

IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS

- ❖ **Brexit divorce bill** (noun) – The United Kingdom’s departure will leave a big hole in the European Union’s finances, and the EU wants a settlement to ensure that all the financial promises the UK made during its period as a member state are kept, even if the UK ends up covering payments due long after it exits the bloc. As part of its withdrawal agreement with the European Union (EU), the UK has agreed to make a series of payments to the EU known as the financial settlement (often referred to as the divorce bill).
- ❖ **Irish backstop/Northern Ireland protocol** (noun) – a position of last resort, to maintain an open border on the island of Ireland in the event that the UK leaves the EU without securing an all-encompassing deal. The Northern Ireland part of the Brexit deal, known as the Protocol, was agreed in October last year and is due to come into effect at the end of this year. It is designed to prevent a hard border in Ireland – or even any new checks at the Irish border. It does this by effectively keeping Northern Ireland in the EU’s single market for goods. This will mean products entering Northern Ireland from the rest of the UK will be subject to new checks and control – the so-called Irish Sea border.
- ❖ **Union customs code (UCC)** (noun) – The Union Customs Code (UCC) is the customs code for the European Union. The (European) Union Customs Code (UCC) defines the legal framework for customs rules and procedures in the EU customs territory, adapted to modern trade models and communication tools.
- ❖ **Good Friday Accord/Agreement** (noun) – Belfast Agreement; This agreement (signed on 10 April 1998) helped to bring to an end a period of conflict in the region called the Troubles (of Northern Ireland as part of the UK, and the Republic of Ireland as a separate country).
- ❖ **Brexit transition period** (noun) – implementation period; The UK left the European Union at 23:00 GMT on 31 January and the UK is now in an 11-month period, known as the transition, that keeps the UK bound to the EU’s rules. The transition will end on 31 December 2020. While in transition, the UK remains in both the EU customs union and single market.
- ❖ **Master of the Roster** (noun) – it refers to the privilege (right) of the Chief Justice to constitute Benches to hear cases. In November, 2017, when a Constitution Bench, led by the Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra, declared that “the Chief Justice is the master of the roster and he alone has the prerogative (privilege/right) to constitute the Benches of the Court and allocate cases to the Benches so constituted. **roster** (noun) – a list of the people of a team/organisation.
- ❖ **bean counting** (noun) – concerning only with number/figures/statistics.(A bean counter is usually an accountant or someone who focuses on figures, statistics and spreadsheets, rather than the bigger picture).
- ❖ **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** (noun) – The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is a permanent intergovernmental international organisation, the creation of which was announced on 15 June 2001 in Shanghai (China). The SCO currently comprises eight Member States (China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan) and is seen as a counterweight to NATO. It was established as a multilateral association to ensure security and maintain stability across the vast Eurasian region, join forces to counteract emerging challenges and threats, and enhance trade, as well as cultural and humanitarian cooperation.

- ❖ **executive court** (noun) – a court whose moral and political compass finds itself in alignment with the government of the day, and one that has no compunctions (misgivings/worries) in navigating only according to that compass. Instead of checking and limiting government power, an executive court finds itself marching in lockstep with the government, and being used to set the seal of its prestige upon more controversial parts of the government’s agenda.
- ❖ **National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC)** (noun) – The National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) is a constitutional body proposed to replace the present Collegium system of appointing judges. They will be selected by the commission, whose members will be drawn from the judiciary, legislature and civil society.
- ❖ **collegium** (noun) – The collegium system is the one in which the Chief Justice of India and a forum of four senior most judges of the Supreme Court recommend appointments & transfers of judges. There is no mention of the collegium in the Constitution of India.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **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 (RAT)** (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).
- ❖ **co-morbidity** (noun) – In medicine, co-morbidity is the presence of one or more additional conditions (diseases) co-occurring/co-existing with a primary condition (disease).
- ❖ **phase 1 trial** (noun) – In phase 1 trial of clinical testing, the vaccine is given to a small group of people to determine whether it is safe and to learn more about the immune response it provokes.
- ❖ **phase 2 trial** (noun) – In phase 2 trial, the vaccine is given to hundreds of people so scientists can learn more about its safety and correct dosage.
- ❖ **phase-3 trial** (noun) – In phase 3 trial, the vaccine is given to thousands of people to confirm its safety – including rare side effects – and effectiveness. These trials involve a control group which is given a placebo.
- ❖ **candidate vaccine or vaccine candidate** (noun) – a “potential” vaccine prepared in the research and development (R&D) centres and it can be used in human clinical trials.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **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.

- ❖ **Quad/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.
- ❖ **Question Hour** (noun) – Question Hour is the liveliest hour in Parliament and it is taken up from 1100hrs to 1200 hrs in every sitting. It is during this one hour that Members of Parliament ask questions of ministers and hold them accountable for the functioning of their ministries. The questions that MPs ask are designed to elicit (bring out) information and trigger suitable action by ministries.
- ❖ **standard operating procedure/protocol (SOP)** (noun) – a detailed, written document consisting of step-by-step information on routine activities necessary to complete tasks in accordance with specific regulations or standards.
- ❖ **zero hour** (noun) – the opportunity for MPs to raise national issues without an advance notice became available at 12 pm and could last for an hour until the House adjourned for lunch. This led to the hour being popularly referred to as Zero Hour and the issues being raised during this time as Zero Hour submissions. During this time, members raise issues pertinent to their constituents and of wider public interest.
- ❖ **PM CARES Fund** (noun) – The Prime Minister’s Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund was created on 28 March 2020, following the COVID-19 pandemic in India. The fund will be used for combating, and containment and relief efforts against the coronavirus outbreak and similar pandemic like situations in the future.
- ❖ **sense of the House** (phrase) – simple or concurrent resolutions, both houses of Congress/parliament may express formal opinions about subjects of national interest. As such these so-called “sense of” resolutions are officially known as “sense of the House”.
- ❖ **Jan Lokpal Bill** (noun) – Citizen’s ombudsman Bill; a draft anticorruption bill drawn up by prominent civil society activists seeking the appointment of Jan Lokpal – which would be an independent body that would investigate corruption cases. This body would have the power to prosecute the government officials, politicians and bureaucrats involved in any wrong doing without any government permission. The Act allows setting up of anti-corruption ombudsman called Lokpal at the Centre and Lokayukta at the State-level.
- ❖ **Congress** (noun) – The United States Congress is the bicameral (two chambers) legislature of the federal government of the United States, and consists of two chambers: the House of Representatives and the Senate.
- ❖ **representative democracy** (noun) – a type of democracy in which citizenry vote for government representatives to handle legislation and ruling the country on their behalf.
- ❖ **citizenry** (noun) – all the people/citizens (of a place/country considered as a whole).
- ❖ **National Statistical Office (NSO)** (noun) – The National Statistical Office is the state statistical agency set up by an Act of the Parliament, India, Statistical Services Act (Chapter 386) 1980, responsible for collecting, compiling and disseminating official statistical information on a regular and timely basis.
- ❖ **broadband policy** (noun) – The Broadband Policy, 2004 was laid down by the Government of India in order to realize the potential of broadband services. It aimed at enhancing the quality of life by implementation of tele-education, tele-medicine, e-governance, entertainment and also to generate employment through high speed access to information and web-based communication.

- ❖ **Household Social Consumption on Education** (noun) – The main objective of survey on Household Social Consumption: Education was to build indicators on participation of the persons of age 3 to 35 years in the education system, expenditure incurred on education of the household members and various indicators of those currently not attending education (i.e., for the persons who never enrolled or ever enrolled but currently not attending education). Besides, for persons of age 5 years and above, information was collected on ability to operate computer, ability to use internet and use of internet during last 30 days.
- ❖ **optical fibre** cable (noun) – optical fibre cable is used by many telecommunications companies to transmit telephone signals, Internet communication and cable television signals. Due to much lower attenuation (reduction of the amplitude of a signal) and interference (fading or disturbance of received radio signal), optical fiber has large advantages over existing copper wire in long-distance, high-demand applications.
- ❖ **wireless fibre** (noun) – wireless fibre is the name of the new generation’s microwave transmission. Signals are communicated wirelessly from point to point between the directional antennae in the far distance.
- ❖ **U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)** (noun) – The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is the government agency responsible for advancing the public health by helping to speed innovations that make medical products more effective, safer, and more affordable and by helping the public get the accurate, science-based information they need to use medical products and foods to maintain and improve their health.
- ❖ **quiet diplomacy** (noun) – it is a way of conduct of international relations (through the interaction of official representatives of governments or groups) to create conditions in which parties feel comfortable to act, in particular allowing parties calmly to evaluate positions and interests, to weigh options and consider independent and impartial advice.
- ❖ **Wuhan spirit** (noun) – The two leaders [President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Narendra Modi] had a very successful meeting in Wuhan on April 27-28, 2018. They established mutual trust and they jointly planned for the future of improvement and the strengthening of the China-India relationship. This summit brought in an “increased stability and fresh momentum in relations”.
- ❖ **ballistic missile** (noun) – a missile, which is shot from the ground, takes a long distance to travel well outside the atmosphere and falls to the earth to explode on its target (due to the gravity).
- ❖ **vicious cycle** (noun) – also known as a vicious circle; a chain of negative events reinforce themselves. The situation spirals in a downward loop, becoming increasingly worse with time. A situation in which the solution to one problem creates a chain of problems, each making it more difficult to solve the original one.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **intellectual property** (noun) – a category of property that includes intangible creations of the human intellect. The most well-known types are copyrights, patents, trademarks and trade secrets.

- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **Valley** (noun) – a low area between hills or mountains typically with a river running through it. Valley is a metonym of Jammu & Kashmir in this context (Metonym is used as an alternative for something else with which it is closely related/associated).
- ❖ **McMahon line** (noun) – the demarcation line between Tibet and the North-east region of India proposed by British colonial administrator Sir Henry McMahon at the 1914 Simla Convention signed between British and Tibetan representatives. It is the effective boundary between China and India.
- ❖ **Finger area** (noun) – The 134 km of Pangong Tso lake’s northern bank juts/extends out like a palm, and the various protrusions/projections are identified as “fingers” to demarcate territory. While India asserts that the LAC (Line of Actual Control) starts at Finger 8, China claims it starts at Finger 2, which India dominates.
- ❖ **Treaty of Amritsar (1846)** (noun) – As per the Treaty of Amritsar between the East India Company and Dogra ruler Maharaja Gulab Singh on March 16, 1846, the region of Jammu, Kashmir, Laddakh and Baltistan were handed over to Gulab Singh and the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir came into existence.
- ❖ **basin** (noun) – the portion of land (geographical area) drained by a river and its tributaries (branch rivers). The states which are drained by a river and its tributaries are basin states. (drain simply means “flow” of water/any other liquid).
- ❖ **global supply chain** (noun) – a dynamic worldwide network when a company purchases or uses goods or services from overseas. It involves people, information, processes and resources involved in the production, handling and distribution of materials and finished products or providing a service to the customer.
- ❖ **Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan (or) Self-reliant India Mission** (noun) – the special economic package totaling Rs 20 lakh crore by the Indian government to tide over the Covid-19 crisis and it would focus on land, labour, liquidity and laws. It would benefit labourers, farmers, honest tax payers, MSMEs and cottage industry. This economic package would be around the 10 per cent of India’s GDP.

- ❖ **Great Leap Forward** (noun) – The Great Leap Forward of the People’s Republic of China was an economic and social campaign led by the Chinese Communist Party from 1958 to 1962. Chairman Mao Zedong launched the campaign to reconstruct the country from an agrarian economy into a modern industrial society with greater ability to compete with Western industrialized nations. But, the Great Leap Forward resulted in one of the world’s worst famines and turned into a national disaster; in all, about 20 million people were estimated to have died. It was the largest single, non-wartime campaign of mass killing in human history.
- ❖ **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).
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **capital goods** (noun) – capital goods are man-made, durable items that businesses use to produce goods and services. They include tools, buildings, vehicles, machinery, and equipment. Capital goods are also called durable goods, real capital, and economic capital.
- ❖ **Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)** (noun) – a proposed agreement between the member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and its free trade agreement (FTA) partners. The pact aims to cover trade in goods and services, intellectual property, etc.
- ❖ **Minimum Support Price (MSP)** (noun) – it is a form of market intervention by the Government of India to give guaranteed price and assured market to the farmers and protect them from the price fluctuations and market imperfections. The guaranteed price and assured market are expected to encourage higher investment and in adoption of modern farming practices.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **percentage point** (noun) – the difference between two percentages is termed as percentage point. (for example: “Interest Rates Jump From 10% to 12%”. In this case, the interest rate increased by “2 percentage points” or you can say that the interest rate is increased by 20%).
- ❖ **Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE)** (noun) – it is a leading business information company. It was established in 1976, primarily as an independent think tank. CMIE produces economic and business databases and develops specialised analytical tools to deliver these to its customers for decision making and for research.
- ❖ **gross value added (GVA)** (noun) – it is a measure of total output and income in the economy. It provides the rupee value for the amount of goods and services produced in an economy after deducting the cost of inputs and raw materials that have gone into the production of those goods and services. It also gives sector-specific picture like what is the growth in an area, industry or sector of an economy. On the other hand, GDP or gross domestic product is a measure of economic activity in a country. It is the total value of a country’s annual output of goods and service.
- ❖ **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.

- ❖ **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)** (noun) – an initiative by the government of India in which all farmers will get up to ₹6,000 per year as minimum income support.
- ❖ **“C2” cost/comprehensive cost** (noun) – Cost of production refers to the “C2” cost, as provided by the ministry of agriculture and farmers’ welfare. “C2” includes the rental value of owned land and is a more comprehensive estimate than the “A2+FL” cost, which is used by the government to set minimum support prices (MSPs). “A2+FL” includes cash paid out plus the imputed value of family labour.
- ❖ **tugboat** (noun) – a small, sturdily built, powerful boat which helps in mooring or berthing (tying up) operation of a ship/vessel by either towing or pushing a ship/vessel towards the port.
- ❖ **strategic partnership/alliance/relationship** (noun) – it is a long-term interaction between two countries based on political, economic, social and historical factors.
- ❖ **US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF)** (noun) – a nonprofit organization, founded for strengthening the U.S.-India bilateral & strategic partnership.

IDIOMS & PHRASES

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ a chink in someone’s armour – a weak point/fault in someone’s character, arguments & etc., which can be used to attack/criticize them easily. ❖ cry foul – to protest against/complain about something done by someone is wrong (or) not fair. ❖ make up one’s mind – decide, be decisive, come to a decision, make/reach a decision. ❖ throw the baby out with the bathwater – throw something valuable away with something unwanted. ❖ all hell breaks loose – the situation suddenly becomes confused or disorganized with a lot of people arguing (or fighting) angrily. ❖ strike a discordant note – express/communicate something conflicting/contrasting/ different/ opposite things. ❖ bet big on something – to provide a lot of support to something with a lot of risk involved (i.e., if it is not successful in the end, you will risk losing something else). ❖ put one’s money where one’s mouth is – do something rather than talking about it; support something by giving money/taking action rather than talking about it. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ settle accounts with – retaliate, get one’s revenge, reciprocate, give someone a taste of their own medicine. ❖ tighten the screws – to apply more pressure on someone/something. ❖ set the ball rolling – make a start, initiate, embark on, get cracking, start business. ❖ meet someone halfway – reach a compromise/ agreement/deal, find the middle ground, come to terms, come to an understanding. ❖ sword of Damocles – it refers to extremely dangerous situation; a looming threat. ❖ drop the ball – make a mistake/error, mishandle; fail to do something, miss an opportunity. ❖ burden of proof – the duty/obligation of a party to prove/disprove their claims/allegations. ❖ too close for comfort – you say “too close for comfort” when a person or thing is too close to you and it’s making you feel worried/nervous; dangerously nearby. ❖ pass on the baton – transfer a specific duty/responsibility. ❖ way out – solution, answer, remedy. |
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- ❖ **around the corner** – coming soon, coming up, approaching, forthcoming.
- ❖ **lose no time** – to do something as quickly as possible.
- ❖ **so far** – until now, up to the present, up to this point.
- ❖ **bear/keep in mind** – take into account, be mindful, remember/consider.
- ❖ **on the ground** – in a situation/place where things are happening really/practically.
- ❖ **stand one's ground** – be firm, be resolute, be determined.
- ❖ **over the long haul** – over a long/extended period of time.
- ❖ **at the heart of** – at the most important part of.
- ❖ **cast a shadow over** – spoil, diminish, let down.
- ❖ **make a statement** – to communicate/express a certain kind of impression or idea.
- ❖ **on the face of it** – apparently, seemingly, evidently/ostensibly; at first glance.
- ❖ **at the cost of** – by sacrificing/losing/giving up something.
- ❖ **turn one's back on** – abandon, give up, reject, renounce.
- ❖ **by way of** – as a form of.
- ❖ **in one's own way** – if considered/looked at from a specific viewpoint suitable to that person/thing.
- ❖ **in the first instance** – in the first place.
- ❖ **ring hollow** – to seem false, insincere or not genuine.
- ❖ **over/in the course of** – during the specified activity.
- ❖ **pay attention** – heed, attend, be attentive, concentrate on.
- ❖ **in reference to** – in relation to, with regard to, regarding, with respect to.
- ❖ **in favour of** – giving support to, approving of.
- ❖ **far from** – not, not at all, nowhere near.
- ❖ **in fact** – actually, indeed, undeniably.
- ❖ **by choice** – voluntarily, by preference, of one's own choice.
- ❖ **the scheme of things** – in the way things normally/generally happen or arranged to happen (when compared with/related to other things) in a particular situation; a general view of the situation as a whole.
- ❖ **take a stand** – to express a firm position/opinion about an issue.
- ❖ **as good a time as any** – used to say that although a time etc is not suitable, there will likely not be a good one.
- ❖ **hold one's own** – stand firm, stand one's ground, keep/maintain one's position.
- ❖ **on demand** – when required; when needed; when asked for.
- ❖ **rather than** – instead of.
- ❖ **a level playing field** – a situation in which everyone has a fair and equal opportunity to succeed, and no one has an advantage over the other.
- ❖ **break free** – escape from.
- ❖ **in dire straits** – in a very bad or difficult situation.
- ❖ **as well as** – and in addition; and also.
- ❖ **at any cost** – no matter how much effort or money needed.
- ❖ **business as usual** – routine, regularity, normal pattern.
- ❖ **put differently** – express differently, put/express in other words.
- ❖ **tit-for-tat** – equivalent retaliation; counterattack, revenge, an eye for an eye.
- ❖ **flow from** – come from, be rooted in, originate from, emanate from.
- ❖ **more so** – to a greater degree; to a greater extent.
- ❖ **take a back seat** – take a less important role.
- ❖ **put in place** – initiate, usher in, bring in.
- ❖ **born out of** – happening as the result of something.
- ❖ **in the wake of** – as a result of some event, especially an unpleasant one; aftermath, as a consequence of.

- ❖ **in the midst of** – in the middle of.
- ❖ **in time** – eventually, ultimately, finally, in the end, at a later time.
- ❖ **economy of scale** – cost reductions that occur when an organization is large or increases production.
- ❖ **make sense** – be acceptable, be practical, be justifiable, be convincing, pass muster, hold water.
- ❖ **in terms of** – with regard to, regarding/ concerning, in connection with.
- ❖ **nothing short of** – nothing less than.
- ❖ **get one's act together** – recover, regain control of oneself, get a grip on oneself, get better.
- ❖ **play the game** – play by the rules, play fair, be fair.
- ❖ **due to** – because of, owing to, on account of, as a result of.
- ❖ **a share of the pie** – a slice of the pie, a piece of the pie; a portion of something available can be distributed.
- ❖ **point of view** – perspective, viewpoint, standpoint, opinion.
- ❖ **at stake** – at issue, at risk; or in question.
- ❖ **in the absence** – due to unavailability of something.
- ❖ **deal a blow** – harm, upset, or shock someone.
- ❖ **make up for** – offset, balance, neutralize, even up; compensate for, make amends for.
- ❖ **put something on hold** – postpone, put off, delay.
- ❖ **(in) the pipeline** – on the way, in preparation, in the offing.
- ❖ **fly in the face of** – disregard, ignore, defy/ disobey.
- ❖ **broadly/generally speaking** – used for saying something is mainly true.
- ❖ **face to face** – intimidating, confronting, stare out.
- ❖ **play the card** – use/utilize something (an idea/issue) for an advantage.
- ❖ **lay stress on** – emphasize, highlight.
- ❖ **on display** – to show something for people to see.
- ❖ **foul play** – crime/violence; unfair or dishonest actions.
- ❖ **speak up** – to express one's opinion (in support/ against something) openly.
- ❖ **play a part/role** – contribute to, be instrumental in, be a factor in.
- ❖ **in addition** – as well as, additionally, moreover.
- ❖ **at the height of** – at the most extreme part/point of something.
- ❖ **cause for celebration** – a reason to celebrate.
- ❖ **in all** – altogether.
- ❖ **status quo ante** – a Latin phrase meaning “the state of affairs existing before” (or) “the way things were before”.
- ❖ **road ahead** – future.
- ❖ **from now on** – henceforth, from this day on, from this time on, from this moment forth, from now and in the future.
- ❖ **owing to** – because of, as a result of, on account of.
- ❖ **on the back foot** – in a defensive position, off balance, at a disadvantage.
- ❖ **prisoner's dilemma** – it is a classic game theory which examines how two players interact based on an understanding of motives and strategies. Both players benefit most by cooperating with each other. If both players act in their own self-interests, they do not produce the optimal outcome.
- ❖ **lay emphasis on** – to emphasize the importance of something.
- ❖ **on someone's terms** – according to someone's conditions; according to how someone considers or understands something.
- ❖ **pay a premium for/put a premium on** – value greatly, put a high value on, regard as particularly important.

- ❖ **history repeat itself** – things that have happened in the past will or tend to happen again in one way or another.
- ❖ **earlier/sooner the better** – we say the earlier/sooner the better when we think something should be done as soon as possible.

PHRASAL VERBS

- ❖ **cut off** – block/stop, remove, discontinue (a standard method of doing/accessing something).
- ❖ **sweep up** – remove, clean, scrub, wipe.
- ❖ **die down** – come to an end, stop, dwindle, diminish/reduce.
- ❖ **take up** – pursue, engage in, become involved in (an activity or course of action).
- ❖ **bring back** (home) – cause someone to return (to one's residence).
- ❖ **be left over/leave over** – remain to be handled.
- ❖ **face off** – fight with; come into confrontation, be in opposition.
- ❖ **whip up** – arouse, trigger, prompt, induce.
- ❖ **roll out** – launch, introduce, organize, inaugurate (something officially).
- ❖ **drive down** – reduce, decrease, lower, lessen, bring down (something by forcible & effective measures).
- ❖ **chip away** – make something weaker (gradually).
- ❖ **let off** – punish someone lightly.
- ❖ **call on** – appeal to, demand/ask, request.
- ❖ **hand out** – give out, issue, provide; impose/inflict (a misfortune/penalty).
- ❖ **step in** – become involved in, get involved in, function/serve as a substitute.
- ❖ **get at** – criticize, pick on, find fault with (someone repeatedly).
- ❖ **kick off** – begin, start, get going.
- ❖ **break down** – collapse, be unsuccessful, disintegrate.
- ❖ **come across** – seem, appear, look.
- ❖ **put on** – get dressed in, don, slip into, change into.
- ❖ **put forward** – moot, propose, recommend, suggest (an idea).
- ❖ **take forward** – deal with, cope with, tackle, address.
- ❖ **lie in** – be present, exist.
- ❖ **go through** – undergo, experience, face.
- ❖ **go into** – research, study, analyse, review, explore.
- ❖ **set up** – establish, start/begin, inaugurate, create.
- ❖ **call for** – require, publicly ask/necessitate, demand.
- ❖ **step up** – speed up, increase, accelerate, quicken.
- ❖ **strike down** – abolish, annul, nullify (a law or regulation).
- ❖ **play out** – happen, occur, take place.
- ❖ **point out** – identify, mention, indicate, draw attention to.
- ❖ **ramp up** – increase (in amount or number).
- ❖ **kick in** – come into effect.
- ❖ **send out** – give out, announce, deliver/release.
- ❖ **rule out** – eliminate, reject, dismiss.
- ❖ **stand by** – support, stand up for, uphold/defend.
- ❖ **push back** – force back, repel, fight off.
- ❖ **add to** – make something stronger/greater.
- ❖ **stem from** – originate from, arise/come from, emanate from.
- ❖ **put down** – list, record, register.
- ❖ **take back** – get back, regain, repossess, reclaim, retrieve, recover.
- ❖ **move on** – initiate something new, start/begin a new thing; progress, make headway, advance.
- ❖ **clean up** – make things clean, restore something.
- ❖ **look at** – study, analyse, scrutinize.
- ❖ **lay bare** – reveal, uncover, expose.
- ❖ **pull out** – withdraw, leave, get/move out.
- ❖ **live up to** – satisfy, fulfil, achieve.
- ❖ **come under** – be subjected to.
- ❖ **pull back** – withdraw, retreat, disengage.
- ❖ **take over** – assume control of, take charge of, take command of.