

The Hindu EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

25th 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. Reckless (लापरवाह)

- **Meaning:** Without thinking or caring about the consequences of an action.
- **Synonyms:** Careless, heedless, rash
- **Antonyms:** Cautious, careful, prudent
- **Example:** His reckless decision to invest all his money in a failing business led to bankruptcy.

2. Indisputable (अविवादित)

- **Meaning:** Unable to be challenged or denied.
- **Synonyms:**
Unquestionable,
undeniable, irrefutable
- **Antonyms:** Debatable,
questionable, disputable
- **Example:** The scientist presented indisputable evidence to support his theory.

3. Malevolence (द्वेष)

- **Meaning:** The state of wishing harm or evil upon others.
- **Synonyms:** Malice, hostility, ill-will
- **Antonyms:** Benevolence, kindness, goodwill
- **Example:** His malevolence towards his rival was evident in his harsh words and actions.

4. Dismantling (विघटन)

- **Meaning:** The process of taking apart or disassembling something.
- **Synonyms:** Demolition, disassembling, breaking down
- **Antonyms:** Construction, assembling, building
- **Example:** The government's decision to begin dismantling the education department sparked widespread protests.

5. Denounced (निंदा की)

- **Meaning:** Publicly declared to be wrong or evil.
- **Synonyms:** Condemned, criticized, censured
- **Antonyms:** Praised, endorsed, commended
- **Example:** The human rights organization denounced the government's oppressive policies.

6. Bounty (भरपूरता)

- **Meaning:** A generous amount of something, often referring to nature's abundance.
- **Synonyms:** Abundance, plenty, richness
- **Antonyms:** Scarcity, deficiency, shortage
- **Example:** The forest provides a bounty of fruits and herbs for the indigenous people.

7. Foraged (इकट्ठा किया गया)

- **Meaning:** Searched widely for food or resources.
- **Synonyms:** Gathered, scavenged, hunted
- **Antonyms:** Stored, hoarded, neglected
- **Example:** The indigenous people foraged for wild berries and mushrooms in the forest.

8. Interpolated (अनुमानित)

- **Meaning:** To insert something into a text or data, especially to estimate based on available data.
- **Synonyms:** Inserted, added, inferred
- **Antonyms:** Removed, excluded, subtracted
- **Example:** The scientist interpolated missing data points to complete the experiment's results.

9. Perennial (दीर्घकालिक , निरंतर)

- **Meaning:** Lasting or existing for a long or apparently infinite time.
- **Synonyms:** Everlasting, enduring, constant
- **Antonyms:** Temporary, fleeting, short-lived
- **Example:** The perennial problem of traffic congestion required a long-term solution from city planners.

10. Umbrage (नाराज़गी , अपमान)

- **Meaning:** A feeling of being offended or resentful.
- **Synonyms:** Offense, resentment, indignation, annoyance
- **Antonyms:** Satisfaction, contentment, delight
- **Example:** She took umbrage at his sarcastic remarks during the meeting.

VOCABULARY

One-word substitute:

1. A policy of extending a country's power and influence through diplomacy or military force:

Imperialism

2. A person who believes that all events are predetermined and inevitable:

Fatalist

3. Unable to be corrected, reformed, or controlled:

Incorrigible

4. A person or group that is unfairly blamed for the mistakes or faults of others:

Scapegoat

VOCABULARY

Phrasal Verbs:

1. Carry out

Meaning: To perform or complete a task, order, or instruction.

2. Drop off

Meaning: To take someone or something to a specific place and leave them there; to fall asleep.

3. Get away with

Meaning: To escape blame or punishment for something.

4. Look up to

Meaning: To admire or respect someone.

VOCABULARY

Idioms & Phrases

1. On the back burner

Meaning: in the position of something that will not receive immediate attention

2. In the same boat

Meaning - in a similar situation

3. Get the ball rolling

Meaning - to make something begin

VOCABULARY

4. At the helm

Meaning - something is in charge or in command

5. Pig Out

Meaning - to eat a lot or too much

Article for Reading

**Lessons not learnt:
on Trump and the
Department of
Education**

A new broom sweeps clean, but reckless change serves little purpose. After targeting health care — pulling the United States out of the World Health Organization and paralysing USAID — U.S. President Donald Trump has turned to another cornerstone of the state: education, whose long-term significance to any nation is indisputable. Last week, he signed an executive order to “begin eliminating” the federal Department of Education (DoE), vowing to shut it down “as quickly as possible”. Established in 1979, the DoE administers federal student loans for college and university students, and provides targeted support for disadvantaged groups, including students from low-income families and those with disabilities. As in India, public K-12 schools in the U.S. are primarily managed at the State level, with only a fraction of their funding coming from the federal government.

Yet the DoE plays a critical role in ensuring a baseline of equity. White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt defended the executive order by citing decades of “failing test scores” and low student performance, despite over \$3 trillion in federal spending. “What has been the return on that investment for the American taxpayer?” she asked. But demanding a measurable return on investment on public welfare is not just misguided — it borders on malevolence. It targets the most vulnerable students and risks stripping away their only path out of adversity. The Department of Education has long been in the cross hairs of Conservatives; since the Reagan era, abolishing it has been a Republican aspiration. But no one has come closer to realising that goal than Mr. Trump. Even before signing this order, the department’s workforce had been nearly halved, with abrupt terminations issued under the Elon Musk-led Department of Government Efficiency — now a hallmark of the new administration’s approach.

Critics have denounced the move, arguing that if student outcomes are truly the concern, efforts should first focus on reforming and strengthening the system, and not dismantling it. Crucially, the executive order cannot take full effect without Congressional approval — and it remains to be seen whether Mr. Trump's political will can carry it through. Already, lawsuits are being filed in federal courts, challenging the order's legality. The future of millions of disadvantaged students hangs in the balance. It is up to the rest of the U.S. to ensure that a lifeline is not pulled out.

Summary

The article discusses U.S. President Donald Trump's executive order to dismantle the Department of Education (DoE), citing ineffective federal spending on education. The DoE, established in 1979, plays a crucial role in providing federal student loans and support for disadvantaged students. Critics argue that abolishing the department would harm the most vulnerable students rather than improving educational outcomes. While Trump's administration has already reduced the DoE's workforce, the order still requires Congressional approval and faces legal challenges. The article emphasizes the risks associated with this decision and the broader impact on educational equity.

Tone:

The tone is critical and concerned, highlighting the potential dangers of eliminating the DoE and its impact on disadvantaged students. The article also conveys a sense of urgency and apprehension regarding the administration's approach to public welfare and education policy.

Reading Comprehension

Based on the above passage, answer the following questions:

Question 1:

What is the primary concern raised by critics regarding the elimination of the Department of Education?

- (A) It would reduce federal control over education, giving too much power to individual states.**
- (B) It risks harming disadvantaged students who rely on federal support for education.**
- (C) The decision is financially motivated, prioritizing budget cuts over student welfare.**
- (D) It is part of a larger effort to reduce government interference in private institutions.**
- (E) None of the above**

Question 2:

What justification did White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt give for eliminating the DoE?

- (A) The federal government has overspent on education without achieving improved student performance.**
- (B) State governments are more capable of managing education than federal agencies.**
- (C) The DoE has consistently violated constitutional principles by overstepping federal authority.**
- (D) Eliminating the DoE will increase funding for low-income students at the state level.**
- (E) None of the above**

Question 3:

What rhetorical stance does the passage take regarding the decision to eliminate the Department of Education?

- (A) Neutral, presenting arguments from both sides without favoring one.**
- (B) Supportive, emphasizing the need for reducing federal education spending.**
- (C) Critical, highlighting the risks and potential harm to disadvantaged students.**
- (D) Indifferent, acknowledging the change but not expressing any strong stance.**
- (E) None of the above**

Article for Skimming

**Food from the
woods: the forgotten
link to climate
resilience**

Another International Day of Forests was observed on March 21, and beyond symbolic gestures, it is time to acknowledge the role of forests in mitigating the planetary poly-crises of the Anthropocene. Forests are often called the lungs of the planet, but they are also its hidden kitchens. Yet, across the world, indigenous food systems that once thrived within forests are rapidly disappearing. In this context, this year's theme, "Forests and food", could not be more relevant. Food systems account for a staggering one-third of global greenhouse gas emissions, while simultaneously fuelling deforestation, biodiversity loss, and land degradation. Yet, a key solution lies hidden in plain sight — reviving forest-based food systems as a low-cost, climate-resilient alternative. Our research on the indigenous Soliga community of the Biligiri Rangana Hills, or B.R. Hills, in Karnataka offers ample clues on how forests are intertwined with food, health, livelihoods, and the overall sense of well-being or "flourishing" of the community. For generations, the Soligas have depended on the forest's bounty such as wild berries, tubers, mushrooms, and small game, ensuring a varied and nutritious diet.

Additionally, the practice of shifting cultivation, with millets, legumes, and vegetables grown in the forest environment, has been central to their food security. The recipes of traditional Soliga foods we collected bear testimony to this: their meals are dominated by locally foraged greens such as karavadi soppu (balloon vine), seege soppu (dill), areagge soppu (amaranth), and sasive soppu (mustard), along with legumes such as avarekalu (hyacinth beans), alasande (cowpea), and hurali (horse gram), and tubers. These ingredients are cooked using pepper corns and chilli, with little oil or fat. This way of cooking reflects the richness of the locally available bounty and their deep connection to the forest. However, many of these resources are now becoming scarce, or in some cases, completely lost, highlighting a fading way of life that once thrived in balance with nature. Over the years, this forest-farm-food connection has unravelled particularly because of conservation policies that have reshaped the socio-economic and environmental landscape of the region.

One of the most significant changes came with the resettlement of the Soliga tribes to the periphery of the forest for designating the B.R. Hills as a protected area for biodiversity conservation in 1974. This relocation has profoundly disrupted their ability to access wild food resources and maintain their customary food practices. Furthermore, conservation policies introduced a ban on traditional litter-fire practices, which the Soligas had historically used to manage their agricultural lands. This practice of controlled burning was not only important for maintaining the health of the forests but also for cultivating specific crops that thrive in nutrient-rich, fire-managed soil. With the prohibition of fire practices, the forests have undergone significant ecological shifts, including the spread of the invasive Lantana species which has choked the native flora and diminished the availability of traditional food and medicinal plants, as other ecological studies from BR hills show.

Question 4:

Which of the following best describes the impact of conservation policies on the Soliga community's food practices?

- (A) Conservation policies have reduced deforestation, thereby improving food security for the Soliga people.**
- (B) Shifting cultivation has thrived due to government support for indigenous food systems.**
- (C) The relocation of the Soliga community has disrupted their ability to access traditional food resources.**
- (D) The introduction of modern agricultural techniques has enhanced the nutritional quality of Soliga diets.**
- (E) None of the above**

Question 5:

Which of the following best captures the tone of the passage?

- (A) Optimistic, highlighting the resurgence of indigenous food systems as a global trend.**
- (B) Critical, pointing out the disruptions caused by conservation policies on traditional food systems.**
- (C) Neutral, presenting both sides of the argument without any clear stance.**
- (D) Cynical, arguing that indigenous food systems are doomed due to modern interventions.**
- (E) None of the above**

Parajumble:

P. Britain's last coal-fired power plant will close on Monday, ending 142 years of coal-generated electricity in the nation that sparked the Industrial Revolution.

Q. The shutdown of Ratcliffe makes Britain the first country from the Group of Seven major economies to phase out coal.

R. However, some European nations, including Sweden and Belgium, reached this milestone earlier.

S. The Ratcliffe-on-Soar station in central England is to finish its final shift at midnight, after more than half a century of turning coal into power.

T. Owner of the Ratcliffe, Uniper, says many of the 170 remaining employees will stay on during a two-year decommissioning process.

Today's Descriptive Question

Precis Writing:

Original Text:

Technology has revolutionized agriculture, enhancing productivity, efficiency, and sustainability. With the increasing global demand for food, technological advancements play a crucial role in modernizing traditional farming methods and addressing challenges like climate change, water scarcity, and soil degradation. One of the most significant innovations in agriculture is precision farming, which utilizes satellite imagery, GPS, and IoT (Internet of Things) to optimize resource use. Farmers can now monitor soil health, predict weather patterns, and apply fertilizers and pesticides more efficiently, reducing waste and improving crop yields. Drones and sensors are widely used for real-time surveillance of farmlands, enabling early detection of pest infestations and diseases, thus minimizing losses.

Another breakthrough is the use of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning, which help analyze vast amounts of agricultural data to make informed decisions on crop rotation, irrigation, and harvesting schedules. Automated irrigation systems conserve water by supplying the exact amount required, ensuring sustainability in regions facing water shortages. Biotechnology has also transformed agriculture through the development of genetically modified (GM) crops, which offer higher yields and resistance to pests and extreme weather conditions. Additionally, vertical farming and hydroponics are emerging as solutions for urban agriculture, reducing dependency on traditional farmlands. With the rise of agritech startups, mobile applications, and digital marketplaces, farmers can now access real-time market prices, weather updates, and financial services, empowering small and marginal farmers.

The integration of blockchain technology ensures transparency in supply chains, reducing fraud and enhancing food security. Despite its benefits, challenges such as high initial investment costs, lack of awareness, and limited access to technology in rural areas remain. Governments and private sectors must collaborate to promote digital literacy, invest in rural infrastructure, and provide financial support to ensure that technological advancements benefit all farmers. As technology continues to evolve, its integration with agriculture will be key to achieving sustainable and efficient food production for future generations.

Precis:

Technology is transforming agriculture by enhancing efficiency, productivity, and sustainability. Precision farming, AI, drones, and IoT help optimize resource use, while automated irrigation and biotechnology improve yields and resilience. Digital tools and blockchain enhance market access and transparency, empowering farmers. However, challenges like high costs and rural accessibility persist. Collaboration between governments and private sectors is essential to ensure widespread adoption of agricultural technology for sustainable food production.

- **Your company has updated its remote work policy. Write an email to employees explaining the new changes.**

To:@gmail.com

Subject: Important Update: Changes to Our Remote Work Policy

Dear Team,

We hope this email finds you well. We are reaching out to inform you about updates to our remote work policy, effective [effective date]. These changes are aimed at improving collaboration, productivity, and work-life balance while maintaining the flexibility that remote work offers.

Key Updates:

[Specify Change 1] – Example: Employees are now required to work from the office at least [X] days per week.

[Specify Change 2] – Example: Core working hours have been adjusted to ensure better team coordination.

[Specify Change 3] – Example: New guidelines for remote work equipment and security protocols.

Please review the updated policy document attached for full details. If you have any questions or need further clarification, feel free to reach out to [HR contact] or your manager.

Thank you for your cooperation and commitment to making this transition smooth. We appreciate your continued dedication and look forward to working together under this updated policy.

Best regards,

[Your Name]

[Your Position]

[Company Name]

Match the column

1. On the back burner
2. In the same boat
3. Get the ball rolling
4. At the helm
5. Pig Out

- A. In a similar situation
- B. Something is in charge or in command
- C. To eat a lot or too much
- D. To make something begin
- E. A state of temporary suspension

Answer:

1-e

2-a

3-d

4-b

5-c

Vocabulary

1. Reckless:
2. Indisputable:
3. Malevolence:
4. Dismantling:
5. Denounced:
6. Bounty:
7. Foraged:
8. Interpolated:
9. Perennial:
10. Umbrage:

Rc ans

1.

Ans: B

Explanation:

Reference from Passage:

"It targets the most vulnerable students and risks stripping away their only path out of adversity."

Explanation of Incorrect Options:

(A) Incorrect: While state-level control is discussed, the main concern is not just state autonomy, but the impact on equity in education.

(C) Incorrect: Although the passage mentions financial concerns, the focus is on harm to students rather than just cost-cutting.

(D) Incorrect: The passage does not indicate a specific focus on private institutions; rather, it discusses public welfare.

2.

Ans: A

Explanation:

Reference from Passage:

"White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt defended the executive order by citing decades of 'failing test scores' and low student performance, despite over \$3 trillion in federal spending."

Explanation of Incorrect Options:

(B) Incorrect: The passage does not state that state governments are more capable than the federal government.

(C) Incorrect: The DoE's elimination is not framed as a constitutional issue in the passage.

(D) Incorrect: There is no indication that eliminating the DoE will increase funding for low-income students.

3.

Ans: C

Explanation:

Reference from Passage:

"But demanding a measurable return on investment on public welfare is not just misguided — it borders on malevolence. It targets the most vulnerable students and risks stripping away their only path out of adversity."

Explanation of Incorrect Options:

- (A) Incorrect: The passage does not present a neutral stance; it is clearly critical.
- (B) Incorrect: The passage does not support the elimination of the DoE.
- (D) Incorrect: The passage strongly expresses concern, showing engagement rather than indifference.

4.

Ans: C

Explanation:

Reference from Passage:

"One of the most significant changes came with the resettlement of the Soliga tribes to the periphery of the forest... This relocation has profoundly disrupted their ability to access wild food resources and maintain their customary food practices."

Explanation of Incorrect Options:

(A) Incorrect: The passage does not suggest that conservation policies have reduced deforestation in a way that benefits food security.

(B) Incorrect: The passage states that shifting cultivation has been negatively affected, not that it has thrived.

(D) Incorrect: There is no mention of modern agricultural techniques enhancing the Soliga diet.

5.

Ans: B

Explanation:

Reference from Passage:

"Over the years, this forest-farm-food connection has unravelled particularly because of conservation policies that have reshaped the socio-economic and environmental landscape of the region."

Explanation of Incorrect Options:

- (A) Incorrect: The passage does not suggest an optimistic resurgence of indigenous food systems.
- (C) Incorrect: The passage takes a clear stance against policies that harm indigenous food practices.
- (D) Incorrect: While the passage is critical, it is not cynical or dismissive of potential solutions.

Para jumbles Answer:

The correct order of the given sentences in the paragraph is **PSTQR**. **P** begins the paragraph by mentioning how Britain's last coal-fired power plant will shut down. **S** comes next. It explains the name of the plant - Ratcliffe-on-Soar station, which will complete its final shift at midnight, ending over 50 years of coal-based power generation. **T** follows **S**. It mentions the statement made by the owner of the plant. **QR** is another mandatory pair and follows **T**. **Q** adds another aspect how the shutdown of Ratcliffe makes Britain the first G7 nation to phase out coal though some other European nations, including Sweden and Belgium, got there sooner (**continued by R**).

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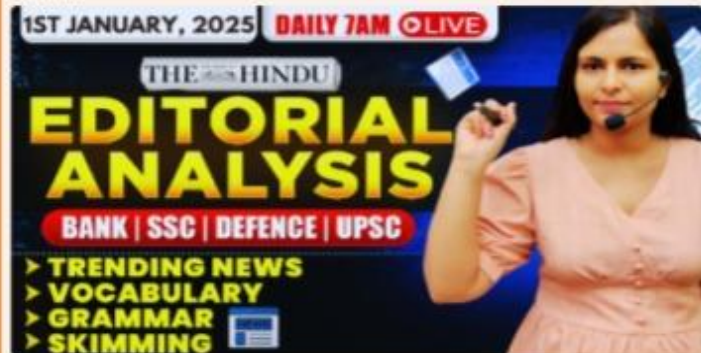
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