

The Hindu EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

15th April 2025

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

1. Encumbrances (बाधाएँ)

- **Meaning: A burden or impediment; something that obstructs or hinders progress.**
- **Synonyms: Obstacle, hindrance, barrier**
- **Antonyms: Aid, help, advantage**
- **Example: The new regulations became an encumbrance to the company's growth, slowing down its expansion.**

2. Vaguely (अस्पष्ट रूप से)

- **Meaning:** In an unclear or imprecise manner.
- **Synonyms:** Uncertainly, ambiguously, indistinctly
- **Antonyms:** Clearly, precisely, distinctly
- **Example:** The definition of "personal information" in the new law was vaguely worded, causing confusion.

3. Scrutiny (समीक्षा)

- **Meaning:** Critical observation or examination.
- **Synonyms:** Inspection, examination, analysis
- **Antonyms:** Neglect, disregard, oversight
- **Example:** The government officials were under intense scrutiny after the amendment to the RTI Act was proposed.

4. Trepidation (डर)

- **Meaning:** Critical observation or examination.
- **Synonyms:** Inspection, examination, analysis
- **Antonyms:** Neglect, disregard, oversight
- **Example:** The government officials were under intense scrutiny after the amendment to the RTI Act was proposed

5. Subjugate (वश में करना)

- **Meaning:** To bring under control or domination, often by force.
- **Synonyms:** Conquer, dominate, overpower
- **Antonyms:** Liberate, free, emancipate
- **Example:** The new law was seen by many as an attempt to subjugate the transparency of public institutions.

6. Vested (स्वार्थपूर्ण)

- **Meaning:** Having a personal interest or stake in something, especially related to power, position, or ownership.
- **Synonyms:** Entrenched, invested, entitled
- **Antonyms:** Disinterested, indifferent, uninvested
- **Example:** The proposal to amend the RTI Act has attracted attention from vested interests seeking to limit its scope.

7. Jeopardise (जोखिम में डालना)

- **Meaning:** To put something at risk of harm, loss, or failure.
- **Synonyms:** Endanger, threaten, imperil
- **Antonyms:** Protect, safeguard, secure
- **Example:** Ignoring climate goals could jeopardise the future of our planet.

8. Dissent (असहमति)

- **Meaning:** The expression or holding of opinions that differ from those previously, commonly, or officially held.a
- **Synonyms:** Disagreement, opposition, protest
- **Antonyms:** Agreement, consensus, harmony
- **Example:** Justice Dhulia expressed dissent, emphasizing the need for broader economic inclusion.

9. Unscrupulous (अनैतिक)

- **Meaning:** Having or showing no moral principles; not honest or fair.
- **Synonyms:** Unprincipled, unethical, dishonest
- **Antonyms:** Ethical, principled, honest
- **Example:** Unscrupulous traders often exploit inexperienced investors.

10. Delineate (चित्रित करना)

- **Meaning:** To describe or portray something precisely and clearly.
- **Synonyms:** Describe, outline, depict
- **Antonyms:** Confuse, obscure, misrepresent
- **Example:** The new law clearly delineates the rights and responsibilities of public officials.

VOCABULARY

One-word substitute:

1. Famous for something bad or negative:

Notorious

2. Having an extreme greed for wealth or material gain:

Avaricious

3. A very handsome young man:

Adonis

4. The act of secretly taking money that belongs to someone else, usually from your workplace:

Embezzlement

VOCABULARY

Phrasal Verbs:

1. Drift apart

Meaning - to gradually become less close or friendly.

2. Fall through

Meaning - to fail or not happen as planned.

3. Get across

Meaning - to communicate or make something understood.

4. Go down

Meaning - to happen or occur, often used informally.

VOCABULARY

Idioms & Phrases

1. Turn a blind eye

Meaning - to ignore something that you know is wrong

2. Read the riot act

Meaning - to chastise loudly, or to issue a severe warning

3. I've got it in the bag

Meaning - something is assured of success

VOCABULARY

4. Play fast and loose

Meaning - to behave in a clever and dishonest way

5. Tooth and nail

Meaning - to try very hard to get something you want

Article for Reading

**Missing the target: on
the economy, the
Centre's growth
target**

India's industrial production growth slowed to a six-month low in February to 2.9%, down from January's 5.2% (revised estimates) and almost halved from last February's 5.6%. This decline was broad-based, except for a marginal rise in power production of 3.6%, up from January's 3.4%, but less than half of last February's 7.6%. While mining witnessed the steepest decline to 1.6% this February, from 8.1% last year, manufacturing almost halved to 2.9%, from 4.9% last year. From a use-based classification, the steep decline in consumer durables output to 3.8%, from 12.6% last February as well as a production contraction for the third month in a row, of consumer non-durables by 2.1% (there was a 3.2% contraction in January), indicates a marked decline in overall consumption demand. This has been despite a sharp dip in retail inflation, which was down to 3.61% this February from 5.09% a year ago, with a low food inflation rate at 3.75%, the lowest in two years.

This makes it almost certain that the government's wish for a Maha Kumbh-led spike in consumption has not materialised, leading to the likelihood of the Centre's 6.5% GDP growth target for the 2025 fiscal being missed. February's Index of Industrial Production (IIP) number

Capital goods output accelerated to 8.2% from 1.7% last year, indicating robust investment demand aided by a massive rise in government spending. This was despite the liquidity squeeze in India's banking system by ₹1.7 trillion, as on February 20, due to the massive flight of foreign capital in search of haven asset classes and to hedge against a depreciating rupee. The central bank stepped in by injecting about ₹2.18 trillion into the banking system using rupee/dollar swap arrangements that ended on March 24. The Centre can perhaps take solace in the fact that despite a possibility of its growth target for the last fiscal being missed, India remains the fastest growing economy.

Summary

India's industrial production growth slowed to 2.9% in February, marking a six-month low and reflecting a broad-based decline, especially in manufacturing and mining. Consumer demand appears to be weakening, with a sharp drop in both consumer durables and non-durables output, despite easing inflation. The government's hopes for a consumption-led growth boost have not materialised, putting its 6.5% GDP growth target at risk. The Purchasing Manager's Index also fell to a 14-month low, indicating growing caution among manufacturers amid global uncertainty and stock market volatility. However, some sectors like motor vehicles and capital goods showed growth, supported by increased government spending. Despite liquidity issues in the banking sector, the central bank intervened with capital injections. Overall, India remains the fastest-growing major economy, even as growth challenges persist.

Tone:

Informative and slightly concerned, with a mix of cautious optimism toward the end.

Reading Comprehension

Based on the above passage, answer the following questions:

Question 1:

According to the passage, what has been one of the major global influences contributing to manufacturing uncertainty in India?

- A. Tightening of U.S. interest rates**
- B. Export restrictions imposed by China**
- C. U.S. President Donald Trump's global economic decisions**
- D. Brexit-induced trade complications**
- E. None of the above**

Question 2:

Which industry groups contributed most to growth in the manufacturing sector, as per the passage?

- A. Leather products, tobacco, and textiles**
- B. Chemicals, pharmaceuticals, and petroleum products**
- C. Electrical equipment, beverages, and fabricated metals**
- D. Motor vehicles, non-metallic mineral products, and basic metals**
- E. None of the above**

Article for Skimming

**Unnecessary
amendment: On the
RTI Act**

That the Right to Information Act and the use of RTIs have enhanced the accountability of those in governance in India goes without saying. In the last few years there have been attempts to dilute the provisions of the Act, a landmark one that was passed 20 years ago. Clearly, some in governance and administration have treated the Act and its provisions on transparency and disclosure to be encumbrances. A significant threat has now emerged in the amendment to Section 8(1)(j) of the Act, which has been introduced in Section 44(3) of the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023. The Act itself is an outcome of K.S. Puttaswamy (2017), a judgment that upheld the right of privacy as a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution. Section 8(1)(j) of the RTI Act allows government bodies to withhold “information which relates to public information” provided its disclosure is not related to public interest or results in an unnecessary invasion of privacy.

While doing so, it provides the safeguard that if the Public Information Officer or an appellate authority finds public interest in disclosing such information, it could still be available. This safeguard is important. Some information related to public servants, such as college degrees or caste certificates, might be private, but as a recent and controversial case of a bureaucrat using a fake caste certificate showed, such information could be released in public interest. Section 44(3) of the DPDP Act amends Section 8(1)(j) by allowing government bodies to simply withhold “personal information” without the safeguard provisions on public interest or other such exceptions. In a letter to Congress leader Jairam Ramesh, Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Ashwini Vaishnaw defended the amendment, saying that Section 44(3) was aimed at preventing the RTI Act’s “misuse” and was to harmonise the requirement of right to privacy and the right to information.

He also said that information such as salaries of public officials would still remain accessible through Section 3 of the DPDP Act. But by amending the RTI Act itself — an outcome that was never the intention of K.S. Puttaswamy — and by defining “personal information” vaguely in Section 44(3) of the DPDP Act, authorities could deny RTI requests of previously public data by classifying them as “personal” — and lessen public scrutiny. The RTI Act already harmonises concerns related to the right to information and privacy by subjecting them to the question of public interest. Therefore, the amendment using the DPDP Act is unnecessary and unwarranted. The government must take the concerns of civil society and transparency activists and remove the provision amending the RTI Act, in the DPDP Act.

Question 3:

According to the passage, why is the existing provision under Section 8(1)(j) of the RTI Act considered significant?

- A. It restricts access to government salaries to maintain bureaucratic efficiency.**
- B. It provides a mechanism for invoking the judiciary for any denied RTI query.**
- C. It balances the right to privacy with public interest through a conditional safeguard.**
- D. It mandates the automatic disclosure of all private records related to public officials.**
- E. None of the above**

Question 4:

Which of the following best describes the editorial's stance on the government's justification for the amendment?

- A. The government is fully justified in preventing misuse of the RTI Act.**
- B. The government should harmonize the RTI Act with the Puttaswamy judgment through further amendments.**
- C. The government's justification is irrelevant because Article 19(1)(a) overrides privacy.**
- D. The government's reasoning is flawed because the RTI Act already balances privacy and transparency.**
- E. None of the above**

Question 5:

Which part of the Puttaswamy judgment is referenced in the passage to underline the significance of privacy in the RTI Act?

- A. It mandates that all data disclosed under RTI should be thoroughly analyzed for public interest.**
- B. It upholds the right to privacy as a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution.**
- C. It defines the term “personal data” for the first time in Indian law.**
- D. It grants the government the right to redact private information from RTI requests.**
- E. None of the above**

Today's Descriptive Question:

Original Text:

Technology has revolutionized agriculture, transforming traditional farming practices into a more efficient, productive, and sustainable system. Modern agricultural technologies encompass a wide range of tools and methods, including precision farming, automation, biotechnology, and data analytics, which address the challenges of feeding a growing global population while conserving resources and reducing environmental impacts. One of the most significant advancements is precision farming, which uses GPS, drones, and sensors to monitor crop health, soil conditions, and weather patterns. These tools enable farmers to apply water, fertilizers, and pesticides precisely where needed, reducing waste and costs while improving yields.

Similarly, automation and robotics, such as autonomous tractors and harvesters, enhance efficiency by minimizing labor requirements and speeding up farming operations. Biotechnology, including genetically modified organisms (GMOs), has further improved agriculture by developing crops resistant to pests, diseases, and extreme weather conditions. These advancements reduce crop losses and ensure food security. Additionally, data analytics and artificial intelligence (AI) empower farmers to make informed decisions by analyzing vast amounts of data related to market trends, weather forecasts, and farm performance. However, the adoption of technology in agriculture comes with challenges, including high costs, lack of access to technology in rural areas, and the need for technical training. Governments and organizations must address these barriers through subsidies, infrastructure development, and education programs. The integration of technology in agriculture is essential for meeting global food demands, increasing sustainability, and ensuring the well-being of farmers and consumers alike.

Precis:

Technology has transformed agriculture into a more efficient and sustainable system through tools like precision farming, automation, biotechnology, and AI. These innovations improve crop yields, reduce waste, and address food security challenges by enabling targeted resource use and resilient crop development.

Despite challenges like high costs and limited rural access, government support and education can facilitate adoption. The use of technology in agriculture is vital for meeting global food demands while conserving resources and enhancing farmers' livelihoods.

- **Your company has introduced a new remote work policy. Write an email to all employees explaining the policy details.**

To:@gmail.com

Subject: New Remote Work Policy

Hi Team,

We're excited to share that we've introduced a new Remote Work Policy to offer more flexibility while ensuring smooth teamwork and productivity. Under this policy, all full-time employees who have completed at least 3 months with us are eligible to work from home for up to 3 days a week. We encourage teams to coordinate schedules to maintain proper in-office presence when needed. While working remotely, employees are expected to be available during our core working hours from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM and stay connected with their teams through regular communication and meetings. Please make sure your home workspace is quiet, secure, and has a reliable internet connection.

To keep our data safe, using a VPN and following security guidelines is a must. If you'd like to request remote work, please submit your application through the HR portal and get approval from your manager and HR. You can find all the details in the attached policy document. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to your manager or the HR team.

Thanks for your continued efforts and commitment!

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

Match the column

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1. Turn a blind eye | A. to chastise loudly, or to issue a severe warning |
| 2. Read the riot act | B. to behave in a clever and dishonest way |
| 3. I've got it in the bag | C. to try very hard to get something you want |
| 4. Play fast and loose | D. something is assured of success |
| 5. Tooth and nail | E. to ignore something that you know is wrong |

Answer:

1-e

2-a

3-d

4-b

5-c

Vocabulary

1. Encumbrances:
2. Vaguely:
3. Scrutiny:
4. Soothing:
5. Subjugate:
6. Vested:
7. Jeopardise:
8. Dissent:
9. Unscrupulous:
10. Delineate:

Rc ans

1.

Ans: C

Explanation:

Reference: "...trepidation of manufacturers facing unprecedented global economic uncertainty following U.S. President Donald Trump's actions..."

Why other options are incorrect:

- A. Not mentioned.
- B. No mention of China's export policy in the passage.
- D. Brexit not discussed at all.

2.

Ans: D

Explanation:

Reference: “Growth was led by motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers (8.9%), non-metallic mineral products (8%) and basic metals (5.8%).”

Why other options are incorrect:

A, B, C – These groups are not named as leading contributors to February's growth in the passage.

3.

Ans: C

Explanation:

The existing clause in Section 8(1)(j) is lauded because it allows denial of personal information only if it doesn't serve public interest — "it provides the safeguard that... if the authority finds public interest... it could still be available."

Why the other options are incorrect:

A: Incorrect — Salaries are explicitly mentioned as still accessible, and there's no mention of limiting them for efficiency.

B: Incorrect — The mechanism for judicial recourse is not discussed here.

D: Incorrect — Disclosure is not automatic, especially not for all private records.

4.

Ans: D

Explanation:

The editorial argues that RTI already accounts for privacy and public interest, making further amendments unnecessary — “The RTI Act already harmonises concerns related to... information and privacy... Therefore, the amendment... is unnecessary and unwarranted.”

Why the other options are incorrect:

A: Incorrect — The editorial views this justification as a threat to transparency, not justified.

B: Incorrect — The editorial opposes amending the RTI Act to align with Puttaswamy; it says such amendment was never the judgment's intention.

C: Incorrect — Article 19(1)(a) (freedom of speech) is not mentioned in this context.

5.

Ans: B

Explanation:

Explanation:

The editorial mentions that the RTI Act amendment is an outcome of the Puttaswamy judgment, which upheld the right to privacy as a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution — “The Act itself is an outcome of K.S. Puttaswamy (2017), a judgment that upheld the right of privacy as a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution.”

Why the other options are incorrect:

A: Incorrect — The passage does not mention any mandates for analyzing data; it focuses on privacy concerns.

C: Incorrect — The definition of personal data is not part of the Puttaswamy judgment.

D: Incorrect — The judgment did not grant the right to redact information, it protected privacy.

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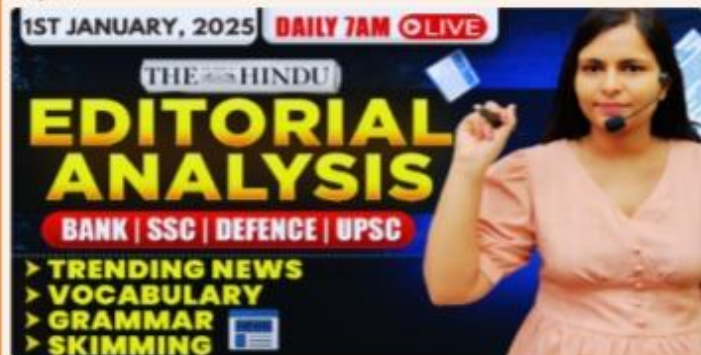
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