

Organisation men:
J.P. Nadda's elevation as BJP working president reveals the party's long-term goals:

The appointment of J.P. Nadda as the Bharatiya Janata Party's working president is proof yet again that it does not leave anything to chance in the relentless pursuit of its politics. Union Home Minister Amit Shah will continue as party president until his term ends in December 2019, when Mr. Nadda is expected to succeed him. Mr. Shah has been Prime Minister Narendra Modi's close confidant and strategist for several years, and an architect of the party's Lok Sabha victories in 2014 and 2019. The decision to appoint a working president, as Mr. Shah would not be always available for party work, is a sign of the importance the BJP and its ideological mother ship, the RSS, attach to organisation. Except for the communist units, this is in contrast with the general nature of all other parties, which give limited attention to organisation-building. The RSS had meticulously assigned distinct roles to the multiple outfits that it floated over the decades, all converging into the larger stream of Hindutva politics. The BJP's emergence as the primary pole of Indian politics through sweeping victories in two consecutive general elections could strain the organisational edifice of the Sangh Parivar, but not immediately. The orderly, clinical manner in which Mr. Nadda was selected, with the concurrence and prompting of the RSS, demonstrates the Parivar's ability to be clear-eyed in its priorities.

Hindutva politics does not see power as an end in itself but as a tool to advance its ideological goals. Also, individual ambitions are expected to be subordinate to organisational priorities. The rise of Mr. Modi with Mr. Shah alongside, and their combined role in the party's outstanding electoral performances in recent years, have inspired commentaries that put them on a pedestal. Mr. Modi and Mr. Shah will remain in command of the overall scheme of things, and Mr. Nadda, by all accounts, is a proven loyalist to both of them. At the same time, by promoting a new power centre the BJP is also demonstrating that individuals are not indispensable despite the commanding authority and presence of the two big leaders. Mr. Nadda is not as combative as Mr. Shah but is as disciplined, a trait that he imbibed through his long association with the RSS. His elevation is also a continuation of the BJP's efforts to promote leaders who have spent more time in the States than in Delhi — Himachal Pradesh in Mr. Nadda's case. The selection of Thawar Chand Gehlot as the BJP's leader in the Rajya Sabha is also remarkable in this context. A Dalit who came up from a small town through the trade union wing of the RSS, he is an outlier in the Upper House's general character, which is metropolitan, upper class and usually upper caste. Mr. Shah recently stated that the BJP has not yet peaked. The organisational changes are evidently being made in that belief.

<u>Words</u>	<u>Kind</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
Relentless		Persistent, incessant, continuous, never-ending
Pursuit		activity, hobby, pastime
Confidant		friend, bosom friend, close friend, familiar
Meticulous		careful, conscientious, diligent, scrupulous
Distinct		distinctive, discrete, unmistakable, clear

Outfit	dress, getup, costume, suit, uniform, ensemble
Float	suggest, put forward, submit, come up with
Converge	meet, intersect, cross, connect, link up
Strain	over work, overtax, exhaust, wear out
Edifice	building, structure, construction, erection
Orderly	disciplined, neat, tidy, well-ordered, in apple pie order.
Concurrence	agreement, simultaneous, coincident
Pedestal	support, mounting, foundation
Indispensable	essential, necessary, all important, sine-quantum
Combative	opposing, pugnacious, aggressive, antagonistic
Elevation	Promotion, up grading, advancement
Outlier	A personal thing different from others
Peak	Summit, top, crest, pinnacle, apex.

Preventive violence:

A law to protect doctors is good, and a health-care upgrade is essential

All it took West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to end the week-long strike by junior doctors in the State was a meeting with the agitating medicos and a credible assurance that their safety was a priority for her government. The attack on a junior doctor on June 10 over the death of a patient had sparked the agitation, which spread to other parts of the country when it appeared that the State government was reluctant to negotiate with the striking doctors. Now that Ms. Banerjee has reached out to young doctors and conceded that their demands are genuine, the government, in West Bengal and elsewhere, must focus on addressing the deficiencies afflicting the health-care system as a whole. Reprisal attacks on doctors by agitated relatives of patients who die during treatment are known to happen. Such violence is invariably the result of systemic problems that adversely affect optimal attention to patients, such as infrastructural and manpower constraints. It is apparent that doctors work in stressful environments, sometimes under political pressure with regard to admissions. Several States have enacted laws to protect doctors and other health-care personnel from violence. Last week, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan wrote to State governments highlighting the need for stringent action against anyone who assaults doctors. He asked States that do not have a law to protect doctors against violence to enact one, and

circulated a 2017 draft of a law that envisaged imprisonment besides recovery of compensation from perpetrators for loss or damage to property.

However, is such a law really effective? Ironically, West Bengal, the epicentre of a strike that involved nearly the entire medical fraternity across the country, has such a law too. Like the law in most other States, the West Bengal Act provides for a three-year prison term and a fine, which could go up to ₹ 50,000, to anyone indulging in violence against any “medicare service person”, which covers doctors, nurses, medical and nursing students and paramedical staff. The offence is cognisable and non-bailable. It also provides for recovery of compensation for loss. Many other States have similar laws, with the one in Tamil Nadu providing for a prison term that could go up to 10 years. It is clear that having this law did not prevent the incident that sparked the latest agitation. There are no figures available on how many times the medical service person protection law has been invoked. In any case, causing simple or grievous injuries to anyone is a criminal offence under the Indian Penal Code. Treating the issue as a law and order problem is just one way. The real solution may lie in improving health infrastructure, counselling patients about possible adverse treatment outcomes, and providing basic security in medical institutions.

<u>Words</u>	<u>Kind</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
Agitate		Stir, upset, perturb, fluster, ruffle disturb – medilo
Credible		believable, plausible, tenable, conceivable
Spark		cause, give rise to, lead to
Reluctant		uninterested, loath, unwilling, apathetic
Concede		admit, acknowledge, accept, allow
Genuine		authentic, bonafide, original
Afflict		pain, agony, woes, torment
Reprisal		retaliation, counter-attack, comeback
Adverse		unfavourable, dis-advantageous, inauspicious
Optimal		best, most favourable, jewel in the crown
Apparent		evident, plain, clear, obvious
Stringent		strict, exacting, draconian
Assault		attack, fly at, turn (sb) on, round on someone
Envisage		foresee, predict, anticipate
Perpetrators		a person who carries out harmful, illegal or immoral act
Epic centre		the location where the greatest damage occurs.

Devoid of principle:

The defection of four TDP Rajya Sabha MPs to the BJP raises troubling questions

The recent defection of four Rajya Sabha MPs from the Telugu Desam Party to the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, merely a month after simultaneous Assembly and Lok Sabha elections in Andhra Pradesh, can only be termed as political opportunism. The fact that these MPs merged with the BJP as a group helped them stay clear of the anti-defection law, which stipulates that a breakaway group constitute at least two-thirds of a legislative party’s strength and that it merge with another party.

The TDP had been reduced to just 23 and two seats in the newly elected Andhra Pradesh and Telangana Assemblies, respectively. It now commands a much lower legislative profile with just two members in the Rajya Sabha and three in the Lok Sabha. There is a tendency among legislators to seek greener pastures at a time of crisis for their parties, but the nature of these defections suggests that this was not a simple case of leaving a party whose political strength had considerably diminished. The BJP is even more of a non-player in Andhra Pradesh as it does not hold a single seat in the current Assembly and its vote share dipped in comparison to the previous Assembly elections. The reasons for the defections appear to have little to do with the political equations in the parent State.

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Some of the defecting legislators have a cloud of suspicion over them as they were subjected to probes by Central Bureau of Investigation, Enforcement Directorate and Income Tax officials over financial transactions. It would be in order to ask whether the defections are aimed at currying favour with the government at the Centre in regard to the investigations. The NDA government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has promised zero tolerance on corruption, and it is to be hoped that the investigations against two of the defecting MPs continue unhindered. At the same time, the fact that the BJP has chosen to accommodate legislators the party had only months ago castigated for being corrupt, and against whom one of its own MPs had sought action from the Rajya Sabha ethics committee, suggests that the benefits of accrual to its numbers outweighed even the pretence of principle. The BJP has managed to increase its strength in the Rajya Sabha to 75 with the addition of the defectors from the TDP. Fresh elections to the Rajya Sabha are due for a substantive number of seats by 2020, and defections such as these will help the ruling combine get closer to the majority mark in the 245-member Upper House. Even if it is justified as an exercise to increase numbers, it does not reflect well on the BJP, which claims to be a party with a difference. Defections that are not based on ideology or principle undermine parliamentary democracy; a vibrant opposition is equally vital to ensure an efficient government.

<u>Words</u>	<u>Kind</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
Defection		desertion, absconding, decamping, apostasy
Simultaneous		concurrent, contemporaneous, concomitance
Opportunism		expediency, pragmatism, Machiavellianism
Merge		unite, join, amalgamate, affiliate
Stipulate		specify, set down, set out, lay down
Dip		immerse, submerge, plunge, duck
Curry favour		ingratiate oneself with someone through obsequious behaviour
Un hinder		facilitate
Castigate		punish, abuse, vituperate, denigrate
Accrual		the increase of something overtime especially payments/benefits
Pretence		make believe, faking, feigning, dissembling
Due		expected
Substantive		meaningful, considerable
Vibrant		spirited, lively, full of life, energetic
Vital		essential, critical, crucial, indispensable