

Important Vocab for the Editorial

1. **onus** (noun) – responsibility, duty; burden, liability, obligation.
2. **triumphalism** (noun) – boastfulness, self-assertion, self-satisfaction, excessive pride, extreme self-confidence, chutzpah, chest-thumping, chest-beating; an attitude or a belief that a particular doctrine, religion, culture, social system is superior to and should triumph all over others.
3. **swear in** (phrasal verb) – admit into office, inaugurate, introduce (into office).
4. **consecutive** (adjective) – successive, continuous.
5. **resounding** (adjective) – emphatic, enormous, huge, massive, very great, tremendous.
6. **alliance** (noun) – association, union, partnership.
7. **draw a blank** (phrase) – fail, be unsuccessful.
8. **sheen** (noun) – shininess, brightness.
9. **astounding** (adjective) – impressive, amazing, astonishing.
10. **dim** (verb) – diminish, reduce, lessen, weaken.
11. **attribute** (verb) – hold responsible for; connect/associate with.
12. **cadre** (noun) – members of a (political) group.
13. **reassuring** (adjective) – comforting, soothing, heartening.
14. **reassure** (verb) – restore someone's confidence, comfort, encourage, hearten.
15. **oath** (noun) – vow, sworn statement, promise/pledge.
16. **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.
17. **read** (verb) – understand, comprehend, interpret.
18. **colossal** (adjective) – huge, massive, mighty, great.
19. **mandate** (noun) – approval, acceptance, endorsement, authority (given by a constituency to someone acting as its representative).
20. **endorsement** (noun) – support, backing, approval.
21. **tolerance** (noun) – forbearance, liberality, open-mindedness, lack of prejudice/bias, broad-mindedness, liberalism.
22. **grass-roots** (plural noun) – the most basic level of an organisation.
23. **ferocity** (noun) – intensity, severity, strength.
24. **authoritarianism** (noun) – autocracy, totalitarianism, draconianism.
25. **hallmark** (noun) – distinctive feature, indication, sure sign.

26. **repose** (verb) – (of one's confidence/trust) be placed in someone/something.
27. **high-handedness** (noun) – heavy-handedness, autocracy, absolute power, totalitarianism.
28. **rein in** (phrasal verb) – to control, restrain, restrict, limit someone/something.
29. **in favour of** (phrase) – in support of, to the advantage of, approve of.
30. **organic** (adjective) – structured, organized, systematic.
31. **engineer** (verb) – bring about, cause, mastermind, orchestrate, manipulate.
32. **defection** (noun) – desertion, absconding, decamping.
33. **brazen** (adjective) – blatant/flagrant; bold and shameless; unashamed, unembarrassed.
34. **polarisation** (noun) – separation of two contrasting groups (based on different opinions/beliefs).
35. **central agencies** (plural noun) – the central agencies are organizations in the executive branch that co-ordinate the activities of, and provide guidance to the operating ministries and agencies; e.g. Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Income Tax Department (IT) and etc.
36. **go for the jugular** (phrase) – to attack an opponent strongly/aggressively in order to defeat them severely.
37. **bombast** (noun) – bluster, ranting, empty talk, humbug,
38. **hubris** (noun) – feeling of superiority, excessive self-importance, excessive pride, excessive self-confidence/self-glory, overconfidence, arrogance.
39. **out of touch** (phrase) – lacking of up-to-date knowledge; lack of current information; lack of awareness.
40. **sensibility** (noun) – feelings, emotions, finer feelings.
41. **tally** (noun) – total, count.
42. **pause** (verb) – stop, cease, halt.
43. **strategy** (noun) – plan of action.
44. **colour** (noun) – tone; the pretence, the outward appearance, a semblance.
45. **condemnable** (adjective) – objectionable, unjustifiable, reprehensible.
46. **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.
47. **seek** (verb) – try, attempt, aim.

48. **programmatic** (adjective) – systematic, methodical, procedural.
49. **opportunistic** (adjective) – selfish, self-centred, self-seeking, egocentric, inward-looking.
50. **shortcut** (noun) – alternative/bypass route.
51. **reign** (verb) – hold, obtain, be established, be in existence, be present.
52. **fall short (of)** (phrase) – fail to meet/reach; be deficient/inadequate/insufficient.
53. **fight (for)** (verb) – engage in, pursue, undertake, proceed with, go on with (a battle).
54. **relevance** (noun) – significance, importance.
55. **soul searching** (noun) – self-analysis, introversion, self-observation, self-absorption.

Hat-trick: On Mamata Banerjee's third term

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**The onus is on Ms. Banerjee to end violence and triumphalism
of her supporters**

Mamata Banerjee was sworn in as Chief Minister of West Bengal for a third consecutive term on Wednesday, following the **resounding victory of the Trinamool Congress** (TMC) in the **Assembly election**. The TMC has won 213 seats, compared to 77 won by its principal challenger the BJP. The

TMC's 47.9% vote share is an all time high for any party, and nearly 10 percentage points more than that of the BJP. The Left-Congress alliance drew a blank, another first in the electoral history of the State. The sheen of the TMC's astounding success has been somewhat dimmed by violence, attributed largely to its cadres, that has claimed at least 14 lives since the counting of votes on Sunday. True, TMC workers have also been killed, but as the ruling party, the onus is on it to end the violence. It is reassuring that Ms. Banerjee has promised after taking oath that ending the violence and controlling the pandemic were her priorities. She must not read this colossal mandate as a public endorsement or even tolerance of the grass-roots ferocity and authoritarianism that have become hallmarks of her party. Ms. Banerjee's personal responsibility is high considering that people reposed their trust in her despite the high-handedness of local TMC leaders. The burden on her is heavy, and she has a tough act to do in reining in her own party.

As much as the Bengal verdict is in favour of the TMC, it is also against the BJP which did not want to take an organic route to emerge as a natural party of governance in Bengal. Without a party organisation and mass leaders, it engineered defections, tried brazen communal polarisation and misused central agencies, as it went for the jugular. Its bombast and hubris were out of touch with the sensibilities of Bengalis. Its growth from three seats in 2016 to its current tally is impressive. The BJP must now pause and rethink its strategy for the path ahead. Its attempts to give a communal colour to condemnable political violence indicates that the BJP is not open to that. If it wants to be a truly national party, the BJP must be respectful of India's regional, religious and cultural diversities. The Congress and the CPI(M) that sought to overcome their failure to build a programmatic politics through opportunistic alliances, including with the communal Indian Secular Front, must also now learn that there are no short cuts in politics. With the TMC reigning supreme, and the BJP falling short in understanding the State, the Opposition space can still be fought for. To reclaim relevance, these parties need to replace their current leaders, do some honest soul searching, and build a new politics.