

The Hindu EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

22nd February 2025

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

1. Amenable (आज्ञाकारी)

- **Meaning:** Open and responsive to suggestion; easily persuaded or controlled.
- **Synonyms:** Obedient, compliant, acquiescent
- **Antonyms:** Uncooperative, resistant, defiant
- **Example:** The new employee was amenable to feedback and quickly adapted to the company's working style.

2. Undermine (कमज़ोर करना)

- **Meaning:** To weaken or damage something, especially gradually.
- **Synonyms:** Weaken, erode, sabotage
- **Antonyms:** Strengthen, bolster, reinforce
- **Example:** The scandal served to undermine public confidence in the government.

3. Inextricably (अविच्छेद्य रूप से)

- **Meaning:** In a way that is impossible to separate.
- **Synonyms:** Inseparably, inevitably, indistinguishably
- **Antonyms:** Loosely, separably, disconnectably
- **Example:** The fate of the environment is inextricably linked to human actions.

4. Perpetuating (स्थायी बनाना)

- **Meaning:** To make something continue indefinitely.
- **Synonyms:** Prolonging, sustaining, maintaining
- **Antonyms:** Stopping, discontinuing, ending
- **Example:** The unfair policies are perpetuating economic disparities in society.

5. Vulnerability (असुरक्षा /संवेदनशीलता)

- **Meaning:** The state of being exposed to harm or attack.
- **Synonyms:** Weakness, susceptibility, exposure
- **Antonyms:** Security, protection, invulnerability
- **Example:** The coastal town's vulnerability to hurricanes made it necessary to improve disaster preparedness.

6. Adjudication (निर्णय/विवाद समाधान)

- **Meaning:** The process of making a formal judgment on a disputed matter.
- **Synonyms:** Decision, ruling, arbitration
- **Antonyms:** Indecision, inaction, delay
- **Example:** The adjudication of the case took several months due to its complexity.

7. Plague (पीड़ित करना/सताना)

- **Meaning:** To cause continual trouble or distress.
- **Synonyms:** Afflict, torment, trouble
- **Antonyms:** Relieve, comfort, soothe
- **Example:** Water shortages continue to plague several cities across the country.

8. Intrinsic (आंतरिक)

- **Meaning:** Belonging naturally; essential.
- **Synonyms:** Inherent, innate, fundamental
- **Antonyms:** Extrinsic, acquired, external
- **Example:** Judicial independence is intrinsic to a democratic system.

9. Abysmal (बहुत खराब)

- **Meaning:** Extremely bad or appalling.
- **Synonyms:** Terrible, dreadful, appalling.
- **Antonyms:** Excellent, commendable, admirable.
- **Example:** The abysmal state of primary healthcare in urban areas is concerning.

10. Insipid (नीरस)

- **Meaning:** Lacking vigor or interest; dull.
- **Synonyms:** Bland, lifeless, uninspiring
- **Antonyms:** Exciting, flavorful, lively
- **Example:** The speech was so insipid that the audience struggled to stay awake.

VOCABULARY

One-word substitute:

1. Ecophobia

Meaning – Fear of home or the environment

2. Zoophobia

Meaning – Fear of animals

3. Claustrophobia

Meaning – Fear of confined or small spaces

4. Hydrophobia

Meaning – Fear of water

VOCABULARY

Phrasal Verbs:

1. Step up to

Meaning: To take on a choice or responsibility when called upon.

2. Sort through

Meaning: To go through a collection and choose items selectively.

3. Come down to

Meaning: To make a decision based on the most important factors.

4. Stick to

Meaning: To remain with a particular choice or decision.

VOCABULARY

Idioms & Phrases

1. On the same wavelength

Meaning: to have a mutual understanding or shared views with someone

2. Break the internet

Meaning: to cause a sensation or go viral online, drawing massive attention

3. Bend over backward

Meaning: to make a great effort to help or accommodate someone

VOCABULARY

4. Bring to the table

Meaning: to contribute something of value, especially in a collaborative effort

5. Off the hook

Meaning: to be relieved from a difficult situation or responsibility

Article for Reading

**Building inclusive
climate resilience in
India's cities**

The Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill, 2024, which was passed in the Lok Sabha in December 2024, offers great promise to combat increasing climate woes that plague Indian cities. In 2024, like many of the years preceding it, cities experienced severe water shortages, floods, cyclones and extreme heat. However, the mismanagement of these extreme events is inextricably linked to the inability of those governing cities to allocate resources, plan for and respond to climate change. The proposed amendment's decree to establish urban disaster management authorities is a welcome step, but it risks perpetuating the exclusion of informal settlements with a business-as-usual approach. With nearly one in five urban Indians living in informal areas, these communities are at the frontlines of climate change.

However, planning and disaster response often excludes these settlements, leaving millions without the infrastructure and services needed to weather climate risks. Between 2020 and 2035, 200 million people are projected to move to Indian cities, reflecting the tremendous potential that they have to shape India's sustainable development trajectory. This rapid urbanisation presents both a challenge and an opportunity — cities must integrate informal contexts into long-term resilience strategies. Fortunately, several home-grown solutions already exist. In the recently launched report, From Informality to Impact: The Untapped Potential of Scaling Urban Resilience Innovation in Informal Settlement, Transitions Research and the Global Resilience Partnership 'assessed more than 130 resilience solutions being implemented in informal contexts across cities in the Global South'.

The report uses scalable solutions that are already yielding results in countries such as India, with lessons to ensure impactful resilience outcomes at scale.

Solutions co-created with communities and built on local knowledge can deliver long-term impact. Communities living in informal settlements often develop adaptation practices that can provide invaluable insights into building resilience. In Jodhpur, Rajasthan, the Mahila Housing Trust and the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) partnered with local women to map extreme heat risks leading to the Jodhpur Heat Action Plan, which is first in Rajasthan to include a detailed vulnerability assessment. By involving the community in data collection, the initiative identified at-risk populations and key adaptive resources such as health centres or water bodies, enabling the city to prioritise interventions where they are needed the most.

Summary

The Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill, 2024, passed in December 2024, aims to enhance urban resilience against climate-related disasters such as water shortages, floods, cyclones, and extreme heat. However, the mismanagement of these crises is linked to poor resource allocation and planning. The bill proposes urban disaster management authorities, but there is concern that informal settlements—where nearly 20% of urban Indians live—may still be overlooked in disaster planning. With 200 million people projected to move to cities by 2035, integrating informal communities into resilience strategies is crucial. A recent report, *From Informality to Impact*, highlights over 130 urban resilience solutions in the Global South, showcasing scalable models. One successful example is the Jodhpur Heat Action Plan, where local women helped map extreme heat risks, guiding city-level interventions. Such community-driven solutions, built on local knowledge, can significantly enhance disaster preparedness.

Tone:

The tone is analytical and solution-oriented, recognizing the bill's potential while emphasizing the need for inclusive and community-driven disaster management strategies.

Reading Comprehension

Based on the above passage, answer the following questions:

Question 1:

Which of the following is the “TRUE” statement based on the given passage?

I. The Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill, 2024, aims to address climate-related challenges in Indian cities.

II. Informal settlements are often excluded from urban planning and disaster response.

III. Rapid urbanisation in India presents no challenges for sustainable development.

(a) Only III

(b) Both I and II

(c) Both II and III

(d) Both I and III

(e) None of these

Question 2:

What does the passage suggest about community involvement in urban resilience initiatives?

- I. Community involvement can provide valuable insights for building resilience.**
- II. Communities in informal settlements often develop adaptation practices.**
- III. Community involvement is unnecessary for effective urban planning.**

- (a) Only I**
- (b) Both II and III**
- (c) Both I and II**
- (d) Only II**
- (e) None of these**

Question 3:

What does the passage suggest about the Jodhpur Heat Action Plan?

- (a) The Jodhpur Heat Action Plan excludes community involvement.**
- (b) The Jodhpur Heat Action Plan is the first in Rajasthan to incorporate a comprehensive vulnerability assessment.**
- (c) The Jodhpur Heat Action Plan has no impact on urban resilience.**
- (d) The Jodhpur Heat Action Plan focuses solely on water management.**
- (e) None of the above**

Article for Skimming

**Judges' dilemma: on
the judiciary, its
accountability**

The Lokpal's ruling that High Court judges are amenable to its jurisdiction and the Supreme Court order staying it on its own motion raise more than a mere question of law. The issue concerns both the independence of the judiciary and its accountability. That the Court, government law officers and senior advocates found the Lokpal's decision disturbing is understandable, as many believe that judicial independence will be undermined if judges of constitutional courts are made answerable to the Lokpal, even though they fall under the definition of 'public servant' under the Prevention of Corruption Act. The Lokpal view appears to be prima facie incorrect. There is nothing to suggest that superior court judges were ever considered to be under its remit.

Last month, the Lokpal, headed by former Supreme Court judge, A.M. Khanwilkar, rejected a corruption complaint against a former Chief Justice of India (CJI) on the ground that the Lokpal Act, 2013, did not concern apex court judges and that its reference to “persons” who are members of any body or authority created by an Act of Parliament cannot be applied to the Supreme Court, an institution established by the Constitution. However, in respect of High Court judges, it said High Courts established by statutes creating the respective States were statutory bodies, and their judges were “persons” within the meaning of Section 14 of the Lokpal Act. The independence of the judiciary was the foremost consideration when the Court held in K. Veeraswami vs Union of India (1991) that no case can be registered against them without consulting the CJI, even though it also said judges were public servants under the Prevention of Corruption Act.

Based on this principle, the Lokpal has referred the complaint to the CJI. While the Lokpal ruling is set to be reviewed, the time may have come to address the issue of accountability in the rare event of a credible corruption charge arising against a judge. The matter is now dealt with by the Court through an in-house procedure, initiated only if the Chief Justice of a High Court, or the CJI or the President receives a complaint. If the charges appear true, asking the judges concerned to resign, denying them judicial work or recommending their removal through Parliament are the options available. Some judges are transferred from one High Court to another, but whether a corruption charge is the reason is never disclosed. The Court should see if the present mechanism is enough or it needs to be expanded to include credible follow-up action such as an independent prosecution under its supervision. Both accountability and independence ought to be equally important for the judiciary.

Question 4:

Which of the following is the “TRUE” statement based on the given passage?

- I. The Lokpal determined that its jurisdiction extends to High Court judges.**
- II. The Supreme Court suo motu stayed the Lokpal’s ruling.**
- III. The Lokpal Act, 2013, explicitly includes Supreme Court judges under its jurisdiction.**

- (a) Only III**
- (b) Both I and II**
- (c) Both II and III**
- (d) Both I and III**
- (e) None of these**

Question 5:

Based on the passage, which of the following statements most accurately reflects the Lokpal's view on High Court judges?

- (a) High Court judges are not public servants under the Prevention of Corruption Act.**
- (b) High Court judges are not part of any body created by an Act of Parliament.**
- (c) High Court judges are exempt from any form of accountability.**
- (d) High Court judges are statutory authorities and fall under the Lokpal's jurisdiction.**
- (e) None of these**

Today's Descriptive Question

Precis Writing:

Original Text:

In the digital age, cybersecurity threats pose significant risks to individuals, businesses, and governments, as cybercriminals exploit vulnerabilities in technology to gain unauthorized access, steal sensitive data, or disrupt systems. These threats include malware, phishing, ransomware, denial-of-service (DoS) attacks, data breaches, and insider threats. As businesses and financial transactions shift online, the need for robust cybersecurity measures has become more critical than ever. One of the most common cybersecurity threats is phishing, where attackers trick users into revealing personal information through deceptive emails or websites. Malware and ransomware infect computer systems, encrypting data and demanding payment for its release. Data breaches expose sensitive information, leading to financial losses and reputational damage. Distributed Denial-of-Service (DDoS) attacks overwhelm servers with excessive traffic, causing website crashes and service disruptions.

Insider threats, where employees misuse their access to compromise security, also pose serious risks. Overcoming cybersecurity threats requires a multi-layered security approach. Organizations must implement strong firewalls, antivirus software, and intrusion detection systems to prevent unauthorized access. Regular software updates and patch management help fix vulnerabilities that hackers could exploit. Employee awareness training on recognizing phishing attempts and handling sensitive data securely is essential. Using strong, unique passwords and enabling multi-factor authentication (MFA) add an extra layer of security. As cyber threats continue to evolve, constant vigilance, investment in cybersecurity infrastructure, and proactive risk management are necessary to safeguard personal and organizational data. A comprehensive cybersecurity strategy not only protects against financial losses but also ensures trust and security in the digital world.

Precis

Cybersecurity threats, including phishing, malware, ransomware, and data breaches, endanger individuals, businesses, and governments by compromising sensitive information and disrupting digital systems. Cybercriminals exploit vulnerabilities, leading to financial and reputational losses.

To combat these threats, organizations must adopt firewalls, antivirus software, encryption, and multi-factor authentication. Regular software updates, employee training, and data backups enhance security. A zero-trust model and strong regulatory policies are crucial for long-term protection. As cyber threats evolve, proactive cybersecurity measures are essential to ensuring digital safety and trust.

- You had earlier lodged a complaint regarding poor internet service. Write an email following up on the status of your complaint.

To:@gmail.com

Subject: Follow-up on Internet Service Complaint – [Complaint Reference Number]

Dear [Service Provider's Name/Customer Support Team],

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to follow up on the complaint I lodged regarding poor internet service on [date of complaint]. The issue has been causing significant inconvenience, and I have yet to receive a resolution or an update on its status.

For your reference, my complaint reference number is [complaint number], and the issue pertains to [briefly describe the issue, e.g., frequent disconnections, slow speed, complete outage].

Despite my previous communication, the problem persists, affecting my work and daily activities.

I would appreciate it if you could provide an update on the status of my complaint and the estimated timeline for resolution. If any further information is required from my end, please let me know.

Looking forward to your prompt response.

**Best regards,
[Your Name]
[Your Contact Number]**

Match the column

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1. On the same wavelength | A. to make a great effort to help someone |
| 2. Break the internet | B. to contribute something of value |
| 3. Bend over backward | C. to have a mutual understanding |
| 4. Bring to the table | D. to be relieved from a difficult situation |
| 5. Off the hook | E. to cause a sensation or go viral online |

Answer:

1-c

2-e

3-a

4-b

5-d

Vocabulary

1. Amenable:
2. Undermine:
3. Inextricably:
4. Perpetuating:
5. Vulnerability:
6. Adjudication:
7. Plague:
8. Intrinsic:
9. Abysmal:
10. Insipid:

RC ANS

1.

Ans: b

Explanation:

I is correct. Refer to the lines: “The Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill, 2024, which was passed in the Lok Sabha in December 2024, offers great promise to combat increasing climate woes that plague Indian cities.”

II is correct. Refer to the lines: “However, planning and disaster response often excludes these settlements, leaving millions without the infrastructure and services needed to weather climate risks.”

III is incorrect. The passage states that rapid urbanisation presents both challenges and opportunities for sustainable development.

2.

Ans: c

Explanation: Refer to the lines:

(I). “Solutions co-created with communities and built on local knowledge can deliver long-term impact.”

(II). “Communities living in informal settlements often develop adaptation practices that can provide invaluable insights into building resilience.”

The passage does not support statement III, as it emphasizes the importance of community involvement.

3.

Ans: b

Explanation: Refer to the lines: “The Jodhpur Heat Action Plan, which is first in Rajasthan to include a detailed vulnerability assessment.”

The passage highlights the Jodhpur Heat Action Plan as a pioneering initiative that includes a detailed vulnerability assessment.

Incorrect options:

- (a) The passage emphasizes community involvement in the plan.
- (c) The passage suggests that the plan has a positive impact on urban resilience.
- (d) The passage does not mention water management as the sole focus.

4.

Ans: b

Explanation:

I is correct. Refer to the lines: “The Lokpal’s ruling that High Court judges are amenable to its jurisdiction.”

II is correct. Refer to the lines: “The Supreme Court order staying it on its own motion.”

III is incorrect. The passage states that the Lokpal Act does not concern Supreme Court judges. Refer to the lines: “The Lokpal Act, 2013, did not concern apex court judges.”

5.

Ans: d

Explanation: Refer to the lines: “In respect of High Court judges, it said High Courts established by statutes creating the respective States were statutory bodies, and their judges were ‘persons’ within the meaning of Section 14 of the Lokpal Act.”

The passage clearly indicates that the Lokpal views High Court judges as statutory authorities subject to its jurisdiction.

Incorrect options:

- (a) The passage states that judges are public servants under the Prevention of Corruption Act.
- (b) The passage states that High Courts are statutory bodies.
- (c) The passage emphasizes the importance of accountability for judges.

COMPLETE ENGLISH IN ONE SUBSCRIPTION

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