

The Hindu Editorials & Words

25th March 2021

1. Smudge: स्मज्

To make something dirty or untidy by touching it

किसी चीज़ को (छूकर) गंदा या मैला करना; धब्बे डालना

Leave your painting to dry or you'll smudge it.

To become untidy, without a clean line around it

धब्बे लग जाना, (पर) धब्बे आ जाना

2. Magnum opus: मैग्नम् 'ओपस्

An artist's or writer's most important or best work. It is a Latin phrase that literally means 'great work'

किसी कलाकार या लेखक की प्रधान कृति या सर्वोत्तम रचना। यह एक लैटिन वाक्यांश है जिसका शब्दिक अर्थ है 'महान कृति'

'Mona Lisa' is Leonardo Da Vinci's magnum opus.

Other words for **magnum opus**

Crowning achievement. jewel. masterpiece. masterstroke. masterwork.

3. Spotlight:

A lamp that can send a single ray of bright light onto a small area. Spotlights are often used in theatres

सीमित स्थान को केवल एक-रेखा से आलोकित करने वाला लैंप (प्रायः रंगशालाओं में प्रयुक्त); स्पोटलाइट,

बिंदु प्रदीप

The centre of public attention or interest

लोगों के विशेष ध्यान पर रुचि का केंद्र; आकर्षण-केंद्र

To be in the spotlight

4. A place in the sun

A position of favour or advantage.

Similar: advantageous **position**, good **position**, strong **position**, favourable **position**, favourable **position**, favourable situation, favourable situation ...

5. Brush aside

To treat (something) as not important: to ignore or dismiss (something) He **brushed aside** questions about his son's arrest.

6. Abstention

तटस्थता

Similar:

1. refusal to vote, abstaining, non-voting, sitting on the fence.

2. teetotalism, temperance, sobriety, abstemiousness, abstinence, celibacy, chastity, singleness, continence, virginity, self-restraint.

7. Tactical

Of or relating to **tactics**, especially military or naval **tactics**. characterized by skilful **tactics** or adroit manoeuvring or procedure: **tactical** movements. of or relating to a manoeuvre or plan of action designed as an expedient toward gaining a desired end or temporary advantage. expedient; calculated.

8. Resolution: रेज़'लूश्न्

The quality of being firm and determined

दृढ़ता, संकल्पबद्धता

Solving or settling a problem, dispute, etc.

समस्या, विवाद आदि का समाधान या निपटारा

9. Devolution: डीव'लूश्न्

The act of giving political power from central to local government

राजनीतिक सत्ता का केंद्रीय सरकार से राज्य या स्थानीय सरकारों को हस्तांतरण, सत्ता का विकेंद्रीकरण

10. Concurrence

Agreement

सहमति, स्वीकृति

The doctor must seek the concurrence of a relative before carrying out the procedure.

An example of two or more things happening at the same time

दो या अधिक वस्तुओं/घटनाओं के एक साथ होने या घटित होने की स्थिति

An unfortunate concurrence of events

11. Foster

To take a child who needs a home into your family and to care for him/her without becoming the legal parent

किसी गैर बच्चे को अपनाकर अपने परिवार में पालन-पोषण करना परंतु गोद लेने की कानूनी कार्रवाई

किए बिना

To foster a homeless child

To help or encourage the development of something (especially feelings or ideas)

(विशेषतः भावों या विचारों के) विकास को प्रोत्साहित करना; संवर्धित करना

Arts and awards: On 67th National Film Awards

The National Film Awards can help film-makers narrating stories from remote corners

The announcement of the 67th National Film Awards on Monday, to recognise films certified in 2019, quite predictably drew its share of controversies. While some attributed a few of the awards to the political alignment of the personalities and films concerned, there were others who thought that deserving candidates were overlooked. However, there was no disputing the fact that the awards acknowledged both well known and less known films from different pockets of the country. Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu, Marathi and Bengali films have always had their fair share of recognition, winning a clutch of awards. Thanks to the blurring of regional and language boundaries in cinema in recent years, a Tamil or a Telugu film, for instance, now stands a better chance at enjoying a pan-Indian theatrical release with subtitles, and thereafter reaching wider audiences through digital platforms. **Dhanush, Vetri Maaran and Vijay Sethupathi** are names that are recognised well beyond the boundaries of Tamil cinema, appreciated for projects that have smudged the line between art house and mainstream cinema. Dhanush being declared the Best Actor for *Asuran*, which was also acknowledged the Best Tamil Film, and Sethupathi winning Best Supporting Actor for *Super Deluxe*, have been lauded widely. Sharing the Best Actor honours with Dhanush is Manoj Bajpayee for his internalised performance in *Bhonsle*. The Kannada film *Avane Srimannarayana* was chosen for Best Action Direction. The Malayalam period magnum opus *Marakkar: Lion of the Arabian Sea* bagged Best Feature Film.

The award that drew the fiercest criticism was that of Kangana Ranaut for being declared Best Actress for *Panga* and *Manikarnika: The Queen of Jhansi*. Whether or not her politics was a factor in the choice, there is no doubting Kangana's talent. Look beyond the noise surrounding this recognition, and the National Awards also put the spotlight on films from the Northeast region — the Khasi film *Iewduh* for Best Audiography (Location Sound Recordist) and *Water Burial*, in Arunachal Pradesh's tribal Monpa language, for Best Film for Environment Conservation. For film industries that rarely enjoy their place in the sun, a

National Award should ideally help winning films find a wider audience. It has not always been the case, but there is hope, in a world where cinema may increasingly be consumed on digital platforms. Perhaps, brushing aside the high-pitched debates, it is imperative to look at how some of these less known feature films, and award-winning non-feature films, can find their target audience, without having to rely on marketing muscle. A framework to bring these films to limelight, with the help of digital platforms, will be an incentive to film-makers striving to narrate stories from the remote corners of the country.

Tactical abstention: On the U.N. Human Rights Council resolution on Sri Lanka

India was keen not to lose diplomatic space to persuade Sri Lanka on devolution for Tamils

By **abstaining from the vote on the U.N. Human Rights Council resolution on Sri Lanka**, India has signalled its unwillingness to upset its neighbour. At the same time, it does not want to be seen as ignoring Sri Lanka's reluctance to meet the political aspirations of the Tamils or endorsing the country's stubborn refusal to ensure any sort of accountability for its war-time past. It may be easy for the political opposition to dismiss India's abstention as showing an intent to shield Sri Lanka from a credible investigation into allegations of war crimes. A more reasonable assessment would be that India seems to have utilised the opportunity to preserve its diplomatic space and to contain the pervasive influence of China over Sri Lanka even while maintaining its support for the Tamil minority to achieve equality, justice, dignity and peace. India has not been comfortable with externally mandated investigative mechanisms. Even when it voted in 2012 in favour of a credible investigation into human rights, India had got the resolution to incorporate the need for Sri Lanka's 'concurrence' to any assistance that the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights may offer in such a probe. In this session and just ahead of the vote, India stressed on both meaningful devolution to meet Tamil aspirations and the unity and integrity of Sri Lanka — aspects that it believes are not an 'either-or' choice. The resolution comes amidst disturbing signs that Sri Lanka is regressing into the days of democratic deficit seen prior to the 2015 elections. Unfortunately, the present regime withdrew from the commitments made to the UNHRC by its predecessor on constructive engagement with the international community, and the consensual resolution on justice and accountability. The UN High Commissioner's report raises concern over increasing militarisation, heightened surveillance against rights defenders and NGOs, interference with the few prosecutions in emblematic cases from the past, and the dangerous anti-minority rhetoric. India's concerns in Sri Lanka have always been different from the rest of the international community, informed by a sense of the long-term well-being of the Tamils, and that power-sharing does foster reconciliation. Hence its emphasis on devolution rather than accountability. It is clear that India has its own limitations in expressing disappointment over the island nation's move away from reconciliation and devolution. It continues to be weighed down by the Chinese presence in the region. Even the need to be in accord with sentiment in Tamil Nadu in the midst of an election was not motivation enough for India to change its position from tactical neutrality to one of open support for the resolution. When pragmatism and principle were needed in equal measure, the Centre seems to have chosen abstention as an easy way out.

The right balance

Apex Court has spelt out a pragmatic solution to the interest waiver issue

On March 23, the Supreme Court brought a satisfactory closure to the plea that interest on loans for the six month moratorium period be waived. The apex court took two broad decisions: all loans, and not just loans below ₹2 crore, will be freed from paying compound interest for the six-month moratorium period that ended on August 31; and that it will not instruct the government to extend the moratorium period. In doing so, it has sought to strike a middle ground of providing some relief to the borrowers without posing a strain to the finances of banks. The income foregone by the banks is estimated at about ₹14,500 crore (to be footed by the Centre), which is nowhere near the ₹6-lakh crore that would have been lost if interest on all loans for the six-month period had been waived, as urged by the petitioners. The court has rightly observed that banks cannot be denied interest income as they need to meet their obligations towards depositors. Indeed, the edifice of banking and finance would come apart if interest waivers are normalised through judicial or executive intervention (and this is precisely the trouble with all loan waivers).

To relax the terms and conditions under exceptional circumstances is one thing, and this is what the waiver of compound interest now amounts to, but to forgo all interest is quite another. The apex court has also underscored an important aspect of its rulings on matters of economy and finance: that it would rather not intervene in matters of policy unless they raise Constitutional questions (such as the status of spectrum as a national resource) or matters of natural justice. Therefore, the question of duration of NPA moratorium did not find favour with the court, whereas the waiver of compound interest arguably qualifies as a *force majeure* remedy; this is even as banks feel equally entitled to charge it as opportunity cost of money.

Banks will now be in a clearer position with respect to the NPAs in their books. With moratoriums no longer in the scene as a measure of post-Covid relief, the onus to give flagging concerns a chance would depend considerably on the Kamath panel formula suggested in September last. So far, the restructuring scheme has found few takers. But this could also be because borrowers were awaiting the SC verdict on the duration of moratorium. If the poor response persists amidst loan stress, the issue of restructuring may require a relook. While measures have been taken by the RBI since May 2020 to prevent a liquidity issue from turning into a solvency problem, the challenges awaiting the IBC, which has once again come into force, are anyone's guess. A turnaround in credit would now require an improvement in macro conditions, besides a resolution of the 'twin balance sheets' of banks and businesses.