

The Hindu EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

2nd July 2025

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

1. Slumped (गिर गया / अचानक कम हुआ)

- **Meaning: Fell or declined suddenly and sharply**
- **Synonyms: Dropped, declined, collapsed**
- **Antonyms: Rose, surged, increased**
- **Example: The Index of Industrial Production slumped to a nine-month low in May.**

2. Inadvertently (अनजाने में / अनिच्छा से)

- **Meaning:** Without intention; accidentally.
- **Synonyms:** Unintentionally, unknowingly, accidentally
- **Antonyms:** Deliberately, intentionally, purposely
- **Example:** Policies promoting hybrid crops have inadvertently led to the decline of traditional seed diversity.

3. Tamper (हस्तक्षेप करना)

- **Meaning:** To interfere with something, especially to cause damage or make unauthorized changes.
- **Synonyms:** Meddle, interfere, manipulate
- **Antonyms:** Preserve, protect, respect
- **Example:** He was accused of trying to tamper with the election results by pressuring officials.

4. Scramble (जद्दोजहद करना)

- **Meaning:** Struggle or compete frantically to achieve something.
- **Synonyms:** Struggle, rush, hustle
- **Antonyms:** Relax, rest, stroll
- **Example:** Exporters are scrambling for newer markets due to U.S.-led tariff uncertainties.

5. 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.

6. Discernible (स्पष्ट रूप से दिखाई देने वाला)

- **Meaning:** Able to be seen, recognized, or understood.
- **Synonyms:** Noticeable, perceptible, evident
- **Antonyms:** Indistinct, vague, imperceptible
- **Example:** A discernible improvement in economic conditions has been observed in recent months.

7. Complacency (आत्मसंतोष)

- Meaning: A feeling of satisfaction with oneself or one's achievements, often without awareness of potential danger.**
- Synonyms: Self-satisfaction, smugness, contentment**
- Antonyms: Anxiety, dissatisfaction, insecurity**
- Example: The team's complacency after their early success cost them the championship.**

8. Suffice (पर्याप्त होना)

- **Meaning:** To be enough or adequate for a certain purpose.
- **Synonyms:** Satisfy, meet, fulfill
- **Antonyms:** Inadequate, insufficient, fall short
- **Example:** The arrangements did not suffice to handle the overwhelming crowd at the air show.

9. 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.

10. Reek (बदबू आना)

- **Meaning:** To have a strong, unpleasant smell; figuratively, to strongly suggest something negative.
- **Synonyms:** Stink, smell, suggest
- **Antonyms:** Fragrance, freshness, sweetness
- **Example:** The entire situation reeked of corruption and dishonesty.

VOCABULARY

One-word substitute:

1. A group of people who accompany and support an important person:

Entourage

2. Occurring at irregular intervals or only in a few places; scattered or isolated:

Sporadic

3. An extremely happy, peaceful, or picturesque scene or episode, typically an idealized or unsustainable one:

Idyll

4. Filled with bitter criticism or malice:

Vitriolic

VOCABULARY

Phrasal Verbs:

1. Zone out

Meaning - to lose concentration, usually because of boredom.

2. Wind up

Meaning - to end or finish something; to arrive at a situation.

3. Act up

Meaning - to misbehave or not function properly.

4. Bank on

Meaning - to rely on something or someone.

VOCABULARY

Idioms & Phrases

1. Blood is thicker than water

Meaning: family relationships and loyalties are the strongest and most important ones

2. An axe to grind

Meaning: have a private reason for doing or being involved in something

3. Cast a shadow on

Meaning: to spoil a good situation with something unpleasant

VOCABULARY

4. Keep an ear to the ground

Meaning: staying informed about everything

5. Run around in circles

Meaning: putting efforts into something that is not a worthwhile result

Article for Reading

**Demand distress: On
slowdown in the
overall IIP**

The new financial year has gotten off to a relatively poor start when it comes to industrial production. Growth in the Index of Industrial Production slumped to a nine-month low of 1.2% in May 2025. This follows an eight-month low of 2.6% in April. Taken together, this puts the average growth in the index so far in 2025-26 at just 1.9%, down from the 5.7% average in 2024-25. A major reason behind the dip in May's industrial performance was due to the electricity sector, which contracted 5.8%, its worst performance since June 2020, nearly five years ago. This poor performance in electricity generation can be put down to an unusually cool May, but it could also point towards lower offtake for industrial purposes. The fact also remains that the slowdown in the overall IIP has been broad-based — several key sectors have either contracted or slowed sharply. The manufacturing sector slowed to a growth of 2.6% in May, down from 5.1% in May last year.

A deeper look shows that this slowdown was driven by contractions in the manufacture of textiles, leather products, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, electronics, and furniture. While some of these are core sectors, most are consumer-facing, implying that demand in the economy is not picking up, and may even be slackening further. This is backed by the fact that the consumer durables and nondurables sectors simultaneously contracted for the first time since November 2023. A sub-sector analysis of this data further reinforces the takeaway that demand is weak. Within consumer durables, the IIP data showed significant contractions in the production of footwear, books, plastic furniture, shaving razors, stainless steel utensils, computers, phones, air-conditioners and coolers. These are all items of discretionary spending, not strictly essential, which implies that people are holding off on their purchases.

Even among consumer non-durables, the items that have seen contractions — such as meat, honey, fruit juice, jams, sugar and bottled water — are those that are eschewed the quickest during lean periods. The situation does not seem to have improved much in June either. The private sector manufacturing Purchasing Managers Index report, released on Tuesday, shows that while demand for intermediate goods is doing well, the same cannot be said for either capital or consumer goods. In recent interviews, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has expressed confidence that urban demand is recovering and that Budget 2025's tax breaks will boost demand by the time the festival season rolls around. The progress of the monsoon so far indicates that rural demand may indeed pick up by then, but urban demand remains a worry. With trade remaining subdued and uncertain, domestic demand weakness does not augur well for the economy in 2025-26.

Summary

India's industrial production has had a weak start in the new financial year (2025-26), with IIP (Index of Industrial Production) growth averaging just 1.9%, significantly down from 5.7% in the previous year. May 2025 saw a particularly sharp slump, with IIP growth falling to a nine-month low of 1.2%, driven in part by a 5.8% contraction in the electricity sector — its worst performance in nearly five years. The slowdown is broad-based, with manufacturing growth also dropping and several consumer-facing sectors such as textiles, electronics, furniture, and pharmaceuticals showing declines. Consumer durables and non-durables both contracted simultaneously for the first time since November 2023, indicating weak demand. The contraction is especially evident in discretionary spending items, suggesting people are cutting back. While the monsoon may help revive rural demand, urban demand remains weak. With external trade subdued, overall domestic demand weakness poses a risk to economic growth in 2025-26.

Tone:

The tone of the passage is cautious and analytical, with an underlying concern about weakening demand and its implications for the Indian economy.

Reading Comprehension

Based on the above passage, answer the following questions:

Question 1:

Which of the following best describes the main implication of simultaneous contraction in both consumer durables and non-durables in May 2025?

- A. Accelerating core inflation in essential goods**
- B. Weakening domestic consumption trends**
- C. Shift toward high-end consumer spending**
- D. Supply-side disruptions in logistics networks**
- E. None of the above**

Question 2:

Which pair of indicators from the passage jointly reinforces the weak demand hypothesis?

- A. Footwear and stainless steel utensils production growth**
- B. Electricity contraction and tax reforms**
- C. Durables contraction and consumer non-durables contraction**
- D. PMI growth in intermediate goods and rural wage increase**
- E. None of the above**

Question 3:

Why does the passage question Finance Minister Sitharaman's optimism regarding urban demand recovery?

- A. Monsoon progress is below normal, affecting rural support**
- B. Festival season often fails to significantly boost spending**
- C. Budget 2025 does not include demand-side measures**
- D. Current indicators show declining discretionary consumption**
- E. None of the above**

Article for Skimming

**Costly lapses: On the
Hyderabad pharma
unit blast**

Microcrystalline Cellulose (MCC) is chemically inert. The human body does not absorb it. The skin does not react to it. But it has several useful physical properties such as being a binder and texturiser, which is why it has varied applications in the pharmaceutical, food, cosmetics and other industries. MCC can add weight to a drug and facilitate the active ingredients to function effectively while making the drug conform to weight specifications. On Monday (June 30, 2025), however, the pharma unit of Sigachi Industries in Hyderabad, which makes this benign substance, was the scene of a lethal accident, with the toll rising to 36 on Tuesday (July 1, 2025). The making of this safe substance does involve risky processes, which can, however, be safe if appropriate procedures are followed by trained personnel. Most of the dead are young, poor, migrant workers from northern and eastern India who often lack social support.

The Telangana government has announced an ex gratia of ₹1 crore and efforts must be made to ensure it reaches the families. It does seem that the response of mitigation agencies was timely and is ongoing. The blast, however, puts the spotlight back on the pharma manufacturing industry, which has been a foreign exchange earner for India. Such accidents have been frequent, sadly. In August last year, there was a major accident at a pharma unit in Anakapalli near Visakhapatnam. Months earlier, in April, there was another accident in Hyderabad. Officials suspect that Monday's accident happened due to equipment malfunction, likely due to poor maintenance. It could have led to an abnormal build-up of temperature, leading to the blast. Key aspects of operating such hazardous units safely are that HAZOP, or a form of process hazard analysis, should be carried out by competent and knowledgeable staff. The data that individual units generate, that would indicate any abnormality, should be seamlessly integrated into operation control, again manned by competent staff.

Operators should be trained, constantly aware of safety issues and implement steps that can ensure safety. While these are recommended practices, what is crucial is that such plants should have a high level of safety culture. Operators, managers and workers should be conscious of the ever-present risks. In this era of heightened scrutiny of industrial accidents by proactive media, manufacturing units are expected to conform to global norms especially regarding safety. Major slip-ups, such as this accident in Hyderabad, are likely to have a negative bearing on this key source of trade for India.

Question 4:

Which of the following best describes the broader implication of the accident for India's global pharmaceutical trade?

- A. It showcases the country's inability to scale exports.**
- B. It may damage India's reputation as a reliable manufacturing hub.**
- C. It will delay all approvals for Indian-manufactured drugs globally.**
- D. It has led to export bans on Indian pharmaceuticals.**
- E. None of the above**

Question 5:

Why is operator competence and awareness emphasized in relation to industrial safety in the passage?

- A. To ensure compliance with minimum wage laws**
- B. To boost efficiency in production output**
- C. To proactively prevent hazards through process control**
- D. To enable more automation and reduce human labor**
- E. None of the above**

Today's Descriptive Question:

- **Write an essay of 200 words about to ban on Smartphones in Schools.**

The ban on smartphones in schools is a contentious topic, with strong arguments on both sides. Proponents argue that banning smartphones minimizes distractions, allowing students to concentrate better on their studies. Smartphones can disrupt the learning environment, as notifications, social media, and games are tempting distractions that pull students' focus away from class activities. Additionally, excessive screen time can lead to mental health issues, reduced attention spans, and poorer academic performance. Limiting access to smartphones in schools encourages face-to-face interactions, helping students build communication and social skills.

On the other hand, opponents of the ban contend that smartphones can be valuable educational tools when used appropriately. They provide instant access to educational

resources, such as online research tools, language-learning apps, and interactive educational platforms. Furthermore, smartphones allow parents to stay connected with their children, ensuring their safety, especially in emergencies.

While smartphones offer undeniable educational benefits, the challenges they pose in terms of distraction and mental health are significant. A middle ground, such as regulated smartphone use or access only during designated times, may be an effective solution. This approach allows schools to harness the benefits of technology while minimizing its potential drawbacks, creating a balanced environment for learning and personal development.

- **Write a letter to the newspaper editor on how to stop crime in city.**

[Your Address]

[City, ZIP Code]

[Date]

The Editor,

[Newspaper's Name],

[Newspaper's Address],

[City, ZIP Code]

Subject: Urgent Measures to Combat Crime in Our City

Dear Editor,

I am writing to express my concern over the alarming rise in crime across our city and to suggest proactive measures to help curb this issue. The recent surge in theft, vandalism, and violent offenses has not only created an atmosphere of fear but has also affected the daily lives and mental well-being of residents.

To effectively address crime, I propose a combination of increased police presence, community engagement, and technological improvements. By deploying additional patrols in high-risk areas, we can create a visible deterrent to criminal activities. Furthermore, engaging local communities to form neighborhood watch groups can enhance cooperation with law enforcement, creating a safer environment and empowering residents to take an active role in crime prevention.

Additionally, investing in security technology such as CCTV cameras and street lighting in poorly lit areas can significantly reduce the occurrence of crime. Programs that educate the youth about the consequences of crime and provide opportunities for employment and skill development can also address some of the root causes.

I hope the city administration, police force, and community leaders consider these steps to restore safety and harmony in our beloved city.

Yours sincerely,

[Your Name]

Match the column

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 1. Blood is thicker than water | A. to spoil a good situation with something unpleasant |
| 2. An axe to grind | B. staying informed about everything |
| 3. Cast a shadow on | C. family relationships are the strongest ones |
| 4. Keep an ear to the ground | D. putting efforts into something that is not a worthwhile |
| 5. Run around in circles | E. have a private reason for doing something |

Answer:

1-c

2-e

3-a

4-b

5-d

Vocabulary

1. Slumped:
2. Inadvertently:
3. Tamper:
4. Scramble:
5. Whopping:
6. Discernible:
7. Complacency:
8. Suffice:
9. Unpalatable:
10. Reek:

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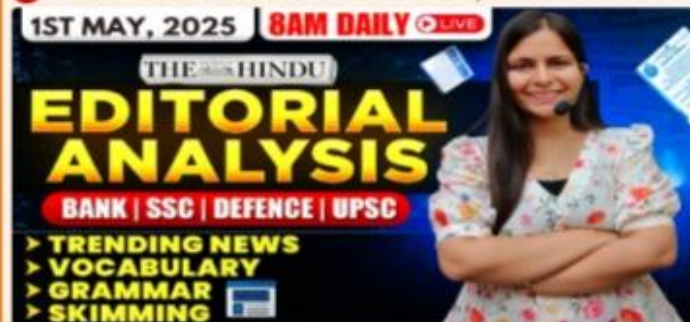


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Rc ans

1.

Ans: B

Explanation:

The passage notes that “consumer durables and nondurables sectors simultaneously contracted for the first time...” and emphasizes “people are holding off on their purchases”. This suggests B: weak domestic demand.

Incorrect options:

- A. No mention of inflation in essential goods; the focus is contraction, not rising prices.
- C. Opposite of what's indicated—demand is down across the board.
- D. No supply chain/logistics issues mentioned.

2.

Ans: C

Explanation:

The passage says: “consumer durables and nondurables sectors simultaneously contracted...” and highlights contraction in discretionary goods like razors, juice, and furniture. This confirms C as the best reinforcing evidence of weak demand.

Incorrect options:

- A. These items contracted, not grew—and are mentioned as examples of demand decline.
- B. Electricity drop is demand-related, but tax reforms are future-facing and speculative.
- D. Intermediate goods are doing well, but rural wage increases are not mentioned.

3.

Ans: D

Explanation:

The passage directly contradicts the FM's optimism, stating: “urban demand remains a worry... items of discretionary spending... implies people are holding off on their purchases”. Hence, D is correct.

Incorrect options:

A. Monsoon is progressing well, not poorly.

B. The passage implies festival season could help; doesn't dismiss its effects.

C. Budget 2025 includes tax breaks meant to help demand.

4.

Ans: B

Explanation:

The passage states:

“Such accidents... are likely to have a negative bearing on this key source of trade for India.”

This implies a potential reputational risk — captured in B.

Why others are incorrect:

A. Scaling isn't the concern here.

C. No evidence of drug approval delays.

D. Export bans are not mentioned.

5.

Ans: C

Explanation:

The passage highlights that HAZOP must be conducted by “competent and knowledgeable staff”, and that operators should be “trained, constantly aware of safety issues...” for proactive safety control.

Incorrect options:

- A. No mention of wages.
- B. Safety, not productivity, is the focus.
- D. There's no reference to automation as a goal.