

The Hindu EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

5th July 2025

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

1. Callow (अनुभवहीन / अपरिपक्व)

- **Meaning:** Inexperienced and immature, especially of a young person.
- **Synonyms:** Naive, inexperienced, juvenile
- **Antonyms:** Mature, experienced, seasoned
- **Example:** The callow intern made several mistakes during the project due to his lack of experience.

2. Crumble (ढह जाना)

- **Meaning:** To break down emotionally or physically; fall apart.
- **Synonyms:** Collapse, break down, disintegrate
- **Antonyms:** Withstand, endure, resist
- **Example:** Those with a hopeful mindset are less likely to crumble under pressure.

3. Proliferate (तेज़ी से बढ़ना / फैलना)

- **Meaning:** To increase rapidly in number or spread quickly.
- **Synonyms:** Multiply, expand, escalate
- **Antonyms:** Diminish, decrease, dwindle
- **Example:** Unregulated factories continue to proliferate in the industrial zone.

4. Forfend (बचाना / रोकना)

- **Meaning:** To prevent or protect against something harmful.
- **Synonyms:** Avert, ward off, prevent
- **Antonyms:** Permit, allow, expose
- **Example:** Safety measures were introduced to forfend another tragic explosion.

5. Spurious (कृत्रिम / झूठा)

- **Meaning:** Not being what it claims to be; false or fake.
- **Synonyms:** Bogus, counterfeit, deceptive
- **Antonyms:** Genuine, authentic, valid
- **Example:** The company was fined for making spurious claims about its safety record.

6. Fulgent (दीप्तिमान / चमकदार)

- **Meaning:** Shining brightly; radiant.
- **Synonyms:** Luminous, dazzling, gleaming
- **Antonyms:** Dull, dim, murky
- **Example:** The fulgent fireworks lit up the night sky during the celebration.

7. Cavalier (लापरवाह / अभिमानी)

- **Meaning:** Showing a lack of proper concern; arrogant or dismissive.
- **Synonyms:** Dismissive, indifferent, haughty
- **Antonyms:** Humble, considerate, respectful
- **Example:** Authorities were criticized for their cavalier attitude toward factory safety norms.

8. Confutation (खंडन / खंडन की प्रक्रिया)

- **Meaning:** The act of proving something to be false or invalid.
- **Synonyms:** Refutation, rebuttal, disproof
- **Antonyms:** Confirmation, verification, endorsement
- **Example:** The lawyer's confutation of the witness's testimony weakened the prosecution's case.

9. Cynicism (निराशावाद / अविश्वास)

- **Meaning:** An inclination to believe that people are motivated purely by self-interest; skepticism.
- **Synonyms:** Skepticism, distrust, pessimism
- **Antonyms:** Trust, optimism, faith
- **Example:** Choosing belief over cynicism is a quiet act of rebellion in a skeptical world.

10. Beatific (आनंदमय / शांतिपूर्ण)

- **Meaning:** Blissfully happy; imparting holy bliss.
- **Synonyms:** Blissful, serene, joyful
- **Antonyms:** Miserable, troubled, sorrowful
- **Example:** Her face had a beatific expression as she watched her children play.

VOCABULARY

One-word substitute:

1. To beat or strike repeatedly and violently:

Thrash

2. The 100th anniversary of an event:

Centenary

3. A statement of beliefs or guiding principles:

Credo

4. Nervously excited or agitated; in a state of tremulous excitement:

Aflutter

VOCABULARY

Phrasal Verbs:

1. Drift off

Meaning: To gradually fall asleep.

2. Drive back

Meaning: To force someone or something to retreat.

3. Drum up

Meaning: To generate or encourage interest or support.

4. Dry up

Meaning: To come to an end or cease to be available.

VOCABULARY

Idioms & Phrases

1. To keep under wraps

Meaning: To keep something secret or hidden.

2. Die in harness

Meaning: To die while still actively working or holding a job.

3. Fair-weather friend

Meaning: Someone who is only a friend during good times, but not in times of trouble.

VOCABULARY

4. Emerge out of thin air

Meaning: To appear suddenly and unexpectedly.

5. Cut no ice

Meaning: To have no influence or effect.

Article for Reading

**Cease the cess: On
the GST and reforms**

The eighth anniversary of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in India, on July 1, coincided with the poorest tax collections the indirect tax system has seen in some time, highlighting the need for structural changes in the system. The latest GST collections stood at ₹1.85 lakh crore in June 2025, the lowest in four months. This amount was just 6.2% higher than the collections in June 2024, the slowest growth rate in four years. Looking past the gross collections, the data show that once refunds are accounted for, the growth in the government's actual collections was just 3.3%. Further, the revenue from domestic transactions, excluding imports, was an anaemic 4.6% higher than in June last year — barely faster than the average rate of inflation since then. Being a consumption tax, a dip in GST collections reflects a dip in economic activity. But it also reflects inefficiencies in the system, which must now suitably be addressed eight years on. A common demand is for fuel to be included in GST.

There is, however, strong resistance to this from State governments, since fuel and alcohol are the few sources of revenue States have with them that are independent of the Centre. However, this cannot be reason enough to perpetually keep these items excluded. It is 'one nation, one tax' after all, and it is high time that the goal was achieved in full. As for the revenue hit to States, the Centre must accede to their request for a higher share in central taxes. The Centre must also stop increasingly relying on non-shareable cesses for its revenue. For their part, States must resist the temptation to use this higher amount on election-oriented untargeted freebies. Trust goes two ways. The other popular reform is a reduction in the number of GST rates. This, too, is overdue, and the GST Council's fitment and rate-setting committees are examining the issue. Connected to this is the question of what is to be done with the GST Compensation Cess, which is levied over and above the 28% slab.

It was originally intended to compensate States for any losses arising out of GST implementation for a period of five years. It was then extended until March 2026 to repay the loan taken by the Centre to pay this compensation since the COVID-19 pandemic had disrupted revenues. The Centre should avoid the temptation to subsume this cess into the broader GST rates. Instead, with its job done, the cess must be removed. Taxation is not just a covenant between the Centre and the States. It is also one with the people. Removing a cess that is no longer needed will not only garner public praise but could also spur some sorely needed urban consumption.

Summary

On the eighth anniversary of GST, India saw its lowest tax collections in four months, highlighting the need for structural reforms. Growth in collections has slowed significantly, indicating both weak consumption and systemic inefficiencies. The editorial urges the inclusion of fuel under GST, simplification of tax rates, removal of the now-unnecessary compensation cess, and a fairer revenue-sharing model between the Centre and States. It also cautions against the misuse of increased funds by States for populist spending. These reforms are essential to strengthen trust among all stakeholders and boost economic activity.

Tone:

Analytical and persuasive — the passage critically assesses the current issues in GST and advocates for urgent, balanced reforms.

Reading Comprehension

Based on the above passage, answer the following questions:

Question 1:

What is the main reason State governments are resisting the inclusion of fuel under GST?

- A. Fuel prices are already regulated by the Centre**
- B. States do not want to share tax collection data with the Centre**
- C. Fuel taxes are a significant source of independent revenue for States**
- D. Including fuel under GST would reduce environmental taxes**
- E. None of the above**

Question 2:

According to the author, what should happen to the GST Compensation Cess once its objective is fulfilled?

- A. It should be merged into the general 28% slab**
- B. It should be retained permanently to support central schemes**
- C. It should be used to subsidize fuel under GST**
- D. It should be removed to boost urban consumption and public sentiment**
- E. None of the above**

Question 3:

What recommendation does the passage make regarding Centre-State fiscal relations under GST?

- A. The Centre should be given more say in setting GST slabs**
- B. The Centre should allow States to raise GST rates independently**
- C. The Centre should agree to a higher share of central taxes for States**
- D. States should fund GST compensation from their own revenues**
- E. None of the above**

Article for Skimming

**Harnessing the
Power of Belief:
Nurturing Optimism
and Building
Resilience**

In an increasingly uncertain and fast-paced world, the ability to remain grounded, hopeful, and emotionally strong has never been more crucial. While external factors often feel beyond our control, the inner force of belief—what we hold true about ourselves and the world—can shape the way we face adversity, respond to setbacks, and ultimately grow. Harnessing the power of belief is not just a feel-good mantra; it is a profound psychological tool that nurtures optimism and builds the foundation for resilience. At the heart of belief is the idea that change is possible. People who believe in their ability to overcome difficulties are more likely to persist through hardship, learn from failure, and emerge stronger. This belief system doesn't ignore reality—it reframes it. Instead of seeing obstacles as dead ends, optimistic individuals view them as challenges to be met and mastered.

In this way, belief becomes the lens through which we interpret life, determining whether we see ourselves as victims of circumstance or as agents of growth. Resilience, the capacity to recover and bounce back from stress or trauma, is deeply connected to belief. Studies in psychology have consistently shown that individuals with a strong sense of purpose and a hopeful outlook are better equipped to cope with personal and professional adversity. They don't crumble under pressure; they adapt, evolve, and often transform hardship into strength. Belief fuels this process by reminding us that setbacks are not permanent and that our worth isn't defined by a single moment of failure. Optimism, too, is a product of belief. It is the conviction that the future can be better than the present—and that we have the power to influence it. This forward-looking mindset doesn't mean ignoring difficulties, but rather maintaining faith that solutions exist and that effort is worthwhile.

In schools, workplaces, and even healthcare settings, optimistic individuals often perform better, build stronger relationships, and enjoy improved mental health. Belief empowers them to take action rather than retreat, to persist rather than surrender. But belief must be nurtured. It can be challenged by doubt, disappointment, and criticism. To maintain it, we must surround ourselves with supportive influences, engage in positive self-talk, and reflect regularly on past achievements. Acts of kindness, gratitude practices, and community involvement can all reinforce a belief in both self-worth and shared humanity—essential ingredients for lasting resilience. In the end, belief is not a passive state—it is a practice. It requires conscious effort, especially in the face of failure or fear. But when cultivated, belief becomes a wellspring of strength that enables us to navigate life's inevitable storms with courage and hope. In a world that often urges cynicism, choosing belief is a quiet act of rebellion—and a powerful step toward a more resilient, optimistic, and empowered life.

Question 4:

Which of the following best reflects the author's stance on maintaining belief in the face of challenges?

- A. Belief is innate and needs no reinforcement.**
- B. Belief is futile in a cynical and fast-paced world.**
- C. Belief is a deliberate and continuous practice.**
- D. Belief should replace reality with hope.**
- E. None of the above**

Question 5:

What does the author imply about the relationship between belief and identity?

- A. Belief defines a person's social status.**
- B. Belief shapes how individuals perceive their agency in adversity.**
- C. Belief determines one's genetic disposition toward stress.**
- D. Belief weakens when one is disconnected from tradition.**
- E. None of the above**

Today's Descriptive Question:

- **Write an essay of 200 words about homelessness and its solutions.**

Homelessness is a pervasive social issue affecting millions worldwide. It arises from a complex interplay of factors, including economic instability, lack of affordable housing, unemployment, mental illness, and substance abuse. Individuals experiencing homelessness often face numerous challenges, such as inadequate access to healthcare, food insecurity, and social isolation. These conditions exacerbate their vulnerability, making it difficult for them to reintegrate into society.

Addressing homelessness requires a multi-faceted approach. Firstly, increasing the availability of affordable housing is crucial. Governments and non-profit organizations should invest in constructing and maintaining low-cost housing to provide stable environments for those in need. Secondly, implementing supportive services like mental health counseling, addiction treatment, and job training can help individuals rebuild their lives. These services should be tailored to address the specific needs of different

populations, such as veterans, families, and youth.

Moreover, fostering community-based initiatives and increasing public awareness are vital in combating homelessness. Programs that encourage local businesses to offer employment opportunities and community members to volunteer can create supportive networks. Ultimately, a combination of compassionate policy-making, community involvement, and targeted social services can effectively address homelessness, paving the way for a more inclusive society where everyone has a place to call home.

- **Write a letter to a medical professional that addresses health issues and requests medical records.**

[Your Name]

[Your Address]

[Date]

[Doctor's Name]

[Address]

Dear Dr. [Doctor's Last Name],

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to discuss some ongoing health issues that I have been experiencing and to request copies of

my medical records for my personal files.

Over the past few weeks, I have noticed some concerning symptoms, including fatigue, dizziness, and shortness of breath. These symptoms have been persistent and seem to be worsening. I would like to schedule an appointment to discuss these issues further and to undergo any necessary tests to determine the underlying cause. Additionally, I am in the process of consulting with a specialist and would appreciate it if you could provide me with a copy of my medical records. This will help ensure that the specialist has a comprehensive understanding of my medical history. If possible, please include all test results, imaging reports, and notes from previous consultations.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to hearing from you soon to schedule an appointment. If you require any additional information from me, please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Sincerely,
[Your Name]**

Match the column

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1. To keep under wraps | A. Someone who is only a friend during good times |
| 2. Die in harness | B. To appear suddenly |
| 3. Fair-weather friend | C. To have no influence |
| 4. Emerge out of thin air | D. To die while still actively working |
| 5. Cut no ice | E. To keep something secret or hidden |

Answer:

1-e

2-d

3-a

4-b

5-c

Vocabulary

1. Callow:
2. Crumble:
3. Proliferate:
4. Forfend:
5. Spurious:
6. Fulgent:
7. Cavalier:
8. Confutation:
9. Cynicism:
10. Beatific:

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ONE PREMIUM

+

TARGET BATCH

+

YES MOCK

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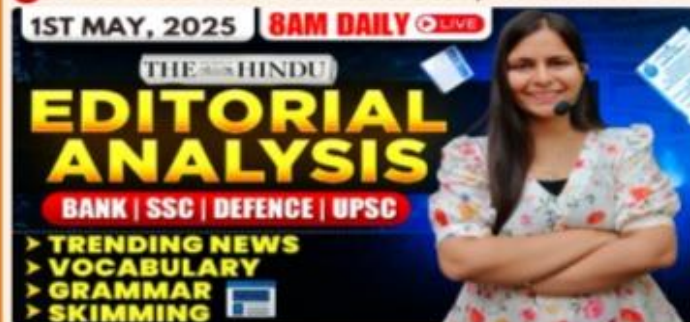


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Rc ans

1.

Ans: C

Explanation:

Reference: “There is... strong resistance to this from State governments, since fuel and alcohol are the few sources of revenue States have... independent of the Centre.”

C is directly mentioned in the passage as the main reason for resistance.

Incorrect options:

A is irrelevant; price regulation isn't discussed.

B isn't mentioned anywhere.

D is incorrect; environmental concerns are not cited here.

2.

Ans: D

Explanation:

Reference: “Instead, with its job done, the cess must be removed. Removing a cess that is no longer needed... could also spur some sorely needed urban consumption.”

D reflects the author’s suggestion — cess removal to aid urban demand and public goodwill.

Incorrect options:

A is warned against: “The Centre should avoid the temptation to subsume this cess into the broader GST rates.”

B and C are not proposed or mentioned.

3.

Ans: C

Explanation:

Reference: “As for the revenue hit to States, the Centre must accede to their request for a higher share in central taxes.”

C is the explicit recommendation for maintaining fiscal balance post-GST.

Incorrect options:

A: Not discussed — the GST Council already handles slab setting.

B: Contradicts the “one nation, one tax” ethos.

D: Unmentioned and not proposed.

4.

Ans: C

Explanation:

Reference: “Belief is not a passive state—it is a practice. It requires conscious effort, especially in the face of failure or fear.”

C captures the author’s view: belief must be cultivated and sustained actively.

Incorrect options:

A is incorrect—the passage stresses nurturing belief through effort.

B contradicts the entire tone, which promotes belief as a tool against cynicism.

D is a misrepresentation—belief reframes reality, not replaces it.

5.

Ans: B

Explanation:

Reference: “Belief becomes the lens through which we interpret life, determining whether we see ourselves as victims of circumstance or as agents of growth.”

B reflects the role of belief in shaping self-perception and agency.

Incorrect options:

A is irrelevant—social status is not discussed.

C is not supported; there’s no mention of genetics.

D is not mentioned—tradition is not part of the belief system discussed.