

Important Vocab for the Editorial

1. walk-back (noun) – reversal/withdrawal of a decision.
2. H-1B visa (noun) – it permits a foreign professional (with a (min. 4 years) university degree or its equivalent) to work in speciality occupations (or skilled employments) in the United States (issued for a max of 6 years in total).
3. intent (noun) – aim, purpose, intention, objective.
4. immigration (noun) – the act of leaving one's countries and moving to another country of which they are not natives, nor citizens, to settle or reside there, especially as permanent residents or naturalized citizens.
5. issuance (noun) – an act of issuing/providing something.
6. skilled (adjective) – experienced, competent, skilful.
7. lapse (verb) – expire, become void/invalid terminate, become obsolete.
8. move (noun) – initiative, step, activity, measure.
9. signal (verb) – indicate, show, express, point to, imply.
10. articulate (verb) – announce, express, pronounce, point out.
11. campaign (noun) – an organized effort that seeks to influence the decision-making progress within a specific group.
12. pull back (phrasal verb) – withdraw, retreat, pull out, back off.
13. impose (verb) – force, thrust, inflict (an unwelcome decision).
14. predecessor (noun) – previous holder of the post; forerunner, precursor, antecedent.
15. seek (verb) – try, aim, attempt.
16. given (preposition) – considering, taking into account, bearing in mind.
17. demographic (adjective) – the statistical study/structure of populations, especially human beings.
18. garner (verb) – receive, get, gain, obtain, acquire.
19. up to (phrase) – indicating a maximum amount.
20. as a result (phrase) – subsequently, therefore, thus.
21. proclamation (noun) – order, ruling, announcement, declaration, pronouncement, statement.
22. halt (verb) – stop, terminate, end.
23. stated (adjective) – specified, identified, expressed, mentioned clearly.
24. corner (verb) – gain control of, take over, capture.
25. context (noun) – situation; circumstances, conditions, state of affairs.
26. distress (noun) – difficulty, trouble, hardship.
27. 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.
28. set back (phrasal verb) – hinder, impede, obstruct, hamper, inhibit.
29. total (verb) – add up to, amount to, come to.
30. Silicon Valley (noun) – Silicon Valley is the home of the largest technology corporations in the U.S. It is located in Northern California, within the southern region of San Francisco. Silicon chips were an integral component of the semiconductor industry. Silicon Valley was first given its name because of the many silicon chip creators and manufacturers there.
31. Titan (proper noun) – (figuratively) an extremely important, powerful & strong person/thing. (In Greek mythology, the Titans were the pre-Olympian gods).
32. clampdown (noun) – crackdown, suppression, prevention/restriction; restraint.
33. drive (verb) – handle, manage.
34. challenge (verb) – question, confront, dispute, take issue with, protest against.
35. subsequent (adjective) – following, ensuing, successive.
36. lead to (verb) – result in, cause, bring about, call forth, give rise to, produce.
37. walk a fine line (phrase) – strike a balance; find a fair & reasonable line of action between two contrasting things.
38. inflow (noun) – a flow of a large amount of something to a particular place.
39. aggressive (adjective) – assertive, forceful, vigorous.
40. unwind (verb) – undo, ease up.

41. [on the one hand](#) (phrase) – it is used to introduce the first of two contrasting different, points, facts, or ways of looking at something. It is always followed later by on the other hand or ‘on the other’.
42. [Trumpian](#) (noun) – relating to the philosophy, rhetoric, and style of Donald Trump.
43. [dogma](#) (noun) – principle, rule, belief.
44. [protectionism](#) (noun) – the use of tariff and non-tariff restrictions on imports to protect domestic producers from foreign competition.
45. [reserve](#) (verb) – make a reservation for, arrange for, secure (for a particular person).
46. [pie](#) (noun) – a whole thing that can be shared/divided.
47. [momentum](#) (noun) – power, strength, impetus.
48. [build on](#) (phrasal verb) – develop, enhance, expand on.
49. [diverse](#) (adjective) – very different, varying, multiple, sundry, dissimilar.
50. [workforce](#) (noun) – workers, employees.
51. [nevertheless](#) (adverb) – in spite of everything, in spite of that, nonetheless, even so, however.
52. [perhaps](#) (adverb) – maybe, possibly.
53. [unwise](#) (adjective) – ill-advised, ill-considered, short-sighted, misguided, thoughtless.
54. [explicitly](#) (adverb) – clearly, unequivocally, understandably, without question/doubt.
55. [ideology](#) (noun) – a system of belief, set of principles.
56. [motto](#) (noun) – slogan, formula, saying/phrase, catchphrase.
57. [allude to](#) (verb) – refer to, mention, speak briefly of, imply.
58. [in this regard](#) (phrase) – in connection with the aspect/consideration/point referred to earlier.
59. [nudge](#) (verb) – push, prod, encourage.
60. [strategic](#) (adjective) – relating to achieving long-term or overall goals.
61. [ethos](#) (noun) – morality, attitudes, beliefs, principles; spirit, character.
62. [multilateral](#) (adjective) – involving many different countries/parties/organizations.
63. [bilateral](#) (adjective) – involving two groups or countries.
64. [emphasis](#) (noun) – importance, significance; priority, insistence.
65. [further](#) (verb) – promote, advance; accelerate, step up; push, encourage.
66. [interest](#) (noun) – common concern; benefit, advantage.
67. [dramatically](#) (adverb) – greatly, largely.
68. [transform](#) (verb) – change, alter, modify, convert.

A walk-back: On the expiry of H-1B visa ban

Biden shows intent on reworking immigration rules by not extending H-1B visa ban

President Joe Biden allowed [a ban on issuance of H-1B visas for skilled workers to lapse](#) at the end of March 2021, a move signalling his intent — articulated as a campaign promise last year — to pull the U.S. back from harsh immigration rules imposed by his predecessor, Donald Trump. Mr. Biden’s action will have a significant and favourable impact for Indian nationals seeking employment with U.S. tech firms, given that they were the largest demographic to benefit from this visa annually; they garnered approximately 70%.of the 65,000 H-1B visas annually made available to private sector applicants other than students. By some estimates, H-1B visa applications of up to 219,000 workers were likely blocked as a result of Mr. Trump’s proclamation last June, halting the processing and issuance of non-immigrant work visas of several types. The stated aim was to prevent foreign workers from cornering jobs in the context of the economic distress associated with

the COVID-19 pandemic. Yet, this raised genuine questions about whether such rules would set back the U.S.-India relationship by impacting Indian IT services exported to the U.S. These totalled approximately \$29.7 billion in 2019, 3.0% (\$864 million) more than 2018, and 143% greater than 2009 levels. Not only did the CEOs of Silicon Valley tech titans protest the clampdown on a key source of skilled labour driving their core operations, but some universities also filed lawsuits challenging a subsequent student visa ban last year, leading to a partial walk-back on the rules for the latter.

In allowing the ban on H-1B visa issuance to expire, Mr. Biden has walked a fine line between restoring the inflow of skilled workers into the U.S., a source of productivity increases for its labour force, and not being seen as aggressive in unwinding Trump-era immigration policies. On the one hand, Mr. Biden clearly recognises that there are limits to the Trumpian dogma of economic protectionism — especially during a period of economic crises such as the present — where there will be fewer jobs to reserve for Americans if the size of the pie is not increased through economic growth momentum built on a diverse and skilled workforce. Nevertheless, the Biden White House has clearly not forgotten the nearly 74 million votes for Mr. Trump in the 2020 presidential election, a fact that perhaps makes it unwise to explicitly reject the ‘America First’ ideology, even if that motto is no longer alluded to on Pennsylvania Avenue. It would in this regard be reasonable to expect that the Biden administration will continue to push gradual reforms that nudge the U.S. economy and global strategic position back toward an ethos of multilateral cooperation and bilateral progress with countries such as India, while however retaining a sharp emphasis on policies that further U.S. national interest in a dramatically transformed post-COVID world.

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