

Important Vocab for the Editorial

1. **aid** (noun) – support, help, assistance.
2. **accelerate** (verb) – expedite, step up, speed up.
3. **vaccination** (noun) – treatment with a vaccine to protect against a particular disease; immunization.
4. **deploy** (verb) – bring into action/service, have recourse to, call on, employ.
5. **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.
6. **dither** (verb) – be indecisive, be unsure, be undecided, hesitate.
7. **make a point** (phrase) – to deliberately make an effort to do something, put emphasis on something, to give one's attention to do something.
8. **interest** (noun) – advantage, benefit.
9. **stand** (noun) – standpoint, point of view, opinion, perspective/thinking.
10. **due to** (phrase) – because of, owing to, on account of, as a result of.
11. **congressman** (noun) – a member of the US Congress, especially of the House of Representatives.
12. **Congress** (noun) – legislative assembly, parliament; The United States Congress is the bicameral (two chambers) legislature of the federal government of the United States, and it consists of two chambers: the House of Representatives and the Senate.
13. **business chamber** (noun) – an organization/association of business people.
14. **academic** (noun) – scholar, educator, professor, fellow (in an institute of higher education).
15. **reach out** (phrasal verb) – contact someone to obtain/offer help/assistance/cooperation.
16. **make public** (phrase) – announce, communicate, make known, disseminate.
17. **concern** (noun) – sympathy, thought, regard, caringness, consideration.
18. **in the short term** (phrase) – in the near future.
19. **two-fold** (adjective) – having two parts/elements.
20. **heartening** (adjective) – encouraging, comforting, heartwarming, gratifying.

21. **mobilise** (verb) – bring (resources) into use for a particular purpose/cause.
22. **in the long term** (phrase) – over a long period of time; in the future.
23. **shift** (noun) – a slight change, adjustment, modification, amendment.
24. **long-held** (adjective) – deep-rooted, well-established, traditional, fixed.
25. **proposition** (noun) – theory, concept, premise, idea, assumption.
26. **set aside** (phrasal verb) – ignore, forget, shrug off, disregard, put aside.
27. **pharmaceuticals** (noun) – preparation, dispensing, and effective utilization of the medicinal drugs.
28. **World Trade Organization (WTO)** (noun) – an intergovernmental organization that is concerned with the regulation of international trade between nations.
29. **waive** (verb) – drop, disregard, ignore, set aside, forgo.
30. **Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS)** (noun) – the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) is the most comprehensive multilateral agreement on intellectual property (IP). It plays a central role in facilitating trade in knowledge and creativity, in resolving trade disputes over IP, and in assuring WTO members the latitude to achieve their domestic policy objectives. It frames the IP system in terms of innovation, technology transfer and public welfare. The Agreement is a legal recognition of the significance of links between IP and trade and the need for a balanced IP system.
31. **vaccine** (noun) – a biological preparation that improves immunity to a particular disease.
32. **generically** (adverb) – unbrandedly, untrademarkedly.
33. **generic-drugs** (noun) – unbranded drugs; copies of brand-name drugs that contain the same chemical substance as a drug that was originally protected by chemical patents.
34. **in light of** (phrase) – considering, taking into account, keeping in mind.
35. **the fact that** (phrase) – used to refer to a particular (present/existing) situation.
36. **faltering** (adjective) – delaying, uncertain, unsteady/weak, precarious, irresolute, hesitant.
37. **there is no denying** (phrase) – it is undoubtedly true.
38. **perceived** (adjective) – understandable, recognisable, noticeable, distinguishable, observable.

39. **bilateral** (adjective) – involving two groups or countries.
40. **strategic** (adjective) – relating to achieving long-term or overall goals.
41. **The Indo-Pacific (region)** (noun) – the Indo-Pacific region refers to the confluence (convergence) of the Pacific and Indian Oceans, which interconnect in Southeast Asia (Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand, Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, and more).
42. **strategy** (noun) – plan of action (in order to achieve a more expansive set of political, economic, and security interests).
43. **Quad/Quadrilateral** (noun) – The ‘Quadrilateral’ is described as four democracies (the United States, Japan, Australia and India) with a shared objective to ensure and support a “free, open and prosperous” Indo-Pacific region.
44. **South & North Block** (noun) – South Block is a **metonym** of the Prime Minister’s Office. North Block is a **metonym** of the Ministry of Finance, India. (The Secretariat Building (consists North & South Block) or Central Secretariat is where the Cabinet Secretariat is housed, which administers the Government of India. The South Block houses the Prime Minister’s Office, Ministry of Defence, and the Ministry of External Affairs). The North Block primarily houses the Ministry of Finance and the Home Ministry). (Metonym is used as an alternative for something else with which it is closely related/associated).
45. **unlikely** (adjective) – improbable, not likely, doubtful, dubious, unexpected.
46. **kernel** (noun) – essential part, fundamental part, basic part of something, crux, nucleus.
47. **kernel of truth** (phrase) – a small part that is true; A core accuracy at the heart of a claim/narrative which also contains dubious elements.
48. **assertion** (noun) – declaration, statement, announcement, pronouncement.
49. **address** (verb) – tackle, deal with, attend to, try to sort out.
50. **chide** (verb) – scold, reprimand, criticize, reprove.
51. **prioritisation** (noun) – the activity that arranges items or activities in order of importance relative to each other.
52. **rescue** (verb) – save.
53. **ravage** (noun) – destruction, damage, devastation, ruin, havoc.

Right priorities: On U.S. COVID-19 aid to India

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Even as it waits for help from the U.S., India must accelerate its vaccination programme

In a phone call with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday, U.S. President Joe Biden said that his government would quickly deploy a number of COVID-19-related supplies to help India battle its current crisis with the pandemic. The move comes after what many saw as a delay in the U.S.'s response to the situation. After a few days, where the Biden administration seemed to dither, making the point that protecting Americans first was in the world's interest, it appears to have amended its stand, in some part due to pressure from U.S. Congressmen, business chambers and academics. Over the weekend, senior U.S. officials reached out to India and made public comments expressing concern and sympathy for the people affected as India sees over 3 lakh new cases a day and a record number of deaths. In the short term, what India needs from abroad is two-fold: medicines and oxygen-management devices, including containers, concentrators and generators. It is heartening that more than a dozen countries, including the U.S., have promised to supply these within a week, and some of those supplies have already begun to arrive. In addition to the U.S. government's supplies, the U.S. private sector has also mobilised aid for various COVID-19 resources in India. In the longer term, New Delhi wants Washington to consider a shift in its long-held state policies for the duration of the pandemic, which may be a more difficult proposition as it includes setting aside patent rights for pharmaceuticals produced in the U.S. and supporting the India-South Africa petition at the World Trade Organization for waiving all TRIPS (Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights) so vaccines can be manufactured generically for the next few years. The U.S. should consider its assistance to India both in light of their relationship and of the fact that as a key global supplier of pharmaceuticals and vaccines, India's faltering steps in the fight against COVID-19 will impact the world.

There is no denying that the perceived delay in the U.S.'s response to the crisis in India, which is not just a bilateral strategic partner but key to the U.S.'s Indo-Pacific strategy as a member of the Quad, has caused some disappointment in South Block. However, it is unlikely that this will seriously impact the partnership, nor should such matters affect the broader relationship. There is also a kernel of truth in the U.S.'s earlier assertion that the American government has a "special responsibility" to American citizens first and addressing their COVID-19 needs was also in the world's interests. Instead of chiding the U.S. for its delay, New Delhi would do well to learn from this prioritisation, and complete its vaccination programme for all Indians, even as it uses all its resources and those received from the U.S. and other countries to rescue the nation from the current ravages of the pandemic.

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