

## IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS

- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **First Amendment** (noun) – The First Amendment (Amendment I) to the United States Constitution prevents the government from making laws which regulate an establishment of religion, prohibit the free exercise of religion, or abridge the freedom of speech, the freedom of the press, the freedom of assembly, or the right to petition the government for redress of grievances. It was adopted on December 15, 1791, as one of the ten amendments that constitute the Bill of Rights.
- ❖ **bright-line rule** (noun) – a clearly defined rule or standard, composed of objective (actual/real) factors, which leaves little or no room for varying interpretation/understanding.
- ❖ **Indian Penal Code (IPC)** (noun) – The Indian Penal Code (IPC) is the official criminal code of India. It is a comprehensive code intended to cover all substantive aspects of criminal law. The draft was passed into law on 6 October 1860. The Code came into operation on 1 January 1862. The Indian Penal Code of 1860, sub-divided into 23 chapters, comprises 511 sections. IPC deals with crimes and punishments.
- ❖ **public order** (noun) – it is essentially the absence of disorder – the quiet and orderly behaviour of people in public space. It involves people behaving sensibly and rationally, and respecting others.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **point of order** (noun) – a question raised by a Member (of Parliament) who believes that the rules or customary procedures of the (Parliament) House have been incorrectly applied or overlooked during the proceedings.
- ❖ **division** (noun) – In parliamentary procedure, a division of the house or simply division is a method of taking a vote that physically counts members voting. But nowadays in India, this is achieved by getting MPs and MLAs to vote electronically.
- ❖ **voice vote** (noun) – a voice vote involves the speaker putting a question to the house and then asking the house to put forward its opinion in the forms of ayes (yes) or noes. Based on a rough measure of which side was louder, the speaker decides if the motion was passed or fell through.
- ❖ **parliamentary select committee** (noun) – ‘parliamentary select committee’ can be formed for a specific purpose, for instance, to deliberate on a particular bill. Once the Bill is disposed of, that select committee ceases to exist. whereas “parliamentary standing committee” is usually constituted on an annual basis. But the purpose of these parliamentary committees is to enable detailed consideration of a piece of legislation.
- ❖ **(Parliamentary) Standing Committee/Parliamentary panel** (noun) –it is a committee (consisting of Members of Parliament) constituted usually on an annual basis to enable detailed consideration/discussion on all bills (all proposed laws).
- ❖ **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.

- ❖ **representative institution** (noun) – parliament; Parliaments are increasingly being recognized world-wide as playing a crucial role in the achievement of democracy and good governance. Indeed, it is parliament’s traditional responsibility to debate and pass legislation that provides a legal framework for good governance and the rule of law.
- ❖ **joint parliamentary committee** (noun) – ad hoc (temporary) Committees appointed for a specific purpose (to examine irregularities and aberrations, if any, and the consequences therefore in the implementation of Government decisions and policy prescriptions) and they (JPCs) cease to exist when they finish the task assigned to them and submit a report.
- ❖ **money bill** (noun) – The Bill deals with issues such as receipt and spending of money, such as tax laws, laws governing borrowing and expenditure of the government, prevention of black money etc. Under India’s constitutional design, money bill requires only the Lok Sabha’s affirmation/approval (bypassing Rajya Sabha’s affirmation/approval) only for it to turn into law.
- ❖ **motion of no confidence** (noun) – According to rule 198 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of the Lok Sabha, a no-confidence motion is “a motion expressing want of confidence in the Council of Ministers.” It’s a vote in which MPs from all parties decide whether they want the government to continue. It has the power to trigger a general election and could see a new prime minister appointed.
- ❖ **tax-deductible** expenses (noun) – for tax purposes, a deductible is an expense that an individual or a business can subtract from adjusted gross income while completing a tax form.
- ❖ **inequality** (noun) – Inequality is simply defined as “the state of not being equal, especially in status, rights and opportunities; imbalance, unevenness, disproportion, disparity.
- ❖ **Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India** (noun) – it is empowered to audit all expenses from the combined fund of the union or state governments, whether incurred within India or outside.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **trust deficit** (noun) – lack of trust (on authorities-from societal point of view). Situations with low levels of trust are not supportive and often counterproductive. People feel vulnerable and look at each other with suspicion. As a result, they are less open, since they fear that they will not be fairly treated by the other side.
- ❖ **cess** (noun) – a form of tax charged/levied over and above the base tax liability of a taxpayer. A cess is usually imposed additionally when the state or the central government looks to raise funds for specific purposes.

- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **aerosol transmission** (noun) – airborne/droplet transmission; the spread of an infectious agent caused by the dissemination (spreading/distribution) of droplet nuclei (aerosols) that remain infectious when suspended in air over long distances and time.
- ❖ **social/physical distancing** (noun) – a term means actively avoiding crowded public places, is a key element in decreasing the rapid spread of COVID-19. This is an effort intended to limit exposure by reducing face-to-face contact and preventing spread among people in community settings.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **receptor** (noun) – a region of tissue which reacts particularly to antigens or others. (antigens -disease causing organisms (bacteria & viruses) and other harmful/toxic foreign substances like insect venom).
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **primary health care** (noun) – it is a whole-of-society approach to health and well-being centred on the needs and preferences of individuals, families and communities. It addresses the broader determinants of health and focuses on the comprehensive and interrelated aspects of physical, mental and social health and well being.
- ❖ **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).
- ❖ **dystopia** (noun) – an imaginary place where people live in fear under totalitarian /oppressive/ undemocratic system; an imaginary community or society that is undesirable or frightening.
- ❖ **universal suffrage/franchise** (noun) – the right of citizens in a given society who are entitled to vote in an election without the discrimination of caste, class, colour, religion or sex.
- ❖ **affirmative action** (noun) – it means positive steps taken to increase the representation of (women and) minorities in areas of employment, education, and culture from which they have been historically excluded.

- ❖ **intermediary** (noun) – any person who on behalf of another person receives, stores, or transmits that electronic record or provides any service with respect to that record. This definition is very wide and covers a diverse set of service providers, ranging from Internet service providers, search engines, web hosting service providers, to e-commerce platforms or even social media platforms.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **territorial integrity** (noun) – the principle under international law that nation-states should not attempt to promote secessionist movements or to promote border changes in other nation-states, nor impose a border change through the use of force.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **modus vivendi/modi vivendi** (noun) – agreement, deal, understanding, settlement (between two conflicting parties); Modus vivendi is a Latin phrase that literally means “mode of living” or “way of life”.
- ❖ **world/international/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.
- ❖ **peacekeeping** (noun) – it is defined as the prevention, containment, moderation and termination of hostilities (between hostile countries), through peaceful third party intervention, organized and directed internationally, using multinational forces of soldiers, police, and civilians to restore and maintain peace.
- ❖ **Inter-Governmental Negotiations Framework (IGN)** (noun) – a group of nation-states working within the United Nations to further reform of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).
- ❖ **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).
- ❖ **hot springs** (noun) – Hot Springs (Kyam) is the location of an Indian border checkpost operated by Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) in the Chang Chenmo River valley in Ladakh near the disputed border with China. It is so named because there is a hot spring at this location. (hot spring is generally a spring (well head) with water at temperatures substantially higher than the air temperature of the surrounding region).
- ❖ **plains** (noun) – plains are large, flat pieces of land with no drastic changes in elevation. Plains can be found at any altitude (height), though they are usually lower than the land surrounding them. Mountains, hills, plateaus, and plains are the four major types of landforms of the Earth.
- ❖ **snow lion** (noun) – ‘Gangs Seng Ge’ in Tibetan, the snow lion is a powerful celestial animal that resides in the eastern Himalayas (Tibet). It is the emblem of Tibet showcasing its eternally snow-covered mountains and glaciers, even as it symbolises power, strength, fearlessness and the joy of living.

- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **Foreign Contribution Regulations Act, 2010 (FCRA)** (noun) – It regulates the acceptance and utilisation of foreign contribution by individuals, associations and companies.
- ❖ **Special Frontier Force (SFF)** (noun) – Ghost/Shadow Army; The Special Frontier Force is a covert (secret) outfit that was raised by the Intelligence Bureau in the aftermath of the 1962 Sino-India war. Earlier, the SFF used to recruit Tibetan exiles but now it has a mixture of Tibetans and Gorkhas. Initially, the SFF was named Establishment 22. Strictly speaking, the SFF units are not part of the Indian Army but function under its operational control.
- ❖ **Theatre Command** (noun) – a military structure wherein all the assets of the army, air force and navy in a particular theatre (warfare) of war are under the operational control of a three-star general.
- ❖ **Western Theatre Command** (noun) – it is one of the five theatre commands of the People’s Liberation Army of China since 2016. Its jurisdiction includes Sichuan, Tibet & etc.
- ❖ **Great Game** (noun) – a political and diplomatic confrontation that existed for most of the 19th century between the United Kingdom and the Russian Empire, over Afghanistan and neighbouring territories in Central and South Asia.
- ❖ **“five finger” of a Tibetan palm** (noun) – China has traditionally maintained a strategy that Xizang (Tibet) is its right palm and Ladakh, Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan, and the North East Frontier Agency (NEFA, or Arunachal Pradesh) are defined as its five fingers.
- ❖ **unorganised sector/workforce** (noun) – unorganized sector means an enterprise owned by individuals or self-employed workers and engaged in the production or sale of goods or providing service of any kind whatsoever, and where the enterprise employs workers, the number of such workers is less than ten.
- ❖ **gig workers** (noun) – gig workers refer to the workers outside of the traditional employer-employee relationship including freelancers, workers who are employed on a contractual basis with their employers, project based work and short term work.
- ❖ **platform workers** (noun) – gig workers who do platform based work where they earn money by providing specific services, including food delivery services like Zomato, Swiggy or e-commerce platforms such as Amazon, Flipkart etc.

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## IDIOMS & PHRASES

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>tug at heartstring</b> – to cause someone to feel emotional; to evoke strong feelings.</li> <li>❖ <b>turn the tables</b> – reverse a disadvantaged situation/position to gain advantage.</li> <li>❖ <b>throw the baby out with the bathwater</b> – throw something valuable away with something unwanted.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>clip the wings of</b> – to limit/restrict someone’s freedom; impose limits on, keep within bounds, keep under control; obstruct, impede, thwart.</li> <li>❖ <b>status quo ante</b> – a Latin phrase meaning “the state of affairs existing before” (or) “the way things were before”.</li> </ul> |
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- ❖ **carry conviction** – be convincing; likely to be real/true; likely to be believed.
- ❖ **to one's credit** – used to mention that someone deserves praise/admiration.
- ❖ **leave someone in the lurch** – to abandon or leave someone (without help and protection) in a difficult situation; leave helpless, leave stranded, let down.
- ❖ **a light touch** – a careful way of handling/ doing something.
- ❖ **(be) better than nothing** – used for saying that something is not exactly what you required but is more helpful than having nothing at all.
- ❖ **at/in the forefront of** – be in a leading/ front/ important position in an important activity; spearhead, van guard, front line, leading position.
- ❖ **stake a claim** – assert, declare, proclaim, establish (one's ownership of or right to something).
- ❖ **not mince words** – talk/speak straight; call a spade a spade.
- ❖ **lay/put stress on** – to give special importance to; to provide special attention to.
- ❖ **stay clear of** – keep away from, keep one's distance from, keep at arm's length, avoid.
- ❖ **take up the cudgels** – begin to support someone/ something strongly.
- ❖ **lock horns** – quarrel, disagree, engage in conflict, fight.
- ❖ **on the back burner** – having low priority.
- ❖ **under the watchful eyes of** – watched closely by someone with power or authority.
- ❖ **(at) the best of times** – even when the circumstances/conditions are as favourable as possible.
- ❖ **inasmuch as** – to the extent that; in so far as.
- ❖ **in the interest of** – for the benefit of, for the sake of, considering.
- ❖ **as long as** – given that; when/while.
- ❖ **lay emphasis on** – to emphasize the importance of something.
- ❖ **in the name of** – for the sake of, at the behest of.
- ❖ **in action** – functioning, up and running, operative.
- ❖ **in the way** – in a position that stops something from happening.
- ❖ **for now** – for the time being, for the moment, for the present.
- ❖ **find one's feet** – adapt, become accustomed, adjust, get used.
- ❖ **at stake** – at issue, at risk; or in question.
- ❖ **on the face of it** – apparently, seemingly, evidently/ostensibly; at first glance.
- ❖ **make clear** – explain, clarify, elucidate.
- ❖ **to be sure** – certainly, surely; used to highlight something.
- ❖ **in conjunction** – together.
- ❖ **draw the line** – set a limit.
- ❖ **in the works** – being done; being planned, taking place.
- ❖ **(make) a mockery of** – make something to look foolish/absurd.
- ❖ **strike a balance** – find a fair & reasonable line of action between two contrasting things.
- ❖ **take a stand** – have a strong opinion/ approach about something.
- ❖ **in question** – at issue, under discussion /consideration; in doubt.
- ❖ **in order to** – with the purpose/aim of.
- ❖ **on record** – (officially) recorded, documented, registered.
- ❖ **to begin with** – at first, at the outset, at the beginning.
- ❖ **in the wake of** – as a result of, in the aftermath of, as a consequence of.
- ❖ **on one's own terms** – according to someone's conditions; In the manner that someone prefers.
- ❖ **flat out** – vigorous, hard, all out.
- ❖ **regardless of** – irrespective of, without consideration of, notwithstanding, in spite of.
- ❖ **in the air** – circulating (through air).

- ❖ **on the ground** – in a situation/place where things are happening really/practically.
- ❖ **on the sidelines** – it refers to a meeting/forum occurs at the same time as the scheduled meeting/forum, but is not itself an item on the agenda.
- ❖ **on the eve of** – a period or day before an important event.
- ❖ **fall short of** – fail to meet/reach; be deficient/inadequate/insufficient.
- ❖ **for instance** – as an example.
- ❖ **crisis of confidence** – uncertainty, doubt, a serious loss of confidence in something; scepticism.
- ❖ **business as usual** – routine, regularity, normal pattern.
- ❖ **in one's own way** – in a method that is particular to oneself.
- ❖ **short of** – less than.
- ❖ **in one's own words** – express something in your own way without copying others.
- ❖ **keep a check on** – monitor, vigil, guard, watch.
- ❖ **by virtue of** – because of, on account of, as a result of.
- ❖ **play a part/role** – contribute to, be instrumental in, be a factor in.
- ❖ **raise the bar** – increase/raise the standards that others to meet/qualify.
- ❖ **teem with** – be full of, be packed with, be crowded with.
- ❖ **no exception** – as usual, the same as, to be similar.
- ❖ **in terms of** – with regard to, regarding/ concerning, in connection with.
- ❖ **come about** – happen, occur, take place, transpire.
- ❖ **call into question** – doubt, distrust, suspect.
- ❖ **in particular** – particularly, specifically, especially.
- ❖ **at all** – in any way, by any means.
- ❖ **in the hands of** – in the possession of.
- ❖ **on paper** – in theory, theoretically, hypothetically.
- ❖ **think of** – consider, contemplate, deliberate about, reflect on (an idea).
- ❖ **in conclusion** – finally, lastly, to conclude.
- ❖ **in the offing** – coming soon, likely to happen, on the way, forthcoming.
- ❖ **need of the hour** – some (urgent) need/ requirement/demand at a particular point of time.
- ❖ **for one** – used for highlighting that someone is thinking in a particular way, even if other people are not.
- ❖ **in place** – established, set up, arranged.
- ❖ **in this regard** – in connection with the aspect/ consideration/point referred earlier.
- ❖ **far from** – not, not at all, nowhere near.
- ❖ **to an extent** – somewhat, partly, fairly.
- ❖ **for one's own sake** – for the benefit/ advantage oneself.
- ❖ **without pause** – without pausing/stopping.
- ❖ **thus far** – until now, till date.
- ❖ **hit pause** – to cease/stop an action temporarily.
- ❖ **keep the peace** – to avoid or stop arguing/disputing/fighting.
- ❖ **in the midst of** – in the middle of.
- ❖ **Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam** – a Sanskrit phrase found in Hindu texts such as the Maha Upanishad, which means “The World is One Family”.
- ❖ **to be fair** – used for making criticism less intense.
- ❖ **join hands** – work together with.
- ❖ **at times** – sometimes, occasionally, periodically.
- ❖ **take to** – resort to, turn to, have recourse to.
- ❖ **on one's own feet** – to be independent.
- ❖ **road ahead** – future.
- ❖ **in effect** – really, practically, virtually.
- ❖ **keep faith** – be loyal to, be faithful to, be true to.

- ❖ **in line with** – in alignment with, in accordance with.
- ❖ **at times** – sometimes, occasionally, from time to time, now and again.
- ❖ **tread a fine line** – If someone is treading a fine line or path, they are acting carefully because they have to avoid making a serious mistake/blunder, especially in a situation where they have to deal with two opposing situations/concepts.
- ❖ **in sync** – working well together, in agreement.
- ❖ **lose sight of** – pay no attention to, fail to consider, be lax about.
- ❖ **feel someone's pulse** – find out the general mood or opinion of.
- ❖ **take cover** – protect/shelter/safeguard oneself.
- ❖ **from time to time** – sometimes, occasionally, now and again.
- ❖ **break ground** – do something beneficial.

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## PHRASAL VERBS

- ❖ **dish out** – dispense, provide casually.
- ❖ **sieve out** – remove (unwanted items).
- ❖ **branch off** – diverge/depart from the main route.
- ❖ **fill in** – do someone's job as a substitute (when they are unable to do it).
- ❖ **factor in** – take into account, take into consideration, consider, regard.
- ❖ **live through** – survive, undergo (an unpleasant experience or period).
- ❖ **dial down** – reduce, lessen, decrease (the intensity of something).
- ❖ **go through** – undergo, experience, be subjected to, live through.
- ❖ **get over** – overcome, prevail over, triumph over, get the better of.
- ❖ **reach out** – contact someone to obtain/offer help/assistance/cooperation.
- ❖ **brush away** – ignore, dismiss, disregard, shrug off.
- ❖ **prop up** – set, stand, position, place.
- ❖ **lean on** – depend on, rely on, count on, bank on.
- ❖ **lay down** – formulate, establish, institute, determine.
- ❖ **turn out** – transpire, emerge; happen.
- ❖ **open up** – make available (to create/start developing new opportunities).
- ❖ **go beyond** – to go past something, to be more than something, exceed.
- ❖ **carry out** – conduct, perform, execute.
- ❖ **go on to** – continue, proceed (to do something).
- ❖ **sort out** – resolve, find a solution to, rectify.
- ❖ **call for** – request, require, ask for, necessitate, demand.
- ❖ **point out** – identify, mention, indicate, draw attention to.
- ❖ **end up** – turn up, come/go to, appear, reach (a place, condition, or situation that was unplanned/unexpected).
- ❖ **stay on** – continue to study/work/task.
- ❖ **give up** – abandon, forgo, renounce, relinquish.
- ❖ **show up** – expose, reveal, exhibit, unveil.
- ❖ **embark on** – start, begin, initiate/ commence.
- ❖ **play down** – downplay, understate, de-emphasize.
- ❖ **rest on** – be based on, depend on, be dependent on, rely on.
- ❖ **set up** – establish, start/begin, inaugurate, create.
- ❖ **bring out** – disclose, reveal, expose, become known.
- ❖ **set aside** – rule against, nullify, dismiss, reject, annul, overrule, overturn.