

Course correction – Defensive Shuffle

On Kathua, the BJP is presenting one narrative to Jammu, another to the rest of India.

In its reaction the rape and murder of an eight year old girl in Kathua, the BJP seems motivated by a need to strike a balance between protecting its political constituency in Jammu and addressing the public outrage countrywide. Two of its Ministers in the Mehbooba Mufti government – Lal Singh and Chander Prakash Ganga – had participated in a rally organised by the Hindu Ekta Manch in support of the **accused** in the case, but the BJP was slow to act against them. Under pressure from Ms. Mufti, they were asked to submit their resignations, but the BJP made it seem to be part of a larger exercise of a **shuffle** in the Cabinet. Even when their **continuance** in the Cabinet became **untenable**, the BJP was intent on protecting the two from any shadow of guilt. Soon after the two Ministers handed in their resignations, the party asked all its nine Ministers to step down, **apparently** to bring in new faces. Clearly, the BJP is hoping to present one narrative to the Jammu region and quite another to Kashmir and the rest of India. While promising justice to the rape victims, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had nothing to say about his own party's attempts to obstruct the course of justice in Kathua. The resignations **ensured** the continuance of the government, but the episode has cast harsh, **unflattering** light on the utter **incongruity** of the **alliance**.

Neither the Peoples Democratic Party nor the BJP wants to end their coalition over this issue; however, the two parties serve very different political constituencies, both **demographically** and geographically. What brought them together was not some shared political objectives, but the PDP's interest in keeping the national Conference out, and the BJP's in keeping the Congress out. The alliance was born of short term electoral **expediency** rather than any long term political strategy. After the death of Mufti Mohammed Sayeed in January 2016, the alliance came under new strains with Ms. Mufti attempting to adopt a more independent line, one that was in **consonance** with feedback from the **cadre**. But just as the two parties cannot fight the elections on the same electoral **plank**, they cannot afford to let go of their **stakes** in this government, for fear of **conceding** political space to their principal rivals. Closer to the next Assembly election in 2020, the alliance is likely to come under greater strain as the benefits of continuing in government will be outweighed by the risks of approaching an election together. Another similarly **contentious** issue closer to 2020 might not see the PDP and the BJP so eager to reach a compromise.

WORD LIST

1. **Accused** : (blamed)

Synonym : arraigned, implicated, incriminated, indicted, charged with

2. **Shuffle** : (move along lazily) (rearrange, mix up)

Synonym : drag, limp, straggle, stumble, muddle, pad, scuff, scuffle

3. **Continuance** : (duration)

Synonym : continuation, constancy, endurance, extension, longevity, period, permanence.

4. **Untenable** : (indefensible)

Synonym : illogical, unsound, flawed, unsupportable, implausible, inconsistent, irrelevant, senseless, unreasonable, irrational, groundless, absurd, false.

5. **Apparently** : (seemingly, obviously)

Synonym : allegedly, ostensibly, possibly, probably, supposedly, as if, as though, plausibly.

6. **Ensure** : (guarantee; make secure)

Synonym : assure, establish, insure, protect, provide, safeguard, secure.

7. **Unflattering** : (unfavourable)

Synonym : harsh, insulting, uncomplimentary, blunt, critical.

8. **Incongruity** : (discrepancy)

Synonym : inconsistency, difference, mismatch, deviation, disagreement, disparity, divergence, inequality, paradox.

9. **Alliance** : (friendly association agreement)

Synonym : accord, affiliation, affinity, betrothal, bond, coalition, coherence, collaboration, federation, congruity, conjunction, concord, compact, combination, communion

10. **Demographically** : (in a way that relates to the structure of populations)

example : "the state is geographically and demographically diverse"

11. **Expediency** : (stopgap) (appropriateness)

Synonym : practicality, contrivance, expedience, expedient, makeshift

12. **Consonance** : (agreement, consistency)

Synonym : conformity, accord, chime, concord, harmony, congruence.

13. **Cadre** : (nucleus of effort)

Synonym : organization, personnel, staff, core, force, framework, infrastructure,

officers, key group.

14. **Plank** : (board)

Synonym : lumber, platform, slab, timber, deal, support

15. **Stake** : (pole, bet, wager, share, investment)

Synonym : pale, paling, picket, post, rod, spike

16. **Concede** : (acknowledge, given in)

Synonym : accept, admit, allow, capitulate, cave in, cede, confess, give up, grant, hand over, relinquish, surrender, yield.

17. **Contentious** : (quarrelsome)

Synonym : antagonistic, combative, testy, argumentative, belligerent, disagreeable, factious, perverse, petulant

Course correction – Conscience Call

The world must increase pressure on Myanmar to do right by the Rohingya

The **scale** of the humanitarian crisis face by Rohingya **refugees** was highlighted this month when Myanmar claimed it had **repatriated** a family five. About 700,000 Rohingya have fled to Bangladesh from their homes in Myanmar's Rakhine province since August 2017. Late last year, the two countries had **struck** an agreement for their return. Bangladesh, however, rejected the claim about the repatriation of the five family members, saying they had not travelled into tis territory, so their so called return did not qualify as repatriation. In fact, in London this week, Bangaldesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina repeated statements by her officials on the repatriation claim, and asked the international community to put more pressure on Myanmar to "take back their own people and ensure their security". Facing **persecution** at home in Myanmar, Rohingya have for years been **fleeing** in the most **hazardous** of ways, and the UN **reckons** there were already 200,000 refugees in Bangladesh before the mass flight began in August, with most refugees now **concentrated** in Cox's Bazar. Bangladesh has been at the **forefront** of seeing to the needs of the refugees, and trying to get Myanmar to create the conditions for their eventual safe return to their homes. Aid workers are working to strengthen their shelters and move the more **vulnerable** to safer ground before the monsoon rain comes.

The world needs to do a lot more especially India, as a neighbour that has an estimated 40,000 Rohingya refugees living **precariously** on its territory, and as a regional power that is failing this time round to keep up its **legacy** of providing **succour** to those fleeing

persecution. At the heart of the human rights problem that confronts the world is that no one is confident that conditions obtain in Myanmar to receive the refugees. The UN High commissioner for Refugees said last week that "conditions in Myanmar are not yet **conducive** for the voluntary, safe, dignified and **sustainable** return of refugees". It clarified that there needs to be more than physical infrastructure and **logistical** arrangements for their journey back. It is crucial that there be movement on Rohingya's legal status and citizenship in Myanmar and their identification with Rakhine. Myanmar refuses to recognise the Rohingya, who are mostly Muslim, as a separate **ethnic** group and denies them citizenship, it just gives them the option of self identifying themselves as Bengali, which has its own implications for their rights as inhabitants of the country. Officials do not even use the word Rohingya. It has been rightly termed a case of ethnic cleansing. Pressure on Myanmar, which won **plaudits** for its recent democratic transition, to recognise the rights of a people who trace their ancestry in Rakhine for generations has so far **yielded** nothing. As Ms. Hasina suggested this week, it should be reason for the global community to double the pressure.

WORD LIST

1. **Scale** : (graduated system, thin covering, skin, ascend, climb)
Synonym : extent, proportion, range, rate, ratio, scope, system, calibration, computation, degrees, gamut, gradation, hierarchy, ladder, order, progression, ranking, register, rule
2. **Refugee** : (person running from something, often oppression)
Synonym : displaced person, alien, emigrant, evacuee, exile, expatriate, foreigner.
3. **Repatriate** : (admit back into the country)
Synonym : intromit, admit, let in, allow in.
4. **Struck** : (hit, closed by a strike)
Synonym : battered, hurt, pounded, smacked
5. **Persecution** : (affliction)
Synonym : expulsion, ill-treatment, imprisonment, killing, maltreatment, massacre, mistreatment, murder, oppression, torture, annoyance, exile, infliction, teasing.
6. **Hazardous** : (dangerous, unpredictable)
Synonym : dicey, difficult, perilous, precarious, risky, uncertain, unhealthy, unsafe, unsound
7. **Flee** : (run away to escape)
Synonym : depart, desert, fly, get, jump, leave, retreat, take off, vanish, abscond, avoid, decamp, skip.
8. **Reckon** : (add up; evaluate, suppose, imagine)
Synonym : calculate, look upon, surmise, account, appraise, approximate consider, count, deem, enumerate, estimate, esteem, figure.
9. **Concentrated** : (condensed, reduced, intense)
Synonym : fixed, full-bodied, potent, rich, robust, complete, evaporated, stuffed, total, thickened.

10. **Forefront** : (prominence)
 Synonym : cutting edge, fore, leading edge, limelight, vanguard.
11. **Vulnerable** : (open to attack)
 Synonym : accessible, defenceless, exposed, liable, ready, sensitive, susceptible, unsafe, weak.
12. **Precariously** : (dangerously) (as in seriously)
 Synonym : alarmingly, critically, desperately, preciously, recklessly, seriously, severely, hazardously
13. **Legacy** : (inheritance, heritage)
 Synonym : estate, gift, tradition, bequest, birth right, endowment, heirloom
14. **Succour** : (assistance and support in times of hardship and distress)
 Synonym : aid, help, assistance, ministrations, comfort, ease, relief, support, guidance, backing, easement.
15. **Conducive** : (favourable)
 Synonym : helpful, useful, contributive, contributory, beneficial, beneficent, accessible, convenient, significant, supportive, suitable
16. **Sustainable** : (tenable)
 Synonym : continual, continuous, viable, feasible, unceasing
17. **Logistical** : (pertaining to logistics and operations)
 Synonym : operational, procedural, managerial, organizational, prepared, strategic, administrative, bureaucratic
18. **Ethnic** : (racial, cultural)
 Synonym : indigenous, national, traditional, tribal, native
19. **Plaudits** : (applause)
 Synonym : acclaim, acclamation, accolade, cheering, cheers, clapping, commendation, hurrahs, kudos, ovation, praise, big hand.
20. **Yield** : (production of labour, produce, give in)
 Synonym : crop, earning, harvest, income, output, profit, return, revenue, turnout.

IDIOM AND THEIR MEANINGS AND EXAMPLES

1. **Be on cloud nine**
Example – I will be on cloud nine when I pass UPSC exam this year.
Meaning – Be very happy
2. **Fool's paradise**
Example – They were living in a fool's paradise, refusing to accept that they were facing poverty.
Meaning – False sense of happiness or success.
3. **Give cold shoulder**
Example – The principal has given the cold shoulder to the proposal to arrange an inter-school dance competition.
Meaning – To ignore

4. Get a raw deal

Example – It is very sad that the backward class poor children get a raw deal in education.

Meaning – not to be treated as well as others.

5. Hit the nail on the head

Example – He always hit the nail on the head in troubled situations.

Meaning – to do the correct thing

6. Hand to mouth

Example – Heavy rainfall led the farmers to live hand to mouth.

Meaning – Live on only basic necessities.

7. Hit the bull's eye

Example – Your suggestion hits the bull's eye in the exam.

Meaning – To be exactly right about something or to achieve the best result possible.

[**Hit the bull's eye** also mean to hit the very center of a circular target. *For example*; The Bowman hits the bull's eye three times in a row.]

8. Let the cat out of the bag

Example – John had planned a surprise party for his wife. But their five-year-old son let the cat out of the bag and ruined the party.

Meaning – To reveal the secret carelessly or by mistake.

9. Make a face

Example – Do you have any better suggestion? If not, then don't make a face.

Meaning – To show dislike or disappointment through facial expression.

10. Don't put all your eggs in one basket

Example – Try to invest in different ways. Don't put all your eggs in one basket.

Meaning – Do not put all your resources in one place.

11. To be a good Samaritan

Example – I was stuck in the middle of the highway, and then a good Samaritan offered me a ride.

Meaning – To be kind and compassionate to someone in distress.

12. To put in a nutshell

Example – One of my lecturers is expert in teaching the topic in a nutshell.

Meaning – To say in a few words./ To make something concise.

13. To pour oil on troubled waters

Example – The argument between Jack & David has turned worse, so I tried to pour oil on troubled waters but failed to do so.

Meaning – To do or say something in order to make people stop arguing and become calmer.

14. To move heaven and earth

Example – The ACP ordered the police to move heaven and earth to find the murderer.

Meaning – To do everything possible to achieve the result.

15. Bear the palm

Example – India may bear the palm in the Champions Trophy.

Meaning – to win.

16. To egg someone on

Example – My classmates egged on me to talk with the principal.

Meaning – To urge someone to do something that is usually negative.

17. On the spur of the moment

Example – I decided to go on the spur of the moment.

Meaning – Suddenly, without any planning

18. A man of straw

Example – In today's match, the opponent team members are like men of straw.

Meaning – A person or idea that is weak and easy to defeat.

19. Cut the mustard

Example – Mr. Bansal appointed Rajesh as the project manager, but can he cut the mustard?

Meaning – To succeed./ To come up to expectations.

20. To fish in troubled waters

Example – My uncle is fishing in troubled waters by buying shares of that software company.

Meaning – Involving oneself in a difficult situation in the hope of gaining some personal advantage.

21. The green-eyed monster

Example – She criticized Maya's effort of presenting the demonstration. Do you think it is valid or is just a case of green-eyed monster?

Meaning – The feeling of being jealous.

22. End in smoke

Example – He is trying to figure out the programming error since two days. But unfortunately, all his efforts end in smoke at last.

Meaning – No concrete or positive result.

23. To get into hot water

Example – Rajesh gets into hot water after he had a fight with the manager.

Meaning – To get into trouble.

24. To bury the hatchet

Example – These two teammates should bury the hatchet to win the final match.

Meaning – To forget about arguments and disagreements with someone.

25. To wet one's whistle

Example – You must be tired after all days work. Would you like to wet your whistle?

Meaning – To take a drink, especially an alcoholic drink.

26. Cloak and dagger

Example – How many days you will cloak and dagger like this? Why don't you tell your boss about your new job?

Meaning – Involving or characterized by secrecy or mystery.

27. A bread and butter letter

Example – After I came back from the tour, I have decided to write a bread and butter letter to the tour organizer for such an amazing service.

Meaning – A thank you letter./ A letter or note to follow up on a visit.

28. Thick and thin

Example – From last ten years, we have been together through thick and thin.

Meaning – Including both good times and bad times.

29. Cool one's heels

Example – When you were busy in the meeting, I was cooling my heels in the waiting room.

Meaning – To wait for something to happen.

30. Take fancy

Example – I think Maya has taken a fancy to you.

Meaning – Suddenly start to like something or someone.

“Learn from Yesterday,

Live for Today

&

Hope for Tomorrow.”

Albert Einstein