

## IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS

- ❖ **squadron** (noun) – an (air force) unit consisting a number of military aircrafts (2 or more) and their personnel deployed on a surveillance duty to protect a country's skies; unit, contingent, regiment.
- ❖ **gender sensitisation** (noun) – it refers to the modification of behaviour by raising awareness of gender equality concerns. Gender sensitization theories claim that modification of the behaviour of teachers and parents (etc.) towards children can have a causal effect on gender equality. Gender sensitizing “is about changing behaviour and instilling empathy into the views that we hold about our own and the other gender.
- ❖ **parliamentary democracy** (noun) – a system of government in which citizens elect representatives to a legislative parliament to make the necessary laws and decisions for the country.
- ❖ **Constitutional authority** (noun) – a body of law which defines the role, powers, and structure of different entities within a state (country), namely, the executive, the parliament or legislature, and the judiciary.
- ❖ **gender/sex stereotype** (noun) – unfair beliefs about how males and females should look/act/ behave. For example, women are supposed to be sensitive, emotional and childish, and men are supposed to be tough and powerful. Another example is that girls should wear pink and play with dolls only and boys should wear blue and play with cars only.
- ❖ **doctrine of precedent** (phrase) – the legal decisions made by judges in higher courts are remained as a precedent, so the decisions made by lower or equal courts in future are needed to be followed the earlier decision made in the higher courts. The doctrine of precedent is clearly incorporated in India by Article 141 of the Constitution of India, 1950 Article 141 provides that the decisions of the Supreme Court are binding on all courts within the territory of India.
- ❖ **rhetoric** (noun) – the art of speaking or writing effectively & persuasively or impressively (but, often lacking substance); bombast, loftiness, hyperbole/extravagant language.
- ❖ **immigration** (noun) – the act of leaving one's countries and moving to another country of which they are not natives, nor citizens, to settle or reside there, especially as permanent residents or naturalized citizens, or to take-up employment as a migrant worker or temporarily as a foreign worker.
- ❖ **fall semester** (noun) – most US universities have two admission intakes every year when they accept students into their respective classes and courses. Fall semester starts in late August and ends in late December or early January whereas the Spring semester begins in January and ends in early May.
- ❖ **Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)** (noun) – ICE stands for Immigration and Customs Enforcement, an agency within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. ICE was created in 2003, as a part of the government's reorganization after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. ICE's stated mission is to protect America from the cross-border crime and illegal immigration that threaten national security and public safety.
- ❖ **H-1B visa** (noun) – it permits a foreign professional (with a (min. 4 years) university degree or its equivalent) to work in specialty occupations (or skilled employments) in the United States (issued for a max of 6 years in total).

- ❖ **managed democracy** (noun) – also called “guided democracy”; a formally democratic government that functions as a de facto autocracy. (“de facto” means actual, existing, effective; “autocracy” is a system of government in which supreme political power to direct all the activities of the state is concentrated in the hands of one person; absolute power, tyranny).
- ❖ **snap election/ballot** (noun) – an unexpected & sudden (early) election in a parliamentary system that is called before the due date by the ruling party for some political purpose.
- ❖ **esprit de corps** (noun) – French literally ‘spirit of the body’; morale”; the capacity of a group’s members to maintain belief in an institution or goal, particularly in the face of opposition or hardship.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **conspiracy theory** (noun) – an explanation of an event or situation that invokes a conspiracy by evil, criminal and powerful actors, often political in motivation, when other explanations are more probable (likely to happen/anticipated).
- ❖ **community spread/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 traveller who is infected.
- ❖ **local spread/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.
- ❖ **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).
- ❖ **incidence** (noun) – it 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.
- ❖ **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).
- ❖ **nasal swab** (noun) – a method for collecting a clinical test sample of nasal secretions from the back of the nose and throat. (“swab” is piece of soft, absorbent material attached to a stick to take samples of body fluids, clean wounds or apply medicines).
- ❖ **pulse oximeter** (noun) – pulse oximeters are medical devices that monitor the level of oxygen in a patient’s blood and alert the health - care worker if oxygen levels drop below safe levels, allowing rapid intervention.

- ❖ **personal protective equipment (PPE)** (noun) – safety gear; protective clothing, helmets, masks, goggles, gloves or other garments or equipment designed to protect the wearer’s body from injury/disease.
- ❖ **antibody** (noun) – it is also called ‘immunoglobulin’; a protective protein produced mainly by plasma (blood) cells in the immune system in response to the presence of antigens (disease causing organisms (bacteria & viruses) and other harmful/toxic foreign substances like insect venom).
- ❖ **Ebola** (noun) – Ebola virus disease (EVD), formerly known as Ebola haemorrhagic fever, is a rare but severe, often fatal illness in humans. The virus is transmitted to people from wild animals and spreads in the human population through human-to-human transmission.
- ❖ **swine flu** (noun) – H1N1 flu; Swine influenza/flu is a highly contagious disease caused by a strain (type) of the influenza type A virus called H1N1. Swine flu used to only affect pigs and rarely, be passed to humans.
- ❖ **flatten the curve** (phrase) – In epidemiology, the idea of slowing a virus’ spread so that fewer people need to seek treatment at any given time is known as “flattening the curve”.
- ❖ **herd immunity** (noun) – it refers to a means (ways) of protecting a whole community from disease by immunizing a critical mass of its populace (population). It is also defined as a form of indirect protection from infectious disease that occurs when a large percentage of a population are immune to an infection, thereby providing a measure of protection for individuals who are not immune.
- ❖ **recombinant (technology)** (noun) – it is the laboratory method of genetic recombination (such as molecular cloning) that is used to recombine and produce organisms or genetic materials artificially.
- ❖ **severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS)** (noun) – SARS coronavirus (SARS-CoV) is thought to be an animal virus from an as-yet-uncertain animal reservoir, perhaps bats, that spread to other animals (civet cats). It is a viral (human-to-human transmission) that can cause severe respiratory illness or death.
- ❖ **adenovirus** (noun) – common cold virus; a group of common viruses that can cause infections of the lung, stomach, intestine, and eyes. symptoms resemble those of the common cold.
- ❖ **messenger RNA** (noun) – a single-stranded RNA molecule that corresponds to the genetic sequence of a gene and it serves as the intermediary between DNA and the synthesis of protein products during translation. (Translation is a process by which the genetic code contained within a messenger RNA (mRNA) molecule is decoded to produce a specific sequence of amino acids in a polypeptide chain).
- ❖ **Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS)** (noun) – Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) is a viral respiratory disease caused by a novel coronavirus (MERS-CoV) that was first identified in Saudi Arabia in 2012.
- ❖ **Corps** (noun) – it literally means “army body”; The corps is treated as an operational unit of employment by the Army and can be comprised of 20,000-45,000 soldiers. It is sometimes known as a field corps, which consists of two or more divisions. It is commanded by the Corps Commander, who holds the rank of Lieutenant General. “Corps” was first introduced in France about 1805 by Napoleon as a more flexible tactical grouping of two or more divisions.
- ❖ **Line of Actual Control (LAC)** (noun) – the de-facto (effective) border between India and China. The LAC is a 4,057-km border running through three areas-Western (Ladakh, Ladakh (Kashmir)), middle (Uttarakhand, Himachal) and eastern (Sikkim, Arunachal).

- ❖ **confidence building measures/mechanisms** (noun) – confidence-building measures (CBMs) are planned procedures to prevent hostilities, to avert escalation, to reduce military tension, and to build mutual trust between countries.
- ❖ **Qing Dynasty** (noun) – The Qing dynasty, officially the Great Qing, was the last imperial dynasty of China. It was established in 1636, and ruled China proper from 1644 to 1912. It was preceded by the Ming dynasty and succeeded by the Republic of China.
- ❖ **Quadrilateral** (noun) – The ‘Quadrilateral’ is described as four democracies (the United States, Japan, Australia and India) with a shared objective to ensure and support a “free, open and prosperous” Indo-Pacific region.
- ❖ **Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)** (noun) – the NAM was set up after the World War 2 with an aim to “create an independent path in world politics that would not result in member States becoming pawns in the struggles between the major power blocs (Western/Capitalist bloc aligned with the USA or Eastern/Soviet bloc aligned with the former Soviet Union).
- ❖ **untied aid** (noun) – assistance given to developing countries which can be used to purchase goods and services in virtually all countries. It is contrasted with tied aid which stipulates that goods and services bought with it can only be purchased from the donor country or from a limited selection of countries.
- ❖ **forward policy** (noun) – a set of foreign policy doctrines applicable to territorial ambitions and disputes in which emphasis is placed on securing control of targeted territories by invasion and annexation or by the political creation of compliant buffer states.
- ❖ **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** (noun) – Founded on 22 November 1965, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) works to eradicate poverty while protecting the planet. It helps countries develop strong policies, skills, partnerships and institutions so they can sustain their progress.
- ❖ **démarche** (noun) – from French, literally means step, walk, gait (a way of walking); a course of action, initiative, move (In diplomatic relations); it is a more formal way of communication of one country’s foreign affairs official to an appropriate official in another country to inform views or gather details on a given subject (or) to object/protest actions by a foreign government.
- ❖ **the Holocaust** (noun) – It was the World War II genocide of the European Jews. The ideological and systematic state-sponsored prosecution and mass murder of (6) millions of European Jews by the German Nazi regime between 1933 and 1945.
- ❖ **majoritarian** (adjective) – relating to a philosophy that states that a majority (sometimes categorized by religion, language, social class, or some other identifying factor) of the population is entitled to a certain degree of primacy (priority) in society, and has the right to make decisions that affect the society.
- ❖ **the Cold War** (noun) – The Cold War was a state of political and military tension after World War II between powers in the Western (Capitalist) Bloc and powers in the Eastern (Soviet) Bloc.
- ❖ **middle power** (noun) – middle power is defined as a country that is neither great nor small in terms of international power, capacity, and influence, and demonstrate a propensity (tendency) to promote cohesion and stability in the world system.

- ❖ **espionage** (noun) – the act of spying; obtaining secret or confidential (political or military) information of a country and/or disclosing it without the permission of that country; undercover work, infiltration, counter-intelligence.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **National Security law/Bill (for Hong Kong)** (noun) – a draft by the Chinese Legislature under which it will write a new national security law for Hong Kong that would prohibit “acts of political secession (separation from a federation), subversion (overthrow/undermining government), sedition (illegal rebellion against government) that seriously threaten national security and foreign intervention”.
- ❖ **superpower** (noun) – a nation which is very powerful and possesses military, political or economic might (power) with dominant status on the globe. (like the Soviet Union (erstwhile) or United States of America).
- ❖ **global/world/international 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.
- ❖ **electoral bond** (noun) – an electoral bond is designed to be a bearer instrument like a Promissory Note — in effect, it will be similar to a bank note that is payable to the bearer on demand and free of interest. It can be purchased by any citizen of India or a body incorporated in India it allows limitless, secret donations to political parties, including (and especially) by corporations.
- ❖ **Anti-defection law** (noun) – The 10th Schedule to the Constitution, popularly referred to as the ‘Anti-Defection Law,’ was inserted by the 52nd Amendment in 1985. The grounds of disqualification are specified in Paragraph 2 of the 10th Schedule. A member would incur a disqualification under paragraph 2 (1) (a) when he “voluntarily gives up his membership of a party” and under 2 (1) (b) when he/she votes (or abstains from voting) contrary to the directive issued by the party.

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## IDIOMS & PHRASES

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>read someone the Riot Act</b> – reprimand, rebuke, criticize someone severely.</li> <li>❖ <b>winds of change</b> – influential events/actions that result in significant political/social changes.</li> <li>❖ <b>take something at face value</b> – to accept or believe something as someone says without thinking whether it is true or not.</li> <li>❖ <b>keep one’s end of the bargain</b> – to do what someone has promised/agreed to do in an agreement.</li> <li>❖ <b>part company</b> – disagree with, fail to agree with be at odds with, be at variance with; cease to be together.</li> <li>❖ <b>jump ship</b> – to leave an organization that you are working for, especially in order to join another.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>on (a) collision course</b> – if two persons/things are on a collision course (or path), they will end up colliding (coming into conflict with) each other.</li> <li>❖ <b>come to terms with</b> – to accept oneself to something painful/sad/difficult (situation); reconcile oneself to, come to accept.</li> <li>❖ <b>blot one’s copybook</b> – smear, tarnish, blacken, damage (one’s good name or reputation).</li> <li>❖ <b>to name (but) a few</b> – to give only a few examples (when there are a lot of things to).</li> <li>❖ <b>as far back as</b> – It means that an object or event goes as far back in distance or time as some other object or event, which is used as a reference point.</li> </ul> |
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- ❖ **for reasons best known to** – used for saying that others find something hard to understand why someone does it.
- ❖ **is anything to go by** – it means ‘in our experience’ or ‘in the experience of the person writing’ or ‘in the experience of the person speaking’
- ❖ **more loyal than the king** – a person with integrity/honesty/law-abiding nature will be better than the foolish king with crown.
- ❖ **be well on your’s way to** – have made so much progress that you are almost certain to achieve your objective.
- ❖ **back to the drawing board** – used to indicate a new idea/plan has to be formed as the old one is not working well.
- ❖ **frayed at the edges** – become less effective, become less successful, become weaker.
- ❖ **with no strings attached** – without any special conditions or restrictions or provisions.
- ❖ **put one’s house in order** – to find a solution for one’s own problems before going and trying to solve others’ problems.
- ❖ **pull in different directions** – to have different purposes that cannot be achieved together.
- ❖ **force the pace** – to make things occur very quickly (than normally).
- ❖ **rock the boat** – to say/do something to irritate or annoy people.
- ❖ **far from** – not, not at all, nowhere near.
- ❖ **in the face of** – when confronted/faced with; despite, notwithstanding, regardless of.
- ❖ **in the aftermath of** – as a consequence of, as a result of.
- ❖ **all the more** – even more, notably.
- ❖ **behind closed doors** – covertly, in secret, in private.
- ❖ **in a vacuum** – existing separately (from other people/events and not influenced by them).
- ❖ **sooner rather than later** – soon, immediately, without delay.
- ❖ **for one’s own sake** – for the benefit/ advantage oneself.
- ❖ **very many** – a large number of.
- ❖ **so far** – until now, up to the present, up to this point.
- ❖ **to begin with** – at first, at the outset, at the beginning.
- ❖ **put in place** – initiate, usher in, bring in.
- ❖ **head for the door** – move toward something; leave.
- ❖ **see to it that** – to make sure that.
- ❖ **come to the fore** – to become visible.
- ❖ **take a view** – to have an opinion/idea about something.
- ❖ **as much as** – almost, nearly the same as.
- ❖ **play a part/role** – contribute to, be instrumental in, be a factor in.
- ❖ **far more** – a lot more, much more.
- ❖ **every nook and corner** – every part of something.
- ❖ **on the loose** – unconfined, unrestrained, unrestricted.
- ❖ **all the time** – constantly, continuously, day and night, at all times.
- ❖ **gather pace** – to happen quickly.
- ❖ **war of nerves** – a situation in which two opposing parties are trying to weaken each other psychologically.
- ❖ **from scratch** – from the very beginning.
- ❖ **under way** – going on, continuing, in progress.
- ❖ **cause for cheer** – reason to be cheerful (happy and optimistic).
- ❖ **in order** – appropriate, suitable, right.
- ❖ **make sense of** – understand, comprehend, fathom out.
- ❖ **lay emphasis on** – to emphasize the importance of something.
- ❖ **with regard to** – in respect of, concerning, with reference to.
- ❖ **at loggerheads** – (two individuals or two groups of people) in a strong or violent disagreement about something. Engaged in a serious dispute and fail to come to an understanding of any kind.
- ❖ **in the eyes of** – in the view of; in the opinion of.
- ❖ **bear/keep in mind** – take into account, be mindful, remember/consider.

- ❖ **course of action** – measure, scheme, procedure.
- ❖ **take pole position** – to be ideally positioned for success.
- ❖ **regardless of** – irrespective of, without consideration of, notwithstanding, in spite of.
- ❖ **In a fit of rage** – to display a very bad & uncontrolled anger.
- ❖ **thus far** – until now, till date.
- ❖ **drive a wedge between** – separate, divide.
- ❖ **make one's way** – proceed in to a certain place.
- ❖ **at large** – as a whole, generally, extensively.
- ❖ **on account of** – because of, owing to/due to, by virtue of.
- ❖ **more so** – to a greater degree; to a greater extent.
- ❖ **by all accounts** – supposedly, apparently, seemingly.
- ❖ **by all means** – certainly, indeed, definitely.
- ❖ **make public** – announce, communicate, make known, disseminate.
- ❖ **at one's disposal** – for use by, in reserve for, in the hands of, in the possession of.
- ❖ **all the while** – for all of a period of time.
- ❖ **have a bearing on** – have a relevance/ relation to something.
- ❖ **at first blush** – at the first glimpse (glance, brief look, sight).
- ❖ **take stock** – review, assess, evaluate.
- ❖ **hold someone responsible/accountable (for)** – blame someone for something.
- ❖ **out of bounds** – off limits, restricted, closed off; not allowed.
  - ❖ **hold in contempt** – to regard someone with disdain or disrespect.
- ❖ **in the teeth of** – in spite of (opposition).
- ❖ **at stake** – at risk, at issue, in question.
- ❖ **in its entirety** – as a whole, completely, entirely/totally.
- ❖ **by far** – undoubtedly; significantly, noticeably.
- ❖ **at home** – at someone's own place (a country, city, town).
- ❖ **in line with** – in alignment with, in accordance with.
- ❖ **in the wake of** – as a result of some event, especially an unpleasant one; aftermath, as a consequence of.
- ❖ **make way** – clear the way, allow through, move aside, make room.
- ❖ **matter of concern** – something which causes worry.
- ❖ **make clear** – explain, clarify, elucidate.
- ❖ **the loaves and fishes** – (material) benefits or rewards as a motive for action. ("the loaves and fishes" phrase is relating to the story describing about a miracle that Jesus fed multitudes (a large crowd or gathering) spiritually (not physically).
- ❖ **get rid of** – remove, discard, eliminate, wipe out.
- ❖ **beyond comprehension** – not possible to imagine.
- ❖ **even so** – anyway, however, in spite of that.
- ❖ **cause for celebration** – a reason to celebrate.
- ❖ **go a long way** – achieve great success.
- ❖ **in one's favour** – to one's benefit/ advantage.
- ❖ **up against** – confronted with, face up, tackle/deal with.
- ❖ **as far as** – to the degree/extent that.
- ❖ **have regard to** – pay careful attention to.
- ❖ **at best** – simply, merely, only.
- ❖ **back and forth** – from place to place, around, about, in all directions.

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## PHRASAL VERBS

- ❖ **take off** – become functional, start out, commence, embark, launch into.
- ❖ **cobble together** – prepare hastily, put together roughly, patch together.

- ❖ **bring down** – knock down, tear down, pull down, demolish/topple.
- ❖ **double down** – to be more firm & resolute on something (decided) even if that might be a risky choice.
- ❖ **cover up** – conceal, hide, suppress, keep secret, gloss over (an illicit activity).
- ❖ **pass off** – deceive, make up, pretend, misrepresent/misreport, falsify.
- ❖ **shore up** – support, assist, prop up (with some fund/finance to stop declining).
- ❖ **hammer out** – produce, bring about, forge, develop (a plan/agreement) after a lot of work.
- ❖ **walk back** – reverse, change; retreat.
- ❖ **ratchet up** – to increase something by a series of small amounts.
- ❖ **back down** – reconsider, withdraw, give in.
- ❖ **get away with** – escape blame for, escape punishment for.
- ❖ **give up** – resign, leave, stand down, step down; renounce, forgo, abandon.
- ❖ **wind up** – conclude, bring to an end, end/finish.
- ❖ **cast something on** – cause (something) to be associated on someone/something.
- ❖ **shake off** – get rid of, deal with something successfully.
- ❖ **drain away** – remove, empty, disappear completely.
- ❖ **give way to** – yield, give in, submit.
- ❖ **prop up** – support, assist, help.
- ❖ **account for** – consider, regard as, view as, judge/deem.
- ❖ **put off** – postpone, delay, defer, hold off.
- ❖ **bring out** – disclose, reveal, expose, become known.
- ❖ **build on** – expand on, enlarge on, develop, enhance.
- ❖ **stay on** – continue to work.
- ❖ **tear down** – knock down, pull down, demolish/topple.
- ❖ **spell out** – explain, make clear, elucidate/clarify.
- ❖ **walk out** – desert, abandon, leave.
- ❖ **sort out** – resolve, find a solution to, rectify.
- ❖ **rely on** – depend on; resort to, have recourse to.
- ❖ **left behind** past participle of **leave behind** – neglect, forget, abandon.
- ❖ **draw from** – obtain, get, acquire.
- ❖ **rule out** – eliminate, reject, dismiss.
- ❖ **scale up** – increase (in size or number).
- ❖ **carry out** – conduct, perform, execute.
- ❖ **end up** – come/appear, find oneself (to a particular course of action in the end).
- ❖ **match up to** – be as good as.
- ❖ **roll back** – reverse the progress of something.
- ❖ **embark on** – start, begin, initiate/commence.
- ❖ **take in** – cheat, fool, or deceive someone.
- ❖ **draw up** – formulate, create, work out.
- ❖ **reach out** – contact someone to obtain/offer help/assistance/cooperation.
- ❖ **put up** – build, construct, erect, set up.
- ❖ **go on to** – continue, proceed (to do something).
- ❖ **step down** – resign, give up one's post, stand down.
- ❖ **take up** – pursue, engage in (an activity or course of action).
- ❖ **call for** – require, publicly ask/necessitate, demand.
- ❖ **go by** – to follow something.
- ❖ **bring up** – raise, introduce.
- ❖ **lay out** – outline, draw up, formulate.
- ❖ **ramp up** – increase (in amount or number).
- ❖ **build up** – establish, set up, form.
- ❖ **give in** – give way, yield, submit, succumb, comply.
- ❖ **lay down** – formulate, stipulate, set down.
- ❖ **play out** – happen, occur, take place.
- ❖ **stay away from** – avoid, evade, dodge.
- ❖ **call out** – to summon into action.
- ❖ **shoot down** – gun down, kill someone.