

IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS

- ❖ **mail-in voting** (noun) – postal voting; a type of voting in an election where ballot papers/voter slips are distributed to voters to their addresses before Election Day and mailed back by the voters or deposited at a voting location or secure dropbox by a certain time on Election Day.
- ❖ **absentee voting** (noun) – a type of voting in an election where voters cast their vote by post, because they can't physically be present at a voting center on Election Day due to various reasons ranging from being out of country (for study/job), having disability or illness, serving as an election worker & etc.,.
- ❖ **Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Policy (STIP)** (noun) – it is described as a form of decentralized, bottom-up, and inclusive design process aims to re-strategize priorities, sectoral focus, and methods of research and technology development for larger socioeconomic welfare.
- ❖ **Academic Research (AR)** (noun) – systematic investigation into a problem or situation, where the intention is to identify facts and/or opinions that will assist in solving the problem or dealing with the situation. Research in higher education institutions.
- ❖ **Translational Research** (noun) – the process of applying knowledge from basic biology and clinical trials to techniques and tools that address critical medical needs. Unlike applied sciences, translational research is specifically designed to improve health outcomes.
- ❖ **isolationism** (noun) – a policy or doctrine of trying to isolate one's country from the affairs of other nations by declining to enter into alliances, foreign economic commitments, international agreements, and generally attempting to make one's economy entirely self-reliant.
- ❖ **detoxification** (noun) – the medicinal/therapeutic process of eliminating or neutralizing toxins from a living organism, including the human body, which is mainly carried out by the liver.
- ❖ **federal government** (noun) – The Federal Government is composed of three distinct branches: legislative, executive, and judicial, whose powers are vested by the U.S. Constitution in the Congress, the President, and the Federal courts, respectively.
- ❖ **ripple effect** (noun) – an event (or a process/action) that causes several other events to happen indirectly one after the other. knock-on effect, secondary/indirect effect, consequence/implication, chain of events; domino effect.

- ❖ **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).
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **migration** (noun) – the (temporary) movement of people from one region to another – either within a country or across national borders in order to find work or better living conditions.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **operation gibraltar** (noun) – Operation Gibraltar was the codename given to the strategy of Pakistan to infiltrate Jammu and Kashmir, and provoke the locals in starting a rebellion (rioting) against Indian rule.
- ❖ **the Cold War** (noun) – The Cold War was a state of political and military tension after World War II between powers in the Western Bloc (the United States and a group of countries) and powers in the Eastern Bloc (the Soviet Union and a group of countries).
- ❖ **Socialism** (noun) – it’s a state-controlled economy in which the state controls the means of production: factories, offices, resources, and firms. Since the government controls almost all of society’s functions, it can make better use of resources, labors and lands.
- ❖ **bio-secure bubble** (noun) – it is defined as an environment/location sealed off from the outside world. In tennis/cricket, this would mean players, umpires and support staff being housed at the venue itself.
- ❖ **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).
- ❖ **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).

- ❖ **The monetary policy committee (MPC)** (noun) – it is a six-member panel that is expected to bring “value and transparency” to rate-setting decisions. It will feature three members from the RBI — the Governor, a Deputy Governor and another official — and three independent members to be selected by the Government. The MPC will meet four times a year to decide on monetary policy by a majority vote.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **nationalism** (noun) – it refers to a system (with narrow set of ideas) created by a group of people who believe their nation is superior to all others. It is also a perception of national superiority and an orientation toward national dominance- called as chauvinism (excessive nationalism).
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **flattening 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”.
- ❖ **coronavirus (CoV)** (noun) – a large family of viruses that cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases. common signs of infection include respiratory symptoms, fever, cough, shortness of breath and breathing difficulties. In more severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure and even death.
- ❖ **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).

- ❖ **public health** (noun) – the branch of medicine handling public health; public health is also the science of protecting and improving the health of people and their communities through education, policy making and research for disease and injury prevention.
- ❖ **(foreign exchange) remittance** (noun) – money transfers (called remittance) from a foreign worker employed outside the country to family, friends or relatives residing in home countries. In many countries, remittance accounts for a significant portion of a nation’s gross domestic product or GDP.
- ❖ **consumer price index** (CPI) (noun) – it is defined as the change in the prices of a basket of goods and services that are typically purchased by specific groups of households. To put it simply, it tracks the prices of goods and services purchased by consumers.
- ❖ **core** inflation (noun) – it is a measure of the total inflation within an economy, excluding commodities such as food and energy prices (which change frequently).
- ❖ **headline retail** inflation (noun) – it is a measure of the total inflation within an economy, including commodities such as food and energy prices. The CPI monitors retail prices at a certain level for a particular commodity. The change in the price index over a period of time is referred to as CPI-based inflation, or retail inflation.
- ❖ **headwinds** (noun) – (in business) situations or conditions that make growth harder/difficult. Whereas tailwinds describe a situation or condition that will move growth, revenues, or profits higher.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **debt relief** (noun) – measures to reduce debt as a means to make it easier for the borrower to repay it. (debt = money owed to others, arrears, bill, financial obligation, liability, outstanding payment).
- ❖ **sovereign (credit) rating** (noun) – it indicates the risk level of the investing environment of a country and is used by investors when looking to invest in particular jurisdictions, and also takes into account political risk.
- ❖ **credit guarantee (fund)** (noun) – a type of fund (by the government) which backs up the loan taken by the beneficiaries as a form of collateral (pledged as security/guarantee).

- ❖ **bankruptcy** (noun) – legal state of insolvency. An individual or organisation is declared bankrupt if a court judges that the party involved can no longer meet debt payments to creditors. It is defined as the outcome of a legal procedure.
- ❖ **insolvency** (noun) – a condition in which the financial difficulties of an individual or organisation are such it is unable to pay its debts.
- ❖ **deficit monetisation** (noun) – In layman’s language, monetisation of deficit means printing more money. In other words, monetisation of deficit happens when RBI buys government securities directly from the primary market to fund government’s expenses.
- ❖ **ammonium nitrate** (noun) – ammonium nitrate is a crystal-like white solid which is made in large industrial quantities. Its biggest use is as a source of nitrogen for fertiliser, but it is also used to create explosives for mining.

IDIOMS & PHRASES

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ wiser after that fact – It is easy to understand how something bad could have been stopped after it has already happened. ❖ keep one’s powder dry – be prepared for an emergency. ❖ turn someone’s stomach – cause to feel sick, sicken, make sick (because they are angry/upset about something). ❖ take it on the chin – to accept difficulty/hardship bravely. ❖ get back on one’s feet – to be successful again after having problems (or) to be healthy again after a period of illness. ❖ poison the well – it occurs when negative information that is irrelevant is presented ahead of time to discredit the argument. ❖ march to the beat of their own – to do things the way they want without considering other people. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ all hell breaks loose – the situation suddenly becomes confused or disorganized with a lot of people arguing (or fighting) angrily. ❖ keep at bay – prevent someone/ something from coming nearer in distance. ❖ turn the spotlight on – to call/draw attention to someone or something; highlight, underline. ❖ cut no ice – to have no influence on someone; to fail to convince someone. ❖ through back door (phrase) – against the rules, indirect/unethical manner to achieve something. ❖ stroke of a pen – if something happens by/at the stroke of a pen, it happens very quickly by the authority. ❖ leave no stone unturned – to do every (single) thing possible in order to achieve something; not give up, be persistent, be determined. |
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- ❖ **all bets are off** – used to describe a situation in which the outcome is uncertain/unpredictable and so anything can happen.
- ❖ **caught between a rock and a hard place** – in a difficult situation difficult someone has to choose between two unpleasant things.
- ❖ **tighten the screws** – to apply more pressure on someone/something.
- ❖ **in the fullness of time** – eventually, ultimately, finally, sooner or later, sometime later.
- ❖ **make ends meet** – to earn/have just enough money to buy essentials; survive, manage, cope.
- ❖ **in the shadow of** – in a situation when attention is influenced on someone/something (better known).
- ❖ **flat out** – without hesitation, as hard as possible, vigorously.
- ❖ **pale in comparison to** – to seem less important or serious when compared with something else.
- ❖ **to be sure** – certainly, surely; used to highlight something.
- ❖ **for one** – to emphasize that a particular person is definitely viewing in a specific way, even if other people are not.
- ❖ **cast doubt on something** – to cause people to distrust something.
- ❖ **owing to** – because of, as a result of, on account of.
- ❖ **no exception** – as usual, the same as, to be similar.
- ❖ **in the hands of** – in the possession of.
- ❖ **cast a shadow on** – spoil, diminish, let down.
- ❖ **in fact** – actually, really, in truth.
- ❖ **if anything** – on the contrary.
- ❖ **pave the way for** – clear the way for, create a situation to do something, precede, make provision for.
- ❖ **in the open** – in public, publicly.
- ❖ **kith and kin** – family, relatives, relations.
- ❖ **larger-than-life** – mammoth, massive, monumental.
- ❖ **hold someone/something responsible for** – blame someone/something for something else.
- ❖ **as a matter of fact** – actually, really, in fact.
- ❖ **for sure** – definitely, surely, certainly, without doubt.
- ❖ **in any case** – whatever happens.
- ❖ **play a part/role** – contribute to, be instrumental in, be a factor in.
- ❖ **precious little** – very little (to emphasis something).
- ❖ **take place** – happen, occur, come about, transpire.
- ❖ **thanks to** – as a result of, owing to, due to, because of.
- ❖ **put differently** – express differently, put/express in other words.
- ❖ **at least** – anyway.
- ❖ **more of the same** – nothing has changed and it is the same concept, idea, thought, topic & etc.,
- ❖ **come as a surprise** – to make someone feel surprised.
- ❖ **to an extent** – somewhat, partly, fairly.
- ❖ **rest on someone's shoulders** – to become someone's responsibility.
- ❖ **in fine fettle** – in very good condition.
- ❖ **strike a note** – express/communicate, call/bring to mind, cite.
- ❖ **out of necessity** – because of requirement, due to need.

- ❖ **strike a chord** – cause/arouse someone to feel emotion/sympathy.
- ❖ **hearts and minds** – used in reference to emotional and intellectual support.
- ❖ **at the cost of** – by sacrificing/losing /giving up something.
- ❖ **in word and deed** – in what somebody says and does.
- ❖ **at the height of** – at the most crucial/serious part of something.
- ❖ **break the back of** – overwhelm, defeat, triumph over.
- ❖ **on the rise** – increasing; becoming successful.
- ❖ **on one's knees** – in a weak state/condition.
- ❖ **break one's back** – destroy completely.
- ❖ **this-worldly** – relating to the material world.
- ❖ **at one's door** – very nearby.
- ❖ **no wonder** – little wonder; it is not surprising.
- ❖ **a face for radio** – (figuratively) an ugly face.
- ❖ **stay put** – remain somewhere without moving (from that place).
- ❖ **in the midst of** – in the middle of.
- ❖ **if at all** – to emphasize a restriction stated in the preceding clause.
- ❖ **get under way** – to initiate a project; to start to happen.
- ❖ **put the past behind** – forget about what has happened in past.
- ❖ **make way** – clear the way, allow through, move aside, make room.
- ❖ **lay claim to** – claim to have rights to (something).
- ❖ **in conjunction** – together.
- ❖ **rather than** – instead of.
- ❖ **on the back of** – as a result of, after/subsequent, consequential, resultant; in support of.
- ❖ **in no time** – very fast/quickly.
- ❖ **the very idea** – used to emphasize on the subject.
- ❖ **give someone/something a chance** – to permit someone/something the opportunity to do something.
- ❖ **of late** – recently, lately, in recent times.
- ❖ **sooner (rather) than later** – soon, immediately, without delay.
- ❖ **war minus the shooting** – serious sport has nothing to do with fair play. It is bound up with hatred, jealousy, boastfulness, disregard of all rules and sadistic pleasure in witnessing violence. It is war minus the shooting.

PHRASAL VERBS

- ❖ **bottom out** – to reach a lowest or worst point (and from there the condition will only improve).
- ❖ **tease back** – gently encourage something.
- ❖ **lash out** – criticize, castigate, condemn/censure.
- ❖ **slip into** – gradually start to be in a bad state or situation; decline, deteriorate, get worse gradually.
- ❖ **wipe out** – eliminate, abolish, remove (completely).
- ❖ **pick up** – learn, get to know, acquire, acquire a knowledge of.

- ❖ **wean away from** – to detach, disconnect, separate someone from depending on something.
- ❖ **hark back to** – recall, recollect, think of.
- ❖ **flush out** – compel someone to leave a hiding place.
- ❖ **flip around** – turn around, make a U-turn overturn, turn over.
- ❖ **double down** – to be more firm & resolute on something (decided) even if that might be a risky choice.
- ❖ **brush off** – rebuff, dismiss, reject.
- ❖ **break away** – leave, split with, come apart, separate from.
- ❖ **harp on** – talk or write/complain continuously and lengthy on a particular subject.
- ❖ **come down to** – to become less in amount, number, price etc.,.
- ❖ **let down** – fail to support, disappoint, abandon/neglect.
- ❖ **stand up for** – talk or act in support of something.
- ❖ **prop up** – support, assist/help, maintain someone/something (by funding/financing) from the decline.
- ❖ **break out** – flare up, begin/start suddenly, erupt/burst out.
- ❖ **make out** – understand, find, grasp (the meaning of something).
- ❖ **look forward to** – anticipate, expect, hope for.
- ❖ **shut down** – discontinue, cease activity, close.
- ❖ **look at** – study, analyse, scrutinize.
- ❖ **stay away from** – avoid, skip, to not get involved in.
- ❖ **point out** – identify, mention, indicate, draw attention to.
- ❖ **carry out** – conduct, perform, execute.
- ❖ **set up** – establish, start/begin, inaugurate, create.
- ❖ **call for** – require, publicly ask/necessitate, demand.
- ❖ **open up** – make available (to create/start developing new opportunities).
- ❖ **rely on** – depend on; resort to, have recourse to.
- ❖ **stand for** (phrase verb) – support (a cause or idea).
- ❖ **grapple with** – tackle with, deal with, confront, face.
- ❖ **step in** – become involved in, get involved in, function/serve as a substitute.
- ❖ **go against** – oppose, be contrary to.
- ❖ **cut down** – reduce, decrease, lessen.
- ❖ **come up with** – produce, put forward, present/submit.
- ❖ **turn in** – achieve, reach, attain.
- ❖ **left out** past participle of **leave out** – fail to include; exclude, omit, miss out.
- ❖ **build on/upon** – use something as a basis/base for; be based on, rely on, turn to, trust in.
- ❖ **spell out** – explain, make clear, elucidate/clarify.
- ❖ **put behind** – to try to forget about an unpleasant thing.