

The Hindu EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

22nd 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. Retaliation (प्रतिशोध)

- **Meaning:** The action of returning a military attack or responding to an injury or wrong.
- **Synonyms:** Revenge, retribution, vengeance
- **Antonyms:** Forgiveness, mercy, pardon
- **Example:** Russia's threat of nuclear retaliation has raised concerns across the globe.

2. Surreptitiously (गुप्त रूप से)

- **Meaning:** Done in a secret or stealthy way.
- **Synonyms:** Secretly, covertly, stealthily
- **Antonyms:** Openly, overtly, publicly
- **Example:** Israel is believed to have surreptitiously developed its nuclear arsenal over the years.

3. Prolong (लंबा करना)

- **Meaning:** To extend the duration of something.
- **Synonyms:** Extend, lengthen, stretch
- **Antonyms:** Shorten, curtail, abridge
- **Example:** Russia's nuclear threats have prolonged the war, causing more suffering.

4. Brazenly (निर्लज्जता से)

- **Meaning:** In a bold and shameless way.
- **Synonyms:** Shamelessly, audaciously
- **Antonyms:** Humbly, modestly, cautiously
- **Example:** The government brazenly continued its military campaign despite international condemnation.

5. Proliferation (प्रसार)

- **Meaning:** Rapid increase in numbers or the spread of something, especially weapons.
- **Synonyms:** Expansion, spread, escalation
- **Antonyms:** Reduction, containment, decrease
- **Example:** The proliferation of nuclear weapons in West Asia poses a significant global threat.

6. Disparity (असमानता)

- **Meaning: A great difference between things or people**
- **Synonyms: Inequality, discrepancy, divergence**
- **Antonyms: Equality, similarity, uniformity**
- **Example: The economic disparity between developed and developing nations continues to widen.**

7. Mitigate (कम करना, हल्का करना)

- **Meaning:** To reduce the severity or impact of something
- **Synonyms:** Alleviate, lessen, ease
- **Antonyms:** Worsen, intensify, aggravate
- **Example:** The new policy aims to mitigate the effects of rising temperatures.

8. Endorse (समर्थन करना, अनुमोदन करना)

- **Meaning:** To publicly or officially support something
- **Synonyms:** Approve, support, authorize
- **Antonyms:** Oppose, reject, disapprove
- **Example:** Several environmental groups endorsed the new climate policy.

9. Contentious (विवादास्पद)

- **Meaning:** Causing or likely to cause an argument or controversy.
- **Synonyms:** Controversial, debatable, disputable
- **Antonyms:** Uncontroversial, agreeable, undisputed
- **Example:** The new tax policy has become a contentious issue among political parties.

10. Unrelenting (दृढ़)

- **Meaning:** Not yielding in strength, severity, or determination.
- **Synonyms:** Persistent, relentless, unwavering
- **Antonyms:** Lenient, yielding, flexible
- **Example:** The unrelenting heat of the desert made the journey extremely difficult.

VOCABULARY

One-word substitute:

1. A person or thing that is the center of attention or admiration:

Cynosure

2. To speak or act in an evasive or deceptive way; to avoid telling the truth:

Prevaricate

3. The belief in avoiding war and violence, advocating peaceful resolutions:

Pacifism

4. Capable of making mistakes or being wrong:

Fallible

VOCABULARY

Phrasal Verbs:

1. Get by

Meaning: To manage or survive, especially with limited resources.

2. Look forward to

Meaning: To anticipate something with excitement or pleasure.

3. Show up

Meaning: To arrive or appear, often unexpectedly or late.

4. Give in

Meaning: To stop resisting; to surrender or yield to something.

VOCABULARY

Idioms & Phrases

1. Draw a longbow

Meaning - to exaggerate in telling stories

2. Run around the circles

Meaning - to keep doing or talking about the same thing without achieving anything

3. Boil the ocean

Meaning - undertaking an impossible task

VOCABULARY

4. Down for the count

Meaning - having failed in something that you are doing

5. Step up your game

Meaning - to enhance performance, quality, skills, or talents

Article for Reading

Heat plan: On Indian cities and heat-related preparedness

Summer has arrived early in several parts of India. In the last week of February, heatwaves were officially reported in Goa and Maharashtra. States such as Odisha, Telangana, and Maharashtra have already recorded temperatures exceeding 40°C. Throughout most of February, 31 States and Union Territories experienced night temperatures at least 1°C above normal, with 22 States and Union Territories reporting night temperatures that were 3°C to 5°C above normal. Given that February is classified as 'winter' by the India Meteorological Department, these are signposts that point toward new climate normals. Scientists have long warned that rising global temperatures — both on land and sea — will result in more intense and frequent heatwaves. This underscores the need for countries and States to prepare for heat events just as they do for earthquakes or floods.

However, a recent study by the Sustainable Futures Collaborative, which examined heat-related preparedness in nine Indian cities, found that none had long-term plans in place. Most responses are limited to short-term emergency measures such as providing drinking water, adjusting work hours, and boosting hospital capacity during heatwaves. Crucial long-term interventions such as ensuring access to household or occupational cooling for vulnerable populations, insuring workers against lost income on extremely hot days, improving fire management, and upgrading electricity grids for reliability are missing. Few cities have even begun planning for expanded local weather monitoring, mapping urban heat islands, or training those responsible for implementing heat plans. Other strategies, which include increasing green cover, creating open spaces to reduce heat, and deploying rooftop solar for active cooling, are often carried out without targeting the populations that are most at risk.

While global efforts to combat climate change largely focus on cutting greenhouse gas emissions, the limited progress on that front is shifting attention to adaptation — particularly in managing responses to heat. Affordable cooling devices are frequently recommended, but they raise concerns about increased use of ozone-depleting refrigerants. Experts now advocate having sustainable buildings, green infrastructure, and passive cooling solutions, although these too can impact land prices and urban planning. India must develop a comprehensive national heat strategy and embed it within its National Adaptation Plan ahead of the 30th UN Climate Change Conference (COP30) in Brazil in November.

Summary

The passage discusses the early onset of summer and rising temperatures across India, highlighting the increasing frequency of heatwaves as a sign of shifting climate patterns. Scientists warn that global warming will lead to more extreme heat events, necessitating better preparedness. However, a study finds that Indian cities lack long-term heat mitigation plans, focusing only on short-term emergency responses. Critical interventions such as occupational cooling, fire management, and electricity grid upgrades are missing. While climate efforts largely emphasize reducing emissions, the focus is shifting to adaptation strategies like green infrastructure, passive cooling, and sustainable buildings. The passage underscores the need for India to formulate a comprehensive national heat strategy within its National Adaptation Plan before COP30 in Brazil.

Tone:

The tone of the passage is urgent and cautionary. It emphasizes the severity of rising temperatures and the inadequacy of current responses while advocating for immediate and long-term climate adaptation measures.

Reading Comprehension

Based on the above passage, answer the following questions:

Question 1:

What does the passage indicate about the changing climate patterns in India?

- (A) India's winter season is becoming more prolonged due to climate change.**
- (B) The rising frequency of heatwaves in February suggests shifting climate norms.**
- (C) The India Meteorological Department has reclassified February as summer.**
- (D) Heatwaves in India are primarily caused by local weather disturbances rather than global warming.**
- (E) None of the above**

Question 2:

According to the passage, what is the primary concern regarding current heatwave preparedness in India?

- (A) Cities focus only on long-term solutions while ignoring emergency responses.**
- (B) Indian cities do not implement any strategies to tackle heatwaves.**
- (C) Most cities lack long-term heat adaptation strategies and rely on short-term emergency measures.**
- (D) The government has already implemented sufficient cooling and adaptation strategies.**
- (E) None of the above**

Question 3:

Why do experts express concerns about promoting affordable cooling devices as a heatwave solution?

- (A) They may cause a significant increase in energy consumption and urban heating.**
- (B) They are expensive and cannot be implemented on a large scale.**
- (C) They might lead to higher reliance on ozone-depleting refrigerants.**
- (D) They are ineffective in reducing indoor temperatures during extreme heat.**
- (E) None of the above**

Article for Skimming

**Navigating
differences: On
India-New Zealand
ties**

At the 10th edition of the Raisina Dialogue, visiting New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon — the conference's chief guest — outlined three major geopolitical shifts shaping the world: the replacement of rules with power, the rise of security over economic considerations, and a move from trade efficiency to protectionism and resilient supply chains among trusted partners. In this context, Mr. Luxon suggested that India and New Zealand, despite their size disparity, could be ideal partners. Both democracies share an interest in ensuring freedom of nav

They also agreed to restart talks on a free trade agreement, aiming to expand their modest bilateral trade, currently under \$2 billion. However, challenges remain, particularly around market access for dairy and agricultural products, which contributed to India's decision to exit the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), of which New Zealand is a member. In contrast, New Zealand's trade with China stands at approximately \$24 billion, despite broader strategic concerns. Connectivity between the two nations received a boost, with Air India and Air New Zealand signing a codeshare agreement that may also lead to the first direct flights between the countries by the end of 2028. Despite the positive tone, Mr. Modi voiced concern over "anti-India activities by certain illegal elements" in New Zealand, referencing protests and a Khalistan referendum held by the 'Sikhs for Justice' group in Auckland last November.

Although previously discussed between the Foreign Ministers, New Zealand police had ruled the protests to be lawful. In response, Mr. Luxon reaffirmed New Zealand's commitment to free expression and noted the importance of not importing foreign political conflicts into its diverse immigrant communities. While such concerns are legitimate, raising them publicly risks deepening divisions within the 3,00,000-strong Indian diaspora and overshadowing growing strategic and economic ties. These sensitive issues may be better handled through diplomatic engagement in private. Ultimately, India and New Zealand stand to benefit from greater collaboration — particularly in trade, defence, and regional stability — as two democracies that “book-end” the Indo-Pacific.

Question 4:

What aspect of India–New Zealand relations did Mr. Luxon emphasize during his visit?

- (A) India's potential inclusion in the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).**
- (B) New Zealand's interest in joining the Quad as a full member.**
- (C) The shared commitment to ensuring freedom of navigation in the Indo-Pacific.**
- (D) A formal military alliance between India and New Zealand.**
- (E) None of the above**

Question 5:

What recent development in India–New Zealand relations is expected to improve connectivity between the two countries?

- (A) The signing of a new defence treaty.**
- (B) The inclusion of New Zealand in India's regional trade agreements.**
- (C) A mutual visa waiver agreement for citizens of both countries.**
- (D) A codeshare agreement between Air India and Air New Zealand, potentially leading to direct flights.**
- (E) None of the above**

Today's Descriptive Question

Precis Writing:

Original Text:

The automobile industry, a key driver of global economic growth, has been facing a severe crisis in recent years due to multiple challenges. The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted supply chains, production, and demand, causing significant losses to automakers worldwide. Even as the industry recovered from the pandemic, new challenges emerged, including semiconductor shortages, rising raw material costs, inflation, and shifting consumer preferences. One of the biggest hurdles has been the global chip shortage, which has severely impacted vehicle production, delaying deliveries and increasing costs. Additionally, fluctuating fuel prices and stringent environmental regulations have pushed manufacturers to transition towards electric vehicles (EVs), requiring heavy investments in new technology and infrastructure. However, the adoption of EVs has been slow due to high costs, inadequate charging infrastructure, and consumer skepticism.

Economic uncertainty, including high interest rates and inflation, has also affected consumer purchasing power, leading to declining vehicle sales in many markets. Geopolitical tensions and trade restrictions have further strained supply chains, making it difficult for companies to access essential components. Additionally, the rise of shared mobility services and changing urban transportation trends has reduced demand for personal vehicle ownership.

To overcome these challenges, automakers are focusing on diversifying supply chains, investing in EV technology, and adopting digital innovations such as AI-driven manufacturing and smart vehicle systems. Governments are also supporting the industry through subsidies, tax incentives, and infrastructure development to facilitate the transition to sustainable mobility. While the crisis has shaken the industry, it also presents an opportunity for transformation and long-term growth.

Precis:

The automobile industry is in crisis due to COVID-19 disruptions, semiconductor shortages, rising costs, and shifting consumer trends. The transition to electric vehicles (EVs) is slow due to high costs and infrastructure challenges, while inflation and geopolitical issues further strain the sector. To recover, automakers are diversifying supply chains, adopting digital innovations, and investing in EV technology, with government support playing a crucial role in the industry's transformation.

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Write an email to employees and clients informing them about the closure.**

To:@gmail.com

Subject: Temporary Office Closure Due to Maintenance Work

Dear [Employees/Clients],

We would like to inform you that our office will be temporarily closed from [Start Date] to [End Date] due to essential maintenance work. During this period, our team will be available remotely to assist you with any queries or concerns.

For any urgent matters, please feel free to reach out to us at [Alternate Contact Information]. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and appreciate your understanding and cooperation.

Thank you for your patience, and we look forward to resuming normal operations soon.

**Best regards,
[Your Name]
[Your Designation]
[Company Name]**

Match the column

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1. Draw a longbow | A. having failed in something that you are doing |
| 2. Run around the circle | B. undertaking an impossible task |
| 3. Boil the ocean | C. to enhance performance |
| 4. Down for the count | D. to exaggerate in telling stories |
| 5. Step up your game | E. to keep doing the same thing without achieving anything |

Answer:

1-d

2-e

3-b

4-a

5-c

Vocabulary

1. Retaliation:
2. Surreptitiously:
3. Prolong:
4. Brazenly:
5. Proliferation:
6. Disparity:
7. Mitigate:
8. Endorse:
9. Contentious:
10. Unrelenting:

Rc ans

1.

Ana: B

Explanation:

Reference from Passage:

"Given that February is classified as 'winter' by the India Meteorological Department, these are signposts that point toward new climate normals."

Incorrect Options:

(A) Incorrect: The passage discusses early summer, not prolonged winter.

(C) Incorrect: February is still classified as winter by the IMD.

(D) Incorrect: The passage attributes the heatwaves to rising global temperatures.

2.

Ans: C

Explanation:

Reference from Passage:

"Most responses are limited to short-term emergency measures such as providing drinking water, adjusting work hours, and boosting hospital capacity during heatwaves. Crucial long-term interventions... are missing."

Incorrect Options:

(A) Incorrect: The passage states that short-term responses dominate, not long-term ones.

(B) Incorrect: Some strategies are in place, but they are short-term.

(D) Incorrect: The passage argues that efforts are insufficient.

3.

Ans: C

Explanation:

Reference from Passage:

"Affordable cooling devices are frequently recommended, but they raise concerns about increased use of ozone-depleting refrigerants."

Incorrect Options:

- (A) Incorrect: The passage does not mention urban heating as a consequence.
- (B) Incorrect: The concern is about environmental impact, not cost.
- (D) Incorrect: The effectiveness of cooling devices is not questioned.

4.

Ans: C

Explanation:

Reference from Passage:

"Both democracies share an interest in ensuring freedom of navigation in the Indo-Pacific."

Incorrect Options:

- (A) Incorrect: India exited RCEP, and there is no mention of reconsidering this decision.
- (B) Incorrect: New Zealand does not seek Quad membership.
- (D) Incorrect: The MoU focuses on cooperation but does not establish a military alliance.

5.

Ans: D

Explanation:

Reference from Passage:

"Connectivity between the two nations received a boost, with Air India and Air New Zealand signing a codeshare agreement that may also lead to the first direct flights between the countries by the end of 2028."

Incorrect Options:

(A), (B), and (C) are Incorrect: None of these developments are mentioned in the passage.

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