

The Hindu EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

21st March 2025

**PREPARE FOR BANK (PO/ CLERK), SSC, UPSC,
State PSC, CAT, CTET, RAILWAY EXAMS, CDS,
TET, NDA/AIRFORCE, NET and all Govt.
Exams**

1. Discrepancy (अंतर)

- **Meaning: A lack of compatibility or similarity between two or more facts.**
- **Synonyms: Inconsistency, difference, variation**
- **Antonyms: Agreement, consistency, similarity**
- **Example: The discrepancy in the financial reports raised suspicions of fraud.**

2. Apprehension (चिंता/भय)

- Meaning: Anxiety or fear that something bad or unpleasant will happen.**
- Synonyms: Anxiety, fear, worry**
- Antonyms: Confidence, assurance, calmness**
- Example: The students felt a sense of apprehension before their final exams.**

3. Juggernaut (विनाशकारी शक्ति / महाशक्ति)

- **Meaning:** A huge, powerful, and overwhelming force or institution.
- **Synonyms:** Powerhouse, giant, behemoth
- **Antonyms:** Weakness, fragility, insignificance
- **Example:** The tech company became a juggernaut in the industry, dominating global markets.

4. Daunting (कठिन/भयावह)

- **Meaning:** Seeming difficult to deal with in prospect; intimidating.
- **Synonyms:** Intimidating, overwhelming, challenging
- **Antonyms:** Encouraging, easy, reassuring
- **Example:** The daunting task of preparing for competitive exams requires dedication and effort.

5. Stalwart (दृढ़/मजबूत समर्थक)

- **Meaning:** A loyal, reliable, and hardworking supporter or participant.
- **Synonyms:** Devoted, faithful, committed
- **Antonyms:** Unreliable, weak, disloyal
- **Example:** He has been a stalwart supporter of the team for over a decade.

6. Scrutiny (जांच/गहन परीक्षण)

- **Meaning:** Critical observation or examination.
- **Synonyms:** Inspection, analysis, review
- **Antonyms:** Neglect, disregard, ignorance
- **Example:** The new policy was under intense scrutiny before it was implemented.

7. Enigmatic (रहस्यमय)

- **Meaning:** Difficult to interpret or understand; mysterious.
- **Synonyms:** Mysterious, puzzling, cryptic
- **Antonyms:** Clear, obvious, straightforward
- **Example:** The detective struggled to decode the enigmatic message left by the suspect.

8. Dogmatic (हठी/कट्टर)

- **Meaning:** Inclined to lay down principles as undeniably true, without consideration of evidence or others' opinions.
- **Synonyms:** Stubborn, rigid, authoritarian
- **Antonyms:** Open-minded, flexible, receptive
- **Example:** His dogmatic approach to debates made it difficult to have a constructive discussion.

9. Surrogate (प्रतिनिधि /प्रतिस्थापन)

- **Meaning:** A substitute, especially a person deputizing for another in a specific role.
- **Synonyms:** Proxy, replacement, substitute
- **Antonyms:** Original, primary, authentic
- **Example:** The movie used a surrogate character to represent the real-life leader.

10. Clout (प्रभाव/शक्ति)

- **Meaning:** The power or influence one has, especially in politics or business.
- **Synonyms:** Influence, dominance, authority
- **Antonyms:** Weakness, insignificance, powerlessness
- **Example:** The company's CEO has significant clout in the industry.

VOCABULARY

One-word substitute:

1. Having a bad taste or smell due to decomposition:

Rancid

2. To strike or hit heavily:

Whop

3. Easily bent or flexible; easily influenced:

Pliable

4. Occurring every five years or lasting for five years:

Quinquennial

VOCABULARY

Phrasal Verbs:

1. Take after

Meaning: To resemble a family member in appearance or behavior.

2. Put up with

Meaning: To tolerate or endure something unpleasant.

3. Look into

Meaning: To investigate or examine something.

4. Drop by

Meaning: To visit someone informally or without an appointment.

VOCABULARY

Idioms & Phrases

1. Show your true colors

Meaning: To reveal your real character or intentions, often after hiding them.

2. Raise a red flag

Meaning: To signal that something is wrong or suspicious.

3. A blessing in disguise

Meaning: an apparent misfortune that eventually has good results.

VOCABULARY

4. Jump on the bandwagon

Meaning: To join others in doing something that is currently popular or trendy.

5. Walk on eggshells

Meaning: To be very careful or delicate when dealing with a sensitive person or situation.

Article for Reading

**Coming of age: On
the IPL, its 18th
edition**

Indian cricket's summer spectacle is entering its eighteenth season. The Indian Premier League (IPL), which debuted on a warm night at Bengaluru's M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in 2008, has evolved into a global sporting juggernaut with immense commercial clout. The sheer volume and pace of matches may render individual moments fleeting, yet the tournament has deep roots and an ardent fan base. When defending champions Kolkata Knight Riders face Royal Challengers Bengaluru at the Eden Gardens on Saturday night, the commentary box will inevitably amplify the hype. Over the next two months, culminating on May 25, 10 teams will criss-cross India, battling for T20 supremacy. While similar leagues thrive in Australia and elsewhere, the IPL remains the gold standard. Beyond the on-field drama, the IPL continues to be a game-changer, with other cricketing nations struggling to retain their stars as freelance players increasingly prioritise IPL contracts.

While the league runs on high stakes and intense performances, the Indian government's recent move to ban alcohol and tobacco companies from leveraging IPL telecasts for surrogate advertising is a welcome decision. Given the tournament's massive youth following, such restrictions are both necessary and responsible. Once, the Ranji Trophy was the primary gateway to India's national team; today, the IPL serves as an escalator, fast-tracking talent into the international arena. From R. Ashwin in the early years to Hardik Pandya now, the league has been a launch pad for future stars. The once-daunting experience of sharing a dressing room with global icons has diminished, as young Indian cricketers now arrive at the highest level fully prepared. Longevity, too, is a hallmark of the tournament — stalwarts including M.S. Dhoni, Virat Kohli, and Rohit Sharma have been part of the IPL since its inception. At 43, Dhoni may be playing his final season for Chennai Super Kings, but with him, retirement predictions often go awry.

While big-hitting batters dominate headlines, enigmatic spinners and lethal pacers command attention too. More than just watching Jasprit Bumrah in Mumbai Indians' colours, fans will be eager to see when the injured speedster can make a full-fledged return. The same scrutiny will follow Pat Cummins and other key players, as the IPL not only sets the tone for the cricketing calendar but also provides crucial insights into the form and fitness of the game's biggest names when the time comes for performance on the international stage.

Summary

The Indian Premier League (IPL), now in its eighteenth season, has grown into a global cricketing powerhouse with immense commercial influence. Despite the rapid pace of matches, it has a dedicated fan base and serves as a crucial platform for emerging Indian talent. Once, the Ranji Trophy was the primary route to the national team, but the IPL now fast-tracks players into international cricket. The league's impact extends beyond the field, influencing global cricketing dynamics as players prioritize IPL contracts. Additionally, the Indian government's ban on alcohol and tobacco surrogate advertising during IPL telecasts is a responsible move, considering the tournament's massive youth following. The tournament also showcases legendary players like M.S. Dhoni, Virat Kohli, and Rohit Sharma, while injuries and performances of key players like Jasprit Bumrah and Pat Cummins remain under scrutiny. Ultimately, the IPL not only defines the cricketing calendar but also shapes the sport's future at the international level.

Tone:

The tone of the passage is informative and analytical, with a mix of admiration for the IPL's impact and pragmatic observations on its influence on cricket and commercial aspects. There is also a hint of nostalgia when discussing veteran players and anticipation regarding the performances of key figures in the tournament.

Reading Comprehension

Based on the above passage, answer the following questions:

Question 1:

Why is the Indian government's recent move regarding IPL advertising significant?

- (A) It prevents gambling companies from influencing match outcomes.**
- (B) It addresses concerns about surrogate advertising by alcohol and tobacco companies.**
- (C) It enforces a stricter tax policy on IPL sponsors.**
- (D) It ensures that no foreign companies can advertise during the IPL.**
- (E) None of the above**

Question 2:

Why will fans closely follow Pat Cummins and other key players in this IPL season?

- (A) Their performances will impact their selection for the upcoming Test series against India.**
- (B) They have signed long-term contracts that require them to stay in India permanently.**
- (C) Their IPL form provides insights into their fitness and readiness for international matches.**
- (D) They are captaining multiple IPL teams simultaneously, which has never happened before.**
- (E) None of the above**

Question 3:

How has the IPL changed the pathway for Indian cricketers to reach the national team?

- (A) It has replaced the Ranji Trophy as the main route for selection.**
- (B) It has made selection tougher by increasing competition among players.**
- (C) It has eliminated the need for domestic cricket performances before international selection.**
- (D) It has allowed selectors to directly pick players from U-19 teams.**
- (E) None of the above**

Article for Skimming

**Free and fair: On the
Election
Commission, calls for
transparency**

The Election Commission of India (ECI) seems to have softened its stand about disclosing absolute numbers of booth-wise votes cast in elections. Last year, when the question arose in the midst of the multi-phase general election, the ECI took the position that it had no legal mandate to disclose details of Form 17-C, part one, which contains the total number of electors in each booth and those who had actually voted, to anyone other than the candidate or its polling agent. In a recent hearing, it has said the Chief Election Commissioner, Gyanesh Kumar, who took over recently, is open to meeting representatives of organisations and individuals who have sought a direction to the ECI to upload scanned, authenticated and legible copies of Form 17-C on its website. The Supreme Court of India has asked Trinamool Congress Member of Parliament Mahua Moitra and representatives of the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) to give a representation to the ECI and seek a meeting.

While it may not mean that the ECI has already agreed to make absolute numbers of voters universally available, it may result in evolving a system of disclosure about turnouts, both in terms of numbers and percentages. In 2024, the ECI did release some details about turnout through its voter turnout app, but it also became a source of endless speculation as the percentages given were seen to be unusually higher than what was disclosed at the close of polling. The prevalence of a difference of five to six percentage points between the turnout declared on polling day and subsequently revised figures, based on inputs from all booths, was noted at the end. This is normally explained as the result of a delay in collation of data from all booths, including those located in far-flung areas. However, the petitioners before the Court argue that Form 17-C is collected by available booth agents by hand, and it would not be a major problem for election officials to scan and upload it within 48 hours.

The main grouse of political parties and activists is that the discrepancies, in the absence of the absolute number of votes cast but with only turnout percentages in hand, would raise suspicions about the whole process when the final results are released. The ECI has done well to offer to meet the petitioners on this question. There can be no dogmatic opposition to a procedural step to reduce the apprehension about any election being less than fair. It is futile to hold the position that every step demanding greater transparency in the electoral process is aimed at undermining its integrity or casting the process in a bad light. There ought to be a constant reassessment of existing procedures and practices to increase transparency and reduce the time taken to do so.

Question 4:

What was the Election Commission of India's (ECI) initial stance on disclosing Form 17-C details?

- (A) It voluntarily released Form 17-C details during elections.**
- (B) It had no legal mandate to disclose Form 17-C details beyond candidates or polling agents.**
- (C) It supported making Form 17-C publicly available to improve transparency.**
- (D) It uploaded Form 17-C on its website immediately after polling.**
- (E) None of the above**

Question 5:

Why do political parties and activists demand the disclosure of absolute voter numbers?

(A) They suspect election officials of tampering with voting machines.

(B) They argue that turnout percentages are irrelevant without detailed demographic data.

(C) They want to influence voter turnout percentages in future elections.

(D) They believe that discrepancies without absolute numbers create doubts about election integrity.

(E) None of the above

Today's Descriptive Question

Precis Writing:

Original Text:

Cyber warfare refers to the use of digital attacks by nations, organizations, or individuals to disrupt, damage, or gain unauthorized access to critical infrastructure, government networks, or private entities. In today's interconnected world, cyber warfare has emerged as a major threat alongside conventional military conflicts, as cyberattacks can cripple economies, expose sensitive data, and disrupt essential services without the need for physical combat. Cyber warfare takes many forms, including hacking, ransomware attacks, espionage, and disinformation campaigns. Governments and military agencies invest heavily in cyber defense strategies to safeguard national security, financial systems, and communication networks. Cyberattacks on power grids, banking systems, healthcare, and defense networks can have devastating consequences, leading to economic losses, public panic, and geopolitical tensions.

Countries are developing cybersecurity policies, artificial intelligence-driven threat detection, and international alliances to counter cyber threats. However, cyber warfare remains difficult to regulate due to its anonymous and borderless nature. Organizations and governments must focus on stronger encryption, cybersecurity training, and real-time threat monitoring to defend against evolving cyber threats. As cyber warfare becomes more sophisticated, global cooperation is essential to ensure a secure and resilient digital future.

Precis:

Cyber warfare involves digital attacks on critical infrastructure, government networks, and private entities, posing serious security threats. Tactics include hacking, ransomware, and espionage, which can cripple economies and escalate geopolitical tensions. Governments invest in cyber defense strategies, AI-driven threat detection, and global alliances, but regulation is challenging. Strengthening encryption, cybersecurity training, and international cooperation is crucial to counter evolving cyber threats.

- You are conducting a research study and need permission from an organization to survey their employees. Write an email requesting their approval.

To:@gmail.com

Subject: Request for Permission to Conduct Employee Survey

Dear [Recipient's Name],

I hope this email finds you well. My name is [Your Name], and I am conducting a research study on [briefly state the research topic]. As part of this study, I am seeking permission to survey employees at [Organization Name] to gain valuable insights into [mention the key focus of the survey]. The survey will be designed to be brief and non-disruptive, ensuring minimal impact on employees' time and productivity. All responses will remain confidential and will be used solely for research purposes. If needed, I am happy to provide additional details, including the survey questions, research methodology, and any necessary approvals or ethical clearances.

I would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this further and address any concerns you may have. Please let me know a convenient time to connect or if there are any formal procedures I need to follow for approval.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your response.

**Best regards,
[Your Name]
[Your Position/Institution]
[Your Contact Information]**

Match the column

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1. Show your true colors | A. an apparent misfortune that eventually has good results. |
| 2. Raise a red flag | B. To join others in doing something trendy |
| 3. A blessing in disguise | C. To reveal your real character |
| 4. Jump on the bandwagon | D. To be very careful when dealing with a sensitive person |
| 5. Walk on eggshells | E. To signal that something is wrong |

Answer:

1-c

2-e

3-a

4-b

5-d

Vocabulary

1. Discrepancy:
2. Apprehension:
3. Juggernaut:
4. Daunting:
5. Stalwart:
6. Scrutiny:
7. Enigmatic:
8. Dogmatic:
9. Surrogate:
10. Clout:

Rc ans

1.

Ans: B

Explanation:

Reference from Passage:

The passage mentions, “**the Indian government’s recent move to ban alcohol and tobacco companies from leveraging IPL telecasts for surrogate advertising is a welcome decision.**” This highlights the significance of restricting such advertisements, especially considering the tournament's youth audience.

Incorrect Options:

- (A) Incorrect: There is no mention of gambling companies influencing match outcomes.
- (C) Incorrect: The passage does not mention any changes to tax policies on IPL sponsors.
- (D) Incorrect: The ban is on specific types of companies, not all foreign businesses.

2.

Ans: C

Explanation:

Reference from Passage:

The passage states, **“The same scrutiny will follow Pat Cummins and other key players, as the IPL not only sets the tone for the cricketing calendar but also provides crucial insights into the form and fitness of the game’s biggest names when the time comes for performance on the international stage.”** This means IPL performances help assess a player’s readiness for international cricket.

Incorrect Options:

- (A) Incorrect: The passage does not specifically mention a Test series against India.
- (B) Incorrect: No mention is made of long-term contracts requiring players to stay in India.
- (D) Incorrect: No player is captaining multiple teams at the same time.

3.

Ans: A

Explanation:

Reference from Passage:

The passage states, **“Once, the Ranji Trophy was the primary gateway to India’s national team; today, the IPL serves as an escalator, fast-tracking talent into the international arena.”**

This indicates that IPL is now the dominant platform for identifying emerging cricketers.

Incorrect Options:

(B) Incorrect: While competition has increased, the passage focuses on IPL’s role in selection rather than the difficulty of selection.

(C) Incorrect: Domestic cricket is still relevant, but IPL has become a faster route; the passage does not suggest domestic performances are irrelevant.

(D) Incorrect: Selectors do not directly pick players from U-19 teams; IPL performances influence selection.

4.

Ans: B

Explanation:

Reference from Passage:

"Last year, when the question arose in the midst of the multi-phase general election, the ECI took the position that it had no legal mandate to disclose details of Form 17-C, part one, to anyone other than the candidate or its polling agent."

Incorrect Options:

(A) Incorrect: The ECI did not voluntarily release the details.

(C) Incorrect: The ECI initially resisted making Form 17-C publicly available.

(D) Incorrect: The passage does not state that the ECI uploaded Form 17-C immediately.

5.

Ans: D

Explanation:

Reference from Passage:

"The main grouse of political parties and activists is that the discrepancies, in the absence of the absolute number of votes cast but with only turnout percentages in hand, would raise suspicions about the whole process when the final results are released."

Incorrect Options:

(A) Incorrect: The passage does not mention tampering with voting machines.

(B) Incorrect: The passage does not mention the necessity of demographic data.

(C) Incorrect: The demand is based on transparency, not future influence.

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