

The Hindu EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

18th 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. Prescient (दूरदर्शी)

- **Meaning:** Having foresight or showing knowledge of events before they take place.
- **Synonyms:** Prophetic, visionary, foresighted
- **Antonyms:** Shortsighted, unprepared, unaware
- **Example:** The RBI's decision to shift to a neutral stance proved prescient given the recent developments.

2. Propitiate (शांत करना / मनाना)

- **Meaning:** To win or regain the favor of someone by doing something that pleases them.
- **Synonyms:** Appease, pacify, placate, mollify
- **Antonyms:** Provoke, anger, enrage, antagonize
- **Example:** The villagers offered prayers to propitiate the rain gods.

3. Reprisal (प्रतिशोध)

- **Meaning:** An act of retaliation, especially in the context of international politics or warfare.
- **Synonyms:** Retaliation, revenge, payback
- **Antonyms:** Forgiveness, pardon, mercy
- **Example:** The military launched airstrikes as a reprisal for the enemy's attack on their base.

4. Impeded (बाधित करना)

- **Meaning:** To delay or prevent something by obstructing it.
- **Synonyms:** Hinder, obstruct, block
- **Antonyms:** Aid, assist, facilitate
- **Example:** The GEM procurement policy impeded the progress of scientific research in India.

5. Saliience (उल्लेखनीयता)

- **Meaning:** The quality of being particularly noticeable or important.
- **Synonyms:** Prominence, importance, significance
- **Antonyms:** Insignificance, unimportance, obscurity
- **Example:** The saliience of the issue was evident when it became the focal point of the national debate.

6. Confide (राज़ बताना / विश्वास में लेना)

- **Meaning:** To tell someone a secret or private matter while trusting them not to repeat it to others.
- **Synonyms:** Disclose, reveal, trust
- **Antonyms:** Conceal, withhold, suppress
- **Example:** She confided in her best friend about her family issues.

7. Nimble (चुस्त / फुर्तीला)

- **Meaning:** Quick and light in movement or action; adaptable.
- **Synonyms:** Agile, quick, flexible
- **Antonyms:** Clumsy, sluggish, rigid
- **Example:** The recent inflation shocks show how nimble monetary policy must be in uncertain times.

8. Dunce (मूर्ख / मंद बुद्धि वाला छात्र)

- **Meaning:** A person who is slow at learning; someone considered unintelligent.
- **Synonyms:** Fool, slow learner, blockhead, dimwit
- **Antonyms:** Genius, scholar, intellect
- **Example:** Just because he failed once doesn't make him a dunce.

9. Junked (फेंक देना / रद्द करना)

- **Meaning:** To discard or abandon something as useless or ineffective.
- **Synonyms:** Discarded, scrapped, dumped
- **Antonyms:** Preserved, retained, maintained
- **Example:** Several experiments are junked halfway due to lack of appropriate materials.

10. Accede (स्वीकार करना / मान लेना)

- **Meaning:** To agree to a request, demand, or proposal; to give consent.
- **Synonyms:** Agree, assent, consent, comply
- **Antonyms:** Refuse, reject, oppose, decline
- **Example:** The government finally acceded to the protesters' demands.

VOCABULARY

One-word substitute:

1. Deeply religious or committed to a belief or cause:

Devout

2. To defeat overwhelmingly or thoroughly:

Trounce

3. To gain an advantage over someone by being more clever:

Outsmart

4. To belittle or speak negatively about someone or something:

Disparage

VOCABULARY

Phrasal Verbs:

1. Catch on

Meaning: To understand or become popular

2. Catch out

Meaning: To expose someone's mistake or wrongdoing

3. Catch up

Meaning: To reach the same level or standard as others

4. Cater for

Meaning: To provide what is needed or required by someone or something

VOCABULARY

Idioms & Phrases

1. Played havoc

Meaning: Caused great damage or disruption

2. There's no love lost between

Meaning: There is mutual dislike or hostility

3. Fair and square

Meaning: Honest and according to the rules

VOCABULARY

4. A white elephant

Meaning: Something costly and useless

5. Out and out

Meaning: Complete; absolute (used to emphasize something negative)

Article for Reading

**Easing prices: on the
inflation data**

The inflation data for May show just how much can change in one month. Retail inflation came in at a 75-month low of 2.8% in May, with easing food prices the main reason behind this fall. Wholesale inflation, too, slowed to just 0.4%, the lowest in more than a year. The primary driver here, apart from falling food prices, was a drastic contraction of 12.4% in crude oil and natural gas prices. An oversupply of oil and a slowing global economy had meant that the months leading up to May had seen oil prices fall considerably. With India importing about 80% of its oil requirement, this eventually translated into lower wholesale inflation in the country. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had, in its monetary policy announcement on June 11, predicted that inflation for the year would come in at an average of 3.7%, down from its forecast of 4% in April.

According to some analysts, retail inflation in June could come in as low as 2% — the lower end of the RBI's comfort band since current factors impact the data with a considerable lag. Overall, the feeling until not too long ago was that inflation would continue to ease. But then Israel attacked Iran, and the monsoon's progress across the country slowed, both developments that are likely to affect the two key factors, fuel and food, that had, until now, led to the fall in overall inflation. Oil prices jumped as much as 8% in a single day following Israel's attack on Iran on June 13. The Hindu had, last week, reported that an escalation of tensions between the two countries and a resultant blockage of the vital Strait of Hormuz could result in a 40%-50% increase in shipping costs for Indian exports and imports, and could impact India's oil supplies from key sources such as Iraq, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

This is not an unlikely eventuality, either, with Commerce Ministry officials set to hold a meeting this week with trade and shipping sector stakeholders to discuss how the government can ease their distress. Costlier inputs, especially oil, will eventually move the inflation needle back up. The monsoon has picked up pace again, according to India Meteorological Department officials, but it's still early days. In the past, even though the overall monsoon has been satisfactory, its uneven spatial distribution has left several agricultural areas parched. It is far from certain that food prices will continue their downward trajectory. In its last monetary policy meeting, the RBI shifted its stance to 'neutral', indicating that it was as ready to raise interest rates as it was to cut them. This was prescient, as the last few weeks have shown just how nimble monetary policy has to be in these increasingly unpredictable times.

Summary

The passage discusses India's inflation trends, highlighting a significant drop in both retail and wholesale inflation in May due to falling food and crude oil prices. Retail inflation hit a 75-month low of 2.8%, and wholesale inflation slowed to 0.4%. Contributing factors included a global oil oversupply and weakening demand. The RBI revised its annual inflation forecast downward to 3.7% and expected further easing. However, recent geopolitical tensions following Israel's attack on Iran and delayed monsoon progress have cast uncertainty on this trend. These developments could raise fuel and food prices again, reversing recent gains. The RBI's recent shift to a 'neutral' stance on monetary policy reflects the need for flexibility amid such volatility.

Tone of the Passage:

Analytical: The passage evaluates data trends, causes, and possible future implications.

Cautiously optimistic: It notes improvements in inflation but highlights emerging risks.

Concerned and speculative: There's a sense of uncertainty due to geopolitical tensions and monsoon irregularities.

Reading Comprehension

Based on the above passage, answer the following questions:

Question 1:

Which of the following best captures the RBI's rationale behind shifting to a 'neutral' monetary policy stance, as per the passage?

- A) Persistent underperformance in exports and widening fiscal deficit**
- B) Need to counteract the effects of a depreciating rupee and rising gold prices**
- C) Recognition of inflation's susceptibility to external and environmental shocks**
- D) Concerns over an overheated economy and rising private consumption**
- E) None of the above**

Question 2:

According to the passage, what is the most plausible consequence of a blockade at the Strait of Hormuz on India's economy?

- A) Reduction in agricultural subsidies and farm output**
- B) Increased shipping and oil import costs, raising inflation**
- C) Devaluation of the Indian rupee and export slowdown**
- D) Surge in foreign institutional investment in India**
- E) None of the above**

Question 3:

Which of the following best describes the economic environment in the months leading up to May, as per the passage?

- A) Accelerating commodity supercycle with booming industrial production**
- B) Fiscal expansion coupled with a surge in household savings**
- C) Oil oversupply and global slowdown contributing to disinflation**
- D) Robust rural demand driving up wholesale prices**
- E) None of the above**

Article for Skimming

**A free hand: on
scientific institutes
and GEM norms**

Last week, the government issued a set of orders that scientists have heralded as ‘revolutionary’. A major change is in allowing scientific institutions to bypass the Government e-Marketplace (GEM), a Commerce Ministry initiative that is meant to prioritise made-in-India equipment. GEM norms require all government purchases — from laptops to furniture — to be routed through the GEM-portal, with a mandate to buy from the vendor offering the lowest price. While technocrats in government amplified this bypass as a “landmark” initiative to promote ‘ease of doing research and development,’ the fact is that until GEM-based procurement was made mandatory from 2020, the default option was to allow individual scientific institutions the freedom to make their choices regarding the vendors they procure. Take for example, sodium chloride.

Something as common as table salt must be available in infinite supply and it is only proper that laboratories — they require great quantities for its myriad applications in research — source it from the supplier who offers it the cheapest. However, much like the avatars of salt — kosher, flat or sea — are uncommonly unique to the chef, the differences in purity even within common salt are critical to scientific research as well as the manufacture of pharmaceuticals. This translates to some vendors being more reliable and, therefore, more preferred. A major aspect of scientific research is about being able to reproduce results of experiments described in publications. Often, this requires fidelity to the methods and materials of the original experimenter. Given the challenge of budgets, the inability to source the right material results in experiments being junked halfway, or crimping on experimental ambition, resulting, overall, in a net loss of resources, time and effort.

If this is extended to materials more complicated than salt — precision lathes, customised lab-produced diamonds, biological molecules, for example — it is easy to understand the gripe of scientists. It is understandable, and pardonable, when a government experiments with an untested policy and runs into uncharted waters or unknown unknowns. In the case of GEM, it was a known fact that India lacked an industrial base for sophisticated machinery, and it was inevitable that the hammer-head policy that saw all products as cookie-cutter nails would impede scientific research. India's scientific ministries are unique in that they are led by scientists, instead of the usual norm of having career bureaucrats. This was due to a recognition, dating back to the early years of the republic, that while science and technology can be employed to serve the state, science itself is unfettered and must be specially nurtured to be useful. A free hand is worth more than two fettered arms.

Question 4:

What fundamental contradiction does the passage highlight in the government's policy approach to science via GEM?

- A) Promoting foreign technologies while curbing foreign collaborations**
- B) Advocating scientific excellence while imposing uniform procurement restrictions**
- C) Offering tax exemptions but reducing research funding**
- D) Delegating research to private firms but maintaining public accountability**
- E) None of the above**

Question 5:

According to the passage, what historical rationale explains why India's scientific ministries are often headed by scientists?

- A) Scientists are better suited for administrative duties than bureaucrats**
- B) Scientists demand fewer financial resources than bureaucrats**
- C) Scientific autonomy is essential for innovation and national development**
- D) Bureaucrats were reluctant to work in scientific ministries**
- E) None of the above**

Today's Descriptive Question:

- **Write an essay of 200 words about the Psychology of Decision Making.**

Decision making is a complex psychological process that involves selecting a course of action among several alternatives. It is influenced by various cognitive biases, emotional states, and social factors. Understanding the psychology behind decision making can help individuals make better choices in both personal and professional contexts.

Cognitive biases, such as confirmation bias and anchoring, play a significant role in how decisions are made. Confirmation bias leads individuals to favor information that confirms their preexisting beliefs, while anchoring occurs when individuals rely too heavily on the first piece of information encountered. These biases can skew judgment and lead to suboptimal decisions.

Emotions also significantly impact decision making. Positive emotions, like happiness and excitement, can lead to more risk-taking behaviors, whereas negative emotions, such as fear and anxiety, can cause individuals to be more cautious and risk-averse. The interplay between emotion and cognition is crucial in understanding how decisions are formulated.

Social influences, including peer pressure and cultural norms, further shape decision making. People often conform to the expectations and behaviors of others, which can either facilitate or hinder effective decision making. Understanding these influences can help in developing strategies to mitigate their effects.

Overall, the psychology of decision making reveals the intricate web of cognitive, emotional, and social factors that drive human choices. By recognizing these influences, individuals can work towards making more informed and rational decisions.

- **Write a letter to the Director of your school, requesting permission to organise a cultural fest in the school premises.**

[Your Name]

[Your Address]

[City, State, ZIP Code]

[Email Address]

[Date]

[Director's Name]

[School Name]

[School Address]

[City, State, ZIP Code]

Subject - Permission to organise a cultural fest

Dear [Director's Name],

I hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits. I am writing to seek your permission to organize a cultural fest at [School Name] on [proposed date(s)]. As a member of the student council, I believe that a cultural fest would be an excellent opportunity to celebrate the diverse talents and cultures within our school community.

The proposed event aims to showcase a variety of cultural performances, including dance, music, drama, and art exhibitions. Additionally, we plan to incorporate interactive workshops and food stalls representing different cultures, providing a holistic cultural experience for all participants. The fest will not only foster a sense of unity and pride among students but also encourage creativity and collaboration.

To ensure the success of this event, we have formed a dedicated organizing committee that will oversee all aspects of planning and execution, including safety measures, budget management, and coordination with staff and volunteers.

We are committed to adhering to all school policies and guidelines to ensure a smooth and enjoyable event for everyone.

We kindly request your approval to proceed with the preparations for the cultural fest. Your support and guidance would be invaluable to us in making this event a memorable and enriching experience for our school community. We are happy to meet with you to discuss the details further and address any concerns you may have.

Thank you for considering our request. We look forward to your positive response.

**Yours sincerely,
[Your Name]
[Your Grade/Class]
[Position, Student Council]
[Contact Information]**

Match the column

- 1. Played havoc**
- 2. There's no love lost between**
- 3. Fair and square**
- 4. A white elephant**
- 5. Out and out**

- A. Honest and according to the rules**
- B. Something costly and useless**
- C. Caused great damage or disruption**
- D. Complete; absolute**
- E. There is mutual dislike or hostility**

Answer:

1-c

2-e

3-a

4-b

5-d

Vocabulary

- 1. Prescient:**
- 2. Propitiate:**
- 3. Reprisal:**
- 4. Impeded:**
- 5. Salience:**
- 6. Confide:**
- 7. Nimble:**
- 8. Dunce:**
- 9. Junked:**
- 10. Accede:**



BASIC TO ADVANCE

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

NIMISHA BANSAL



**40%
OFF**



USE CODE: NB40
OFFER VALID TILL 20TH JUNE

40%

DISCOUNT

ON ALL YES OFFICER PRODUCTS!

✓ ONE PREMIUM SUBSCRIPTION | ✓ YES MOCK
✓ EDUCATORS EXCLUSIVE | ✓ TARGET BATCH



KUSH PANDEY



AASHISH ARORA



ANKUSH LAMBA



NIMISHA BANSAL

USE CODE - YES OFFICER

OFFER VALID TILL 20TH JUNE

JOIN TELEGRAM CHANNEL

ENGLISH WITH NIMISHA BANSAL

@NimishaMam



English with Nimisha Bansal

480 132 subscribers

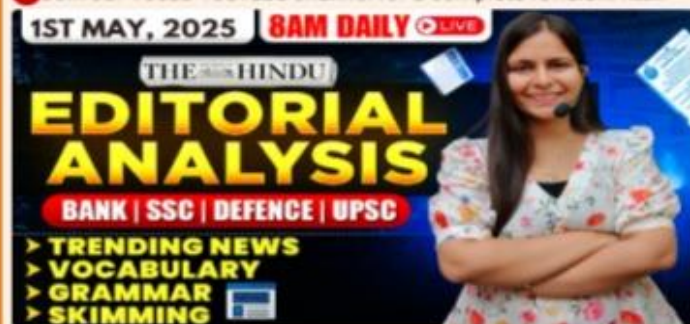


YouTube

Editorial Analysis | 1st May, 2025 | Vocab, Grammar, Reading, Skimming | Nimisha Bansal

Editorial Analysis | 1st May, 2025 | Vocab, Grammar, Reading, Skimming | Nimisha Bansal

Join our Vocab YouTube channel for a complete revision: htt...



24.2K 06:45



Editorial no an...on 01_05_25.pdf

762 KB

Editorial no annotation 01_05_25

CONTENT - NIMISHA BANSAL

@mamnimisha



Content- Nimisha Bansal

181 423 subscribers



Parajumbles- Prelims Class 1 no annotation 1st May

4.5K 12:30

Forwarded from

English with Nimisha Bansal



EDITORIAL VOCA...AY 2025).pdf

3.6 MB

EDITORIAL VOCAB (1ST MAY 2025.)

2.5K 14:18

Forwarded from

English with Nimisha Bansal



EXTRA WORDS F...MAY 2025.pdf

252 KB

EXTRA WORDS FROM TODAY'S SESSION
1st MAY 2025

542 15:39

Forwarded from

English with Nimisha Bansal



ENGLISH MAINS...May 2025).pdf

1.6 MB

ENGLISH MAINS VIJETA CHECKLIST-123 (1st May 2025)

542 15:39