

# EDITORIAL WORDS

LEARNING ENGLISH & IMPROVING VOCABULARY

## IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS (07-13MAR21)

1. **Doha Agreement** (noun) – The Doha Agreement, more formally, “Agreement for Bringing Peace to Afghanistan between the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan which is not recognised by the US as a state and is known as the Taliban and the United States of America, 2020” was signed on the February 29 in Doha, Qatar. The deal was considered a historic step towards establishing peace in Afghanistan.
2. **High Council for National Reconciliation (HCNR)** (noun) – This Council has established after the election of 2019 due after a political crisis. Dr. Abdullah Abdullah was recognized as chairman of the Council. The aim of this Council is to lead peace talk between the Afghan government and the Taliban. High Council of National Reconciliation and peace process is expected by Afghans and other countries to end this war and crisis in Afghanistan.
3. **Pentagon** (noun) – the headquarters building of the United States Department of Defense, near Washington, DC. Pentagon is a metonym of “the United States Department of Defense”. (Metonym is used as an alternative for something else with which it is closely related/associated).
4. **snakes and ladders** (plural noun) – an ancient Indian board game; It is played on a game board with numbered, gridded squares. A number of “ladders” and “snakes” are pictured on the board, each connecting two specific board squares. The object of the game is to navigate one’s game piece, according to die/dice rolls, from the start (bottom square) to the finish (top square), helped by climbing ladders but hindered by falling down snakes.
5. **ground game** (noun) – canvassing, the main activity of a political ground game. (ground game generally means hand-to-hand combat that takes place while the combatants are on the ground).
6. **Haryana State Employment of Local Candidates Act of 2020** (noun) – The Haryana state assembly passed the Haryana State Employment of Local Candidates Bill, 2020 in November 2020. The Bill seeks to reserve 75% of new jobs for local candidates in various companies, societies, trusts, and limited liability partnership firms situated in the state of Haryana. This seeks to ensure that 75% of all jobs with gross monthly salaries of up to ₹50,000 are provided to the State’s own residents.

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7. **sons of the soil** (phrase) – the local inhabitants of a particular region; Sons of the soil are populations that are culturally dominant in a region of a country, demographically subordinate to the dominant culture of that country, and threatened by the migration of settlers from the dominant culture into their historical homeland.
8. **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.
9. **nation-state** (noun) – a state (country) in which a great majority shares the same culture and is conscious of it. The nation-state is an ideal in which cultural boundaries match up with political boundaries. An independent state consists of people from one particular national group.
10. **Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA)** (noun) – The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019 seeks to grant citizenship to religious minorities of Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Bangladesh, who had to flee their homeland facing persecution. The six minority groups that have been specifically identified are Hindus, Jains, Sikhs, Buddhists, Christians, and Parsis.
11. **National Register of Citizens (NRC)** (noun) – It is a register that includes demographic information about all those individuals who qualify as citizens of India as per the Citizenship Act, 1955.
12. **rhetoric** (noun) – the art of speaking or writing effectively & persuasively or impressively (but, often lacking substance); bombast, loftiness, hyperbole/extravagant language.
13. **Article 19 of the Constitution of India** (noun) – It guarantees certain fundamental rights, subject to the power of the State to impose restrictions on the exercise of those rights. The Article was thus intended to protect these rights against State action other than in the legitimate exercise of its power to regulate private rights in the public interest. Protection of certain rights regarding freedom of speech etc.  
(1) All citizens shall have the right (a) to freedom of speech and expression; (b) to assemble peaceably and without arms; (c) to form associations or unions; (d) to move freely throughout the territory of India; (e) to reside and settle in any part of the territory of India; and (f) omitted (g) to practise any profession, or to carry on any occupation, trade or business.

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14. **Article 19(1)(g) of the Constitution of India** (noun) – This Article 19 is about “Right to Freedom (Protection of certain rights regarding freedom of speech, etc)”. The Constitution of India, therefore taking into consideration the need and the importance of work, enshrines and has guaranteed a fundamental right under Article 19 (1) (g) to practise any profession, or to carry on any occupation, trade or business.
15. **Article 16(2) of the Constitution of India** (noun) – Article 16 of the Constitution of India is about “Equality of opportunity in the matter of public employment”. Article 16 (2) emphasise that “no citizen shall, on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, descent, place of birth, residence or any of them, be ineligible for, or discriminated against in respect or, any employment or office under the State”.
16. **diversity** (noun) – existence/presence of different people (from a variety of backgrounds and perspectives ranging from race to age to gender to hometown to educational experience) within the group; variety, variance, difference.
17. **ceasefire** (noun) – a negotiated agreement that will be accompanied by other associated commitments to de-escalate the fighting; a temporary stoppage of war, truce, armistice.
18. **spring offensive** (noun) – also called “Operation Omari”, large-scale offensives/attacks by Taliban against Afghan government strongholds backed by suicide and guerrilla attacks.
19. **republic** (noun) – a group of people involved in a particular activity with certain equality; “The Republic” is a form of government in which a state (country) is ruled by elected representatives of the people (citizen body).
20. **National Building Code (NBC)** (noun) – a standardised set of rules to be followed by authorities and construction firms, to provide a healthy and safe living experience for all residents.
21. **Model bill of 2019 to Provide for the Maintenance of Fire and Emergency Services of a State** (noun) – An Act to provide for the Maintenance of Fire and Emergency Service and to make more effective provisions for the fire prevention and fire safety measures in various types of buildings and premises in the State and the matter connected therewith.

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22. **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)** (noun) – an Indian government agency responsible for collecting and analysing crime data as defined by the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Special and Local Laws (SLL). NCRB is headquartered in New Delhi and is part of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Government of India.
23. **public liability insurance** (noun) – it covers sum which the Insured becomes legally liable to pay as damages to the third party in respect of accidental death/bodily injury/disease and loss of or damage to property. Put simply, It covers accidental death/bodily injury suffered by visitors to your business property.
24. **gender sensitivity** (noun) – the process by which people are made aware of how gender plays a role in life through their treatment of others. It opens up communications between the sexes to bring mutual understanding and respect of each others' roles.
25. **bail** (noun) – conditional, temporary release of an arrested/imprisoned person when a specified amount of security is deposited or pledged (as cash or property) to ensure his/her appearance in court when required.
26. **anticipatory bail** (noun) – Under Section 438 of the Criminal Procedure Code, the provision allows a person can request to get bail in anticipation of being accused of having committed a non-bailable offence in India.
27. **Section 165 of Indian Evidence Act, 1872** (noun) – Section 165 has vested extensive power on the judges for the interest of the administration of justice. A judge can, therefore, put any question to the witness or to the party at any time which it thinks fit for knowing the truth of a case and making it more clear. By this section, a judge is empowered to ask any question in any form and at any time to any witness or to parties about any fact either relevant or irrelevant and to order the production of any document or thing.
28. **Indian Evidence Act, 1872** (noun) – The Indian Evidence Act, originally passed in India by the Imperial Legislative Council in 1872, during the British Raj, contains a set of rules and allied issues governing the admissibility of evidence in the Indian courts of law.
29. **compoundable offence** (noun) – compoundable offences are those offences where, the complainant (one who has filed the case, i.e. the victim), enter into a compromise, and agrees to have the charges dropped against the accused.

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30. **racial/ethnic purity** (noun) – systematic attempt to eliminate other races from the population by sterilisation (**sterilisation** means the surgical procedure which permanently prevents a person's capability of reproduction).
31. **alimony** (noun) – alimony means an allowance or amount which a court orders the husband to pay to the wife for her sustenance during separation or following divorce; financial support, spousal support, maintenance.
32. **succession** (noun) – succession is the process by which all the earthly property of a person (dead/alive) are dealt with. Succession results into inheritance. Inheritance is the transfer of rights of property from the person (dead/alive) to a successor.
33. **Hindu succession act** (noun) – The Supreme Court of India reiterated (said again) that the Hindu Succession Act – which was amended in 2005 gives women equal inheritance rights. The apex court has now categorically (clearly) ruled that a woman can claim an equal share in the family property as a daughter in the same way “as that of a son,”. This right flows (comes) from her birth and not by any other factor such as the existence of her father.
34. **Muslim Personal Law** (noun) – The Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Act was passed in 1937 with the aim to formulate an Islamic law code for Indian Muslims. An Act to make provision for the application of the Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) to Muslims.
35. **Section 498A in The Indian Penal Code** (noun) – This section is about Cruelty to Women; Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) deals with the violence committed by her husband or in-laws or any spouse relative on women after her marriage.
36. **cognisable (offence/crime)** (noun) – an offence for which, a police officer without any warrant has authority to arrest and to start an investigation with or without the permission of a court.
37. **warrant** (noun) – it is generally an order that serves as a specific type of authorization, that is, a writ issued by a competent officer, usually a judge or magistrate, authorizes a law enforcement officer (police officer) to arrest and bring a person before the judge.

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38. **Family Welfare Committee** (noun) – Every district has a family welfare committee which looks into the matter of cases related to section 498A which submit its report to IO and if settlement reaches then the case is disposed of by the district or session judge or any magistrate empowered to do so which has jurisdiction upon it. By creating the Family Welfare Committee, the Supreme Court has created one more layer between the victim and the justice system, and as a result, her access to justice is compromised.
39. **National Investigation Agency (NIA)** (noun) – The National Investigation Agency is a central agency established by the Indian Government to combat terror in India. It is functioning as the Central Counter-Terrorism Law Enforcement Agency in the country. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) is created following the terror attack in Mumbai on December 26, 2008. It came into being on December 31, 2008, with the passage of the NIA Act of 2008.
40. **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986** (noun) – An Act to provide for the protection and improvement of the environment and for matters connected therewith.
41. **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification 2020** (noun) – Under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, India notified its first EIA norms in 1994, setting in place a legal framework for regulating activities that access, utilise, and affect (pollute) natural resources. The 1994 EIA notification was replaced with the EIA Notification, 2006 with some amendments incorporated. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has published the draft Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification 2020, with the intention of replacing the existing EIA Notification, 2006 with some changes. The two most significant changes in the new draft are the new provisions for post-facto environmental clearance (of projects executed without prior clearance) and the removal of several activities from the purview of public consultation.
42. **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)** (noun) – a process of evaluating the likely environmental impacts of a proposed project or development, taking into account inter-related socio-economic, cultural and human-health impacts, both beneficial and adverse.

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43. **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)** (noun) – The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), a statutory organisation under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, was constituted in September 1974 under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. Further, CPCB was entrusted with the powers and functions under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.
44. **Comprehensive Environmental Pollution Index (CEPI)** (noun) – The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has developed a Comprehensive Environmental Pollution Index (CEPI). The index captures the various dimensions of the environment including air, water and land. Comprehensive Environmental Pollution Index (CEPI), which is a rational number to characterize the environmental quality at a given location following the algorithm of source, pathway and receptor have been developed. CPCB has done a nationwide environmental assessment of Industrial Clusters based on CEPI and 43 such industrial clusters having CEPI greater than 70, on a scale of 0 to 100, has been identified as critically polluted.
45. **Ease of Doing Business** (noun) – it is about different parameters which define the ease of doing business in a country; (Ease of doing business index is annually published by the World Bank. Doing business ranking is based on quantitative indicators on regulation for starting a business, dealing with construction permits, getting electricity, registering property, getting credit, protecting minority investors, paying taxes, trading across borders, enforcing contracts and resolving insolvency).
46. **conflict of interest** (noun) – a situation in which a person cannot do his/her job fairly because he/she has the power to decide something in a way that would be to his/her advantage, although this may not be the best decision.
47. **C-Voter** (noun) – Centre for Voting Opinion & Trends in Election Research, or CVoter, is an Indian international polling agency headquartered in Delhi, India. CVoter India states that it has covered 15 union budgets, more than 100 state elections and more than 30 international events.

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48. **Dravidianism** (noun) – Dravidianism is based on three ideologies: dismantling of Brahmin hegemony (dominance); revitalization of the “Dravidian Languages” (that include Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam and Tamil) and social reform by abolition of existing caste systems, religious practices and recasting women’s equal position in the society.
49. **voting block** (noun) – a group of voters that are strongly motivated by a specific common concern or group of concerns to the point that such specific concerns tend to dominate their voting patterns, causing them to vote together in elections.
50. **social security (scheme/benefit)** (noun) – (In India) social security schemes/benefits cover these (Pension, Health Insurance, and Medical Benefit, Disability Benefit, Maternity Benefit, Gratuity) social insurances. Employers in the organized sector are entitled to coverage under these social security schemes. A large number of Indian workers in the unorganized/informal sector may not have an opportunity to participate in each of these schemes.
51. **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.
52. **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.
53. **first responder/front line worker** (noun) – a person who is among the first to arrive and provide assistance at the scene of an emergency. First/front line workers/responders typically include paramedics, emergency medical technicians, police officers, firefighters, sanitary workers & etc.
54. **vaccine nationalism** (noun) – vaccine nationalism occurs when governments sign agreements with pharmaceutical manufacturers to supply their own populations with vaccines ahead of them becoming available for other countries.
55. **exhortation** (noun) – a communication/statement that forcefully urges someone to do something; urging, encouragement, pushing, insistence; call, demand, entreaty, appeal.

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56. **vaccine diplomacy** (noun) – the use of vaccine to increase diplomatic relationship and influence other countries but also, from a strategic perspective, vaccine access opens the door to expand long-term health security provisions.
57. **Farm Acts, 2000** (noun) – Farm Acts, 2000 refer to three agricultural bills passed by Indian Parliament in September 2020. The three acts are “The Farmers’ Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020 (FPTC Act) allows farmers to sell their harvest outside the notified Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) mandis without paying any State taxes or fees”, “the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020 facilitates contract farming and direct marketing”, and “the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020 deregulates the production, storage, movement and sale of several major foodstuffs, including cereals, pulses, edible oils and onion, except in the case of extraordinary circumstances”.
58. **food security** (noun) – food security is a situation that exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.
59. **Public Distribution System (PDS)** (noun) – The Public Distribution System (PDS) in the country facilitates the supply of food grains and distribution of essential commodities to a large number of poor people through a network of Fair Price Shops at a subsidized price on a recurring basis.
60. **wetland** (noun) – an area of land that is saturated with water; areas where water covers the soil or is present either at or near the surface of the soil all year or for varying periods of time during the year, including during the growing season.
61. **Centre of Excellence (COE)** (noun) – a team of skilled knowledge workers whose mission is to provide the organization they work for with best practices around a particular area of interest.
62. **intellectual property** (noun) – a category of property that includes intangible creations of the human intellect. The most well-known types are copyrights, patents, trademarks, and trade secrets.
63. **inequality** (noun) – Inequality is simply defined as “the state of not being equal, especially in status, rights and opportunities; imbalance, unevenness, disproportion, disparity.

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64. **work-space skills** (plural noun) – workplace skills help you perform your daily tasks on behalf of the business you work for. (Examples of workplace skills are communication, management, problem-solving, organization, self-regulation, teamwork, time management and etc.).
65. **humanism** (noun) – a democratic and ethical life stance that affirms that human beings have the right and responsibility to give meaning and shape to their own lives. Humanism stands for the building of a more humane society through an ethics based on human and other natural values in a spirit of reason and free inquiry through human capabilities.
66. **(national) unity government** (noun) – a broad coalition government consisting of all parties in the legislature, (usually formed during a time of war or other national emergencies).
67. **Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995** (noun) – An Act to regulate the operation of cable television networks in the country and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.
68. **authorised officer (AO)** (noun) – an employee of the department, appointed by the Minister or Secretary to carry out a compliance or enforcement function under legislation administered by the department.
69. **The Information Technology (Guidelines for Intermediaries and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021** (noun) – the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021 has been framed in exercise of powers under section 87 (2) of the Information Technology Act, 2000 and in supersession of the earlier Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines) Rules 2011. It empowers ordinary users of social media, embodying a mechanism for the redressal and timely resolution of their grievances. Rules about digital media and OTT focuses more on in house and self-regulation mechanism whereby a robust grievance redressal mechanism has been provided while upholding journalistic and creative freedom. The guidelines have been framed keeping in mind the difference between viewership in a theatre and television as compared to watching it on the Internet.

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70. **freedom of expression** (noun) – the ability of an individual or group of individuals to express their beliefs, thoughts, ideas, and emotions about different issues free from government censorship, restraint, or legal penalty.
71. **over-the-top (OTT) service** (noun) – An over-the-top media service (popularly known as OTT media service) is a streaming media service offered to the viewers directly through the Internet.
72. **censorship** (noun) – the suppression of speech, public communication, or other information, on the basis that such material is considered objectionable, harmful, sensitive, or inconvenient.
73. **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA)** (noun) – an Indian law aimed at effective prevention of unlawful activities associations in India. Its main objective was to make powers available for dealing with activities directed against the integrity and sovereignty of India.
74. **majoritarianism** (noun) – a philosophy that states that a majority (sometimes categorized by religion, language, social class, or some other identifying factor) of the population is entitled to a certain degree of primacy (priority) in society, and has the right to make decisions that affect the society.
75. **the legislature** (noun) – a deliberative body of persons, usually elective, who are empowered to make, change, or repeal the laws of a country or state. India follows a bicameral (two chambers/parts) system at both the centre and state level. Under this system, the state's legislature is divided into two parts – Legislative Assembly or Vidhan Sabha and Legislative Council or Vidhan Parishad.
76. **constitutional democracy** (noun) – a system of government based on popular sovereignty in which the structures, powers, and limits of government are set forth in a constitution.
77. **checks and balances** (plural noun) – a system in which all departments of a government organization have the right to amend/limit the powers of the other departments in order to avoid the dominance of one department.
78. **the Emergency** (noun) – In India, “The Emergency” refers to a 24-month period from 1975 to 1977 when Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had a state of emergency declared across the country.

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