

The Hindu EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

24th 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. Prowess (कुशलता / उत्कृष्टता)

- **Meaning:** Exceptional skill or ability.
- **Synonyms:** Expertise, competence, mastery
- **Antonyms:** Incompetence, ineptitude, inability
- **Example:** The media praised the RBI's prowess in controlling inflation.

2. Gossamer (बहुत पतला या हल्का)

- **Meaning:** Extremely light, delicate, or tenuous.
- **Synonyms:** Delicate, flimsy, airy
- **Antonyms:** Heavy, thick, dense
- **Example:** The gossamer threads of the spider's web glistened in the morning sun.

3. 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.

4. Fugacious (क्षणिक)

- **Meaning:** Lasting a very short time; fleeting.
- **Synonyms:** Ephemeral, transient, momentary
- **Antonyms:** Permanent, enduring, lasting
- **Example:** The fugacious beauty of a sunset leaves a lasting impression on the soul.

5. Inextricable (अविभाज्य)

- **Meaning:** Impossible to separate or disentangle
- **Synonyms:** Interwoven, inseparable, indivisible
- **Antonyms:** Detachable, unrelated, separable
- **Example:** The scientist explained that the relationship between climate change and rising sea levels is inextricable.

6. Taciturn (मितभाषी)

- **Meaning:** Reserved or uncommunicative in speech; saying little.
- **Synonyms:** Reticent, silent, reserved
- **Antonyms:** Talkative, loquacious, communicative
- **Example:** Despite his brilliance, the scientist remained taciturn during the conference.

7. Conundrum (पेचीदा समस्या)

- **Meaning:** A difficult or complex problem
- **Synonyms:** Dilemma, puzzle, enigma
- **Antonyms:** Solution, clarity, answer
- **Example:** The company faced a conundrum when both potential candidates for the position had equally impressive qualifications.

8. Adversary (विरोधी / शत्रु)

- **Meaning:** A person, group, or force that opposes or attacks; an opponent.
- **Synonyms:** Enemy, opponent, rival
- **Antonyms:** Ally, supporter, friend
- **Example:** In the debate, she proved to be a formidable adversary.

9. Hamper (बाधा डालना)

- **Meaning:** To obstruct or interfere with the progress of something.
- **Synonyms:** Hinder, impede, obstruct
- **Antonyms:** Facilitate, support, encourage
- **Example:** Border disputes significantly hamper trade and cooperation in the region.

10. Exorbitant (अत्यधिक / ज़रूरत से ज़्यादा)

- **Meaning:** Unreasonably high in price or cost.
- **Synonyms:** Excessive, outrageous, inflated
- **Antonyms:** Reasonable, fair, moderate
- **Example:** The hotel charged an exorbitant fee for even the most basic amenities.

VOCABULARY

One-word substitute:

1. To engage in noisy, boisterous, or drunken revelry:

Roister

2. To burst or break in forcibly or suddenly:

Irrupt

3. A festive celebration or holiday, especially in Spanish-speaking cultures:

Fiesta

4. An exact copy or model of something:

Replica

VOCABULARY

Phrasal Verbs:

1. Chip in

Meaning: to contribute something (such as money or effort) to a cause or activity

2. Choke off

Meaning: to stop or restrict something, especially forcibly or abruptly

3. Chuck in

Meaning: to quit or give up something, such as a job or activity (informal)

4. Clag up

Meaning: to become or make something sticky, blocked, or clogged (British informal)

VOCABULARY

Idioms & Phrases

1. On the cuff

Meaning: on credit; without immediate payment

2. Does not hold water

Meaning: not logical or sound; unconvincing or weak (especially an argument or explanation)

3. A wild goose chase

Meaning: a futile or hopeless pursuit of something unattainable or non-existent

VOCABULARY

4. In a tight corner

Meaning: in a difficult or troublesome situation

5. In cold blood

Meaning: deliberately and without emotion; in a cruel and calculated manner, especially when committing a violent act.

Article for Reading

**Inflation falls but not
unemployment**

At less than 3%, the inflation figure for May is well within the target set by the government of India. This has led to a celebration in the media of the Reserve Bank of India's prowess in macroeconomic management, of which inflation control is an important part. What has received next to no acknowledgement, though, is that in the same month, unemployment had risen. Thus, while year-on-year inflation fell from 3.2% in April to 2.8% in May, the latest Periodic Labour Force Survey shows that the unemployment rate rose from 5.1% in April to 5.8% in May. For those currently employed, as most commentators on the economy are likely to be, a reduction in inflation is good news, to the extent that their purchasing power is now being eroded at a lower rate. But for those seeking employment, it makes no difference. They remain unemployed. A branch of economic theory dominant in the United States asserts that the unemployed have chosen not to work, as the market mechanism enables everyone who wishes to work to find employment.

One needs only to visit the town centre in semi-urban areas to find migrant labourers milling around at mid-day to conclude that this would be a preposterous claim to make for India. So, the first thing to note is that to monitor inflation while neglecting unemployment altogether, as the pundits do, is not a credible way of assessing the state of an economy. While missing the higher unemployment rate in May may be overlooked, as it is not part of the discourse on India's economy today, it is surprising that the considerable reduction in growth has not received as much attention, when growth has been the centrepiece of the government's pronouncements on the economy this past decade. The figures are as follows. GDP growth slid from 9.2% during 2023-24 to 6.5% in 2024-25. The observed rise in unemployment is consistent with this decline in growth. The recently released provisional estimates of GDP by the National Statistics Office show the decline in growth to be spread across three quarters of the economy.

Apart from Public Administration, for which the growth rate held, every other sector slowed in 2024-25. Agriculture alone grew faster, and much faster too. This development provides the clue to the decline in inflation. In 2024-25, the relative rates of growth of the agricultural and non-agricultural sectors would have led to a reduction of the supply-demand gap for agricultural goods, particularly food, in turn contributing to a lowering of the inflation rate. This is evident in the sharp deceleration in food-price inflation from the peak of close to 11% in October 2024 to less than 1% in May 2025. Monetary policy, which is the RBI's means for inflation control, could not have achieved the observed configuration of events. It would be difficult to maintain that an increase in the repo rate of just over 10% in June 2022, which has not been exceeded since, could have triggered so great a reduction in food inflation from late 2024.

Summary

The passage critically examines the recent celebration of low inflation (2.8% in May 2025) in India, noting that this has overshadowed two crucial issues: rising unemployment (from 5.1% to 5.8% in the same period) and a significant slowdown in GDP growth (from 9.2% in 2023-24 to 6.5% in 2024-25). While lower inflation benefits the already employed by slowing the erosion of purchasing power, it does nothing for the unemployed. The article challenges the economic assumption that unemployment is voluntary, particularly in the Indian context. It also argues that the decline in inflation is largely due to a surge in agricultural growth rather than any substantial impact of monetary policy. The author emphasizes that a comprehensive assessment of the economy must consider unemployment and growth, not just inflation.

Tone:

The tone is critical and analytical, with an undercurrent of skepticism towards the media's and policymakers' focus on inflation while neglecting deeper economic issues like unemployment and growth slowdown.

Reading Comprehension

Based on the above passage, answer the following questions:

Question 1:

What does the author suggest about the focus of economic commentators in India?

- A) They emphasize employment and growth over inflation**
- B) They view inflation control as more relevant for the rural poor**
- C) They often ignore rising unemployment while celebrating inflation control**
- D) They consistently advocate for expansionary fiscal policy**
- E) None of the above**

Question 2:

Which of the following statements best characterizes the relationship between GDP growth and unemployment as presented in the passage?

- A) They are independent of each other**
- B) A fall in GDP growth is consistent with rising unemployment**
- C) A rise in GDP growth leads to higher unemployment**
- D) Unemployment rises due to poor inflation targeting by the RBI**
- E) None of the above**

Question 3:

According to the passage, why is it implausible to claim that unemployment in India is voluntary?

- A) Most of the unemployed are under-skilled for modern jobs**
- B) Market forces in India operate similarly to those in the U.S.**
- C) The Periodic Labour Force Survey proves zero unemployment in rural India**
- D) Observations of idle migrant workers in towns contradict this theory**
- E) None of the above**

Article for Skimming

**The sorry state of
South Asian
economic integration**

In the year so far there were two major incidents that shook India's economic and national security landscape: the reciprocal tariffs imposed by the Trump administration and the terror attack in Pahalgam. While these events may seem unrelated, their underlying causes and consequences are deeply interlinked, highlighting the urgent need for a comprehensive regional approach to security and economic stability. Economic and national security are often discussed separately, but they are deeply intertwined. Border disputes among South Asian nations significantly hamper trade and economic cooperation, preventing the region from achieving its full potential. Economic instability fuels unrest, while security threats disrupt trade and investment. No country can achieve lasting security without economic prosperity, and vice versa. The South Asian region is one of the least economically integrated regions in the world. Intraregional trade of South Asia (South Asian Free Trade Area or SAFTA) accounts for barely 5% to 7% of its total international trade, which is the lowest when compared to other trading blocs.

In contrast, intraregional trade accounts for approximately 45% of total international trade within the European Union (EU), 22% within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and around 25% within the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Current trade among South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries is just around \$23 billion, far below the estimated \$67 billion. According to a United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) study, South Asia's potential trade could have reached \$172 billion by 2020, which means over 86% of its capacity remains unexploited. Even if we consider this assessment to be optimistic, the immense potential for significantly increasing intra-SAARC trade can never be denied. South Asia, the most populous region of the world (25% of the world's population), represents a combined market of only \$5 trillion in GDP. On the other side, the EU, with 5.8% of the world's population, accounts for \$18 trillion in GDP, and NAFTA has a GDP of \$24.8 trillion.

This clearly shows the underexploited capacity of the South Asian region. As estimated by the UNESCAP South Asia Gravity Model of intraregional trade, in spite of trade liberalisation under SAFTA, intraregional trade in South Asia is less than a third of its potential. Bangladesh has the highest unexploited proportion, at 93%, followed by the Maldives (88%), Pakistan (86%), Afghanistan (83%), and Nepal (76%). Because of terror insurgencies and border disputes, trade between India and Pakistan has seen a significant decline over the years. Bilateral trade between India and Pakistan fell from \$2.41 billion in 2018 to \$1.2 billion in 2024. Further, Pakistani exports to India fell from \$547.5 million in 2019 to just \$480,000 in 2024.

Question 4:

What inference can be drawn from the comparative intraregional trade data between South Asia and other global trade blocs?

- A) South Asia trades more internally than NAFTA**
- B) ASEAN countries rely mostly on exports outside the region**
- C) SAARC countries are outperforming the EU in trade integration**
- D) South Asia's intraregional trade is disproportionately low**
- E) None of the above**

Question 5:

What broader conclusion does the passage draw about the interconnection between economic and national security in South Asia?

- A) Economic growth can only be achieved by full political unification**
- B) Security threats and economic instability are mutually reinforcing**
- C) South Asia should abandon regional trade agreements like SAFTA**
- D) Military alliances are more important than trade partnerships**
- E) None of the above**

Today's Descriptive Question:

- **Write an essay of 200 words about the role of Renewable Energy in Combating Climate Change.**

Renewable energy plays a pivotal role in combating climate change, offering a sustainable and environmentally friendly alternative to fossil fuels. As the burning of coal, oil, and natural gas releases significant amounts of greenhouse gases, primarily carbon dioxide, into the atmosphere, it exacerbates the greenhouse effect, leading to global warming. Renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, hydro, and geothermal, on the other hand, produce little to no greenhouse gas emissions during operation. This transition from fossil fuels to renewables is crucial in reducing the overall carbon footprint and mitigating the adverse effects of climate change.

One of the key benefits of renewable energy is its ability to provide a continuous supply of clean power. Unlike fossil fuels, which are finite and subject to depletion, renewable resources are abundant and naturally replenished. For instance, solar and wind energy can be harnessed in most regions around the world, providing a reliable source of power. Moreover,

advancements in technology have significantly reduced the cost of renewable energy, making it increasingly competitive with traditional energy sources.

In addition to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, renewable energy also contributes to energy security, job creation, and economic growth. By investing in renewable energy infrastructure, countries can decrease their dependence on imported fuels, promote local industries, and stimulate innovation. As the global community continues to recognize the urgency of addressing climate change, the adoption of renewable energy is essential for achieving a sustainable and resilient future.

- **Write a letter expressing gratitude to your Aunt for a kind gesture.**

[Your Name]

[Your Address]

[City, State, ZIP Code]

[Email Address]

[Date]

Dear Aunt [Aunt's Name],

I hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits. I am writing to express my heartfelt gratitude for the wonderful [gift/service/kind gesture] you provided during [specific event or

occasion].

Your thoughtful [gift/service/kind gesture] truly made a significant difference. [Describe how the gift/service/kind gesture has positively impacted you or why it was particularly meaningful.] Your generosity and kindness never cease to amaze me, and I am deeply thankful for having you in my life. Your presence and support mean the world to me. I am constantly inspired by your warmth and compassion, and I feel incredibly blessed to be your [niece/nephew]. Thank you once again for your [specific gift/service/kind gesture] and for always being there for me.

I look forward to seeing you soon and expressing my gratitude in person. Until then, please take care and know that you are always in my thoughts and prayers.

With love and appreciation,
[Your Name]

Match the column

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 1. On the cuff | A. A futile or hopeless pursuit of something unattainable |
| 2. Does not hold water | B. In a difficult or troublesome situation |
| 3. A wild goose chase | C. On credit; without immediate payment |
| 4. In a tight corner | D. Deliberately and without emotion |
| 5. In cold blood | E. Not logical or sound |

Answer:

1-c

2-e

3-a

4-b

5-d

Vocabulary

1. Prowess:
2. Gossamer:
3. Unrelenting:
4. Fugacious:
5. Inextricable:
6. Taciturn:
7. Conundrum:
8. Adversary:
9. Hamper:
10. Exorbitant:

RC ANSWERS

1.

Ans: C

Explanation:

Passage reference:

“What has received next to no acknowledgement... is that in the same month, unemployment had risen.”

“To monitor inflation while neglecting unemployment... is not a credible way of assessing the state of an economy.”

Incorrect options:

A) It's the opposite: commentators are ignoring employment issues.

B) No distinction is made about rural vs. urban impact.

D) There's no mention of fiscal policy advocacy.

2.

Ans: B

Explanation:

Passage reference:

“GDP growth slid from 9.2%... to 6.5%... The observed rise in unemployment is consistent with this decline in growth.”

Incorrect options:

A) The author links the two directly.

C) It's the opposite — lower GDP growth correlates with higher unemployment.

D) Unemployment is not attributed to inflation policy failures.

3.

Ans: D

Explanation:

Passage reference:

“One needs only to visit the town centre in semi-urban areas to find migrant labourers milling around at mid-day to conclude that this would be a preposterous claim...”

Incorrect options:

A) No mention of skills gap.

B) Author contrasts India against U.S. labor market theories.

C) No such zero unemployment claim is made.

4.

Ans: D

Explanation:

Passage Reference:

“Intraregional trade of South Asia... accounts for barely 5% to 7%... In contrast... EU (45%), ASEAN (22%), NAFTA (25%)...”

Incorrect options:

- A) South Asia’s intraregional trade is much lower than NAFTA.
- B) The passage emphasizes ASEAN’s high intraregional trade.
- C) EU far outperforms SAARC.

5.

Ans: B

Explanation:

Passage Reference:

“Economic instability fuels unrest, while security threats disrupt trade and investment. No country can achieve lasting security without economic prosperity, and vice versa.”

Incorrect options:

- A) Political unification is not proposed at all.
- C) The passage supports strengthening SAFTA, not abandoning it.
- D) The focus is on economic cooperation, not military alliances.

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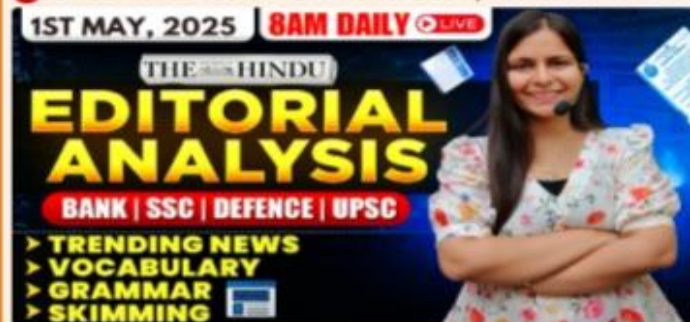


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