

The Hindu EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

13th June 2025

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

1. Bête noire (नापसंद व्यक्ति / खलनायक)

- **Meaning:** A person or thing that one particularly dislikes or avoids.
- **Synonyms:** Nemesis, arch-enemy, foe
- **Antonyms:** Ally, favorite, friend
- **Example:** Lee Jae-myung was considered the bête noire of President Yoon Suk Yeol.

2. Tantamount (बराबर / तुल्य)

- **Meaning:** Equivalent in seriousness to; virtually the same as.
- **Synonyms:** Equivalent, equal, synonymous
- **Antonyms:** Dissimilar, different, unrelated
- **Example:** Martial law was tantamount to reviving memories of dictatorship.

3. Plagued (परेशान किया हुआ)

- **Meaning:** Troubled or affected continually by a problem.
- **Synonyms:** Afflicted, tormented, beset
- **Antonyms:** Relieved, freed, comforted
- **Example:** The Tatkal booking system is plagued by bots and crashes.

4. Dwindling (घटती हुई)

- **Meaning:** Gradually diminishing in size, amount, or strength.
- **Synonyms:** Decreasing, shrinking, reducing
- **Antonyms:** Increasing, rising, expanding
- **Example:** Bots lead to rapidly dwindling ticket availability for genuine passengers.

5. Effervescent (उत्साही)

- **Meaning:** Bubbling with high spirits or enthusiasm.
- **Synonyms:** Vivacious, lively, enthusiastic
- **Antonyms:** Dull, lifeless, subdued
- **Example:** Her effervescent personality made her the center of attention at the party.

6. Foment (भड़काना)

- **Meaning:** To instigate or stir up (especially trouble or conflict).
- **Synonyms:** Incite, provoke, agitate
- **Antonyms:** Suppress, quell, pacify
- **Example:** Intelligence sharing helps both countries prevent external forces from fomenting instability in the region.

7. Penchant (रुचि)

- **Meaning:** A strong or habitual liking for something or tendency to do something.
- **Synonyms:** Liking, preference, inclination
- **Antonyms:** Dislike, aversion, indifference
- **Example:** She has a penchant for collecting rare books from different parts of the world.

8. Gullible (जल्दी बातों में आ जाने वाला)

- **Meaning:** Easily persuaded to believe something; credulous.
- **Synonyms:** Naive, trusting, credulous
- **Antonyms:** Cynical, suspicious, skeptical
- **Example:** The gullible tourist was quickly swindled by the street vendor.

9. Relentless (निरंतर)

- **Meaning:** Unceasingly intense; never giving up or lessening
- **Synonyms:** Persistent, unyielding, unforgiving
- **Antonyms:** Lenient, yielding, gentle
- **Example:** The relentless heat of summer made working outdoors unbearable.

10. Blatantly (सुस्पष्ट रूप से/बेशर्मी से)

- **Meaning:** In an open and unashamed manner; obvious and offensive.
- **Synonyms:** Openly, glaringly, overtly
- **Antonyms:** Subtly, discreetly, secretly
- **Example:** He blatantly ignored the traffic rules, causing an accident.

VOCABULARY

One-word substitute:

1. The belief that God is identical with the universe and everything in it:

Pantheism

2. A person who is between 90 and 99 years old:

Nonagenarian

3. A specialist in treating foot disorders; also known as a podiatrist:

Chiropodist

4. An extreme fear of heights:

Acrophobia

VOCABULARY

Phrasal Verbs:

1. Bash about

Meaning: to criticize somebody/something strongly

2. Chime in

Meaning: to join a conversation or discussion

3. Steal up

Meaning: to move somewhere quietly and secretly

4. Zone out

Meaning: fall asleep or lose concentration or consciousness.

VOCABULARY

Idioms & Phrases

1. Let bygones be bygones

Meaning: to decide to forget disagreements or arguments that happened in the past

2. A blessing in disguise

Meaning - Something seemingly unlucky or bad at first results in good

3. Cast in the same mold

Meaning - to be very similar in character to someone else

VOCABULARY

4. Spill the beans

Meaning - to reveal a secret

5. Take with a grain of salt

Meaning - to not completely believe something that you are told

Article for Reading

**Out of the abyss: On
South Korea, its new
President**

When the then South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol declared martial law in December 2024, his objective was to bypass the opposition-controlled National Assembly and rule with the support of the military. He had also planned to arrest opposition politicians, including Lee Jae-myung, the head of the Democratic Party, his *bête noire*. But the move backfired dramatically, leading to his abrupt downfall and paving the way for Mr. Lee's ascent to the presidency. In the June 3 election, which was necessitated by the impeachment of Mr. Yoon, Mr. Lee, a progressive liberal, won 49.4% votes, defeating Kim Moon-soo of Mr. Yoon's conservative People Power Party, who secured 41.2% votes. The peaceful and democratic transition, following a period of chaos and turmoil, is a testament to the strong fundamentals of South Korea's young democracy. For a nation that endured decades of brutal military dictatorship, the imposition of martial law was tantamount to cutting open the old wounds.

South Koreans, both the political class and civilians, offered resistance. Mr. Yoon's political collapse unfolded so fast that future leaders would think twice before undermining the country's democratic institutions. Still, the election of Mr. Lee is only the first step in restoring order and stability. Mr. Lee, who survived legal challenges and an assassination attempt last year, enters the Blue House with a strong mandate. His party is in a majority in the National Assembly, giving him legislative leeway. However, while those responsible for the martial law fiasco must be held accountable, he must resist the temptation to turn this into a political witch-hunt. On the economy front, Mr. Lee should take swift measures, including the implementation of a promised stimulus package to jump start growth. Just last month, the central bank cut the country's full-year economic forecast by half to 0.8% amid trade and tariff concerns.

In foreign policy, Mr. Lee faces a complex balancing act. During the campaign, he had said that the U.S. was “the basis axis of our diplomacy”, but expressed a desire to improve commercial ties with China, the largest trading partner. Under Mr. Yoon, relations with China took a hit, and tensions with North Korea escalated. In a first step to improve inter-Korean relations, Mr. Lee decided to turn off loudspeakers on the border that had been broadcasting K-pop songs and propaganda. He has said he does not want South Korea to be reliant only on the U.S. To that end, what he must do is to invest in peace on the Korean Peninsula and expand Seoul’s relationship with major powers, while preserving its strategic partnership with the U.S.

Summary

In December 2024, South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol declared martial law in an attempt to bypass the opposition-led National Assembly and arrest political opponents. However, the move triggered widespread resistance, resulting in his impeachment and downfall. In the subsequent June 2025 election, progressive liberal Lee Jae-myung won the presidency with 49.4% of the vote. His victory marked a peaceful democratic transition after a period of political chaos, reaffirming South Korea's democratic resilience.

Now in power with a legislative majority, President Lee faces several challenges: ensuring accountability for the martial law crisis without engaging in political vendettas, reviving the sluggish economy through a stimulus package, and navigating foreign policy by maintaining strong U.S. ties while improving relations with China and easing tensions with North Korea. His early steps, such as halting anti-North propaganda broadcasts, indicate a diplomatic and pragmatic approach to regional peace and global engagement.

Tone of the Passage:

Analytical and hopeful, with a cautionary undertone.

It acknowledges the political crisis and dramatic fall of Mr. Yoon, while highlighting the resilience of South Korea's democracy and expressing cautious optimism about President Lee's leadership and challenges ahead.

Reading Comprehension

Based on the above passage, answer the following questions:

Question 1:

Which of the following best describes the political implication of Mr. Yoon's failed attempt to impose martial law?

- A) It created irreversible damage to South Korea's diplomatic relations with the U.S.**
- B) It solidified the military's permanent role in domestic governance**
- C) It led to Mr. Yoon's impeachment and Mr. Lee's electoral victory**
- D) It led to an authoritarian rewrite of the Constitution**
- E) None of the above**

Question 2:

How did the South Korean public and political institutions respond to the imposition of martial law?

- A) They broadly endorsed it as a national security measure**
- B) They mounted resistance, leading to Mr. Yoon's political downfall**
- C) They declared a constitutional emergency through a referendum**
- D) They called on the UN to intervene in domestic politics**
- E) None of the above**

Question 3:

What distinguishes Mr. Lee's presidency at the time of his entry into office?

- A) He faces a hostile National Assembly with no legislative majority**
- B) He was appointed through emergency provisions, not elected**
- C) He is supported only by the military and not by civilians**
- D) He holds a strong electoral mandate and parliamentary majority**
- E) None of the above**

Article for Skimming

**A good fix: On the
IRCTC and ticket
booking**

The e-ticketing system of the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC) is one of India's most widely used e-commerce platforms. Crores of Indian rail commuters and passengers use it to book their tickets, which makes it imperative that the system is run robustly. The scale of the operation is revealing — on May 22, 2025, the IRCTC processed a staggering 31,814 tickets in 60 seconds to set a new record. Yet, the popular e-ticketing system, especially the Tatkal booking part, is plagued by issues. Extremely high demand during peak hours, particularly during the designated Tatkal booking window period, often leads to crashes and slow performance. A major concern is that the system is exploited by ticketing agents who use unfair automated tools (or bots), leading to rapidly dwindling ticket availability for passengers. These issues are what prompted the IRCTC to announce two major steps.

The first was a major digital overhaul of the ticketing infrastructure using anti-bot systems to prevent unauthorised automated bookings — a measure that led to the de-activation of a whopping 2.5 crore suspect user IDs. Implementation of a content delivery network also helped improve website performance. In addition, Aadhaar verification is necessary immediately after a ticket is booked. The IRCTC has also mandated Aadhaar authentication for all Tatkal bookings, from July 1, along with OTP-based authentication. Authorised agents have been restricted from booking Tatkal tickets during the first 30 minutes of the booking window period. The idea behind an e-ticketing platform and the provision of Tatkal booking of tickets are to provide equitable chances for passengers to travel. Despite more train services having been introduced over the years by the Indian Railways, which is a state monopoly, demand far outstrips supply, and passengers have to rely on advanced booking and Tatkal tickets for their travel.

When agents use bots to game the system, it kills the purpose of equity. Therefore, the IRCTC's steps will bring relief to passengers. That said, the Indian Railways must focus not only on easing the process of ticketing but also on elevating the passenger experience in terms of increasing its train and track capacity to fulfil travel demand, ensuring safety and enhancing its facilities. Seen in this context, while these ticketing fixes are important, the true test for the Indian Railways will be its ability to move beyond just technical and administrative solutions and undertake a fundamental expansion of its services to serve India's large passenger clientele. In a way, meaningful expansion to meet the demand will also obviate the need for reworking technological solutions yet again in the future.

Question 4:

Which of the following best reflects the editorial's broader recommendation to Indian Railways beyond ticketing reforms?

- A) Privatize the e-ticketing process for more competition**
- B) Halt Tatkal booking to reduce bot dependency**
- C) Expand train and track capacity to meet growing passenger demand**
- D) Discontinue Aadhaar-based verification to speed up booking**
- E) None of the above**

Question 5:

Which of the following measures is not mentioned as part of IRCTC's digital upgrade?

- A) Aadhaar authentication for all Tatkal bookings**
- B) Introduction of blockchain-based transaction records**
- C) Implementation of anti-bot systems**
- D) Use of content delivery networks to improve website performance**
- E) None of the above**

Today's Descriptive Question:

- **Write an essay of 200 words about the cybersecurity challenges in the Digital Age.**

In the Digital Age, cybersecurity challenges have escalated due to the increasing reliance on technology and the internet. One of the primary concerns is the rise in cyberattacks, which target both individuals and organizations. These attacks range from data breaches and ransomware to phishing and advanced persistent threats. As more devices become interconnected through the Internet of Things (IoT), the attack surface for cybercriminals expands, making it harder to secure all potential entry points.

Moreover, the sophistication of cyber threats is growing. Hackers are continually developing new techniques to bypass security measures, often exploiting human vulnerabilities through social engineering. The rapid pace of technological advancements also means that security protocols frequently lag behind, leaving systems exposed to newly discovered vulnerabilities.

Another significant challenge is the lack of cybersecurity expertise. The demand for skilled cybersecurity professionals far exceeds the supply, leading to a gap that many organizations struggle to fill. This shortage can result in inadequate security measures and delayed responses to incidents.

Additionally, the regulatory landscape is constantly evolving, with governments implementing stringent data protection laws. Organizations must navigate these regulations while ensuring their cybersecurity strategies are robust and compliant.

In conclusion, the Digital Age presents numerous cybersecurity challenges that require a proactive and adaptive approach to safeguard sensitive information and maintain trust in digital systems.

- **Write a letter of recommendation for a colleague to support their application for a new position.**

[Your Title]

[Your Company]

[Company Address]

[City, State, Zip Code]

[Date]

[Recipient Name]

[Recipient Company]

[Company Address]

[City, State, Zip Code]

Subject: Letter of recommendation

Dear [Recipient Name],

I am pleased to recommend [Colleague's Name] for the position of [Position Title] at [Recipient Company]. Having worked with [Colleague's Name] for [number] years at [Your Company], I have seen their exceptional skills in [specific skill or area] and dedication to their work. They are proficient in [mention relevant skills or tools] and excel in [mention another relevant skill or trait].

I am confident that [Colleague's Name] would be a valuable addition to your team.

**Sincerely,
[Your Name]**

Match the column

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1. Let bygones be bygones | A. Something seemingly bad at first results in good |
| 2. A blessing in disguise | B. to be very similar in character to someone else |
| 3. Cast in the same mold | C. to not completely believe something that you are told |
| 4. Spill the beans | D. to decide to forget disagreements |
| 5. Take with a grain of salt | E. to reveal a secret |

Answer:

1-d

2-a

3-b

4-e

5-c

Vocabulary

1. Bête noire:
2. Tantamount:
3. Plagued:
4. Dwindling:
5. Effervescent:
6. Foment:
7. Penchant:
8. Gullible:
9. Relentless:
10. Blatantly:

ENGLISH

EXCLUSIVE SUBSCRIPTION



BASIC TO ADVANCE

- ➞ PERFECTION 2025 (1.0 – 12.0)
- ➞ PERFECTION 2024 (1.0–10.0)
- ➞ GRAMMAR GRANTH
- ➞ RECORDED + LIVE

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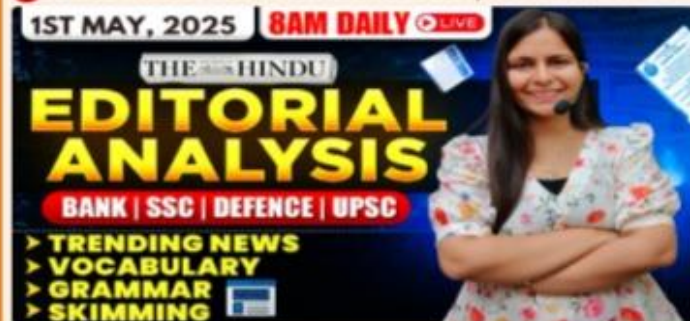


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Rc ans

1.

Ans: C

Explanation:

“...the move backfired dramatically, leading to his abrupt downfall and paving the way for Mr. Lee’s ascent to the presidency... in the June 3 election, which was necessitated by the impeachment of Mr. Yoon.”

Incorrect Options:

A) U.S. ties were not broken; Mr. Lee even calls the U.S. “the basis axis of our diplomacy.”

B) The military supported Yoon initially but didn’t gain a lasting role in governance.

D) No constitutional rewrite is mentioned.

2.

Ans: B

Explanation:

“South Koreans, both the political class and civilians, offered resistance... Mr. Yoon’s political collapse unfolded so fast that future leaders would think twice...”

Incorrect Options:

- A) There is no support; the action “cut open old wounds” from dictatorship.
- C) No constitutional emergency or referendum is mentioned.
- D) No reference to the UN’s involvement.

3.

Ans: D

Explanation:

“Mr. Lee... enters the Blue House with a strong mandate. His party is in a majority in the National Assembly...”

Incorrect Options:

A) Opposite is true: he has a parliamentary majority.

B) He was elected with 49.4% votes.

C) No mention of military support; the military was associated with Mr. Yoon.

4.

Ans: C

Explanation:

Reference from the passage:

“The Indian Railways must focus not only on easing the process of ticketing but also on... increasing its train and track capacity to fulfil travel demand...”

Incorrect options:

A) No call for privatization of e-ticketing is made.

B) Tatkal booking is being strengthened, not halted.

D) Aadhaar verification is being reinforced, not removed.

5.

Ans: B

Explanation:

Reference from the passage:

Mentioned: Aadhaar authentication, anti-bot systems, content delivery network, OTP-based authentication

Not mentioned: Blockchain is never referenced.

Incorrect options:

A) “Aadhaar authentication for all Tatkal bookings...”

C) “Using anti-bot systems to prevent unauthorised automated bookings...”

D) “Implementation of a content delivery network also helped improve website performance.”