

The Hindu EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

28th May 2025

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

1. Persecuted (उत्पीड़ित)

- **Meaning:** Subjected to hostility and ill-treatment, especially because of race or political or religious beliefs.
- **Synonyms:** Oppressed, victimized, harassed
- **Antonyms:** Protected, sheltered, safe
- **Example:** The Rohingya community remains one of the most persecuted minorities in the world.

2. Rein in (नियंत्रण करना)

- **Meaning:** To control or limit something that is becoming too powerful or out of control.
- **Synonyms:** Restrain, curb, control
- **Antonyms:** Release, free, unleash
- **Example:** He is still struggling to stabilise the country and rein in the mobs.

3. Eroded (घटाना / कमजोर करना)

- **Meaning:** Gradually worn away or diminished.
- **Synonyms:** Undermined, weakened, diminished
- **Antonyms:** Strengthened, restored, reinforced
- **Example:** The crackdown on the Awami League has eroded hopes for inclusive elections.

4. Sprawling (फैला हुआ)

- **Meaning:** Spreading out over a large area in an untidy or irregular way.
- **Synonyms:** Expansive, extensive, spread-out
- **Antonyms:** Compact, contained, limited
- **Example:** India's sprawling MSMEs sector holds potential for energy efficiency improvements.

5. Rift (दरार / मतभेद)

- **Meaning:** A serious break in friendly relations.
- **Synonyms:** Disagreement, division, conflict
- **Antonyms:** Agreement, harmony, unity
- **Example:** Amid the growing rift, speculation swirled in Dhaka that Mr. Yunus might resign.

6. Precarious (अनिश्चित / खतरनाक)

- **Meaning:** Not secure; uncertain and risky.
- **Synonyms:** Unstable, uncertain, hazardous
- **Antonyms:** Secure, stable, safe
- **Example:** The precarious status of foreign students in the U.S. has caused distress among many.

7. Meticulously (सावधानीपूर्वक)

- **Meaning:** Showing great attention to detail; very careful and precise.
- **Synonyms:** Carefully, precisely, thoroughly
- **Antonyms:** Carelessly, hastily, roughly
- **Example:** The architect meticulously reviewed the blueprints to ensure there were no errors.

8. Whopping (विशाल / बहुत ज़्यादा)

- **Meaning:** Very large in size or amount.
- **Synonyms:** Huge, massive, enormous
- **Antonyms:** Tiny, small, little
- **Example:** India suffers a whopping ₹1.52 trillion in post-harvest losses every year.

9. Abdicate (त्याग करना)

- **Meaning:** To renounce a throne, high office, dignity, or function.
- **Synonyms:** Relinquish, renounce, resign
- **Antonyms:** Assume, claim, accept
- **Example:** The king decided to abdicate his throne in favor of his son.

10. Flamboyantly (शानदार ढंग से)

- **Meaning:** In a very confident and lively way.
- **Synonyms:** Ostentatiously, exuberantly, vividly
- **Antonyms:** Modestly, subtly, quietly
- **Example:** She flamboyantly announced her victory to the entire school.

VOCABULARY

One-word substitute:

1. A ruler who has absolute power:

Autocrat

2. A tightrope walker:

Funambulist

3. A dentist specializing in treating dental pulp and performing root canal therapy:

Endodontist

4. A doctor specializing in pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum care:

Obstetrician

VOCABULARY

Phrasal Verbs:

1. Head up

Meaning – To lead or be in charge of something.

2. Mess with

Meaning – To interfere with or provoke someone/something.

3. Pan out

Meaning – To turn out or result in a particular way, often successfully.

4. Queer up

Meaning – To spoil, ruin, or make something problematic.

VOCABULARY

Idioms & Phrases

1. At the drop of a hat

Meaning – Immediately; without hesitation.

2. Pass with flying colours

Meaning – To succeed brilliantly or with distinction.

3. Speak of the devil

Meaning – Said when a person appears just after being mentioned.

VOCABULARY

4. Storm in a teacup

Meaning – A lot of fuss over something trivial.

5. Slice the pie

Meaning - To the distribution or division of something, like resources, profits, or responsibilities.

Article for Reading

**Energy and
efficiency: on India
and greater energy
efficiency mandates**

Despite robust growth in electricity generation over the past two decades, with rapid additions of renewable energy in the past five years, India has been unable to meet its peak power demand, with the deficit widening from 0.69% in FY20 to about 5% in FY24. This reveals constraints in the supply of power — new power production is time consuming, especially if fossil-fuel based, even as India attempts to integrate renewable power into the power grid. Therefore, India must focus on enhancing energy efficiency holistically to reduce power demand, also the quickest and least expensive way to address rising power demand and climate change. This year marks a decade of India's groundbreaking energy efficiency scheme, UJALA, which has helped bring down the price of energy efficient light emitting diode (LED) bulbs from about ₹500 a decade ago to ₹70, enabling its widespread home use.

The scheme succeeded as another public energy efficiency measure was baked into the initiative — the Street Lighting National Programme, which led to the installation of over 1.34 crore LED lamps across urban local bodies and gram panchayats, and reducing peak demand by over 1,500 MW. As of January 2025, the government has distributed about 37 crore LED bulbs and enabled the sale of about 407 crore more. LED bulbs consume half the amount of power of compact fluorescent lamps, while incandescent light bulbs require nine times the power that LEDs consume, translating into considerable cost savings for Indian homes. But estimates also suggest that the UJALA scheme alone has helped India save over \$10 billion and avoided building over 9,500 MW of new generation capacity, which is the equivalent of 19 new coal-fired 500 MW power plants. Indeed, there are other energy efficiency measures that India has taken following the enactment of the Energy Conservation Act, 2001.

The International Energy Agency states that between 2000 and 2018, energy efficiency improvements enabled India to avoid an additional 15% of energy demand and 300Mt of CO₂ emissions. But with India's rapid urbanisation in the past two decades and rising per capita energy consumption to meet cooling needs as summers get hotter, peak power demand reached 250 GW last year. India is today the third largest power consumer globally, after China and the United States. Moreover, 70% of its energy output continues to be from coal and India has plans to add another 90 GW of coal-based capacity by 2032. What is needed now is greater energy efficiency mandates across sectors such as buildings, home appliances and the country's sprawling MSMEs.

Summary

Despite significant growth in electricity generation and the rapid adoption of renewable energy in recent years, India continues to face challenges in meeting its peak power demand, which has risen from a 0.69% deficit in FY20 to about 5% in FY24. The main issues lie in supply constraints and the slow pace of adding new power generation, particularly fossil-fuel based. The passage argues that enhancing energy efficiency is the most cost-effective and immediate solution to address this demand-supply gap and combat climate change. The UJALA scheme, launched a decade ago, is highlighted as a major success in promoting energy efficiency by making LED bulbs affordable and widespread, significantly reducing power consumption and the need for new power plants. Combined with initiatives like the Street Lighting National Programme, these efforts have saved billions of dollars and reduced the demand for coal-based power.

Tone:

The tone is informative and persuasive. Informative because it presents data, trends, and achievements related to India's energy production and efficiency measures. Persuasive because it advocates for a stronger push towards energy efficiency as a necessary and urgent policy direction to meet rising energy demands and address environmental concerns.

Reading Comprehension

Based on the above passage, answer the following questions:

Question 1:

What does the widening gap between India's electricity supply and peak demand from FY20 to FY24 most directly indicate?

- A. Overdependence on renewable energy**
- B. Insufficient coal reserves to power generation plants**
- C. Structural limitations in augmenting energy supply promptly**
- D. Decrease in domestic electricity consumption**
- E. None of the above**

Question 2:

Which of the following most significantly contributed to the cost reduction of LED bulbs under the UJALA scheme?

- A. Market competition from private manufacturers**
- B. Direct import subsidies from foreign governments**
- C. Integration of the Street Lighting National Programme with UJALA**
- D. The bundling of public energy efficiency measures within the scheme**
- E. None of the above**

Question 3:

According to the passage, the primary reason why energy efficiency is seen as an optimal strategy in India is because it:

- A. Provides a long-term solution to energy poverty**
- B. Can offset the need for renewable energy investments**
- C. Offers a rapid and economical remedy to rising energy demand and climate issues**
- D. Helps reduce dependency on foreign oil imports**
- E. None of the above**

Article for Skimming

**Reign of chaos: on
Bangladesh's inner
tensions**

Tensions between Bangladesh's interim government, led by Muhammad Yunus, and the military are no longer a secret. On Monday, an army spokesperson publicly voiced opposition to the government's proposal to open a "humanitarian corridor" to Myanmar's conflict-torn Rakhine State, home to the persecuted Rohingya. The government's plan is to supply medicines and other aid, but the military believes it would pose significant security challenges. Last week, Bangladesh army chief, Gen. Waker-Uz-Zaman, expressed concerns about several of the government's initiatives, including the so-called humanitarian corridor, the potential foreign management of Chattogram Port, and the introduction of Starlink, Elon Musk's satellite Internet service. He also urged the government to hold early elections for "a stable, elected government" that is capable of making decisions related to national security.

Amid the growing rift, speculation swirled in Dhaka last week that Mr. Yunus might step down. Later, a Cabinet member said that Mr. Yunus “is staying with us”, but the Army’s subsequent press conference suggests that the cold war is far from over. When Mr. Yunus, backed by student groups, took over as the ‘Chief Adviser’ of the interim government on August 8, 2024, three days after the fall of the Hasina administration, he promised to lead Bangladesh into a new dawn of democracy from the semi-authoritarian years of the Awami League. But nine months on, he is still struggling to stabilise the country and rein in the mobs. The government’s crackdown on the Awami League, one of Bangladesh’s largest political parties, has further eroded hopes for inclusive elections. Most of the party’s senior leaders are either in exile or in hiding, while hundreds of party workers have been killed. Earlier this month, the interim government officially banned the Awami League, yielding to pressure from the student leaders.

Mr. Yunus and his allies, including the National Citizen Party, established by student leaders after Ms. Hasina's fall, claim that elections can be held only by mid-next year, citing the need for electoral and political reforms. But the continued delay has sparked protests by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party and drawn public criticism from the military. By postponing the elections, suppressing the Awami League, using both state and non-state tools, and failing to restrain the mobs, Mr. Yunus, an unelected leader, is steering Bangladesh into deepening chaos and uncertainty. What Bangladesh urgently needs is a stable, legitimate government with a clear popular mandate. The interim government and all relevant stakeholders must prioritise holding inclusive, free and fair elections, at the earliest possible opportunity, ensuring the participation of all political factions.

Question 4:

According to the passage, how has the interim government treated the Awami League?

- A. It has formed a coalition with the party for electoral reforms**
- B. It has tolerated their protests and allowed participation in governance**
- C. It has cracked down on them, forcing leaders into exile or hiding**
- D. It has requested military support to reinstate their leadership**
- E. None of the above**

Question 5:

Which of the following actions by Muhammad Yunus's government has contributed to the erosion of democratic norms?

- A. Initiating a peace treaty with Myanmar**
- B. Promoting student groups into policymaking**
- C. Appointing military officials in civilian ministries**
- D. Delaying elections while banning a major political party**
- E. None of the above**

Today's Descriptive Question

- Write an essay of 200 words about highlighting the role of Education in Reducing Inequality.

Education plays a crucial role in reducing inequality by providing individuals with the knowledge, skills, and opportunities needed to improve their socio-economic status. It serves as a powerful tool for social mobility, enabling people from disadvantaged backgrounds to achieve better employment prospects, higher incomes, and improved quality of life. Firstly, education helps to level the playing field by offering equal opportunities for learning and development. Through access to quality education, individuals can acquire critical thinking skills, literacy, and numeracy, which are essential for participating fully in the economy and society. This reduces the gap between different socio-economic groups, promoting a more equitable distribution of wealth and resources.

Moreover, education fosters social inclusion and cohesion. By bringing together students from diverse backgrounds, it promotes understanding, tolerance, and respect for others.

This helps to break down social barriers and prejudices, creating a more inclusive society where everyone has the chance to succeed regardless of their background.

Additionally, educated individuals are more likely to advocate for themselves and their communities. They are better equipped to understand and navigate social, political, and economic systems, enabling them to fight for their rights and access to resources.

In conclusion, education is a vital instrument in the fight against inequality. By empowering individuals with knowledge and skills, it not only enhances their personal and professional lives but also contributes to the creation of a more just and equitable society.

- **Write a complaint letter to a teacher or principal about a school issue.**

[Your Name]

[Your Address]

[City, State, ZIP Code]

[Email Address]

[Phone Number]

[Date]

[Principal's Name or Teacher's Name]

[School Name]

[School Address]

[City, State, ZIP Code]

Subject - Complaint letter about a school issue

Dear [Principal's Name or Teacher's Name],

I am writing to bring to your attention a concern regarding [specific issue, e.g., the cleanliness of the restrooms, quality of school lunches, bullying incidents] at [School Name].

Recently, I have observed that [briefly describe the issue, e.g., the restrooms are often unclean and lack necessary supplies, the school lunches lack nutritional value, etc.]. This problem is affecting [mention who is being affected, e.g., the students' well-being, the learning environment, etc.]. For example, [provide a specific instance, e.g., my child has complained about the poor quality of the food and has been reluctant to eat lunch at school].

I kindly request that you address this issue promptly to ensure a better environment for all students. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
[Your Name]
[Your Contact Information]

Match the column

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 1. At the drop of a hat | A. To the distribution or division of something |
| 2. Pass with flying colours | B. Immediately; without hesitation |
| 3. Speak of the devil | C. A lot of fuss over something trivial |
| 4. Storm in a teacup | D. Said when a person appears just after being mentioned |
| 5. Slice the pie | E. To succeed brilliantly or with distinction |

Answer:

1-b

2-e

3-d

4-c

5-a

Vocabulary

1. Persecuted:
2. Rein in:
3. Eroded:
4. Sprawling:
5. Rift:
6. Precarious:
7. Meticulously:
8. Whopping:
9. Abdicate:
10. Flamboyantly:

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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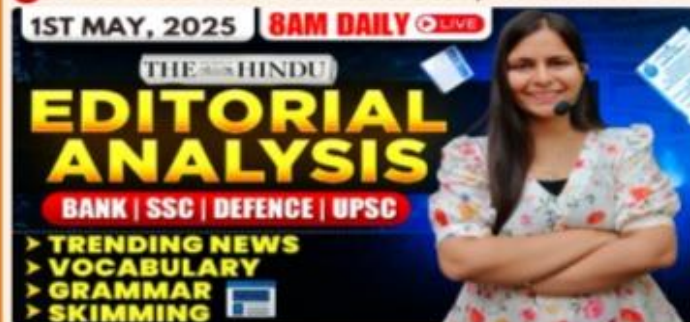


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Rc ans

1.

Ans: C

Explanation:

The passage clearly states:

“This reveals constraints in the supply of power — new power production is time consuming, especially if fossil-fuel based...”

This implies structural or procedural delays in scaling up power supply to meet rising demand.

Incorrect options:

A. Incorrect. While renewables are mentioned, the problem is not overdependence but integration challenges. The passage says:

“even as India attempts to integrate renewable power into the power grid”, not that overdependence is the issue.

B. Incorrect. There's no mention of coal shortages; in fact, India plans to expand coal capacity by 90 GW.

D. Incorrect. The problem is unmet increased demand, not reduced consumption. Passage: “rising per capita energy consumption... peak power demand reached 250 GW...”

2.

Ans: D

Explanation:

The passage attributes success to:

“The scheme succeeded as another public energy efficiency measure was baked into the initiative — the Street Lighting National Programme...”

This bundling facilitated scale and efficiency, helping to drastically reduce prices.

Incorrect options:

A. Not mentioned in the passage.

B. No such subsidies are referenced.

C. While this helped, the broader point is integration of multiple public measures, not just this one.

3.

Ans: C

Explanation:

The passage clearly states:

“India must focus on enhancing energy efficiency holistically to reduce power demand, also the quickest and least expensive way to address rising power demand and climate change.”

Incorrect options:

A. Not discussed as the primary aim.

B. No. The passage supports integration of renewables, not replacing them.

D. Not mentioned anywhere.

4.

Ans: C

Explanation:

“The government’s crackdown on the Awami League... Most of the party’s senior leaders are either in exile or in hiding...”

— This clearly supports Option C.

Incorrect options:

A. There is no coalition mentioned; rather, suppression is indicated.

B. Protests by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party are mentioned, not the Awami League.

D. Military is actually criticising the government, not supporting reinstatement.

5.

Ans: D

Explanation:

“The interim government officially banned the Awami League... Mr. Yunus and his allies... claim that elections can be held only by mid-next year...”

— This highlights deliberate election delays and suppression of a key party.

Incorrect options:

A. No peace treaty with Myanmar is mentioned.

B. Student groups are involved, but their role isn't directly blamed for eroding democracy.

C. Military appointments in civilian roles aren't discussed.