

Important Vocab for the Editorial

1. **salutary** (adjective) – good, helpful/useful, beneficial, practical, valuable.
2. **norms** (noun) – standard, convention, guidelines, criterion.
3. **curb** (verb) – control, contain, restrict, limit.
4. **nudge** (noun) – reminder, push, prod, encouragement, prompting.
5. **surge** (noun) – sudden increase or rise of something.
6. **amid** (preposition) – in the middle of, surrounded by; during.
7. **protracted** (adjective) – prolonged, extended, lengthened, lengthy, dragged out.
8. **campaign** (noun) – canvassing, electioneering, an act of soliciting (asking for/requesting) votes; an organized effort that seeks to influence the decision-making progress within a specific group.
9. **vigour** (noun) – toughness, forcefulness, determination, intensity, strength, power.
10. **procession** (noun) – march, parade.
11. **accompany** (verb) – go with, go along with, travel with.
12. **Returning Officer** (noun) – A Returning Officer is responsible for overseeing the election in a constituency. The Returning Officer's duties include accepting and scrutinising nomination forms, publishing the affidavits of candidates, allotting symbols to the contesting candidates, preparing the list of contesting candidates, preparing the EVMs and VVPATs, training polling personnel, designating counting centres, and counting the votes and declaring the result. Courtesy: [The Hindu](#).
13. **escalation** (noun) – intensification; an increase in the intensity of something.
14. **alarming** (adjective) – worrying, disturbing, shocking/distressing.
15. **infection rate/incident rate** (noun) – the rate at which a disease is spread among people.
16. **come up with** (phrasal verb) – produce, put forward, present/submit.
17. **measure** (noun) – action, step, procedure.
18. **stipulation** (noun) – condition, precondition, requirement, provision, clause.
19. **vaccination** (noun) – treatment with a vaccine to protect against a particular disease; immunization.
20. **stringent** (adjective) – strict, severe, extreme, rigorous.

21. **regrettable** (adjective) – undesirable, unfortunate, sad/bad, disappointing/distressing.
22. **enforcement** (noun) – imposition, implementation, execution.
23. **lax** (adjective) – negligent, neglectful, careless, heedless, unmindful, inattentive, casual, non-restrictive.
24. **bear** (verb) – take, shoulder (responsibility for something).
25. **spike** (noun) – a sharp rise/increase of something.
26. **hospitalisation** (noun) – the act of taking (or) admitting someone to (or) in hospital for treatment.
27. **resonate** (verb) – resound, reverberate; evoke some feelings/emotions.
28. **in order** (phrase) – appropriate, fitting, suitable, acceptable.
29. **voice** (verb) – express, make public, announce, mention, raise.
30. **displeasure** (noun) – dissatisfaction, disfavour, discontentment.
31. **adhere to** (verb) – abide by, follow, obey, comply with.
32. **bench** (noun) – a court of law with a number of judges.
33. **border on** (phrasal verb) – come close to, come near to, be near to; be comparable to, approximate/similar to, be tantamount to.
34. **intemperate** (adjective) – immoderate, inordinate, unwarranted, unreasonable, unjustifiable.
35. **catalyst** (noun) – someone/something that triggers/causes/gives rise to an event suddenly/unexpectedly; stimulus, motivation, fillip, encouragement.
36. **lead to** (verb) – result in, cause, bring on, give rise to.
37. **draw to a close** (phrase) – to come to an end.
38. **resort to** (noun) – recourse to, turning to, the use of, utilizing.
39. **granted** (adverb) – admittedly, certainly, undoubtedly, unquestionably.
40. **prone to** (adjective) – susceptible, vulnerable; at risk of.
41. **take into account** (phrase) – consider, take into consideration, have regard to, reckon with.
42. **stride** (noun) – a step or stage in making progress, gain ground, progress, advance.
43. **logistics** (noun) – the process of planning & executing a complex operation; organization, planning, management, arrangement.
44. **defend** (verb) – support, endorse, speak in support of, back, stand by.
45. **decade** (noun) – a period of ten years.
46. **sensitivity** (noun) – delicacy, subtlety, finer feelings.
47. **consideration** (noun) – factor, issue, point, aspect, element.
48. **prolonged** (adjective) – lengthy, extended, protracted.
49. **build-up** (noun) – increase, expansion, escalation.

50. **localise** (verb) – limit, restrict, confine.
51. **potential** (noun) – possibility, potentiality, chance.
52. **virulence** (noun) – a measure of the severity or dangerousness of a disease caused by the relative ability of a infectious microorganism.
53. **besides** (preposition/linking adverb) – in addition to, as well, apart from.
54. **fatigue** (noun) – tiredness, weariness, exhaustion.
55. **forces** (noun) – troops (army/police).
56. **deploy** (verb) – bring into action/service, have recourse to, call on, employ.

Salutory steps: On Election Commission norms to curb COVID-19 spread

APRIL 29, 2021 00:02 IST

New norms, under HC nudge, will help prevent a fresh surge after counting day

Amid criticism that it did not enforce steps to curb the spread of COVID-19 during the protracted campaign for Assembly elections in four States and one Union Territory with sufficient vigour, the Election Commission of India has now **banned victory processions** after the results are declared on May 2. It has also restricted to two the number of persons who can accompany the winning candidate to meet the Returning Officer and collect the election certificate. These are significant steps to prevent any escalation in the already alarming infection rate. Further, the ECI has come up with **measures at counting centres**, including a stipulation that agents cannot enter the counting hall without producing either a negative test report for COVID-19 or final vaccination reports. While such stringent norms are welcome, it is regrettable that the enforcement of earlier norms for COVID-appropriate behaviour by political parties, candidates and their supporters was often quite lax during the long campaign. The Madras High Court's remark to the effect that ECI officials should bear a great responsibility for the horrific spike in infections, illness, hospitalisation and deaths will resonate with the public. While it was quite in order that the court voiced its displeasure with the ECI for failing to make all parties adhere to its norms, the suggestion by the Bench that ECI officials should bear sole

responsibility for the situation was avoidable, bordering on the intemperate. However, the court's caution that the counting process should not become a catalyst for a new surge has undoubtedly helped and led to new norms for counting day activities.

As the election draws to a close, the time may have come for the ECI to reconsider its resort to multi-phase polling as a permanent practice. Granted, some States are prone to violence, but should it not reconsider the practice, taking into account the strides made in communications and logistics? Multi-phase voting has been defended for the last three decades as something necessary because of the time needed to move central forces to different parts of the country; security and sensitivity in select constituencies are also considerations. However, in the present round, the first three phases of the West Bengal elections were held alongside those of Assam, and polling in the three other States and Puducherry was completed on April 6. With only one State left, there was a good case for fulfilling logistical requirements within a week or so and getting the remaining polling work done in one or two phases by April 15. A prolonged campaign contributes to build-up of tension. Covering an entire State in as few phases as possible will help localise the potential for violence, prevent the spread of tension due to the virulence of the campaign, besides reducing the fatigue of forces deployed throughout the campaign, up to the day of counting. A shorter election may be a safer one too.