

The Hindu EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

2nd 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. Coerce (बलपूर्वक कराना)

- **Meaning:** To persuade someone to do something by using force or threats.
- **Synonyms:** Compel, force, pressure
- **Antonyms:** Persuade, convince, encourage
- **Example:** The government is trying to coerce universities into changing their diversity policies.

2. Scarce (दुर्लभ)

- **Meaning:** Insufficient for the demand; hard to find.
- **Synonyms:** Limited, rare, sparse
- **Antonyms:** Abundant, plentiful, ample
- **Example:** Growth remains scarce in a globally slowing economy.

3. Sabotage (तोड़फोड़ करना)

- **Meaning:** To deliberately destroy, damage, or obstruct something, especially for political or military advantage.
- **Synonyms:** Undermine, disrupt, wreck
- **Antonyms:** Support, aid, assist
- **Example:** The official was accused of trying to sabotage the reform process from within.

4. Tranquil (शान्त)

- **Meaning:** Free from disturbance or turmoil; peaceful.
- **Synonyms:** Calm, serene, peaceful
- **Antonyms:** Agitated, disturbed, chaotic
- **Example:** The professor preferred the tranquil environment of the countryside to work on his research.

5. Rescind (रद्द करना)

- **Meaning:** To revoke, cancel, or repeal a law, order, or agreement.
- **Synonyms:** Revoke, annul, withdraw
- **Antonyms:** Enforce, uphold, validate
- **Example:** The university decided to rescind the admission offer due to discrepancies in the documents.

6. Vigorous (जोशीला / ऊर्जावान)

- **Meaning:** Strong, healthy, and full of energy.
- **Synonyms:** Energetic, dynamic, forceful
- **Antonyms:** Weak, lethargic, sluggish
- **Example:** The Prime Minister made a vigorous pitch for investment in renewable energy.

7. Formidable (भयानक / दुर्जेय)

- **Meaning:** Inspiring fear or respect through being impressively large, powerful, or capable.
- **Synonyms:** Intimidating, daunting, powerful
- **Antonyms:** Weak, insignificant, unimpressive
- **Example:** The professor was a formidable intellect in the field of theoretical physics.

8. Sagacious (विवेकी)

- **Meaning:** Showing keen mental discernment and good judgment; wise.
- **Synonyms:** Wise, insightful, judicious
- **Antonyms:** Foolish, unwise, imprudent
- **Example:** His sagacious decisions helped the company avoid several potential crises.

9. Bane (अभिशाप)

- **Meaning:** A cause of great distress or annoyance.
- **Synonyms:** Curse, burden, scourge
- **Antonyms:** Blessing, boon, benefit
- **Example:** While automation has improved efficiency, it has also become a bane for many traditional traders.

10. Eclectic (विभिन्न)

- **Meaning:** Deriving ideas, style, or taste from a broad and diverse range of sources.
- **Synonyms:** Diverse, varied, comprehensive
- **Antonyms:** Narrow, limited, homogeneous
- **Example:** The artist's eclectic style was influenced by a wide range of cultural traditions.

VOCABULARY

One-word substitute:

1. Having a long-established habit or feeling that is unlikely to change:

Inveterate

2. A payment given for professional services that are rendered nominally without charge:

Honorarium

3. Silly or eccentric in a funny or amusing way:

Wacky

4. A person who supervises students during an examination:

Proctor

VOCABULARY

Phrasal Verbs

1. Put off

Meaning: To delay or postpone something.

2. Get along (with)

Meaning: To have a friendly relationship with someone.

3. Carry on

Meaning: To continue doing something.

4. Set up

Meaning: To establish or arrange something; to start a business or organization.

VOCABULARY

Idioms & Phrases

1. Riding a High Horse

Meaning: to start talking angrily about something

2. Dark Horse

Meaning: an unexpected winner

3. Dog Days

Meaning: the hottest days of the summer

VOCABULARY

4. Black Sheep

Meaning: a disfavored or disreputable member of a group

5. Thinking outside the box

Meaning: to think differently

Article for Reading

**Growing pains: On
economic
performance, Viksit
Bharat**

The data on India's economic performance in 2024-25, released on Friday, have something for everybody. Those with an optimistic outlook can rejoice at the seemingly robust growth in the fourth quarter. Pessimists can despair over the four-year low annual growth figure. The realist's assessment, however, is that there is cause for some restrained celebration, and more than a healthy dose of disappointment. The Q4 growth of 7.4% was considerably higher than what was expected for the quarter, and the fastest seen in an otherwise dismal financial year. The main drivers were the construction sector returning to double-digit growth, and the agriculture sector posting a strong showing. These are also two major employment drivers. Services, too, continued their steady and strong growth. The manufacturing sector, on the other hand, grew at just 4.8%, down from 11.3% in Q4 of the previous year. There is a reality check hiding in the aggregate numbers, as well.

The GDP growth rate of 7.4% was achieved in large part due to a 12.7% growth in net taxes. This bump in tax collections provided a statistical boost without which growth in actual economic activity would have come in at around 6.8%. The much-hyped ‘Maha Kumbh effect’ on consumption expenditure also does not seem to have materialised. Growth in Private Final Consumption Expenditure in Q4 — the Kumbh quarter — came in at 6%, the slowest in five quarters. Capital formation, however, grew a robust 9.4% as the government finally sped up its sluggish capital investments. Government officials and Union Ministers have expressed their satisfaction at the 6.5% growth in 2024-25, the slowest since the pandemic, saying it is still the fastest among major economies, and not bad in the context of a “growth-scarce” global environment. All of this is true. Yet, ‘not bad’ is not nearly good enough for India. The race is not with the rest of the world, but is an effort to keep pace with the country’s growing requirements.

The Modi government, with its sights set on a 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047, must be held to a higher standard in line with its aspirations. If, as the Economic Survey points out, Viksit Bharat by 2047 requires "sustained economic growth of close to 8% every year for at least a decade", then India is decidedly moving very slowly, even if in the right direction. In his press conference, Chief Economic Adviser V. Anantha Nageswaran said India was entering a phase of low inflation and stable growth. Stability can be good, since it implies lower chances of growth slowing. Yet, it also implies growth is unlikely to accelerate significantly either. The government needs to consider whether this is truly a satisfactory situation for a transitioning economy.

Summary

The passage analyzes India's economic performance for the fiscal year 2024–25, presenting a mixed picture. While Q4 showed a stronger-than-expected GDP growth of 7.4%, driven by construction, agriculture, and services, the annual growth rate of 6.5% marked a four-year low. A significant part of Q4 growth came from increased tax collections rather than real economic activity. Private consumption growth was underwhelming, despite expectations from events like the Maha Kumbh. Investment picked up due to improved government spending. Although officials hailed the growth as impressive given global challenges, the piece argues that “not bad” is insufficient for India’s developmental goals, especially the vision of ‘Viksit Bharat’ by 2047, which demands consistent 8% annual growth. Stability in inflation and growth may prevent downturns, but also limits acceleration, raising questions about the adequacy of the current trajectory for a transitioning economy.

Tone:

The tone is balanced, with a mix of realistic, cautiously critical, and analytical perspectives. While acknowledging positive developments, the passage also expresses concern and disappointment over sluggish pro

Reading Comprehension

Based on the above passage, answer the following questions:

Question 1:

Why does the author suggest that India's 6.5% annual GDP growth is "not nearly good enough"?

- A) It is lower than the global average**
- B) It does not meet the UN's development goals**
- C) It is insufficient to meet the aspirations of a 'Viksit Bharat'**
- D) It was achieved by cutting public expenditure**
- E) None of the above**

Question 2:

What was the author's critique regarding the so-called 'Maha Kumbh effect' on consumption in Q4?

- A) It caused inflation to spike unexpectedly**
- B) It failed to translate into expected consumption growth**
- C) It diverted government capital investment**
- D) It primarily benefited the informal sector**
- E) None of the above**

Question 3:

What is implied by the author about the nature of India's current economic growth trajectory?

- A) It is unsustainable due to environmental concerns**
- B) It reflects a temporary boom driven by exports**
- C) It is stable but lacks the momentum for acceleration**
- D) It is primarily led by private sector innovation**
- E) None of the above**

Article for Skimming

**The university under
attack, universities
undermined**

Universities are facing an unprecedented challenge. While in India the challenge has been growing over the last three decades, in the United States, it has erupted since President Donald Trump took office in January 2025. The challenge has been growing elsewhere too as society's expectations from universities are changing. The Trump administration is freezing \$3.2 billion of Harvard University's grants and contracts. There is a move to revoke Harvard's tax-exempt status which will cost it a few hundred million dollars. Harvard's President Alan M. Garber has said that political disagreements could pose an existential threat to educational institutions. Because a cut in funds is being used to coerce universities to change their policies regarding student admissions, protests on campus, faculty recruitment, and diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programmes. In India, the control of institutions of higher learning has increasingly slipped out of the hands of academics to the bureaucracies in the Ministries of Education and the University Grants Commission over the last 40 years.

Academics in India are facing growing challenges related to teaching and research. The institutions they work in do not come to their defence, as seen in a recent case of a prestigious private university. All this represents a shift in the fine balance in the societal role of institutions of higher learning. The U.S. system was a model to emulate and even that is being dismantled. There is an inherent tension in the social role of universities. On one side they are required to generate socially relevant knowledge to meet the evolving challenges society faces while on the other, they are expected to reproduce the existing societal structures. To fulfil their creative role, academia requires autonomy. The heart and soul of creativity is what makes societies dynamic. Unfortunately, rulers while paying lip service to this are hollowing it out in practice. Autonomy enables academics to take a long-term view of emerging social challenges, even anticipating them. Given the accelerating pace of change, by the time society becomes aware of the change, it becomes too late to tackle it.

For instance, developments in Artificial Intelligence and social media are leading to challenges for employment, the issue of fake news and the nature of war. Autonomy enables current orthodoxy to be challenged and facilitates the generation of new knowledge. Without Galileo challenging the Church our understanding of the universe would not have advanced. Further, dynamism comes when academics who are aware of their own assumptions question them. Academics are a product of a time-consuming process. We do not know how to produce a Mahalanobis. He emerged out of an environment of freedom of thought that a university provides. In a shotgun approach, the system produces original thinkers who change the course of their discipline and give society new leads. The wider the catchment area, the higher the chance of producing excellence. Autonomy is needed all the way down the line. Universities need autonomy from vested interests to shield individual academics who generate new knowledge.

Question 4:

According to the passage, how has the governance of Indian universities changed over the past four decades?

- A) It has become increasingly autonomous and faculty-led**
- B) It has moved from academic to bureaucratic control**
- C) It has shifted toward privatized corporate management**
- D) It is guided mostly by international collaboration policies**
- E) None of the above**

Question 5:

Why does the author cite Galileo and Mahalanobis in the context of university autonomy?

- A) To critique the religious opposition to science**
- B) To advocate for more investment in space research**
- C) To show how academic freedom fosters breakthrough thinking**
- D) To argue for stronger ethics training in higher education**
- E) None of the above**

Today's Descriptive Question:

- **Write an essay of 200 words about the effects of Global Trade on Developing Economies.**

Global trade significantly impacts developing economies, offering both opportunities and challenges. On the positive side, it provides access to larger markets, enabling these economies to export goods and services, which can boost economic growth. Increased trade can lead to job creation, higher income levels, and improved living standards. For instance, countries like China and India have experienced substantial economic growth due to their integration into the global market.

Additionally, global trade allows developing countries to import advanced technologies and capital goods, enhancing productivity and industrialization. This access can help these economies diversify their industries and reduce dependence on a limited range of exports, thus stabilizing their economic base.

However, global trade also presents significant challenges for developing

economies. These countries often face stiff competition from more established economies, making it difficult for local industries to thrive. This competition can lead to job losses and the decline of traditional sectors. Moreover, developing countries might become overly dependent on exporting a few commodities, making them vulnerable to global market fluctuations and price volatility. Furthermore, the benefits of global trade are not always evenly distributed within developing economies. Wealth and opportunities may concentrate in specific regions or among certain groups, exacerbating inequality.

In conclusion, while global trade can drive economic growth and development in developing economies, it also poses challenges that need to be managed carefully. Policies promoting diversification, innovation, and equitable distribution of trade benefits are essential for maximizing the positive impacts of global trade on these economies.

- **Write a letter to the principal to grant sick leave.**

[Your Name]

[Your Address]

[City, State, ZIP Code]

[Email Address]

[Phone Number]

[Date]

[Principal's Name]

[School Name]

[School Address]

[City, State, ZIP Code]

Subject: Request for Sick Leave

Dear [Principal's Name],

I am writing to inform you that I am unwell and require some time off to recover. I am suffering from [mention illness, e.g., the flu, severe cold, etc.], and my doctor has advised me to take [number of days] days of rest to ensure a full recovery.

I kindly request that you grant me sick leave from [start date] to [end date]. I will ensure to catch up on all missed work and assignments as soon as I am able to return to school.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Grade/Class]

Match the column

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. Riding a High Horse | A. a disfavored or disreputable member of a group |
| 2. Dark Horse | B. to start talking angrily about something |
| 3. Dog Days | C. to think differently |
| 4. Black Sheep | D. an unexpected winner |
| 5. Thinking outside the box | E. the hottest days of the summer |

Answer:

1-b

2-d

3-e

4-a

5-c

Vocabulary

1. Coerce:
2. Scarce:
3. Sabotage:
4. Tranquil:
5. Rescind:
6. Vigorous:
7. Formidable:
8. Sagacious:
9. Bane:
10. Eclectic:

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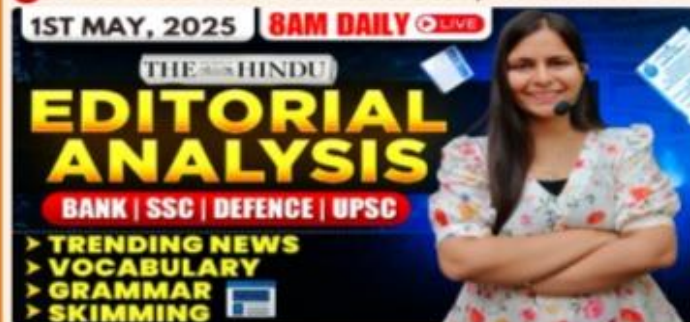


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Rc ans

1.

Ans: C

Explanation:

The author criticizes the complacency around 6.5% growth, stating that 'Viksit Bharat by 2047' requires sustained growth of around 8% annually, according to the Economic Survey. Therefore, the current rate is not enough.

Reference:

"If, as the Economic Survey points out, Viksit Bharat by 2047 requires 'sustained economic growth of close to 8% every year for at least a decade,' then India is decidedly moving very slowly..."

Incorrect Options:

- A) It is still the fastest among major economies, per the passage.
- B) UN goals are not mentioned.
- D) On the contrary, the passage mentions an increase in capital investment.

2.

Ans: B

Explanation:

The passage directly states that the “much-hyped ‘Maha Kumbh effect’ on consumption expenditure also does not seem to have materialised.” In fact, Private Final Consumption Expenditure (PFCE) grew only 6%, the slowest in five quarters.

Reference:

“The much-hyped ‘Maha Kumbh effect’ on consumption expenditure also does not seem to have materialised... PFCE... came in at 6%, the slowest in five quarters.”

Incorrect Options:

- A) Inflation is said to be low and stable, not spiked.
- C) Government capital investment increased, not diverted.
- D) No data is given on informal sector benefits.

3.

Ans: C

Explanation:

The Chief Economic Adviser is cited as saying India is entering a phase of “low inflation and stable growth.” While stability is positive, the author critiques that it also “implies growth is unlikely to accelerate significantly either.”

Reference:

“Stability can be good... Yet, it also implies growth is unlikely to accelerate significantly either.”

Incorrect Options:

- A) No mention of environmental concerns.
- B) No mention of exports as a key driver.
- D) Public capital formation is cited; private sector innovation isn't emphasized.

4.

Ans: B

Explanation:

The passage says: “the control of institutions of higher learning has increasingly slipped out of the hands of academics to the bureaucracies in the Ministries of Education and the University Grants Commission over the last 40 years.”

Reference:

“In India, the control... has increasingly slipped out of the hands of academics to the bureaucracies... over the last 40 years.”

Incorrect Options:

- A) The trend is away from autonomy, not toward it.
- C) There is no mention of privatized corporate management.
- D) International collaboration is not discussed as a governance issue.

5.

Ans: C

Explanation:

Galileo is cited for challenging orthodoxy, and Mahalanobis as an example of a thinker who emerged from a free academic environment. Both illustrate how autonomy enables creativity and original thought.

Reference:

“Without Galileo challenging the Church... Academics are a product of a time-consuming process... Mahalanobis... emerged out of an environment of freedom of thought...”

Incorrect Options:

- A) The point is not a religious critique, but a freedom of thought example.
- B) Space research is not relevant here.
- D) Ethics is not discussed in this context.