

Important Vocab for the Editorial

1. lose time (phrase) – waste time, delay.
2. full-fledged/fully-fledged (adjective) – fully established.
3. 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, the infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure and even death. (Courtesy: WHO)
4. merely (adverb) – only, simply, just.
5. indisposed (adjective) – ill, unwell, sick, not well.
6. take charge (phrase) – preside over, take the chair, assume control of.
7. take ill (phrase) – become unwell suddenly.
8. word (noun) – news, information, communication.
9. reflection (noun) – indication, display, demonstration.
10. ally (noun) – partner, supporting (political) party (with common interests).
11. pay attention (phrase) – heed, attend, be attentive, concentrate on.
12. on the face of it (phrase) – apparently, seemingly, evidently/ostensibly; at first glance.
13. hospitalisation (noun) – the act of taking (or) admitting someone to (or) in hospital for treatment.
14. 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.
15. (come/get) in the way of (phrase) – obstruct, interfere, prevent, hamper, impede, thwart.
16. nominated (adjective) – appointed, elected, selected.
17. hold up (phrasal verb) – delay, make late, slow down; obstruct, impede, hinder, hamper.
18. berth (noun) – position (in a government).
19. point person (noun) – spokesperson, mouthpiece, representative, agent.
20. enthuse (verb) – motivate, inspire, excite, encourage.

21. **on record** (phrase) – officially documented/recorded; on paper.
22. **precedent** (noun) – model, exemplar, example, pattern; previous example/instance, prior instance.
23. **contend with** (phrasal verb) – deal with, cope with, face, grapple with (a difficult or unpleasant situation).
24. **short of** (phrase) – less than.
25. **pro-tem** (adjective) – temporary, provisional, interim, transitional, short-term; for the time being, for now, for the moment.
26. **pave the way for** (phrase) – clear the way for, make preparations for, put things in order for.
27. **swearing-in** (noun) – an official ceremony in which a person is taking the oath and admitted into a new official job.
28. **in place** (phrase) – established, in position.
29. **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.
30. **go up** (phrasal verb) – rise, increase.
31. **toll** (noun) – number, count, total (number of deaths).
32. **outbreak** (noun) – outburst, flaring up, breakout, sudden appearance/occurrence of something.
33. **vibrant** (adjective) – high-spirited, energetic, vigorous, passionate, determined.
34. **imaginative** (adjective) – creative, visionary, inspired, insightful.
35. **set aside** (phrasal verb) – disregard, put aside, ignore, forget, discount, shrug off.
36. **welfare** (noun) – well-being, good health, happiness, comfort, safety.
37. **difference** (noun) – disagreement, dispute, difference of opinion, misunderstanding, argument, quarrel.
38. **procrastination** (noun) – delaying tactics, stalling, the action of postponing something.

Losing time: On delay in formation of Cabinet in Puducherry

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Puducherry needs a full-fledged government as coronavirus cases rise

The delay in the formation of the Ministry in Puducherry does not appear to be merely because Chief Minister N. Rangasamy was indisposed for some days. He took charge on May 7 before taking ill; he has now recovered from COVID-19, but there is no word on Cabinet expansion. The delay is a reflection of the uneasy relationship between Mr. Rangasamy's N.R. Congress, and its ally, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which has been paying special attention to the Union Territory to become a major force. On the face of it, the delay is because of the Chief Minister's hospitalisation and his home quarantine, which was over on Sunday (May 23). But his illness did not come in the way of the Centre making three BJP members nominated legislators of the Assembly. One reason that is holding up Ministry formation is the BJP's demand for the Deputy Chief Minister's post and a few ministerial berths, as stated by Union Minister of State for Home Affairs G. Kishan Reddy, one of the point persons of the BJP for Puducherry. But it was evident that Mr. Rangasamy was not too enthused by the national party's proposals. A few days before assuming office, he was on record to say that there was no precedent of Puducherry having had a Deputy Chief Minister, but would consider the matter if the Centre created such a post. However hard it may be for him, Mr. Rangasamy has to contend with the reality that the BJP's strength in the Assembly is just one short of his party's 10, after the nomination of the three MLAs. Lieutenant Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan, on May 21, appointed K. Lakshminarayanan as the pro-tem Speaker of the Assembly, paving the way for the early swearing-in of MLAs.

However, what bothers the people of the Union Territory — it has a population of about 12.5 lakh (2011 Census) — is that there is no full-fledged elected government in place during a raging COVID-19 pandemic. Between May 8, the day after Mr. Rangasamy became Chief Minister, and May 24, the number of active cases went up by 2,250; the total number of active cases stood at 15,835 on Monday. In this period, the toll rose by almost 50% and as on Monday, 1,382 persons have died since the outbreak of the pandemic. Puducherry does need a vibrant and imaginative Health Minister to beat the virus. This is also an opportunity for the N.R. Congress and the BJP to set aside their differences and show that they have genuine concern for the welfare of the people by forming the Council of Ministers at the earliest. This is no time for procrastination.

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