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BASANT

Meaning: **Spring**

PANCHAMI

Meaning: **The fifth day of the lunar fortnight.**



VOCABULARY



HEFT

Parts of Speech: **NOUN**

Meaning: **The weight of someone or something; the perceived heaviness or substantiality.**

Example Sentence: **The heft of the package indicated that it contained something substantial.**

Synonyms: **Weight, heaviness, bulk, mass.**

Antonyms: **Lightness, insignificance.**



INTERLOCUTOR

Parts of Speech: **NOUN**

Meaning: **A person who takes part in a conversation or dialogue; someone who participates in a discussion or interchange of ideas.**

Synonyms: **Conversationalist, participant, discussant, communicator, speaker.**

Antonym: **Bystander, observer, silent party.**

Example Sentence:

During the debate, each candidate served as an interlocutor, presenting their views on various issues.





BRINKMANSHIP

Parts of Speech: **NOUN**

Meaning: The practice or strategy of pushing a dangerous situation or confrontation to the edge or brink of disaster, especially in diplomacy or politics, with the aim of achieving a favorable outcome.

Synonyms: Risk-taking, daring, game of chicken, high-stakes tactics.

Antonym: De-escalation, caution, diplomacy, negotiation.

Example Sentence: The leaders engaged in brinkmanship, using the threat of military action to gain concessions in the diplomatic negotiations.





SPARRING

Parts of Speech: **NOUN**

Meaning: **The action of engaging in a practice session or informal competition, especially in sports like boxing or martial arts, where participants simulate a match without full force.**

Example Sentence: **The boxers engaged in intense sparring sessions to prepare for the upcoming championship match.**

Synonyms: **Practice, training, scrimmage, mock competition.**

Antonyms: **Actual competition, real match.**



ESCALATORY

Parts of Speech: **ADJ.**

Meaning : **Relating to or involving escalation, especially in terms of conflict or intensity.**

Synonyms: **Intensifying, increasing, rising, advancing.**

Antonym: **De-escalatory, reducing, calming, decreasing.**

Example Sentence: **The escalating tension between the two nations prompted concerns about the potential for an escalatory conflict.**





CONVICTION

Parts of Speech: **NOUN**

Meaning: **A firmly held belief or opinion.**

The act of finding someone guilty of a criminal offense in a court of law.

Synonyms: **Belief, certainty, confidence, faith.**

Judgment, verdict, decision.

Antonym: **Doubt, skepticism, uncertainty. Acquittal, innocence.**

Example Sentence: **Her conviction in the importance of education led her to establish a scholarship fund.**





INVOKED

Parts of Speech: **VERB**

Meaning: **Called upon or appealed to a higher power, authority, or principle, often for support, aid, or inspiration.**

Synonyms: **Summoned, called upon, appealed to, elicited, requested.**

Antonym: **Ignored, disregarded, neglected.**

Example Sentence: **The speaker invoked the wisdom of ancient philosophers to support his argument.**



ESPIONAGE

Parts of Speech: **NOUN**

Meaning: The practice of spying or using spies to obtain information about the plans and activities of a foreign government or organization, often for political, military, or industrial purposes.

Synonyms: Spying, intelligence, surveillance, undercover work, reconnaissance.

Antonym: Openness, transparency, disclosure.

Example Sentence: The intelligence agency engaged in espionage to gather information about the enemy's military plans.





HOMeward

Parts of Speech: **ADVERB**

Meaning: **Toward home; in the direction of one's home or homeland.**

Synonyms: **Towards home, in the direction of home, homewards, on the way home.**

Antonym: **Away from home.**

Example Sentence: **After a long journey, they turned homeward with a sense of relief.**



ARTICLE ANALYSIS

THE HINDU EDITORIAL





**HOMeward BOUND: ON THE
RELEASE OF THE EIGHT FORMER
INDIAN NAVAL PERSONNEL FROM
QATAR**



The release of all eight former Indian naval personnel from Qatar, just about three months after they were ordered a shocking death sentence, is a matter of great relief. Ever since the eight men — seven senior retired naval officers, and a sailor — who worked for the Qatar-based Dahra technologies, were arrested in 2022, the details of their case have been sparse. While their families denied reports that the men had been accused of espionage, possibly for a third country, namely Israel, the charges must have been serious enough to have invoked the death penalty. An appeals court did, in December, commute the death penalty to imprisonment terms, but upheld the conviction. It is to the government's credit that it was able to bring about the release of all the eight, seven of whom have now returned. The success seems attributable to the strategies New Delhi employed: to pursue the case in court, showing respect to the Qatari legal system, while providing the accused with full legal support and counsel;



avoid all escalatory rhetoric and public sparring; and, to take the case to the highest levels, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi discussing it with the Qatari Amir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, during a meet in Dubai in December. That Mr. Modi announced an unscheduled leg of travel to Doha on Wednesday, after his ongoing trip to the United Arab Emirates, signifies his personal involvement and his desire to thank the Qatari Amir.

The Qatar case is a timely reminder of the importance of quiet diplomacy at a time of brinkmanship and geopolitical conflict, particularly when it comes to relationships where so much else is at stake. For India, Qatar is an important West Asian power, with increased heft during the Israel-Gaza conflict as an important interlocutor between the West and Hamas. For Qatar, ties with India are historic and dependable, consistent even when Qatar was boycotted by its Gulf neighbours some years ago.



Qatar supplies India with a third of its natural gas import needs, and the signing of a \$78 billion LNG deal last week may have been an early sign that the deal for the prisoners' release had been sealed by then. More than 8,00,000 Indians provide important services to Qatar and bring in critical remittance earnings for India. New Delhi's decision not to seek international intervention, as it did in the case of former naval commander Kulbhushan Jadhav, who has been convicted of espionage and terror charges in Pakistan, nor to counter Qatar's charges with the kind of harsh diplomatic countermeasures seen in the aftermath of the Nijjar assassination case in Canada, eventually provided an outcome satisfactory for all.



tone of the passage



1. **INFORMATIVE**
2. **ANALYTICAL**
3. **SKEPTICAL**
4. **NEUTRAL**
5. **CRITICAL**



**THANK
YOU**