

The Hindu EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

17th 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. Nascent (उभरते)

- **Meaning:** Just beginning to develop or emerge.
- **Synonyms:** Emerging, budding, developing
- **Antonyms:** Mature, established, developed
- **Example:** India's carbon market is still in its nascent stage and requires careful regulation.

2. Plummeted (गिरना)

- **Meaning:** Fell or dropped straight down at high speed or suddenly.
- **Synonyms:** Dropped, plunged, tumbled, crashed
- **Antonyms:** Rose, increased, ascended
- **Example:** Vegetable prices have plummeted over the past four months, relieving household budgets.

3. Conformance (अनुरूपता)

- **Meaning:** Compliance with established standards or rules.
- **Synonyms:** Adherence, conformity, compliance
- **Antonyms:** Disobedience, deviation, divergence
- **Example:** Conformance with global standards is essential for credibility in the carbon market.

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. Emulate (अनुकरण करना)

- **Meaning:** To imitate or follow the example of.
- **Synonyms:** Imitate, copy, mirror
- **Antonyms:** Neglect, ignore, deviate
- **Example:** India aims to emulate best practices from international carbon market models.

6. Dampening (कम करना)

- **Meaning:** Reducing the intensity or vigor of something.
- **Synonyms:** Weakening, reducing, softening
- **Antonyms:** Increasing, intensifying, enhancing
- **Example:** Investor confidence is dampening amid global trade uncertainties.

7. Meticulously (सावधानीपूर्वक)

- **Meaning:** Showing great attention to detail; very careful and precise.
- **Synonyms:** Carefully, precisely, thoroughly
- **Antonyms:** Carelessly, hastily, roughly
- **Example:** The architect meticulously reviewed the blueprints to ensure there were no errors.

8. 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.

9. Umbrage (अपमान का भाव)

- **Meaning:** Offense or annoyance.
- **Synonyms:** Offense, resentment, irritation
- **Antonyms:** Satisfaction, contentment, pleasure
- **Example:** She took umbrage at his sarcastic remarks during the meeting.

10. Laudable (प्रशंसनीय)

- **Meaning:** Deserving praise and commendation.
- **Synonyms:** Praiseworthy, commendable, admirable
- **Antonyms:** Blameworthy, condemnable, disreputable
- **Example:** The team's efforts to help the underprivileged were truly laudable.

VOCABULARY

One-word substitute:

1. A speech in which a character talks to themselves, revealing their thoughts, often used in drama:

Soliloquy

2. A person who has expert knowledge and good judgment, especially in matters of art, food, or wine:

Connoisseur

3. A fictitious name used by an author or someone to conceal their identity:

Pseudonym

4. A small village or settlement:

Hamlet

VOCABULARY

Phrasal Verbs:

1. Rule out

Meaning - to eliminate or exclude an option.

2. Sink in

Meaning - to become understood or accepted.

3. Spell out

Meaning - to explain something in detail.

4. Stand up to

Meaning - to confront or resist.

VOCABULARY

Idioms & Phrases

1. Stick one's neck out

Meaning: to take a risk

2. Get your walking papers

Meaning: get fired from the job

3. Cork something up

Meaning: to not allow oneself to express one's anger, worry, or sadness.

VOCABULARY

4. Cook someone's goose

Meaning: spoil other person's chances of success

5. Throw caution to the wind

Meaning: to do something without worrying about the risk or negative results.

Article for Reading

**Monsoon
anticipation: On the
monsoon in 2025**

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has given a reassuring signal that from June to September, India is likely to receive 'above normal' monsoon rainfall, or 5% more than the historical average of 87 cm. Were this to pan out as projected, it would be a second consecutive year of 'above normal' rains. Last year, India received 8% more monsoon rain than what is typical from June to September. This is good news for kharif sowing, which will help improve stocks of grain and shore up reserves for exports. This year the government has also committed to procure, at the minimum support prices, pulses in an attempt to reduce the import bill. As pulses are a more land-intensive crop than cereal, good rains are essential for an adequate harvest. The IMD follows a two-stage system of monsoon forecasts: the first in April, followed by an update in mid-May, which has additional information on rainfall distribution. These are regularly updated monthly, alongside a host of short-term forecasts.

Thus, what is forecast in April may not exactly unfurl itself given the limitations of meteorological science and the computational tools required. However, this year, there is certainty about the absence of an El Niño. Associated with a warming of the Equatorial Pacific and with six out of 10 years linked to weak monsoon rain, a monsoon without an El Niño augurs well for India. Another encouraging factor is a parameter called the 'Eurasian snow cover,' or snow cover areas of northern hemisphere and Eurasia (January-March, 2025). These were 'below normal,' and, according to IMD meteorologists, have an 'inverse relationship' with that year's summer monsoon rainfall. An inverse relationship means that less snow corresponds to more rain. For its monsoon forecasts, the IMD uses weather models that simulate the ocean and the atmosphere. This year, except for the El Niño, none of the 'oceanic parameters' indicates either way — how the monsoon will pan out.

This is not unusual but means that factors closer to the sub-continent – cyclonic activity in the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea for instance — will have greater importance to the monsoon. Past years with above normal rainfall have brought flooding and landslides, accentuated by the challenges of global warming. Kerala's Wayanad disaster in July last year, that killed at least 200 people and displaced several times that number, is just one instance. Therefore, positive news on the monsoon front should not distract the focus of the Centre and States from putting in place adequate infrastructure to minimise damage and the loss of lives.

Summary

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecasted an 'above normal' monsoon for June to September 2025, which would be the second consecutive year of good rainfall. This is expected to boost kharif crop sowing, grain stocks, and reduce import dependence on pulses. While monsoon forecasts are made in two stages and updated regularly, a key positive sign this year is the absence of the El Niño phenomenon, which usually weakens monsoons.

Additionally, below-normal Eurasian snow cover, which inversely correlates with Indian monsoon rainfall, further supports the prediction. However, the article cautions that despite the encouraging outlook, monsoon-related disasters such as floods and landslides — worsened by global warming — remain a serious risk. Authorities must continue investing in disaster preparedness and infrastructure.

Tone of the Passage:

The tone is cautiously optimistic. While the forecast of a good monsoon is portrayed as positive and hopeful, the passage also stresses prudence and preparedness, highlighting the potential adverse effects of heavy rainfall and climate-related challenges.

Reading Comprehension

Based on the above passage, answer the following questions:

Question 1:

How does the Eurasian snow cover influence India's monsoon rainfall according to the passage?

- A. More snow in Eurasia leads to more rainfall in India**
- B. Less snow in Eurasia leads to a delayed onset of monsoon**
- C. Less snow in Eurasia is correlated with higher monsoon rainfall**
- D. It disrupts IMD's simulation models, affecting accuracy**
- E. None of the above**

Question 2:

What cautionary message does the author convey despite the IMD's positive forecast?

- A. The monsoon will not improve water levels in reservoirs**
- B. The Centre should scale back infrastructure investment due to costs**
- C. Farmers should avoid sowing pulses in anticipation of flooding**
- D. Past instances of excess rainfall have caused severe damage**
- E. None of the above**

Question 3:

What is the primary reason the IMD forecasts are cautiously interpreted, even when suggesting above-normal rainfall?

- A. Limited computing power and outdated technology used in forecasting**
- B. High influence of Eurasian snow cover fluctuations**
- C. The inherent uncertainty in meteorological science and limited computational power.**
- D. The constant interference of cyclonic systems disrupting predictions**
- E. None of the above**

Article for Skimming

**Good news, and bad:
On the economy**

India's March retail inflation was down to a near six-year low of 3.34%, making it almost certain that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will cut its banks' lending rate further over the next few Monetary Policy Committee meetings. The repo rate has already been cut twice in a row, by 25 basis points (bps) each, in February and April, bringing it down from 6.5% to 6%, signalling the emphasis on growth, amid global trade uncertainties, as the RBI's concern over non-core inflation eases. Vegetable prices have plummeted over the past four months from the highs of October 2024, when food inflation peaked at 10.87%, the highest since November 2013. Food inflation in March fell to 2.69% aided by a contraction in the prices of vegetables (-7.04%), eggs (-3.16%) and pulses (-2.73%). The repo rate reduction has already begun translating into lower interest on bank loans. In normal times, this would translate into greater capital flows into businesses, thereby raising jobs, incomes and consumption.

But it comes at a time of dampening investor confidence: U.S.-led tariff uncertainty is forcing exporters to scramble for newer markets, amid a concern over near-term demand contraction, as America has been India's largest buyer of merchandise goods since fiscal year 2022. Easing inflation could raise domestic consumption and India's sluggish industrial production. What must concern policymakers more should be the steep fall in food prices, as this means lower farmer incomes, directly impacting rural consumption demand. Last December, the government procured eight tonnes of tomatoes in Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh, as prices in the local market plummeted to ₹1 a kilogram. In February this year, in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, an 80% fall in tomato prices forced farmers to dump produce or use them as cattle feed. A 2022 study by the Ministry of Food Processing pegged India's post-harvest loss at a whopping ₹1.52 trillion annually, ranging between 6% to 15% of produce depending on the crop and region.

This is due to widespread shortages in cold storage facilities and temperature-controlled transport for perishables, and market inaccessibility for farmers. A significant 86% of Indian farmers make a living from less than two hectares of land. A 2021-22 NABARD survey pegged average monthly agricultural household income at ₹13,661. A more comprehensive NSSO 2019 survey estimates this to be ₹10,218. These figures are lower than those in other emerging economies such as China, Mexico and Brazil for the corresponding years. While rural consumption has been rising since the COVID-19 pandemic years, monthly per capita consumption expenditure for rural areas in fiscal 2024 was ₹4,122, while in urban areas, it was ₹6,996, indicating the significant gap that must be viewed as an opportunity, at a time when export growth is expected to be sluggish.

Question 4:

Why is a further reduction in the repo rate likely, according to the passage?

- A. Industrial output has surpassed pre-pandemic levels**
- B. The RBI intends to control soaring food inflation**
- C. Inflation has dropped significantly, enabling a growth-focused monetary stance**
- D. The government has announced a rural stimulus package**
- E. None of the above**

Question 5:

Which of the following best explains why farmers were forced to dump tomatoes in some states?

- A. Overproduction driven by misinformed cropping patterns**
- B. Drastic price collapse due to market inaccessibility and lack of cold storage**
- C. Unavailability of fertilizer subsidies during the season**
- D. Introduction of genetically modified variants causing market glut**
- E. None of the above**

Today's Descriptive Question

Precis Writing:

Original Text:

Electric Vehicles (EVs) are emerging as a transformative force in India's transportation sector, offering a cleaner, more sustainable alternative to traditional internal combustion engine vehicles. With rising concerns over air pollution, fossil fuel dependency, and climate change, the push towards EV adoption has become a national priority.

The Indian government has taken several initiatives to promote the EV ecosystem. Programs like the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles (FAME) scheme provide incentives to both manufacturers and consumers. Additionally, the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) batteries and the development of a nationwide charging infrastructure aim to build a robust support system for EVs.

India's EV sector is growing steadily, especially in the two-wheeler and three-wheeler segments, which are more affordable and better suited to urban commuting. Major automotive companies and startups alike are investing heavily in EV production, battery technology, and research and development. However, challenges remain. The high initial cost of EVs, limited charging infrastructure, battery performance issues, and lack of consumer awareness continue to hinder widespread adoption. Moreover, the dependency on imported lithium and rare earth materials for battery production poses long-term supply risks. Despite these hurdles, the future of EVs in India looks promising. With policy support, technological advancement, and private sector participation, electric vehicles can play a crucial role in reducing carbon emissions, lowering fuel imports, and driving green economic growth.

Precis:

Electric Vehicles (EVs) are gaining momentum in India as a cleaner alternative to traditional vehicles. Government schemes like FAME and PLI are promoting their adoption through incentives and infrastructure development. While EVs are growing in popularity, especially among two- and three-wheelers, challenges like high costs, limited charging points, and battery issues persist. With continued policy support and innovation, EVs can significantly reduce pollution, fuel imports, and contribute to a sustainable future.

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Subject: Request for Access to Confidential Company Reports

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As I have recently joined the team as an Analyst, I am currently in the process of familiarizing myself with the ongoing projects and key data relevant to my role. In order to carry out my responsibilities effectively, I would like to request access to the confidential company reports that are essential for in-depth analysis and informed decision-making.

I understand the sensitivity of this information and assure you that I will handle all documents with the utmost discretion and in

accordance with company policies on data security and confidentiality.

Please let me know if there are any formal procedures or approvals required to facilitate this access. I am happy to complete any necessary documentation or training.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

**Best regards,
[Your Full Name]
Analyst
[Your Department]**

Match the column

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1. Stick one's neck out | A. get fired from the job |
| 2. Get your walking papers | B. to do something without worrying about the risk |
| 3. Cork something up | C. spoil other person's chances of success |
| 4. Cook someone's goose | D. to not allow oneself to express once anger |
| 5. Throw caution to the wind | E. to take a risk |

Answer:

1-e

2-a

3-d

4-c

5-b

Vocabulary

1. Nascent:
2. Plummeted:
3. Conformance:
4. Scramble:
5. Emulate:
6. Dampening:
7. Meticulously:
8. Whopping:
9. Umbrage:
10. Laudable:

Rc ans

1.

Ans: C

Explanation:

From the passage:

“These were ‘below normal,’ and... have an ‘inverse relationship’ with that year’s summer monsoon rainfall.”

Inverse relationship = less snow → more rain.

Why others are incorrect:

A: Opposite of what’s stated; more snow would lead to less rain.

B: Timing of monsoon onset is not discussed in this context.

D: No mention of disruption to models.

2.

Ans: D

Explanation:

From the passage:

“Past years with above normal rainfall have brought flooding and landslides...”

“Kerala’s Wayanad disaster... killed at least 200 people...”

Why others are incorrect:

A: No mention of water levels in reservoirs.

B: Opposite — infrastructure should be improved, not scaled back.

C: The passage encourages pulse cultivation if rains are good.

3.

Ans: C

Explanation:

The passage says:

“What is forecast in April may not exactly unfurl itself given the limitations of meteorological science and the computational tools required.”

This clearly points to the inherent limitations in weather prediction models.

Why others are incorrect:

A: While computing limitations are mentioned, it's part of a broader limitation in meteorological science, not the primary reason.

B: Eurasian snow cover is one factor, but not cited as the primary source of uncertainty.

D: Cyclonic activity is said to have greater influence, not to disrupt or invalidate forecasts.

4.

Ans: C

Explanation:

From the passage:

“India’s March retail inflation was down to a near six-year low of 3.34%... signalling the emphasis on growth, amid global trade uncertainties, as the RBI’s concern over non-core inflation eases.”

This drop in inflation allows the RBI to adopt a growth-centric policy by cutting rates further.

Incorrect Options:

A: Industrial production is still sluggish, not recovered.

B: Food inflation has fallen, not risen — hence, not the motivation.

D: No rural stimulus is mentioned as influencing rate cuts.

5.

Ans: B

Explanation:

From the passage:

“...prices... plummeted to ₹1 a kilogram... forced farmers to dump produce... due to widespread shortages in cold storage facilities... and market inaccessibility for farmers.”

Incorrect Options:

A: No mention of overproduction or cropping pattern mistakes.

C: Fertilizers or input subsidies are not mentioned.

D: Genetically modified crops are not referenced.

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