



EDITORIAL



THE HINDU

EDITORIAL FORUM

24 JULY 2020

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TASK OF DAY THE

- 1) EDITORIAL DISCUSSION + VOCABULARY**
- 2) TONE OF THE PASSAGE**
- 3) IDIOM**
- 4) PHRASAL VERB**
- 5) ONE LINERS - * OF PREVIOUS DAY* so that we can revise back dated news also.**
- 6) QUIZ - * THEN TOO FROM PREVIOUS DAY NEWS* so you can answer , questions easily.**

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Calibrated balance

Non-alignment as a policy must be rethought, but India must be wary of alliance systems

In separate statements this week, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar laid out India's world view in the face of global challenges, many of which pull it in different directions. Mr. Jaishankar's contention was that non-alignment as a concept belonged to a bygone era and that multipolarity in the world necessitated that India would have to take a definite stand, and even take "risks" on issues such as connectivity, maritime security, terrorism and climate change. However, he made it clear that India does not reject non-alignment in its entirety, and that while it would no longer remain disentangled from difficult decisions, it would not compromise on its independence. More importantly, he said that India has "never been part of an alliance system, nor will it ever be". He added that even the U.S. must look beyond its present alliances, and engage with more multilateral arrangements. Mr. Jaishankar explained that while non-alignment worked for India during the Cold War era between the U.S. and the Soviet Union, the fact that India and China share a land boundary would always be a factor in a "new cold war" between the U.S. and China. He spoke of Indo-U.S. cooperation in many fields, and the growing maritime collaboration in particular, but left unsaid the hard reality that military collaboration on land would prove problematic given India's disputed boundary with China.

The BJP's hegemonic narrative

Focus is not on the BJP's dubious methods of destabilising elected governments, but on the disarray in the Congress



ZOIA HASAN

Ever since the colossal defeat of the Congress in the 2019 general election, there has been a ceaseless debate in the media and in political circles about the future of the Congress party. The defection of Jyotiraditya Scindia to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the replication of a similar script by Congress leader Sachin Pilot has intensified this debate which centres around the leadership, organisational and ideological challenges confronting the Congress. After Rahul Gandhi's resignation as Congress President in July 2019, the party has witnessed disintegration in States including Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. Several prominent leaders have quit the party and joined the BJP. Defections, splits and electoral decline are not new phenomena in the party's long history, but the crisis the Congress faces in the wake of

the party's functioning. The dominant argument is that the Congress lacks inner party democracy and hence cannot keep young leaders in its fold. Sections of the mainstream media blame Mr. Gandhi for the crisis and want him to vacate space to make way for other leaders.

Two important dimensions

Big-ticket leaders leaving the Congress should be a matter of concern for the party. But to view Mr. Pilot's rebellion in Rajasthan as only the result of failure of leadership and organisational politics misses two important dimensions of this crisis. Mr. Pilot was willing to sacrifice the government, of which he was the Deputy Chief Minister until a few days ago, because he has differences with Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot. Even though he says he is not joining the BJP, Mr. Pilot does not put much distance between himself and the party. Mr. Pilot made it clear that he was unwilling to settle for anything less than the chief ministership even though he has the support of just 18 MLAs. Mr. Pilot is heading a minority faction but making claims to the top job is a sign of the neo-liberal times we live in where am-



loaves and fishes of office to leaders waiting in the departure lounge. When the party was in power it could adjust and accommodate conflicting interests and ambitions in multiple ways but it is much harder to do so in Opposition. The BJP, on the other hand, is routinely able to attract disgruntled leaders to its side. Arguably, it has given in to Mr. Scindia's huge demands in Madhya Pradesh to attract Mr. Pilot in Rajasthan. The bottom line is this: Mr. Pilot's escape into Haryana couldn't have taken off without the BJP's support. His jaunt to ITC's Best Western can't be passed off as a struggle for inner party democracy in the Congress.

The second and more important dimension of the Rajasthan crisis is the concerted effort mounted by the ruling party to topple the Congress government in the State. The pursuit of this sin-

ing the country". "The Congress party is a burden on this nation," he said. Since coming to power in 2014, the BJP has been using various means, notably money power and the coercive power of state agencies, to achieve this goal by bringing down elected Congress governments in State after State.

Hunt for power

We have seen many States witnessing a change of guard. In 2016, in Arunachal Pradesh, the BJP backed the rebel Congress faction when deep cracks surfaced within the ruling party. The BJP lost the election but managed to replace the Congress government with its own in Karnataka (in 2019) and in Madhya Pradesh (in 2020). In 2019, the Congress emerged the single largest party in Goa, but the BJP was quick to cobble together a coalition and form a government. Now Rajasthan is on the cusp of change though the game is not over yet.

In Goa, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh, scores of Congress legislators were allegedly lured into deserting the Congress which enabled the BJP to gain power after losing in elections. These reports are in the realm of speculation but

drama, Rajasthan's political crisis has underlined once again its unscrupulous hunt for power. Given its enviable record in forming governments through political defections, the perception that a government with a clear majority is being deposed may not really matter to the party. However, it should matter to the media. But the media spotlight is not on the BJP's dubious methods of destabilising elected governments, but on the disarray in the Congress, which allows the BJP to get away even with constitutional transgressions. Thus far, the Congress has managed to save its government in Rajasthan. Regardless of the final outcome, an obvious conclusion to draw from this crisis would be that the Congress party has to put its house in order to stop further desertions and breakup. It has to bring an end to the unmitigated drift and elect a new president and begin the process of rebuilding the party.

That so many in the media have seen Mr. Pilot's unhappiness with the Congress as an example of a talented politician being forced to jump ship to the BJP shows that the BJP's narrative is completely hegemonic. That so many in the

not to raise its tensions with China in any forum other than bilateral talks with Beijing. Equally significant is the government's outreach to Moscow, including a visit by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and the participation of Mr. Jaishankar in the Russia-India-China trilateral last month, and the External Affairs Minister's comments that India should also seek to build coalitions with "middle powers", such as the European Union and Japan. A time of crisis often clarifies priorities. At a time of a double crisis for India – battling the novel coronavirus pandemic in the country and Chinese aggression at the border – the message from New Delhi is one of a carefully calibrated balance.

Escalating tensions

The downward spiral in U.S.-China ties is bad news for the whole world

The U.S.'s decision to close China's consulate in Houston is an unprecedented escalation in the steadily deteriorating ties between the world's two largest economies. The Trump administration has accused the consulate and other Chinese diplomatic missions in the country of economic espionage, visa fraud and attempted theft of scientific research – allegations that China has denied. It has announced visa restrictions on students, imposed sanctions on Chinese officials over a Hong Kong security law and is reportedly considering a sweeping travel ban on the millions of members of China's ruling Communist Party. The consulate decision is by far the most drastic measure. This is the first time a Chinese mission is being closed in the U.S. since both countries normalised diplomatic relations in 1979. Since the tariff war that President Trump launched in 2018, China has retaliated against every hostile move by the U.S. China made matters worse by providing refuge in its San Francisco consulate to one of the Chinese researchers against whom the U.S. has is-

Towards national security and peace in Hong Kong

It is in India's interest to maintain stability in the Hong Kong SAR given their close economic and trade ties



SUN WEIDONG

The promulgation and implementation of the Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) marks a major turning point from unrest to peace and order, and a farewell to the history of "unguarded" national security in Hong Kong.

The Law is enacted for the purpose of ensuring the resolute, full and faithful implementation of the policy of One Country, Two Systems under which the people of Hong Kong administer Hong Kong with a high degree of autonomy; safeguarding national security; preventing, suppressing and imposing punishment for the offences of secession, subversion, organisation and perpetration of terrorist activities, and collusion with a foreign country or with external elements to endanger national security in relation to Hong Kong; maintaining prosperity and stability of Hong Kong; and protecting the lawful rights and inter-

openly instigated "Hong Kong independence" separatist acts and serious violent incidents, which highlighted big national security loopholes in the city. Hong Kong has been plunged into the gravest situation since their return. The city has lost the title of the world's freest economy it had held for 25 years. Its GDP registered negative growth for the first time in a decade, and the unemployment rate hit a record high in nearly 10 years.

Significant effects of the law

The national security legislation for HKSAR was enacted by the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress in accordance with the Chinese Constitution and the Basic Law of the HKSAR. The legislation plugs the legal loopholes and provides strong institutional and legal safeguards for national security in Hong Kong, which has significant effect on the long-term development of the city.

First, the legislation will guarantee the sustained implementation of One Country, Two Systems. One Country is the precondition and basis for Two Systems. Only when One Country is safe and secure can Two Systems be safeguarded. The legislation will neither change the principle of One Country, Two



er, including that of final adjudication.

Second, the legislation will protect the lawful rights and freedoms of Hong Kong residents. The legislation clearly stipulates four types of criminal offences and principles of the rule of law such as respecting and protecting human rights. The legislation will not lead to generalised understanding or unlimited expansion of "national security". It will not affect but better protect the lawful rights and freedoms of Hong Kong residents. For a handful of people endangering national security, the law is a sword hanging above. Yet for the vast majority of Hong Kong residents, including foreigners in Hong Kong, the law is a guardian for their rights, freedoms and peaceful life.

Third, the legislation will safeguard long-term prosperity and

legislation will help to restore the order and maintain the stability in Hong Kong, consolidate and enhance Hong Kong's international financial, trade and shipping center status, further strengthen the confidence of foreign investors, and create a better living and business environment for foreign nationals and enterprises in Hong Kong. International credit rating agency S&P has affirmed its AA+ issuer credit ratings on Hong Kong and maintained the outlook as stable, which shows international investors' confidence in Hong Kong's future.

The legislation is firmly supported by the mainstream public opinion in Hong Kong and the forces of justice in the international community. Nearly three million people in Hong Kong have signed a petition in support of the enactment of the Law, and more than 1.28 million have signed an online petition opposing the interference by the U.S. and other external forces. More than 70 countries voiced their support for the legislation at the 44th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council.

An internal affair

National security legislation belongs to the sovereignty of a country and the authority of the Cen-

exercise of basic rights and freedoms shall not endanger national security. It's common practice in the world to safeguard the national security through legislation. Hong Kong is China's Hong Kong. Hong Kong affairs are China's internal affairs that allow no foreign interference. Some western politicians use the national security legislation as an excuse to interfere in China's internal affairs. What they care about is not the freedoms of Hong Kong people, but the "freedoms" of trampling on China's national security. The Chinese government is firmly committed to safeguarding national sovereignty, security and development interests, firmly committed to implementing One Country, Two Systems, and firmly committed to opposing interference in Hong Kong affairs by external forces.

India and Hong Kong have close economic and trade relations. It serves India's interest to maintain the prosperity and stability in Hong Kong. The national security legislation will better protect the safety of foreign investment and legitimate rights and interests of foreign nationals in Hong Kong, including that of India. We hope Indian friends can uphold fairness and justice, respect and support China's efforts to safeguard nation-

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To test ,जांचना

Impartial ,गैर संरेखण

Cautious ,सावधान

Argument ,विवाद

Happened in past,पुराना

Multi poles,बहुध्रुवीयता

ty, terrorism and climate change. However, he made it clear that India does not reject non-alignment in its entirety, and that while it would no longer remain **disentangled** from difficult decisions, it would not compromise on its independence. More importantly, he said that India has “never been part of an **alliance** system, nor will it ever be”. He added that even the U.S. must look beyond its present alliances, and engage with more multilateral arrangements. Mr. Jaishankar explained that while non-alignment worked for India during the Cold War era between the U.S. and the Soviet Union, the fact that India and China share a land boundary would always be a factor in a “new cold war” bet-

Free something ,सुलझना

Union ,संधि

ween the U.S. and China. He spoke of Indo-U.S. cooperation in many fields, and the growing maritime **collaboration** in particular, but left unsaid the hard reality that military collaboration on land would prove problematic given India's disputed boundary with China, the venue of a nearly three-month-long **stand-off** between the PLA and the Indian Army.

Mr. Jaishankar's comments are a clear-eyed assessment of India's **constraints** and avenues for its potential growth. The assertion of India's strategic independence and resistance to joining any alliance comes as a timely reminder amid **speculation** that tensions with China will push India into a stronger **clinch** with Washington,

Co-partnership ,सहयोग

Face off

Restrictions ,बाध्यताएं

Examination ,अटकलों

Connection ,कड़ी

which is on its own **collision** course with Beijing. It is significant that despite multiple references by U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to the India-China clashes, the deaths of Indian soldiers at Galwan Valley last month, and his call for India and the U.S. to jointly **counter** China, the government has rightly chosen not to raise its tensions with China in any **forum** other than bilateral talks with Beijing. Equally significant is the government's outreach to Moscow, including a visit by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and the participation of Mr. Jaishankar in the Russia-India-China trilateral last month, and the External Affairs Minister's comments that India should also seek to build **coalitions**

Clash ,टक्कर

oppose

Platform ,मंच

Union ,गठबंधन

ments that India should also seek to build coalitions with “middle powers”, such as the European Union and Japan. A time of crisis often clarifies **priorities**. At a time of a double crisis for India – battling the novel coronavirus pandemic in the country and Chinese **aggression** at the border – the message from New Delhi is one of a carefully calibrated balance.

Superior rank ,प्राथमिकताओं

Attack ,आक्रमण

idiom

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➤ **Hard nosed- strict and / or unfeeling .**

▶ **That guy seems so hard –nosed that I'm afraid to say hi to him !**

ONE LINERS

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- ▶ India and Maldives have signed an agreement for the establishment of “Emergency Medical services”.



**INDIA, MALDIVES SIGN AGREEMENT
ESTABLISHMENT OF EMERGENCY
MEDICAL SERVICES**



Matter internal hai

- ▶ Andhra Pradesh has signed an MoU
- ▶ With AMUL (Anand Milk Union Limited)
- ▶ To help women self groups and Boost milk cooperatives.

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Wo stree hai kuch bhi kar sakti hai

- ▶ The Delhi government has approved “Mukhya Mantri Ghar Ghar ration yojana “ to deliver ration directly to the homes of beneficiaries.

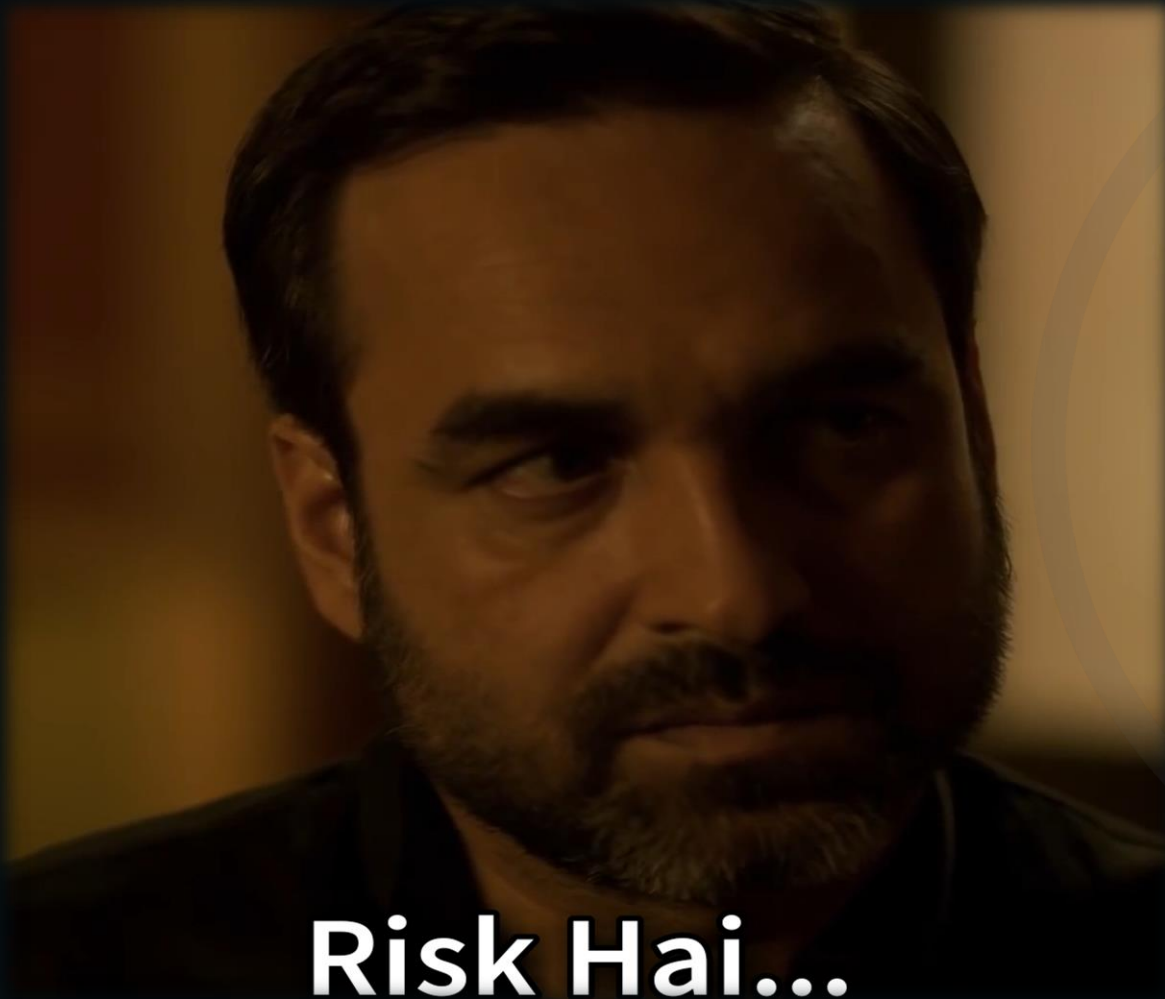


PHIR EK AUR MAUKA?

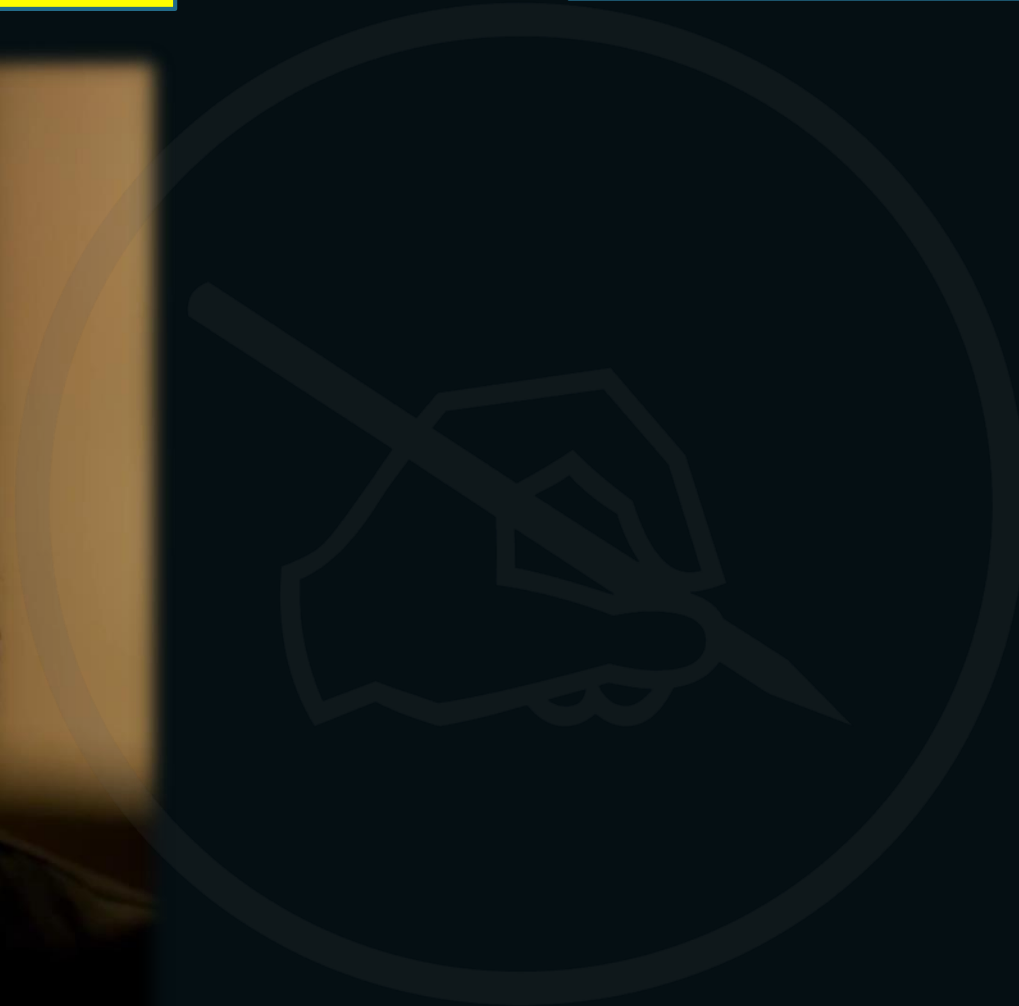


READY FOR THE QUIZ TIME ?

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Risk Hai...



➤ **Synonym of CLOUT ?**

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A) POWER

B) MERRY

C) PLAIN

D) SPARTAN

ANS- A- POWER

CLOUT- influence or power

➤ **Antonym of GALLIVANT ?**

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A) DEFECTION

B) UNIFICATION

C) WANDER

D) PLATITUDE

ANS- C- WANDER

GALLIVANT- wander aimlessly

➤ **Synonym of SUBTERFUGE ?**

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A) OPEN

B) MYSTERIOUS

C) TRICKERY

D) CRITICISM

ANS- C- TRICKERY

SUBTERFUGE- INTRIGUE, DEVIOUSNESS

➤ **Synonym of PESTILENCE ?**

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A) PLAGUE

B) CALM

C) HOT

D) FRIEND

ANS- PLAGUE

PESTILENCE- fatal epidemic disease

➤ **Synonym of MARAUD ?**

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A) CALM

B) DETRIORATE

C) PLUNDER


D) RECLAIM

ANS- C- PLUNDER

MARAUD- PEOPLE TO ATTACK

ABHI TAK SESSION LIKE
NAHI KIYA ?

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Kitna ganda aadmi hun
mai yaar

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