

# The Hindu EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

4th 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. Paltry (तुच्छ)

- **Meaning:** Small or meagre; of little value or importance.
- **Synonyms:** Trivial, insignificant, negligible
- **Antonyms:** Significant, substantial, considerable
- **Example:** The workers received only a paltry compensation after the factory accident.

## 2. Abet (उकसाना / सहायता देना)

- **Meaning:** To encourage or assist someone in doing something wrong or illegal.
- **Synonyms:** Incite, aid, provoke
- **Antonyms:** Deter, prevent, hinder
- **Example:** The manager was accused of trying to abet the illegal storage of explosives.

### 3. Egress (निकास)

- **Meaning:** The action of going out or leaving a place; an exit.
- **Synonyms:** Exit, way out, departure
- **Antonyms:** Entrance, access, ingress
- **Example:** The factory lacked proper egress routes, making it hard for workers to escape during the fire.

## 4. Amassed (एकत्र किया हुआ)

- **Meaning:** Collected or gathered over a period of time.
- **Synonyms:** Accumulated, hoarded, piled up
- **Antonyms:** Scattered, dispersed, squandered
- **Example:** The company had amassed a large quantity of hazardous chemicals without proper safety measures.

## 5. Sardonic (व्यंग्यात्मक )

- **Meaning:** Grimly mocking or cynical.
- **Synonyms:** Sarcastic, scornful, derisive
- **Antonyms:** Sincere, kind, respectful
- **Example:** His sardonic remark about the government's handling of the disaster angered many officials.

## 6. Pauper (ग़रीब व्यक्ति / दरिद्र)

- **Meaning:** A very poor person.
- **Synonyms:** Beggar, destitute, indigent
- **Antonyms:** Millionaire, wealthy, affluent
- **Example:** The accident left many workers as paupers, with no financial support or healthcare.

## 7. Abhorrent (घृणास्पद )

- **Meaning:** Inspiring disgust and loathing.
- **Synonyms:** Repugnant, detestable, loathsome
- **Antonyms:** Admirable, pleasant, lovable
- **Example:** The neglect shown towards survivors' health needs was morally abhorrent.



## **8. Fortuitous (आकस्मिक / संयोगवश )**

- **Meaning:** Happening by chance, often in a lucky or beneficial way.
- **Synonyms:** Accidental, serendipitous, chance
- **Antonyms:** Deliberate, intentional, planned
- **Example:** It was fortuitous that the fire broke out when no workers were inside the unit.

## 9. Ephemeral (क्षणिक / अल्पकालिक )

- **Meaning:** Lasting for a very short time.
- **Synonyms:** Transient, fleeting, short-lived
- **Antonyms:** Permanent, enduring, lasting
- **Example:** The public's attention to the tragedy was sadly ephemeral, fading within days.

## 10. Assiduous (परिश्रमी / मेहनती)

- **Meaning:** Showing great care, attention, and effort.
- **Synonyms:** Diligent, meticulous, hardworking
- **Antonyms:** Negligent, lazy, careless
- **Example:** The journalist's assiduous investigation exposed the factory's repeated safety violations.

## VOCABULARY

### One-word substitute:

**1. Useless, serving no practical purpose or result:**

**Otiose**

**2. Brave and determined, especially in difficult situations:**

**Plucky**

**3. Involving or showing violence and bloodshed:**

**Gory**

**4. Having or showing deep, extensive knowledge gained from reading and studying; scholarly:**

**Erudite**

# VOCABULARY

## Phrasal Verbs:

### 1. Drag on

Meaning: To continue for too long and become boring or tedious.

### 2. Draw down

Meaning: To reduce resources or forces; to use up something.

### 3. Draw on

Meaning: To use information, experience, or resources; to approach in time.

### 4. Dress down

Meaning: To scold or reprimand someone severely; also to wear casual clothes instead of formal ones.

# VOCABULARY

## Idioms & Phrases

### 1. Take with a grain of salt

**Meaning:** To view something with skepticism or not take it too literally.

### 2. Hobson's choice

**Meaning:** A situation where there is really no choice at all; only one option is offered.

### 3. To eat humble pie

**Meaning:** To admit one's error and apologize, often in an embarrassing way.

## VOCABULARY

### **4. Sowing wild oats**

**Meaning:** Engaging in reckless or carefree behavior, typically in youth.

### **5. A sore point**

**Meaning:** A sensitive or upsetting topic that causes discomfort or annoyance.

## **Article for Reading**

**Careful curation: on  
Bihar's Special  
Intensive Revision of  
electoral rolls**



**Bihar's ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls by the Election Commission of India (ECI) has drawn criticism from political parties, and rightly so. The enormity of the task, the short duration, and the strict criteria for verification could result in the wrongful exclusion of lakhs of voters. The ECI's statement that only ordinary residents would qualify for inclusion in the electoral roll has raised concerns, particularly among Opposition parties. Critics argue that it would be difficult for migrant voters — an estimated 20% of Bihar's voting population — to be present for verification during the window that ends on July 31, and creates a high probability that they could be struck off the rolls. The Representation of the People Act, 1950 states that "A person absenting himself temporarily from his place of ordinary residence shall not by reason thereof cease to be ordinarily resident therein", and manuals on electoral rolls add that such people will be treated as ordinary residents as long as they possess the ability and intention to return.**

**This means that there must be caution in removing the names of migrants, especially those who are away from their place of residence for a short period. The issue becomes more complicated with long-term migrants. In Bihar's case, there is a significant section of the voting-age population, especially males, migrating for work. This becomes evident when parsing voting data from the 2024 general election in the State, revealing a unique electoral dynamic. Bihar is a State where more women turned out to vote than men in absolute numbers (for every 1,000 men there were 1,017.5 women ), even though there were more registered male electors on the rolls (for every 1,000 men, there were only 917.5 women). This electoral dynamic was observed in Jharkhand, and to a lesser extent in Himachal Pradesh, but nowhere was the difference starker than in Bihar. There is good reason to believe that many of the absentee male electors were registered in their home constituencies in Bihar but were unable to return on polling day, drastically lowering the overall turnout rate for men.**

**These electors were likely part of a large migrant cohort that included many longer-term migrants. The SIR must carefully parse such electors and ensure that only longer-term migrants are removed from the rolls — not an easy task. For longer-term migrants, meaningful representation requires their vote to be registered where they currently reside and work. Migrant workers are integral to the economic engines of several States, and their political voice should be more impactful in holding representatives accountable for their everyday challenges there, rather than in their native places. The ECI's SIR must balance these principles. Ideally, such a process should take more time than the one month that the ECI has allocated for it.**

## Summary

**The Election Commission of India's (ECI) ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar has drawn criticism due to its rushed timeline, stringent verification criteria, and potential to wrongly exclude lakhs of voters—particularly migrant workers, who make up about 20% of the state's electorate. While the ECI insists that only “ordinary residents” be included, critics argue that both short-term and long-term migrants are at risk of being unfairly removed from the rolls, despite legal provisions protecting their status. Data from the 2024 general election highlights a gendered voting gap—more women voted than men—suggesting absenteeism among male migrant workers. The article stresses the need for the ECI to distinguish carefully between short-term and long-term migrants and to ensure that only the latter are shifted to rolls in their current places of residence, not removed altogether. A longer timeframe is recommended to make this process fair and accurate.**

## **Tone:**

**Analytical, critical, and concerned — particularly about the risks of disenfranchisement, administrative haste, and the underrepresentation of migrant workers**

## Reading Comprehension

Based on the above passage, answer the following questions:

**Question 1:**

**What electoral anomaly is highlighted in Bihar during the 2024 general election?**

- A. Women had a higher voter registration rate than men**
- B. Male voter turnout was lower despite higher registration**
- C. There was a significant number of invalidated votes from urban regions**
- D. The majority of votes were cast via postal ballots**
- E. None of the above**

## **Question 2:**

**According to the passage, why is registering migrant workers in their place of work, rather than origin, a more meaningful approach?**

- A. It prevents electoral fraud by rooting out dual registrations**
- B. It allows them to receive state subsidies at their workplace**
- C. It ensures their political voice is reflected in the governance affecting their daily lives**
- D. It increases voter turnout in rural constituencies**
- E. None of the above**



**Question 3:**

**What is the editorial's main recommendation regarding the SIR process in Bihar?**

- A. Cancel it until after the 2029 general election**
- B. Use artificial intelligence to distinguish long-term and short-term migrants**
- C. Exclude all absentee voters from the final roll**
- D. Extend the revision timeline to ensure fairness and accuracy**
- E. None of the above**

## Article for Skimming

**Murder most foul: on  
custodial torture and  
deaths**

**Nearly 15 years after the Supreme Court of India described custodial torture and deaths as the most heinous crime committed by men in uniform, brutal third-degree treatment of suspects remains a chilling reality. Emboldened policemen, with contempt for procedure, show no hesitation in resorting to violence, not just within but also outside police stations. In Tamil Nadu, the recent death of a young man, Ajith Kumar, who was detained and tortured by a special police team, in plain clothes, for alleged theft in Sivaganga district, underscores the deeply ingrained authoritarian and intimidating nature of the police force. The impunity with which he was detained, without a formal complaint or the registration of a First Information Report, illustrates just how normalised such disturbing behaviour has become in policing.**

**Under the direction of the Manamadurai Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), Ajith Kumar was taken by the team to several secluded spots and subject to lathi blows to force him into confessing to have committed the theft — a woman visiting a temple in Madapuram had asked him to park her car; she later claimed that jewellery in the car was missing. Ajith collapsed under the brutality and the theft remains unproven. Justice S.M. Subramanian of the Madras High Court (Madurai Bench) aptly said, “It is almost police-organised crime... Very crudely, we have to say it is the state killing its own citizen.” Most victims are from oppressed backgrounds, making them easy targets. In this case, attempts at a cover-up failed due to protests and political outrage. With the custodial murder of a father and son in Sattankulam during the COVID-19 pandemic still fresh in public memory, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin wasted no time in damage control. Seven policemen, including the DSP were suspended; later, five were arrested.**

**The case was transferred to the CBI. Mindful of a political fallout, with the Assembly elections nine months away, Mr. Stalin apologised to the victim's mother. Solatium was offered, including a cooperative society job to his brother, and a housing plot to the family. Mr. Stalin said that such incidents are “unforgivable” and “unjustifiable” — views he has not aired in suspected custodial death cases in the past four years. However, these measures alone will not bring closure to the families. As directed by the High Court, he must ensure there is action against senior police officers, if their involvement is proven. A fast track trial is needed. It is time for the law-keepers to fall in line and for such killings to end.**

**Question 4:**

**According to the editorial, which factor most enables custodial torture to persist?**

- A. Loopholes in digital surveillance systems**
- B. Lack of budget allocation for prison reforms**
- C. Police impunity and disregard for procedural norms**
- D. Delays in implementing Supreme Court verdicts on custodial guidelines**
- E. None of the above**

**Question 5:**

**What does Justice S.M. Subramanian's comment most likely reflect?**

- A. Support for custodial interrogation in rare cases**
- B. Disbelief in citizen testimonies**
- C. Advocacy for the removal of First Information Report registration**
- D. Condemnation of custodial torture as a form of state-sponsored crime**
- E. None of the above**

## Today's Descriptive Question:

- **Write an essay of 200 words about the contribution of the Aviation industry to our lives.**



**The aviation industry has revolutionized modern life, connecting people, cultures, and economies across vast distances. Air travel enables quick and convenient movement, fostering globalization and supporting tourism, trade, and business. Economies benefit significantly from aviation, as it boosts trade by facilitating the transport of goods quickly across borders, allowing businesses to expand globally and creating employment opportunities in airports, airlines, and tourism-related industries.**

**Beyond economic contributions, the aviation industry plays a critical role in humanitarian efforts. In times of crisis, such as natural disasters, aviation provides immediate aid delivery, medical evacuations, and support for displaced populations. Aircraft also contribute to scientific research, allowing**

**environmental monitoring and data collection from remote regions like the Arctic.**

**Culturally, aviation promotes global awareness and cultural exchange by making it easier for people to experience new places and perspectives. Furthermore, air travel fosters personal connections, allowing families and friends in different parts of the world to remain close.**

**However, the industry faces challenges, particularly in environmental impact. Efforts are being made to develop sustainable aviation technology to reduce carbon emissions. As the industry continues to innovate, it remains essential in shaping a more interconnected and resilient world.**

- **Write a letter to the regional manager for a change in bank timing as it is inconvenient for customers.**

**[Your Name]**

**[Your Address]**

**[City, Zip Code]**

**[Date]**

**Regional Manager**

**[Bank Name]**

**[Branch Address]**

**[City, Zip Code]**

**Subject: Request for Change in Bank Timing**

**Dear [Regional Manager's Name],**

**I am writing on behalf of several customers of [Bank Name], [Branch Name], to express concerns regarding the current bank operating hours. The present schedule, while convenient for the bank's internal operations, is causing challenges for many of us, especially working professionals and senior citizens who find it difficult to access services within the limited hours.**

**With the bank opening at [current opening time] and closing at [current closing time], there is limited opportunity for customers to handle their banking needs, particularly for those with full-time jobs. Additionally, senior citizens and students have expressed difficulty in visiting the bank during these hours, given their own schedules and commitments.**

**We kindly request the management to consider extending the hours by an hour**

**in the morning or evening to accommodate a wider range of customers. Alternatively, opening the branch on weekends, even for limited hours, would be immensely helpful. This change would undoubtedly improve customer satisfaction and accessibility to banking services.**

**Thank you for considering this request, and we look forward to a positive response that enhances convenience for your customers.**

**Yours sincerely,  
[Your Name]**

## Match the column

1. Take with a grain of salt
2. Hobson's choice
3. To eat humble pie
4. Sowing wild oats
5. A sore point

- A. To admit one's error
- B. Engaging in reckless behavior
- C. To view something with skepticism
- D. A sensitive topic that causes discomfort
- E. A situation where there is really no choice at all

**Answer:**

**1-c**

**2-e**

**3-a**

**4-b**

**5-d**

## Vocabulary

1. Paltry:
2. Abet:
3. Egress:
4. Amassed:
5. Sardonic:
6. Pauper:
7. Abhorrent:
8. Fortuitous:
9. Ephemeral:
10. Assiduous:



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+

TARGET BATCH

+

YES MOCK

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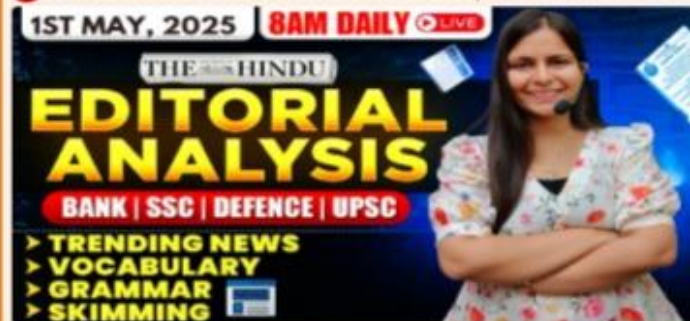


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**Rc ans**

**1.**

**Ans: B**

**Explanation:**

**Reference:** “More women turned out to vote than men in absolute numbers... even though there were more registered male electors...”

**Incorrect options:**

A: The number of registered male electors was higher, not lower.

C: No mention of invalidated votes or urban-specific anomalies.

D: Postal ballots are not discussed.

2.

**Ans: C**

**Explanation:**

**Reference:** “Migrant workers are integral to the economic engines of several States, and their political voice should be more impactful in holding representatives accountable for their everyday challenges there, rather than in their native places.”

**Incorrect Options:**

A: Fraud prevention is not discussed in this context.

B: Subsidies are never mentioned.

D: The idea is to decrease rural-only registration in favor of workplace registration.

**3.**

**Ans: D**

**Explanation:**

**Reference:** “Ideally, such a process should take more time than the one month that the ECI has allocated for it.”

**Incorrect Options:**

A: The editorial suggests improvement, not cancellation.

B: AI is not mentioned as a solution.

C: The editorial argues against removal of all absentee voters.

4.

**Ans: C**

**Explanation:**

**Reference:** “Emboldened policemen, with contempt for procedure, show no hesitation in resorting to violence...”

The culture of impunity and violation of due process is the crux of the issue.

**Incorrect options:**

A: Digital surveillance is not mentioned.

B: Budget or prison reforms are not central to this issue.

D: Although the Supreme Court is referenced, the focus is not on delay in verdict implementation.

**5.**

**Ans: D**

**Explanation:**

**Reference:** “It is almost police-organised crime... Very crudely, we have to say it is the state killing its own citizen.”

The quote indicates a deep condemnation, aligning custodial torture with criminal conduct by the state.

**Incorrect options:**

A: He is condemning such practices, not supporting them.

B: There's no mention of citizen testimonies being doubted.

C: The problem here is lack of FIR, not its overuse.