

The Hindu EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

29th April 2025

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

1. Impedes (बाधा डालना)

- **Meaning:** To delay or prevent someone or something by obstructing them.
- **Synonyms:** Hinder, obstruct, hamper
- **Antonyms:** Facilitate, assist, promote
- **Example:** Bureaucratic red tape often impedes the implementation of government schemes.

2. Cartelisation (गठजोड़ बनाना)

- Meaning: The formation of groups by competing firms to control prices or limit competition.**
- Synonyms: Collusion, syndication, monopolization**
- Example: Strict regulations are needed to prevent cartelisation in the AI services sector.**

3. Reins (नियंत्रण)

- **Meaning:** Control or leadership in a particular area or context.
- **Synonyms:** Command, authority, governance
- **Antonyms:** Submission, relinquishment, dependence
- **Example:** The reins of global governance must be shared equitably among all nations.

4. Perplexing (उलझन भरा)

- **Meaning:** Completely baffling; very puzzling.
- **Synonyms:** Confusing, puzzling, bewildering.
- **Antonyms:** Clear, straightforward, simple.
- **Example:** The professor's explanation was perplexing to the students.

5. Cursory (उपरी तौर पर)

- Meaning: Hasty and therefore not thorough or detailed.**
- Synonyms: Superficial, perfunctory, brief.**
- Antonyms: Thorough, detailed, meticulous.**
- Example: A cursory glance at the documents revealed several errors.**

6. Plateaued (स्थिर हो जाना)

- **Meaning:** To reach a stable level after a period of growth or progress.
- **Synonyms:** Stabilized, leveled off, stagnated
- **Antonyms:** Increased, escalated, soared
- **Example:** After an initial rise, the recruitment of public health professionals plateaued.

7. Jeopardy (जोखिम)

- **Meaning:** Danger of loss, harm, or failure.
- **Synonyms:** Risk, peril, threat
- **Antonyms:** Safety, security, protection
- **Example:** The cessation of international funding has placed several healthcare initiatives in jeopardy.

8. Copious (प्रचुर)

- **Meaning:** Abundant in supply or quantity.
- **Synonyms:** Ample, plentiful, abundant
- **Antonyms:** Scarce, sparse, lacking
- **Example:** The author took copious notes during the interview.

9. Hone (निखारना)

- **Meaning:** To refine or perfect something over a period of time.
- **Synonyms:** Sharpen, improve, enhance
- **Antonyms:** Blunt, dull, worsen
- **Example:** She spent years honing her skills as a dancer.

10. Assuaged (कम करना)

- **Meaning:** To make an unpleasant feeling less intense; to relieve or ease.
- **Synonyms:** Alleviated, mitigated, pacified
- **Antonyms:** Intensified, aggravated, worsened
- **Example:** The CEO's assurances assuaged the employees' fears about the company's future.

VOCABULARY

One-word substitute:

1. A meeting of members of a political party or movement to make decisions or select candidates:

Caucus

2. A small fleet of ships or boats:

Flotilla

3. A shallow place in a body of water; or a large group of fish swimming together:

Shoal

4. To continually criticize, nag, or dominate someone, especially a husband, typically by a wife.

Henpeck

VOCABULARY

Phrasal Verbs

1. Back away

Meaning: to move backwards away from something or someone, usually because you are frightened

2. Cut out

Meaning: to delete or remove

3. Nod off

Meaning: to begin sleeping, especially not intentionally

4. Turn down

Meaning: reject something offered or proposed.

VOCABULARY

Idioms & Phrases

1. Climb the ladder

Meaning: To advance or achieve success in a hierarchy, especially in a career

2. Bury the hatchet

Meaning: To make peace or resolve a conflict, usually after a disagreement

3. Water under the bridge

Meaning: something that happened in the past and cannot now be changed

VOCABULARY

4. Jump on the bandwagon

Meaning: to join in a popular activity

5. The tip of the iceberg

Meaning: it is one small part of a much larger problem

Article for Reading

**India's AI compute
conundrum**

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology announced the launch of a continuous empanelment process for AI compute providers, which allows firms to apply on an ongoing basis to supply AI compute and related services. While this may seem like a good move in the short term, the process impedes market dynamics and creates bureaucratic hurdles for both providers and users of compute infrastructure. Allowing markets to function freely and offer services that meet consumer needs is necessary for long-term sustainability. The IndiaAI compute mission follows a bidding process where empanelled vendors must match the lowest bid price for the AI compute and services. Some vendors undercut the market price by as much as 89% by “doing things that were never done before to reduce operational costs”, as one vendor put it. In addition, the IndiaAI mission will subsidise up to 40% of the compute costs for eligible users addressing priority use cases such as healthcare and education.

The government's move to empanel private compute providers and offer additional subsidies stimulates demand in the near term. This might support the development of India-based compute providers. In addition, if done well, the continuous empanelment process could prevent cartelisation among compute providers and allow newer providers to enter the market. However, it is worth asking if the bidding process that requires matching the lowest bid price is sustainable and how effectively it addresses the goals of developing sovereign computing infrastructure and encouraging innovation in priority areas. The lowest bid tendering process creates incentives to compromise on the quality of service as operational costs need to be kept to a bare minimum. Slim profit margins will also leave little room for investments in research and development. Furthermore, the fact that many of the providers agreed to the lowest price seems to be a sign of low private market demand for AI compute in India.

Yotta, an empanelled vendor providing a majority of the compute under the IndiaAI mission, claims that just 25% of the demand for their Nvidia H100 chips is from India. While government intervention might stimulate demand in the near term, the below-market prices and the additional subsidy offered may cap private demand at what is available at the reduced prices. The end-user policy for AI services under the IndiaAI compute mission has several requirements to apply for the compute that create hurdles for users. This involves meeting various qualification criteria and a project and subsidy evaluation process. For instance, a startup applying for compute needs to be registered with Startup India or recognised by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade. It will also need to demonstrate experience in AI/Machine Learning and have an annual revenue of ₹50 lakh-₹200 lakh or funding above ₹100 lakh. The monitoring and evaluation team would then evaluate the project and, based on several criteria, approve the allocation and any subsidy requested.

Summary

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has introduced a continuous empanelment process for AI compute providers, allowing firms to apply on an ongoing basis. While this initiative aims to stimulate demand and promote domestic compute infrastructure, it raises concerns about market distortions and bureaucratic hurdles. The bidding model, which requires vendors to match the lowest bid price, could compromise service quality and innovation due to extremely thin profit margins. Although government subsidies and empanelment may prevent cartelisation and encourage market entry, the approach risks limiting private sector growth and demand by making prices artificially low. Moreover, the eligibility requirements and evaluation processes for users seeking subsidies are complex, creating additional barriers for startups and smaller players.

Tone:

Critical: The passage scrutinizes the government's approach, highlighting potential flaws and long-term risks.

Analytical: It carefully examines both the advantages and disadvantages of the policy, considering market dynamics, quality of service, and sustainability.

Cautious: Although acknowledging some benefits, it expresses concern about the viability and effectiveness of the model over time.

Reading Comprehension

Based on the above passage, answer the following questions:

Question 1:

Which of the following is a potential downside of requiring vendors to match the lowest bid price under the IndiaAI Compute Mission?

- A. Increased reliance on imported compute hardware.**
- B. Incentives to compromise on service quality to minimize operational costs.**
- C. Encouragement of monopolistic practices among compute providers.**
- D. Excessive accumulation of surplus profits among vendors.**
- E. None of the above**

Question 2:

Which statement best captures a challenge faced by startups seeking to access AI compute under the IndiaAI Mission?

- A. Mandatory collaboration with government research institutions.**
- B. Obligation to purchase only government-certified hardware for projects.**
- C. Required to show experience in AI/Machine Learning and meet specific revenue or funding thresholds.**
- D. Restriction on the types of AI models that can be trained.**
- E. None of the above**

Question 3:

Which benefit of continuous empanelment does the passage highlight?

- A. It guarantees higher profits for established vendors.**
- B. It accelerates mandatory adoption of Indian-designed AI architectures.**
- C. It centralizes AI compute under government-owned data centers.**
- D. It prevents cartelisation and enables new providers to enter the market.**
- E. None of the above**

Article for Skimming

**India's urban future
is at a crossroads**

As summer intensifies, Indian cities are struggling with water shortages and rising electricity demand and temperatures. Reports from Bengaluru and Hyderabad show a spike in water tanker bookings while power cuts loom due to increased air-conditioner usage. These annual struggles raise a pressing question — are our cities, where more than 30% of Indians live, prepared for climate extremes and rapid urbanisation? Urbanisation, while bringing about growth and opportunities, also paves the way for increased pollution, congestion, and environmental impacts, which often hit the underprivileged the hardest. Sustainable Futures Collective, in their report, ‘Is India Ready for a Warming World?’ (2025), find that there is much more to be done regarding long-term planning for climate change in cities. Concerns about how our cities are handling the urban heat island effect have also been raised often in Parliament.

Such stark ground realities underscore the pressing challenges our cities face in pursuing Sustainable Development Goal-11 (SDG-11): to create inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable urban environments by 2030. While global SDG-11 indicators exist, India lacks city-level tools for effective tracking. NITI Aayog's SDG Urban Index ranks 56 cities on 77 indicators, but its SDG-11 component is limited to four: Swachh Survekshan, road deaths, PMAY-U housing, and waste treatment. The Ease of Living Index covers 111 cities but lacks a comprehensive SDG-11 assessment. International indices such as Mercer's and the Economist's Resilient Cities Index offer insights but miss Indian ground realities. The absence of a focused SDG-11 index hinders policymakers from identifying genuinely safe, sustainable, and inclusive cities, creating a policy-research gap.

To bridge this gap and supplement the indices used by NITI Aayog with a more comprehensive set of indices, our latest research constructs four distinct indices — one for each pillar of SDG-11 wherein we ranked 10 major cities (Hyderabad, Delhi, Bengaluru, Chennai, Mumbai, Pune, Kolkata, Jaipur, Ahmedabad, and Surat) based on performance across select indicators for each index. Nine indicators were used for safety, 19 for inclusivity, and 15 for resilience and sustainability indexes. The parameters used for defining the indicators were borrowed from the United Nations' definitions of the same in the urban context. Data was sourced from a wide range of datasets such as Census 2011, Road Transport Yearbook, Indian Forest Survey, National Crime Research Bureau, Periodic Labour Force Survey, National Family Health Survey-5, Reserve Bank of India, India Meteorological Department's Climatological Tables, and Ola Mobility Institute's Ease of Moving Index 2022.

Question 4:

According to the passage, what major challenge do Indian cities face regarding Sustainable Development Goal 11 (SDG-11)?

- A. Lack of citizen participation in climate resilience initiatives**
- B. Shortage of funding for urban development projects**
- C. Absence of a comprehensive city-level tool to effectively track SDG-11 progress**
- D. Inability to align with international climate goals**
- E. None of the above**

Question 5:

What is the significance of the Sustainable Futures Collective's report titled "Is India Ready for a Warming World?" according to the passage?

- A. It provides a framework for India's energy transition plans.**
- B. It highlights the inadequacy of long-term climate planning in Indian cities.**
- C. It ranks Indian cities based on climate resilience.**
- D. It proposes new funding mechanisms for urban development.**
- E. None of the above**

Today's Descriptive Question

Precis Writing:

Original Text:

The silver economy refers to the economic activities, products, and services designed to cater to the needs of an aging population. As life expectancy increases and birth rates decline, many countries, including India, are witnessing a growing elderly demographic. This shift presents both challenges and opportunities for economic growth, healthcare, and social development. One of the key drivers of the silver economy is the rising demand for healthcare services, including elderly care, specialized medical treatments, and wellness programs. The development of geriatric healthcare infrastructure, home-care services, and telemedicine has gained momentum to support the growing elderly population. Additionally, industries such as pharmaceuticals, assistive technology, and smart home solutions are expanding to cater to senior citizens' needs.

The financial sector is also adapting by offering pension schemes, retirement planning, and insurance products tailored for older adults. Moreover, as many seniors remain active post-retirement, there is a surge in demand for elder-friendly employment opportunities, lifelong learning programs, and digital literacy initiatives. The travel, leisure, and wellness industries are also evolving to provide age-friendly experiences, creating a thriving market for the elderly.

However, the silver economy comes with challenges such as rising healthcare costs, social security concerns, and the need for stronger elderly support systems. Governments and businesses must work together to create age-friendly policies, infrastructure, and social inclusion programs to ensure the well-being and financial security of older adults. By investing in the silver economy, societies can turn aging into an opportunity for economic and social progress.

Precis:

The silver economy focuses on economic opportunities arising from an aging population, driving demand for healthcare, financial services, and elderly-friendly products. Growth in geriatric care, smart technology, and retirement planning supports seniors' evolving needs. As older adults remain active, sectors like employment, lifelong learning, and leisure are adapting. However, challenges such as rising healthcare costs and social security concerns require policy reforms and investment to ensure the well-being of senior citizens while leveraging their economic potential.

- **You have made a business purchase and require an official invoice. Write an email to the supplier requesting the invoice.**

To:@gmail.com

Subject: Request for Official Invoice for Recent Purchase

Dear [Supplier's Name],

I hope you are doing well. I recently made a purchase from your company, and I would like to request an official invoice for this transaction. Below are the details of the purchase:

Order Number: [Order Number]

Date of Purchase: [Purchase Date]

Items Purchased: [Brief Description of Items]

Total Amount Paid: [Amount]

Payment Method: [Payment Method]

Please issue the invoice with the necessary details, including your company's GST/TIN and our billing information:

Billing Name: [Your Name/Company Name]

Billing Address: [Your Address]

GST/TIN (if applicable): [Your GST/TIN]

You may send the invoice as a PDF attachment to this email or to [Alternative Email Address]. If any additional details are required, please let me know.

Looking forward to your prompt response.

Best regards,

[Your Name]

[Your Contact Information]

Match the column

1. Climb the ladder
2. Bury the hatchet
3. Water under the bridge
4. Jump on the bandwagon
5. The tip of the iceberg

- A. To make peace or resolve a conflict
- B. to join in a popular activity
- C. it is one small part of a much larger problem
- D. To advance or achieve success in a hierarchy
- E. something that happened in the past and cannot now be changed

Answer:

1-d

2-a

3-e

4-b

5-c

Vocabulary

1. Impedes:
2. Cartelisation:
3. Reins:
4. Perplexing:
5. Cursory:
6. Plateaued:
7. Jeopardy:
8. Copious:
9. Hone:
10. Assuaged:

RC ANS

1.

Ans: B

Explanation:

Reference from the passage:

“The lowest bid tendering process creates incentives to compromise on the quality of service as operational costs need to be kept to a bare minimum.”

Incorrect Options:

- A. The passage talks about low domestic demand (25% for Nvidia H100 chips) but not about increased reliance on imports.
- C. In fact, it mentions that continuous empanelment could prevent cartelisation.
- D. Slim profit margins are mentioned, not surplus profits.

2.

Ans: C

Explanation:

Reference from the passage:

"A startup... needs to be registered with Startup India... demonstrate experience in AI/Machine Learning and have an annual revenue of ₹50 lakh-₹200 lakh or funding above ₹100 lakh."

Incorrect Options:

- A. No such mandatory collaboration is mentioned.
- B. Not mentioned anywhere in the passage.
- D. No restriction on AI model types is discussed.

3.

Ans: D

Explanation:

Reference from the passage:

"The continuous empanelment process could prevent cartelisation among compute providers and allow newer providers to enter the market."

Incorrect Options:

A. Passage mentions slim profit margins.

B. Not mentioned at all.

C. The focus is on private providers, not centralization.

4.

Ans: C

Explanation:

The passage explicitly mentions that “India lacks city-level tools for effective tracking” of SDG-11 and that this creates a policy-research gap.

Incorrect Options:

A. Citizen participation is not discussed.

B. No funding issues are mentioned.

D. The focus is not on international alignment but internal measurement.

4.

Ans: C

Explanation:

The passage explicitly mentions that “India lacks city-level tools for effective tracking” of SDG-11 and that this creates a policy-research gap.

Incorrect Options:

A. Citizen participation is not discussed.

B. No funding issues are mentioned.

D. The focus is not on international alignment but internal measurement.

P. This small-scale pilot initiative, called SeaCURE, is backed by the UK government as part of its efforts to explore technologies that combat climate change.

Q. Many experts also agree that addressing the problem will require removing some of the carbon already present in the atmosphere.

R. A pioneering project aimed at extracting carbon from the ocean has begun operations on England's south coast.

S. These efforts, known as carbon capture, typically focus on either trapping emissions at their source or removing them directly from the air.

T. While there's broad consensus among climate scientists that the overwhelming priority is to cut greenhouse gas emissions, the chief cause of global warming.

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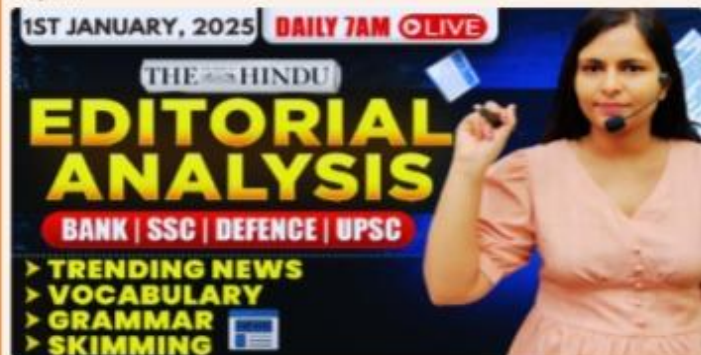
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