

Tenses

Grammar Advance for OMETs 2024



Lokesh Sharma

Course: Grammar Advance

Topic- Tenses

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Please appreciate that the platform isn't familiar to both parties and your trainer is technologically retarded! Dheere dheere seekhenge



MANU'S EXPULSION
Supreme Court 're-lists' case on January 3
NEWS ▸ PAGE 8



MOVING TO CENSORSHIP
Netflix stops streaming uncut Indian films globally
NEWS ▸ PAGE 10



AS DEATH TOLL MOUNTS
U.S., Israel discuss scaling back Gaza war
WORLD ▸ PAGE 13



SECURITY BREACH
Intruders in Parliament
A look at what transpired in Lok Sabha on Dec. 13
GROUND ZERO ▸ PAGE 7



ALL-ROUND SHOW
Deepti puts India in control in one-off Test
SPORT ▸ PAGE 11

IN BRIEF
Delhi MLA fund raised to ₹7 cr., says Bharadwaj

NEW DELHI
The Member of Legislative Assembly Local Area Development Scheme (MLADS) funds have been increased from 14 crore to ₹7 crore, Urban Development Minister Sanjay Shrivastava said on Friday. MLADS funds are allotted to legislators to carry out development projects in their constituencies. ▸ PAGE 8

SC refuses to stay survey of Shah Idgah mosque

NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court on Friday refused to stay an Allahabad High Court order allowing a court-monitored survey of the Shah Idgah adjoining the Krishna Janmasthan temple in Vrindavan. A bench headed by Justice Sanjay Khanna said it should not be expected to order a stay on the strength of an oral plea. ▸ PAGE 9

Protests rock Parliament over security breach row

Both Houses adjourned till Monday as Opposition members continue stir over MIP suspension and seek statement from Shah. RS Chairman, LS Speaker reject their adjournment motion notices

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A day after 14 Opposition members were suspended for disrupting Parliament proceedings, both the Houses were adjourned till Monday as protests continued over the issue of security breach.

While the Lok Sabha barely functioned for a couple of minutes on Friday, the Rajya Sabha too did not take up any business other than customary laying of papers. Both the Houses did not take up the question hour, zero hour, and the private members' business on Friday over the issue of security breach in the Lok Sabha. The Opposition members, who had moved notices to take up the matter as adjournment motions, continued their protests in Rajya Sabha. Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla rejected the notices.



Opposition MPs stage a protest at Nisar Dargah in front of the Parliament premises in New Delhi on Friday.

When the Lok Sabha met at 11 a.m., the proceedings were chaired by BJP MP Rajendra Agarwal instead of Mr. Om Birla. All members immediately, Opposition members trooped into the well of the House, carrying placards and raising slogans against the government and demanding a statement from Home Minister Amit Shah over the security breach.

Lalit Jha was the 'mastermind' of the act, say police

NEW DELHI
Lalit Jha, who surrendered to the Delhi police on Thursday, has been described by the police as the alleged "mastermind" of the security breach in the Lok Sabha. He was produced in a court on Friday and sent to seven-day police custody. ▸ PAGE 8

colleagues who were suspended for carrying the same. The Chair adjourned the House till 2 p.m. in less than a minute and then it was adjourned for the day soon after it met in the post-lunch session.

Bhajanlal Sharma sworn in as new CM of Rajasthan

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR

Sanganeer MLA Bhajanlal Sharma was sworn in as the new Chief Minister of Rajasthan at a high-profile ceremony on Friday, attended by thousands of BJP workers. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, several Union Ministers, and the CMs of BJP-ruled States were in attendance.

Governor Kalraj Mishra administered the oath of office and secrecy to Mr. Sharma and Deputy Chief Ministers Daya Kumar and Prem Chand Bahwa.

The function was held in front of the Albert Hall in the Ram Niwas Gardens. Mr. Sharma, who was the BJP's State general secretary till recently, took charge of the State on the day he turned 56. Three stages were put up at the swearing-in ceremony to accommodate different groups. Over 50 Hindu priests and seers were seated at one stage, while



Bhajanlal Sharma

all the political leaders occupied chairs on another stage. The third stage was meant for the oath, where the Governor, Mr. Modi and the three leaders, who were to be sworn in, were seated.

Jefferson banners, posters, and handbills, carrying pictures of Mr. Modi and details of Union government schemes as well as the BJP's "guarantees", were put up at the venue in large numbers. Thousands of BJP workers and supporters from all over the State waved the party's flag and raised slogans such as 'Jai Shri Ram' and 'Modi-Modi'.

Justly praised the decision to appoint Mr. Sharma as the CM, saying that it would enable them to promote the BJP as a "party with a difference", which could pick a first-time MLA for the top post.

"It is a transformation for Rajasthan... The next generation is taking over the reins," Kishore Pareek, one of the BJP workers, said.

The BJP's Bharatpur district unit vice-president Sher Singh said Mr. Sharma's appointment would encourage party workers at the grassroots level. "It is a clear signal that whoever works hard can become the CM. The BJP is the only party which recognises talent, dedication, and tireless work. Others are steeped in corruption and nepotism," Mr. Singh said.

CONTINUED ON
PAGE 8
GIT FORMER
PAGE 4

Centre's endorsement shows we worked efficiently: Stalin

R. Kolappan
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Friday said the Central team's endorsement of the manner in which the administration handled Cyclone Michaung and the Chennai floods, proved the State government's "efficient performance".



Asked if the government could have tackled the recent floods better, he said, "I always would like to do more for the people."

Updating the status of the flood mitigation projects, Mr. Stalin said the integrated stormwater drain (ISWD) project was completed for a length of 44.88 km along the Adyar and Cooum basins with ₹20 crore funding from the World Bank. Besides 50-km stormwater drain projects were implemented at a cost of ₹20 crore under Slogas Chennai 2.0.

INTERVIEW
PAGE 9

India's exports dipped 2.83% in November

Vikas Oberoi
NEW DELHI

India's goods exports slipped back into contraction to drop 2.83% in November to \$23.9 billion, while imports fell by a sharper 4.33% to \$54.48 billion.

The trade deficit for November eased sharply beyond expectations to \$30.58 billion from the all-time high of \$29.91 billion recorded in October.

Exports had recorded only their second uptick this year in October.

FULL REPORT
PAGE 11

Centre tells airports to curb expansion of retail outlets to reduce congestion

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In a set of guiding principles established by the government, airports have been advised to curb the proliferation of retail outlets and lounges at airports if these impact their capacity to handle passengers.



Terminals are often designed to force travellers to walk past duty-free outlets and other shops. (A. S. MURTHY)

The Civil Aviation Ministry has also told airports to ensure that the retail shops do not obstruct the movement of passengers.

Terminal buildings are often designed to force travellers to walk past duty-free outlets and other shops from the security-check area to the boarding gates, instead of giving them access to a clear passage.

Delhi and Mumbai airports since last winter to facilitate passenger movement, Civil Aviation Minister Jyotirajendra Singh said, addressing a press conference on Friday.

Preventive measures These are among the measures that airports must take to prevent congestion during peak travel seasons, and come after the stampede-like situations witnessed across major airports last December.

Another step that has been taken is the enhancement of airport infrastructure. For instance, the number of entry lanes at terminals has been increased to 37%.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
Heartfelt Birthday wishes to our FORMER CHIEF MINISTER of Karnataka **SRI H.D. KUMARASWAMY**
Our nation is witnessing the dedication & excellence with which is your contribution towards India's progress.

K. N. CHAKRAPANI
BJP Leader & President - Chakrapani Foundation (R)

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IAS INTERVIEW

19 Dec 22 Dec

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HISTORY S. BALIYAN

NEW BATCHES COMMENCE 8 JAN INSIGHT

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

DU constitutes panel to look into Atishi's claims about irregularities

The Executive Committee (EC) of Delhi University (DU) on Friday constituted a panel to look into the allegations by Education Minister Atishi regarding the functioning of 12 Delhi government-funded colleges.

Ms. Atishi had earlier this month written to Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan stating that the Delhi government's Directorate of Audit had noted "several serious irregularities and procedural lapses involving hundreds of crores" in the 12 colleges over the past few years.

She suggested that the Centre either direct DU to de-affiliate the 12 colleges, following which the Delhi government would bring them under its control, or that the colleges remain affiliated with DU and the Centre take over the responsibility to fully fund them.

'Delhi's green cover rose to 23.6% since AAP came to power'

The Executive Committee (EC) of Delhi University (DU) on Friday constituted a panel to look into the allegations by Education Minister Atishi regarding the functioning of 12 Delhi government-funded colleges.

Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Friday said Delhi has the largest green cover among all metropolitan cities in the country, with forests and trees covering 23.6% of the Capital as of 2023 compared to 20% green cover in 2014 when the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) first came to power.

Addressing the Assembly, Mr. Rai said pollution levels in the city had come down due to the Delhi government's sustained efforts. The Minister made the statement in response to a question by AAP's Tejinderpal Singh Gill on the number of trees planted in the city and the pollution levels over the past five years.

MLALAD funds raised to ₹7 crore, Minister tells Delhi Assembly

MLALAD funds are allocated to legislators to carry out development projects in their constituencies. The Delhi Assembly has a strength of 70 MLAs.

Responding to a question on the first day of the two-day winter session, Mr. Bhurabwaj said MLALAD funds were increased from ₹4 crore to ₹7 crore in 2023.

He said the BJP-led Centre had demolished homes of thousands of slum-dwellers and rendered them homeless.

GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER NATIONAL HIGHWAYS DIVISION, GUMLA. Request for Proposal for Performance based Maintenance Contracts.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE Office of the Executive Engineer, Bommarahalli Project Division, Bengaluru. SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION.



MLAs participating in the Assembly House on the first day of the two-day winter session, December 29, 2023.

TO ADVERTISE PLEASE CONTACT Mr. N SELVA KUMAR Ph: 9820350726

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE DEATH ANNIVERSARIES CITY UNION BANK LIMITED CREDIT RECOVERY AND MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

Delhi colder than Shimla as minimum dips below 5 degrees

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Capital recorded a minimum temperature of 4.9 degrees Celsius on Friday, which was lower than the minimum temperatures of 6.3 degrees Celsius and 6.2 degrees Celsius recorded at the hill stations of Shimla and Mussoorie, respectively. An official at the weather department said the anomaly could be attributed to the settling of an "inversion layer" on mountains. "Generally, the air cools as elevation increases, but this effect sees warm air from the plains blanket the cold mountain air," he said.

%, Timegap

SATURDAY, DEC 16

08:00 - 09:00 10.1 10.2

09:00 - 10:00 10.1 10.2

10:00 - 11:00 10.1 10.2

11:00 - 12:00 10.1 10.2

12:00 - 01:00 10.1 10.2

01:00 - 02:00 10.1 10.2

02:00 - 03:00 10.1 10.2

03:00 - 04:00 10.1 10.2

04:00 - 05:00 10.1 10.2

05:00 - 06:00 10.1 10.2

06:00 - 07:00 10.1 10.2

07:00 - 08:00 10.1 10.2

Delhi Weather Max Min

Delhi City 10 05

Sushant 09 04

Patlipur 07 02

Delhi: Pukin Today
24°C The dry weather to continue. Shallow to moderate fog and mist will occur in early morning. Day will be pleasant. Night also will be mild & foggy.

Delhi: Pukin Tomorrow
22°C A dry weather to prevail. Morning will be mild with fog and mist. Day will be pleasant. Night will remain mild and foggy.

THE HINDU BUREAU
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday asked the Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DPCR) to approach the High Court against Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena, observing that every dispute between the Delhi government and the L-G need not be brought directly to the apex court.

'Re-spinning old theories': L-G refuses to review file on top officers' removal

Atishi's proposal seeking removal of Chief Secretary and Divisional Commissioner is an attempt to mislead public and courts, says Saxena; case pertains to the acquisition of a 19-acre land parcel

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena refused to reconsider his decision dismissing vigilance Minister Atishi's proposal seeking the removal of Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar and Divisional Commissioner Adwait Kumar to ensure a "fair" Central agency-led probe in a land acquisition case, Raj Nandan officials said on Friday.

Sources in the Delhi government accused the L-G of "re-spinning old theories" and "an attempt to mislead the public and the courts from the case".



Vigilance Minister Atishi had sent the file to L-G Vinai Kumar Saxena on November 22, 2023.

Central agency-led probe in a land acquisition case, Raj Nandan officials said on Friday.

The case pertains to a 19-acre land parcel acquired in Delhi's Bamsodi

the L-G dismissed the proposal and observed that Mr. Atishi's file "was nothing but re-spinning of theories" and "an attempt to mislead the public and the courts from the case".

A Raj News official said

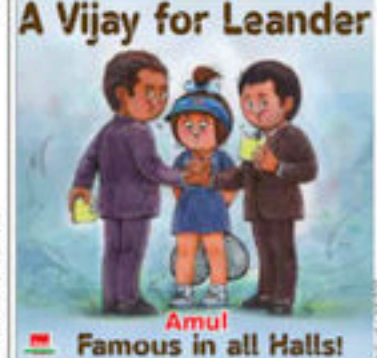
Scrap manual restricting protests, say JNU students

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Students of the JNU across political affiliations have demanded the withdrawal of the revised Chief Proctor Office (CPO) manual, which restricts protests on campus and imposes punishments for 28 types of misconduct.

The JNU Students' Union submitted a memorandum to Vice-Chancellor Santoshree Dhalupudi Parikh, urging her to stop all disciplinary actions against students ordered by the CPO on December 13 for protesting against low water supply for a week in September.

As per the university, show-cause notices have been issued to those students who violated the order that prohibits protests within 100 metres of academic and administrative buildings.



Famous in all Halls!

HC junks plea seeking urgent implementation of women's quota Bill

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Friday declined to entertain a plea seeking urgent implementation of the Women's Reservation Bill, 2023 to ensure 33% reservation for women in the Lok Sabha as early as next year.

her plea with the liberty to file a Public Interest Litigation petition instead.

Why is every dispute between Delhi govt. and L-G coming here, asks Supreme Court

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday asked the Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DPCR) to approach the High Court against Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena, observing that every

dispute between the Delhi government and the L-G need not be brought directly to the apex court.

The observations were made by a Bench headed by Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud while dealing with a DPCR petition that claimed Mr. Saxena had allegedly stopped in hands

"Every dispute, all and sundry, between the Delhi government and the Lieutenant Governor is coming here. Why are you backing the High Court?" the Chief Justice said senior advocate Gopul Sankaranarayanan for DPCR, adding that such disputes appeared at the court "every two days".

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GOVERNMENT OF BIHAR

BIHAR STATE ROAD TRANSPORT PROJECT (BSRT)

Expression of Interest (EOI) - Request for proposal (RFP)

Name of Project: Bihar State Road Transport Project (BSRT)

Lot No. Credit No. 2023/01

Date: December 16, 2023

No.	Description of Procurement	Date of availability of EOI	Date of availability of RFP
1	Expression of Interest (EOI) - Request for proposal (RFP) for the tender for the purchase of 100000 (One Lakh) Buses for the State Road Transport Project (BSRT).	December 16, 2023	January 05, 2024 at 10:00:00 AM (IST)

बिहार राज्य परिवहन प्रोजेक्ट (BSRT)

बिहार राज्य परिवहन प्रोजेक्ट (BSRT)

लॉट नंबर: 2023/01

क्र. 1: 100000 (एक लाख) बसें

EOI की उपलब्धता का दिनांक: 16 दिसंबर 2023

RFP की उपलब्धता का दिनांक: 05 जनवरी 2024 (10:00:00 AM IST)

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

WATER CORPORATION OF ODISHA

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING TENDER

Sl. No. 1

Name of the work: 1. New 1000 GPD

2. Type of Bid: 1. L1 Bid System

3. Estimated Cost: Rs. 100.00 Lakh

4. Period of Contract: 12 (Twelve) calendar months

5. Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal: From 11.00 AM of 16.12.2023 to 03.00 PM of 16.12.2023

6. Last date / Time of receipt of bids in the portal: 03.00 PM of 16.12.2023

7. Date & Time of opening of technical bids: 04.12.2023 at 11.30 AM of 04.12.2023

8. Name and Address of the Office: General Manager, WCO Division, Sambalpur, Odisha, India - 752001

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Estimate	Mode of payment
1	Construction of 1000 GPD	Rs. 100.00 Lakh	100%

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA CORRIGENDUM

Sl. No.	Name of Board Corp./Society	Old Reference No.	Nature of Corrigendum	Website of the Board Corp./Auth.	Modal Officers Contact Details
1	HPCL	HPCL/2023/01	Correction in the bid document	www.hpcl.co.in	011-26191000

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Estimate	Mode of payment
1	Construction of 1000 GPD	Rs. 100.00 Lakh	100%

Chief Engineer, Uttarakhand Rural Roads Development Agency

PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YUJANA (PMGSY)

Ref. No.: 18/18-02/2023-2023/URDA/23 Dated: 15.12.2023

The Chief Engineer, URDA on behalf of Governor of Uttarakhand invites the bids for the construction of works under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the District of Haridwar. The bids are invited for the number of packages with estimated cost totaling to Rs. 17.13 Crores including their maintenance for five years from the eligible contractors registered with PWOC/PWD or equivalent.

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, PWD BUILDING: ASSAM CHANDMAIB, GUWAHATI-3.

TENDER NOTICE (TENDERS)

The Spl. Chief Engineer, PWD, Building, Health & Education Assam, Chandmaib, Guwahati-3 on behalf of the Governor of Assam, invites EPC (Design & Construct) bids for the following works:

Sl. No.	Package No.	Name of work	Est. Value (Rs in Lakhs)	Completion Period	Est. Security	Est. Bid
1	Pkg-01	Transformation of School at Assam under NEED Scheme for (i) Bagul HS School at Bagul District (ii) Sarthakrai HS School at Sarthakrai District (iii) Ghongrae HS at Nubari District (iv) Nuvul HS School at Sonpur District (v) Muzammar Higher Secondary School at Sonpur District (vi) Rangagaria Higher Secondary School at Sonpur District (vii) Sagar HS and MP School at Sonpur District	Rs. 6104.23002	24 (Twenty Four) months	1% of Bid Value	Rs. 30,000.00

IN BRIEF



Onion export ban sparks stir by farmers, traders in Gujarat

The overnight ban order on the export of onion issued by the Centre on December 7 has triggered widespread protests by farmers and traders in Gujarat. While farmers are taking to the streets, traders have suspended business in the State's main markets. As the ban in the midst of the harvesting season came into effect, prices in APMC mandis crashed from 14,000 to 12,500 per quintal, a steep drop of more than 10%, dashing the farmers' expectations of better prices for their produce. Since the ban became effective, trading has remained suspended in Mahasa, the second largest onion hub in the country, and Gandol, a key market in Gujarat.

Odisha cash haul: IT Dept. winds up raids after 10 days

The Income Tax Department raids being carried out against an Odisha-based distillery firm owned by a Congress MP's family and some linked entities ended early on Friday, capping 10 days of searches and recording the country's "highest-ever" cash haul at ₹55 crore, official sources said. The last two IT teams left the premises, one each in Odisha and Jharkhand, carrying with them a number of seized "incriminating documents" and data cloned from electronic gadgets in the early morning hours. The searches against Boudh Distillery and its linked entities were launched on December 6.

Sambhaji Chhatrapati invites Maharashtra MPs to discuss Maratha quota

The former MP is hoping to add momentum to the reservation movement by getting the Centre involved in the matter, wants the people's representatives to raise the issue during winter session

Nanda Hebbar NEW DELHI

Former Rajya Sabha MP and Kolhapur royal Sambhaji Chhatrapati has decided to up the ante over the demand for reservation by the Maratha community by inviting all 67 MPs from the State to the Lok Sabha, 19 in the Rajya Sabha, for a meeting on the issue in New Delhi on Monday.



A protest being held outside the Town Collector's office demanding the reservation.

Mr. Chhatrapati - considered the 10th-generation descendant of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and also of Shahu Maharaj, the late ruler of Kolhapur, who was one of the first to implement reservations in jobs for marginalised sections back in 1902 - has been very active on this issue, even before the latest round of protests headed by Maratha activist Manoj Jarange-Patil. He is also in the process of getting his new political party, Swarajya, up and running, with plans to contest at least 50 seats in the

next Assembly election in Maharashtra.

'Voice in unison'

In a letter written to all MPs from the State, Mr. Chhatrapati said, "For the past few months, the issue of Maratha reservation has come to the fore again. Mr. Jarange-Patil is touring Maharashtra agitating for reservation. Millions are active participants of the movement, of which a large faction is the youth. Which is why I would like

to earnestly request that you raise your voice unanimously as elected representatives during the winter session."

As of now, Mr. Jarange-Patil has suspended his hunger strike after the government assured him that his demands will be met by the third week of December. A curative petition on the Maratha reservation was also admitted to the Supreme Court. The Maratha reservation agitation has also led to an OBC

backlash led by a Minister in the NDA government, Chhagan Bhujbal, making the situation in the State even more complicated.

A source close to Mr. Chhatrapati said that Maratha reservation requires a push from the Centre, and amendments to certain constitutional provisions to make it legally tenable. However, political will seems to be lacking at the moment. "The meeting is hoping to address that," said the source.

Special team to probe paper leak cases in Rajasthan

The Hindu Bureau JAIPUR

In his first major decision after assuming office, Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel Sharma on Friday announced the formation of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the recent cases of paper leaks in the government recruitment examinations.



PM Narendra Modi greets Rajasthan CM Bhupendra Sharma during the swearing-in ceremony on Friday.

The process for the SIT's appointment started shortly after Mr. Sharma took charge as the CM.

Addressing his maiden press conference at the Chief Minister's Office here, Mr. Sharma said the paper leak incidents had broken the morale of the youth and weakened their faith in the institutions conducting the exams.

"The SIT will investigate all such cases of the last five years and ensure strict punishment to the criminals. We will also ensure that no paper leak takes place in future," he said.

Mr. Sharma said the new BJP government had also decided to appoint an Anti-Gangster Task Force to eradicate organised crimes as a large number of gangs and gangsters had flourished during the Congress rule. The task force would

take effective action against gangsters to bring back law and order in the State, he said.

Women's safety

The CM affirmed that the "double-engine government" would accord the highest priority to women's safety and eradication of corruption in accordance with the BJP's poll manifesto, and take decisions in the interest of farmers, women, the youth and students.

Mr. Sharma, who did not entertain questions from journalists, said the Vikas Bharat Sankalp Yojana, being launched by the State on Saturday, would ensure the reach of public welfare schemes to all eligible beneficiaries.

Fadnavis announces SIT probe into Maratha quota stir arson, vows prosecution

Ashwin Deshpande MUMBAI



Reed town was torches allegedly by the protesters, Mr. Fadnavis, who also holds the house portfolio, said actionable evidence is available, and the SIT would ensure a thorough investigation.

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis announced in the Assembly on Friday that a Special Investigation Team (SIT) would be constituted within two days to probe the arson incidents during the Maratha quota agitation in Maharashtra's Reed district.

The violence in October witnessed the torching of houses, including those of National Congress Party (NCP) MLAs Sandeep Kohiragar and Prakash Solanki, prompting Mr. Fadnavis to assert that those involved in the violence will face prosecution.

Responding to the Assembly's calling attention motion raised by Mr. Kohiragar, whose house in

Reed town was torches allegedly by the protesters, Mr. Fadnavis, who also holds the house portfolio, said actionable evidence is available, and the SIT would ensure a thorough investigation. "Although the investigation (launched after the incident) has progressed, I will set up an SIT with the approval of the House," he said.

NCP legislator Jayant Patil of the Sharad Pawar faction said the police could have led in the air to stop

arsons. "An accused person's name is Pappu Shinde. Why did the local police not arrest people who have criminal backgrounds? At least firing in the air could have deterred some of them," he said.

Reacting to this, the Deputy Chief Minister said, "No-one involved in the unlawful act will be spared and there is no need to politicise the issue. Whoever is involved will be prosecuted. We will spare none, I give you my word."

Mr. Fadnavis said on October 30, a mob of 5,000 people had gathered in Maharashtra town and another 1,500 people in Reed. "The local SP had first gone to Maharashtra with the police force. Later, violence broke out in Reed city, prompting the SP to take the force back to the city," he said.

BSP hits out at M.P. govt. move to ban open sale of meat

The Hindu Bureau LUCKNOW



Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) president Mayawati and her nephew and newly appointed successor Akash Anand on Friday accused the Manohar Yadav-led new Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in Madhya Pradesh of suppressing well-employed people with its decision to act against the open sale of meat and eggs.

"Instead of taking the necessary decision of providing livelihood to the unemployed and other poor labourers, the newly formed BJP government of Madhya Pradesh has started suppressing those who are self-employed and openly selling fish, eggs, meat, etc. due to lack of employment," wrote Mr. Mayawati on X (formerly

Twitter) while seeking a rollback of the decision.

'Apprenticeship policy'

Mr. Anand pointed out that most people engaged in the meat trade are from the minority community and the BJP is "deliberately harassing them". "The BJP is systematically eliminating employment opportunities for Dalits and minorities and is following the policy of appeasement of a particular class," said the BJP's national coordinator.

Veerashaiva Mahasabha urges Karnataka govt. to undertake fresh, 'scientific' caste census

The Hindu Bureau BANGALORE



Community plus: Lingayat leaders submitting a memorandum to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in Bengaluru on Friday.

The Akhila Bharatha Veerashaiva Mahasabha, in a petition signed by many community leaders, including Ministers, has urged the Karnataka government to undertake a fresh and "scientific" socioeconomic and educational survey (caste census) based on facts, and alleged that the 2001 survey was "factually inaccurate".

Claiming that the mahasabha is not opposed to the caste census, a delegation led by its president, Shivanand Shivashankarappa, addressed the cabinet of Ministers Edurath Khader, M.B. Patil, and Shivansud Patil, BJP State president R.V. Vijayendra, senior leaders Basavanna Patil, Yamsi, and Anand Prabhu.

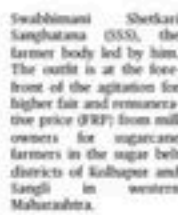
you to undertake a new scientific 'caste' survey based on facts, stated the petition submitted to Mr. Siddaramaiah.

The petition was signed by 23 of the 49 Lingayat leaders in Karnataka. The petition was signed by leaders from across parties, including Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and JDD State president H.D. Kumaraswamy.

Earlier, the Vokkaliga Sangha also argued that there was an undercount of the Vokkaliga community and demanded that the government reject the survey report and reconstruct the census. The petition was signed by leaders from

In Maharashtra's sugar belt, BJP attempts to counter Raju Shetti by propping up protegee

Shomraj Khardekar PUNE



Head old days: Swabhimani Sherkar Sanghata's president Raju Shetti (right), with former leader Ravindra Topkar (left) at Y.S.Chavan Centre in Mumbai, last Friday.

Last week, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis set the rumour mill running with a late night meeting with farmer leader Ravindra Topkar. Sources said Mr. Topkar raised issues concerning soybean and cotton farmers across the State and was assured by Mr. Fadnavis that Union Minister Piyush Goyal was favourably inclined towards his demands.

While the farmer leader did not ascribe any political motive to the meeting, many analysts saw the outreach as an attempt by the BJP to counter his erstwhile political mentor Raju Shetti in the State's sugar belt.

Mr. Shetti, twice MP from Hatkanangale, described the meeting as a move aimed at "splitting"

Swabhimani Sherkar Sanghata (SSS), the farmer body led by him. The centre is at the forefront of the agitation for higher fair and remunerative price (RFP) from mill owners for sugarcane farmers in the sugar belt districts of Kolhapur and Sangli in western Maharashtra.

Bid to gain foothold

With the SSS crowning the ruling BJP on agrarian issues, political analysts said the ruling party is looking to stem the anger in the farming community by reaching out to Mr. Topkar and exploit the schism in the influential farmer body ahead of the Lok Sabha poll. It hopes to thereby gain a foothold in the area that has traditionally been dominated by the Congress and the Sharad Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party (NCP).



Through the two districts send only three MPs to Parliament, the BJP's outreach is part of the party's strategy to achieve its ambitious goal of bagging 45 of the 48 Lok Sabha

seats in the State in the general election, for which it is reaching out to smaller parties and influential community leaders.

The rift between Mr. Topkar and Mr. Shetti has

given the BJP a chance not only to check the growing influence of the SSS in western Maharashtra but also make inroads into the Vidarbha region, said Veerkar.

Diverting attention

Mr. Bhavsar said the BJP is also looking to divert the people's attention from Mr. Shetti's campaign against sugar mills, a majority of which are owned by ruling party and Opposition leaders. "This is not the first time the BJP is trying to exploit rifts in the SSS. In August 2017, when Shetti expelled his one-time aide Sadashiv Khote, he was immediately prepped up by the BJP in a

blow. Mr. Topkar has formidable influence in Vidarbha's State for Agriculture in joining districts due to which he was groomed as a potential candidate by the SSS for the 2024 Lok Sabha election. However, he fell out with his mentor in August when he criticised him over what he called Mr. Shetti's "authoritarian style" of working.

'Ready for challenge'

Mr. Shetti, who had lost the last Lok Sabha poll and is trying to regain his position, said he is ready for the challenge thrown by the BJP. "I am well aware of the BJP's strategy of which are owned by ruling party and Opposition leaders. This is not the first time the BJP is trying to exploit rifts in the SSS. In August 2017, when Shetti expelled his one-time aide Sadashiv Khote, he was immediately prepped up by the BJP in a

blow. Mr. Khote, who assumed the charge of the Minister of State for Agriculture in the previous Devendra Fadnavis led government, had promptly floated his own party, Rajat Kranti Sanghata, to counter Mr. Shetti. But over a period of time, Mr. Khote lost his ground.

Cooperation

No one is on the side of small farmers except the SSS," he said. However, the former MP from Hatkanangale in Kolhapur has an uphill task before him. According to political analysts, his influence declined over the past few years because of shifting loyalties.

Mr. Shetti exited the BJP-led NDA in 2017. In 2022, Mr. Shetti severed ties with the then ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government, vowing to rebuild his base in the sugar belt by aggressively focusing on farmer issues.

Despite consecutively winning the 2009 and 2014 Lok Sabha elections, Mr. Shetti's tie-up with Sharad Pawar's NCP and the Congress ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha poll proved disastrous as he was perceived as siding with the sugar barons and had once fiercely opposed,



Debt and welfare

As it seeks to fulfil poll promises, the BJP must keep an eye on the exchequer

With the swearing in of Mohan Yadav as the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has heralded a new era, a shift from Shri Y Singh Chautan's reign of nearly 20 years. In Madhya Pradesh, Chhatargarh and Rajnagar, the BJP has chosen new leadership. Though Mr. Chautan continues to command significant popularity in the State, a realignment of interest groups and leaders is now likely. The BJP's massive majority is largely being credited to Mr. Chautan who undertook 805 rallies ahead of the polls. But that strength, paradoxically, could force the new Chief Minister to chart its own course. With Mr. Yadav, an OBC leader, and his deputies - Jagdish Devda, an SC leader, and Rajendra Shukla, a Brahmin leader - the BJP aims to consolidate its rainbow caste coalition in the State, with the pointed exclusion of Muslims. Meanwhile, continuing its tribal outreach, the new government in one of its first decisions increased the Tendu patta collection rate from ₹1,000 to ₹4,000 per bag, a promise it had made in its manifesto. The party also expects to reduce the effects of that consolidation on neighboring tribal belt States. In Madhya Pradesh, OBCs alone form more than 50% of the population, while SCs account for about 17%. Brahmins are considered an influential community in the State's Vindhya region, a long-time BJP stronghold. The Yadavs have been relatively less enthusiastic about BJP's outreach towards OBCs. Hence, Mr. Yadav's appointment is a new leap in the BJP's social engineering.

The new government will have its hands full from the word go. One of the most prominent and effective campaign promises of the BJP was to enhance the Ladli Bahna Scheme. About 1.33 crore women from poor households get ₹1,250 a month at present, and the BJP, under Mr. Chautan, had promised to gradually raise it to ₹3,000. Mr. Yadav, however, has not yet indicated his plans on this. The BJP has also promised to hike the support prices of wheat and paddy crops to ₹2,500 and ₹3,800, respectively. It had also promised to provide LPG cylinder at ₹150 to the beneficiaries of the Ladli Bahna Scheme and the Government PM Ujjwala scheme. Fulfilling these promises and continuing welfare schemes are expected to pose an extra burden on the State's exchequer as the government is already reeling under heavy debt, estimated to be close to ₹4 lakh crore, due to various loans by the previous governments. The BJP's social engineering involves wider representation and a widening hamper of welfare schemes. Needless to say, it has social and economic costs.

Acceleration foretold

If inflation is not tamed, there is risk to consumption and growth

November's resurgence in headline retail inflation, while clearly not unexpected after the RBI's just last week predicted a likely 'spike', is a stark reminder of the risks volatile food prices pose. While the National Statistical Office's provisional reading of headline inflation shows the Consumer Price Index rose by 5.55% year-on-year in a three-month high, India's CPI's 4.87% food price gains measured by the Consumer Food Price Index accelerated by a steep 209 basis points to 8.7% last month. Propelling the upsurge in food prices were cereals and vegetables, constituents of the food and beverages subgroups, that jumped 8.3% and 17.7% in inflation, respectively. Cereals, that account for almost one-tenth of the CPI and logged double-digit inflation for a 15th straight month, also saw a month-on-month acceleration in inflation with rice, wheat, and the coarse cereal of jowar, a rural hinterland staple, all registering palpable sequential price gains. Vegetable prices were back on a roll with the year-on-year inflation rate surging by almost 15 percentage points from October's 2.8%. While price gains in the perishable remain modest from two straight months of sizeable deflation to a more than 10% year-on-year rate of inflation last month, the extent of increase could be truly gauged from the fact that prices surged a steep 40% from the preceding month's levels, as per data aggregated on the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy's website. And the key masala essentials of ginger and garlic registered more than 100% rates of inflation for the seventh and third months, respectively.

From the TIFU to tomato, onion and potato tripartite of India's most widely consumed vegetables, onion prices remained the biggest source of concern as year-on-year inflation ballooned to 86%, from October's 47% pace, and the sequential pace swelled to 49%. With reports that inclement weather and depleting groundwater are likely to cause a near 20% shortfall in onion output during the key rabi season, the outlook for prices of the nutrient-dense bulb moderating in the near future appears bleak, the government's move to impose a ban on its exports notwithstanding. Only potato prices, which continued to remain in deflationary territory, offered some respite. Pulses and sugar are other areas of concern, with the first witnessing more than 20% inflation and the sweetener also experiencing an uptick in the pace of price gains to 6.55%. With sugar production also expected to take a hit due to lower rainfall, the number of supply-related challenges policymakers face to rein in price gains is rising. With the RBI having opted to refrain from raising rates for now, the onus is squarely on the government to help temper inflationary risks.

Opportune moment to rediscover Chennai's hydrology

Unusually heavy rainfall years have been becoming more frequent in recent decades in India. As a result, people are also experiencing more frequent occurrences of floods in several parts of the country including Chennai. These are considered climate change-induced floods. But the key question remains: Are we looking behind climate change for all the blunders made so far? Chennai suffered the serious impacts of floods in 2005, 2015 and, again, in 2023. Although each one of these floods is unique in their own way, the impact has been devastating, increasing year after year. The flood in 2023 is considered the worst in the past 47 years. But the main concern is whether we have learned any lessons from past flood events. Have we resorted to corrective measures?

A few pertinent questions arise in this context: To what extent are the floods that occur due to urban, inlet and surplus channels, flood-prone areas (flood plains) and tank bunds are equally important. The missing links between these tanks need to be restored.

These water bodies need to be restored to their original capacity or, where possible, even double the capacity so that excess water can be saved in these water bodies which will contribute to a substantial saving of run-off water. A comprehensive hydro-elevation (drainage) mapping needs to be drawn up covering the upstream-downstream watersheds with Chennai and the sea.

Wonderful flood carriers Chennai is in fact geographically very uniquely placed, which is a blessing. It has three waterways (rivers) that run through the city, something which no other city in the country and in South Asia can boast of. The Konathalayar river runs through the northern part of Chennai, the Cooum which takes care of central Chennai, and the Adyar which caters to southern Chennai, and further south, the Palur which carries the flow. Each of these rivers also feeds numerous tanks before reaching the Bay of Bengal. There is the Buckingham canal which cuts across all the four rivers in close proximity to the sea.

Upstream and downstream watersheds Chennai city and the adjoining districts are richly endowed with wonderful watersheds. There are 2,500 irrigation tanks (some are very large) in Kancheepuram, Chengalpattu and Tiruvallur districts, respectively, as highlighted in tank memoirs. These are man-made but magnificent watersheds created through a series of earthen embankments, constructed across streams which carried heavy flows during the monsoon months. These tanks were constructed in such a way that seepage from an upstream tank served as a feeder



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After repeated flooding in the city, the key issue here is to decouple Chennai's urban and peri-urban hydrology, its ecosystem in its totality, and make meaningful and scientific interventions

to a downstream tank. Unfortunately, these tanks are neglected, silted up with broken bunds and control structures. In addition, catchment areas, flood plains, feeder and supply channels and even the waste spread areas in many of these tanks are heavily silted and encroached. The net result is a double disadvantage: Water storage in these tanks is very little and run-off is very high (over 80%) which caused heavy damage to the city of Chennai.

In this context, this is what needs to be done: study the urban and peri-urban water dynamics - interconnected hydrological conditions; map water bodies (around 4,000) located in the 5,904 sq km area of the proposed CMA (spread over Tiruvallur, Chengalpattu, Kancheepuram and parts of Ranipet districts). Since these districts are already substantially urban, there is a dire need to protect these water bodies from encroachments. Not just tanks, but catchment areas, inlet and surplus channels, flood-prone areas (flood plains) and tank bunds are equally important. The missing links between these tanks need to be restored.

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and silt deposits. Several efforts have been made to restore these rivers as well as the Buckingham Canal, but the conditions remain far from satisfactory. What these waterways need is year-long attention and maintenance and not cosmetic interventions such as river-front and canal front developments. Besides these major waterways, there are many macro and micro drains such as Okkiam maduvu, Mambalam canal, Velachery canal, Kodungayyur drain, Oteri nallak, Viragambakkam/Sembakkam canal, Veerangal Odai, Captain Cotton canal and the Villakkam canal. These drains as well as the 2,900 kilometre long Storm Water Drain network constructed in the GCC area also deserve year-long attention and maintenance.

Rising urban expansion At the same time, it is extremely critical to acknowledge the fact that the degree of urban expansion in the Chennai city has been one of the fastest in the country. And, it is important to recognise that the urban expansion process is irreversible and can be disastrous if not regulated. When the city limit was expanded from 174 sq km to 426 sq km, and the CMA to 1,819 sq km, there was very little thought devoted to protecting the ecological hotspots in the expanded areas. In the process, Chennai has lost many water bodies (lakes and ponds) and much of the Pallikarai marsh land and coastal wetlands. At present, the CMA is to be expanded from the existing 1,819 sq km to 5,904 sq km covering the entire districts of Tiruvallur, Chengalpattu, Kancheepuram and parts of Ranipet district as part of the Master Plan III. At least now, will the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority study the ecological hot spots and "no-development zones" in the III Master Plan so that the existing lakes (around 4,000), flood plains, forests, major drains, flood buffers and wetlands can be protected? Otherwise, one will have to continue building behind-leisure change for all accumulated blunders.

The final word, Chennai city and the CMA can be permanently saved from floods while, at the same time, get round the clock water supply even in a disaster year, provide the means indicated above are followed truthfully and scientifically. This is what is called converting disaster into an opportunity.

A time-honoured connect that will help bridge the Gulf

The Sultan of Oman, Sultan Haitham bin Tariq, is visiting India from December 16 on a state visit. This is his first visit to India after taking over in January 2020 following the passing of Sultan Qaboos. The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, had visited Oman in February 2008 in his first visit to Oman as Prime Minister. In what proved to be a landmark visit, key agreements on trade, defence and security were agreed upon, making it a milestone in diplomatic relations between India and Oman.

Oman is the closest neighbour to India in the Arabian Gulf region. With key Oman ports abutting the coastline along the Arabian Sea as well as the Gulf of Oman leading into the Persian Gulf and towards the Gulf of Aden, Oman's location is of utmost strategic importance to India. Along with Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Oman completes the trio of key strategic partners of India in the Gulf region.

The ruling family of Oman has always had a strong connection with India. Sultan Qaboos was always favourably disposed towards India and invited Indian companies and professionals to undertake projects apart from sourcing supplies from India. At the people-to-people level too, India and Oman enjoy close ties. There is a large Indian community of almost seven lakh people who has continued to be consistently making vibrant relations.

During the Cold War era, and even thereafter, when the Arab world was largely ambivalent towards India and was often soft and supportive of Pakistan, it was Oman which kept its doors open to India. In a conflict-prone region, Oman has always been an island of peace. It has pursued a foreign policy which is based on the twin strands of moderation and mediation, including a policy of deliberate neutrality in dealing with regional issues and conflicts. It has carefully balanced its close relations with the western powers and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, with a pragmatic approach to neighbouring Iran, maintaining that the Straits of Hormuz will not be closed. Even during the Persian Gulf crisis in 2003, when the United States and Iran were on the brink of a military conflict, it was Oman which played a key role in diffusing tensions.

Oman's key role in the Iran nuclear deal in July



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Oman has a pivotal role to play in India seeking deeper engagement and collaboration in West Asia

2018 is well documented and acknowledged too. During the GCC-Qatar diplomatic stand-off, Oman refused to join Saudi Arabia and other countries in breaking diplomatic ties with Qatar in June 2017. Much before the Abraham Accords were signed between Israel, the UAE and Bahrain in September 2020, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had made a surprise visit to Oman in October 2018, once again confirming the importance of Oman in the region.

India-Oman strategic partnership India-Oman strategic partnership was signed during Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit to Oman in November 2008 and is based on twin pillars of mutual trust and shared interests. Oman was one of the few countries to have been invited by India to its G-20 presidency as a guest nation earlier this year.

Defence and security engagement form a key pillar of this strategic partnership and are governed by a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed in 2005. Oman is the first Gulf country with which all the three wings of India's defence forces hold joint exercises. Since 2002, an Indian naval ship has remained on duty in the Gulf of Oman for anti-piracy operations. Oman has allowed overflights/transit by Indian military aircraft too. In recent years, both countries have cooperated in ensuring maritime security in the Indian Ocean region.

During the Persian Gulf crisis in June 2009, the Indian Navy launched 'Operation Sankalp' to ensure the safe passage of Indian flagged ships which most often operated off the coast of Oman. The MoU on Duqm Port during Mr. Modi's visit is a historic landmark in our security cooperation, providing basing facilities, Operational Turn Inboard and other logistics facilities to Indian naval ships operating in the region.

Trade and commerce forms yet another important pillar of engagement. Bilateral trade during FY2022-23 reached \$12.386 billion. There are over 6,000 India-Oman joint ventures in Oman, with an estimated investment of over \$7.5 billion. India was the second largest market for

Oman's crude oil exports for the year 2022 after China. In October 2022, India and Oman launched the Ruqayya debit card in Oman, a key keystone of India's initiative of promoting digital public infrastructure (DPI) in the world.

India and Oman are looking forward to increased engagement in strategic areas such as space cooperation - an MoU on this was signed during Mr. Modi's visit. The possibility of an agreement on joint exploration of rare earth metals, vital to modern electronic equipment, could add strength to the partnership. The proposed India-Middle-East Europe Connectivity Corridor (IMECC) infrastructure project to link India to Europe across West Asia could also see Oman playing an important role. There is a proposal from the South Asia Gas Enterprise (SAGE), a private consortium based in India, to lay a 1,400 km long deep-sea pipeline from Oman to India for the transfer of gas. With IMECC too looking at similar undersea connectivity, there could be convergence on it with Oman in the future.

India's gateway to West Asia The lot of convergence and shared interests is thus long and limitless. As a part of its broader global outlook and its outreach to the extended neighbourhood, India is seeking deeper engagement and collaboration in West Asia, of which Oman is an important pillar. Security challenges in the region have a ripple effect in India and, therefore, any instability in the region has a direct bearing on the safety and security of millions of Indians working there, India's energy security and its steadily growing trade relations. Apart from being India's oldest strategic partner in the region and closest neighbour, Oman is an integral part of all important groupings in the region, the GCC, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, the Arab League. Its ability to manage rival ideologies and power games in the region makes it vitally important to India. Both countries consider themselves as ambassadors of peace and enjoy goodwill across ideologies in the world. Oman is, therefore, India's gateway to West Asia. And with the ongoing Israel-Hamas war testing the region to its limits, the visit of Oman's Sultan is timely and very important for India and the region.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Oil spill, response The oil spill in Chennai's Ennore area needs to be tackled on a 'war footing'. There is also a need to undertake remediation measures to treat the oil contaminated water in a scientific and safe way again. The authorities need to initiate measures for the restoration of the livelihood activities of fishermen. R. Sampath.

Disaster Contingency Plan clearly states that the Indian Coast Guard is the central coordinating authority, but even after 10 days we are yet to see any Indian Coast Guard presence in the vicinity of the oil spill. A statement says that 7,240 litres of the spill have been collected by fishermen. If this is the Indian response to a disaster, we should to think about the

event of a quake near the nuclear facilities in the State of Tamil Nadu. A. Karthi, Chennai. Kerala's stand The claim by the Kerala government, that the inconveniences caused to the devotees in Sabarimala, on December 6-7 were due to a sudden and sharp surge in footfalls has no

government to provide all the necessary facilities to pilgrims visiting the shrine, from various pockets of the country. The shrine is visited by devotees only during a particular period in a year, unlike Tirupati or Patna, where such a surge is a daily routine. The blame game shows the government's inability to handle such a rush even for a limited period. The

pilgrims to have a stress-free dash. However, social media exploitation of the situation by vested interests is to be discouraged. S.K. Ramani, Chennai.

Intruders in Parliament

On the morning of December 13, two men entered Parliament and sprayed gas from canisters when the Lok Sabha was in session. Two others stood outside, raising slogans and spraying gas from similar canisters. **Sobhana K. Nair** reports on the four people involved and their motivations in causing the worst security breach in recent times.

In December 13, at 11 a.m., the proceedings in the Lok Sabha began on a somber note with Speaker Om Birla recalling the 2001 terror attack on the Indian Parliament. As members stood up in tribute to pay tribute to the nine people who lost their lives that day, Birla said, "On this occasion, we reiterate our resolve to confront terrorism firmly. And reaffirm the oath taken to protect the unity, integrity, and sovereignty of our nation."

About half an hour later, two men — Manoranjan D., 34, an unemployed computer science engineer from Mysuru, Karnataka, and Sagar Sharma, 24, an e-rickshaw driver from Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh — entered the premises as "visitors". As Zero Hour, when matters of urgent public importance are discussed, was drawing to an end and members were packing up their belongings, the two men jumped down from the gallery, startling parliamentarians and catching the security, manned by the Delhi Police, off guard. Manoranjan whipped out a canister and sprayed yellow gas into the air. The incident, which took place on the 22nd anniversary of the terrorist attack on the old Parliament building, is the most audacious security breach that Parliament has seen since.

Canisters in shoes

Hours earlier, Manoranjan and Sagar, along with Neelam Verma, 23, a government job aspirant from Jind district in Haryana, and Anmol Shinde, 24, an Army aspirant from Latur in Maharashtra, boarded the metro from Gurugram, more than 30 kilometres from Parliament House. They had arrived in New Delhi on December 10 and were staying with their friend, Vishal alias Vicky Sharma, 41, an autorickshaw driver, in Gurugram.

At 9 a.m., Manoranjan and Sagar left Neelam and Anmol at the India Gate lawn and proceeded to pick up their Parliament pass from the residence of BJP MP from Mysuru, Pratap Sinha. An hour and a half later, they entered Parliament. According to the time stamp on their visitor's pass, they were allowed inside the precincts for only 45 minutes, until 12:15 p.m. According to the Delhi Police, Manoranjan had visited the new Parliament on September 13 during the special session. He probably knew that the time limit is not strictly imposed.

The two of them cleared three layers of security — the first at the entrance to Parliament and second and third inside the building — which includes going through metal detectors and being frisked aggressively. Manoranjan also knew that the security personnel did not check visitors' shoes. This is why a few days earlier, Sagar bought shoes with thick soles and made a cavity in them, while Anmol brought plastic colour canisters to stuff into the shoes. According to the first information report (FIR) filed by the Delhi Police, Sagar stuffed one in the sole of his left foot and Manoranjan stuffed one in the sole of his right. As expected, the canisters went undetected.

Below the visitors' gallery, the BJP MP from Madhya Pradesh, Kishore Chandra, was making a pitch for an airport at his constituency, but since the Lok Sabha was expected to break for lunch shortly, few were paying attention. Defence Minister Rajendra Singh had left, and half a dozen Union Ministers remained seated.

As the security staff asked the visitors to leave, Sagar suddenly swung his legs over the railing and jumped onto the floor of the house. He landed close to the seat of the BJP MP from Madhya Pradesh, Kishore Chandra. The MP first thought that the visitor had accidentally fallen and rushed to check if he was hurt. "As I went closer to him, I saw him take something out of his shoes," Chandra recalled later. Leaping over tables and dodging bewildered MPs who were trying to catch him, Sagar charged towards the presiding officer's table. Finally, Nagari (Karnataka) MP Hanuman Beeswal caught him and, along with others, raised a hue and cry. Beeswal told The Hindu later that Sagar pleaded with the MPs to spare him. "He said he was there only to protest," Beeswal said.

During this melee, Manoranjan jumped too and landed softly on the floor. As he went undetected for a few seconds, Manoranjan opened his canister and sprayed gas. The Congress MP from Andhra Pradesh, Ganesh Singh Agla, tried to snatch the canister, but Manoranjan, despite being nearly a foot shorter than the 6-foot tall MP, fought back, said Agla. The MP finally managed to prise it from him. He gave the canister to the security staff, who in panic threw it into the bathroom from where the Delhi Police retrieved it.

At the same time, outside the premises of Parliament, Anmol and Neelam opened similar canisters and raised slogans including "Jinnabahi nah chhodi" (Dictatorship will not be tolerated), "Shaan-e-Mata ki Jai" and "Jai Bihari, jai Bharat".

The police arrested all the four intruders and detained Vicky Sharma for questioning. Vicky's friend, Lali Jha, a rickshaw puller, who allegedly possessed all the suspects' government IDs and mobile phones, later surrendered to the Delhi Police.

The police also recovered four used and one unused canister and two partly torn pamphlets from Neelam and Anmol. One poster featuring a picture of a fist in the tricolor read "Jai Hind" in English and also carried a slogan in Hindi. The second had a slogan in English on the Marathi conflict. The suspects told the police that they shared "collective responsibility" for the breach. They wanted to make themselves heard and catch the attention of the government, they said.



A video still shows police personnel detaining a man spraying gas from a canister outside Parliament, in New Delhi.

His only wish was to serve his country

RAMSWAY
Member of Parliament

forced to stop studying after higher secondary due to the family's financial difficulties, and now drives an e-rickshaw. Sagar left home on December 10 saying that he was going to attend a protest, but didn't reveal any other details, they said.

"He was not like this, some people disturbed him," said Rohan Lal, a carpenter. To his mind, nothing else explains the events of December 13. The couple has found old diaries belonging to Sagar, which they have handed to the police. In one of the entries, in February 2021, Sagar wrote, "The strongest person in the world is not the one who knows how to stretch, but the one who has the courage to relinquish worldly comforts." In another entry dated June 13, 2021, he wrote in Hindi, "I have pledged my life to the country... to free the country from slave mentality, I have done many an audacious work." His social media account is full of quotes by Che Guevara and Ehsanullah Khan, but there is no mention of any affiliation to any political party.

Neelam goes by the name 'Neelam Anand' on X. Her photo collection on social media shows that she was part of the farmer's agitation as well as the women workers' protest in Delhi. Ramesh Dandani, secretary of the Khera Khap, said, "She would talk about unemployment. She always supported issues plaguing the poor and farmers."

Neelam's family, who belong to an Ocher Backward Classes community, live in Ghazi Khand village, in Haryana's Jind district. Her father runs a sweetmeat shop and her brothers are milkmen.

Neelam is well educated: she holds an M.Phil in Sanskrit and, according to villagers, had cracked the Haryana Teachers Eligibility Test seven years ago. She was a civil services aspirant. Five months ago, her family, who are self-confessed supporters of the BJP, sent her to Hissar to take another shot at the exam.

Hours before the incident in Parliament, Neelam called her mother Sarawati Devi. She did not tell her mother that she had been in Delhi for three days. "She would often say that it was better to die as she could not find a job despite having studied so much," Sarawati said.

Neelam's younger brother, Ram Niswan, 23, said that the family had voted for Prime Minister Narendra Modi as they believed in his leadership. He maintained that he was proud of his sister. "The government has failed to keep its promise on solving unemployment. We will support her till the end. Our respect for her has increased since what she did," said Ram Niswan.

Farmers, Khap leaders, and social activists held a panchayat meeting in the village seeking Neelam's immediate release and withdrawal of charges under the UAPA.

In Anmol's hometown Zari, in Latur's Nilanga Tehsil, 200km from the capital, his friend, An-

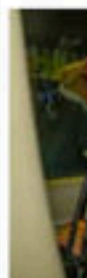
page called the Bhagat Singh Fan Club. "On the page they would voice their opinions about current affairs and post grievances against the policies of the government," a senior officer said.

It was perhaps because of their admiration for Bhagat Singh that they decided to copy the April 8, 1931 attack on the central assembly or the council house that sat in the old Parliament building. On that day, according to the biography of the then presiding officer of the Assembly, by G.L. Patel, titled *Vishalbhai Patil: Life and Times*, the public galleries were full. People had come to hear Vishalbhai's ruling on the Public Safety Bill, a legislation passed to curb the activities of communists and socialists.

The bill allowed the government to deport "undesirable and subversive foreigners." Vishalbhai's opposition to it was known and the British government expected an adversarial ruling. "Hardly had Vishalbhai opened his lips when a terrific sound resounding and reverberating the entire Assembly sector stupified the expectant audience," G.L. Patel wrote. Bhagat Singh and his comrade Bankimcharan Das threw bottles from the public gallery followed by red pamphlets that read, "It takes a loud voice to make the deaf hear, with these immortal words uttered on a similar occasion by Valiant, a French anarchist martyr, do we strongly justify this action of ours." But none of the members hit the revolutionaries. Instead, they handed the two men to the police peacefully.

As per the FIR, the men have been booked under various sections of the Indian Penal code including criminal conspiracy, riotous, provoking a riot, obstructing a public servant in the discharge of functions, and destruction of evidence, and Sections 16 and 18 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967. The FIR says, "The accused persons have conspired to overthrow the public functionaries from discharging their duties, during Parliament session by using a criminal force."

The four intruders
Meanwhile, the families of the accused are trying to come to terms with their suspended lives. Sagar's parents Rohan Lal and Rani Sharma live in a two-room tenement in Lucknow's Ramnagar, a lower middle class colony. They said Sagar was



Anmol's hometown Zari, in Latur's Nilanga Tehsil, 200km from the capital, is his friend, An-

The government has failed to keep its promise on solving unemployment. We will support her till the end. Our respect for her has increased after what she did.

RAMSWAY
Member of Parliament

long to a Scheduled Caste and are farm workers, have not stopped crying about the ascent of the youngest son. "He used to keep saying that the [COVID-19 induced] lockdown had killed his chances of getting into the Army as he had already crossed the age limit. Since then, he has been trying to clear the police recruitment exam," said Dhanraj, a farm worker who is also a priest at a local temple. On December 10, Anmol left home after telling his parents that he is going to Delhi for a recruitment rally.

D. Manoranjan's parents live in Mysuru. Devraj Gowda believes that his son should be "hanged if he has done anything wrong" but insists that Manoranjan has a "heart of gold."

Manoranjan's parents shifted from Hassan district to Mysuru about 15 years ago for the child's education. After studying at Marimallappa High School and St Joseph's College in Mysuru, Manoranjan enrolled for a course in Computer Science Engineering at the Bangalore Institute of Technology, which he got through recommendation of former Prime Minister H.D. Dewe Gowda. On completing the course in 2003, Manoranjan helped his father in the sheep breeding and poultry business. On December 10, when he left home, he bid goodbye to his parents, his sister, and his newborn nephew. Two days before the incident, he called to speak to his mother.

Dhanraj said that his son enjoyed a good rapport with his father. "We are all his voters. Pratap Sinha also hails from Hassan district. We had helped him when he came to Mysuru to contest elections," he said.

Dhanraj said that his son was a voracious reader and was interested mostly in books. "He read everything, from Che Guevara's *Guerilla Warfare* to Chomsky's *Articulate* and books by Jiddu Krishnamurti. He read books by Plato and Aristotle," he said.

Security breach
The incident has raised concerns about security in Parliament. While access control such as frisking and scanning baggage is the responsibility of the Delhi Police, the Parliament Duty Group, an armed component of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), is deployed in case an armed intervention is required. The Parliament Security Service, a specialised department tasked with safeguarding the complex, is now under scrutiny.

However, Parliament does not have high technology screens to detect what people carry in their shoes, a senior police officer said.

The Union Home Ministry has constituted a committee headed by acting CRPF Director General Anshu Deyal Singh to probe the lapses that led to the security breach. The committee is expected to submit its report in 15 days. Meanwhile, a top source in the security establishment said that they were also "investigating whether there is a larger conspiracy behind all this."

For Kodharat, Anmol's mother, the irony of the situation does not escape her. Her son, who is now in jail, wanted to get into the Army "at any cost," she said. "His only wish was to serve his country."



New Delhi

From Page One

Parliament rocked by protest over breach row

In between adjournments, senior Opposition leaders, including Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi, joined the silent protest by the suspended Opposition members. The suspended MPs sat in front of the Mahatma Gandhi statue on Parliament premises, protesting the action against them and demanding a statement from Mr. Shah.

The Rajya Sabha too witnessed similar incidents. Mr. Dhankhar adjourned the House till 2 p.m. after reading out his decision to reject the 23 adjournment notices of Opposition members under Rule 267 of the Rajya Sabha procedures for suspension of the scheduled business of the day to discuss the "serious situation arising out of breach of security" in Parliament on December 13.

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) member Raghav Gadhia, who was trying to raise a point of order, was warned by the Chairman, Mr. Dhankhar objected to the gesture of Mr. Chaudha to seek the point of order. "Mr. Chaudha, you don't have to do like this [gesture] to raise a point of order... use your tongue... don't do it," he said, adding that another day Mr. Chaudha might start dancing to invite the attention of the Chair.

Mr. Dhankhar also invited Leader of the Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge, Leader of the House Piyush Goyal and other floor leaders to meet him in his chamber, but apparently the meeting did not solve the impasse and the House was adjourned again at 2 p.m.

Sharma sworn in as CM of Rajasthan

Several people attending the ceremony also praised Mr. Sharma's family values and respect for his parents, depicted in a social media post circulated among the spectators. The CM-designate was shown sitting on the floor with his wife and washing the feet of his mother and father to get their blessings before leaving for the function.

A commotion took place at an entry point in Ram Niwas Garden shortly before the ceremony, as some people tried to enter a wing reserved for the government officers. Police officers stopped those who jumped over the barricades, using mild force.

Senior Congress leader and outgoing CM Ashok Gehlot, sitting next to Union Minister Gopendra Singh Shekhawat, was among those who attended the ceremony. Other prominent attendees included Union Ministers Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh, and Nitin Gadkari, BJP president J.P. Nadda, former Rajasthan CM Vasundhara Raje, current BJP CM Mohan Yadav, Punjabkar Dhanraj, Elumalai Sivadurai, and Bhagendrabai Patel, and U.P. Deputy CM Krishna Prasad Maurya.

Changes at CMO Mr. Sharma later reached the CMO and assumed office at the 14th Chief Minister, with the priests reciting Vedic hymns.

Changes were made in the CMO shortly after Mr. Sharma took the oath, with the appointment of three Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers in key positions. T. Ramakrishna, a 1998-batch IAS officer serving as Principal Secretary (Medical Education), was given the charge of Principal Secretary to the CM, replacing Kaldeep Ranka who had served as Principal Secretary to former CM M. Gehlot.

Anandhi, Secretary, Information Technology Department, was given the charge of Secretary in the CMO, and Rajasthan Rural Livelihood Development Council CEO Saumya Jha was temporarily appointed the Joint Secretary. All the three IAS officers will continue to hold their present posts along with their additional charge in the CMO.

LS security breach 'mastermind' sent to seven-day police custody

Prosecutor claims Lalit Jha, a teacher from Bihar, had destroyed the mobile phones of the four other accused investigation reveals that the group had planned to protest in Parliament on December 14 but they got visitors passes a day earlier

Vijayita Singh, Ishita Mishra NEW DELHI



In police custody: Lalit Jha (centre), the key accused in the Parliament security breach case, being taken to the Patiala House Court in New Delhi on Friday.

Lalit Jha, who surrendered at the Kartavya Path police post in Delhi on Thursday night, has been described by the Delhi police as the alleged "mastermind" behind the December 13 security breach in the Lok Sabha.

Jha, a teacher by profession, was produced in a city court on Friday and sent to police custody for seven days. The police had sought 15 days of custody, admitting that Jha had destroyed the phones of the other accused, and had "disclosed" the "motives" behind the group's actions.

These submissions were made by Public Prosecutor Akhand Pratap Singh in the court of Hardeep Kaur. Additional Sessions Judge and NIA special judge at the Patiala House Court.

Funding source "He was arrested last night. He disclosed about his involvement and how he is the mastermind of the entire conspiracy and what

was their motive. We need him to investigate how the conspiracy was hatched and how they got funding. This will require detailed investigation... We need to recover the mobile phones," Mr. Singh said.

The court provided legal aid for Jha as he was unrepresented, just like the four other accused who were produced in the court on Thursday.

A police source said that, after uploading a video of the December 13

protest outside Parliament on Facebook and Instagram, Jha fled to Rajasthan carrying the phones of the other accused. He is said to have deleted all data from the phones and destroyed them.

When he surrendered at the Kartavya Path police post on Thursday, he was accompanied by two other men who had provided him with logistical support.

These two men - Kailash and Mahesh - and

Vicky Sharma, at whose Garagan residence the five accused had stayed on December 12, have not been arrested by the police yet, though all three have faced police questioning.

The trio had erroneously reported earlier that Mr. Sharma had been arrested. The four other accused are Neelam Devi, 35, from Jind in Haryana; Anil Shinde, 25, from Latur in Maharashtra; Lacknow resident Sagar Sharma, 28; and Mysuru resident D.

LS breach accused has links with Trinamool

Shiba Saha Sinha KOLKATA

The BJP's West Bengal unit on Friday alleged that there was an association between the Trinamool Congress and Lalit Jha, one of the accused in the Parliament breach case. The party highlighted a photograph of Jha with Trinamool MLA Tapas Roy.

BJP State president Sakanta Mukherjee, Leader of the Opposition Somenath Adhikari, BJP IT cell chief Amit Mahiyra and MP Lokesh Chatterjee all raised a volley of allegations against the Trinamool.

"Lalit Jha, the mastermind of the attack on our Temple of Democracy, had been in close association with TMC's Tapas Roy for a long time... Isn't this proof enough for investigation of the attack on our temple?" Mr. Mukherjee wrote on X. Mr. Mahiyra said Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee could not remain silent on the issue.

Reacting to the BJP's attack, Mr. Roy said many people have been photographed with him and the picture in question was from 2020. The MLA said the BJP leadership was diverting the question about the security breach.

Change of plans Investigation revealed that the group's initial plan had been to demonstrate in the Parliament on December 14, however, they got their visitors' passes a day earlier, the anniversary of the December 13, 2001 Parliament terror attack.

Parliament will be stalled till Home Minister speaks on LS breach: Cong.

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI



Congress leader Jitendra Ranesh criticised Home Minister Amit Shah for his handling of Parliament's session on Friday.

Both Houses of Parliament will continue to witness disruptions until Home Minister Amit Shah makes a statement on the December 13 security lapse that allowed two visitors to intrude into the Lok Sabha chamber, the Congress said on Friday, even as it accused Mr. Shah of "contempt of Parliament".

Addressing a press conference at the AIJ India Congress Committee headquarters, party general secretary (communications) Jitendra Ranesh asked why Mr. Shah could not speak in Parliament when he could talk about it at a media conference.

Mr. Ranesh said that the collective stand of the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) partners was that the Home Ministers should

Ranesh said. The Congress leader said that though Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Thakur had invited Leader of the Opposition, Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of the House Piyush Goyal to a meeting to break the impasse, the Opposition did not attend.

The Congress leader asserted that INDIA bloc MPs had given in writing to the Rajya Sabha Chairman and the Lok Sabha Speaker to direct the Home Minister to make a statement on the floor of the House and have a discussion for one to two hours.

UAPA case Without getting into the merits of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act

(UAPA) being pressed against the Lok Sabha intruders, Mr. Ranesh said the fact that an anti-terror law had been slapped showed the gravity of the situation and merited a statement from Mr. Shah.

"Usually, the Home Minister never misses an opportunity but this is an issue where he cannot hold Pandit Nehru's feet," he said. "I am sure if Mr. Shah could establish a link between Pandit Nehru with what happened, he would have definitely made a statement in the Parliament," Mr. Ranesh said, taking a dig at Mr. Shah.

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UAPA case Without getting into the merits of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act

IN BRIEF



Kavitha flays Smriti Irani's stand on menstrual leave

Bharat Ratna Samithi (BRS) leader K. Kavitha said on Friday that she was disheartened by Union Minister Smriti Irani's stand that there was no need for paid menstrual leave. The Telangana MLC said she was appalled to see such "ignorance" of women's struggles on the part of the Union Women and Child Development Minister. "Disheartened by the Union Minister of Women and Child Development Smriti Irani's dismissal of menstrual struggles in the Rajya Sabha. As a woman, it's appalling to see such ignorance, for our struggles..." the BRS leader posted on X.

Govt. allows use of cane juice, B-molasses to make ethanol

In a U-turn, the Centre on Friday reversed its decision to ban the use of sugarcane juice for making ethanol as it allowed utilisation of the juice as well as B-heavy molasses to produce the green fuel but capped the diversion of sugar at 12 lakh tonnes. For now, the capping will be in place for the 2023-24 supply year that ends in October next year. The latest decision comes a week after the government prohibited the use of sugarcane juice and sugar syrup for making ethanol, amid the industry seeking reversal of the decision. A committee of ministers took the decision and the notification in this regard will be issued soon. "We are working on the modalities to decide on the proportion of cane juice and B-heavy molasses to be used for making ethanol," Union Food Secretary Sanjeev Chopra said.

V.K. Pandian will not contest elections in 2024, says BJP

Putting all speculation to rest, V.K. Pandian, close aide of Odisha Chief Minister Naresn Patra, on Friday said the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) that he would not contest the Lok Sabha election or the Assembly election next year. After Mr. Pandian joined the BJD in November, there were rumours that the former IAS officer would contest elections. Mr. Pandian was appointed Chairman of the IT manufacturing initiative of the State government in the rank of a Cabinet Minister. The Tamil Nadu born former bureaucrat is widely perceived to be the successor to Mr. Patra. Party sources said he would play a greater role in the BJP's election management, development and public relations activities.

Be bold, says Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul in parting message to sitting judges

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI



Supreme Court judge Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul bid farewell to his fellow judges with this message - be bold.

"If with the constitutional protection that we have, we are not able to exhibit this, we cannot expect other parts of the administration to do so

the 270 judgment with a suggestion to the government to form a Truth and Reconciliation Commission to reach out to the people of Jammu and Kashmir was a "healing touch" from the court.

Justice Kaul was part of the five-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud which delivered a unanimous verdict upholding the abeyance of the court.

Justice Kaul had also headed the Bench which pushed the Centre and States to act against rising air pollution in the national capital. He also headed the Bench which upheld the Centre and States to act against rising air pollution in the national capital.

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SC to hear Mahua's plea against expulsion from LS on January 3

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI



The Supreme Court on Friday "re-listed" a petition filed by Trinamool Congress leader Mahua Mittal against her expulsion from Lok Sabha to January 3, 2024. Justice Sanjay Kaul, the presiding judge on the Bench, said he did not get time to go through the file after having received it only in the morning.

"Will read file myself" Senior advocate A.M. Singhvi, for Ms. Mittal, said he could take the Bench quickly through the synopsis of the case. "I would like to read the file myself," Justice Khanna responded.

The case was listed before the Bench on December 14. The Bench is expected to hear the case on January 3, 2024.

'Collegiums yet to propose names for 201 vacancies'

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI



Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal on Friday informed the Lok Sabha that 81 of the 123 proposals sent by High Court collegiums for appointment of judges are at various stages of processing with the government.

The remaining 42 proposals are under the consideration of the Supreme Court Collegium, the Law Minister said in a written reply. Mr. Meghwal also said recommendations are yet to be received from the High Court collegiums regarding the remaining 201 vacancies.

In another written reply, the Law Minister said that over five crore cases were filed in courts in 2022.

'Outcome of elections in Hindi heartland has shown that Opposition needs to consolidate anti-BJP votes'

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister says results of the recent polls in three States are a lesson for the Opposition INDRA bloc, but adds that Assembly elections will not have a bearing on the Lok Sabha poll, he says the Centre's appreciation proves that DMK government efficiently handled the aftermath of Cyclone Michaung in Chennai and neighbouring districts, urges Governor to work for welfare of State

INTERVIEW

M.K. Stalin

B. Kolamraju

Dra. Manjula Manjula (DMK) president and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin says the outcome of the Assembly elections in three Hindi-speaking States has offered a lesson to the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA), but it would not have a bearing on the Lok Sabha election next year.

He discusses his government's handling of Cyclone Michaung and the flooding in and around Chennai. He, however, sidesteps a question on the Sanjay Sharma controversy. Excerpt:

The results of the recent Assembly elections in the Hindi heartland appear to indicate that the BJP juggernaut cannot be stopped. Do you remain optimistic about the INDIA bloc's prospects in the next Lok Sabha election?

The outcome of the Assembly elections will not have a bearing on the Lok Sabha poll. Assembly elections are fought on issues related to a particular State.

Even though the BJP won in Rajasthan, the vote difference between the Congress and the BJP is just 50 lakh. The BJP secured six lakh votes more in Chhattisgarh. Only in Madhya Pradesh, the BJP polled 15 lakh votes more.

It is evident that, had the anti-BJP votes been channelised, the party (Congress) could not have secured victory in these three States. The INDIA bloc will consolidate the anti-BJP votes in all States and comfortably win the Parliament election. We deem it a lesson that the anti-BJP votes in all States and comfortably win the Parliament election. We deem it a lesson that the anti-BJP votes in all States and comfortably win the Parliament election.

The Supreme Court has suggested that you and the Governor break the ice over a cup of tea to end the deadlock over administration. The

Governor has invited you. Are you optimistic about the meeting?

I have met and consulted the Governor many times. We have participated together in government functions. He moved with me and spoke to me in a pleasing manner. The issue is not a meeting. The Governor should change his mind and work for the welfare of Tamil Nadu. He should avoid being a puppet in the hands of forces that are against the people, ideas, and development, and offer support for the development of the State.

The Central team that assessed the Chennai flood situation has said the damage and loss was extremely minimal because of the State government's efforts. But there are also criticisms against your government. Are you satisfied with the relief work or feel you could have done better?

The Central team appreciated our precautionary efforts and release of water



In 2015, officials waited for days to get Chief Minister Jayalitha's permission to release water from Chembarambakkam reservoir.

from reservoirs well in advance had avoided large-scale damage. Defence Minister Rajan Singh also expressed this view when he met me. Everyone knows the DMK and the BJP hold different views. If the Centre appreciates our efforts in spite of our different opinions it proves our efficient performance. But there are also criticisms against your government. Are you satisfied with the relief work or feel you could have done better? The Central team appreciated our precautionary efforts and release of water

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SC asks Indian national named in Pannun plot to move Czech court

Krishna Rajaram

The Supreme Court on Friday termed allegations of an Indian national about his arrest at Prague airport in June, his voluntary confinement in a Czech prison, and the looming prospect of extradition in connection with charges of plotting to kill U.S. Senator Khalistan activist Gurbaj Singh Pannun as "extremely sensitive matter for the Ministry of External Affairs, or for that matter, any Ministry of the government".

A petition filed by a family member of the national, which came up before a Bench headed by Justice Sanjay Khanna, has urged the court to direct the Ministries of External Affairs and Home to intervene in the extradition proceedings pending before a court in Prague, Czech Republic, and ensure that their relative gets a "fair and transparent trial". The identity of the person, represented by senior advocate C.A. Sundaram and Rubal Khasa, has been kept anonymous in the petition. He has been identified simply as "Mr. X" in the court order of the case. Media reports named the individual as "Nikhil Gupta".

"The circumstances surrounding his arrest were marked by irregularities, with no formal arrest warrant presented, and the apprehension executed by self-claimed U.S. agents rather than local Czech authorities. He has suffered over 100 days of solitary confinement. He found himself in the custody of individuals purporting to represent U.S. interests. He, a devout Hindu and vegetarian, was subjected to forced consumption of beef and pork during his detention in Czech custody, a direct violation of his religious beliefs. He was denied consular access, the right to contact his family in India, and the freedom to seek legal representation," the petition said.

Mr. Sundaram said the case against his client's relative in Prague has transformed into a "diplomatic and political game between India and the United States". He described the man as a "hapless victim caught in the crossfire". He pleaded for the court's intervention to "navigate this intricate web of international relations and secure his rights".

Justice Khanna advised Mr. Sundaram to approach the Prague court. "If there is any violation taking place... if you feel your rights have been breached, you have to go to the court concerned there," he told the senior lawyer.

Mr. Sundaram said he was not at Aggarheads court and he was "capable of taking care". Mr. Sundaram insisted the man was not "capable of taking care" of the events happening around him in a foreign country.

"This is an extremely sensitive matter for the MEA or for that matter any Ministry of the government. It is for them to decide... You have already gone to the High Court," Justice Khanna said.



The Supreme Court on Friday refused to stay an Allahabad High Court order allowing a court-monitored survey of the Shahu Idgah adjoining the Krishna Janmabhoomi temple in Mathura.

The Bench headed by Justice Sanjay Khanna said it should not be expected to order a stay on the strength of an oral plea. The Bench asked the Trust Shahu Masjid Idgah to challenge the High Court decision by filing a proper appeal.

"How can we stay an order which is not before us? You challenge the order, and we will see," Justice Khanna told senior advocate Huzefa Ahmad, appearing for the committee.

Mr. Ahmad said the High Court order was uploaded late on Thursday evening and hence they could not file an appeal.

High Court order
The High Court had on Thursday allowed a court-monitored survey of the Shahu Idgah and agreed to the appointment of an advocate commissioner to oversee the survey of the mosque premises.

The apex court went on to order a stay on the case filed by the committee challenging another order of the High Court on May 26 order, transferring to itself all matters related to the dispute pending before a Mathura court.

SC refuses to stay survey of Shahu Idgah

The Hindu Bureau

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Uttar Pradesh BJP MLA Ramdular Gond gets 25 years in jail in rape case; likely to lose Assembly seat

The Hindu Bureau

A Sessions court in Uttar Pradesh sentenced the Bharatiya Janata Party MLA from Dudhhi Assembly segment, Ramdular Gond, to 25 years imprisonment for raping a minor girl. It directed him to pay a fine of 10 lakh, which will be handed over to the victim.

The MLA was convicted on December 17 under Sections 306 (criminal intimidation) and 376 (sexual assault) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Sections of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO).

He faces the prospect of losing his Assembly seat since the Supreme Court had ruled in 2013 that an MP or an MLA cannot be an elected representative once he is sentenced to a minimum of two years in jail.

2014 case
The case dates back to November 4, 2014, when the victim's brother lodged a police complaint in Sonbhadra district alleging that Gond had raped the minor girl and threatened her with dire consequences if she reported the crime.

The district police filed a charge sheet after a probe. In January 2022, the Additional Sessions Court issued an arrest warrant against the MLA as he failed to appear in the court. Gond belongs to the Scheduled Tribe (ST) constituency and won the 2022 Assembly election from Dudhhi by a huge margin. The Dudhhi constituency is one of five Assembly seats under the Bahadurganj Lok Sabha constituency and is reserved for ST candidates.

Uttar Pradesh BJP MLA Ramdular Gond gets 25 years in jail in rape case; likely to lose Assembly seat

The Hindu Bureau

A Sessions court in Uttar Pradesh sentenced the Bharatiya Janata Party MLA from Dudhhi Assembly segment, Ramdular Gond, to 25 years imprisonment for raping a minor girl. It directed him to pay a fine of 10 lakh, which will be handed over to the victim.

The MLA was convicted on December 17 under Sections 306 (criminal intimidation) and 376 (sexual assault) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Sections of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO).

He faces the prospect of losing his Assembly seat since the Supreme Court had ruled in 2013 that an MP or an MLA cannot be an elected representative once he is sentenced to a minimum of two years in jail.

2014 case
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Pannun issue can cause 'serious damage' to ties if not addressed: U.S. lawmakers

Stream Lakshman

A group of influential U.S. Democratic lawmakers, who are supporters of the India-U.S. relationship, have said that bilateral ties could face "serious damage" if the U.S. attorney's allegations against an unnamed Indian official and Indian citizen Nikhil Gupta in a murder-for-hire plot were not addressed.

An indictment from the Southern District of New York on November 29 alleged that these individuals had plotted to kill Khalistan separatist Gurbaj Singh Pannun, a U.S. citizen, in New York earlier this year.



The lawmakers describe the allegations as deeply concerning and welcome the launch of investigation by the Indian government, or their constituents.

"We believe the U.S.-India partnership has made meaningful impact on the lives of both of our people, but we are concerned that the actions outlined in the indictment could, if not appropriately addressed, cause significant damage to this very consequential partnership," the members of the Congress said in a statement. Congress members Ami Bera, Pramila Jayapal, Ro Khanna, Raja Krishnamoorthi and Shri Thandathar. Mr. Khanna is a co-chair of the Congressional statement on India and the United States. The statement also calls for the U.S. to take a "proactive and leadership role" in the investigation, including Indian government officials, accountable, and provide assurances that this will not happen again. The statement also calls for the U.S. to take a "proactive and leadership role" in the investigation, including Indian government officials, accountable, and provide assurances that this will not happen again.

TAMIL NADU POLICE HOUSING CORPORATION LTD. Advertisement for various housing units with details on location, area, and price.

Advertisement for a Superintending Engineer position in the Electrical Circle (SRM) of the Government of Tamil Nadu.

Advertisement for a Superintending Engineer position in the Electrical Circle (SRM) of the Government of Tamil Nadu.

IN BRIEF



SC stays proceedings against Surjewala in 23-year-old case

The Supreme Court has stayed the proceedings against Congress leader Ranveer Surjewala in a Varanasi court in a 23-year-old case of damaging public property. A Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud issued notice to Uttar Pradesh on Friday. Senior advocate A.M. Singhvi, for Mr. Surjewala, said it was a "political case". The case dates back to 2000 when Mr. Surjewala, then national president of the Youth Congress, was charged with creating a ruckus while protesting against the alleged false implication of Congress leaders in Sarawati scandal at Varanasi. In November, the top court stayed the habeas corpus writ issued against him in this case. The Bench listed the case on January 8.

Decide Sena camps' pleas by Jan. 10: SC to Rahul Narwekar

The Supreme Court on Friday gave the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Speaker, Rahul Narwekar, till January 10 to deliver his judgment on disqualification petitions filed by the rival Shiv Sena factions of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Uddhav Thackeray. On October 30, the Supreme Court had given Mr. Narwekar time till December 31. Appearing before a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, for the Speaker, said the disqualification proceedings would wrap up on December 20 and be reserved for judgment. He said the records spanned over 2.71 lakh pages, the respondents numbered 133 and there were 53 MLAs involved.

Virtual mobile number app Doosra told to halt operation

Arsen Derg NEW DELHI

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has issued an order, essentially halting the operations of Doosra app completely. Doosra sells secondary mobile numbers to users to hand out at shops or online platforms, where providing a number is mandatory but may leave people open to spam messages or calls.

The firm requires users to provide ID documents to buy a "virtual mobile number", just like a telecom firm would. Describing the app, Aditya Vaidya, the founder, has said that it is useful for customers who are forced to give out their phone number to district judge and his associates. The woman judge said she was sexually harassed by a district judge and his associates.

She said, in the letter circulated on social media, that she had complained to the Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court and Administrative Judge, but to no avail. However, the top court dismissed her case in "eight seconds". The case had come up before a Bench of Justices Krishnaiah and Sandeep Mehta on December 13. The Bench had dismissed her petition, observing in its order that the ICC was "already in seisin of the case and a resolution is already passed which is pending approval of the Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court".

"I felt like my life, my dignity and my soul have been DISMISSED. It felt like a personal humiliation," the open letter read. "The enquiry will now be conducted with the district judge in control of all the witnesses. What justice will I give to others when I am myself hopeless? I have no will to live anymore. I have been rendered into a walking corpse in the last of the hearing had begun with Mr. Ahmad telling the court that "Christmas was in the offing" and the State ought to make "arrangements for the people to congregate". Mr. Mehta, in turn, had advised caution. During the hearing, senior advocate Vibha Mishra, appearing for the Justice Gita Mittal Committee appointed by the court to be its eyes, ears and hands in monitoring the rehabilitation of the State, confirmed that "religious, non-religious buildings have suffered damage". In the hearing, she court directed the State to submit to the committee in two weeks a comprehensive list identifying religious structures of all the places which were damaged or destroyed in the violence. The Bench said the State should further apprise the committee of the steps taken to secure these places of worship.

CJI seeks report from Allahabad HC on woman judge's plight

The judge said she was sexually harassed by a district judge and his associates in Uttar Pradesh but was denied fair hearing on her complaint

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Chief Justice India D.Y. Chandrachud has sought a report from the Allahabad High Court after a woman judge from Uttar Pradesh wrote an open letter to him, saying she has suffered the "personal humiliation" of being denied a fair hearing on her complaint of sexual harassment at workplace and has lost her will to live. The woman judge said she was sexually harassed by a district judge and his associates.

She said, in the letter circulated on social media, that she had complained to the Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court and Administrative Judge, but to no avail. However, the top court dismissed her case in "eight seconds". The case had come up before a Bench of Justices Krishnaiah and Sandeep Mehta on December 13. The Bench had dismissed her petition, observing in its order that the ICC was "already in seisin of the case and a resolution is already passed which is pending approval of the Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court".



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Help violence victims celebrate Christmas, SC tells Manipur govt.

Krishnadev Baisnem NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday asked the Manipur government to help victims of violence living in relief camps across the State to ring in Christmas, a festival of sharing and forgiveness.

Appearing before a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for Manipur, initially scolded the government, wondering if religious celebrations associated with one particular community may trigger a law and order problem which may require the "cessation" of months of ethnic violence and bloodshed in the State.

Mr. Mehta said the State had helped celebrate Deepavali without anybody issuing an order from the Supreme court. Senior advocate Iqbal Ahmad, who sought the court's intervention with the State to make arrangements for the safe observance of Christmas, had said his intention in making the request was not to sensationalise. The hearing had begun with Mr. Ahmad telling the court that "Christmas was in the offing" and the State ought to make "arrangements for the people to congregate". Mr. Mehta, in turn, had advised caution. During the hearing, senior advocate Vibha Mishra, appearing for the Justice Gita Mittal Committee appointed by the court to be its eyes, ears and hands in monitoring the rehabilitation of the State, confirmed that "religious, non-religious buildings have suffered damage". In the hearing, she court directed the State to submit to the committee in two weeks a comprehensive list identifying religious structures of all the places which were damaged or destroyed in the violence. The Bench said the State should further apprise the committee of the steps taken to secure these places of worship.

19 laid to rest in mass burial in Kangpokpi

The last rites of 19 people, including a seven-year-old boy, belonging to the Aho-Zo community who were killed during the ethnic conflict in May, were performed in Kangpokpi district of Manipur on Friday. The burial was organised by the Committee on Human Rights. The 19 bodies, some among the 82 that were airlifted from two morgues in Imphal on Thursday

Netflix stops streaming uncut Indian films globally

Arsen Derg NEW DELHI

Netflix has fully stopped streaming uncensored versions of Indian films around the world, according to a review of films released this year. The change in policy is significant for what was possibly the last streaming service in India that continued to show versions of Indian films before they went through the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), which has increasingly been removing political references, particularly those that are disparaging to the dispensation in power, from films.

The film *Shiksha*, set in the pandemic, had voices of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, as well as a host of other political references, a copy of the list of cuts from the censor board shows. These references were heavily edited at the CBFC's behest. Netflix chose to stream this version globally, instead of the version that the filmmakers had prepared. Now, that template is being applied to all Indian films, even in ways that go against Netflix's in-house policy on some forms of censorship.

Other streaming services have, with exceptions for the odd title, been doing this for a while. Netflix's move to this practice

mentioned. Netflix and other streaming services have reportedly been applying intense socio-political scrutiny on original series that they commission. These practices are likely a result of the fear of online mobs and police actions for any politically outspoken content: the Screenwriters Association said in a statement that streaming services and the film industry have forced writers, in signed agreements, to "indemnify producers if there is a socio-political backlash" in their work. Amazon Prime Video's head of originals, Aquaria Parodi, had to face police summons after the 2020 political series *Tandav*, and had to issue an apology and received a stay on actions against her in the Supreme Court.

But licensed content has escaped such similar scrutiny, at least in the past. Netflix is streaming the version without the names



Films like *Leo* have been censored globally on Netflix.

effectively hands the censor board indirect powers over what Indians see in films anywhere, even online, through its mandate to regulate content on TV. On top of shielding the public from political references, it has also been applying censorship on references to prominent business personalities: the film *Jagan*, for instance, has a scene mentioning "Ambani [and] Adani", which the CBFC removed. Netflix is streaming the version without the names

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High Court dismisses plea to transfer case against arrested ED officer to CBI

The Hindu Bureau MUMBAI

The Madras Bench of the Madras High Court on Friday dismissed the petition that sought the transfer of the investigation into the bribery case, involving Director of Enforcement (ED) Officer Ankit Tiwari, to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The officer was arrested by the Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption (DVAC) officials recently on the charges of demanding and accepting a bribe amounting to Rs 10 lakh. A Division Bench of Justices M. Sundar and R. Sukthesh dismissed the petition filed by J. Vivek of Madurai. The petitioner claimed when a Central government employee was

involved in the malpractice, the competent authority to take action was the Central Vigilance Commission and the State had no role. He sought a CBI probe into the matter and also sought the "freeing officials". During the course of the hearing, Advocate General R. Shanmugasundaram and State Public Prosecutor Hanuman Mohanram, junior representing the State, submitted that the petition does not hold water in the light of well settled principles of law. The State submitted that it was a trap case and the DVAC, notified as a police station, had powers to conduct searches and investigations within the power of the DVAC, or the other authorities.

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Crossword puzzle grid with clues and a QR code for more puzzles.

Sudoku puzzle grid with clues and a QR code for more puzzles.

Religious article titled 'Significance of Thiruppavai' with text and a small image.

HELSINKI

NATO member Finland to grant U.S. access to 15 military bases



Finland will sign a defence agreement next week giving the U.S. access to 15 military bases in NATO's newest member...

DUBAI

Yemen's Houthis rebels hit cargo ship in latest Red Sea attack



Yemen's Houthis rebels struck the Liberty Fugget cargo ship at Jeddah, causing a fire on deck in the latest of a series of attacks...

CARACAS

Venezuela, Guyana agree not to 'use force' to settle land dispute



The Presidents of Venezuela and Guyana pledged not to resort to force to settle the long-gestating and recently rekindled dispute over the oil-rich Essequibo region...

LONDON

Court rules Prince Harry is victim of phone hacking by Mirror Group



A U.K. judge ruled that Prince Harry was a victim of phone hacking by journalists working for Mirror Group Newspapers...

U.K., partners ask Israel to tackle settler violence

Reuters LONDON

Britain, the European Union and more than a dozen partner countries including Australia and Canada, called on Israel to take immediate steps to tackle settler violence in the occupied West Bank...

U.S., Israel discuss timetable to scale back war in Gaza

War will take months, says U.S. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan after meeting with Israeli officials...

Associated Press RAMALLAH

The U.S. and Israel have discussed a timetable for scaling back intense combat operations in the war against Hamas...



U.S. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan meets Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in Ramallah on Friday...

including the transition from the high-intensity operations to more targeted operations...

Hungary blocks EU aid for Ukraine despite consensus on bloc membership talks

Agence France Presse BRUSSELS

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban on Friday blocked 50 billion euros (\$55 billion) in EU aid for Ukraine...



Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban...

The second day of the summit was expected to turn to the Israeli-Hamas war in Gaza...

Divided EU: EU countries are divided between those backing calls for a ceasefire in Gaza...

what it deserves. Not half, then a quarter, but it must get the whole thing...

China slams U.K., U.S. criticism of bounties on Hong Kong activists

Agence France Presse BEIJING

China lashed out at Britain and the U.S. on Friday after they condemned Hong Kong police for offering bounties for information leading to the capture of five overseas activists...

bounties for help catching them. The move was strongly condemned by Washington, while London called it "a threat to our democracy and fundamental human rights"...

Maldives will not renew agreement for joint hydrographic survey with India: top official

Meera Subramaniam COLOMBO

Hot on the heels of the Maldives' demand that Indian troops be removed from the island nation, the Cabinet has decided against renewing a 2009 MoU with India for hydrographic surveying...

the MoU, which is due to expire in 2023, will not be renewed. "It's a decision by the Cabinet. Mr. Shalyeh told The Hindu on Friday...

Some government critics - mainly those part of the 'India Out' campaign...

led by former President Abdulla Yameen - have been opposed to the initiative...

Meanwhile, asked if there was any update on President Maazir's announcement...

Sport

Pakistan makes a steady start after debutant Jamal's six-for

PAKISTAN IN AUS

Agence France Presse PERTH

Australian spinner Nathan Lyon moved to within three wickets of joining the elite 500-club on Friday as Pakistan dug deep to stay in touch on day two of the opening Test...



Head up: Jamal is back a heap after sending back Carey...

with 90 after David Warner's debut 164 on day one. "Probably would have liked to have a couple (more) wickets, but we're happy with the score we got," Australian wicket-keeper Alex Carey said...

ing a big inside edge from Warner's debut 164 on day one. "Probably would have liked to have a couple (more) wickets, but we're happy with the score we got," Australian wicket-keeper Alex Carey said...

King's knock sets up West Indies' victory

ENGLAND IN WI

Agence France Presse ST GEORGE'S (GREENADA)

Brandon King scored an unbeaten 82 and skipper Rovman Powell blasted a quickfire 50 as West Indies defeated England by 30 runs to take a commanding 2-0 lead in their best-of-five Twenty20 international series on Thursday...



King on for the tourists with 80 off 32 balls, but the Englishmen were always struggling to reach the required run-rate...

The series: West Indies 176/7 w 20 overs, King 82 vs. Powell 50, St. George's 211, WI 230; 34 England 167 in 20 overs, Curran 36, Salt 25, Chamee 178, West 214, King 54 vs. Powell 47, St. George's 145, WI 161 vs. B. Prabhakar 34.5.

It's Knotty Chamer vs. Touch Of Grey

WISCONSIN

WISCONSIN PLATE (GRAND) 100 runs, 2 wickets in 20 overs...

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A study in scarlet: the trials and tribulations of Charles Leclerc

The Monégasque driver is every bit the generational talent Max Verstappen is. But his time at Ferrari has been tinged with misfortune and disappointment. Both driver and team will need to get their act together quickly in 2024 to have any hope of stopping Verstappen and Red Bull

S. Shank Ravi

At the Brazilian Grand Prix, Ferrari driver Charles Leclerc had a huge moment on the formation lap when his car's hydraulics failed, and he crashed, which meant he could not start the race. Immediately after that, the 26-year-old groaned on the team radio, saying, "Why am I so unlucky?". He could not have summed up his and Ferrari's situation any better.

The Monégasque is arguably one of the fastest drivers in Formula One, and there is a case to be made that he might even be a fraction quicker than Max Verstappen over one lap in Qualifying, as evidenced by his 23 pole positions. However, with just five wins in as many years, it's clear that he hasn't yet had a consistently strong car on Sundays, when it really counts.

While the world's eyes are on Verstappen after three consecutive world titles, Leclerc is every bit the generational talent the Dutchman is; he is even a few weeks younger than his rival.



When Verstappen burst onto the scene at 17, people were in awe of his sheer speed, his spectacular car-handling and, most of all, his precocity. But it also meant that he had to learn things the hard way, smoothing the rough edges in the hull glare of the limelight.

Leclerc, on the other hand, had a more traditional route into F1, winning the GP3 and F2 titles before making his debut in 2018 with the Sauber team, where he excelled, thus earning a promotion to Ferrari in 2019.

In his first season at a big team, Leclerc beat Sebastian Vettel and handed his illustrious teammate a shellacking the following year (2020) when the car was even slower, outstripping performance that the four-time champion couldn't get close to. So it was surprising that Ferrari let go of Vettel, having seen enough evidence that it had a strong driver in Leclerc to lead the team forward. In 2021, he extended his contract until the end of 2024.

However, the last three years of the deal have been one of disappointment tinged with misfortune and some driver errors - a partnership that promised much has yielded very little.

If 2020 was Ferrari's year of recovery after a miserable 2019, 2022 was a season of missed opportunities. It started well, with a competitive car capable of fighting for wins. But its development could not match Red Bull's. To make things worse, the team's reliability woes and strategic blunders cost Leclerc a handful of wins - something no team looking to sustain a title challenge can afford, and the fight with Verstappen faded out from the mid-season point.

This year, the graph, which had been trending upward since 2020, hit a ceiling and, worryingly, started trending downward. Especially at the start of the year, the car was not just slow but also



As we understand our weak points, the factory fully responded and committed to making improvements sooner. I am 100% convinced that we will take a step forward next year. CHARLES LECLERC



Ferrari had the right ingredients to give the drivers a chance of winning the championship, especially Charles. There are still little elements of strategy, of little mistakes in pit stops that still creep in. And that's the things they've got to iron out.

JONNY HARRIS
Former driver

unpredictable in a way that even someone of Leclerc's caliber could not drive around. In some races, the lap times fluctuated wildly between wins. The Ferrari was not kind to its tyres either, suffering from high degradation. Despite this, Leclerc managed five pole positions but could not convert them to victory, illustrating the team's race-day weakness.

The five-time Grand Prix winner also had some mediocre races this year, making uncharacteristic mistakes. At times, teammate Carlos Sainz looked the faster of the two, not something Leclerc is accustomed to. And on the one weekend when Red Bull dropped the ball in Singapore, it was Sainz who was there to pick up the pieces. Leclerc was forced to play race-gunner to the Spaniard, who took the only non-Red Bull win of the season.

A part of the reason for Leclerc's struggles was that the SF-23 did not suit his driving style. He is

the kind of driver who can live with a bit of rear instability in his car and use his natural talent to overcome it. Some of the most gifted drivers prefer this oversteer balance, where the car has a sharp front-end and gives the driver immediate feel when turning the steering in the entry to a corner. The flip side of an unstable rear-end is that it can suck the confidence of drivers and even hurt the tyres, but the likes of Verstappen and Leclerc aren't worried about it.

This year's Ferrari tended to have a lot of understeer, which played to Sainz's strength. "We have had two parts of the season: give Japan and post Japan, at least on my side," Leclerc said in Abu Dhabi. "I feel much more at ease since Japan. We worked on the consistency of the car in different conditions, which helped a lot with my driving style. I like quite a lot to have an oversteery car and a strong front, which is the first part of the season I couldn't quite do."

The Italian team got an upgraded floor at Suzuka, which, while not adding a lot of performance, helped shift the balance to Leclerc's liking. And he duly delivered, finishing the season strongly with three podiums in the last four races. But despite the late surge, 2023 will go down as another missed opportunity for driver and team.

Now, after five years at Maranello, Leclerc is at a crossroads. He finds himself in a situation Fernando Alonso and Sebastian Vettel faced after a similar amount of time in Ferrari. Both the aforementioned drivers had years when the team either failed to give them a competitive car or was not sharp enough with race operations when they had a car to fight for the title.

But unlike the two, Leclerc is yet to win a world title and has much more at stake in his long his homelands in the Scuderia, which hasn't won a championship since 2008. Granted, he has a more natural bond with the team that has nurtured him from a young age. But how long before his patience wears thin?

Last year, the team's strategic blunders and reliability issues forced him into a mistake in Paul Ricard while leading the race. The uncharacteristic driver errors this year were consequences of a desperate driver trying to push beyond the car's limits to find lap time.

Although the rumours have suggested that Leclerc is close to signing a long-term extension at Ferrari, Alonso and Vettel's career trajectory in the scarlet overall serves as a cautionary tale. In that context, 2024 could be a pivotal year for the future of the Leclerc-Ferrari combination and its hopes of stopping the Verstappen-Red Bull juggernaut.



STACKING UP



ATP Men's Top 10

Rank	Player	Age	Points	Weeks
1	Novak Djokovic	36	11,245	38
2	Carlos Alcaraz	22	8,855	28
3	Rafael Nadal	37	6,875	38
4	Daniil Medvedev	31	5,475	23
5	Andrey Rublev	30	4,840	26
6	Stefanos Tsitsipas	29	4,740	25
7	Alexander Zverev	30	4,240	24
8	Jannik Sinner	27	3,940	21
9	Matteo Panatta	37	3,740	20
10	Grigor Dimitrov	33	3,240	20



English Premier League Standings

Rank	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
1	Manchester City	18	12	5	1	38	12	41
2	Liverpool	18	11	5	2	32	15	38
3	Arsenal	18	10	4	4	30	16	34
4	Chelsea	18	9	5	4	28	20	32
5	Manchester United	18	8	5	5	23	25	29

Spanish LaLiga Standings

Rank	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
1	Real Madrid	18	12	5	1	38	12	41
2	Barcelona	18	11	5	2	32	15	38
3	Atletico Madrid	18	10	4	4	30	16	34
4	Real Sociedad	18	9	5	4	28	20	32
5	Valencia	18	8	5	5	23	25	29



Test Bowling

Rank	Player	Wickets	Runs	Matches
1	Pat Cummins	100	1,100	10
2	Ben Stokes	90	1,000	9
3	Joe Root	80	900	8
4	Virat Kohli	70	800	7
5	Steve Smith	60	700	6

Test Batting

Rank	Player	Runs	Centuries	Matches
1	Virat Kohli	10,000	30	100
2	Steve Smith	9,000	25	90
3	Joe Root	8,000	20	80
4	Ben Stokes	7,000	15	70
5	Pat Cummins	6,000	10	60



WTA Women's Top 10

Rank	Player	Age	Points	Weeks
1	Iga Swiatek	25	9,245	28
2	Aryna Sabalenka	28	7,855	25
3	Jessica Pegula	32	5,475	23
4	Coco Gauff	24	5,475	23
5	Emma Raducanu	24	3,940	21
6	Madison Keys	30	3,940	21
7	Victoria Azarenka	35	3,240	20
8	Elina Svitolina	33	3,240	20
9	Barbora Krejickova	31	3,240	20
10	Liudmila Samarinova	31	3,240	20



Italian Serie A Standings

Rank	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
1	Inter Milan	18	12	5	1	38	12	41
2	AC Milan	18	11	5	2	32	15	38
3	AS Roma	18	10	4	4	30	16	34
4	Lazio	18	9	5	4	28	20	32
5	Juventus	18	8	5	5	23	25	29

German Bundesliga Standings

Rank	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
1	Bayer Leverkusen	18	12	5	1	38	12	41
2	Bayern Munich	18	11	5	2	32	15	38
3	Eintracht Frankfurt	18	10	4	4	30	16	34
4	VfL Wolfsburg	18	9	5	4	28	20	32
5	FC Augsburg	18	8	5	5	23	25	29



T20 Bowling

Rank	Player	Wickets	Runs	Matches
1	Pat Cummins	100	1,100	10
2	Ben Stokes	90	1,000	9
3	Joe Root	80	900	8
4	Virat Kohli	70	800	7
5	Steve Smith	60	700	6

T20 Batting

Rank	Player	Runs	Centuries	Matches
1	Virat Kohli	10,000	30	100
2	Steve Smith	9,000	25	90
3	Joe Root	8,000	20	80
4	Ben Stokes	7,000	15	70
5	Pat Cummins	6,000	10	60



The Indians

Rank	Player	Points
1	Virat Kohli	100
2	MS Dhoni	90
3	Shikhar Dhawan	80
4	Rohit Sharma	70
5	KL Rahul	60



The Indians

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'India has potential World champions, but they will have strong competition'

A former World junior champion and one of only 14 Grandmasters to have crossed the 2800 Elo mark, MVL knows the world of elite chess intimately. In this chat, he talks about a strong new generation bouncing at our doors, his accomplishments and ambitions, the format of the World Championship and his growing celebrity in France.

INTERVIEW

Maxime Vachier-Lagrave

P.K. Ajith Kumar

As a feat, crossing 2800 Elo points in chess shows similarity with scoring 10,000 runs in Tests. Only 14 batsmen have reached that peak. Only 14 Grandmasters have touched that magical mark. Maxime Vachier-Lagrave is one of them. The Frenchman, usually referred to by his initials MVL, reached the milestone in 2018, during his triumph at the Sparkassen Chess Meeting in Dortmund. His peak rating, achieved the same year, is 2819 - the seventh highest in history. A former World No. 2, he won the World Blitz championship in 2021. Among his recent significant triumphs is the Tata Steel Chess India rapid title in Kolkata, making his first visit to the country truly memorable. Excerpts from an interview he granted *The Hindu*.

Winning the World blitz championship two years ago in Warsaw must have been one of the highlights of your career. How do you look back at the experience? It was impacted by Covid-19...

It has definitely been one of the highlights of my career. I hope there is more to come. It was an extremely tough tournament. There were a lot of strong players, like Magnus [Carlsen], Jan-Krzysztof Duda, Levon Aronian... The circumstances were also tough because of the Covid, which hit on the final day.

Yes, Hikaru Nakamura tested positive and there was even the possibility of the tournament being stopped...

Yes. I managed to keep focused and was a bit lucky. The level of chess was very strong on the final day. I won the games I needed and it turned out to be enough.

You won the World junior championship in 2009. It is the most prestigious of the several age-group tournaments FIDE organises. Some World junior champions have gone on to become the ultimate World champions, like Anatoly Karpov, Garry Kasparov, Viswanathan Anand...

Yes, it is good company. It was a great moment for me. It is one of the strongest tournaments a youngster can get to play.

But you had already crossed 2700 at that time, hadn't you?

Yeah, I had crossed 2700. But still it was a tough

It is always nice when you see new blood coming. Right now we have a strong generation. Now it is a big fight. And we actually have to fight well with them



tournament for me, as there were some strong players in the field. And I won the title only by winning my last round game. Sergei Zhigalko was actually having a super tournament; we both won eight games each and didn't lose any. It was on a tie-breaker that I came first.

The World championship remains the biggest prize in chess, though Carlsen is no longer part of the cycle. He is clearly not happy with the current format. What are your thoughts on it?

I do think that Magnus makes some very strong points about the need for quickening the time control. But I also understand FIDE's desire to keep the tradition of the World championship.

I would like to see a Candidates tournament with 16 players, instead of eight. Then at the end of some knockouts, you get three players. And let the World champion join at that stage. Yes, maybe a World championship featuring four players.

But still, I must say that this year's World championship [between Ding Liren and Ian Nepomniachtch] was very exciting, thrilling. The World champion getting the right to play the title

they will have strong competition. Gukesh had an exceptional Olympiad in Chennai, but Praggnanandhaa has made a good case for himself in the last few months. I wouldn't discount the others, either.

It is always nice when you see new blood coming. We had Magnus, then Anish Giri, Fabiano Caruana, Wesley So. Then the next generation was perhaps a bit shaky. Right now we have a strong generation of players led by Alireza. And they are bouncing at our doors. Now it is a big fight. And we actually have to fight well with them. When I started my career, I was looking forward to playing the big stars that I grew up watching, but now I am on the other side. It is very exciting.

Anand was the lone Indian you regularly met across the board for so long...

Visy is amazing. In the sense that he kept that level and he is still keeping it. I am sure that in 20 years from now, I will be far from being able to maintain such a level. He is a living legend, for sure. His chess is flawless. At the top of his game, he could play every move relying fully on intuition and that is also why he managed to keep that level for such a long time. Even right now he plays at an amazing level. And as a person, he is very nice and approachable. I have never had a bad moment with him.

You were part of the inaugural Global Chess League in Dubai. How did you find the new concept?

We had an exciting final and I thought the concept was very nice. It is one of the events that help people get involved and root for a team. There is a future for this event. These teams were made from scratch, but mine, Upgrad Mumbai Masters, actually got along well from the start. We had real team spirit. Such tournaments are good for chess.

How is the chess scene now in France?

It is more popular than it was five years ago. More people are recognizing me, which is a nice thing. Because of the pandemic - chess can be very much an internet sport - and the Netflix series, *The Queen's Gambit*, the interest in chess has grown rapidly.

The World champions you admire?

Bobby Fischer, Alexander Alekhine and Kasparov.



How much did it matter, reaching 2800?

It was a high point in my career. I was on a roll then, putting pressure on everyone and getting some lucky breaks, too. I was a bit sad that I couldn't keep it up and build on that momentum.

Is the new generation of world chess taking on you? The Fabulous Four from India - D. Gukesh, R. Praggnanandhaa, Arjun Erigaisi and Nihal Sarin - and chess players like Alireza Firouzja, Nodirbek Abduasaturov, Vincent Keymer...

Yes, India has potential World champions, but

GAME THEORY

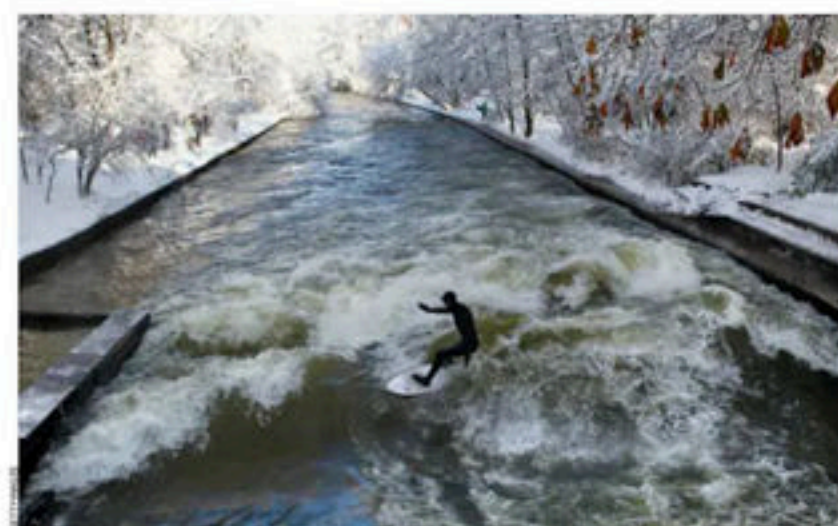
Hostile territory: India in South Africa

With Rahul Sharma's men set to play a two-Test series in South Africa starting later this month, we take a look at the top Indian performers in the Rainbow Nation. South Africa's pace-friendly pitches have traditionally posed a challenge for touring batsmen and spinners in the classic format; the seamers have found more joy. The numbers reflect this trend, with only one Indian averaging more than 50 with the bat and no spinner striking at a better rate than 100 balls per wicket. Six seamers, on the other hand, have needed 50 balls or fewer per wicket.

BEST BATTING AVERAGE (minimum: 10 innings)						
Player	Tests	Innings	Runs	Average	50s	
Virat Kohli	7	14	8	719	51.35	2
Sachin Tendulkar	25	29	9	1161	40.04	5
V.V.S. Laxman	20	29	9	568	40.62	9
Ajay Patel	6	12	3	401	33.41	0
Sourav Ganguly	6	10	3	198	33.14	0
Rahul Dravid	11	21	3	624	29.71	1
M.S. Dhoni	7	11	3	370	25.00	0
Chitteshwar Pujara	10	19	3	320	28.13	1
A.S. Nehru	5	10	3	256	25.00	1
Umesh Yadav	8	15	3	382	25.46	1
Muhammad Asif	7	11	3	289	23.13	1
M. Vijay	6	12	3	278	23.18	0

BEST BOWLING STRIKE RATE (minimum: 10 wickets)						
Player	Tests	Innings	Wickets	Run	Strike Rate	5 Ws
Shardul Thakur	3	6	11	113.00	26.4	1
Shashank Singh	2	4	10	262.00	40.2	0
Venkatesh Prasad	3	6	17	25.00	43.6	2
Muhammad Shami	8	16	35	23.22	48.6	2
S. Sreesanth	6	11	27	18.11	47.5	1
Jagjit Bains	6	12	26	24.38	55.8	2
J. Srinath	8	16	43	23.27	51.8	1
Dilip Varma	8	13	30	28.00	53.7	0
Harbhajan Singh	6	7	14	24.28	53.7	1
Shardul Thakur	7	13	20	40.00	73.0	0
Anil Kumble	12	24	61	52.00	84.7	1

PICTURE THIS



Muddy waters

A surfer rides the Eibach wave in the English Garden in Munich earlier this month. The Eibach (German for ice brook) is a man-made wave in the city that flows through the sport of rising stationary waves, tidal bores or upstream waves in rivers - with documented accounts dating back to the early 1970s. River surfing conditions are created by a combination of the flow of water and the underlying bedrock. It is considered a sport when a high volume of water is constructed as it flows over a rock. River surfers can face upstream and 'catch the wave', experiencing a feeling of travelling over the water while not actually moving. But the 'rush' comes with a major risk. That of short lines - trees, houses, etc. - that are

IN BRIEF



Six Messi World Cup jerseys sell for \$7.8 million

Six jerseys worn by superstar Lionel Messi during Argentina's winning run at last year's World Cup has sold for \$7.8 million, auction house Sotheby's announced. The final price for the shirts is the highest price for an item of sports memorabilia this year, Sotheby's said. The record for a game-worn item of sports memorabilia remains Michael Jordan's 1998 NBA jersey, which sold for \$61.1 million last year.



Indiana Pacers legend George McGinnis passes away

George McGinnis, who sparked his hometown Indiana Pacers to two titles and was enshrined in the Basketball Hall of Fame, died on Thursday, the NBA club announced. He was 73. McGinnis won the 1975 Most Valuable Player award with another future NBA star, Julius Erving.

Leverkusen remains unbeaten in Europa

Bayer Leverkusen completed the Europa League group stage with a 5-1 run of Norwegian club Molde on Thursday to remain unbeaten across all competitions this season.

Top results: Group A: West Ham 2 (goals 14, points 42); Arsenal 6; Group B: Brighton 4 (goals 10); Manchester City 1; Liverpool 1; Group C: Roma 3; Lazio 11; Bayern 11; Borussia Dortmund 10; Chelsea 10; Group D: Bayer Leverkusen 5; Chelsea 5; Tottenham 11; Arsenal 11; Manchester City 10; Tottenham 11; Brighton 10; Arsenal 11.

Kothari stuns Advani in National 15-Red snooker event

Sourav Kothari defeated Pankaj Advani 5-4 in the men's 15-Red snooker (round of 32) event at the 90th National Billiards & Snooker Championships in Chennai on Friday. Kothari, who lost to Advani in the world billiards final in Dehra last month, won 64-50, 62-33, 25-18, 60-56, 64-34, 70-65.



Chandana stuns Riya to win Jhajar AITA tournament

Seeds Chandana Potangi beat top seed Riya Sachdeva 6-2, 7-5 in the final of the 100,000 AITA women's tennis tournament at the Jyeggaon Academy in Jhajar on Saturday. Riya did save three match points at 4-5 in the second set, but Chandana was able to pull through, winning the next two games. It was a commendable effort from the 22-year-old Chandana, who trains with coach Ganesh Ramesh in Hyderabad, as she had dropped only 10 games while winning the earlier four matches.

LIVE TELECAST

Australia vs Pakistan: 1st Test, day 1, 3rd Session 1:52 & 4:02 & 6:05, 7:30 a.m.
India Women vs England Women: Only Test, day 1, Sports 10:1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 5:30 a.m.
Vijay Hazare Trophy: Final, Sports 10:1 (HD & Jio Cinema App), 1:30 p.m.
THU: Jory Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 1:30 & 4 p.m.
THU Sports 10: 1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 1:30 & 4 p.m.
THU Sports 10: 2 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 8 p.m. on-screen.
Football: Jory Sports Ten 1, 2 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 11:30 a.m.
Premier League: 35, Select 1, 2 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 8:30 & 11 p.m.
LALIGA: Sports 10 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 8 p.m. & 1:30 a.m. (Start Day)
Serie A: Sports 10 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 10:30 p.m. & 1:15 a.m. (Start Day)

An intriguing battle between unbeaten sides

Haryana and Rajasthan have defied expectations to reach the summit clash of the 50-over tournament

HAZARE TROPHY

Haryana/Rajasthan

A bout a week ago, a final between Haryana and Rajasthan, with no limited-overs titles to show for between them, would have seemed a distant possibility. After they set up somewhat contests with Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, who have clinched a combined 14 white-ball titles, that prospect would have only dimmed.

But after defying expectations and flipping the script with hard-fought wins in the semifinals, neighbouring Haryana and Rajasthan will lock horns in the title clash of the Vijay Hazare Trophy at the Sardar Vallabhbhai Cricket Association Stadium here on Saturday.

With both sides unbeaten in the tournament, Haryana and Rajasthan's horizons will converge in a clash of equals. A swap in allegiances will also add much-needed spice and intrigue to the finale of the competition.

Abhishek Menaria, who captained Rajasthan until this year in the Ranji Trophy and piled his trade for his State for almost 25 years, is leading Haryana's charge this season. Meanwhile, Hooda, born in Haryana's Rohtak, is leading Rajasthan's bid to make it



The propeller: Sharma has been in top form for Haryana since 2020.

to its first 50-over final since the 2006-07 season, when the tournament was dubbed the Ranji One-Day Trophy.

Both leaders will be tasked with shepherding an inexperienced middle-order. While Hooda rose to the occasion with a breath-taking 180 against Karnataka on Thursday to steer Rajasthan's flailing chase, Menaria will have to do better than his 143 runs in eight innings in the campaign so far.

However, the fight shown by 19-year-old opener Yuvraj Singh, Himanshu Rana and pinch-hitter Sumit Kumar against Tamil Nadu bodes well. With all-rounder Rahul Tewatia in top form and Harshal Patel, the only one in the team with international experience after Ravindra Chahal took the fight to South Africa, among wickets, Haryana will have reasons to believe.

Though Rajasthan has more players with international gametime - Hooda, Khaleel Ahmed and Rahul Chahal - journeyman Aniket Choudhary, Arif Khan and left-arm spinner Kishan Ajay Singh have also added teeth to the bowling.

On the batting front, Hooda will hope for 19-year-old Karan Lamba, who showed maturity during their 255-run association in the semifinals, and Mahipal Lomera to deliver.

The new ball has troubled batters on this pitch, which has eased out progressively. With well-rounded bowling attacks on both sides, resilience with the bat at the top and switching gears in the middle overs, particularly against spinners, could be pivotal.

Petroleum men will look to continue domination



Ready to fire: Rakesh Kam spearheads Petroleum's challenge, next match vs Jharkhand.

TABLE TENNIS

Rakesh Kam
PANCHAJUHA

For more than two decades, Petroleum has made it an annual ritual to retain the men's team title in the National table tennis championship. This is bound to continue as long as the oil sector employs the creme de la creme of the nation's talent.

It's no wonder that the side could afford the absence of 30-time singles champion Shrawan Kamal in retaining the title at Jammu earlier this year. On Tuesday, Petroleum's campaign for another title is set to culminate in success when G. Sarthiya spearheads a team comprising Harimant Dvark, Manish Thakkar, Sandeep Shetty and A. Anand, in effect,

the battle for the runner-up spot will be more interesting with Karnataka Authority of India, Delhi and Bengal appearing the best among the rest in the field of 34 teams. Railways, runner-up at Jammu, failed to qualify for this edition.

Shrawan will be seen in action in the singles, but Manika Batra will stay away. In the 33-team women's section, the absence of former champion and last edition's semifinalist Petroleum women stands out. Manika's poor form in the team events continued when she lost the lady matches in this year's inter-institutional championship. As a result, Petroleum could not qualify.

In Petroleum's absence, defending champion Jyoti Akula led Reserve Bank of India appears the best bet to retain the title. The team comprising Sreya, Dipa Chakraborty, Aprika Mukherjee, Harsha Vardhini and Anuradha Pradhak clearly wears the look of inevitability.

Railways, back in the business, will rely on Saurabha Mukherjee, Musmita Dutta, Payantam Rautya, Shruti Anurag, Sugatika Mukherjee.

Last edition's runner-up Tamil Nadu has the resources in Vidushi Sivachandkar, Kavyansh Rautkar and Seena Deepthi Subramanian to go deep into the competition.

The top eight teams: Man: Petroleum, Sports & Realty of India, Delhi, Bengal, West Indies, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Jharkhand.
Women: RSI, Railways, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Bengal, Delhi and Gujarat.

Mumbai City faces the East Bengal challenge

ISL 10

Shayan Acharya
SCHEERVA

It's been a week since Petr Kratky took over as the head coach of Mumbai City FC. Under his guidance, the Islanders played out a goalless draw against FC Goa recently.

However, as Kratky gears up for his first Indian Super League home game at the Mumbai Football Arena on Saturday, against Kolkata giant East Bengal FC, the Mumbai outfit will look to consolidate its position in the table. Currently fourth with 15 points, Mumbai City will hope to sustain the momentum against East Bengal which occupies the eighth spot.

With a robust defensive show, the Islanders must



Hard at work: Mumbai City will hope to sustain its momentum. (AFC MEDIA SERVICES/ICF)

per Goa and back at home after more than a month, they will be pinning their hopes on Buyen Griffiths. "The home fans are really good and given the football we are playing at the moment, I know they are going to be excited," Griffiths said on Friday. "East Bengal is a good team and we will have to be ready to face them."

Indian shooters seek to win more Olympic quota spots

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Former World champion Manvir Singh Sandhu and Olympians Garpreet Singh and Anjum Moodgil have strengthened the Indian team for the Asian Olympic qualifiers to be staged in Jakarta and Kuwait in January.

The Indian squad will look to win the trap and skeet quota places in the Asian shotgun Olympic qualifier to be staged in Kuwait from January 12 to 22. India has so far won two trap quota places through the women's Men's 10m and Rajeshwari Kamari.

Eight in the bag
India has already won all possible eight quota places in rifle events, and will look to win the pistol quota places in the Asian qualifier scheduled to be staged in Jakarta from January 5 to 15.

Some of the quota winners - Rudraniksh Patel, Arjun Babuta, Mebudi Ghosh, Tibottama Sen, Swajit Khatke, Akhil Sheoran and Gill Kaur Samra - will also be part of the Asian event, some in the RPO (ranking points only) section, as a bid to retain their competitive edge.

India has so far won 23 out of a maximum possible 24 Olympic qualification spots for the Paris Games next year.

Esha Singh and Khylin Sangwan will compete in both the air pistol and sports pistol events to secure the Olympic quota.

As per the rules, a country can win only one quota place in an event in an ISF championship.

The team: Air rifle: Rudraniksh Patel, Arjun Babuta, Sri Kirthika Subrah Raj, Harsh Goyal, Swajit Khatke, Khylin Sangwan.
Shot: Tibottama Sen, Pratik Singh, Manoj Khatke, Akhil Sheoran, Gill Kaur Samra, Arif Choudhary, Aniket Choudhary, Shreyas Sarbajit.
Air pistol: Arjun Singh, Chandra Varun, Ujjwal Malik, Khylin Sangwan, Sarthi Rana, Esha Singh.
Trap: Lakshay Shrivastava, Jyoti Singh, Manoj Singh, Manoj Singh, Manoj Singh, Shreyas Sarbajit.
Skeet: Anurag Singh, Manoj Singh, Manoj Singh, Manoj Singh, Manoj Singh, Manoj Singh.

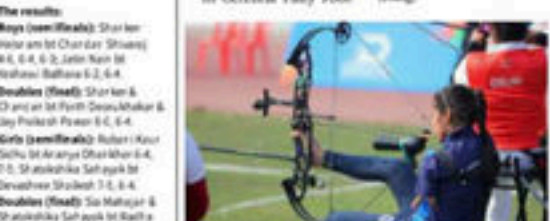
PARA GAMES
Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Asian Para Games champion and archery star Sheetal Devi advanced to the gold medal round in the women's compound category with a total score of 656 points on Day Six of the inaugural Khelo India Para Games at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium on Friday.

Sheetal will take on Jyoti Balaiah for gold after the latter qualified for the final with 646 points. Sarita and Tambhika will face off for the bronze.

In shooting, Manu Sharma upset Hangzhou gold medalist Sudhartha Babu to claim gold in the Mixed 3x60 Rifle Prone SH1 event, scoring 247.5 points to Babu's 245.1.

In General Paly Foot



The results: Sheetal Devi (left) won gold in the Mixed 3x60 Rifle Prone SH1 event. (AFC MEDIA SERVICES/ICF)

Sheetal makes the gold medal round in compound archery

PARA GAMES

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

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In General Paly Foot



The results: Sheetal Devi (left) won gold in the Mixed 3x60 Rifle Prone SH1 event. (AFC MEDIA SERVICES/ICF)

Parts of Speech (8)

1. Interjections- express exclamation! Wow! Oh! Yippee! Hurray! Alas!
2. Conjunctions- Joining words. And, but, or, if, yet, neither, nor, however etc.
3. Prepositions- talk of position. Ex- of, with, for, in, on, at, over, under, below, by, around, between, above, into, to.
4. Nouns- Name of anything: person, place, object, process, feeling. Ram, class, exam, love, sadness, brother, food, air, machine, voice, intelligence, honesty
5. Pronouns- replace nouns. He, she, it, they, them, their, our, this, that, these, our, who, whose, whom, myself, himself, herself.
6. Adjectives- modify nouns and pronouns. Good, bad, happy, sad, honest, amazing.
7. **VERBS- usually an action. Went, loved, play, sing, kill, fought.**
8. Adverbs-usually modifies verb. But can modify Adjectives and Adverbs too. Really, beautifully, brilliantly, very.

VERBS

- The most important part of speech!!
- Always begin with the verb!

Action	'Be' form
Ajay plays cricket.	Avantika is beautiful.
She sings a song.	I am tall
Mohit loves her.	They were angry.
I slapped him.	Be- exist (Be safe, be nice, be happy, be humble, be alert) Is, am, are, was, were, been, being

Verb continued

1. She is sleeping in the room.
2. I was fighting with him.
3. Police have arrested the criminal.
4. They were killed by him in the accident.
5. We will win the match.

Subject- doer of the verb

Ajay plays cricket.
She sings a song.
Mohit loves her.
I slapped him.

Subject is mandatory.

Object- On whom the work is done

Avantika is beautiful.
I am tall
They were angry.

Object is optional

Most important **Lokeshism Trick** in Grammar

Concept of Place Value

Every word in a sentence is meant only for a particular part of speech.

1. Saurabh is a nice boy.
2. She sleeps on the bed.
3. Gaurav likes Sweety.
4. The very person I met yesterday is the principal of my school.

Idiomatic Expressions

(# 1 of the 6 major errors in Sentence Correction)

1. Between A and B. The center remains open between 10 am and 6 pm.
2. From A to B You can visit the center from 10 am to 7 pm.
3. Prefer A to B I prefer tea over coffee. I prefer tea to coffee.
4. Mistake A for B I mistook him as Ramesh. I mistook him for Ramesh.

Do not mistake CAT as an easy exam.
Do not mistake CAT for an easy exam.
5. Consider A to be B I considered him as my friend.
I considered him to be my friend.
5. Consider A B (preferred) I considered him my friend.
6. Regard A as B I regard him as my mentor.
7. Depict A as B The movie depicts Salman as a cop.

In case you are preparing for a grammar-centric exam like IIFT/SNAP/GMAT, you need to memorise all idiomatic expressions that I will send in group.

Modifiers

(# 2 of the 6 major errors in Sentence Correction)

Dangling Modifiers

1. While dancing at the party, my wallet was lost.
 - 1A. While dancing at the party, I lost my wallet.
 - 1B. While I was dancing at the party, my wallet was lost.

Misplaced Modifiers

Words as Misplaced modifier

We **almost** walked for two hours before we reached home.

Phrase as Misplaced modifier

Mallika saw the Red Fort **running every morning**.

Clause as Misplaced modifier

My father lives with my son **who is very old**.

Note: Place the modifier as close to the part that it is meant to modify in the sentence.

Parallelism

(# 3 of the 5 minor errors in Sentence Correction)

I like singing, dancing and playing.

Comparison

(# 4 of the 6 major errors in Sentence Correction)

Comparison can be made between comparable entities only.

Example 1

My income is more than my wife's income.

My income is more than income of my wife.

I met Ram's brother.

I met brother of Ram

Mohan's sister

Sister of Mohan

Arun's mistake

Mistake of Arun

That- replaces singular noun

Those- replaces plural noun

Pronouns

(# 5 of the 6 major errors in Sentence Correction)

- Pronoun Consistency
- Pronoun Ambiguity (minor error)
- Pronoun Usage

Subject-Verb Agreement

(#6 of the 6 major errors in Sentence Correction)

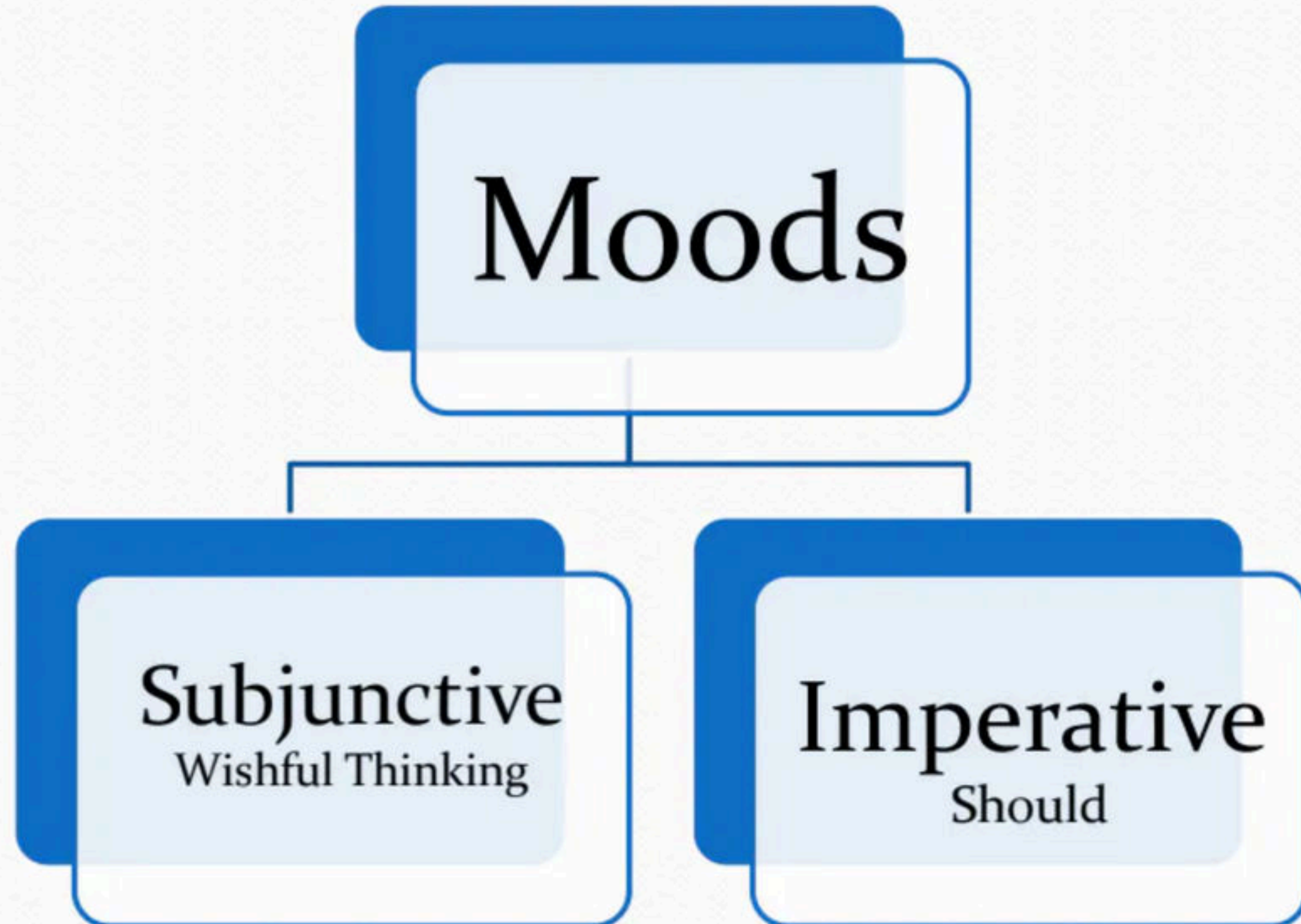
Subject Verb Agreement

- **Heart of the matter-** The form of verb used should agree with the noun/pronoun used as the subject in the sentence.
- The verb is used to determine the subject but the form of the verb is determined by the form of the subject i.e. verb used will be singular if the subject is singular and the verb used will be plural if the subject is plural.
- **Singular nouns-** datum, phenomenon, criterion, crisis, analysis, public, population
- **Plural nouns-** Police, people, data, phenomena, crises, analyses, populations,

Police are investigating

Police have arrested the criminal.

Represent some special constructions



What does an Sentence Correction Question look like?

A study commissioned by the Department of Agriculture showed that if calves exercise and associated with other calves, they will require less medication and gain weight quicker than do those raised in confinement.

- (A) associated with other calves, they will require less medication and gain weight quicker than do
- (B) associated with other calves, they require less medication and gain weight quicker than
- (C) associate with other calves, they required less medication and will gain weight quicker than do
- (D) associate with other calves, they have required less medication and will gain weight more quickly than do
- (E) associate with other calves, they require less medication and gain weight more quickly than

Tense Consistency

- A. Ram dances and plays in the garden.
- B. Ram danced and played in the garden.

In a given sentence, tense among connected verbs must be consistent.

1. He says that he will come.
2. He said that he would come.

Incorrect- He said that he will come.

Incorrect- He says that he would come.

Application

A majority of the international journalists surveyed view nuclear power stations as unsafe at present but that they will, or could, be made sufficiently safe in the future.

- (A) that they will, or could,
- (B) that they would, or could,
- (C) they will be or could
- (D) think that they will be or could
- (E) think the power stations would or could

VERBS

- The most important part of speech!!
- Always begin with the verb!

Action	'Be' form
Ajay plays cricket.	Avantika is beautiful.
She sings a song.	I am tall
Mohit loves her.	They were angry.
I slapped him.	Be- exist (Be safe, be nice, behappy) Is, am, are, was, were, been, being

Tense forms of Verbs

- Every Verb has 3 tense forms

1 st (Present)	2 nd (Past)	3 rd (has/have _____)
Play	Played	Played
Eat	Ate	Eaten
Go	Went	Gone
Fly	Flew	Flown
Break	Broke	Broken
Sing	Sang	Sung
See	Saw	Seen

3rd form as adjective!

He **was given** **eaten** apples.

I **thought** about my **broken** dreams.

Gone girl.

Shattered glass

➤ A **Tense** is a form taken by a verb to tell us about the action. In short, tenses tell us something about the verb.

➤ On the basis of **Time of Verb** there are 3 tenses:

- I. Present Tense
- II. Past Tense
- III. Future Tense

➤ On the basis of the **Information given about the Verb** there are 4 tenses:

- A. Simple Tense
- B. Continuous Tense
- C. Perfect Tense
- D. Perfect Continuous Tense

How many specific People?

Classification of people on the **basis of Age**

1. Old
2. Middle-aged
3. Young
4. Child

Classification of people on the **basis of Gender**

1. Male
2. Female
3. Third Gender

Age	Gender	Male	Female	Third Gender		
Old						
Middle-aged						
Young						
Child						

➤ A **Tense** is a form taken by a verb to tell us about the action. In short, tenses tell us something about the verb.

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Different Specific Tenses

	Present	Past	Future
Simple No information on completion or continuity.			
Continuous Verb in continuity			
Perfect Verb completed			
Perfect Continuous			

Different Specific Tenses

	Present	Past	Future
Simple No information on completion or continuity.	Simple Present	Simple Past	Simple Future
Continuous Verb in continuity	Present Continuous	Past Continuous	Future Continuous
Perfect Verb completed	Present Perfect	Past Perfect	Future Perfect
Perfect Continuous	Present Perfect Continuous	Past Perfect Continuous	Future Perfect Continuous

Simple Tense

	Present	Past	Future
Simple No information on completion or continuity.	Simple Present - 1st form of verb Habitual actions- I play cricket. She eats apples. Observations- She is beautiful. They are tall. Universal Truth- The Earth is round. Sun rises in the East. The Mayans knew that the Earth is/was round. My teacher taught me that the Sun rises in the east. Commentary Itinerary- 6pm- The CM arrives. Newspaper headlines	Simple Past- 2nd form of verb I played cricket yesterday. She ate apples.	Simple Future- will/shall+ 1st form of verb I will/shall play cricket. She will eat apples will= shall I/We - shall

	Present	Past	Future
Continuous Verb in continuity	Present Continuous- 1st form-ing I am playing cricket. She is eating apples. Errors 1. Jhooth mooth ka ing – I am working with Infosys these days. I work with Infosys. I am reading Animal Farm. I read Animal Farm I am taking the class tomorrow. I will take the class tomorrow	Past Continuous- 1st form-ing I was playing. She was eating apples.	Future continuous- 1st form-ing I will/shall be playing. She will be eating apples.

- 'Be' form of verb

1. Helping verb- when there is a main verb
2. Main verb- when there is no main verb. I am sorry. She is beautiful. They were angry.

- - ing word can be used in 3 ways

1. Verb (continuous tense)
2. Adjective - burning train, sleeping beauty, shining star, flowing river, amazing sites. I went to a eating contest.
3. Noun - called Gerund
Running is a good exercise. Swimming and yoga keep you healthy.
I love travelling. She likes fighting.

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- A. Ted Bundy was a killing machine.
- B. Police is killing people with absolutely impunity.
- C. Killing someone is a considered as a sin in a civilised society.

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Killing animals for a killing profit is killing the planet.

Perfect Tense

	Present	Past	Future
Perfect Verb completed	Present Perfect has/have + 3rd form I have played. She has eaten apples.	Past Perfect had + 3rd form I had played. She had eaten apples.	Future Perfect will have+ 3rd form I will have played. She will have eaten apples.

present past

Singular- has had
 Plural - have had

Uses of Has, Have, Had

1. Helping verb- in perfect tense when there is a main verb.
2. Main verb- not in perfect tense. When there is no main verb. They denote possession.
 - A. We have a box.
 - B. They had a lot of money.
 - C. She has some disease.
3. Had- replaces the 3rd form of verb.

I have eaten enough already. I have tolerated enough of your nonsense

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I have had enough already. I have had enough of your nonsense.

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I have had enough already. I have had enough of your nonsense.

I had eaten enough. I had tolerated enough of his nonsense before I slapped him.

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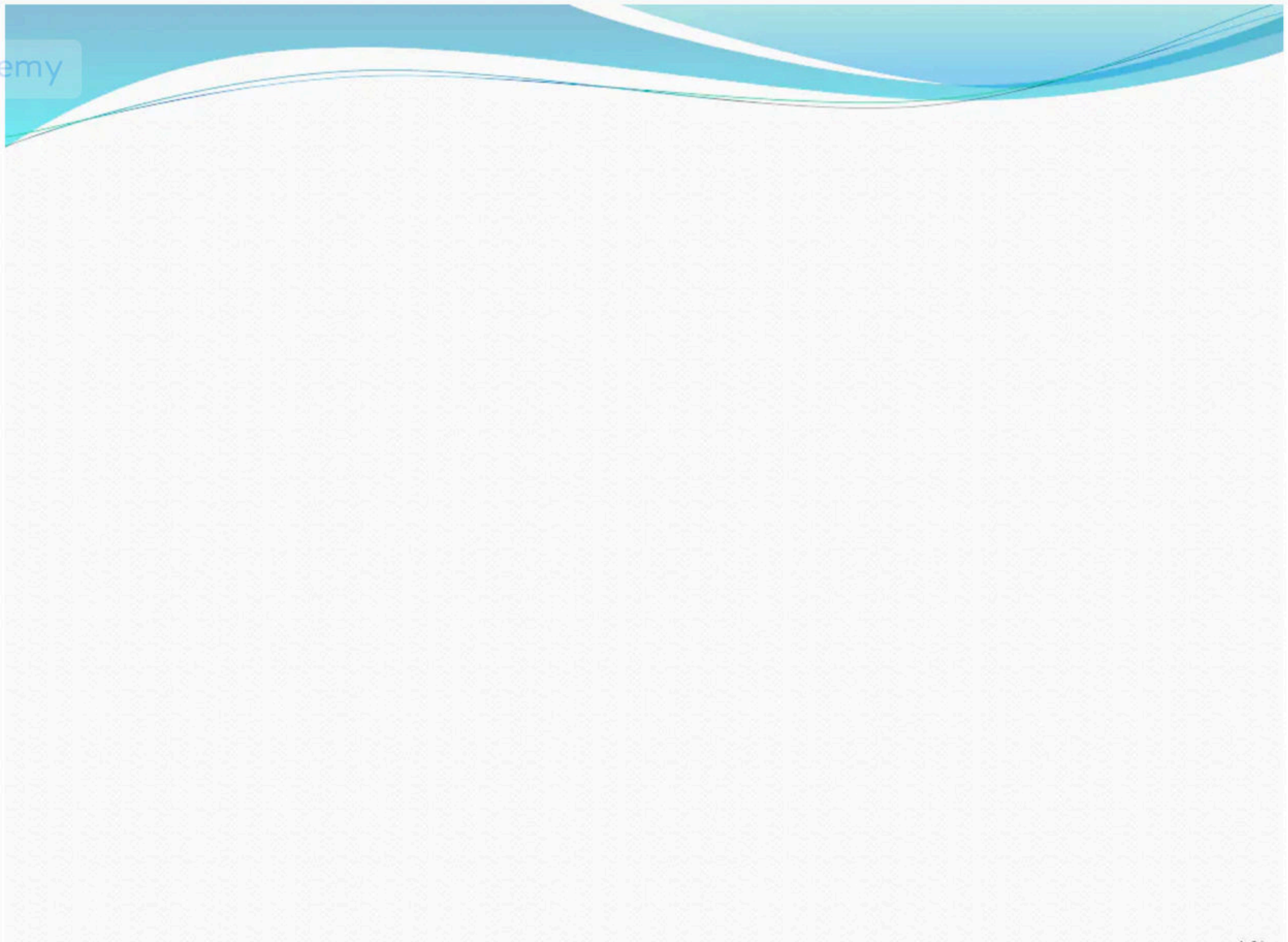
I had had enough already. I had had enough of his nonsense before I slapped him.

Ram, where Shyam had marked 'had', had marked 'had had'. 'Had had' had got the teacher's approval.

I _____(had/had had) my dinner when you called me last night.

Perfect Continuous Tense

	Present	Past	Future
Perfect Continuous	<p>Present Perfect Continuous</p> <p>has/have + been + 1st form-ing + since/for</p> <p>I have been playing for 6 hours. I have been playing since 8 am. She has been eating for 3 days. She has been eating since Friday.</p>	<p>Past Perfect Continuous</p> <p>had + been + 1st form-ing + since/for</p> <p>I had been playing for 3 hours</p> <p>She had been eating apples</p>	<p>Future Perfect Continuous</p> <p>will + have + been + 1st form-ing + since/for</p> <p>By 6 pm, I will have been playing for 6 hours.</p> <p>She will have been eating apples for 5 days</p>



	PRESENT	PAST	FUTURE
SIMPLE	I eat pizza. (V ₁)	I ate the pizza. (V ₂)	I will eat the pizza. (will + V ₁)
CONTINUOUS	I am eating the pizza. (is/am/are + ing) (V ₁ +ing)	I was eating the pizza. (was/were + ing) (V ₁ +ing)	I will be eating the pizza. (will + be + ing) (V ₁ +ing)
PERFECT	I have eaten the pizza. (has/have + V ₃)	I had eaten the pizza when you arrived. (had + V ₃)	I will have eaten the pizza by the time you arrive. (will + have + V ₃)
PERFECT CONTINUOUS	I have been eating pizza for two hours. (has/have + been + ing+ since/for)	I had been eating pizza for two hours when you arrived. (had + been + ing+ since/for)	I will have been eating pizza for two hours when you arrive. (will +have + been + ing+ since/for)

Rule 1: If 2 related actions took place in past such that one of the actions (X) preceded the other (Y), then X takes Past Perfect Tense and Y takes Simple Past Tense.

By the time I reached the station, the train had left.

Rule 2: If 2 related actions took place in past such that the continuity of the first action (X) was broken by the other (Y), then X takes Past Perfect Continuous Tense and Y takes Simple Past Tense.

I had been sleeping in the room when she rang the bell.

Rule 2: If 2 related actions took place in past such that the continuity of the first action (X) was broken by the other (Y), then X takes Past Perfect Continuous Tense and Y takes Simple Past Tense.

I had been sleeping in the room when she rang the bell.

I reached the airport and saw the plane landing.

Application

After the Civil War, contemporaries of Harriet Tubman's maintained that she has all of the qualities of a great leader, coolness in the face of danger, an excellent sense of strategy, and an ability to plan in minute detail.

- (A) Tubman's maintained that she has
- (B) Tubman's maintain that she had
- (C) Tubman's have maintained that she had
- (D) Tubman maintained that she had
- (E) Tubman had maintained that she has

- A) After she had rested for a while, she started on her journey.
- B) After she rested for a while, she started on her journey.
- C) After she rests for a while, she had started on her journey.
- D) After she rested for a while, she had started on her journey.

- A) Unfortunately, she found out that he secretly had bought her what she was longing for all her life: a holiday package to South America.
- B) Unfortunately, she had found out that he secretly bought her what she had been longing for all her life: a holiday package to South America.
- C) Unfortunately, she found out that he secretly had bought her what she had been longing for all her life: a holiday package to South America.
- D) Unfortunately, she found out that he secretly bought her what she had been longing for all her life: a holiday package to South America.

- A] By the end of this year, she will be spending the money she has.
- B] By the end of this year, she will have spent the money she has.
- C] By the end of this year, she will spent the money she has.
- D] Both [B] and [C]

- A] He is reading a biography, which is the third he read this year.
- B] He is reading a biography, which is the third he has read this year.
- C] He is reading a biography, which is the third he is reading this year.
- D] He is reading a biography, which is the third he will read this year.

- A] The English teacher was explaining the tough exercise to the students lately.
- B]The English teacher had been explaining the tough exercise to the students lately.
- C]The English teacher explained the tough exercise to the students lately.
- D]The English teacher has explained the tough exercise to the students lately.

Since the advent of cable television, at the beginning of this decade, the entertainment industry took a giant stride forward in our country.

- A) this decade saw the entertainment industry taking
- B) this decade, the entertainment industry has taken
- C) this decade, the entertainment industry had taken
- D) this decade, the entertainment industry took

Would

Would is used in multiple cases such as

- Request: would you please close the door
- Past of will: He would always complain about me to the teacher
- When you remember something fondly: We would hold hands and talk for hours
- Hypothetical situation/Subjunctive mood: If I were your husband, I would love you always
- Question: Would this be a wise decision?

Objective- to correct the sentence with least changes to the meaning and overall structure of the sentence

Major Errors

1. Idiomatic Expressions
2. Modifiers
3. Comparison
4. Pronoun Consistency and Usage
5. Subject Verb Agreement
6. Tense Consistency

Minor Errors

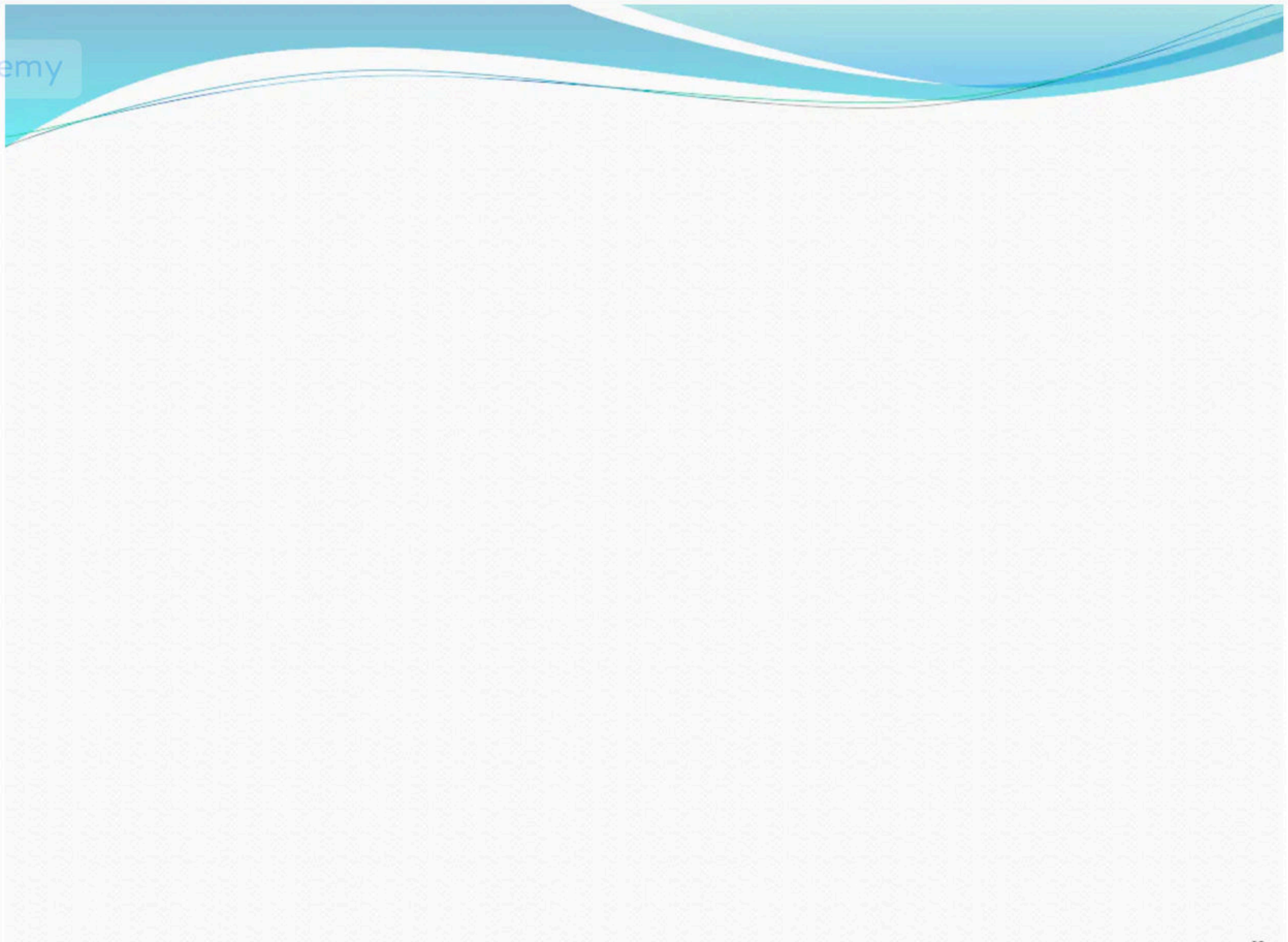
1. Moods
2. Parallelism
3. Ambiguity
4. Punctuation

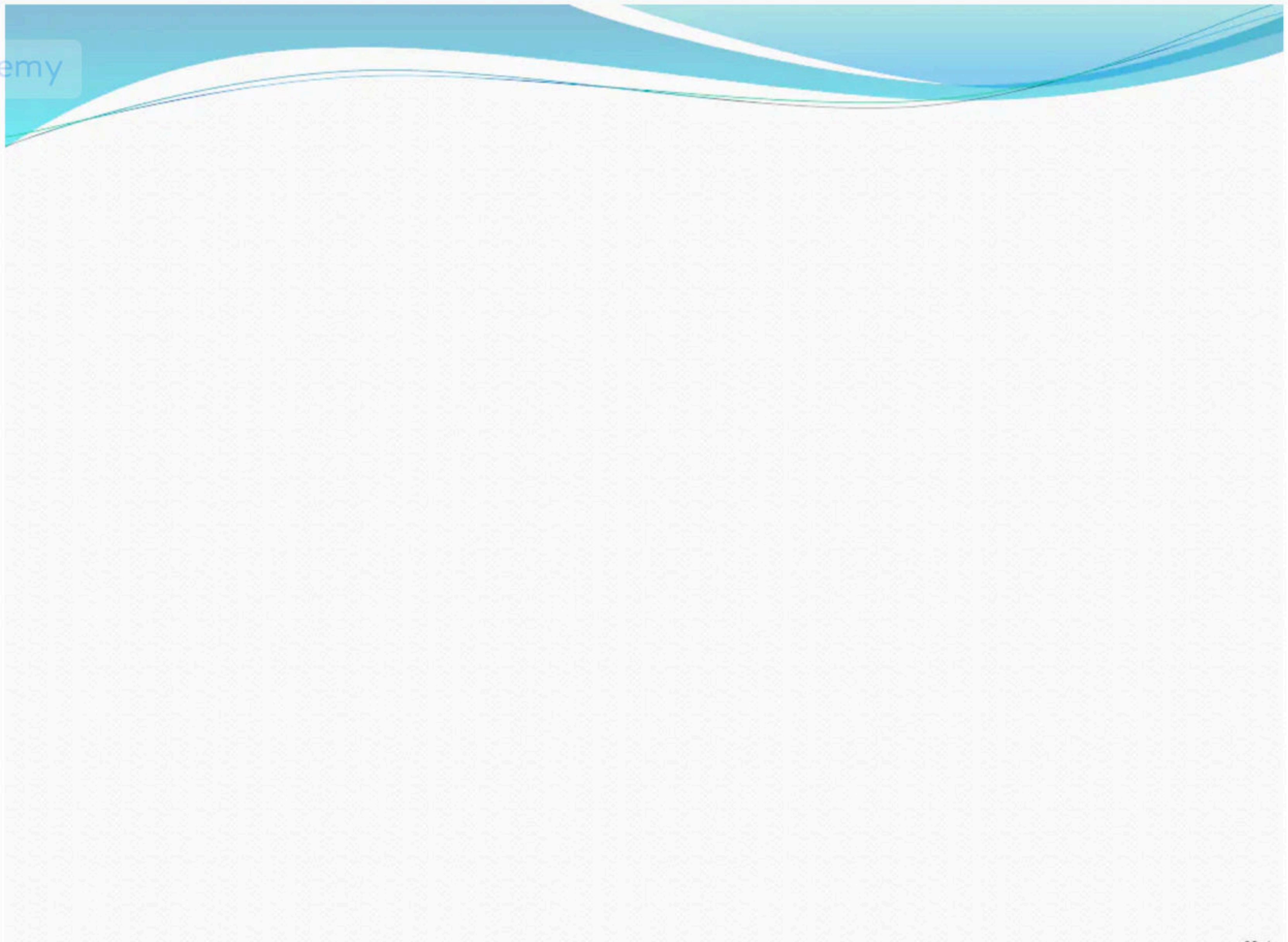
**In case of two
Grammatically correct
sentences**

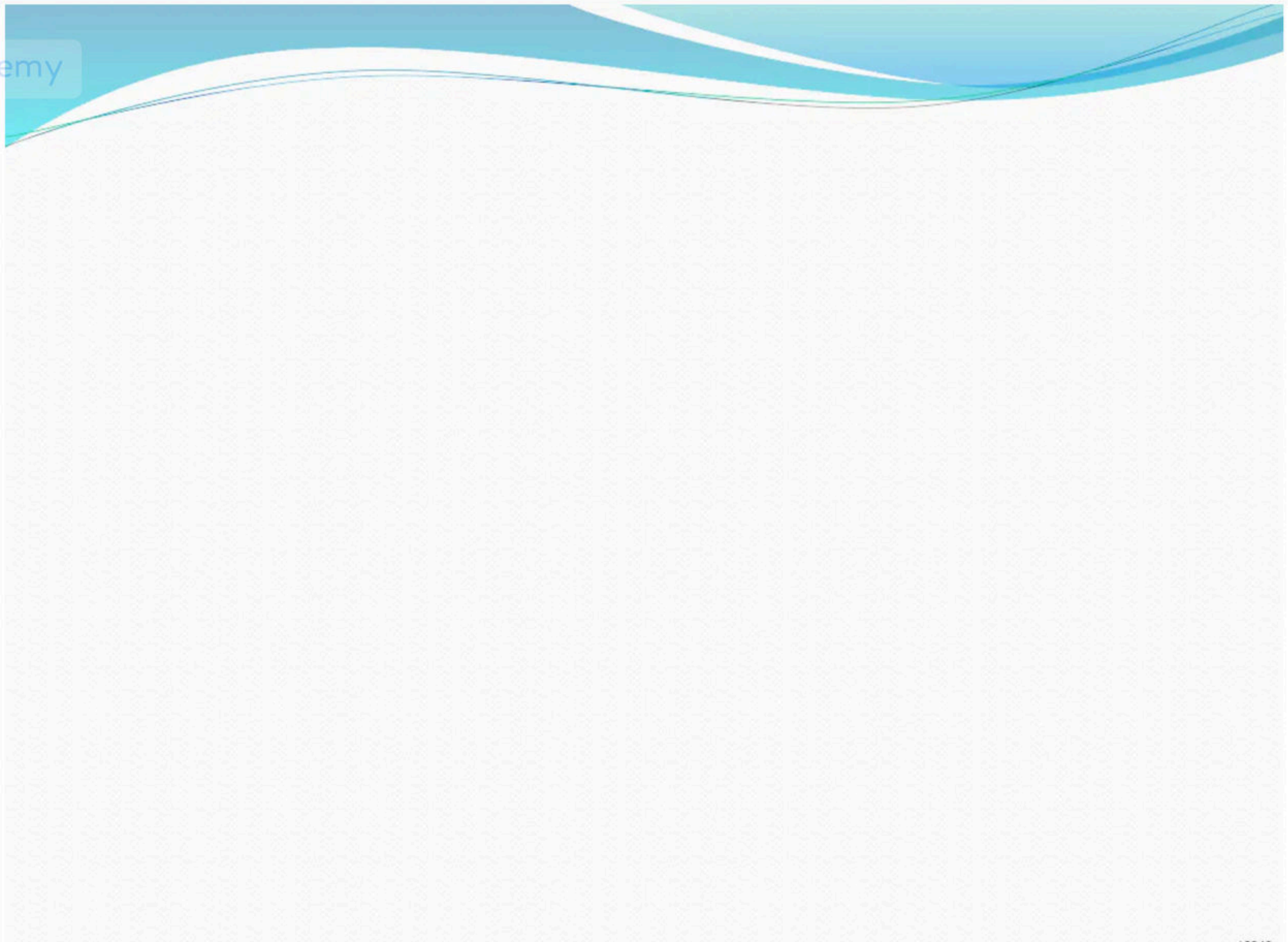
Verbosity
Active-Passive
Repetition
Redundancy

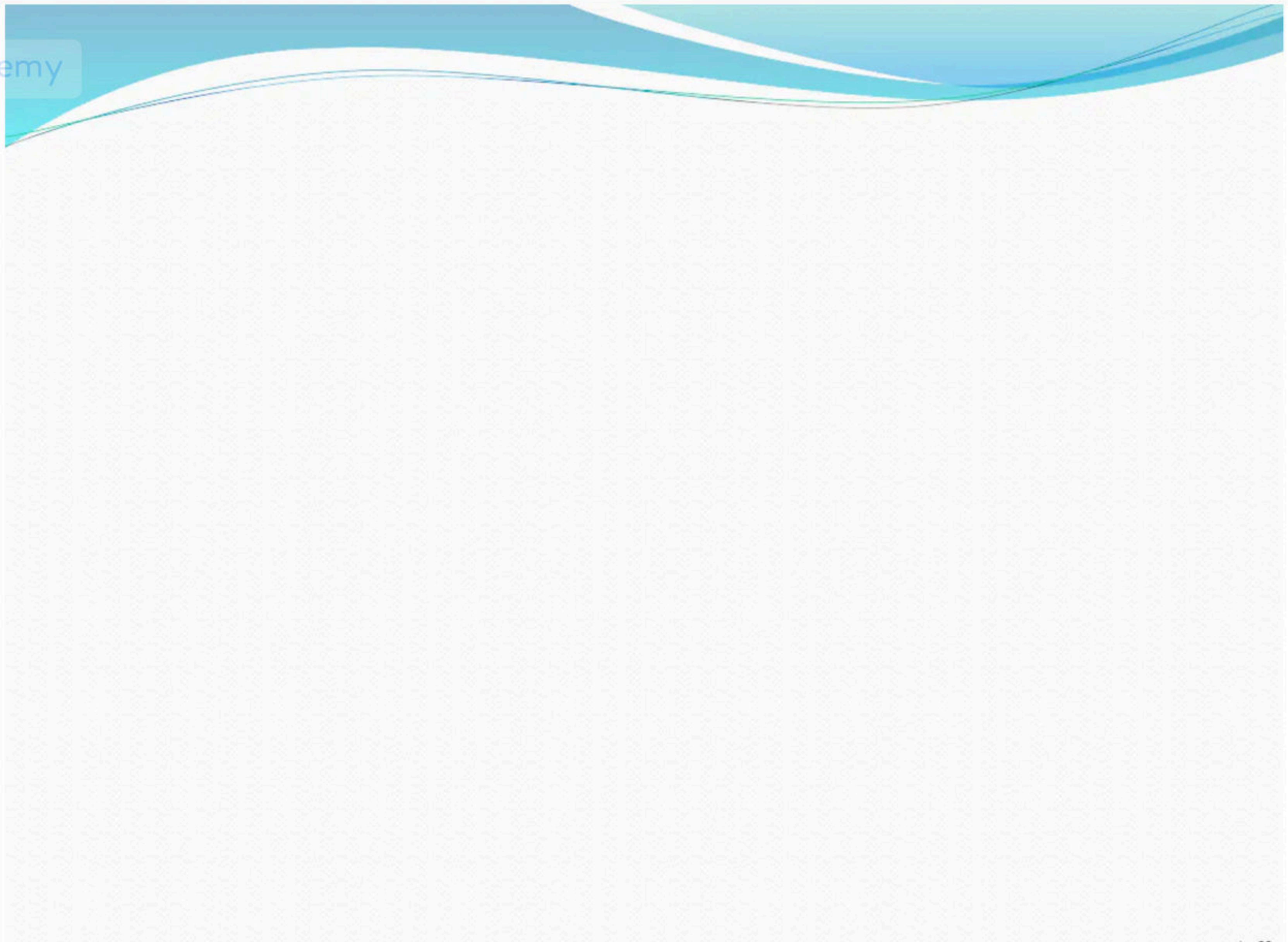
Last Resort

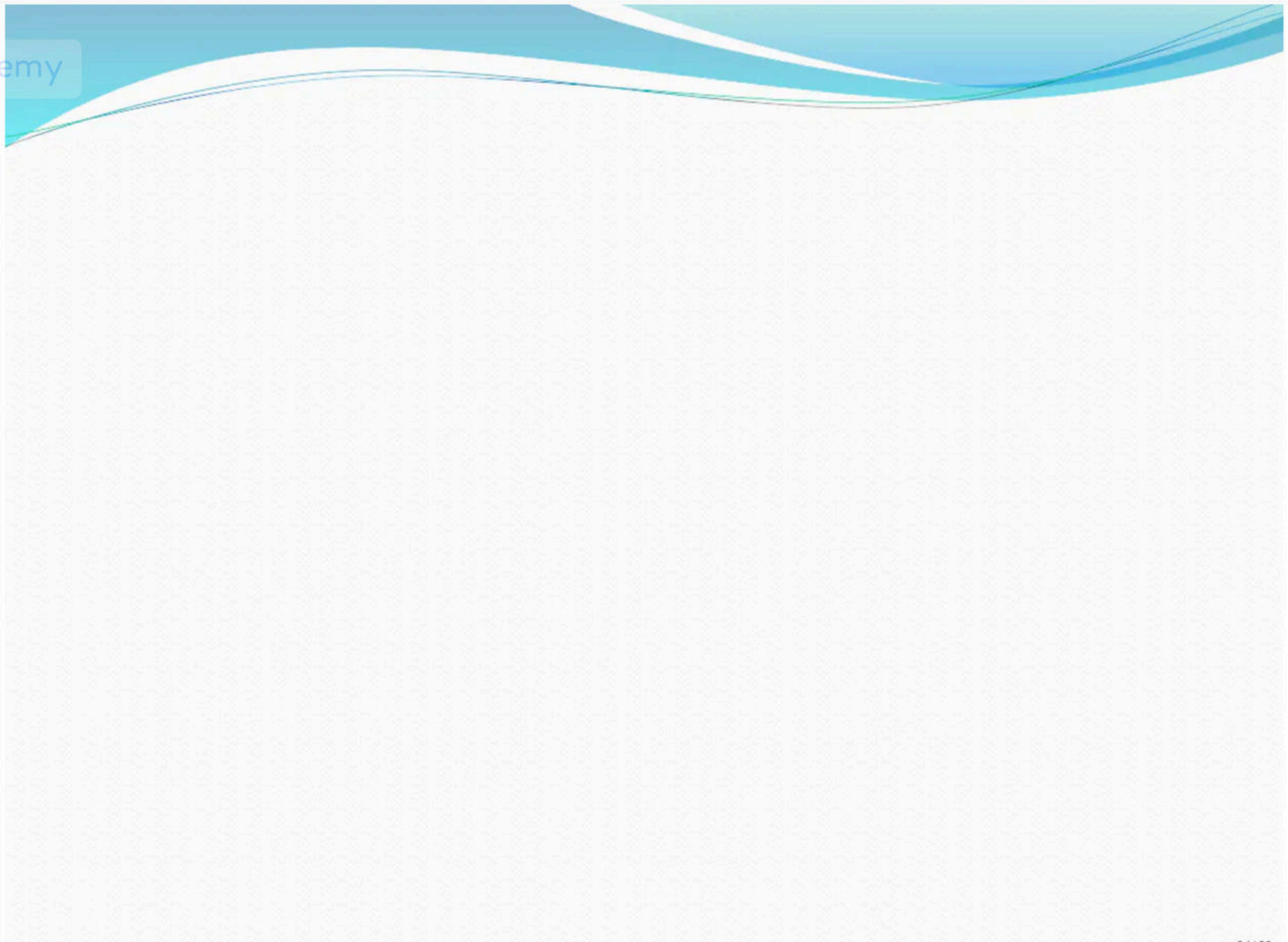
Parent Structure

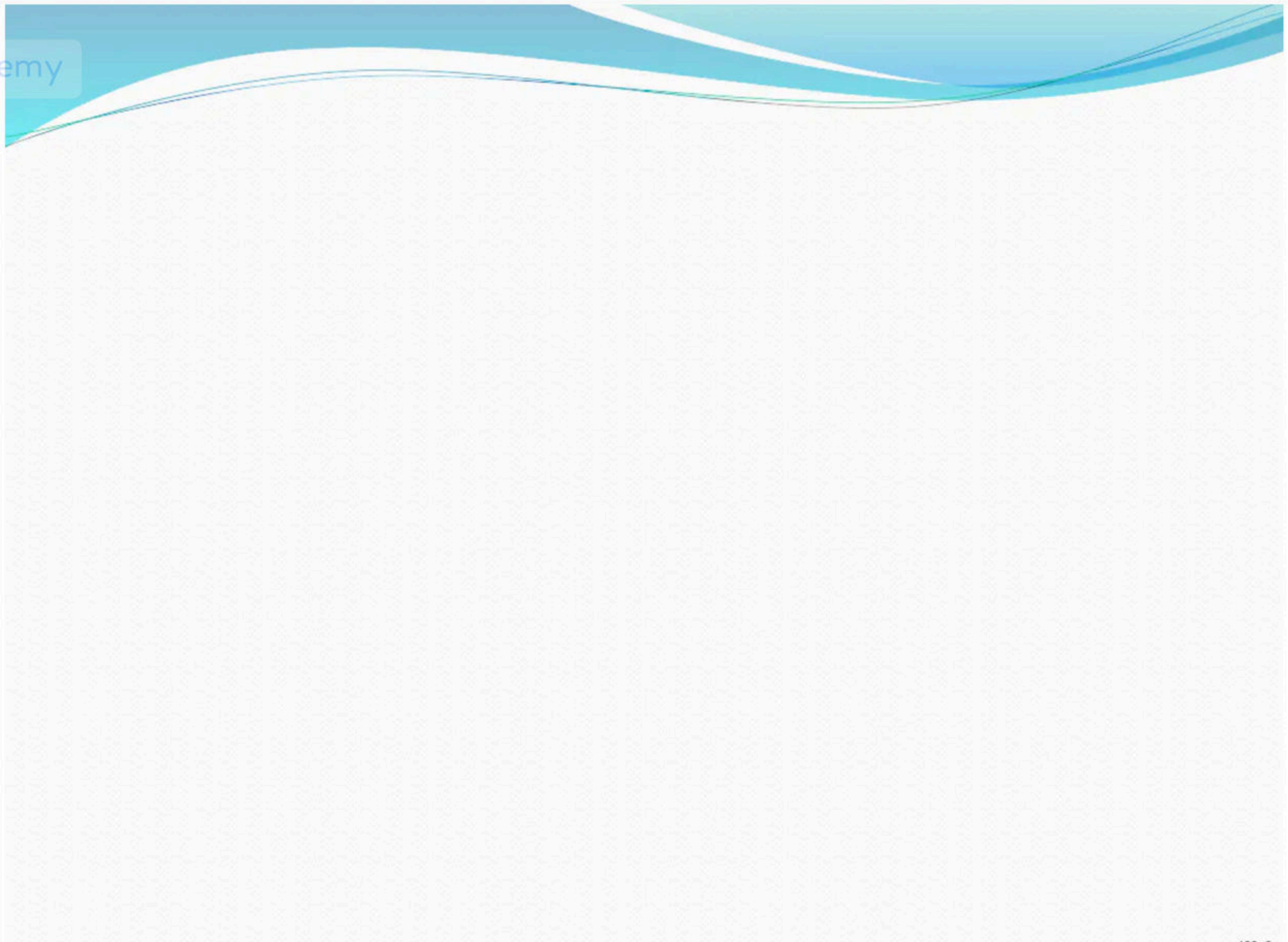


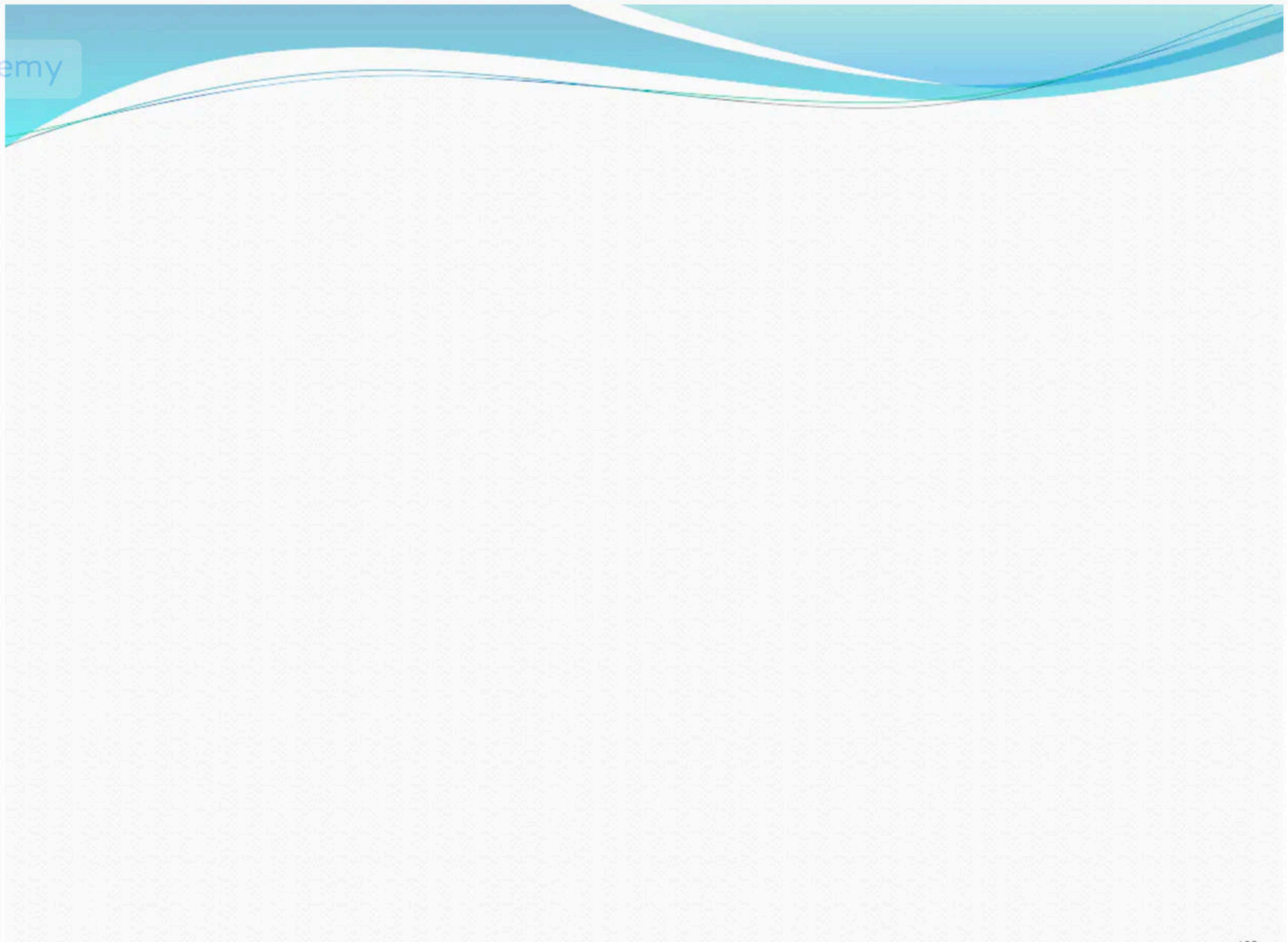


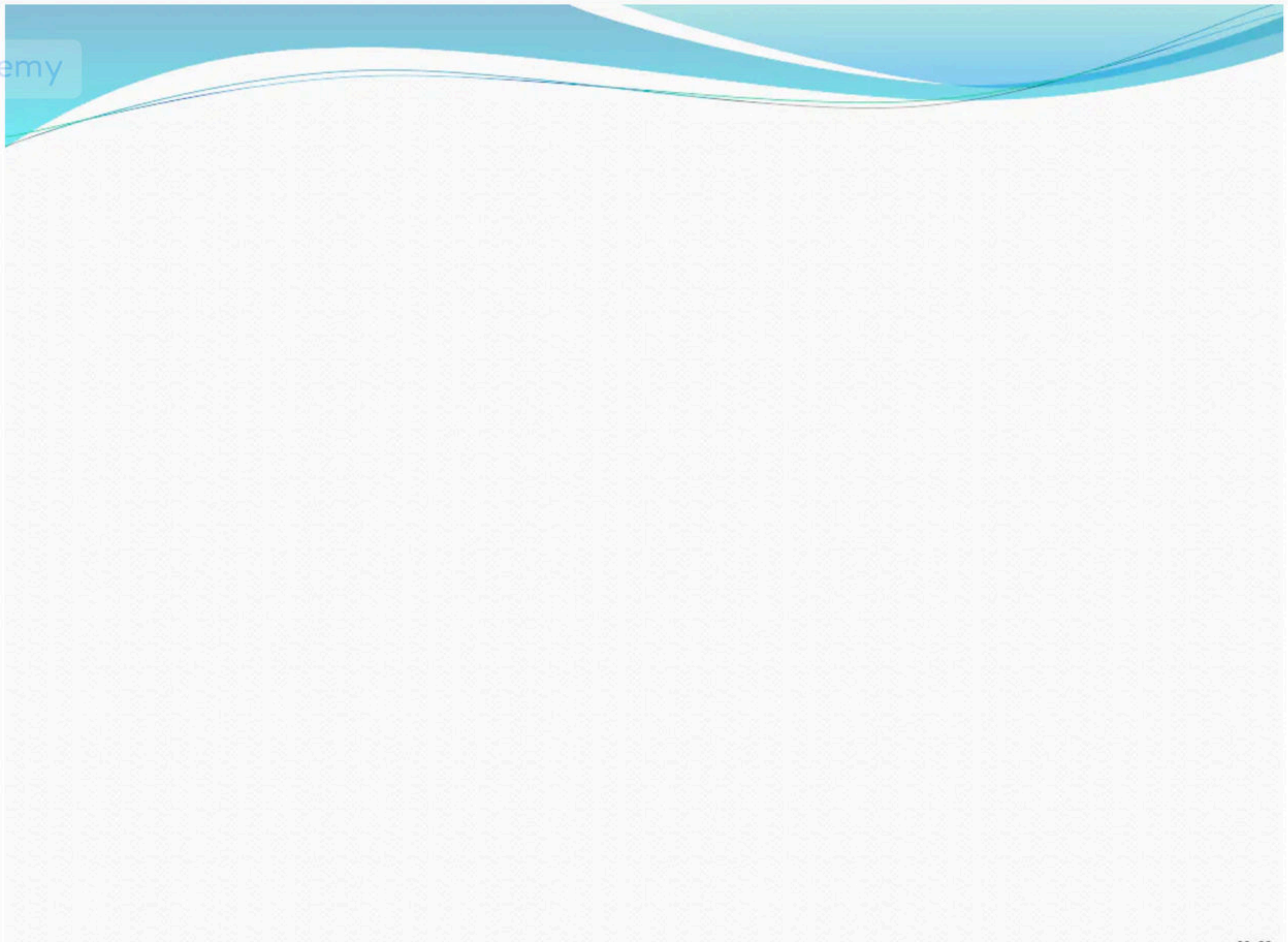


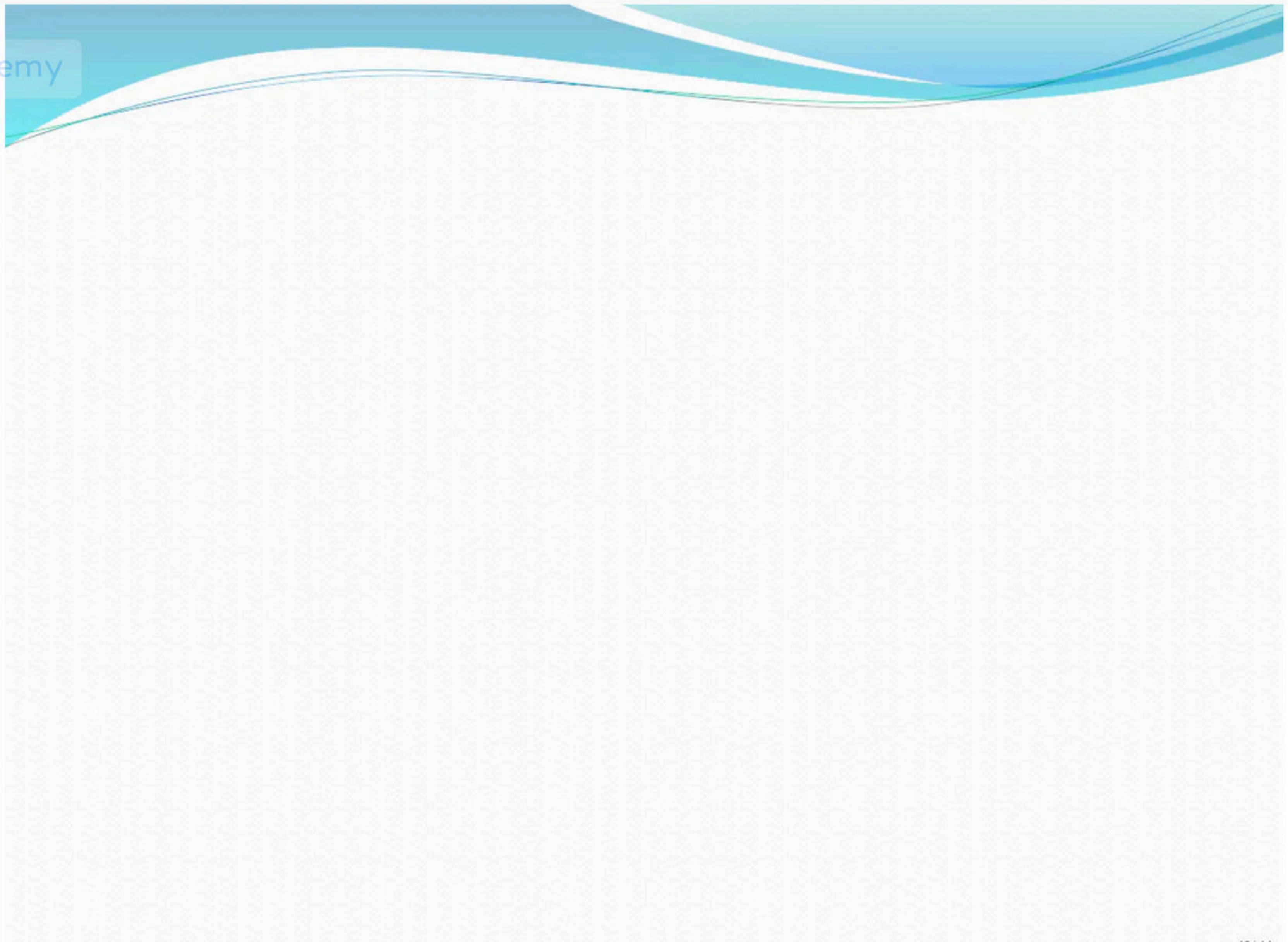


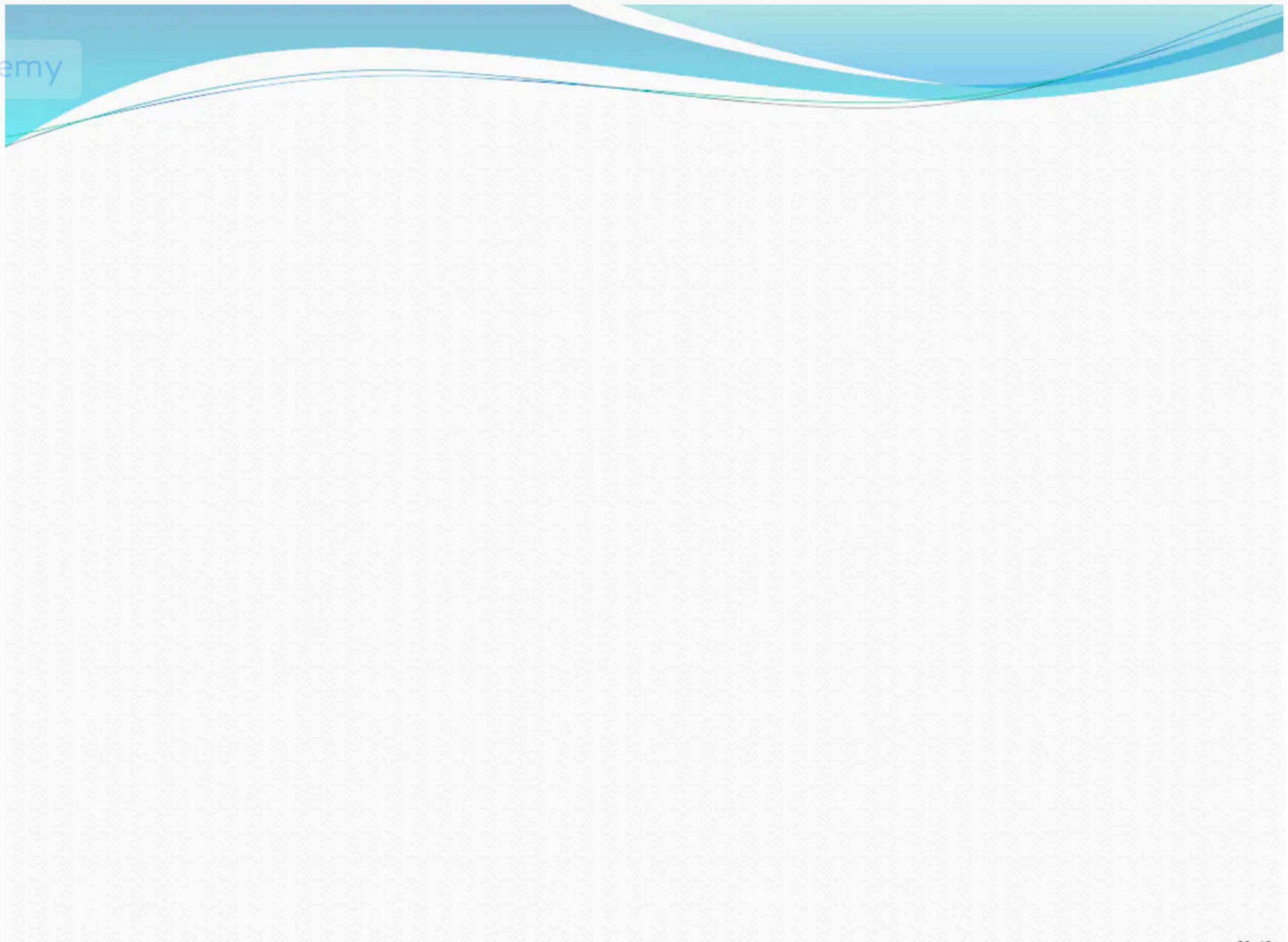












Revision is the key

- Do revise again all concepts taught in the class before attempting remaining exercises of the sheets.
- Do revise the theory/grammar rules periodically to make them a part of your active memory. Grammar, unlike RC and CR, requires memorisation.
- Must revise all concepts of Grammar Basics (both parts), Grammar 2 and Grammar 3 and Grammar 4 before attempting Grammar Practice questions.

See you in the next class!!

