

1. **elevation** (noun) – promotion, upgrading, advancement.
2. **does not leave anything to chance (or) leave nothing to chance** (phrase) – to prepare for everything possible.
3. **relentless** (adjective) – persistent, continuing, constant.
4. **pursuit** (noun) – aspiration for, quest for, search for.
5. **confidant** (noun) – companion, close friend, best friend.
6. **strategist** (noun) – someone skilled in planning action/policy (especially in politics/war).
7. **ideological** (adjective) – dogmatic, doctrinal.
8. **mother ship** (noun) – source, base, fundamental thing of something else.
9. **contrast** (noun) – variance, opposite, difference.
10. **meticulously** (adverb) – thoroughly, assiduously, diligently/carefully.
11. **distinct** (adjective) – clear, well defined, evident.
12. **outfit** (noun) – organization, group, party.
13. **float** (verb) – offer, submit, present/give.
14. **stream** (noun) – crowd, multitude, horde (of people moving in the same direction).
15. **sweeping** (adjective) – decisive, overwhelming, complete/total.
16. **strain** (verb) – damage, impair; overburden, overreach.
17. **edifice** (noun) – a complex system/structure.
18. **orderly** (adjective) – methodical, systematic, peaceful.
19. **clinical** (adjective) – impersonal/dispassionate, neutral, unsympathetic/unfeeling.
20. **concurrence** (noun) – agreement, harmony, consensus.
21. **prompting** (noun) – inducement, suggestion, encouragement.
22. **clear-eyed** (adjective) – far-sighted, wise/clever, intelligent, insightful.
23. **subordinate** (adjective) – lower-ranking, junior, supporting.
24. **commentary** (noun) – explanation/, interpretation/review, analysis.
25. **pedestal** (noun) – hold in high regard/admiration, respect.
26. **by all accounts** (phrase) – supposedly, apparently, seemingly.
27. **loyalist** (noun) – a person who is loyal (faithful/devoted).
28. **indispensable** (adjective) – essential, significant/important, necessary.
29. **commanding** (adjective) – advantageous, superior, powerful.
30. **combative** (adjective) – aggressive, belligerent, argumentative/hawkish.
31. **trait** (noun) – characteristic, attribute, feature.
32. **imbibe** (verb) – assimilate, absorb, take in/acquire.
33. **come up** (phrasal verb) – occur, happen, emerge.
34. **outlier** (noun) – a person/thing which is detached from the main system.
35. **evidently** (adverb) – seemingly, apparently, on the face of it.

Organisation men: on J.P. Nadda's elevation

J.P. Nadda's elevation as BJP working president reveals the party's long-term goals

The appointment of **J.P. Nadda as the Bharatiya Janata Party's working president** is proof yet again that it does not leave anything to chance in the relentless pursuit of its

politics. Union Home Minister Amit Shah will continue as party president until his term ends in December 2019, when Mr. Nadda is expected to succeed him. Mr. Shah has been Prime Minister Narendra Modi's close confidant and strategist for several years, and an architect of the party's Lok Sabha victories in 2014 and 2019. The decision to appoint a working president, as Mr. Shah would not be always available for party work, is a sign of the importance the BJP and its ideological mother ship, the RSS, attach to organisation. Except for the communist units, this is in contrast with the general nature of all other parties, which give limited attention to organisation-building. The RSS had meticulously assigned distinct roles to the multiple outfits that it floated over the decades, all converging into the larger stream of Hindutva politics. The BJP's emergence as the primary pole of Indian politics through sweeping victories in two consecutive general elections could strain the organisational edifice of the Sangh Parivar, but not immediately. The orderly, clinical manner in which Mr. Nadda was selected, with the concurrence and prompting of the RSS, demonstrates the Parivar's ability to be clear-eyed in its priorities.

Hindutva **politics** does not see power as an end in itself but as a tool to advance its ideological goals. Also, individual ambitions are expected to be subordinate to organisational priorities. The rise of Mr. Modi with Mr. Shah alongside, and their combined role in the party's outstanding electoral performances in recent years, have inspired commentaries that put them on a pedestal. Mr. Modi and Mr. Shah will remain in command of the overall scheme of things, and Mr. Nadda, by all accounts, is a proven loyalist to both of them. At the same time, by promoting a new power centre the BJP is also demonstrating that individuals are not indispensable despite the commanding authority and presence of the two big leaders. Mr. Nadda is not as combative as Mr. Shah but is as disciplined, a trait that he imbibed through his long association with the RSS. His elevation is also a continuation of the BJP's efforts to promote leaders who have spent more time in the States than in Delhi — Himachal Pradesh in Mr. Nadda's case. The selection of Thawar Chand Gehlot as the BJP's leader in the Rajya Sabha is also remarkable in this context. A Dalit who came up from a small town through the trade union wing of the RSS, he is an outlier in the Upper House's general character, which is metropolitan, upper class and usually upper caste. Mr. Shah recently stated that the BJP has not yet peaked. The organisational changes are evidently being made in that belief.