Today's Vocabulary

- Vigilance (noun) = The action or state of keeping careful watch for possible danger or difficulties (जागरूकता)
- Grim (adj) = Very serious or gloomy (विकट)
- Mortality (noun) = The state of being subject to death, especially on a large scale (मृत्यु दर)
- Low median age = Low median age in some countries means that...
**TODAY'S VOCABULARY**

- **Abridge (verb)** = Shorten (a piece of writing) without losing the sense (संक्षिप्तीकरण)
- **Unprecedented (adj)** = Never done or known before (अभूतपूर्व)
- **Sheer (verb)** = Nothing other than; unmitigated (used for emphasis), complete
- **Brazenness (noun)** = Unrestrained by a sense of shame; rudely bold (बेशर्मी)
- **Unambiguous (adj)** = Not open to more than one interpretation (स्पष्ट)
- **Disingenuous (adj)** = Not candid or sincere, typically by pretending that one knows less about something than one really does, dishonest (कपटी)
- **Skulduggery (noun)** = Underhand, unscrupulous, or dishonest behaviour or activities
- **Sacrosanct (adj)** = (especially of a principle, place, or routine) regarded as too important or valuable to be interfered with, sacred (पुण्यर्मय)
- **Benevolence (noun)** = The quality of being well meaning; kindness (भलाई)

- **Unsavoury (adj)** = Disagreeable and unpleasant because morally disreputable
- **Deliberative (adj)** = Relating to or intended for consideration or discussion (अधिकारीय)
- **Articulate (verb)** = Pronounce (something) clearly and distinctly (स्पष्ट)
- **Assent (noun)** = The expression of approval or agreement (अनुमति)
- **Inhalation (noun)** = The action of inhaling or breathing in (साँस लेना)
- **Airborne (adj)** = Transported by air (हवाई)
- **Bewildering (adj)** = Confusing or perplexing (उलझन में डालना)
- **Refute (verb)** = Prove (a statement or theory) to be wrong or false; disprove (खंडन करना)
- **Avert (verb)** = Prevent or ward off (an undesirable occurrence) (हटाना)
- **Innumerable (adj)** = Too many to be counted (often used hyperbolically) (असंख्य)
A point of order
(Parliament must not abridge right of MPs to take a stand in debates and votes)

CONTEXT: Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh’s refusal to conduct a division of votes on two controversial pieces of legislation on Sunday, despite persistent demands from members, was unprecedented in its sheer brazenness. The Bills in question have been challenged on constitutional and practical grounds, but that is a different point.

The rules of procedure regarding voting are unambiguous that if a voice vote is challenged, “votes shall be taken by operating the automatic vote recorder or by the members going into the Lobbies”. Even if a single member demands a division, it is required to be carried out. Quite often, a division of vote is demanded even when the outcome is predictable, in order to bring on record the positions of parties and members on a particular bill.

The chaos that followed in the Upper House, though not unprecedented, was unsavoury. Parliament is a deliberative forum and not a theatre for protest demonstration. Regardless of the provocation, the Opposition should have adhered to decorum while articulating its concerns. But, meaningful parliamentary discussions have become infrequent, and the voice of the Opposition is often ignored.

The flat out denial of a division of votes was a new low in parliamentary history. Not stopping there, eight Opposition members were suspended for one week while notice for a no-confidence motion against the Deputy Chairman was rejected at the threshold by Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu. Opposition parties have now petitioned President Ram Nath Kovind to
not give assent to the two Bills passed by voice vote.

➢ **FINAL WORDS:**

There must be immediate efforts led by the executive to restore the effective and meaningful functioning of Parliament.

➢ **SECOND EDITORIAL**

**TITLE:** *In the air*

(With more evidence of aerosol transmission, physical distancing and masking are crucial)

**CONTEXT:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is revising its guidelines to acknowledge the spread of the novel coronavirus through aerosols, and to point to inhalation of particles as a common way the virus spreads.

A draft of the proposed changes to its recommendations, which was later withdrawn pending finalisation, confirmed that airborne particles can spread even by breathing, remain suspended in air and be inhaled and spread beyond six feet in certain enclosed settings.

The World Health Organization had, on July 9, acknowledged that the virus can be airborne in closed settings after an open letter by more than 200 scientists appealing to the medical community and national and international bodies to “recognize the potential for airborne spread of COVID-19”.

Beginning with the cruise ship, Diamond Princess, large outbreaks have been documented in churches in South Korea and Singapore, prisons, old-age homes, ski resorts in Austria and even choir practice in a church in Mount Vernon, Washington, providing strong evidence of aerosol transmission in certain closed settings early during the pandemic.

Universal masking can avert infections, and if infected, the amount of viral load one is exposed to will be less, thus leading to only asymptomatic infections or mild disease. Unlike Diamond Princess, universal masking in another ship led to 81% of infections being asymptomatic.
With aerosol transmission now being established as a common way of spread in certain settings, the best way to avoid getting infected is by staying clear of crowded, closed settings that have poor ventilation.