The Hindu EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

07th 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. Thrive (फलना-फूलना)

➔ **Meaning: To grow, develop, or be successful.**

➔ **Synonyms: Flourish, prosper, succeed**

➔ **Antonyms: Decline, fail, wither**

➔ **Example: With improved sanitation and water access, rural communities have begun to thrive.**

2. Contempt (तिरस्कार)

➜ **Meaning: The feeling that something or someone is worthless or beneath consideration.**

➜ **Synonyms: Disdain, scorn, disrespect**

➜ **Antonyms: Respect, admiration, regard**

➜ **Example: Courts should support collaborative platforms instead of treating them with contempt.**

3. Purport (अभिप्रेत होना / दावा करना)

➔ **Meaning: To claim or appear to be or do something.**

➔ **Synonyms: Claim, profess, assert**

➔ **Antonyms: Conceal, deny, disavow**

➔ **Example: Wikipedia does not purport to produce original research but compiles verified content.**

4. Laudable (सराहनीय)

➔ **Meaning: Deserving praise and commendation.**

➔ **Synonyms: Admirable, commendable, praiseworthy**

➔ **Antonyms: Disgraceful, condemnable, blameworthy**

➔ **Example: Her efforts to clean up the neighborhood were laudable and inspired others to join.**

5. Sagacious (विवेकी)

➜ **Meaning: Showing keen mental discernment and good judgment; wise.**

➜ **Synonyms: Wise, insightful, judicious**

➜ **Antonyms: Foolish, unwise, imprudent**

➜ **Example: His sagacious decisions helped the company avoid several potential crises.**

6. Scupper (नाकाम करना)

➔ **Meaning: To ruin or prevent something from happening.**

➔ **Synonyms: Ruin, thwart, sabotage, wreck**

➔ **Antonyms: Assist, support, facilitate, aid**

➔ **Example: The sudden rainstorm scuppered our plans for a picnic.**

7. Unrelenting (दृढ़)

➔ **Meaning: Not yielding in strength, severity, or determination.**

➔ **Synonyms: Persistent, relentless, unwavering**

➔ **Antonyms: Lenient, yielding, flexible**

➔ **Example: The unrelenting heat of the desert made the journey extremely difficult.**

8. Sluggish (सुस्त)

➔ **Meaning: Moving, operating, or reacting more slowly than usual.**

➔ **Synonyms: Lethargic, slow, inactive**

➔ **Antonyms: Energetic, swift, dynamic**

➔ **Example: The sluggish economy has made it difficult for businesses to expand.**

9. Quagmire (दलदल/मुश्किल स्थिति)

➔ **Meaning: A difficult or precarious situation.**

➔ **Synonyms: Predicament, dilemma, entanglement**

➔ **Antonyms: Solution, ease, relief**

➔ **Example: The government found itself in a political quagmire after implementing controversial reforms.**

10. Adroitly (चतुराई से)

➜ **Meaning: In a skillful or clever manner.**

➜ **Synonyms: Skillfully, adeptly, dexterously**

➜ **Antonyms: Clumsily, awkwardly, ineptly**

➜ **Example: The negotiator adroitly handled the complex trade discussions.**

One-word substitute:

1. One who behaves in a strange or unusual way:
Eccentric

2. One who knows everything:
Omniscient

3. One who works only for money, especially a soldier hired to fight:
Mercenary

4. One who can use both hands with equal ease:
Ambidextrous

Phrasal Verbs:

1. Drop out
Meaning - to leave school, a class, or an activity before finishing it.

2. Fall apart
Meaning - to break into pieces; to become emotionally upset.

3. Work out
Meaning - to exercise; to solve a problem.

4. Account for
Meaning - to explain or justify something.

Idioms & Phrases

1. Play your cards right
Meaning: to do things in an intelligent and well-planned way

2. A night owl
Meaning: someone who prefers to be awake and active at night

3. Get a grip
Meaning: keep or recover one's self-control

4. Between a rock and a hard place

Meaning: faced with two equally undesirable alternatives

5. A whole new ballgame

Meaning: a completely different situation

Article for Reading

Tragedy of a commons: on Wikimedia and the free flow of information

While ordering the Wikimedia Foundation to undo changes on the Wikipedia page on Asian News International (ANI), the Delhi High Court said "people at large have a tendency to accept statements made on [Wikipedia's] web pages … as gospel truth". In the hearing of the defamation suit that ANI had filed in 2024, the court had taken some questionable positions. For example, it sought the identities of the volunteers who edited the ANI page, whose anonymity the platform allows to protect them from retaliation. When the Foundation sought more time, the court observed: "We will close your business transactions here... We will ask the government to block Wikipedia… If you don't like India, please don't work in India." The Foundation had appealed for its right to safe harbour under the Information Technology Act 2000, but the court concluded in favour of the plaintiff because, it observed, "statements on the page pertaining to the plaintiff are all sourced from … editorials and opinionated pages".

Wikipedia is written and maintained by volunteers who are expected to follow the platform's guidelines. Unlike newspapers or scientific journals, the encyclopedia does not purport to publish new information; volunteers are instead expected to repeat with attribution or reproduce with references, information originally published elsewhere, with a preference for reputable sources. In this light, the court order is problematic. Elements of truth today are often mistaken to be someone's opinions and vice versa. Politicians and government agencies have been known to punish civil society for repeating an allegedly offensive claim rather than address the original claim itself. Opinions are rejected even as data is withheld to deny those who express them opportunities to align them with verifiable facts. In this case, the court had expressed concern for ANI's credibility, whether volunteers who edited the ANI page had followed the platform's guidelines in letter and spirit, and whether the opinion as expressed on the page could be allowed to stand.

In the process, it established that the Foundation's ability to maintain the democratic structure that has allowed Wikipedia to become so popular and reliable is limited for India's users: to the extent of public tolerance for certain opinions. Ultimately, the aforementioned "people's tendency" and the state's ability to influence it put Wikipedia and similar decentralised collaborations at risk. That is a tragedy. These collaborations adopted their designs to sidestep the sort of centralised information control that some countries, including India, have sought. Courts and the state would do well to accommodate these collaborative efforts rather than treat them with contempt — and the people should engage with these efforts and their guidelines as well.

Summary

The passage critiques a Delhi High Court ruling that ordered the Wikimedia Foundation to reverse changes on the Wikipedia page of Asian News International (ANI), following a defamation suit filed by ANI in 2024. The court not only demanded the identification of anonymous Wikipedia editors—contrary to Wikipedia's policy to protect them—but also threatened to block the platform in India. Although Wikipedia functions through volunteer contributions based on credible sources, the court ruled in favor of ANI, citing that the page contained content from opinion pieces. The article highlights the risks this judgment poses to platforms like Wikipedia, which rely on decentralised collaboration and public participation. It expresses concern that intolerance toward differing opinions and pressure from authorities could threaten the democratic nature of such platforms.

Tone:

The tone of the passage is critical, concerned, and defensive of decentralised, collaborative platforms like Wikipedia. It reflects unease about state overreach, judicial overreaction, and the diminishing space for civil discourse and dissent.

Reading Comprehension

Based on the above passage, answer the following questions:

Question 1:
According to the passage, why is the court's reaction to Wikipedia particularly troubling in the context of truth and opinion?

A) Because Wikipedia claims to be a news outlet and publishes original data
B) Because opinions expressed online are always factual under Indian law
C) Because the line between opinion and truth is often blurred in public discourse
D) Because the court believes opinions cannot be protected under the IT Act
E) None of the above

Question 2:
Why did the Wikimedia Foundation invoke the Information Technology Act, 2000, during the defamation case?

A) To avoid disclosing Wikipedia's internal funding and sources
B) To seek protection under safe harbour provisions
C) To demand the court revoke ANI's editorial rights
D) To challenge India's jurisdiction over its global operations
E) None of the above

Question 3:
Why is the court's demand for the identities of Wikipedia editors particularly problematic, as per the passage?

A. It violates the IT Act of 2000.
B. It assumes that editors are government employees.
C. It threatens the protective anonymity crucial to Wikipedia's functioning.
D. It undermines the financial transactions of the Wikimedia Foundation.
E. None of the above

Article for Skimming

Health and sanitation as the pillars of a healthy India

On this World Health Day (April 7), as nations reflect on the foundations of human well-being, India stands tall with a transformative lesson: health and sanitation are not separate pursuits, but are two sides of a coin. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has undertaken a sanitation and water revolution that has not only changed the way we live but also how we thrive. The story of modern India cannot be told without acknowledging the contribution of the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) Grameen and the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). These programmes are not just about toilets and tap water alone. They represent a shift in the soul of the nation. These rural missions symbolise dignity, equity, and, above all, health. When the Prime Minister launched SBM from the ramparts of the Red Fort in 2014, he ignited a movement that has touched every Indian household, making it a people's movement — a Jan Andolan that was anchored in behavioural change and inter-generational equity.

By 2019, India had declared itself Open Defecation Free (ODF) and taken significant steps towards achieving SDG 6.2 (it focuses on achieving access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all by 2030) and also ending open defecation, 11 years ahead of time. The SBM has been a powerful public health intervention. A World Health Organization (WHO) report estimated from 2014 to 2019, through the sanitation mission, over three lakh diarrhoeal deaths were averted. The Gates Foundation reported in 2017 that there were 58% higher cases of wasting among children in non ODF areas. A UNICEF study (2017) found that 93% of women felt safer after getting a toilet at home and ODF families saved ₹50,000 annually in health-care costs, ensuring higher savings. The SBM has improved environmental outcomes. Groundwater contamination in ODF villages is 12.7 times less likely, ensuring long-term health resilience in rural communities. A (2024) Nature study estimated that 60,000 to 70,000 child deaths are prevented every year due to improved sanitation access.

These outcomes are not incidental, they are the result of sustained political commitment, inter-ministerial coordination, and community ownership. In 2019, the Jal Jeevan Mission was launched to ensure every rural household receives clean drinking water through a tap connection. This is more than infrastructure. It is an investment in human potential with far-reaching socio-economic impact. Research by Nobel Laureate Dr. Michael Kremer has shown that nearly 30% infant deaths can be reduced if safe water is made available to families for drinking and 1.36 lakh child deaths (under five years) can be prevented with universal tap coverage. WHO estimates suggest that the JJM could avert four lakh diarrhoeal deaths with safe drinking water supply at home. And, 5.5 crore hours are saved every day, mostly by women, who had earlier spent time fetching water. State Bank of India research finds that the availability of water within premises led to increased participation by women in agriculture and allied activities.

Question 4:
Which combination of factors does the author credit for the success of SBM and JJM?

A. Political will, private investment, and digital monitoring
B. PM leadership, NGO participation, and behavioural science
C. Scientific studies, funding by WHO, and water recycling
D. Political commitment, inter-ministerial coordination, and community ownership
E. None of the above

Question 5:
What is a critical long-term environmental benefit attributed to SBM, as per the passage?

A. Promotion of biodiversity in rural regions
B. Reduction in groundwater contamination in ODF villages
C. Drastic improvement in river cleanliness across India
D. Increase in forest cover due to cleaner air
E. None of the above

Today's Descriptive Question

Precis Writing:

Original Text:

Unemployment remains one of the most pressing issues facing India today, impacting economic growth and social stability. Despite being one of the world's fastest-growing economies, India struggles to generate enough jobs to absorb its large and growing workforce. The challenge is not only the lack of jobs but also the mismatch between skills and employment opportunities, leading to both open unemployment and underemployment. Several structural and cyclical factors contribute to the unemployment crisis. One major cause is the rapid increase in the working-age population, which outpaces job creation. The education system, though expanding, often fails to equip students with industry-relevant skills, resulting in a large number of educated youth who remain jobless. Additionally, a shift from agriculture to services has not been matched by adequate job creation in manufacturing or high-productivity sectors.

The informal sector, which employs a majority of the workforce, lacks stability, job security, and fair wages. The COVID-19 pandemic worsened the situation, causing massive layoffs, especially in sectors like tourism, retail, and construction. Furthermore, automation and digitization, while enhancing efficiency, have also reduced demand for low-skilled labor in traditional industries. To address unemployment, India needs multi-pronged solutions. This includes revamping the education and vocational training system to improve employability, promoting entrepreneurship and startups, and encouraging investment in labour-intensive sectors like textiles, construction, and food processing. Government schemes like Skill India, MGNREGA, and Make in India need stronger implementation and support. Strengthening the formal sector, improving labor laws, and ensuring easier access to credit and markets for small businesses are also crucial steps. Unemployment in India is a complex socio-economic issue that requires coordinated efforts from the government, private sector, and civil society to ensure inclusive and sustainable job growth.

Precis:

Unemployment in India poses a serious challenge due to population growth, skill mismatch, and insufficient job creation. While many youths are educated, they lack employable skills, and the informal sector dominates without job security. The COVID-19 pandemic and automation have further worsened the crisis. Tackling unemployment requires skill development, promotion of entrepreneurship, investment in labour-intensive sectors, and better implementation of government schemes. A coordinated, long-term approach is essential to ensure inclusive and sustainable employment opportunities.

- **The IT department is performing maintenance, and the company's systems will be temporarily unavailable. Write an email informing employees.**

To: …………@gmail.com

Subject: Scheduled IT Maintenance – Temporary System Unavailability

Dear Team,

Please be informed that the IT department will be performing scheduled maintenance on our systems to ensure continued performance and security.

During this time, all company systems will be temporarily unavailable.

Maintenance Window:
Date: [Insert Date]
Time: [Insert Start Time] to [Insert End Time]

We recommend saving your work and logging out of the system before the maintenance begins to avoid any data loss or interruptions.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and appreciate your understanding and cooperation.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to the IT Helpdesk.

Best regards,
[Your Name]

Match the column

1. Play your cards right   A. someone who prefers to be awake at night
2. A night owl   B. a completely different situation
3. Get a grip   C. faced with two equally undesirable alternatives
4. Between a rock and a hard place D. to do things in well-planned way
5. A whole new ballgame   E. keep or recover one's self-control

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

Vocabulary

1. Thrive:
2. Contempt:
3. Purport:
4. Laudable:
5. Sagacious:
6. Scupper:
7. Unrelenting:
8. Sluggish:
9. Quagmire:
10. Adroitly:

1.

Ans: C

Explanation:

The passage states:

"Elements of truth today are often mistaken to be someone's opinions and vice versa."

This highlights the confusion between fact and opinion, making the court's handling of Wikipedia entries problematic.

Incorrect Options Explained:

A) Wikipedia does not claim to be a news outlet or to publish original information.

B) There is no legal assertion that all opinions are facts under Indian law.

D) The court's objection was not based on excluding opinion protection under the IT Act.

2.

Ans: B

Explanation:

The passage says:

"The Foundation had appealed for its right to safe harbour under the Information Technology Act 2000…"

Safe harbour shields platforms from liability for third-party content, which Wikipedia was invoking here.

Incorrect Options Explained:

A) Internal funding/sources were not part of this legal argument.

C) There's no mention of Wikimedia challenging ANI's editorial rights.

D) Jurisdictional issues were not raised in the passage.

3.

Ans: C

Explanation:

The passage says the platform allows anonymity "to protect [editors] from retaliation," and the court's demand disregards this core practice. This could discourage participation and compromise the platform's credibility and neutrality.

Incorrect options:

A. The IT Act is referenced in a different context — regarding safe harbour — not anonymity.

B. There's no claim about editors being government employees.

D. Financial transactions were threatened ("We will close your business transactions…"), but the anonymity issue is distinct and deeper.

4.

Ans: D

Explanation:

In the concluding sentence, the passage states: "These outcomes are not incidental, they are the result of sustained political commitment, inter-ministerial coordination, and community ownership."

Why other options are incorrect:

A. No mention of digital monitoring or private investment.

B. Behavioural change is mentioned, but NGO participation is not a focus.

C. WHO contributed analysis, not direct funding or water recycling.

5.

Ans: B

Explanation:

The passage says: "Groundwater contamination in ODF villages is 12.7 times less likely," clearly pointing to this as a long-term environmental benefit.

Why other options are incorrect:

A. Biodiversity isn't discussed.
C. No reference to rivers or water bodies.
D. Forest cover and air quality aren't mentioned.

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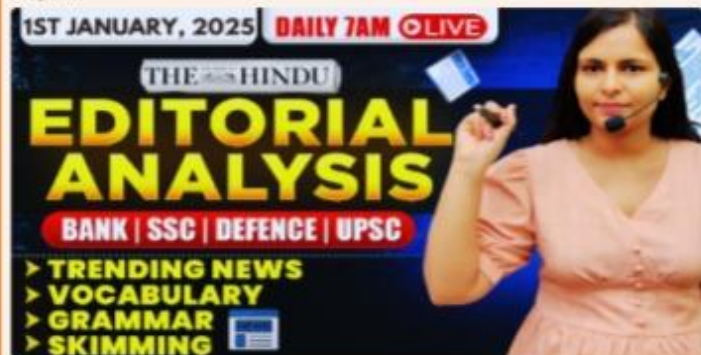**English with Nimisha Bansal**
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