The Hindu EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

1st 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. Exacerbating (बढ़ाना)

➔ **Meaning: Making a situation worse or more intense.**

➔ **Synonyms: Aggravating, intensifying, worsening**

➔ **Antonyms: Mitigating, alleviating, easing**

➔ **Example: Cutting down more forests is only exacerbating the environmental crisis.**

2. Dwindling (घटता हुआ)

➜ **Meaning: Gradually decreasing in size, number, or strength.**

➜ **Synonyms: Diminishing, declining, shrinking**

➜ **Antonyms: Increasing, growing, expanding**

➜ **Example: The dwindling number of permanent scientific staff in research institutions is concerning.**

3. Rigorous (कठोर)

➔ **Meaning: Extremely thorough and accurate.**

➔ **Synonyms: Strict, meticulous, exacting**

➔ **Antonyms: Lenient, careless, lax**

➔ **Example: Developed nations have conducted rigorous studies on climate change.**

4. Retribution (प्रतिशोध)

➔ **Meaning: Punishment inflicted as vengeance for a wrong or criminal act.**

➔ **Synonyms: Revenge, penalty, retaliation**

➔ **Antonyms: Forgiveness, pardon, clemency**

➔ **Example: The ICC's actions could be seen as a form of retribution for war crimes.**

5. Sagacious (ज्ञानी)

➔ **Meaning: Having or showing good judgment; wise.**

➔ **Synonyms: Wise, insightful, prudent**

➔ **Antonyms: Foolish, naive, unwise**

➔ **Example: The sagacious leader made decisions that ensured the long-term success of the company.**

6. Cataclysmic (महाविनाशकारी)

➔ **Meaning: Relating to or denoting a violent, large-scale event, especially one that causes great destruction.**

➔ **Synonyms: Apocalyptic, disastrous, catastrophic**

➔ **Antonyms: Beneficial, fortunate, favorable**

➔ **Example: The cataclysmic effects of the nuclear disaster affected thousands of lives.**

7. Envisage (परिकल्पना करना)

➜ **Meaning: To imagine or expect something as a future possibility**

➜ **Synonyms: Foresee, anticipate, predict**

➜ **Antonyms: Ignore, disregard, neglect**

➜ **Example: The project envisages a significant reduction in carbon emissions over the next decade.**

8. Unpalatable (अप्रिय)

➔ **Meaning: Not pleasant or agreeable to the taste or mind.**

➔ **Synonyms: Unpleasant, distasteful, disagreeable**

➔ **Antonyms: Palatable, agreeable, pleasant**

➔ **Example: The unpalatable terms of the agreement were rejected by the opposition.**

9. Serendipity (सौभाग्य)

➔ **Meaning: The occurrence of events by chance in a happy or beneficial way.**

➔ **Synonyms: Luck, fortune, chance**

➔ **Antonyms: Misfortune, bad luck, adversity**

➔ **Example: It was pure serendipity that I found the perfect book at a small bookstore.**

10. Repercussions (प्रतिक्रिया /प्रभाव)

➔ **Meaning: An unintended consequence of an action, often negative.**

➔ **Synonyms: Consequence, effect, fallout**

➔ **Antonyms: Cause, source, reason**

➔ **Example: The decision to impose a curfew had serious repercussions on local businesses.**

One-word substitute:

1. A period of time that was peaceful, happy, and prosperous:
Halcyon

2. Fully agreed upon by everyone involved; having no dissent:
Unanimous

3. A difficult, complex, or troublesome situation that is hard to escape or resolve:
Quagmire

4. Dark, dull, or dirty in appearance; lacking brightness or cleanliness:
Dingy

Phrasal Verbs:

1. Take after
Meaning: To resemble a family member in appearance or behavior.

2. Put up with
Meaning: To tolerate or endure something unpleasant.

3. Look into
Meaning: To investigate or examine something.

4. Drop by
Meaning: To visit someone informally or without an appointment.

Idioms & Phrases

1. Break a leg

Meaning - Good luck

2. Salt of the earth

Meaning - someone who is very good, honest, and reasonable.

3. On the ball

Meaning - Doing a good job

4. The best of both worlds
Meaning - An ideal situation

5. To get bent out of shape
Meaning - To get upset

Article for Reading

Leaky pipeline: on India and permanent scientific staff

A recent report analysing public funded research and development institutions in India had some pointers that should raise an alarm. In several of the 244 institutions studied, there was a decrease in the number of permanent, scientific staff in 2022-23 compared to the previous year. There were also fewer organisations in 2022-23 compared to the previous year that reported hiring permanent staff. The institutes together had 19,625 contractual staff and 12,042 permanent staff in 2022-23. Not surprisingly, the slowdown in hiring was made up by hiring scientific research personnel on short-term contracts. These contractual staff were a 14% rise over 2021-22. The very fact that contractual workers exceed permanent staff in scientific institutions is a matter of concern.

This data emerges from a study commissioned by the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser and the institutions studied, do not include the 'strategic sectors', such as defence, atomic energy and space which consume the lion's share of India's research and development expenditure. As a report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science, Technology and Environment tabled in Parliament last month observed, nearly three in five of the posts sanctioned for scientific personnel at one of India's top institutes for basic science research, the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), are unfilled. The TIFR is primarily funded by the Department of Atomic Energy. Further, the parliamentary report found that, on average, one in four of sanctioned posts at the key atomic energy research institutions and nuclear power plants was vacant. Clearly the rot runs deep.

On the one hand, the government has announced missions to develop quantum computers and develop foundational artificial intelligence models. It has also declared its intent to align research and development towards industry-specific research. However none of this will bear fruit without scientists, particularly young researchers who are engaged full-time, having long careers at institutions doing cutting-edge research. The government had once set up institutions such as the Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISER) and introduced four-year undergraduate programmes in basic science, precisely because the incentives then were not strong enough to retain potential scientists. India needs to ensure that the conditions for research, such as respectable salaries, funds and equipment to do good research, are made available more widely.

Summary

The passage highlights concerns raised by a recent report on publicly funded research and development institutions in India. It reveals a decline in the number of permanent scientific staff and an increasing reliance on contractual hires, who now outnumber permanent staff. This trend, seen in institutions excluding strategic sectors, points to systemic staffing issues. A Parliamentary Committee report supports these findings, noting widespread vacancies, particularly at premier institutes like TIFR. Despite government initiatives in advanced technologies like quantum computing and AI, the lack of permanent scientific personnel threatens the success of such missions. The piece stresses the need for better working conditions, including fair pay and adequate research support, to attract and retain talented scientists.

Tone:

Concerned and cautionary

Reading Comprehension

Based on the above passage, answer the following questions:

Question 1:
According to the passage, which of the following trends most accurately reflects the staffing pattern in India's public-funded research institutions in 2022–23?

A. A sharp increase in permanent scientific staff across most institutions
B. A decrease in contractual hiring despite a rise in research projects
C. Contractual staff outnumbering permanent staff
D. An equal distribution of contractual and permanent scientific personnel
E. None of the above

Question 2:
What policy action does the passage implicitly recommend to address the challenges facing India's research ecosystem?

A. Outsourcing research to global institutions
B. Offering higher salaries and resources for permanent scientists
C. Reducing the number of IISER campuses
D. Cutting research budgets for atomic energy
E. None of the above

Question 3:
What does the passage suggest about the Indian government's vision for R&D and its actual implementation?

A. There is a clear alignment between policy vision and institutional staffing
B. Ambitious goals are declared, but foundational staffing needs are neglected
C. The government focuses more on liberal arts than scientific disciplines
D. Its investments are solely directed toward private industrial labs
E. None of the above

Article for Skimming

Expanding tree cover is crucial

As climate change accelerates, tree plantation and carbon sequestration are essential for environmental sustainability. For India, a rapidly growing economy reliant on carbon-intensive industries, expanding tree cover is crucial for mitigating climate change while supporting industrial growth and rural livelihoods. India's forest and tree cover is 25.17%, significantly below the 33% target set by the National Forest Policy of 1988. This shortfall has serious implications, as deforestation, rapid urbanisation, and industrial emissions continue to degrade ecosystems. Tree plantations act as natural carbon sinks, absorbing and storing atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO_2). However, in India, this sequestration potential needs to be enhanced through large-scale afforestation programmes. Beyond reducing greenhouse gas emissions, increased tree cover improves soil health, recharges groundwater, retains water, reduces soil erosion, and enhances resilience against extreme weather events.

Recognising this, India has introduced several policies and initiatives to accelerate afforestation efforts. The National Agroforestry Policy (2014) and the Trees Outside Forests in India Program encourage private landowners, farmers, and industries to participate in large-scale tree planting. They aim to reduce dependence on natural forests for timber and fuelwood, restore degraded ecosystems, and provide additional income sources for rural communities. The Green India Mission, part of the National Action Plan on Climate Change, has been instrumental in reviving degraded forests and promoting sustainable forest management. According to government data, GIM has helped increase forest cover by 0.56% between 2017 and 2021. Corporate social responsibility initiatives have also contributed to large-scale tree plantation drives. Companies in sectors such as automobile manufacturing, cement, and energy have undertaken afforestation projects to offset emissions. Many corporations are also integrating afforestation efforts into their carbon credit strategies, allowing them to claim emission reductions while restoring ecosystems.

Indian industries face growing pressure to reduce their carbon footprint due to stringent international regulations. The European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism, set to be enforced in 2026, will impose tariffs on carbon-intensive imports such as steel, cement, and aluminium. As trade between India and the EU reached €124 billion in 2023, these tariffs could greatly impact Indian exporters. To remain competitive in global markets, industries are increasingly investing in carbon-offset projects, including large-scale tree plantations. Such investments help companies align with global sustainability standards, earn carbon credits under frameworks such as the Verified Carbon Standard and Clean Development Mechanism, and offset emissions in a cost-effective manner instead of purchasing expensive international carbon credits. Sustainability is no longer about regulatory compliance — it has become a strategic advantage.

Question 4:
Which of the following is the main goal of the National Agroforestry Policy (2014) and the Trees Outside Forests in India Program?

A. To solely focus on tree planting within forest boundaries.
B. To promote large-scale urbanization in rural areas.
C. To encourage the participation of private landowners in afforestation.
D. To increase the carbon emissions from industrial sectors.
E. None of the above

Question 5:
Which of the following is the primary environmental concern associated with India's current tree cover?

A. It is causing a rise in deforestation due to illegal logging.
B. It is below the 33% target set by the National Forest Policy of 1988.
C. It is contributing to the loss of biodiversity in urban areas.
D. It is mostly located in urban regions, leading to ecological imbalance.
E. None of the above

Today's Descriptive Question

Precis Writing:

Original Text:

Poverty remains one of the most pressing socio-economic challenges in India, affecting millions of people despite significant economic progress. It refers to a condition where individuals lack the necessary resources to meet their basic needs, including food, shelter, healthcare, and education. India, with its large and diverse population, faces a complex mix of rural and urban poverty, influenced by factors such as unemployment, inadequate access to education, and socio-economic inequalities. The causes of poverty in India are multifaceted. Rapid population growth, limited job opportunities, and lack of proper education hinder economic mobility. The rural population, primarily dependent on agriculture, suffers from low productivity, lack of modern technology, and climate-related uncertainties, which exacerbate poverty levels. In urban areas, unorganized labor, underemployment, and rising living costs contribute to economic hardships. Historical factors such as colonial exploitation, social inequalities, and caste-based discrimination have also played a role in perpetuating poverty.

The Indian government has implemented several poverty alleviation programs, such as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), which provides wage employment, and the Public Distribution System (PDS), which ensures subsidized food for the poor. Initiatives like Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) and Aatmanirbhar Bharat aim to promote financial inclusion and self-reliance. Furthermore, skill development programs and rural development schemes have been introduced to enhance employment opportunities. While these measures have led to a decline in poverty rates, challenges persist, including corruption, inefficient policy implementation, and income disparity. The COVID-19 pandemic further exposed vulnerabilities, pushing millions back into poverty. A comprehensive approach focusing on education, healthcare, employment generation, and social welfare is necessary for sustainable poverty reduction. Ensuring inclusive growth, technological advancements in agriculture and industry, and equitable wealth distribution can help India overcome poverty and achieve long-term economic stability.

Precis:

Poverty in India remains a major challenge, affecting millions due to unemployment, lack of education, and economic disparities. Rural poverty is driven by low agricultural productivity, while urban poverty results from underemployment and high living costs. Historical factors have further deepened economic inequality.

The government has launched various programs like MGNREGA, PDS, and PMJDY to provide employment, subsidized food, and financial inclusion. While these efforts have reduced poverty, challenges such as policy inefficiencies and economic disparity persist. A comprehensive strategy focusing on education, employment, and inclusive growth is crucial to achieving sustainable poverty eradication.

- **You are an HR executive who needs to schedule an interview with a shortlisted candidate. Write an email inviting them to attend.**

To: …………@gmail.com

Subject: Interview Invitation for [Job Title] Position at [Company Name]

Dear [Candidate's Name],

I hope this message finds you well.

Thank you for your application for the position of [Job Title] at [Company Name]. We are pleased to inform you that you have been shortlisted for the next stage of the selection process.

We would like to invite you for an interview to discuss your qualifications and the opportunity in more detail. Below are the details of the interview:

Date: [Insert Date]
Time: [Insert Time]
Mode: [In-person / Online – if online, include platform and meeting link]
Location: [Insert Address if in-person]
Duration: Approximately [X] minutes

Please confirm your availability for the above schedule at your earliest convenience. If you are unavailable at the proposed time, do let us know, and we will do our best to accommodate an alternative slot.

We look forward to speaking with you and learning more about how you can contribute to our team.

Best regards,
[Your Full Name]

Match the column

1. Break a leg	A. To get upset
2. Salt of the earth	B. An ideal situation
3. On the ball	C. very good, honest, and reasonable
4. The best of both worlds	D. Good luck
5. To get bent out of shape	E. Doing a good job

Answer:
1-d
2-c
3-e
4-b
5-a

Vocabulary

1. Exacerbating:
2. Dwindling:
3. Rigorous:
4. Retribution:
5. Sagacious:
6. Cataclysmic:
7. Envisage:
8. Unpalatable:
9. Serendipity:
10. Repercussions:

Rc ans

1.

Ans: C

Explanation:

Reference: "The institutes together had 19,625 contractual staff and 12,042 permanent staff in 2022-23... The very fact that contractual workers exceed permanent staff in scientific institutions is a matter of concern."

Incorrect Options:

A – Opposite of what's stated: there was a decrease in permanent staff.

B – False: contractual staff increased by 14% over the previous year.

D – Incorrect: 19,625 vs. 12,042 is not equal.

2.

Ans: B

Explanation:

Reference: "India needs to ensure that the conditions for research, such as respectable salaries, funds and equipment to do good research, are made available more widely."

Incorrect Options:

A – Opposite of the implied message; the passage supports domestic capacity-building.

C – Not mentioned; the IISERs are part of the solution, not the problem.

D – No suggestion to cut atomic energy research budgets.

3.

Ans: B

Explanation:

Reference: "The government has announced missions... However none of this will bear fruit without scientists... having long careers at institutions..."

Incorrect Options:

A – The mismatch between policy and implementation is the central criticism.

C – No mention of liberal arts is made.

D – No mention of exclusive focus on private labs.

4.

Ans: C

Explanation:

The main goal of these policies is to involve private landowners, farmers, and industries in tree planting efforts. The emphasis is on expanding afforestation outside of traditional forest areas.

Reference from passage:

"The National Agroforestry Policy (2014) and the Trees Outside Forests in India Program encourage private landowners, farmers, and industries to participate in large-scale tree planting."

Incorrect options:

A: These policies extend beyond forest boundaries to encourage afforestation across various land types.

B: Urbanization is not the focus; the emphasis is on rural landowners' participation.

D: The goal is to reduce carbon emissions, not to increase them.

5.
Ans: B
Explanation:
The primary environmental concern mentioned in the passage is that India's forest and tree cover is below the target of 33% set by the National Forest Policy of 1988.

Reference from passage:

"India's forest and tree cover is 25.17%, significantly below the 33% target set by the National Forest Policy of 1988."

Incorrect options:
A: While deforestation is a concern, the passage focuses on the shortfall in tree cover rather than illegal logging.
C: The passage does not discuss urban biodiversity specifically; it focuses on the general environmental impact of insufficient tree cover.
D: The issue is with the overall percentage of tree cover, not its location in urban areas.

P. However, this ambitious growth has recently been overshadowed by mounting controversies, particularly involving its electric vehicle division.

Q. Once hailed as a beacon of success in India's start-up ecosystem, Ola is now grappling with a series of challenges.

R. Since its IPO launch, Ola Electric has seen its valuation plunge by nearly 70% in just seven months.

S. In 2023, Ola ventured into the AI space with Krutrim, which became India's first AI firm to achieve a valuation exceeding $1 billion.

T. Launched in 2010, the company quickly became a familiar name, expanding its operations from ride-hailing to electric vehicles and battery production, emerging as a key competitor to Uber.

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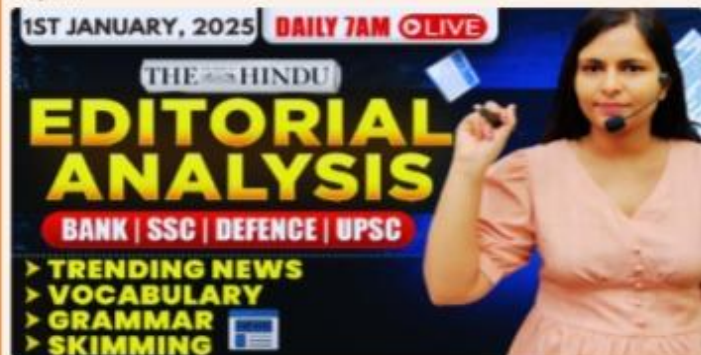**English with Nimisha Bansal**
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