted** (phrase) – fail to appreciate someone without knowing his/her true value.
22. **in light of** (phrase) – in view of, considering, taking into account, keeping in mind.
23. **at/in the forefront** (phrase) – be in a leading position in an important activity that is trying to achieve something
24. **by all accounts** (phrase) – apparently, seemingly, ostensibly.
25. **on the edge of** (phrase) – on the brink of, on the verge of a situation; at a crucial or critical point.
26. **far fewer** (phrase) – much less (with a large difference).
27. **on board** (phrase) – as a member (on to a team).
28. **of course** (phrase) – certainly, definitely, absolutely.
29. **put in place** (phrase) – initiate, usher in, bring in.
30. **buy time** (phrase) – delay linger, hold back.
31. **in the face of** (phrase) – when confronted with.
32. **far too** (phrase) – much too.
33. **in sight** (phrase) – noticeable, visible, in view; near at hand.
34. **better off** (phrase) – in an advantageous position.
35. **cease to exist** (phrase) – disappear die, be no more.
36. **under fire** (phrase) – being attacked/criticized strongly.
37. **pay a price** (phrase) – experience the bad/unpleasant result of something.
38. **in the wake of** (phrase) – as a result of, in the aftermath of, as a consequence of.
39. **at one's best** (phrase) – on top form, in great shape; peak, prime.
40. **put paid to** (phrase) – destroy, defeat; thwart, prevent/stop.
41. **cede ground** (phrase) – give up, surrender, relinquish (a territory) to another.
42. **let alone** (phrase) – to say nothing of; not to mention.
43. **make clear** (phrase) – explain, clarify, elucidate.
44. **back home** (phrase) – in one's country/ hometown.
45. **in short** (phrase) – briefly, in a nutshell; in conclusion/summary.
46. **set in motion** (phrase) – start/begin, activate, institute, cause, bring about.
47. **the very idea** (phrase) – used to emphasize on the subject.
48. **a far cry from** (phrase) – a very different one
49. **the best of us** (phrase) – the good quality of us; the good sides of us.
50. **to begin with** (phrase) – at first, at the outset, at the beginning.
51. **hold sway** (phrase) – hold power, have the greatest influence, have the upper hand.
52. **under way** (phrase) – going on continuing, in progress.
53. **make a leap** (phrase) – take a decision/chance.
54. **take sides** (phrase) – support side with, favour.
55. **over and above** (phrase) – in addition to, as well as, besides.
56. **pave the way for** (phrase) – clear the way for, create a situation to do something, precede make provision for.
57. **of value** (phrase) – useful, important.

58. **in/by contrast to** (phrase) – in opposition to, be very different from.
59. **all but** (phrase) – nearly, almost (all except).
60. **ground** past and past participle of **grind to a halt** (phrase) –(referring to an activity in a situation) becomes inactive slowly and then stop completely.
61. **far from** (phrase) – not at all, nowhere near, a long way from.
62. **Any time soon** (phrase) – in the near future.
63. **as a whole** (phrase) – all together.
64. **so far** (phrase) – until now, up to the present, up to this point.
65. **come to the fore** (phrase) – to become visible.

PHRASAL VERBS

1. **feast on** – eat up, gobble up, consume (a large amount of food with enjoyment).
2. **keep away** – make to stay away, prevent, avoid (from coming).
3. **stand by** – support, stand up for, uphold/defend.
4. **live up to** – satisfy, fulfil, achieve.
5. **sift out** – separate out, filter out, sort out, isolate.
6. **take up** – engage in, participate in start, undertake.
7. **bear on** – to have an effect on something; be concerned with, have to do with, be connected with.
8. **drive down** – reduce, decrease, lower, lessen, bring down (something by forcible & effective measures).
9. **come down on** – punish, penalize, discipline (harshly).
10. **wish away** – try to stop/eliminate something (problem) just by wishing that it did not exist.
11. **reach out** – contact someone to obtain/offer help/assistance/cooperation
12. **measure up** – achieve the required standard, fulfil – achieve expectations, do well.
13. **wake up to** – realize, become aware of, become heedful of.
14. **tamp down** – reduce, flatten, compress, condense.
15. **go on to** – continue, carry on, proceed.
16. **take on** – compete against, oppose, challenge, face.
17. **lash out** – criticize, castigate, condemn/censure.
18. **speak out** – express, articulate, communicate, convey, voice (something straightforwardly & publicly).
19. **single out** – select, pick out, choose.
20. **lie ahead** – be going to happen; to be in the future.
21. **gear up** – prepare, take the necessary steps, get ready.
22. **pass off** – fade away, disappear, vanish, go off.
23. **shut down** – discontinue, cease activity, close.
24. **come up with** – put forward, suggest, recommend, propose.
25. **carry out** – conduct, perform, execute.
26. **embark on** – start, begin, initiate/commence.
27. **go up** – rise or increase.
28. **account for** – explain, rationalize, elucidate, clear up.
29. **lay down** – formulate, stipulate, set down.
30. **step up** – increase, strengthen, scale up.
31. **cast out** – remove, get rid of, discard, expel.
32. **shore up** – support, assist, prop up (something resources) from stop declining).
33. **ramp up** – increase (in amount or number).
34. **call for** – require, publicly ask/necessitate, demand.
35. **wind up** – bring to a close/end, terminate, finish.
36. **ward off** – prevent, oppose, avert, resist.
37. **lie in** – be present, exist.
38. **turn up** – come, arrive, appear, be present, turn out.
39. **go through** – undergo, experience, face, suffer.
40. **build up** – set up, develop, establish.
41. **clear out** – remove, dispel, depart, drive away (forcibly).
42. **Hold on** – stop, pause, wait/remain, stay put.