

Course correction – Life in plastic

It's far from fantastic. Indian's framework on discouraging its use is in disarray

As a major producer of plastic waste that ends up in the oceans, India is **arguably** the best place to host World Environment Day. Union Environment Minister Harsh Vardhan has said the government means business, and the UN theme, "Beat Plastic Pollution", will not remain an empty slogan. His **claim** would have **inspired** greater confidence had India taken its own rules on waste management seriously. Both the **solid** Waste Management Rules and the Plastic Waste Management Rules of 2016, which built on previous regulations, mostly remain on paper. State governments have simply not given them the necessary **momentum**, and the producers of plastic **articles** that are **invariably** used just for a few minutes have shown little **concern** about their negative environmental impact. The Centre's **somewhat liberal** estimate shows over 60% of about 25,000 tonnes of plastic waste generated daily is collected. That essentially means a **staggering** 10,000 tonnes of **trash** is being released into the environment, a lot of it going into the sea. Also, not every piece of plastic collected by the system is scientifically processed. It is no surprise, therefore, that the Ganga Brahmaputra-meghna river system is on the UN map of 10 rivers world-wide that collectively carry the **bulk** of the plastic waste into the oceans. The effects are **evident**: they threaten **marine** life and the well-being of people, as micro plastics are now found even in drinking water.

In their response to the crisis, communities and environmentally minded individuals are ahead of governments and municipal authorities. They **segregate** waste, compost at home, conduct "plastic free" social events and help recover materials that would otherwise just be **dumped** in the **suburbs** and **wetlands**. But, valuable as they are, voluntary efforts cannot achieve what **systemic** reform can. It is the Centre's responsibility to ensure that the Environment (Protection) act, the overarching law that enables anti-pollution rules to be issued, is **implemented** in letter and spirit. Ideally, regulation should help stop the manufacture of single use plastic articles such as carry bags and **cutlery**, and encourage the use of **biodegradable** materials. There is a challenge here, though. The provisions of the Plastic Waste management Rules require manufacturers of compostable bags to get a certificate for the Central Pollution control Board, but this has not stopped **counterfeit** products from entering the market. Local bodies **mandated** under rules to ensure segregation, collection and transfer of waste to registered recyclers have **spectacularly** failed to fulfil their responsibilities. The State Level Monitoring Committees provided for under the rules have not been made accountable. The waste management framework is dysfunctional, and Mr. Vardhan's assertions on beating plastic pollution alone will not inspire confidence. India and the world face a plastics crisis. Solving it will take more than slogans.

WORD LIST

1. **Arguably** : (maybe)
Synonym : possibly, conceivably, plausibly, probably, perhaps, potentially, debatably, controversially
2. **Claim** : (property, right demanded or reserved)
Synonym : allegation, application, assertion, call, case, demand, interest, petition, plea, request requirement, suit, declaration, affirmation
3. **Inspired** : (stimulated)
Synonym : activated, animated, encouraged, energized, excited, exhilarated, influenced, inspirited, motivated
4. **Solid** : (hard, dimensional)
Synonym : stable, strong, sturdy, substantial, tight, compact, concrete, form, heavy, material
5. **Momentum** : (impetus, push)
Synonym : energy, power, strength, drive, force, impulse, thrust
6. **Articles** : item, object, piece of writing
Synonym : piece, commodity, gizmo, substance, thing, unit
7. **invariably** : (perpetually)
Synonym : always, constantly, customarily, habitually, regularly, unfailingly
8. **Concern** : (business, responsibility, interest, anxiety)
Synonym : burden, interest, involvement, matter, thing, worry, affair, care, charge, corporation
9. **Somewhat** : (to some extent)
Synonym : a little, considerably, fairly, far, kind of, moderately, partially, pretty, quite, rather, significantly, slightly
10. **Liberal** : (progressive)
Synonym : enlightened, flexible, humanistic, lenient, permissive, radical, reformist, tolerant, broad.
11. **Staggering** : (Overwhelming)
Synonym : amazing, astonishing, astounding, shocking, stunning, distressing
12. **Trash** : (garbage)
Synonym : debris, droppings, junk, litter, rubbish, rubble, sediment, waste, excess, fragments.
13. **Bulk** : (size, largeness)
Synonym : amount, extent, quantity, total, volume, weight, mass, quantum, substance, totality
14. **Marine** : (sea)
Synonym : aquatic, coastal, deep-sea, maritime, naval, saltwater, seagoing, seaside, sea, oceanic
15. **Evident** : (apparent, clear)
Synonym : conspicuous, indisputable, noticeable, obvious, palpable, unmistakable, visible, clear cut.

16. **Micro plastic** : (extremely small pieces of plastic debris in the environment resulting from the disposal and breakdown of consumer products and industrial waste)
17. **Segregate** : (discriminate and separate)
Synonym : disconnect, divide, insulate, isolate, sequester, choose
18. **Dump** : (throw away; drop)
Synonym : deposit, discard, discharge, ditch, drain, empty, get rid of, leave, scrap, unload, cast, eject, evacuate, expel
19. **Suburb** : (neighbourhood outside of but reliant on rarely large city)
Synonym : countryside, environs, hinterland, outpost, outskirts, suburbia, village
20. **Wetlands** : (Swamp)
Synonym : bog, estuary, fen, mire, morass, moss, slough, swampland
21. **Systemic** : (affecting the entire system)
Synonym : fundamental, integral, intrinsic, essential, innate, elemental
22. **Implemented** : (start, put into action)
Synonym : achieve, carry out, complete, enforce, realize, resolve, actualize
23. **Cutlery** : (silver) (as in silverware)
Synonym : flatware, eating, utensils, tableware, hollowware, service
24. **Biodegradable** : (Referring to practices or policies that do not negatively affect the environment)
Synonym : ecological, environment-friendly, environmental, environmentally-safe
25. **Counterfeit** : (fake, simulated)
Synonym : bogus, copied, false, fictitious, forged, fraudulent, phony, spurious
26. **Mandated** : (administered)
Synonym : assigned, authorized, charged, decreed, ordered
27. **Spectacularly** : (as in notoriously, as in pompously, as in wonderfully)
Synonym : particularly, infamously, notably, especially
28. **Dysfunctional** : (socially impaired)
Synonym : flawed, broken, debilitated, decayed, defective, deteriorated, inhibited, Mal-functional
29. **Assertion** : (declaration, positive statement)
Synonym : affirmation, allegation, contention, insistence, pronouncement, attestation, defense, okay, predication, profession, vindication.

Course correction – A risky recovery

Countries will need to move beyond monetary stimulus to boost their economies

Abroad based recovery in **global** growth may be gathering steam, but the price the world will have to pay for it is still unknown. According to the IMF's January update of the World Economic Outlook, the global economy is all set to clock its best growth rate in seven years in 2018 following a pick up since mid-2016. The IMF estimated that the global economy could **accelerate** of 3.9% in both 2018 and 2019, an **upward** revision of 0.2 percentage point over its

previous estimates in October for both years, **boosted** by a **cyclical** recovery in global growth and the historic tax cuts in the U. S. India's economy is projected to grow at 7.4% during the financial year 2019, and at an even faster pace of 7.85% the following year. If the IMF's **prediction** come true, India will be the fastest growing major economy next year as China's growth is expected to slow from 6.6% this year to 6.4% in 2019. What comes as a further surprise is the upward revision in growth forecasts for many countries in Europe, thanks to stronger demand. The IMF, however, was not obvious to the threats that could severely **derail** the broad based economic recovery. In particular, it warned about the "troubling" rise in **debt** levels across countries, including the U.S., which could **pose** a huge risk to financial stability and **drag** down economic growth.

It is no secret that since the 2008 financial crisis the global economy has been **propped** up mainly by the **unprecedented** easy money policies adopted by global central banks. In fact, the absence of substantial structural reforms to complement central bank **stimulus** measures has been another feature of the present global economic recovery. Such a recovery comes with the **inherent** risk of being derailed whenever easy monetary conditions that fuelled it **cease** to exist. While central banks until now have been careful not to **spook** markets with the **prospect** of higher interest rates, it is unlikely that they can keep markets calm forever. As the IMF has pointed out, the possible end to the era of **abundant liquidity** and debt fuelled economic activity is likely to cause **disruption** by affecting **asset** prices. As interest rates reach higher levels, it is likely to also expose the various real economic **distortions** created by a low interest rate policy, particularly across borders. While it is hard to predict the next **downturn**, it seems the day of **reckoning** may not be too far as consumer price inflation begins to push central banks to rethink their **dovish stance**. The IMF is right to urge countries to make use of the current **rosy** conditions to enact useful structural reforms. It is time countries recognise that monetary policy alone won't solve all growth problems.

WORD LIST

1. **Global** : (worldwide, all encompassing)
Synonym: comprehensive, international, overall, universal, all round, all inclusive, all out, catholic, cosmic.
2. **Accelerate** : (increase speed, timing)
Synonym: advance, expedite, further, hasten, open up, quicken, spur, step up, stimulate
3. **Upward** : (from a lower to higher position)
Synonym: higher, uphill, skyward, above, ascending
4. **Boost** : (further, improve)
Synonym: advance, encourage, promote, push, support, sustain, advertise, assist, foster
5. **Cyclical** : (happening at regular intervals)
Synonym: periodic, repetitive, seasonal, circular, patterned, recurrent

6. **Prediction** : (declaration made in advance)
Synonym: forecast, forecasting, guess, indicator, prognosis, prophecy, cast, foretelling
7. **Derail** : (go off the rails)
Synonym: crash, hinder, thwart, wreck, deflect
8. **Debt** : (money owed to others)
Synonym: arrears, bill, capital, commitment, credit, damage, deficit, due, indebtedness, liability, mortgage
9. **Pose** : (artificial position), (sit, stand in place; pretend, fake)
Synonym: mannerism, mien, posture, act, affectation, attitude, masquerade, pretension
10. **Drag** : (bad situation)
Synonym: burden, impediment, annoyance, bore, encumbrance, hindrance, nuisance.
11. **Prop** : (hold up or lean against)
Synonym: brace, bolster, buoy, buttress, carry, maintain, rest, set
12. **Unprecedented** : (exceptional original)
Synonym: bizarre, extraordinary, fantastic, miraculous, new, remarkable, singular, uncommon, unique, unparalleled, unrivalled, unusual
13. **Stimulus** : (Provocation)
Synonym: Catalyst, encouragement, fillip, impetus, incentive, motivation, stimulant, stimulation
14. **Inherent** : (basic, hereditary)
Synonym: built-in, constitutional, deep-rooted, deep-seated, essential, fundamental, genetic, implicit, ingrained, innate, instinctive, internal, intrinsic, latent, natural
15. **Cease** : (stop, conclude)
Synonym: break off, desist, discontinue, fail, halt, quit, refrain, terminate, close, culminate
16. **Spook** : (frighten, scare)
Synonym: discomfort, alarm, horrify, panic, petrify, startle, terrify, unnerve
17. **Prospect** : (outlook for future)
Synonym: anticipation, chance, expectation, future, hope, likelihood, plan, possibility, probability, promise, proposal, thought
18. **Abundant** : (plentiful, large in number)
Synonym: ample, bountiful, copious, generous, heavy, rich, sufficient
19. **Liquidity** : (finance)
 - The availability of liquid assets to a market or company
 - Liquid assets; cashExample : "a firm may be unable to pay unless it has spare liquidity".
20. **Disruption** : (division, turmoil)
Synonym: interruption, break, separation, severance, splitting
21. **Asset** : (advantage)
Synonym: aid, benefit, credit, resource, service, distinction.
22. **Distortion** : (deformity, falsification)
Synonym: bias, exaggeration, lie, misinterpretation, misrepresentation, misstatement, misuse, baloney

23. **Downturn** : (drop)
Synonym: decline, deterioration, dip, plunge, slide, slump
24. **Reckoning** : (computation, account)
Synonym: calculation, estimation, addition, estimate, counting
25. **Dovish** : (supporting discussion or other peaceful solutions in political relationships rather than the use of force)
Example : He is a dovish politician who was one of the singers of a model peace treaty.
26. **Stance** : (position, posture)
Synonym: attitude, stand, viewpoint, bearing
27. **Rosy** : (pink, reddish in colour) (cheerful, hopeful)
Synonym: glowing, aflush, blooming, blushing, incarnadine.

SOME IMPORTANT IDIOM AND PHRASES

1. The icing on the cake
Example – I got MS in the University that I wished to and scholarship was like the icing on the cake.
Meaning – Something that turns good into great.
2. Jump the bandwagon
Example – When I put on few kgs, I immediately jumped on the bandwagon and join the gym.
Meaning – To join a popular activity or trend.
3. **Cost an arm and a leg**
Example – My laziness costs me an arm and a leg every time.
Meaning – Be very expensive.
4. The ball is in your court
Example – Now the ball is in my court and I will take the revenge on him.
Meaning – When it is up to you to take the next step or decision.
5. It takes two to tango
Example – The manager realizes that it takes two to tango before taking the decision.
Meaning – Actions or communications need more than one person.
6. Last straw
Example – If I complete this last straw, I will complete this level.
Meaning – The final problem in a series of problems.
7. Break the ice
Example – Always break the ice in a group discussion.
Meaning – To initiate a social conversation or interaction.
8. A bird's eye view
Example – The building gives you a bird's eye view of the whole city.
Meaning – A view from a very high place that allows seeing a very large area.
9. Be on cloud nine
Example – I will be on cloud nine when I pass the exam.
Meaning – Be very happy.

10. Eat humble pie
Example – The employee will have to eat humble pie for his mis-behavior to his boss.
Meaning – To apologize humbly.
11. To show the white feather
Example – Becky showed the white feather and backed down.
Meaning – To act like a coward
12. To play fast and loose
Example – The TN reporter is known for playing fast and loose with the facts.
Meaning – To act in an unreliable way. Act carelessly or irresponsibly
13. Wear one's heart on one's sleeve
Example – Sumit always wears his heart on his sleeve, so there is no doubt who he'll be supporting.
Meaning – To make your feelings and opinions obvious to other people.
14. To make a long face
Example – Why have you got such a long face? Better luck next time.
Meaning – To look depressed.
15. In apple pie order
Example – Please put everything in apple pie order before you leave.
Meaning – Perfectly methodical arrangement./Very well organized.
16. To strain every nerve
Example – I was straining every nerve to break the code but failed every time.
Meaning – To try extremely hard to do something.
17. To have an axe to grind
Example – The best reporting is done by people who don't have an axe to grind.
Meaning – To have a selfish interest to serve.
18. To draw the line
Example – It's hard to keep young people under control, but you have to draw the line somewhere.
Meaning – To set limits/to separate one thing from another.
19. Beat around the bush
Example – Don't beat around the bush, just tell me what's happening here.
Meaning – To avoid talking about an embarrassing subject as you are worried about upsetting the person you are talking to.
20. A wild goose chase
Example – After five hours spent wandering in the city, we realized that we were on a wild goose chase.
Meaning – An absurdly hopeless enterprise./ Wasting time looking for something that you are not going to find.
21. A litmus test
Example – His performance in the Test matches served as a litmus test whether he would join the One-day team.
Meaning – An experiment that seeks to determine the state of one important factor.A method that helps to know if something is correct.

22. To cry wolf
Example – Don't pay attention to her. She is just crying wolf again.
Meaning – To cry or complain about something when nothing is really wrong.
23. To be hard up
Example – James was hard up for cash to pay his bills.
Meaning – To be short of money.
24. To take to one's heels
Example – The man took to his heels to try to get the bus before it leaves the bus stop.
Meaning – To run very fast.
25. Cry over spilt milk
Example – There is no use of crying over spilt milk, instead of being careful in the future.
Meaning – Complaining about a loss or failure from the past.
26. At the drop of a hat
Example – She is always ready to go for an outing at the drop of a hat.
Meaning – Willingness to do something instantly.
27. Afraid of one's own shadow
Example – My grandfather always had panic attacks. He was the kind of a person who was afraid of his own shadow.
Meaning – To become easily frightened.
28. A house of cards
Example – That well-reputed company turned out to be a house of cards within a year.
Meaning – A poor plan or organization that is very weak and can be easily destroyed.
29. Black and Blue
Example – The thief was beaten black and blue by the public.
Meaning – Full of bruises (Black marks caused by being hit).
30. To be in the doldrums
Example – My friend is in doldrums since a week and nothing I do seems to cheer him up.
Meaning – To feel sad and lack of energy to do something.

*SUCCESSFUL AND UNSUCCESSFUL PEOPLE
DO NOT VARY GREATLY IN THEIR ABILITIES.
THEY VARY IN THEIR DESIRES TO
REACH THEIR POTENTIAL.*