

1. **tussle** (noun) – fight, struggle, skirmish.
2. **compel** (verb) – force, push/impel, pressurize.
3. **credit** with (verb) – be recognized as, be held responsible for.
4. **the establishment** (noun) – the powers that be, the authorities, the regime (exercising power and influence).
5. **sanctions** (noun) – action taken, or an order given to force a country to obey international laws by limiting or stopping trade with that country, by not allowing economic aid for that country, etc (Courtesy: VOA Learning English).
6. **hardliner** (noun) – a group/a political party with people who support a strict ideas and they are extreme & uncompromising.
7. **thaw** (noun) – an increase in friendliness.
8. **sceptical** (adjective) – cynical, dubious/doubtful, questioning.
9. **critique** (verb) – talk about, investigate, discuss/deal with.
10. **parley** (noun) – negotiation, talk/dialogue, discussion.
11. **outcry** (noun) – protest, complaint, clamour/commotion.
12. **diplomat** (noun) – peacemaker, negotiator, arbitrator.
13. **standing** (noun) – status, reputation, influence.
14. **dispose** (verb) – incline, encourage, persuade.
15. **setback** (noun) – problem, difficulty, misfortune.
16. **respite** (noun) – breathing space, stop, discontinuation.
17. **waiver** (noun) – renunciation, abandonment, rejection/deferral.
18. **reel under** (phrase) – to suffer (due to a burden).
19. **galloping** (adjective) – relating to something raising rapidly in unrestricted way.
20. **inflation** (noun) – simply meaning “cost of living”; increase of price level of goods & services and vice versa decrease of currency value.
21. **reiterate** (verb) – repeat, say again, restate.
22. **comply** with (verb) – adhere to, conform to, abide by, adherence to.
23. **facilitate** (adjective) – make easier, clear the way for, assist/help.
24. **operationalisation** (noun) – the process of causing something into operation.
25. **in line with** (phrase) – in alignment with, in accordance with.
26. **Expediency Council** (noun) – a powerful body in Iran that resolves disputes between parliament and a watchdog body, the Guardian Council. it finally decides on what would be “expedient (useful/beneficial/effective) for the system.
27. **protracted** (adjective) – very long, lengthy, prolonged.
28. **advocate** (noun) – supporter, champion, upholder.
29. **ill-afford** (verb) – unable to afford.
30. **juncture** (noun) – point, time/moment, stage.

The deal-maker: on resignation and reinstatement of Mohammad Javad Zarif

The drama over Iranian Foreign Minister Zarif's moves reflects an ideological tussle

A day after posting his resignation on Instagram, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif was compelled to resume duties when President Hassan Rouhani rejected it. This sudden move by Mr. Zarif, who is widely credited with playing a key role in forging the nuclear deal in 2015, reflects the tensions within the Iranian political establishment. The U.S. withdrawal from the nuclear deal after Donald Trump became President, and the reintroduction of American sanctions on **Iran**, have sharpened contradictions between the hardliners and the moderates within the Islamic Republic, an ideological tussle that has endured for a long time. Hardliners opposed to any thaw in relations with the West, and who were always sceptical of the nuclear deal, have found in the current circumstances an opportunity to question and critique the architects of the deal. Mr. Zarif's public resignation was also a kind of a power play. He was missing in the parleys between Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and his hosts in Tehran recently. Mr Assad, who is a key West Asian ally for Iran and has received military help from Tehran during the civil war, had also met Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Through his resignation and the public outcry that followed, Mr. Zarif sent a signal to his government that he was no lightweight diplomat and had a significant public standing among Iranians favourably disposed towards the regime.

The re-imposition of sanctions has been a major economic setback for Iran. The country did get some respite after the U.S. granted a temporary waiver for eight countries, including India, which are key trading partners. But with the sanctions, it is reeling under a weakening currency and galloping inflation. The major countries in the European Union — Germany, France and the U.K. — have reiterated that Iran has complied with the regulations of the nuclear deal and have created a new financial “special purpose vehicle” to facilitate trade with Iran despite the U.S. sanctions. The operationalisation of this entity is dependent on Iran abiding by rules framed by the international Financial Action Task Force. Bills that will bring Iranian laws in line with FATF rules are pending in Iran's Expediency Council and Parliament due to a protracted debate between the moderates and the hardliners. Had Mr. Zarif, the main architect and advocate of the deal, exited the government, it would have complicated Iran's continued adherence to the agreement. The conservatives' critique of Mr. Zarif must be seen in this light. President Rouhani's rejection of his resignation also indicates that he can ill-afford to lose an ally at this crucial juncture for Iran and its engagement with the West.