

## Important Vocab For the Editorial

1. **extradition** (noun) – the action of surrendering/handing over a fugitive (a person who has escaped from being confined/accused of crime) from one jurisdiction to another by mutual agreements between the two countries. deportation, handover, expulsion.
2. **discontent** (noun) – disappointment, dissatisfaction, resentment.
3. **accommodation** (noun) – arrangement, compromise, settlement/deal.
4. **jurisdiction** (noun) – authority, control, leadership.
5. **mobilise** (verb) – organize, call up, bring into play.
6. **fallout** (noun) – adverse results; after-effects, repercussions.
7. **all the same** (phrase) – in spite of everything, in spite of that, nevertheless/nonetheless, even so, however.
8. **Water Revolution** (noun) – The pro-democracy demonstrations that have roiled Hong Kong for three months now will be known as the “water revolution”. (**roil** means to make (someone) annoyed or irritated).
9. **the executive** (noun) – the executive is a branch of government which enforces the law as written by the legislature and interpreted by the judiciary.
10. **infuse** (verb) – add, impart, introduce.
11. **momentum** (noun) – impetus, driving force, power/strength.
12. **dither** (verb) – hesitate, be in two minds, be undecided/unsure.
13. **charter of demands** (noun) – a collection of demands which the employee through their union put before the management for improvement in their service conditions and wages.
14. **call for** (phrasal verb) – require, need, necessitate/demand.
15. **alleged** (adjective) – supposed, so-called, purported,
16. **bound to** (adjective) – certain/sure, very likely, guaranteed.
17. **roll-back** (noun) – reduction, cut/decrease, trimming.
18. **infamous** (adjective) – ill-famed, with a bad reputation, notorious/disreputable.
19. **universal (adult) suffrage/franchise** (noun) – the right of citizens in a given society who are entitled to vote in an election without the discrimination of caste, class, colour, religion or sex.
20. **champion** (verb) – advocate, promote, support.
21. **umbrella movement** (noun) – umbrella movement was a political movement that emerged during the Hong Kong democracy protests of 2014.
22. **neuter** (verb) – make ineffective.
23. **pivotal** (adjective) – central, crucial, vital/critical.
24. **concession** (noun) – grant of privilege; favour, allowance, exception.
25. **implications** (noun) – consequence/outcome, ramification, repercussion.
26. **spillover** (noun) – repercussion, consequence, outcome (unexpected one).
27. **(be) wedded to** (verb) – dedicated to, devoted to, attached to.
28. **so far** (phrase) – until now, present, up to now.
29. **transcend** (verb) – surpass, outstrip, overstep.
30. **uprising** (noun) – insurgency, revolution, rebellion.
31. **cohesive** (adjective) – united, integrated, cooperated.
32. **turn out** (phrasal verb) – transpire, emerge, appear.
33. **Gross domestic product (GDP)** (noun) – a measure of economic activity in a country. It is the total value of a country’s annual output of goods and service.
34. **underscore** (verb) – underline, emphasize, highlight.

35. **buffer** (noun) – shield, screen, barrier/guard.
36. **hub** (noun) – centre, centre of activity, focal point.
37. **prolonged** (adjective) – continuous, persistent, unending.
38. **aggravate** (verb) – worsen/make worse, exacerbate, compound.
39. **embark on** (phrasal verb) – start, begin, initiate/commence.
40. **stance** (noun) – point of view, opinion, standpoint.
41. **vis-a-vis** (preposition) – in relation to, with regard to.
42. **dimension** (noun) – aspect, feature, element.
43. **accommodative** (adjective) – accommodating, cooperative, helpful.

## Easing the pressure: On withdrawal of Hong Kong's extradition Bill

### **The best response to the Hong Kong discontent will be a policy of accommodation**

The withdrawal on Wednesday of Hong Kong's controversial extradition Bill, which intended to hand over suspected criminal offenders to other jurisdictions, has raised hopes for a welcome, even if temporary, pause in tensions. The reversal has bought Beijing, which had begun mobilising paramilitary forces in neighbouring Shenzhen city, time to deal with the political and economic fallout from the intensifying protests. All the same, the decision by Carrie Lam, the city's Chief Executive, has infused momentum to the **democracy** campaign that is coming to be referred to as the 'Water Revolution'. While Ms. Lam dithered and delayed a decision for nearly three months, the protesters expanded their charter of demands, in effect to question the 'One Country, Two Systems' policy. Their calls for a judicial investigation into the government's handling of the crisis and alleged police violence are bound to grow louder after the roll-back of the infamous Bill. But the most potent of them all, perhaps, is the right to universal suffrage, which was originally championed under Hong Kong's 2014 umbrella movement, but effectively neutered by the government. The demand will doubtless prove pivotal to the current campaign. But a genuine exercise of the franchise may also be among the last concessions protesters are likely to extract from Beijing any time soon.

President Xi Jinping would be acutely aware of the implications of major loosening of policy as the 2047 expiry of Hong Kong's special status approaches. The risks are no less of possible spillover effects in Taiwan, whose government is wedded to independence from **China**. The 'Water Revolution' has so far managed to broaden its appeal among

millions, transcending social classes and across different generations. As with other recent political uprisings, building a cohesive leadership and strategy might turn out to be its biggest challenge. In a sign of the unstable economic and business environment ahead, Hong Kong's GDP growth in the previous quarter was the slowest since the financial crisis. Fitch, the credit ratings agency, on Friday lowered Hong Kong's ranking from AA+ to AA, even as it underscored the city's strong financial buffers. Given its position as Asia's leading financial hub, prolonged uncertainty in Hong Kong can aggravate the current harm to global trade from the escalating tensions between China and the U.S. Mr. Xi has embarked on an aggressive policy aimed at China's economic, technological and strategic dominance. His stance vis-à-vis Hong Kong will provide important clues to the political dimension of that approach. The current discontent, however, poses a far more immediate challenge. An accommodative policy might serve the best overall interest.