



# THE HINDU EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

- VOCAB
- GRAMMAR
- SPOKEN ENGLISH

14 JAN 2021 | 7:30 AM



# TOPICS WE WOULD COVER



- Complete article discussion ✓

- Vocabulary ← in details

- One word substitution (2 new)

- Idioms and phrases (2 new)

- Phrasal verb

- Grammar

↓  
any spelling errors that can be  
formed.

# ARTICLE

## Terror trail

(negative)

\*1 Enough

Adj → placed before the word it qualifies  
Adverb → placed after the word it qualifies



✓ Pakistan's action against terrorists is welcome, but nowhere near enough \*1 — Tone — Cynical

20 year's resolution

prepare the ground

\*2

③ Hitesh is working enough hard for his exam.

hard enough

\*2

20-year's resolution  
NO + Unit + NOUN

(S)

In his speech to the UN Security Council (UNSC) marking 20 years since the resolutions that announced a global commitment to the war against terror after the U.S. 9/11 attacks, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar made a pitch for greater coordination between counter terrorism agencies worldwide. (He highlighted the necessity to streamline the process of the UN's top body in designating terrorists while strengthening coordination in the agencies that check their financial resources.)

appointing

to make things easier.



# ARTICLE

How they will operate/ what are the needful activities?



Question #1

First, the world must acknowledge that terrorist organisations use not only extortion and money laundering, drugs and wildlife trafficking to raise funds, but, in the present and future, will use loopholes in digital security and the "anonymity" provided by block chain technology to access finances. Second, in a clear reference to Pakistan, he spoke of the need to link actions between the UN and the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), and for countries that "wilfully provide financial assistance and safe havens" as well as "5 star" treatment to criminals and terrorists, to be held to account by them.

informal way of sending money over countries

\*4 not only  
but also

No Error

Unknown

Security

held responsible for



# ARTICLE

\* word } — promise / message  
words } — combination of alphabet. Error

① He is a man  
of words



(His words are significant given that a FATF committee, the Asia Pacific Joint Group (APJG), is meeting this week to finalise recommendations for the FATF on whether to continue Pakistan's 'greylisting status', downgrade it to a blacklist, or let it off, decisions that India is watching closely.

→ held under suspicion

Finally, he pointed to countries that allow their "political and religious" affinities to decide on issues of designation of terrorists, blocking and unblocking requests at the UNSC for such reasons rather than technically evaluate the evidence against these individuals.

affection / extreme desire

Unethical  
bias

② He kept his words

③ There are  
✓ 4 words in  
the above  
sentence. (NE)



# ARTICLE

While the broad message here was for China, which has often blocked India's efforts to designate individuals at the UNSC, this also includes Turkey and Malaysia which have helped Pakistan avoid **stringent** measures at the FATF this far.

→ rigid / strict — ~~promise / message~~ → statement words

While Mr. Jaishankar's words were meant for the global struggle with terrorism since 2001, their import is for India's particular problems with Pakistan and cross-border terrorism in the present for the impending decision at the FATF plenary next month.

Plenary — plenary ✓  
unlimited more than enough

# VOCABULARY



## 1. Streamline (verb)-

to make less complex

**synonyms-** simplify/dumb down/oversimplify/prune

**antonyms-** complex/complexify/complicate

## 2. Designating (verb)-

to decide upon (the time or date for an event) usually from a position of authority

**synonyms-** appointing/fixing/naming/setting

**antonyms-** blackballing/deposing/dethroning





# VOCABULARY



NN

NS

## 3. Anonymity (noun)-

the quality of being mostly or completely unknown

**synonyms-** obscurity/silence/oblivion

**antonyms-** mark/name/note / known

## 4. Affinities (noun)-

a habitual attraction to some activity or thing

**synonyms-** affections/aptitudes/bents

**antonyms-** allergies/aversions/disfavors

# VOCABULARY



## 5. Stringent (adj)-

not allowing for any loosening of standards

**synonyms-** inflexible/rigid/rigorous/strict

**antonyms-** acquiescent/compliant/compromising

*ready to adjust.*

# ONE WORD SUBSTITUTION



CW

## 1. Arbitrator ✓

Someone who is designated to hear both sides of a dispute and make a judgement.

## 2. ✓ Congregation

An assembly of worshippers.



# IDIOMS AND PHRASES



1. A fair weather friend always tries to fish in troubled waters of his friends and benefactors.

- A. To borrow money
- B. To steal belongings of
- C. To get benefit in bad situation.
- D. To extend a helping hand.

How

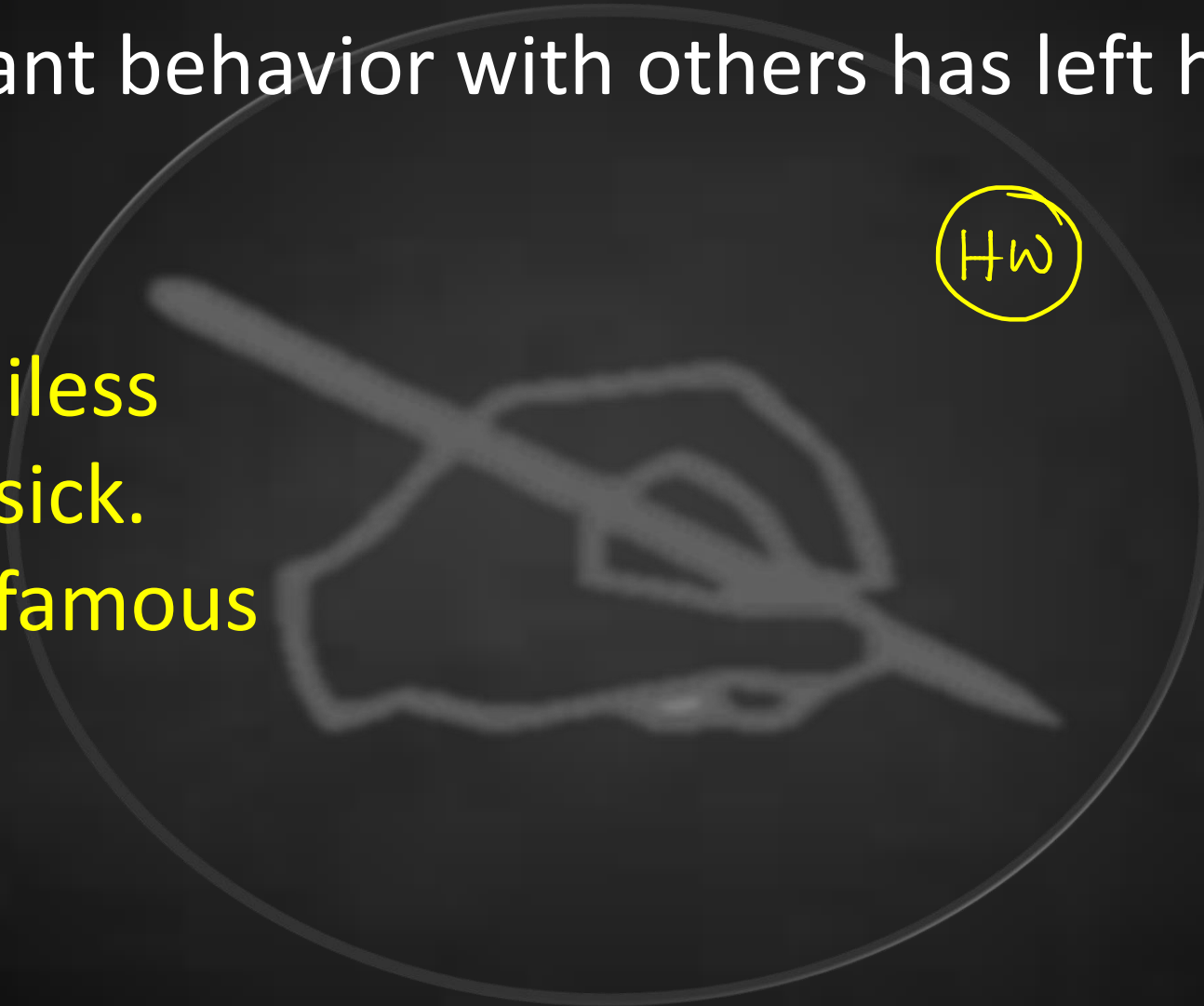
# IDIOMS AND PHRASES



2. His arrogant behavior with others has left him high and dry.

Hw

- A. To be penniless
- B. To be very sick.
- C. To be very famous
- D. Isolated.



## Final blow

Biden shouldn't be deterred by the policy reversal on Cuba by the Trump administration

**T**he Trump administration's decision to redesignate Cuba as a state sponsor of terrorism, taken in its last days, appears to be a blatantly politicised move, bereft of any strategic or moral reasoning. In the announcement, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo cited Cuba's hosting of 10 Colombian rebels, a few American fugitives and its backing for Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro as evidence for its "support for acts of international terrorism". The designation now puts the Caribbean country with Iran, North Korea and Syria, and would trigger fresh sanctions, making it more difficult for Cuba to do business. Havana has stated that returning the Colombian rebels would complicate the peace process in which it is a mediator. With regard to Venezuela, Cuba is following a foreign policy which it thinks serves its best interests, dealing with the country's government, irrespective of Washington's opinion. Not even the harshest critics of the single-party communist government in Havana, which faced domestic protests recently for freedom of expression, would allege its involvement in terrorist activities. As the Trump administration prepares to hand over power to a new President, it is taking a host of consequential foreign policy decisions that would make it difficult for Joe Biden to move quickly on his foreign policy agenda.

America's acrimony towards Cuba has its roots in the Cold War period. As U.S. President Barack Obama noted when he opened up towards Cuba, their adverse relations were a relic of the past. He had taken a more realistic approach towards the Cubans than his predecessors. The U.S. has punished Cuba for decades with harsh sanctions, hoping that the Castro regime would eventually collapse. But the Cuban communists survived even the fall of the Soviet Union. With the Cold War memories fading and a new generation of Americans demanding a reset in foreign policy, Mr. Obama re-established ties, opened the American embassy and travelled to Havana, marking a new beginning. The logical approach of his successor should have been taking more confidence-building measures between the two countries and working towards a gradual normalisation of ties. But Donald Trump did just the opposite. It is strange that the U.S., the world's largest military power that had cooperated with communist China since the early 1970s, still treats this tiny communist country that lies off the Florida coast as an enemy. Mr. Biden, during his campaign, had criticised the Trump administration's Cuba policy and promised a more open approach. He could reverse the terror listing, but it would take time as the decision should follow a review process. Perhaps that is what Mr. Trump, who resisted the November election result till the Congressional certification of Mr. Biden's victory, wants. Mr. Biden should not be deterred by these last-minute policy sabotages.

Go through  
these article  
And raise your  
query if any





# Farm laws, their constitutional validity, and hope

In the event of further judicial intervention, there are grounds and an opportunity for the government to revisit the laws



P.D.T. ACHARY

With the Supreme Court of India staying the operation of the farm laws and setting up a committee of experts to negotiate with the government and the farmers, the agitation being carried on by the farmers is entering a new phase. The farmers' unions have not reacted favourably to the formation of the experts' committee. As it happens, the committee does not comprise entirely impartial experts. Most of them are well known and strong defenders of the farm laws, and are critical of the agitation.

## The situation now

For conducting negotiations with both the government and the farmers, the members of the committee ought to and should be known to have an open mind on the core issues, which alone will create a necessary confidence in the parties concerned. The farmers have, however, made it clear that they will not agree to anything less than the repeal of these laws. This would mean that the present agitation is likely to continue indefinitely. It is not yet clear what impact the report of this committee will have on the final decision of the Supreme Court on the question of the constitutional validity of the farm laws. That is the real issue before the Supreme Court. So whatever the experts' committee recommends, the question of the constitutional validity of the farm

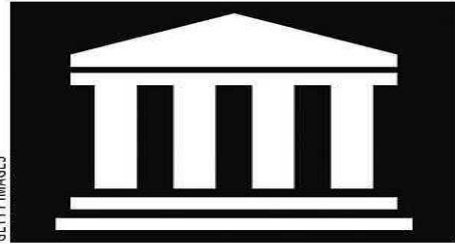
laws can be decided only after a proper hearing of the matter before the Court. The most curious thing about a decision on this issue by the Supreme Court is that if the Court upholds the validity of the laws, the agitation will not stop because the farmers' demand is for the repeal of the laws.

But the government of India seems to have taken a maximalist approach, particularly on the question of a repeal of the farm laws. While the repeal of a law is a simple legislative act, having to repeal a law in which the government has invested a lot of its prestige is not so easy especially for a government which is extremely proud of its numerical majority in the Lok Sabha, which has generated a great deal of hubris. On the other hand, the farmers are unyielding on the demand for a repeal.

## Not in accordance with rules

The constitutional validity of the farm laws has been challenged in the Supreme Court mainly on the ground that Parliament has no legislative competence to enact these laws, the subject matter of which is essentially in the State list. But there is a more fundamental reason to challenge these enactments which will be examined now.

It is a universally acknowledged fact that the voting on the Farm Bills in the Rajya Sabha was not done in accordance with the rules of the House. These rules require the Chair to order the recording of votes (division) by members even when one member demands it. The Deputy Chairman of the House, who was conducting the proceedings at that time, did not order division although a few



GETTY IMAGES

members openly and loudly demanded it. It is true that there was disorder in the House but it could have been controlled and a proper voting could have been conducted. Disorder was not taking place for the first time in the House. Thus, there was a violation of the rules of the House in passing the Bills by voice vote when there was a demand for division.

## Voice vote is unrecognised

But the matter goes beyond the violation of the House rules. It involves the violation of the Constitution itself. Article 100 says that all questions at any sitting of either House shall be determined by a majority of votes of the members present and voting. Majority can be determined only in terms of number, and therefore what this Article requires is that all questions in the House should be determined by recording the votes of the members present and voting. Majority cannot be determined through voice vote. In fact the Constitution does not recognise voice vote to determine majority in a legislature. However, deciding a question by voice vote is a practice prevailing in all legislatures. This was devised for the sake of convenience and there is always an assumption that since the government of the day has a majority, any proposal before the House

has the support of the majority. But that assumption goes when a member demands voting in the House and the Chair has, then, no option but to order the actual voting. Since this was not done and the Bills were all passed by voice vote, there is a violation of the rules as well as the Constitution.

## Options before the judiciary

It is true that Article 122 of the Constitution protects the proceedings of the House from judicial review. But this protection is available only when the proceedings are challenged on irregularity of procedure. Violation of the Constitution is not a mere irregularity of procedure. The Supreme Court in Raja Ram Pal's case had clarified that the proceedings can be challenged on substantive grounds like violation of the Constitutional provisions. Therefore, the Farm Bills were passed in the Rajya Sabha in violation of Article 100 of the Constitution and can be challenged in the Supreme Court on that ground.

Now what are the options before the Supreme Court if and when such a challenge is made? The Court can strike down the whole laws as the requirement of Article 107 has not been fulfilled. This Article says that a Bill shall not be deemed to have been passed unless it has been agreed to by both Houses. As has been explained above, the Bills have not in fact been passed by the Rajya Sabha because the majority had not been determined in accordance with Article 100. It would mean that the three Bills did not become laws.

The Court may also invalidate the proceedings of the Rajya Sabha and send the three 'Acts' back

to that House for further proceedings in accordance with the constitutional provisions. If this happens, it may provide a good opportunity to the government to revisit these laws. These can then be referred to a Select Committee of the Rajya Sabha which can invite the farmers and all other stakeholders and finally produce better Bills. Such an opportunity is invaluable in the present circumstances when the government is facing virtually a no-win situation. If, on the other hand, the government decides to withdraw the Bills after these are sent back to the Rajya Sabha on the ground that it wants to bring fresh Bills with altered proposals, it will have that option too under the rules of the House. The possibility of these options can be creatively considered for finding a solution to this problem.

## Centrality of Parliament

We may not forget that the issue that needs to be settled by the top court is only the constitutional validity of the laws. In resolving a problem like the agitation by farmers against the laws, the centrality of Parliament in the legislative process in all its dimensions should not be lost sight of. Once the Court decides the legality or constitutionality of a law, the political and legislative aspects of the issue will have to be dealt with only by Parliament. Parliament and its systems alone can produce a satisfactory solution. The only condition is that the government which is accountable to Parliament should genuinely demonstrate its faith in those systems.

*P.D.T. Achary is a former Secretary General of the Lok Sabha*



# Mediating the farmers' protests is difficult terrain

If the top court does find itself mandated by a higher public duty to intervene, then it must observe some essentials



SRIRAM PANCHU

For nearly half a hundred days, the farmers of North India protesting against the recent farm laws have been at the capital's outskirts, braving the bitter cold, and growing in numbers. They have mostly kept the peace and their dignity, and their communities seem ready to support them for as long as need be. If the authorities had any hopes of the protest petering out by dissonant voices claiming to represent farmers, or labelling them as anti-national and fuelled by pro-Khalistan elements, these do not look like carrying much weight. New Delhi's mandarins have a first class headache, brought on principally by the way in which they hustled through legislation which affects the lifeline of India's agrarian sector.

## Central issue is about trust

One thing stands out clearly, and that is the lack of trust the farmers have developed about the designs of the government; the laws, they say, will leave them at the mercy of corporates. Given the imputed closeness of the ruling elite with corporate houses which have ascended to commanding heights of the economy in multiple key sec-

tors, this is not a charge easily to discount. The farmers' focus is on retention of the MSP, the minimum support price mainly for wheat and rice, and the need to provide a statutory backing for this, in the absence of which a corporate with ready cash will tap into farms in need. And the necessity of continuing with the *mandi* system which provides the wherewithal for open trade. On its part, the government offers assurances but these fall short of binding legal mandates, in other words asking the farmer to accept on trust that all will be well – and that brings us back to the central problem of lack of trust in the central government.

Another thing that stands out clearly is the fact that the Prime Minister and the top leadership have been absent from dialogues with the farmers' representatives, these being helmed by junior Ministers out of the decision-making range. The earnestness of the government in finding a fair solution would have been well demonstrated if its heads lent a willing ear to those who toil on the ground to keep us well fed. For the essence of a hearing is that it may well open out your mind and give you a better perspective. And it brings comfort and confidence to those who are agitating to have their concerns redressed.

## Committee and its mandate

In the encrusted stalemate now comes pitchforked the appointment of a committee by the Supreme Court, before which were



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

petitions calling for removal of protesters and challenging the farm laws, accompanied by a stay of implementation of the laws with observations to the effect that the protesters need not continue on site. This is problematic for several reasons. Staying a law on legal grounds of *prima facie* force in the constitutional challenge is one thing, holding it in abeyance to facilitate the committee's work and dispersal of protesters is another. Another is the mandate itself – the committee is supposedly made up of experts to give its recommendations to the Court on the laws; where exactly does a court come into the picture in what seems to be a legislative and executive exercise? It is another matter for a court to undertake legal examination and on finding provisions to be *ultra vires*, strike them down or declare the entire law void.

The body has not been termed a mediation committee nor formally tasked with conducting a mediation, but the Court does mention a role in assisting the negotiations between the farmers and the government, and in public discourse this is being talked about. A struc-

tured mediation would be approached differently. First, and this is of the essence, all necessary parties must consent to it; mediation's strength lies in its voluntary aspect. Here, prominent farmer unions held back, perhaps because they perceive that growing public support dictates the choice of the political battleground rather than the mediation table; if so, the Court should be circumspect before entering the arena. The other reason for rejection has to do with the second basic requirement for mediation, that the mediators must be fair and neutral, and seen and perceived by all parties to be such. Appointing persons who have publicly taken strong stands on the merits of the matter is asking for a non-starter.

## The pathway to take

It is a tricky situation and caution would forbear a Court from wading into a political minefield. However, it has repeatedly been said by the Chief Justice of India that the negotiations seem to be going nowhere, and something urgent needs to be done. In times gone by, the Court has utilised its reservoir of public trust to mandate and structure a mediation in public disputes. This is being occasioned because increasingly, current day politicians seem to have lost the willingness and capacity to reach out and build bridges and find solutions. But if the Court does find itself mandated by a higher public duty to intervene, then it must observe some essentials. The first is

to offer a committee of such composition that its neutrality, calibre and *gravitas* command respect and persuade doubters to give the process a try. There are some, but not many, former Chief Justices of the Supreme Court of India who will qualify to serve. The second is to obtain from the government the assurance that its highest level will meet the committee and participate in the proceedings. With this on offer, the consent of all parties may be secured.

Once discussions start and are properly guided, solutions are possible. It may well be that once the important elements get focused upon and the key concerns expressed, approaches will open up which will secure legitimate interests to the maximum extent possible. Right now, parties are log jammed on the demand for immediate repeal, and the counter of focusing on amendments. The Supreme Court order may relegate this obstacle to the background. With all aspects on the table, it may be possible to get agreement and then put forward a law for repeal and reenactment, a known legislative device. All this is however possible if it is mediation on accepted principles and lines, which is not the case now. The Court needs to be careful about further continuance; its reservoir of public trust should not further be diminished.

Sriram Panchu is Senior Advocate and President, Mediators India. E-mail: [srirampanchu@gmail.com](mailto:srirampanchu@gmail.com)





For Your Any Type of English Related  
Queries Join Telegram Channel :

**English Mahendras Live** *7* *Sraya*

Or

**Sraya Mahendras English** *>* *✓*

Get Additional **10% Discount** On All  
Products & Services of Mahendra's at  
**[mahendras.org](http://mahendras.org)**

Use Code : **MKHSPC**



9:30

IBPS Main  
PO