

EDITORIAL WORDS

LEARNING ENGLISH & IMPROVING VOCABULARY

IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS (21-27JUN20)

1. **Simla Agreement** (noun) – The Simla Agreement signed by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto of Pakistan on 2nd July 1972 was much more than a peace treaty seeking to reverse the consequences of the 1971 war (i.e. to bring about withdrawals of troops and an exchange of PoWs (PoW-A prisoner of war). It was a comprehensive blue print (plan) for good neighbourly relations between India and Pakistan. Under the Simla Agreement both countries undertook to abjure (give up) conflict and confrontation which had marred (damaged) relations in the past, and to work towards the establishment of durable (strong & lang-lasting) peace, friendship and cooperation.
2. **démarche** (noun) – from French, literally means step, walk, gait (a way of walking); a course of action, initiative, move (In diplomatic relations); it is a more formal way of communication of one country's foreign affairs official to an appropriate official in another country to inform views or gather details on a given subject (or) to object/protest actions by a foreign government.
3. **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.
4. **Operation Parakram** (noun) – The Government of India launched Operation Parakram (Valour), an operation that ordered the general mobilisation of the army for war on 18 December 2001 after the Pakistan-sponsored terrorist attack on the Parliament on 13 December, 2001.
5. **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).
6. **freedom of navigation (FON)** (noun) – a principle of customary (established) international law that ships flying the flag of any sovereign state shall not suffer interference from other states, apart from the exceptions provided for in international law.
7. **People's Liberation Army** (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.

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8. **quackery** (noun) – the promotion of fraudulent or ignorant medical practices. (A quack is a person who pretends to be educated and licensed or somehow credentialed to be able to diagnose or treat a patient with a health problem. Simply put, a quack is an informal healthcare provider with no formal education; pseudo-doctor/fake doctor).
9. **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.
10. **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).
11. **line of control (LoC)** (noun) – it is a 450 mile-long military control line lying between India and Pakistan's controlled parts of the former (under the British) Jammu and Kashmir. This line is not actually a legally recognized international boundary but prevails as per de facto. After the Simla Agreement signed in July 1972, this line was officially renamed as "Line of Control" from "the Cease-fire Line".
12. **peaceful rise** (noun) – "China's peaceful rise" or sometimes referred to as "China's peaceful development" was an official policy in China under the leadership of Hu Jintao, Former General Secretary of the Communist Party of China. The term generally suggests that China seeks to avoid unnecessary international confrontation.
13. **Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation** (noun) – a treaty signed between India and the Soviet Union in August 1971 that specified mutual strategic cooperation. The essence of the Treaty is its provision that in the event of attack or the threat of attack there will be immediate mutual consultations.
14. **whip** (noun) – a member of a political party who is in charge of providing that written notice is called as "Whip". (it also means that "a written notice provided by the party (Whip) to their members in in Parliament/Legislative Assembly to vote to support the act/policy").
15. **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.

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16. **treasury bench** (noun) – the front bench (to the right of the Speaker) in the Parliament occupied by the prime minister and other cabinet ministers of the government.
17. **geopolitical** (adjective) – relating to the study of the geographical factors (a country's position on the earth, size, climate, and natural resources & etc.,) in world politics and inter-state relations.
18. **contingency** (noun) – planning, prearrangement, precautionary measures/steps (for a possible event or circumstance, happening, occurrence of a possible incident but not guaranteed/certain to happen/occur).
19. **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.
20. **community spread/transmission** (noun) – community spread/transmission means spread of an illness/disease for which the source of infection is unknown. An infected person has no travel history to an affected area and no known contact with a person previously diagnosed with a particular disease. It is possible the patient is exposed to a returning traveler who is infected.
21. **local spread/transmission** (cluster) (noun) – local spread/transmission means spread of an illness/disease for which the source of infection is known. An infected person has travel history to an affected area. We could able to identify and trace individual cases, and ring-fence a cluster (of them) to prevent the spread of infection.
22. **hotspot** (noun) – a limited region/area in which a large number of people have tested positive for COVID-19 in several smaller groups or clusters. In general, hotspot means “a place of significant activity”.
23. **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.
24. **health-seeking behavior (HSB)** (noun) – it is defined as any activity undertaken by individuals who perceive themselves to have a health problem or to be ill for the purpose of finding an appropriate remedy. It can also be referred to as illness behaviour or sick-term behaviour.

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25. **prevalence** (noun) – it refers to the number of cases of a disease that are present in a particular population at a given time whereas “incidence” refers to the number of new cases that develop in a given period of time.
26. **containment** (noun) – an act of keeping something (harmful) under control (it means quickly identifying cases of coronavirus through testing, placing infected individuals in isolation, tracking who infected persons might have been in contact with and potentially quarantining those who came into contact with infection so that the disease doesn't continue to spread).
27. **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.
28. **H-1B visa** (noun) – it permits a foreign professional (with a (min. 4 years) university degree or its equivalent) to work in specialty occupations (or skilled employments) in the United States (issued for a max of 6 years in total).
29. **H-2B visa** (noun) – it permits a foreign worker to come temporarily to the United States and perform temporary/seasonal non agricultural services (issued for a max of 2 years).
30. **H-4 visa** (noun) – it is a visa issued by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to immediate family members/dependents of the H-1B visa holders.
31. **L-1 visa** (noun) – it is an intra-company transfer US visa. It allows a US company to transfer a key employee from one of its offices in another country into the United States.
32. **J-1 visa** (noun) – it is a non-immigrant US visa that permits people (students) to visit the United States to cultural and educational exchange skills, experience, or knowledge in various areas. it is for students on work-study summer programmes.
33. **non-immigrant visas** (noun) – non-immigrant visas are issued to foreign nationals seeking to enter the United States on a temporary basis for tourism, business, medical treatment and certain types of temporary work.
34. **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, or to take-up employment as a migrant worker or temporarily as a foreign worker.

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35. **preventive detention** (noun) – an action taken by the administration on the grounds of the suspicion that some wrong actions may be done by the person concerned which will be prejudicial to the state.
36. **watershed (moment)** (noun) – it used to mean ‘important changes’ or the ‘turning point’ in a situation or event. The event that marks a historic change; critical moment, decisive moment.
37. **locust** (noun) – locusts are crop-eating insects (short-horned grasshoppers) that travel in large swarms. The desert locust is a species of locust and it is considered the most destructive migratory pest in the world and a single swarm covering 1 square kilometre can contain up to 80 million locusts. The desert locusts are feeding and breeding in agricultural fields.
38. **rhetoric** (noun) – the art of speaking or writing effectively & persuasively or impressively (but, often lacking substance); bombast, loftiness, hyperbole/extravagant language.
39. **unilateral** (adjective) – relating to a method of taking decisions (particularly on international relations) by a state (country) individually without considering other states (countries). In general, it is relating to the decision taken individually without consulting with the others concerned.
40. **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.
41. **smart power** (noun) – In international relations, the term smart power refers to the combination of hard power and soft power strategies.
42. **soft power** (noun) – soft power is convincing & effective power deriving from attraction and imitation and be based on intangible (non-physical) resources such as culture, ideology, and institutions.
43. **hard power** (noun) – hard power is coercive power executed through military threats and economic incentives and based on tangible resources such as the army or economic strength.
44. **quarantine** (noun) – a process of separating out people, animals and things (such as plants) from others for a period of time in order to control/restrict the spread of a contagious disease; Quarantine is imposed to separate and restrict the movement of persons, who may have been exposed to infectious disease, but not yet known to be ill.
45. **checks and balances** (plural noun) – a system in which all departments of a government organization have right to amend/limit the powers of the other departments in order to avoid dominance of one department.

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46. **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.
47. **the Cold War** (noun) – The Cold War was a state of political and military tension after World War II between powers in the Western (Capitalist) Bloc and powers in the Eastern (Soviet) Bloc.
48. **world/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. An international-relations term describing the distribution of power among world powers.
49. **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).
50. **Great Depression** (noun) – a worldwide economic depression that started in 1929 and lasted until the late 1930s (almost for 10 years until about 1939). Although it originated in the United States, the Great Depression caused drastic declines in output, severe unemployment, and acute deflation in almost every country of the world.
51. **common minimum programme (CMP)** (noun) – a document outlining the minimum objectives of a coalition government in India. The document has acquired prominence since coalition governments have become the norm in India.
52. **placebo** (noun) – it is an inactive substance (with no therapeutic effect) is given to one group of participants in a clinical trial, while the treatment (usually a drug or vaccine being tested) is given to another group.
53. **bankruptcy** (noun) – legal state of insolvency. An individual or organisation is declared bankrupt if a court judges that the party involved can no longer meet debt payments to creditors. it is defined as the outcome of a legal procedure.
54. **insolvency** (noun) – a condition in which the financial difficulties of an individual or organisation are such it is unable to pay its debts.

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55. **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%).
56. **multiplier (effect)** (noun) – the proportional amount of increase in final income (particularly of the government) that results from an injection of spending; it occurs when an initial injection (investment/spending) into the economy causes a bigger final increase in national income.
57. **V shaped economic recovery** (noun) – the situation in which the economy quickly recoups lost ground and gets back to the normal growth trend-line. A sharp fall in economic activity followed by a dramatic rise.
58. **credit rating** (noun) – an assessment of the probability of default on payment of interest and principal on a debt instrument.
59. **credit rating agency (CRA)** (noun) – a credit rating agency is an entity which assesses the ability and willingness of the issuer company for timely payment of interest and principal on a debt instrument.
60. **junk rating** (noun) – if a country being downgraded to “junk status”, it refers to the sovereign credit rating (low) of that country and its ability (risky) to meet future obligations. Junk grades are also known as speculative or non-investment grades. It may threaten the country’s chances of being added to global bond indexes, steepen the bond yield curve and weaken the currency. This junk rating signals to potential investors that the risk of that country’s debt has increased because the government might not have enough money to pay back what it borrows.
61. **no-knock warrant** (phrase) – a search warrant authorizing police officers to enter certain premises without first knocking and announcing their presence or purpose prior to entering the premises.

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