

Important Vocab for the Editorial

1. **set the stage for** (phrase) – prepare the circumstances for the beginning of something.
2. the **spotlight** (noun) – the public attention, the focus of public/media; the public eye.
3. **fix** (noun) – an experience/dose of something (which gives great pleasure).
4. **pulsating** (adjective) – very exciting, thrilling, electrifying.
5. **extraordinary** (adjective) – unusual, uncommon, rare.
6. **stifling** (adjective) – constrained, restrained, hampering, impeding.
7. **grip** (noun) – control, power, hold.
8. **rage** (verb) – (of a disease) spread very quickly or uncontrollably; be at its height, be uncontrollable; reach a high degree of intensity.
9. **take on** (phrasal verb) – compete against, oppose, challenge, face, match oneself against.
10. **due to** (phrase) – because of, owing to, on account of, as a result of.
11. **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.
12. **roll in** (phrasal verb) – arrive, turn up, appear.
13. **stretch** (verb) – extend, spread, continue.
14. **all the way** (phrase) – completely, totally, entirely.
15. **meanwhile** (adverb) – at the same time, simultaneously, meantime.
16. **influence** (verb) – affect, have an effect on.
17. **logistics** (noun) – the process of planning & executing a complex operation; organization, planning, management, arrangement.
18. **bio-secure bubble** (noun) – it is defined as an environment/location sealed off from the outside world. In tennis/cricket, this would mean players, umpires and support staff being housed at the venue itself.
19. **norm** (noun) – standard, convention, regulation.
20. **necessitate** (verb) – make necessary, require, call for.
21. **need** (noun) – requirement/necessity, demand.
22. **squad** (noun) – team.
23. **fortnight** (noun) – a period of two weeks/fourteen days continuously.
24. **miss out** (phrasal verb) – fail to utilize/take advantage of something.
25. **a level playing field** (phrase) – a situation in which everyone has a fair and equal opportunity to succeed, and no one has an advantage over the other.
26. **prop up** (phrasal verb) – support, assist, help someone/something (from the decline).
27. **rival** (noun) – competitor, opponent, contestant, contender.
28. **thread** (noun) – a long line of something.
29. **play-off** (noun) – an extra game/match to decide a winner to play for the final championship (in competitive sports).
30. **outfit** (noun) – team, squad.
31. **context** (noun) – circumstances, conditions, situation.

32. **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](#))
33. **finesse** (verb) – deal with, manage, handle something with skill/care.
34. **build-up** (noun) – preparation for a particular event.
35. **quarantine** (noun) – a process of separating out people, animals and things (such as plants) from others for a period of time in order to control/restrict the spread of a contagious disease; Quarantine is imposed to separate and restrict the movement of persons, who may have been exposed to infectious disease, but not yet known to be ill.
36. **ideal** (adjective) – perfect, best possible, consummate, flawless.
37. **keen** (adjective) – determined, desirous, ambitious.
38. **get on** (phrasal verb) – continue, proceed, go ahead, carry on, go on (after interruption).
39. **turf** (noun) – track, pitch; (cricket) playground.
40. **acoustic** (adjective) – relating to sound.
41. **besides** (preposition/linking adverb) – in addition to, as well, apart from.
42. **stardust** (noun) – a magical quality.
43. **unsung** (adjective) – unacclaimed, unacknowledged, uncelebrated, unpraised.
44. **grab** (verb) – obtain, get, gain (something) quickly.
45. **wing** (verb) – move quickly; fly, race, speed.
46. **nostalgically** (adverb) – sentimentally, evocatively.
47. **the inclined** (noun) – someone who is influenced by someone else.
48. **the likes of** (phrase) – someone/something considered as a type.
49. **ply** (verb) – engage in, carry on, pursue, occupy oneself with, busy oneself with (one's business).
50. **ply your wares** (phrase) – sell your goods.
51. **negate** (verb) – invalidate, nullify, deny, make ineffective, neutralize, cancel out.
52. **strange** (adjective) – unusual, weird, abnormal, atypical.
53. **mix** (noun) – combination/mingling (of different things).
54. **the new-normal** (phrase) – an earlier unusual situation that becomes a standard now.
55. **deviation** (noun) – departure, difference, abnormality, discrepancy.

Play time: On IPL 2021

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IPL sets the stage for a young bunch of players eager for the spotlight

Since its launch in 2008, the **Indian Premier League** has largely remained a summer-fix, with its share of pulsating thrills and big money. But these are extraordinary times when a virus has

extended its stifling grip across the globe for more than a year and while COVID-19 rages, through a second wave in India, the IPL is back with its 14th edition that will commence at Chennai's M.A. Chidambaram Stadium on Friday with defending champion Mumbai Indians taking on Royal Challengers Bangalore. The previous tournament, a much-delayed one due to the pandemic, had concluded at Dubai on November 10, last year. After a five-month gap, the latest version rolls in with its share of 60 matches in a schedule that stretches all the way to May 30. Meanwhile, the virus continues to influence logistics and with bio-bubbles being the norm, the matches will be initially played at empty venues. The other new development is the idea of neutral venues, a move necessitated by the need to reduce travel so that every squad stays in a specific city for at least a fortnight. With cities such as Hyderabad, Mohali and Jaipur missing out as hosts, it was felt that their respective home units — Sunrisers Hyderabad, Punjab Kings and Rajasthan Royals — needed a level playing field and that was achieved by propping up neutral venues for all rivals.

It is a thread that goes all the way to the play-offs and final, which would be held in Ahmedabad, a city that does not have an IPL outfit. If the immediate context is about playing sport in the times of the coronavirus, the larger goal for the players would be to also use this IPL as a stage to finesse their skills well in time for the Twenty20 World Cup in India during October-November this year. The current build-up that included hotel quarantines, gradual training and news about a few players and support staff testing positive for COVID-19, may not have been ideal but all the squads are keen to get on the turf and play even if excited fans and their acoustic-support would be missed. Besides its obvious stardust, the IPL is equally about an unsung player grabbing attention and winging his way into the national squad. T. Natarajan and Suryakumar Yadav, to name just two, have done that in recent times. And for the nostalgically inclined, it is also a space to watch

the likes of M.S. Dhoni and AB de Villiers plying their wares. Neutral grounds that negate home-advantage and a virus in the air do make a strange mix but this is the new-normal for an event that has previously adjusted to three general elections and a couple of overseas deviations.

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