

Important Vocab for the Editorial

1. **address** (noun) – speech, talk, discourse.
2. **Congress** (noun) – legislative assembly, parliament; The United States Congress is the bicameral (two chambers) legislature of the federal government of the United States, and consists of two chambers: the House of Representatives and the Senate.
3. **on course** (noun) – on target, on track.
4. **at home** (phrase) – in one's own country.
5. **make clear** (phrase) – explain, clarify, elucidate.
6. **press forward** (phrasal verb) – to continue making progress despite opposition/difficulty; proceed forward, push forward, advance.
7. **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.
8. **vigorously** (adverb) – aggressively, strongly, powerfully, intensely.
9. **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.
10. **kick-start** (verb) – revive, renew, restore, revitalize, uplift.
11. **sustainable** (adjective) – acceptable, trustworthy, dependable; reasonable, sensible, well-founded.
12. **reassert** (verb) – confirm again, reaffirm.
13. **driving force** (noun) – motive force, impetus, motivation, encouragement; stimulus, boost.
14. **push back** (phrasal verb) – oppose, resist, object, reject.
15. **hegemon** (noun) – super power, major power.
16. **coterminous** (adjective) – happening at the same period of time; be present at the same period of time; coexistent, close, alongside.
17. **arguably** (adverb) – possibly, conceivably, maybe, potentially.
18. **fraught** (adjective) – worried, upset, troubled, distressed, agitated, distraught (and with many problems).
19. **given** (preposition) – considering, taking into account, bearing in mind.
20. **devastation** (noun) – destruction, damage, havoc/wreckage.
21. **wreak** (verb) – cause, inflict, bring about (danger).
22. **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, infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure and even death. (Courtesy: [WHO](#))

23. [surpass](#) (verb) – be greater than, exceed.
24. [grim](#) (adjective) – distressing, upsetting, worrying, unpleasant, dismal/awful.
25. [rise to the challenge](#) (phrase) – tackle a difficult situation successfully.
26. [pose](#) (verb) – constitute, present, create, cause (a problem or danger or risk).
27. [predecessor](#) (noun) – previous holder of the post; forerunner, precursor, antecedent.
28. [in terms of](#) (phrase) – with regard to, regarding/concerning, in connection with.
29. [funnel](#) (verb) – channel, guide, pass, feed, direct.
30. [household](#) (noun) – family, house.
31. [a shot in the arm](#) (phrase) – (figuratively) boost, fillip, stimulus, impetus, encouragement; (literally) an injection of drugs.
32. [revive](#) (verb) – reintroduce, reinitiate, bring back.
33. [mollify](#) (verb) – calm down, pacify, appease/mitigate.
34. [likely](#) (adjective) – probable, possible, plausible.
35. [slap](#) (verb) – impose, add, put on, levy.
36. [wound](#) (noun) – damage, distress, blow.
37. [hatred](#) (noun) – enmity, antipathy, antagonism, hostility, resentment, aversion.
38. [heal](#) (verb) – get better, get well, recover; alleviate, lessen, mitigate.
39. [conviction](#) (noun) – pronouncement of guilt, sentence, judgement.
40. [bridge](#) (verb) – join, link, connect, unite.
41. [chasm](#) (noun) – a clear difference between two people/groups' thoughts, feelings, opinions, etc.; divergence, disunion, gulf, void, gap.
42. [prejudiced](#) (adjective) – biased, discriminatory, partisan, intolerant, unfair.
43. [overzealous](#) (adjective) – too zealous; excessively sincere, feeling, fervent, impassioned, passionate, enthusiastic.
44. [notwithstanding](#) (conjunction) – although, in spite of the fact that, despite the fact that, even though.
45. [considerable](#) (adjective) – substantial, appreciable, significant, much.
46. [arena](#) (noun) – a place of activity.
47. [wrought](#) (verb) – (old) past and past participle of work; cause, effect.

48. **isolationist** (noun) – a person who believes in or advocates isolation (a policy of remaining apart from the affairs or interests of other groups, especially the political affairs of other countries).
49. **prioritise** (verb) – make a point of, highlight, call attention to (something as very important).
50. **transactionalism** (noun) – a philosophical method of social exchange.
51. **bilateral** (adjective) – involving two groups or countries.
52. **quid pro quo** (phrase) – “something for something”; support in exchange for something.
53. **voice** (noun) – expression; opinion, view.
54. **plurilateral** (adjective) – (of an agreement involving many different countries (in which WTO member countries would be given the choice to agree to new rules on a voluntary basis).
55. **engagement** (noun) – participation, taking part, involvement.
56. **throw down the gauntlet** (phrase) – challenge, confront, dare.
57. **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).
58. **rules-based** (adjective) – based on a predetermined set of principles.
59. **world/international/global order** (noun) – the arrangement of power and authority that provides the system for the conduct of diplomacy and world politics in relation to the entire world.
60. **vow** (verb) – swear, pledge, promise, affirm.
61. **stand up to** (phrasal verb) – defy, confront, challenge, oppose openly, resist.
62. **unfair** (adjective) – unjust, inequitable, prejudiced, biased; unequal, uneven.
63. **disallowed** (adjective) – invalidated, overruled, rejected, refused, dismissed.
64. **subsidy** (noun) – also called subvention; a financial contribution granted to help an industry or business, mostly given by a government, in order to keep the price of service/goods at a low level.
65. **state-owned** (adjective) – government-owned.
66. **enterprise** (noun) – business, company, firm.
67. **espionage** (noun) – the act of spying; obtaining secret or confidential (political or military) information of a country and/or disclosing it without the permission of that country; undercover work, infiltration, counter-intelligence.

68. **speak out** (phrasal verb) – express, articulate, communicate, convey, voice (something straightforwardly & publicly).
69. **perceived** (adjective) – understandable, recognisable, noticeable, distinguishable, observable.
70. **aggression** (noun) – hostility, belligerence, combativeness, warmongering, hawkishness.
71. **conservative** (adjective) – right-wing, reactionary, traditionalist, ultra-right.
72. **hostile** (adjective) – opposed, inimical, antagonistic, ill-disposed; confrontational, belligerent, combative.
73. **pushback** (noun) – resistance, opposition, disagreement, force back, repulse drive.
74. **geopolitical** (adjective) – relating to (the study of) the geographical factors (a country's position on the earth, size, climate, and natural resources &, etc.) in world politics and inter-state relations.
75. **rival** (noun) – competitor, opponent.
76. **hold fast** (phrase) – believe in an idea/principle and follow it.
77. **elevate** (verb) – raise, lift up (to a higher position/level).

Promises to keep: On Joe Biden's first address to U.S. Congress
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Biden is on course to fulfilling agenda despite opposition at home and challenges abroad

In his **first address to a joint session of Congress**, U.S. President Joe Biden made clear that his administration would continue pressing forward with promises made during his election campaign last year, including vigorously meeting the health challenges of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, kick-starting the engines of the U.S. economy to provide sustainable job opportunities in the digital era, and reasserting the position of his country as a driving force for democracy worldwide including pushing back on China's aspiration to be a regional hegemon in Asia. Mr. Biden's first 100 days in office have been coterminous with arguably the most fraught times in recent U.S. history, given the devastation wreaked by the coronavirus on life and economic activity — making the U.S. the worst performer worldwide until recently surpassed on this grim scale by India. However, the Democrat has risen to the challenge posed by the virus, when compared to his predecessor Donald Trump's response, in terms of signing

into law a [\\$1.9 trillion pandemic relief bill](#) and funnelling direct payments of \$1,400 per person to more than 160 million households. Reports suggest that this shot in the arm could boost economic growth this year to 6% or higher, and revive the nearly 8.4 million jobs lost to COVID-19 by 2022. Whether this will be enough to mollify the likely anger of wealthy Americans for the tax hikes he proposes to slap them with is unclear. Yet, it is not the economy but the wounds of racist hatred that he will have to work even harder to heal. The recent conviction of the police officer responsible for the death of African-American George Floyd represents but the first step toward bridging the chasm between prejudiced, overzealous law enforcement and racial minorities.

Notwithstanding the considerable progress made by the Biden administration in domestic politics, it is in the international arena that much work remains unfinished to repair the damage wrought by his predecessor, an isolationist who prioritised transactionalism and bilateral *quid pro quo* over strengthening the U.S. as a global voice for plurilateral cooperation and regional engagement. Mr. Biden, contrarily, has thrown down the gauntlet to China, assuring its President Xi Jinping that Washington would continue to maintain a strong military presence in the Indo-Pacific “not to start conflict, but to prevent one”. Recognising the multi-dimensional character of Beijing’s challenge to the rules-based international order, Mr. Biden has also vowed to stand up to “unfair” trade practices, including disallowed subsidies for Chinese state-owned enterprises and industrial espionage, as well as speak out on perceived violations of fundamental freedoms and rights relating to, for example, Beijing’s aggression in the South China Sea and in Hong Kong and the Xinjiang region, respectively. Whether facing conservative opposition to domestic policies or hostile pushback on the global stage from geopolitical rivals, Mr. Biden must hold fast to the values that saw him elevated to the White House.