

# The Hindu Editorials & Words

## 24<sup>th</sup> March 2021

### 1. Grunt

To make a low, rough noise: The pigs were **grunting** contentedly as they ate their food.  
(of a person) to make a short, low sound instead of speaking, usually because of anger or pain: He hauled himself over the wall, **grunting** with the effort.

### 2. Yawp

**Noun:** a harsh or hoarse cry or yelp.  
"the cur did not bark, other than a single yawp"  
**Verb:** shout or exclaim hoarsely.  
"the fans screeched, yawped, and pounded their palms"

### 3. Dilemma

A situation in which you have to make a difficult choice between two or more things  
दो या अधिक वस्तुओं में से एक का चयन करने की कठिन स्थिति, दुविधा, असमंजस  
Doctors face a moral dilemma of when to keep patients alive artificially and when to let them die.

### 4. Sexism

The unfair treatment of people, especially women, because of their sex; the attitude that causes this  
व्यक्तियों, विशेषतः स्त्रियों, के साथ अन्याय (उनके लिंग के कारण), लैंगिक भेदभाव; लिंगभेद की भावना

### 5. Insidious: इन्'सिडिअस्

Spreading gradually or without being noticed, but causing serious harm  
प्रच्छन्न रूप से सक्रिय और घातक, विश्वासघाती  
The insidious effects of polluted water supplies

### 6. Muckraking

The action of searching out and publicizing scandal about famous people.  
"a muckraking journalist"  
कीचड़ उछालना

### 7. Impartial: इम्'पाश्ल्

Not supporting one person or group more than another; fair  
जिसमें दो पक्षों में से किसी एक को अधिक प्रमुखता न दी जाए; निष्पक्ष  
**Similar:** neutral

### 8. Extortion

जबरन वसूली  
**Similar:** demanding money with menaces, exaction, extraction, blackmail, shakedown.

### 9. Must (Noun):

A thing that you strongly recommend  
नितांत आवश्यक वस्तु; अनिवार्य  
This book is a must for all science fiction fans.

### 10. Nexus

A complicated series of connections between different people or things  
विभिन्न व्यक्तियों या वस्तुओं के बीच जटिल संबंध

1: connection, link the **nexus** between teachers and students also: a causal link the **nexus** between poverty and crime.

2: a connected group or series a **nexus** of theories a **nexus** of relationships.

## 11. Credibility: क्रेडिबिलिटी

The quality that somebody has that makes people believe or trust him/her

विश्वास योग्य होने का गुण; विश्वसनीयता, विश्वास्यता

The Prime Minister had lost all credibility and had to resign.

**Similar:** trustworthiness, reliability, dependability, integrity, character, reputation, standing, status, cachet, kudos, eminence, credit, acceptability.

## 12. Inglorious

(of an action or situation) causing shame or a loss of honour.

"an inglorious episode in British imperial history"

**Similar:** shameful, dishonourable, ignominious, discreditable, disgraceful, humiliating, mortifying, demeaning, shaming,

**Opposite:** glorious

**Not famous or renowned.**

"inglorious though the peasants may have been, this is not synonymous with mute"

## 13. On the mat

Being reprimanded by someone in authority.

## 14. Retaliatory

(of an action) characterized by a desire for revenge.

"fears of a retaliatory attack by the victim's friends"

**Similar:** retaliative, retributive, retributory, revengeful.

## 15. Henchman: हेन्चमन्

A person who is employed by somebody to protect him/her and who may do things that are illegal or violent

किसी की रक्षा के लिए नियुक्त व्यक्ति जो गैर-कानूनी या हिंसात्मक कार्य भी कर सकता है

**Similar:** follower, supporter, assistant, aide, helper, adjutant, right-hand man, subordinate, underling, minion, lackey, flunkey, toady, stooge.

## 16. Intriguing

षड्यंत्रकारी, पहेली-जैसा

An intriguing story

**Similar of Intrigue**

1. interest, be of interest to, fascinate, be a source of fascination to, arouse someone's curiosity, engage someone's attention, attract, draw, lure, tempt, tantalize, rivet, absorb, engross, charm, captivate.

2. plot, hatch a plot, conspire, take part in a conspiracy, make secret plans, lay plans, scheme, manoeuvre, connive, collude.

## 17. Self-implicating

The action of accusing oneself, stemming from feelings of guilt. self-accusation. admission of guilt.

## 18. Ceaseless: सीसल्स

Continuing for a long time without stopping

लंबे समय तक जारी; निरंतर, लगातार

**Similar:** continual, constant, continuous, incessant, unceasing, unending, endless, never-ending, interminable, non-stop, uninterrupted, unabated.

## 19. Manoeuvre

**Noun:** a movement that needs care or skill

सावधानी या कुशलता की अपेक्षा वाली क्रिया

Parking the car in such a small space would be a tricky manoeuvre.

**Something clever that you do in order to win something, trick somebody, etc.**

कुछ हासिल करने, किसी को ठगने आदि के लिए चालाकी भरी हरकत; चालबाज़ी

Political manoeuvre(s)

**Verb:** to move (something) to a different position using skill

निपुणता से किसी वस्तु को हिलाना या संचालित करना

The driver was manoeuvring his lorry into a narrow gateway.

## 20. **Storied**

Celebrated in or associated with stories or legends.

"the island's storied past"

## 21. **Impending**

(usually used about something bad) that will happen soon

(अशुभ घटना) जो शीघ्र घटित होगी, आसन्न, सन्निकट

There was a feeling of impending disaster in the air.

**Similar:** imminent, at hand, , close, close at hand, near, nearing, approaching, coming, forthcoming, upcoming, to come, on the way, about to happen.

## 22. **Close ranks**

(of soldiers or police officers) come closer together in a line.

Unite in order to defend common interests.

"the family had always closed ranks in times of crisis"

## 23. **Embattled**

(of a place or people) involved in or prepared for war, especially because surrounded by enemy forces.

"the embattled northern province"

(of a building or part of a building) having battlements.

"the church has a low embattled tower"

## 24. **Lure: लुअ(र)**

**Verb:** to persuade or trick somebody to go somewhere or do something, usually by offering him/her something nice

प्रलोभन देकर किसी को धोखे से कहीं ले जाना या कुछ करवाना

Young people are lured to the city by the prospect of a job and money.

**Noun:**

The attractive qualities of something

प्रलोभन, आकर्षण

The lure of money/fame/adventure

**Similar:**

**Verb:** tempt, entice, attract, induce, coax, persuade, inveigle, allure, seduce, win over, whet someone's appetite.

**Noun:** temptation, enticement, attraction, pull, draw, appeal, inducement, allurements, fascination, interest, decoy.

## 25. **Onslaught**

It is a military term that refers to an attack against an enemy. It's safe to say that no one wants to be caught on the receiving end of an **onslaught**, because there will be lots of danger, destruction and probably death.

**Similar:** assault, attack, offensive, aggression, advance, charge, onrush, rush, storming, sortie, sally, raid, descent, incursion, invasion.

## 26. **Separate the wheat from the chaff**

Distinguish valuable people or things from worthless ones.

## 27. **Sordid: सॉडिड**

Unpleasant; not honest or moral

अप्रिय, कुत्सित; असत्याचारी या भ्रष्ट

We discovered the truth about his sordid past.

Very dirty and unpleasant

बहुत गंदा और दूषित

## 28. Reassuring

आश्वासनकारी

**Similar:** encouraging, heartening, buoying up, cheering up, comforting, soothing.

# Mumbai muckraking: On allegations against Maharashtra Home Minister

**Impartial probe of allegations of extortion against Maharashtra Minister is a must**

Former Mumbai Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh's allegations against Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh are sensational, and threatening for the State government. The nexus between crime, politics, policing and business is an old story. In that sense, Mr. Singh's charge that the Minister was forcing police officers to extort money from businesses is not surprising; it is nevertheless an extremely serious one that needs serious investigation. However, Mr. Singh's credibility is hardly inspiring, and he raised the allegation only after he was removed as Commissioner. The circumstances leading to his removal were inglorious. Sachin Vaze, an officer arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in connection with the discovery of explosives near industrialist Mukesh Ambani's house, was perceived to be close to Mr. Singh. The Minister sought to put Mr. Singh on the mat over the case, who made a retaliatory move by accusing the former of trying to use Mr. Vaze as a henchman. Mr. Singh approaching the Supreme Court for a CBI inquiry against Mr. Deshmukh is intriguing and self-implicating. As Commissioner he could have — and should have — acted upon the allegations that he is now raising.

The muckraking by Mr. Singh cannot be seen disconnected from the ceaseless political manoeuvring in the State. The formation of the unlikely coalition of the Shiv Sena, Congress and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) in 2019 was a setback to the storied managerial skills of the BJP. Speculation of an impending collapse have loomed over the Maha Vikas Aghadi government since its formation. The BJP, with the active help of Central agencies, has been trying to unsettle the State government. In the tug of war, Mr. Singh has been an active instrument of the MVA, and the Shiv Sena sprung up to his defence immediately after he was removed. Now the leaders of all three parties have termed his allegations as a conspiracy to topple the State government. After the initial panic, the parties have closed ranks behind the embattled Minister. The lure of power is universal, but in Maharashtra, which is home to India's economic capital Mumbai, it is even more intense. The ideological mismatch of the alliance partners is evident, but the State government has matched up to the BJP's challenge several times in political combat. All three parties are united by a strong survival instinct in the face of the BJP onslaught. The BJP's impatience to reclaim power in Maharashtra is more than usual considering the bruised egos involved. The chances of a politically motivated investigation are high, given the context. Only an independent, transparent investigation can separate the wheat from the chaff in this sordid tale. Unfortunately, a probe by either the State police or a central agency is not a reassuring option.

## Corrective voice: On Supreme Court and judicial patriarchy

**The SC did well to lay down guidelines for the judiciary in dealing with cases of sexual crime**

While recognising society's deep-rooted patriarchy and initiating a course correction in the way the judiciary itself views gender rights, the Supreme Court went back to Henrik Ibsen, a playwright known for his feisty women characters who break free of traditions of familial confines and notions of social propriety. Setting aside an absurd *rakhi*-for-bail order of the Madhya Pradesh High Court to a sexual offender, the Court issued a set of guidelines on March 18 to be followed by the judiciary while dealing with sexual crimes against

women. The two-member Bench of Justices A.M. Khanwilkar and S. Ravindra Bhat used a quote from Ibsen to say that a woman ‘cannot be herself’ in an ‘exclusively masculine society, with laws framed by men’, and laid it down as a guiding force for all future judicial proclamations. The judiciary’s corrective voice is a welcome step in the aftermath of CJI S.A. Bobde’s reported remarks during a virtual hearing, when he asked an alleged rapist’s lawyer to find out whether his client would marry the victim. He later said he had been misquoted. The Khanwilkar-Bhat Bench asked all courts to refrain from imposing marriage or mandate any compromise between a sex offender and his victim. Powerful men seem to be reiterating misogyny besides carelessly linking sexual crimes to women being alone at night or wearing clothes of their choice.

Leaning on the ‘Bangkok General Guidance for Judges on Applying a Gender Perspective in Southeast Asia’, the Bench listed a host of avoidable stereotypes: women are physically weak; men are the head of the household and must make all the decisions related to family; women should be submissive and obedient. Women are battling society’s ingrained prejudices, and the judgment acknowledges this bitter reality, saying gender violence is most often shrouded in a culture of silence. Pointing to the entrenched unequal power equations between men and women, including cultural and social norms, financial dependence, and poverty, it said data may not reflect the actual incidence of violence against women. It is not the first time the Supreme Court is clamping down against gender stereotyping. Justice D.Y. Chandrachud (*Secr., Ministry of Defence vs. Babita Puniya*) had argued against treating women in the Army any differently from their men counterparts for they worked as “equal citizens” in a common mission, and in *Anuj Garg*, the Court had called out the “notion of romantic paternalism” as an attempt to put women “in a cage”. To break the silence on bias against women, everyone must take responsibility, especially institutions and those in important positions. The Court’s reiteration on where it needs to stand on women’s rights is a move in the right direction because the fight for gender equality is far from over.

## Retiring clunkers



**The scrappage policy is comprehensive but the source of funding for incentives needs clarification**

India’s vehicle scrappage policy finally appears to be getting off the drawing board, with the Centre releasing a formal draft of rules. The rules may be notified based on stakeholder feedback. The new policy, while providing for compulsory scrapping of government and PSU-owned vehicles over 15 years old, offers leeway for private vehicle owners to decide on the timing of the scrappage. It specifies mandatory fitness testing after completing 20 years and 15 years for personal and transport vehicles respectively — from April 1 2023 for heavy commercial vehicles and June 1 2024 for others. Should a vehicle not appear for the fitness test or fail it, it would be compulsorily de-registered. But older vehicles that pass the test will see a hike in their certification fees. Along with this negative nudge though, the policy proposes positive incentives too for owners to take their clunkers off the roads — an upfront incentive of 4-6 per cent during scrappage and a 25 per cent rebate on road tax, waiver of registration charges and a 5 per cent price discount on the new purchase. To ensure that scrap-yards don’t spring up in a haphazard manner, separate rules have been framed to ensure that only Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facilities (RVSFs) approved by State governments with the requisite space, equipment and quality and pollution control checks, located in demarcated zones, are allowed to undertake this activity, with all of this subject to regular audit.

The latest version of the scrappage policy certainly seems to be better thought through than the earlier one. Detailed specifications for RVSFs are particularly welcome, to contain the adverse environmental fallouts of retiring vehicles on such a massive scale. Industry analysts estimate that the scheme could lift vehicle sales by 7-9 per cent, unleashing new jobs associated with the scrappage ecosystem. But for it to take off, a few loose ends may need ironing out. Upfront incentives are likely to be the key consideration for vehicle owners to retire their clunkers, but there's not much clarity on how these will be funded. The Centre seems to be relying on the RVSFs to offer the 4-6 per cent scrappage incentive, on manufacturers to offer new vehicle discounts and on State governments to reduce road tax. But it needs to ensure they're willing to take on this financial burden, or alternatively, provide a backstop. Given that most private vehicles in India are loan-funded, the availability and rates of finance may have a bearing on the success of the scrappage policy.

Overall, with this policy likely to take a few years to feed through to automobile demand, it is unlikely to provide any immediate economic stimulus. But it definitely has the potential to reduce vehicular emissions by taking polluting vehicles off the roads. It is on this aspect that the Centre must concentrate to ensure its success. As the policy hinges heavily on the RVSF ecosystem, State governments must take on the onus of monitoring its smooth rollout.