

IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS

- ❖ **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)** (noun) – a process of evaluating the likely environmental impacts of a proposed project or development, taking into account inter-related socio-economic, cultural and human-health impacts, both beneficial and adverse.
- ❖ **criminal contempt** (noun) – it includes any act or publication which: (i) ‘scandalises’ the court, or (ii) prejudices any judicial proceeding, or (iii) interferes with the administration of justice in any other manner.
- ❖ **constitutional morality** (noun) – the principle of constitutional morality basically means to bow down to the norms of the Constitution and not to act in a manner which would become violative of the rule of law or reflectible of action in an arbitrary manner.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **habeas corpus** (noun) – Latin phrase meaning literally “that you have the body”. The court order to bring the person (in custody/detention) to the court to decide on the imprisonment is legal or illegal.
- ❖ **House of Lords** (noun) – The upper house of the Parliament of the United Kingdom whose members have not been elected. The Lords shares the task of making and shaping laws and checking and challenging the work of the government.
- ❖ **House of Commons** (noun) – The House of Commons is the lower house of the Parliament of the United Kingdom whose members have been elected.
- ❖ **Law Lords** (noun) – the most senior members of the judiciary in the United Kingdom. The Law Lords are the members of the House of Lords sit as the highest court of appeal. The Law Lords carried out the judicial work of the House of Lords until 30 July 2009. Then, the Law Lords were abolished and the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom came into being.
- ❖ **strategic autonomy** (noun) – strategic autonomy is defined as the ability to set priorities and make decisions in matters of foreign policy and security, together with the institutional, political and material wherewithal (resources/funds) to carry these through – in cooperation with third parties, or if need be alone.
- ❖ **checks and balances** (plural noun) – a system in which all departments of a government organization have right to amend/limit the powers of the other departments in order to avoid dominance of one department.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **smart power** (noun) – In international relations, the term smart power refers to the combination of hard power and soft power strategies.
- ❖ **soft power** (noun) – soft power is convincing & effective power deriving from attraction and imitation and be based on intangible (non- physical) resources such as culture, ideology, and institutions.

- ❖ **hard power** (noun) – hard power is coercive power executed through military threats and economic incentives and based on tangible resources such as the army or economic strength.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **world/global 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. An international-relations term describing the distribution of power among world powers.
- ❖ **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).
- ❖ **People’s Liberation Army (PLA)** (noun) – People’s Liberation Army (PLA) is the armed forces of the country of China and Communist Party of China (CPC). It is one of the largest military forces in the world.
- ❖ **rhetoric** (noun) – the art of speaking or writing effectively & persuasively or impressively (but, often lacking substance); bombast, loftiness, hyperbole/extravagant language.
- ❖ **GST compensation** (noun) – Under the GST law (In India), state governments are guaranteed full compensation for any revenue loss for the first five years after the introduction of the goods and services tax (GST) in July 2017. The compensation is a gap between actual revenue collected and projected revenue.
- ❖ **luxury/upmarket goods** (noun) – goods which are deemed/considered as expensive (& non-essential) and are associated with wealthy or affluent people, for example luxury jewelry, watches, designer apparel and footwear and luxury travel goods, etc.
- ❖ **sin/demerit goods** (noun) – goods which are deemed/considered as harmful to society and individuals, for example alcohol and tobacco, etc.
- ❖ **Consolidated Fund of India** (noun) – All revenues received by the Government by way of taxes like Income Tax, Central Excise, Customs and other receipts flowing to the Government in connection with the conduct of Government business i.e. Non-Tax Revenues are credited into the Consolidated Fund constituted under Article 266 (1) of the Constitution of India. Similarly, all loans raised by the Government by issue of Public notifications, treasury bills (internal debt) and loans obtained from foreign governments and international institutions (external debt) are credited into this fund. All expenditure of the government is incurred from this fund and no amount can be withdrawn from the Fund without authorization from the Parliament.
- ❖ **contingent resources** (noun) – resources in known accumulations (reserves) that are estimated to be potentially recoverable, but not yet commercially recoverable due to some contingencies (emergencies).
- ❖ **South & North Block** (noun) – South Block is a **metonym** of the Prime Minister’s Office. North Block is a **metonym** of the Ministry of Finance, India. (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 Block houses the Prime Minister’s Office, Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of External Affairs). The North Block primarily houses the Ministry of Finance and the Home Ministry). (Metonym is used as an alternative for something else with which it is closely related/associated).

- ❖ **stewardship** (noun) – it is a set of principles that forms the responsible planning and management of resources. Stewardship can be applied to the environment and nature, health, technology, economics and etc.
- ❖ **head-on collision** (noun) – (figuratively) two persons come into conflict with each other directly. (Literally) a traffic collision/crash where the front ends of two vehicles hit each other when traveling in opposite directions.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **vote of confidence/trust vote** (noun) – a confidence motion, or a vote of confidence, or a trust vote, is sought by the government in power on the floor of the House in order to prove the majority.
- ❖ **inequality** (noun) – Inequality is simply defined as “the state of not being equal, especially in status, rights and opportunities; imbalance, unevenness, disproportion, disparity.
- ❖ **diarrhoeal** (adjective) – relating to a disease with a symptom of an infection in the intestinal tract, which can be caused by a variety of bacterial, viral and parasitic organisms. Infection is spread through contaminated food or drinking-water, or from person-to-person as a result of poor hygiene.
- ❖ **top-down approach** (phrase) – the top-down approach relies on higher authority figures to determine larger goals that will filter down to the tasks of lower level employees. In comparison, the bottom-up approach features a decision-making process that gives the entire staff a voice in company goals.
- ❖ **inclusion funds** (noun) – funds/resources provided to help support socially and educationally disadvantaged students to access, both in schools and higher education equally, otherwise they might be excluded or marginalized.
- ❖ **reservoir** (noun) – In infectious disease ecology and epidemiology, a natural reservoir, also known as a disease reservoir or a reservoir of infection, is the population of organisms (living things-plants/animals) or the specific environment in which an infectious pathogen (virus/bacteria) naturally lives and reproduces, or upon which the pathogen primarily depends for its survival.
- ❖ **Right to Education (RTE) Act** (noun) – the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act or Right to Education Act (RTE) is an Act, of the Parliament of India enacted on 4 August 2009 under Article 21-A in the Constitution of India, which provides free and compulsory education of all children in the age group of six to fourteen years as a Fundamental Right.
- ❖ **universal health care (UHC)** (noun) – it refers to a health care system that provides health care and financial protection to all citizens of a particular country. It also means that all individuals and communities receive the health services they need without suffering financial hardship.
- ❖ **serology** (noun) – a method of diagnostic examination of blood serum concerning immune system’s response to pathogens (pathogen is something, like bacteria/virus, that causes disease). (serum is an amber (yellowish-orange), watery fluid, rich in proteins, obtained from blood that has coagulated whereas plasma is a clear yellowish fluid part of the blood, contains blood clotting agents-Fibrinogen).

- ❖ **prevalence** (noun) – it refers to the number of cases of a disease that are present in a particular population at a given time whereas “incidence” refers to the number of new cases that develop in a given period of time.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **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).
- ❖ **antigen** (noun) – disease causing organisms (bacteria & viruses) and other harmful/toxic foreign substances like insect venom that induce an immune response in the body.
- ❖ **rapid antigen test (RCT)** (noun) – It is a test on swabbed nasal samples that detects antigens (foreign substances that induce an immune response in the body) that are found on or within the SARS-CoV-2 virus. It is a point-of-care test, performed outside the conventional laboratory setting, and is used to quickly obtain a diagnostic result. In a reliable rapid antigen detection test, the maximum duration for interpreting a positive or negative test is 30 minutes.
- ❖ **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).
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **aid and advice** (phrase) – real authority to take decisions lie in the elected government. This is the meaning of ‘aid and advice’. Titular head (LG) has to act in accordance to aid and advice.
- ❖ **blue-collarisation** (noun) – a process by which aspirational blue-collar workers actively or passively change themselves until they actually become members of the the blue-collar group, accepting “blue-collar identification.”
- ❖ **white-collarisation** (noun) – a process by which aspirational white-collar workers actively or passively change themselves until they actually become members of the the white-collar group, accepting “white-collar identification.”
- ❖ **blue-collar workers** (noun) – it describes people who do manual work. Workers who work in a factory, for example, who wear a uniform.
- ❖ **white-collar workers** (noun) – people who work in offices, doing administration or managerial tasks – clerks for example – were referred to as white-collar workers.

- ❖ **Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)** (noun) – Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) or Gross Enrollment Index (GEI) is a statistical measure used in the education sector, and formerly by the UN in its Education Index, to determine the number of students enrolled in school at several different grade levels (like elementary, middle school and high school), and use it to show the ratio of the number of students who live in that country to those who qualify for the particular grade level.
- ❖ **Gross domestic product (GDP)** (noun) – a measure of economic activity in a country. It is the total value of a country’s annual output of goods and service.
- ❖ **Tax-to-GDP ratio** (noun) – It is a representation of the size of the government’s tax revenue expressed as a percentage of the GDP. Higher the tax to GDP ratio the better financial position the country will be in.
- ❖ **ceasefire** (noun) – a negotiated agreement that will be accompanied by other associated commitments to de-escalate the fighting; a temporary stoppage of a war, truce, armistice.
- ❖ **climate justice** (noun) – climate justice links human rights and development to achieve a human-centred approach, safeguarding the rights of the most vulnerable and sharing the burdens and benefits of climate change and its resolution equitably and fairly. It means trying to ensure that people and the planet are treated fairly in the ways in which we try to reduce further climate changes & adapt to the changes we have brought about in the climate.

IDIOMS & PHRASES

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ is no stranger to – experienced in something; knowledgeable about something; to be well informed about a particular experience or activity. ❖ a blaze of publicity/glory – a lot of attention (from the public). ❖ bend over backwards – try/strive, work hard; do all one can, make every effort. ❖ run/take its course – develop naturally in its own way without interference & come to a completion. ❖ come out on the streets/take to the streets – (of a crowd) to come together in the streets to display communal harmony in either celebration or opposition. ❖ get back on one’s feet – to be successful again after having problems. ❖ dig deep – to make a lot of effort with one’s (physical, mental or financial) resources. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ toe the line – do things as per someone else’s expectations; to adhere to the expectations/rules; meet/conform to a standard. ❖ go to great lengths – to make a major effort or try very hard (to do something). ❖ bide one’s time – to wait calmly for a good opportunity to do something; be patient, stand by, hold back. ❖ rub salt into the wound – to make an unpleasant situation even worse. ❖ not-too-distant past – a time that is not very long ago in the past. (“not-too-distant future” means a time that is not very long from now). ❖ leap of faith – blindly going into or doing something with an belief that it is correct or will work. ❖ neither fish nor fowl – doubtful, unclear, uncertain, indefinite. |
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- ❖ **bring to the fore** – to move something forward to a most important position (to make it more visible).
- ❖ **fall into disuse** – be out of use; not being used.
- ❖ **bring something to its knees** – to destroy something and bring it to a worst condition.
- ❖ **drive a wedge between** – separate, divide.
- ❖ **as clear as daylight** – obvious, evident, crystal clear, apparent.
- ❖ **bone of contention** – concern, point at issue, matter in question.
- ❖ **cost someone dearly** – to make someone suffer heavily or to lose something very important.
- ❖ **hold someone responsible/accountable for** – blame someone for something.
- ❖ **in the public domain** – if something (e.g. information) is in the public domain, people generally know about it since it is not secret.
- ❖ **fall from grace** – to lose status, respect, favour, honour.
- ❖ **the straight and narrow** – the honest or morally good way of living.
- ❖ **path of no return** – one way (in which any attempt to return will be impossible or difficult).
- ❖ **as it stands** – in its present condition.
- ❖ **the public eye** – the spotlight, the limelight, the focus of attention.
- ❖ **cast a shadow on** – spoil, diminish, let down.
- ❖ **far from** – the opposite of.
- ❖ **the way forward** – something (a plan/action) that leads to success in the future.
- ❖ **take/hold captive** – detained, confined, keep in captivity.
- ❖ **take into consideration** – consider, take into account, foresee, anticipate.
- ❖ **on account of** – because of, owing to, due to, by virtue of.
- ❖ **in favour of** – giving support to, approving of.
- ❖ **sit well with** – be agreeable, be suitable, be acceptable to.
- ❖ **come as no surprise** – something which is not surprising someone, but is as expected one.
- ❖ **regardless of** – irrespective of, without consideration of, notwithstanding, in spite of.
- ❖ **on the face of it** – apparently, seemingly, evidently/ostensibly; at first glance.
- ❖ **on the contrary** – conversely, just the opposite.
- ❖ **in reverse gear** – in backward direction.
- ❖ **take cognisance of** – notice, attend to, take into account, give attention to.
- ❖ **suo motu** – Latin term means “on its own motion”. It is used where a government agency acts on its own knowledge.
- ❖ **by extension** – used when you want to mention something because it is connected to something else (the other thing which has just been mentioned).
- ❖ **ups and downs** – unpredictability, instability, uncertainties.
- ❖ **in place** – established, set up.
- ❖ **set on fire** – light, ignite, set alight.
- ❖ **at any rate** – in any case, anyhow, anyway.
- ❖ **set in motion** – move forwards, propel/drive, start/begin.
- ❖ **in one’s favour** – to one’s benefit/advantage.
- ❖ **out of joint** – In a disordered state; in an inauspicious state.
- ❖ **bear/keep in mind** – take into account, be mindful, remember/consider.
- ❖ **take offence at** – be offended, get upset, be annoyed, be miffed.
- ❖ **stay afloat** – stay out of debt; stay out of problem or difficulty.

- ❖ **at one's disposal** – for use by, in reserve for, in the hands of, in the possession of.
- ❖ **rather than** – instead of.
- ❖ **in the face of** – when confronted/faced with; despite, notwithstanding, regardless of.
- ❖ **take into account** – consider, note, bear in mind.
- ❖ **play a part/role** – contribute to, be instrumental in, be a factor in.
- ❖ **take heart** – to feel motivated.
- ❖ **take a stand** – to have a firm position/opinion about an issue.
- ❖ **cut a deal** – make a contract/agreement.
- ❖ **so far** – until now, up to the present, up to this point.
- ❖ **come out in support for** – to say publicly that one supports someone.
- ❖ **to be sure** – certainly, surely; used to highlight something.
- ❖ **bring something to a standstill** – bring to an end, finish, conclude.
- ❖ **the back of beyond** – a remote place/area.
- ❖ **couldn't care less** – to not care in any way; inattentive, incautious, negligent.
- ❖ **in spirit** – in thought, in intention, in idea.
- ❖ **state of affairs** – condition, circumstances, situation.
- ❖ **in the midst of** – in the middle of.
- ❖ **in aggregate** – as a whole, in total.
- ❖ **peaks and ebbs** – increase & decrease.
- ❖ **at best** – simply, merely, only.
- ❖ **more or less** – nearly, almost, approximately.
- ❖ **make clear** – explain, clarify, elucidate.
- ❖ **beyond imagination** – inconceivable, unbelievable, unimaginable.
- ❖ **in accordance with** – in agreement with, in conformity with, in line with.
- ❖ **on merit** – concerning inherent/fundamental quality of something instead of other external factors.
- ❖ **more so** – to a greater degree; to a greater extent.
- ❖ **with/in regard to** – in respect of, concerning, with reference to, in connection with.
- ❖ **in force** – in effect, in action, operational, effective.
- ❖ **up against** – confronted with.
- ❖ **to boot** – as well; in addition.
- ❖ **lay emphasis on** – to emphasize the importance of something.
- ❖ **a tall order** – demanding, exacting, difficult (thing to do).
- ❖ **find one's way** – arrive at, get to a destination (but with some difficulty).
- ❖ **the new normal** – an earlier unusual situation that becomes a standard now.
- ❖ **in sight** – near at hand, close to being realized; visible, noticeable.
- ❖ **on the rise** – increasing.
- ❖ **first of all** – most importantly.
- ❖ **go a long way** – achieve great success.
- ❖ **cessation of hostilities** – it means that the combatants are willing to stop fighting and to restrain their forces.
- ❖ **way out** – solution, way of escape.
- ❖ **in return** – in exchange for, in consideration of.
- ❖ **all the more** – even more.
- ❖ **of one's own** – (of something) belongs to someone, rather than to other people.
- ❖ **on the back of** – as a result of, after, subsequent to; in support of.
- ❖ **what is more** – moreover, in addition, furthermore.
- ❖ **to that end** – for that reason, with that goal.
- ❖ **primum non nocere** – a Latin phrase that means “first, do no harm”. (It is the Latin translation from the original Greek. It is attributed to the ancient Greek physician Hippocrates).

PHRASAL VERBS

- ❖ **haul up** – to force (someone) to appear for trial (in a court of law).
- ❖ **phase out** – eliminate, remove, discontinue, get rid of (something in gradual stages).
- ❖ **get ahead of** – to make progress, proceed before others.
- ❖ **open up** – make available (to create/start developing new opportunities).
- ❖ **step out** – leave a building/place for a short period of time.
- ❖ **go through** – undergo, experience, face/suffer/endure, be subjected to (a difficulty).
- ❖ **take up** – pursue, engage in, become involved in (an activity or course of action).
- ❖ **push through** – succeed in passing a law accepted by the people who oppose it.
- ❖ **go beyond** – to go past something, to be more than something, exceed.
- ❖ **gun down** – shoot down, kill (someone with a gun).
- ❖ **conjure up** – produce, materialize, generate (by magic).
- ❖ **shrug off** – disregard, dismiss, ignore.
- ❖ **put off** – postpone, delay, defer, hold off.
- ❖ **flesh out** – expand, add detail to, augment/refine.
- ❖ **contend with** – cope with, face, grapple with, deal with.
- ❖ **go ahead** – to proceed, to continue to do something, to start/begin to do something.
- ❖ **grapple with** – tackle with, deal with, confront, face.
- ❖ **crop up** – happen, occur, arise.
- ❖ **pick up** – recover, improve, get better, bounce back.
- ❖ **move away from** – change/alter one's ideas/beliefs and so.
- ❖ **bring down** – topple, unsettle, unseat.
- ❖ **do away with** – abolish, discard, remove.
- ❖ **sign off** – to approve, to acknowledge something.
- ❖ **dwell on** – linger over, think about, mull over.
- ❖ **lie in** – be present, be contained, exist.
- ❖ **look for** – search for, try to find, seek.
- ❖ **point out** – identify, mention, indicate, draw attention to.
- ❖ **shut down** – discontinue, cease activity, close/stop.
- ❖ **call for** – require, publicly ask/necessitate, demand.
- ❖ **count on** – rely on, depend on.
- ❖ **cut down** – reduce, decrease, lessen.
- ❖ **step up** – increase, boost, augment, scale up.
- ❖ **pull out** – withdraw, leave, get/move out.
- ❖ **back off** – retreat, withdraw, draw back.
- ❖ **take on** – compete against, oppose, challenge/confront.
- ❖ **set to** – start doing something aggressively.
- ❖ **ramp up** – increase (in amount or number).
- ❖ **draw on** – make use of, exploit, use/utilize.
- ❖ **throw up** – produce something.
- ❖ **rely on** – depend on; resort to, have recourse to.
- ❖ **stay on** – continue to work.
- ❖ **go on** – continue, carry on, proceed.
- ❖ **sort out** – resolve, find a solution to, rectify.
- ❖ **rein in** – restrict, control, limit, restrain.
- ❖ **bank on** – rely on, depend on; anticipate, expect.
- ❖ **break free** – escape.
- ❖ **turn out** – transpire, emerge; happen/occur.