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West versus the rest: On western conduct and India

Charges levelled against India by the United States and Canada regarding New Delhi's alleged covert operations targeted at individuals designated terrorists by it are doubtless embarrassing to India, its government and its people. No democracy that adheres to the rule of law at home and abroad can take such charges lightly. India has strongly denied any involvement and said that it is not its policy to indulge in such acts. The onus is on the U.S. and Canada to provide any evidence that suggests official Indian sanction to the alleged plots. Their double standard is, however, evident. Even a cursory overview of the U.S.'s conduct in countries hostile and friendly to it would reveal a long record of its interference in their domestic affairs. Covert operations have been a part of U.S. strategy in European countries that are treaty allies and friendly partners, not to mention countries that are its declared enemies. Considering this history, allegations by the U.S. and Canada are less about adherence to any universal standard of rule of law than a convenient political use of that argument against a fellow democracy. The motivations for such a move remain unclear and intriguing. India's enhanced engagement with its diaspora in the West and domestic political calculations in these countries could be among them.

The historic view of western conduct apart, the facts and the circumstances of the controversy are indicative of a continued western insensitivity towards India's security concerns. **Open calls** for violence against India, **brazen** threats to blow up aircraft, and public celebrations of past violence against India are being tolerated in the name of free speech. Indian missions have come under attack from Khalistan proponents in 'Five Eyes' countries. While all this is defended as free speech, without irony, an official Canadian report has **taken umbrage** at Indian media reports that are critical of Khalistan propaganda, which anyway has little support in India. It is notable that all this is happening even as the West is debating whether free speech protections extend to hate speech. Most democracies face **turmoil**, which calls for new norms and standards, nationally and internationally. Indian immigrants form a considerable percentage of the new citizens in western countries, a trend that will hold for decades. This diaspora can contribute to the continuing vibrancy of western societies, but it also holds the risk of conflict. The India-West partnership is critical for democracy and progress in the current century. Mutual recognition of each other's concerns and priorities is essential for this.

Summary –

The passage discusses the charges made by the U.S. and Canada against India, accusing it of covert operations targeting designated terrorists, which India denies. It highlights the double standards of the U.S., given its history of interference in other countries. The passage also criticizes the Western insensitivity towards India's security concerns, particularly in relation to Khalistan supporters, and emphasizes the need for mutual understanding between India and the West to maintain strong democratic partnerships.

Vocabulary –

1. Conduct (Noun) व्यवहार, आचरण

Meaning – the way a person behaves, especially in a particular context like ethics or performance.

Synonyms – Behavioral, Demeanor , Comportment.

Antonyms – Misconduct, Impropriety, Misbehaviour.

Example – His polite conduct during the meeting impressed everyone.

2. Intriguing (Adj) (रुचिकर)

Meaning: Arousing one's curiosity or interest; fascinating.

Synonyms: Fascinating, captivating, compelling.

Antonyms: Boring, dull, uninteresting.

Example: The motivations behind the political decision are intriguing and require further investigation.

3. Brazen (Adj) (निलज्ज)

Meaning: Bold and without shame.

Synonyms: Shameless, bold, unabashed.

Antonyms: Shy, modest, reserved.

Example: The brazen threats made by the extremist groups have shocked the nation.

4. Umbrage (Noun) (अपमान)

Meaning: Offense or annoyance.

Synonyms: Offense, resentment, irritation.

Antonyms: Delight, pleasure, satisfaction.

Example: The official took umbrage at the remarks made by the opposing party.

5. Adherence (Noun) (पालन)

Meaning: Attachment or commitment to a cause, belief, or rule.

Synonyms: Allegiance, loyalty, compliance.

Antonyms: Defiance, opposition, resistance.

Example: The country's adherence to international law has been consistently strong.

7. Covert(Adj) (गुप्त)

Meaning: Not openly acknowledged or displayed; secretive.

Synonyms: Hidden, clandestine, undercover.

Antonyms: Overt, open, public.

Example: The government denied any involvement in the covert operations.

8. Turmoil (Noun) (अशांति)

Meaning: A state of great disturbance, confusion, or uncertainty.

Synonyms: Chaos, upheaval, disorder.

Antonyms: Calm, peace, stability.

Example: The country was in political turmoil after the controversial election.

9. Cursory (Adj) (उपरी तौर पर)

Meaning: Hasty and therefore not thorough or detailed.

Synonyms: Superficial, perfunctory, brief.

Antonyms: Thorough, detailed, meticulous.

Example: A cursory glance at the documents revealed several errors.

10. Onus (noun) दायित्व

Meaning - used to refer to something that is one's duty or responsibility ()

Synonym: Burden, responsibility

Antonym: Benefit, advantage

Example: The onus is on the employers to ensure the workplace is safe.

Idioms & Phrases

1. Double standard –

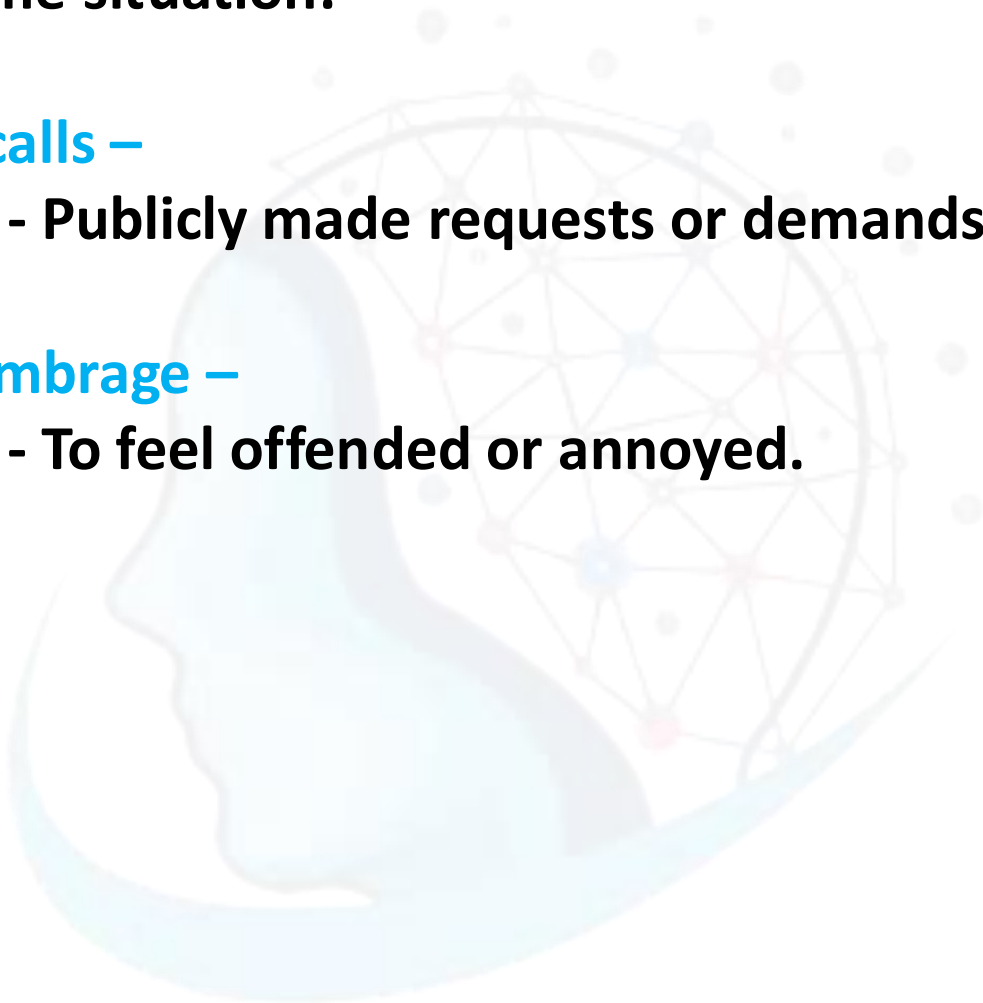
Meaning - The application of different sets of principles for similar situations, or to different people in the same situation.

2. Open calls –

Meaning - Publicly made requests or demands.

3. Take umbrage –

Meaning - To feel offended or annoyed.



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