

# The Hindu EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

8th May 2025

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

## 1. Arduous (कठिन)

- **Meaning:** Involving or requiring strenuous effort; difficult and tiring.
- **Synonyms:** Strenuous, laborious, taxing
- **Antonyms:** Easy, effortless, simple
- **Example:** Completing the project within a week was an arduous task.

## 2. Outrageous (अपमानजनक )

- **Meaning:** Shockingly bad or excessive.
- **Synonyms:** Scandalous, disgraceful, appalling
- **Antonyms:** Acceptable, reasonable, modest
- **Example:** The outrageous remarks made by the leader sparked global condemnation.

### 3. Thwart (रोकना)

- **Meaning:** To prevent someone from accomplishing something.
- **Synonyms:** Hinder, obstruct, foil
- **Antonyms:** Aid, assist, facilitate
- **Example:** India must establish safeguards to thwart the risk of AI worsening social inequality.

## 4. Imperative (अनिवार्य )

- **Meaning:** Of vital importance; crucial or essential.
- **Synonyms:** Essential, necessary, urgent
- **Antonyms:** Optional, trivial, unnecessary
- **Example:** It is imperative for India to secure stable energy supplies for long-term development.

## 5. Jeremiad (शोकपूर्ण शिकायत)

- **Meaning:** A long and mournful complaint or lamentation; a list of woes.
- **Synonyms:** Lament, complaint, tirade
- **Antonyms:** Praise, celebration, commendation
- **Example:** The editorial turned into a jeremiad about the failures of global leadership.

## 6. Newfangled (नई तरह का / नवविकसित )

- **Meaning:** Recently invented or introduced and often regarded as unnecessary or overly modern.
- **Synonyms:** Modern, novel, up-to-date
- **Antonyms:** Old-fashioned, outdated, traditional
- **Example:** Some older experts remain skeptical of newfangled AI-driven teaching tools.

## 7. Fallacious (भ्रामक / मिथ्या)

- **Meaning:** Based on a mistaken belief or unsound reasoning.
- **Synonyms:** Misleading, deceptive, erroneous
- **Antonyms:** Logical, valid, sound
- **Example:** The argument that AI alone can eliminate poverty is fallacious.



## 8. Wail (विलाप करना / रोना)

- **Meaning:** To make a prolonged high-pitched cry of pain, grief, or anger.
- **Synonyms:** Lament, sob, bawl
- **Antonyms:** Cheer, rejoice, celebrate
- **Example:** Citizens began to wail after hearing about the sudden economic downturn.

## 9. Ossify (जड़ हो जाना / कठोर बन जाना)

- **Meaning:** To become rigid or fixed in attitude or position; to harden like bone.
- **Synonyms:** Harden, fossilize, stagnate
- **Antonyms:** Soften, adapt, evolve
- **Example:** Without reforms, the education system will ossify and fail future generations.

## 10. Licit (वैध / कानूनी)

- **Meaning:** Permitted by law; legal.
- **Synonyms:** Legal, lawful, permissible
- **Antonyms:** Illicit, illegal, unlawful
- **Example:** The government has made clear distinctions between licit and illicit data usage

## VOCABULARY

### One-word substitute:

**1. Lack of skill, ability, or competence.**

**Ineptitude**

**2. A container or space used for holding something.**

**Receptacle**

**3. Impossible to remove, eliminate, or destroy.**

**Ineradicable**

**4. To pronounce words clearly and distinctly.**

**Enunciate**

## VOCABULARY

### Phrasal Verbs:

#### 1. Blurt out

Meaning - to say something suddenly, often without thinking.

#### 2. Boil down to

Meaning - to summarize or reduce to the essential details.

#### 3. Bottle up

Meaning - to keep emotions hidden or suppressed.

#### 4. Brush off

Meaning - to dismiss or ignore someone or something.

# VOCABULARY

## Idioms & Phrases

### 1. Scrape the barrel

**Meaning:** to use the worst people or things because that is all that is available

### 2. Take a rain check

**Meaning:** to refuse an offer or invitation politely

### 3. Play by the ear

**Meaning:** to act according to the demands of a situation

## VOCABULARY

### **4. To bell the cat**

**Meaning:** to attempt, or agree to perform, an impossibly difficult task

### **5. Cut no ice**

**Meaning:** have no influence or effect

## **Article for Reading**

**A step up: on India  
and the 2025 Human  
Development Report**



**Amid a disturbing rate of deceleration in global development and a growing divide between the rich and the poor, India has inched up on the Human Development Index. In the 2025 Human Development Report, 'A Matter of Choice: People and Possibilities in the Age of AI', released on Tuesday, India ranks 130 out of 193 countries, from 133 in 2022. It registered an HDI value increase to 0.685 in 2023 from 0.676 in 2022. Coming on the back of two debilitating pandemic years, it can be said that India's recovery has been strong in the three fields HDI measures: "a long and healthy life, access to knowledge and a decent standard of living". India's life expectancy, at 72 years in 2023, is the highest level it has reached since the inception of the index in 1990 (58.6 years). Children, the report noted, are expected to stay in school for 13 years on average, up from 8.2 years in 1990; and Gross National Income per capita has risen from \$2,167.22 in 1990 to \$9046.76 in 2023.**

**It gave a shout out to programmes such as MGNREGA, the Right to Education Act, the National Rural Health Mission and other initiatives for the improved status, but also sounded a word of caution about rising inequality, particularly significant income and gender disparities. The female labour participation rate may have risen to 41.7% in 2023-24, as the Economic Survey of 2024-25 pointed out, but a stronger ecosystem needs to be built to ensure women join the workforce and are able to retain their jobs. There is a lag in political representation of women as well with no indication yet when the constitutional amendments reserving one-third of legislative seats for women will come into force. Underprivileged girls and boys still struggle to get an education, and until this anomaly is corrected, India's HDI value will not rise.**

**Though the report highlights that 13.5 crore (of India's population of 144 crore) "escaped multidimensional poverty" between 2015-16 and 2019-21, income and gender inequalities have pulled down India's HDI by 30.7%, "one of the highest losses in the region." The thrust of the HDR this year was on AI and how human beings may benefit from it on development parameters. India, it said, has been able to retain 20% of AI researchers, up from nearly zero in 2019. Going forward, India must leverage AI to deliver on many fronts from agriculture to health care, education to public service delivery. But it is imperative that proper policy and safeguards are in place to thwart the risk that AI may deepen existing inequalities.**

## Summary

The passage discusses India's improvement in the Human Development Index (HDI), rising to rank 130 out of 193 countries in the 2025 Human Development Report titled "A Matter of Choice: People and Possibilities in the Age of AI". India's HDI value rose from 0.676 in 2022 to 0.685 in 2023, showing recovery post-pandemic in health, education, and income indicators. Notable achievements include increased life expectancy (72 years), schooling (13 years on average), and a significant rise in GNI per capita. The report credits social programmes like MGNREGA, the Right to Education Act, and NRHM for this progress. However, it also flags concerns over rising income and gender inequalities, low female workforce retention, and delayed implementation of women's political reservation. Despite progress in reducing multidimensional poverty, India suffers a 30.7% HDI loss due to inequality. The report emphasizes the potential of AI in development, noting India's growing role in AI research, but warns of the risk of AI worsening inequality without proper safeguards.

## **Tone:**

**The tone is informative and cautiously optimistic, with a balanced mix of appreciation for progress and concern over persistent inequalities.**

## Reading Comprehension

Based on the above passage, answer the following questions:

**Question 1:**

**What concern is raised about India's progress in gender equality despite a rise in female labour force participation?**

- A. Gender wage gap has been legally abolished but remains in practice**
- B. Women lack access to higher education opportunities**
- C. There is insufficient data to verify employment trends**
- D. Women lack a supportive ecosystem to join and retain jobs**
- E. None of the above**

**Question 2:**

**According to the passage, which of the following best explains the paradox in India's HDI performance?**

- A. Rise in GNI has not translated into better infrastructure**
- B. Strong recovery post-pandemic is offset by persisting inequality**
- C. Digital transformation has been limited to urban regions**
- D. Climate change effects have reversed HDI gains**
- E. None of the above**



**Question 3:**

**Based on the passage, how has India progressed in the domain of Artificial Intelligence (AI) according to the 2025 Human Development Report?**

- A. AI has displaced a significant portion of India's manual labour force**
- B. India has built a regulatory framework for ethical AI development**
- C. A notable share of global AI researchers are now based in India**
- D. AI has been used to fully automate public service delivery**
- E. None of the above**

## **Article for Skimming**

**The building blocks  
of an India-U.S.  
energy future**

**United States Vice-President J.D. Vance recently highlighted the U.S.'s willingness to cooperate with India more closely on energy and defence. India's foreign policy establishment outlined the need for cooperation on energy, defence, technology and the mobility of people. The developments may have been news, but the issues are not new. These topics have increasingly defined India-U.S. relations over the years despite changes in administration, but with some change in emphasis. There is an opportunity now for renewed investment in them. India's energy security will be guided by three imperatives: having sufficient energy resources at predictable prices, minimal disruptions in supply chains, and progress towards an increasingly sustainable energy mix. Nuclear energy and critical minerals will matter in these respects and can be the bedrock of further deepening energy and technology partnership between Washington and New Delhi. The energy transition will unfold not only via electrons but also with elements.**

**China's restrictions in April on exports of rare earths were just the latest move in periodic disruptions for more than a decade. On the one hand, China controls nearly 90% of global rare earth processing capacity. On the other, it leverages this market power to serve its strategic purposes. The result: the minerals needed for new energy technologies, advanced electronics or defence equipment are contingent on fragile global supply chains. In 2024, India and the U.S. signed a memorandum of understanding to diversify these supply chains. Some principles must now guide India-US cooperation on critical minerals. First, critical minerals must be viewed as the pillar of multiple sectors, and not just as a mining silo. They are needed across the economy — and in the strategic sectors on which India and the U.S. wish to collaborate. This broad framing prioritises long-term strategy and enables cross-sectoral skills and technology exchange. Second, policies for critical minerals must play out at bilateral and plurilateral levels. They must establish guarantees of supply and frameworks for cooperation.**

**Demand creation, not supply coercion, must drive this relationship. An India-U.S. critical minerals consortium could look into joint exploration and processing. India, with its emerging mineral exploration base, and the U.S., with its deep capital and technology, should co-invest in third-country projects across Africa, South America, and Southeast Asia. Beyond the bilateral relationship, the Quad (including Japan and Australia) can be a capability multiplier. This includes collaboration on minerals processing technology. Further, data transparency and traceability of these minerals are crucial. For this, establish a dedicated India-U.S. Mineral Exchange — a secure digital platform for real-time trade, investment, and collaboration on critical minerals. This can especially help vulnerable industries such as electric vehicles, aerospace, and semiconductors. India and the U.S. should also co-develop a blockchain-based traceability standard for critical minerals, inspired by the EU's Battery Passport.**

**Question 4:**

**Which of the following best characterizes the recommended approach for India-U.S. cooperation on critical minerals?**

- A. Nationalistic and self-reliant mining practices**
- B. Export restrictions to assert market dominance**
- C. Bilateral and plurilateral frameworks emphasizing joint investment**
- D. Exclusive bilateral trade to avoid global competition**
- E. None of the above**

**Question 5:**

**Why is the creation of an India-U.S. Mineral Exchange platform suggested in the passage?**

- A. To facilitate digital retail trading of rare earth minerals**
- B. To offer a centralized market for fossil fuel alternatives**
- C. To enforce sanctions on mineral-producing countries**
- D. To enable real-time collaboration and traceability in critical mineral trade**
- E. None of the above**

# Today's Descriptive Question

Precis:



## **Original Text:**

**Stagflation is a complex economic phenomenon characterized by the simultaneous occurrence of high inflation, slow economic growth, and rising unemployment. This situation is particularly challenging because the usual economic responses to inflation or stagnation often contradict each other. In a typical economic cycle, inflation is expected to rise when the economy grows and fall during a slowdown. However, stagflation presents a paradox where prices continue to rise despite sluggish growth and a weakening job market, making it difficult for policymakers to find effective solutions. The primary causes of stagflation include supply shocks, monetary policy failures, and structural weaknesses in the economy. One of the most well-known instances of stagflation occurred during the 1970s oil crisis,**

**when a sudden spike in oil prices increased production costs across industries, leading to inflation while simultaneously slowing economic growth. Poor monetary policies, such as excessive money supply without corresponding economic productivity, can also contribute to stagflation by fueling inflation without generating real growth. Additionally, structural inefficiencies, such as weak labor markets, declining productivity, or rigid government policies, can further deepen the crisis by preventing economic expansion while prices continue to rise. The effects of stagflation are severe, impacting both individuals and businesses. Consumers experience a decline in purchasing power as the cost of essential goods and services rises, while businesses struggle with high production costs and reduced demand. The job market also weakens, leading to increased unemployment and financial distress. Policymakers face a tough dilemma—raising interest rates to curb inflation may further slow economic growth, while stimulating the economy through lower rates or fiscal measures can worsen inflation.**

**Addressing stagflation requires a balanced and strategic approach. Governments and central banks often focus on supply-side policies, such as improving infrastructure, boosting productivity, and ensuring stable energy prices to counter supply shocks. Carefully crafted monetary policies aim to control inflation without excessively stifling economic growth. Since stagflation presents unique challenges, its resolution requires a combination of fiscal responsibility, long-term economic planning, and targeted reforms to restore stability and sustainable growth.**

## **Precis:**

**Stagflation is an economic condition marked by high inflation, slow growth, and rising unemployment, making it difficult for policymakers to implement effective solutions. It can be caused by supply shocks, weak monetary policies, and structural inefficiencies. The 1970s oil crisis is a classic example where rising costs slowed economic activity while inflation persisted. Stagflation reduces purchasing power, weakens job markets, and increases financial distress. Policymakers struggle to control inflation without further harming growth. To address it, governments adopt supply-side measures, infrastructure improvements, and careful monetary policies to restore economic stability.**

- **You are a sales executive negotiating a bulk purchase deal with a client. Write an email proposing revised pricing and terms.**

**To: .....@gmail.com**

**Subject: Revised Bulk Purchase Pricing and Terms**

**Dear [Client's Name],**

**I appreciate your continued interest in our products and the opportunity to collaborate on this bulk purchase. Based on our discussions, I have reviewed our pricing and terms to ensure a mutually beneficial agreement.**

**Revised Pricing & Terms:**

**Discounted Price: [New Price per Unit] (reduced from [Previous Price])**

**Minimum Order Quantity: [Updated MOQ]**

**Payment Terms: [e.g., 30% advance, balance on delivery]**

**Delivery Timeline: [Revised delivery schedule]**

**Additional Benefits: [e.g., free shipping, extended warranty, priority support]**

**This special pricing is valid until [Expiration Date], and I'd be happy to discuss any adjustments to align with your requirements. Please let me know a convenient time to connect and finalize the details.**

**Looking forward to your response.**

**Best regards,  
[Your Name]  
[Your Position]**

## Match the column

1. Scrape the barrel
2. Take a rain check
3. Play by the ear
4. To bell the cat
5. Cut no ice

- A. to act according to the demands of a situation
- B. to agree to perform, an impossibly difficult task
- C. to refuse an offer or invitation politely
- D. have no influence or effect
- E. to use the worst people or things because that is all that is available



**Answer:**

**1-e**

**2-c**

**3-a**

**4-b**

**5-d**

## Vocabulary

1. Arduous:
2. Outrageous:
3. Thwart:
4. Imperative:
5. Jeremiad:
6. Newfangled:
7. Fallacious:
8. Wail:
9. Ossify:
10. Licit:

# NIMISHA BANSAL

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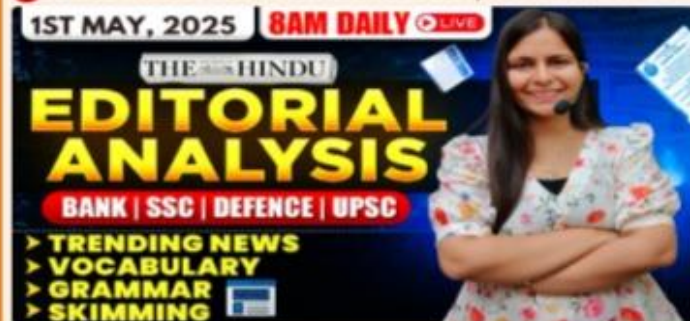


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## Rc ans

1.

**Ans: D**

**Explanation:**

The passage notes:

“...a stronger ecosystem needs to be built to ensure women join the workforce and are able to retain their jobs.”

**Incorrect Options:**

A. Incorrect — Wage gap issues are not discussed.

B. Incorrect — Access to education for underprivileged girls is mentioned, but not higher education for women broadly.

C. Incorrect — There is data, such as the 41.7% participation rate.

**2.**

**Ans: B**

**Explanation:**

“Coming on the back of two debilitating pandemic years... India’s recovery has been strong... but also sounded a word of caution about rising inequality...”

“...income and gender inequalities have pulled down India’s HDI by 30.7%...”

**Incorrect Options:**

A. Incorrect — Infrastructure is not discussed.

C. Incorrect — Digital divide or urban-rural digital transformation isn’t addressed.

D. Incorrect — Climate change is not referenced.

**3.**

**Ans: C**

**Explanation:**

“India, it said, has been able to retain 20% of AI researchers, up from nearly zero in 2019.”

**Incorrect Options:**

A. Incorrect — No mention of job displacement due to AI.

B. Incorrect — The passage calls for policy and safeguards, implying these are still in development.

D. Incorrect — Public service delivery is mentioned as a future potential, not current reality.



4.

**Ans: C**

**Explanation:**

**The passage proposes:**

“Policies for critical minerals must play out at bilateral and plurilateral levels... An India-U.S. critical minerals consortium could look into joint exploration...”

**Incorrect Options:**

- A. Incorrect — The focus is on international collaboration, not nationalism.
- B. Incorrect — The passage critiques China’s export restrictions.
- D. Incorrect — Encourages third-country projects, not exclusivity.

**5.**

**Ans: D**

**Explanation:**

**The passage states:**

“Establish a dedicated India-U.S. Mineral Exchange — a secure digital platform for real-time trade, investment, and collaboration on critical minerals.”

**Incorrect Options:**

- A. Incorrect — It's meant for strategic collaboration, not retail trading.
- B. Incorrect — Not about fossil fuel alternatives, but broader mineral use.
- C. Incorrect — No mention of sanctions.