

The Hindu EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

10th 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. Capricious (मनमौजी / चंचल)

- **Meaning:** Given to sudden and unaccountable changes of mood or behavior.
- **Synonyms:** Fickle, whimsical, unpredictable
- **Antonyms:** Consistent, stable, reliable
- **Example:** The weather in the mountains is famously capricious, often changing in minutes.

2. Scintillating (चमकदार / तेजस्वी)

- **Meaning:** Sparkling or shining brightly; brilliantly lively or witty.
- **Synonyms:** Sparkling, dazzling, brilliant
- **Antonyms:** Dull, boring, lackluster
- **Example:** The final match was a scintillating display of skill and stamina.

3. Alacrity (फुर्ती)

- **Meaning:** Brisk and cheerful readiness.
- **Synonyms:** Eagerness, willingness, enthusiasm
- **Antonyms:** Reluctance, indifference, apathy
- **Example:** The volunteers responded to the crisis with admirable alacrity.

4. Discrepancies (असंगतियाँ)

- **Meaning: A lack of compatibility or similarity between two or more facts.**
- **Synonyms: Inconsistencies, differences, contradictions**
- **Antonyms: Consistencies, similarities, agreements**
- **Example: The audit report highlighted several discrepancies in the financial records.**

5. Lament (शोक मनाना / अफसोस करना)

- **Meaning:** To express sorrow, regret, or unhappiness about something.
- **Synonyms:** Mourn, grieve, bemoan
- **Antonyms:** Celebrate, rejoice, cheer
- **Example:** Many tennis fans lament the retirement of legendary players like Federer.

6. Waning (कम होता हुआ)

- **Meaning:** Becoming weaker or decreasing in power or intensity.
- **Synonyms:** Diminishing, declining, fading
- **Antonyms:** Rising, increasing, growing
- **Example:** Djokovic's waning dominance was evident in recent Grand Slam performances.

7. Treacherous (खतरनाक / विश्वासघाती)

- **Meaning:** Dangerously unstable and unpredictable; or disloyal.
- **Synonyms:** Hazardous, perilous, unreliable
- **Antonyms:** Safe, reliable, loyal
- **Example:** The players struggled under treacherous weather conditions during the final.

8. Loathed (घृणा करना)

- **Meaning:** To feel intense dislike or disgust for something or someone.
- **Synonyms:** Hated, detested, abhorred
- **Antonyms:** Loved, adored, admired
- **Example:** Many fans loathed the idea of a tennis era without the 'Big Three'.

9. Ambiguous (अस्पष्ट)

- **Meaning:** Open to more than one interpretation; not clearly defined.
- **Synonyms:** Unclear, vague, equivocal
- **Antonyms:** Clear, explicit, definite
- **Example:** The ambiguous instructions led to confusion among the participants.

10. Rampant (अनियंत्रित)

- **Meaning:** Spreading or growing quickly and uncontrolled, especially in a way that is harmful or unwelcome.
- **Synonyms:** Uncontrolled, unrestrained, widespread.
- **Antonyms:** Controlled, restrained, limited.
- **Example:** Corruption was rampant in the organization, affecting its efficiency and public trust.

VOCABULARY

One-word substitute:

1. Belonging to the same time period; modern or current:
Contemporary

2. Occurring every three years:
Triennial

3. A person who studies or collects coins, currency, and medals:
Numismatist

4. A psychological disorder involving a recurrent urge to steal, typically without need or profit:
Kleptomania

VOCABULARY

Phrasal Verbs:

1. Zero in on

Meaning - to focus on something specifically or precisely.

2. Ask around

Meaning - to inquire with multiple people.

3. Dig into

Meaning - to investigate thoroughly; to begin eating with enthusiasm.

4. Drag on

Meaning - to last longer than expected or necessary.

VOCABULARY

Idioms & Phrases

1. Break the ice

Meaning - To start a conversation with a new person.

2. Cat got your tongue

Meaning - Asking why someone is not speaking or suddenly became quiet

3. A picture is worth a thousand words

Meaning - An image can sometimes express more than words can

VOCABULARY

4. On cloud nine

Meaning - To be very happy or joyful

5. Hit the jackpot

Meaning - To achieve great success or win a large prize

Article for Reading

**Tighten the process:
on the Election
Commission of India,
election processes**

The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, has raised troubling questions about the conduct of elections based on what transpired in the 2024 Assembly elections in Maharashtra. There are specific issues: the abnormal increase in voters listed in electoral rolls between the general election and Assembly elections, higher turnout numbers after 5 p.m. on voting day, and the Centre amending the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961 to restrict access to CCTV footage of the polling process. Mr. Gandhi has also questioned the process of appointing Election Commissioners, with the Union government refusing to implement a Supreme Court judgment in 2023 that recommended having the Chief Justice of India as a part of the selection panel. While political parties, including the BJP and the Congress, have raised complaints about Electronic Voting Machines in the past, many did not stand scrutiny considering the administrative and technological safeguards.

The Congress has now focused on the electoral process, raising more fundamental issues that need to be unpacked separately. A preliminary analysis by The Hindu of registered voters in States where the general election and Assembly elections were proximate showed that there were precedents of sharp increases in the electorate before Assembly elections. While the number of new voters added before the Assembly elections was high — more than 39 lakh voters in just six months following the general election — similar increases were observed in 2014 as well. The increase of nearly four million voters is a large number and the ECI should proactively release machine-readable data on the rolls for verification. Regarding the allegation that turnout increases were abnormal after 5 p.m, the argument does not hold water. This is based on provisional turnout figures, and Election Commission of India (ECI) data show that there was no significant increase in voting after 5 p.m. in Maharashtra.

Provisional turnout figures shared via an app by the ECI are not entirely accurate as these are dependent on the manual entry of numbers during elections and may have discrepancies when compared to the accurate machine count. As final figures via Form 17C data from each booth are released only after a lag, it would be incorrect to rely on provisional turnout figures. However, there is another contention that merits the ECI's response: retaining CCTV footage and providing parties and their nominees access to it to scrutinise complaints. The process of updating electoral rolls must be more transparent and involve political parties for scrutiny and verification. It is also incumbent upon parties to show alacrity during this process than cry foul after the results are out. Ultimately, the onus lies on the ECI to enhance transparency in the electoral process and, specifically, in providing electoral rolls and retaining CCTV footage for scrutiny.

Summary

The passage discusses concerns raised by Rahul Gandhi regarding the fairness of the 2024 Maharashtra Assembly elections. Key issues include a significant spike in voter registration between the general and state elections, unusually high voter turnout after 5 p.m., and restricted access to CCTV footage due to recent amendments by the Centre. Gandhi also criticized the government's refusal to implement a 2023 Supreme Court judgment that proposed involving the Chief Justice of India in the appointment of Election Commissioners. While past complaints about EVMs have often lacked merit, the Congress is now focusing on deeper procedural issues. An analysis by The Hindu suggests that such voter roll increases have occurred before, such as in 2014. Claims about abnormal late voting are also not supported by final ECI data. Nonetheless, the demand for greater transparency—especially regarding electoral roll updates and CCTV footage—remains valid. The ECI must be more proactive, but political parties also need to engage responsibly during the election process.

Tone:

Analytical – The passage evaluates various claims with evidence and context.

Concerned – Highlights legitimate worries about electoral transparency.

Balanced – Acknowledges both the responsibility of the Election Commission and the political parties.

Reading Comprehension

Based on the above passage, answer the following questions:

Question 1:

Which regulatory amendment was criticized for limiting transparency in the electoral process?

- A) Expansion of NOTA into municipal polls**
- B) Mandating online-only voter registration**
- C) Restricting access to CCTV footage of polling**
- D) Increasing the deposit amount for candidates**
- E) None of the above**

Question 2:

According to the passage, what procedural recommendation from the Supreme Court regarding Election Commissioners has not been followed by the Union government?

- A) Instituting fixed tenures for Election Commissioners**
- B) Including the Chief Justice of India in the selection panel**
- C) Mandating online hearings for election-related disputes**
- D) Rotating Election Commission posts between States**
- E) None of the above**

Question 3:

What does the article suggest political parties should do regarding the electoral roll updating process?

- A) File complaints with the judiciary after results**
- B) Conduct their own voter surveys independently**
- C) Demand paper ballots in all future elections**
- D) Participate actively in verification before elections**
- E) None of the above**

Article for Skimming

**History lessons: on
the French Open**

The yearning for historical greatness is common among sports fans. Contemporary success and genius notwithstanding, there is often a tendency to hark back to the past and lament that present-day virtuosos are not a patch on the older ones. In tennis, this storyline was expected to unfold in the immediate aftermath of the 'Big Three' era as Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal exited, and Novak Djokovic started displaying his waning powers. It is to Carlos Alcaraz and Jannik Sinner's credit that they have allowed none of this talk to surface. Sunday's fascinating five-set French Open final was the latest piece of evidence as the Spaniard outlasted the World No. 1 over five hours and 29 minutes of intense, scintillating action. The victory brought Alcaraz his fifth Grand Slam trophy, and the World No. 2 became only the third man after Gustavo Kuerten and Nadal to defend titles at Roland-Garros this millennium. Alcaraz and Sinner have now swept the last six Majors and eight of the previous 11.

They are firmly perched at the top of tennis' current totem pole, and going by the 12th act of their engrossing play in Paris, there is little doubt that it is their rivalry that will prove era-defining for the men's game. Leading in, it was Sinner who had been more clinical, with the highlight being the ruthless dismantling of 24-time Major winner Djokovic in the semifinal. The 23-year-old had won 29 straight sets at Slams this year, and when he made it 31 by pocketing the first two against Alcaraz, a third straight Major — fourth overall — loomed. But Alcaraz, who came in after triumphs in Monte Carlo and Rome, found a higher gear when threatened — erasing three match points in the fourth set, breaking Sinner when the Italian was serving for the championship and overcoming his own disappointment of failing to serve it out in the fifth stanza to turn the tables fully. Saturday's women's final between No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka and No. 2 Coco Gauff was as dramatic and capricious, but alternated between middling and glorious.

In the end, it was Gauff who proved steadier, overcoming some treacherous conditions and her erratic opponent in two hours and 38 minutes. Sabalenka, in fact, was the favourite, having also ousted three-time defending champion Iga Swiatek en route. But her power-packed game crumbled in the face of Gauff's restrained art as the American left her nursing consecutive defeats in Slam finals. For Gauff, 21, it was her second Major, and with a technique that is gradually improving, she is sure to rise further.

Question 4:

What characterizes Carlos Alcaraz's performance during critical points of the French Open final?

- A) Avoided high-risk shots and maintained defensive play**
- B) Relied entirely on Sinner's unforced errors to win**
- C) Raised his level under pressure, saving match points and recovering from setbacks**
- D) Crumbled after losing the first two sets but was aided by an injury to Sinner**
- E) None of the above**

Question 5:

What does the passage suggest about the state of women's tennis based on the French Open final?

- A) It lacked any dramatic moments or major upsets**
- B) Gauff's technique and composure outshone Sabalenka's raw power**
- C) Sabalenka's experience overwhelmed Gauff's inconsistency**
- D) Swiatek won her fourth consecutive title**
- E) None of the above**

Today's Descriptive Question:

- **Write an essay of 200 words about the Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Job Markets: Opportunities and Challenges**

The rise of artificial intelligence (AI) is transforming job markets worldwide, presenting both significant opportunities and formidable challenges. On the one hand, AI is creating new job opportunities in sectors such as technology, healthcare, and finance. It enhances productivity by automating repetitive tasks, allowing humans to focus on more complex and creative activities. This shift is leading to the emergence of new professions centered around AI development, maintenance, and ethics, increasing demand for skills in data analysis, machine learning, and robotics.

Conversely, AI also poses challenges, particularly in the form of job displacement.

Many traditional roles, especially those involving routine and manual tasks, are at risk of automation. This displacement can lead to economic and social disruptions, exacerbating inequality and the digital divide. The rapid pace of AI advancement necessitates substantial changes in education and training programs to equip workers with the skills needed for the evolving job landscape.

To navigate these changes, proactive measures are essential. Updating educational curricula to include AI and digital literacy, implementing retraining programs, and developing robust regulatory frameworks are crucial steps. Balancing technological progress with job security will require collaboration between governments, industries, and educational institutions, ensuring that the benefits of AI are widely shared and its challenges effectively managed.

- **Write a letter to the controller of District Transport Authority complaining against the auto rickshaw drivers for charging excess fare.**

[Your Name]

[Your Address]

[City, State, ZIP Code]

[Email Address]

[Phone Number]

[Date]

The Controller

District Transport Authority

[Authority Address]

[City, State, ZIP Code]

Subject: Complaint Regarding Excessive Fare Charging by Auto Rickshaw Drivers

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to bring to your attention the issue of auto rickshaw drivers in our area charging excessive fares. Over the past few weeks, I, along with several other residents, have experienced instances where drivers demand fares significantly higher than the metered rates. This practice is causing undue financial strain and inconvenience to commuters, and it is essential that it be addressed promptly. I kindly request that your office take appropriate measures to ensure that auto rickshaw drivers adhere to the regulated fare structure.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Your prompt action will be greatly appreciated by the community.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Contact Information]

Match the column

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Break the ice | A. To be very happy or joyful |
| 2. Cat got your tongue | B. To start a conversation with a new person |
| 3. A picture is worth a thousand words | C. Asking why someone is not speaking |
| 4. On cloud nine | D. To achieve great success or win a large prize |
| 5. Hit the jackpot | E. An image can sometimes express more than words can |

Answer:

1-b

2-c

3-e

4-a

5-d

Vocabulary

1. Capricious:
2. Scintillating:
3. Alacrity:
4. Discrepancies:
5. Lament:
6. Waning:
7. Treacherous:
8. Loathed:
9. Ambiguous:
10. Rampant:

EXCLUSIVE SUBSCRIPTION



BASIC TO ADVANCE

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

BY NIMISHA BANSAL

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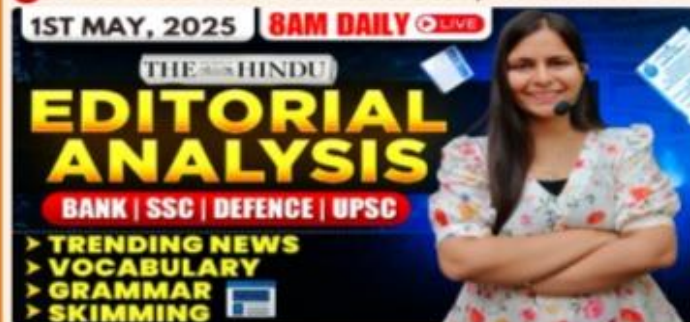


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Rc ans

1.

Ans: C

Explanation:

The passage notes: “The Centre amending the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961 to restrict access to CCTV footage of the polling process.”

Incorrect Options:

A, B, D., None of these actions are mentioned in the passage. Only restriction on CCTV footage access is discussed.

2.

Ans: B

Explanation:

The passage clearly states: "...the Union government refusing to implement a Supreme Court judgment in 2023 that recommended having the Chief Justice of India as a part of the selection panel."

Incorrect Options:

A, C, D None of these were mentioned as part of the SC judgment or the issue raised.

3.

Ans: D

Explanation:

The passage emphasizes: “The process of updating electoral rolls must be more transparent and involve political parties for scrutiny and verification. It is also incumbent upon parties to show alacrity during this process than cry foul after the results are out.”

Incorrect Options:

- A) The article criticizes waiting until after results to complain.
- B) No mention is made of independent party surveys.
- C) Paper ballots are not advocated here.

4.

Ans: C

Explanation:

The passage elaborates:

“Alcaraz... found a higher gear when threatened — erasing three match points... overcoming his own disappointment of failing to serve it out...”

Incorrect Options:

- A) His style is described as scintillating and aggressive, not defensive.
- B) The win was due to his own performance, not Sinner’s errors.
- D) No injury to Sinner is mentioned; Alcaraz recovered mentally.

5.

Ans: B

Explanation:

From the text:

“Her [Sabalenka’s] power-packed game crumbled in the face of Gauff’s restrained art...”
“...Gauff... proved steadier...”

Incorrect Options:

- A) The match was described as “dramatic and capricious”, contradicting this.
- C) It was Gauff, not Sabalenka, who showed greater composure.
- D) Swiatek was ousted by Sabalenka.