

The Hindu EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

20th 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. Regressive (पिछड़ा हुआ / प्रतिगामी)

- **Meaning:** Returning to a former or less advanced state.
- **Synonyms:** Backward, outdated, retrograde
- **Antonyms:** Progressive, modern, forward-looking
- **Example:** U.S. mediation offers on Kashmir were seen as diplomatically regressive by India.

2. Fraying (कमजोर पड़ना / टूटना)

- **Meaning:** Gradually becoming weak or damaged.
- **Synonyms:** Wearing out, weakening, unraveling
- **Antonyms:** Strengthening, mending, reinforcing
- **Example:** The H-1B visa tensions are fraying the strong technological ties between the two nations.

3. Whimsical (मनमौजी / अस्थिर)

- **Meaning:** Unpredictable, especially in a fanciful or impulsive way.
- **Synonyms:** Capricious, erratic, fanciful
- **Antonyms:** Rational, predictable, consistent
- **Example:** Indian batters have often struggled under whimsical English weather.

| 4. Floundering (संघर्ष करना / डगमगाना) | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|
| <div>→ Meaning: Struggling to move or make progress.</div> <div>→ Synonyms: Struggling, faltering, stumbling</div> <div>→ Antonyms: Thriving, progressing, succeeding</div> <div>→ Example: Indian teams have historically floundered in English swing conditions.</div> | | |

5. Relishing (आनंद लेना / उत्साह के साथ करना)

- **Meaning:** Enjoying greatly; taking pleasure in something.
- **Synonyms:** Savoring, delighting in, enjoying
- **Antonyms:** Disliking, dreading, avoiding
- **Example:** England will be relishing home conditions against a young Indian team.

6. Slackening (ढील देना)

- **Meaning:** Reducing in intensity or speed.
- **Synonyms:** Slowing, easing, diminishing
- **Antonyms:** Intensifying, tightening, increasing
- **Example:** The company noticed a slackening demand for their products.

7. Wobbly (अस्थिर)

- **Meaning:** Unstable; not steady or firm.
- **Synonyms:** Shaky, unsteady, fluctuating
- **Antonyms:** Stable, firm, steady
- **Example:** The wobbly financial market caused concern among investors.

8. Tethered (बंधा हुआ / जुड़ा हुआ)

- **Meaning:** Tied or limited by something, often metaphorically.
- **Synonyms:** Bound, tied, connected
- **Antonyms:** Freed, detached, unbound
- **Example:** Social security in India has traditionally been tethered to formal employment.

9. Exuberant (उत्साही)

- **Meaning:** Filled with or characterized by a lively energy and excitement.
- **Synonyms:** Enthusiastic, energetic, lively
- **Antonyms:** Gloomy, apathetic, subdued
- **Example:** The fans showed exuberant support for their team throughout the match.

10. 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.

VOCABULARY

One-word substitute:

1. Mysterious or difficult to understand:

Cryptic

2. Ancestry or family descent:

Lineage

3. A forecast or prediction about the likely outcome of a situation, especially a disease:

Prognosis

4. Eager to acquire or possess things, especially wealth or material goods:

Acquisitive

VOCABULARY

Phrasal Verbs:

1. Chase down

Meaning: To pursue and catch someone or something

2. Check in

Meaning: To register upon arrival at a hotel, airport, or event

3. Chew over

Meaning: To think about or consider something carefully

4. Chicken out

Meaning: To decide not to do something because of fear or lack of courage

VOCABULARY

Idioms & Phrases

1. Barking up the wrong tree

Meaning: To pursue a mistaken or misguided course of action.

2. Beat around the bush

Meaning: To avoid getting to the point or talking directly about an issue.

3. Break a leg

Meaning: A way to wish someone good luck, especially before a performance.

VOCABULARY

4. Hit the ground running

Meaning: To start a project or task with energy and enthusiasm, ready to work hard immediately.

5. Once in a blue moon

Meaning: Something that happens very rarely.

Article for Reading

**A new cycle: on A
new-look Indian
cricket squad**

Less than a week after South Africa emerged triumphant in the ICC World Test Championship (WTC), a new cycle has begun. Bangladesh is already in Sri Lanka, busy playing a Test, while a more high-profile series will commence once India takes on England at Headingley in Leeds from Friday. A new-look Indian squad under the stewardship of Shubman Gill will step out for duty while a clean break from the past has been implemented due to the retirements of Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma and R. Ashwin, and the omission of Ajinkya Rahane and Cheteshwar Pujara. A tour of the Old Blighty is never easy and that has been the case since 1932 when India made its Test debut at Lord's. Series triumphs were etched in 1971, 1986 and 2007, but otherwise it has been a tale of Indian batters floundering against swing under whimsical English skies. Even as India beat Australia in its backyard over the last decade despite the loss in the last encounter, England has remained a tough place to tour.

However, cricket's spiritual home has also gifted some special Indian memories like B.S. Chandrasekhar's spells, the 1983 World Cup victory, Dilip Vengsarkar's three consecutive hundreds at Lord's, and the Test debuts of Sourav Ganguly and Rahul Dravid, to name a few. A sense of a beginning is evident in cricket's birthplace and seen in that light, Gill and his men are in the right place. Ravindra Jadeja, K.L. Rahul, Jasprit Bumrah and Karun Nair, busy charting a comeback, constitute the seniors in a unit high on youth with even Gill being just 25. The Punjab star has to deliver on two counts, both as batter and skipper. A 35.05 average after 32 Tests does not reflect the quality innate in him. It is not just that the batting core has changed as even the slip-cordon will have new personnel, and the way Gill guides his outfit through this transition will determine how India will fare in the latest WTC cycle. Bumrah will remain the spearhead but with workload management being the key, he will not play all the five Tests at stake.

His old ally Mohammed Shami will be missed but in Mohammed Siraj and others, Bumrah has a set of talented fellow pace bowlers. Squaring against them would be Ben Stokes and his men busy relishing home advantage with Joe Root being the lead anchor among their batters. In a challenging tour stretching all the way to August 4, Gill, in tandem with vice-captain Rishabh Pant, gets an opportunity to forge a fresh and strong Indian unit.

Summary

The passage discusses the start of a new ICC World Test Championship (WTC) cycle, highlighting the upcoming India-England Test series at Headingley. With the retirements of senior players like Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, and R. Ashwin, and the exclusion of Cheteshwar Pujara and Ajinkya Rahane, a younger Indian team led by Shubman Gill embarks on a challenging tour of England. This marks a significant transition in Indian cricket, with experienced players like Jadeja, Bumrah, and Rahul supporting the young squad. The passage also reflects on India's mixed history in England, acknowledging both hardships and historic moments. Gill, as both captain and batter, carries the responsibility of leading India through this phase. England, under Ben Stokes and with Joe Root anchoring the batting, presents a formidable challenge.

Tone:

Reflective and anticipatory — the passage combines historical perspective with a forward-looking tone, highlighting both the weight of the past and the potential of a new beginning for Indian cricket.

Reading Comprehension

Based on the above passage, answer the following questions:

Question 1:

What is the significance of England in India's cricketing history, as inferred from the passage?

- A) It is where India lost its first-ever ICC final**
- B) It consistently offers Indian bowlers favorable conditions**
- C) It is the site of several pivotal moments in Indian cricket's evolution**
- D) It is where India's batting order has always dominated**
- E) None of the above**

Question 2:

What dual responsibility does Shubman Gill bear in the current WTC cycle as per the author?

- A) Leading the spin attack and opening the batting**
- B) Performing as a lead pacer and managing the slip cordon**
- C) Mentoring senior players and handling media pressure**
- D) Leading the team as captain and proving his consistency as a batter**
- E) None of the above**

Question 3:

Which of the following aspects highlights the transition India is undergoing in Test cricket, according to the editorial?

- A) Introduction of pink-ball Tests in England**
- B) Multiple retirements and changes in the traditional batting core**
- C) Complete replacement of the Indian coaching staff**
- D) Shift from Test to ODI priority for senior players**
- E) None of the above**

Article for Skimming

**Resetting the
India-U.S. partnership
in uncertain times**

Just a few months ago, India and the United States appeared poised to deepen what had been described as the defining partnership of the 21st century. Prime Minister Modi had met President Donald Trump early in his second term. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar was present at the inauguration. There was bipartisan goodwill in Washington and strategic optimism in New Delhi. The relationship seemed to rest not on convenience, but on a grander wager: shared democratic values, converging geopolitical interests, and a mutual ambition to shape the emerging world order. Today, however, there is growing unease in New Delhi. Not a rupture, but a perceptible drift; subtle yet serious. A series of tactical and rhetorical signals from Washington suggest a partnership at risk of being undermined by volatility, policy incoherence, and a disconcerting return to older habits of mind. The sense of strategic convergence is dimming.

In this context, Mr. Trump's decision to host a lunch on June 18 for Field Marshal Asim Munir, the chief architect of Pakistan's praetorian politics and sectarian rhetoric, has sent a disquieting signal to India, not least because it blurs the line between counter-terrorism partnership and political expediency. This drift, however, is not irreversible. The structural logic of the partnership remains robust. What is required now is a reset, not of fundamentals, but of tone, clarity, and mutual commitment. Several recent developments have triggered India's discomfort. Perhaps most jarring has been the return of outdated "hyphenation": treating India and Pakistan as equivalent strategic concerns. In the aftermath of Operation Sindoor, Mr. Trump spoke of India and Pakistan in the same breath, offered mediation on Kashmir, and warned of nuclear escalation. For Indian policymakers who have invested years in decoupling India's rise from the India-Pakistan binary, such language was diplomatically regressive. On the economic front, signals have been equally disconcerting.

Even as Mr. Trump announced that “our deal with China is done”, he reportedly discouraged Apple’s CEO from expanding manufacturing in India; warning that companies that “go to India” may face difficulties in accessing the U.S. market. For Indian officials advancing a “China-plus-one” strategy and projecting India as a manufacturing hub, the message was undermining. Immigration policy, too, has become a point of friction. The H-1B visa regime, long a cornerstone of India-U.S. technological cooperation, now appears vulnerable to political posturing and protectionist rhetoric. The consequences risk fraying the connective tissue that binds Silicon Valley to Indian innovation ecosystems. Most concerning is the apparent warming in Washington’s approach toward Pakistan. When the United States Central Command (CENTCOM) Commander, General Michael Kurilla, described Pakistan as a “phenomenal partner” in counterterrorism, it represented an extraordinary characterisation of an institution long associated with nurturing cross-border terrorism.

Question 4:

What inference can be made about Mr. Trump's June 18 lunch with Field Marshal Asim Munir, according to the passage?

- A) It reinforced India-U.S. counter-terrorism cooperation**
- B) It signaled America's withdrawal from South Asian geopolitics**
- C) It blurred the distinction between counterterrorism and political convenience**
- D) It was part of a broader strategy to mediate between India and Pakistan**
- E) None of the above**

Question 5:

What economic signal from the U.S. did Indian policymakers find undermining, according to the text?

- A) The sudden cancellation of defense purchases from India**
- B) The refusal to sign a trade agreement with ASEAN**
- C) The imposition of tariffs on Indian goods**
- D) Trump's discouragement to Apple about expanding manufacturing in India**
- E) None of the above**

Today's Descriptive Question

- **Write an essay of 200 words about highlighting the impact of urbanization on Public Health.**

Urbanization, the process by which rural areas transform into urban areas, significantly impacts public health, both positively and negatively. On the positive side, urban areas often provide better access to healthcare services, education, and employment opportunities. The concentration of medical facilities and professionals in cities means that urban residents typically have better access to emergency care, specialized treatments, and preventive health services.

However, urbanization also brings numerous public health challenges. Rapid and unplanned urban growth can lead to overcrowding, inadequate housing, and poor sanitation, all of which contribute to the spread of infectious diseases. For instance, densely populated areas with insufficient sanitation can become breeding grounds for pathogens, leading to outbreaks of diseases such as cholera and tuberculosis.

Moreover, urbanization is closely linked to lifestyle changes that can negatively affect health. Urban residents often adopt sedentary lifestyles and diets high in processed foods, leading to an increase in non-communicable diseases such as obesity, diabetes, and heart disease. Additionally, air pollution, a common issue in urban areas due to traffic and industrial activities, significantly impacts respiratory health and contributes to conditions like asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). In conclusion, while urbanization can enhance access to healthcare and economic opportunities, it also poses significant public health challenges. Addressing these requires coordinated efforts in urban planning, policy-making, and public health interventions to ensure that urban environments are safe and healthy for all residents.

- **Write a letter to your parents. Tell them about a big goal you want to achieve and how you are going to achieve it.**

XYZ, R block

New Delhi

Date

Dear Mom and Dad,

I hope you're both doing well. I wanted to share an important goal I've set for myself: I want to pursue a master's degree in Environmental Science. This goal is driven by my passion for environmental issues and my desire to make a positive impact on our planet.

To achieve this, I've started researching top universities with strong Environmental Science programs and will be visiting campuses and attending virtual info sessions to make an informed decision. I'm also focusing on maintaining a high GPA, preparing for the GRE, and seeking research opportunities to strengthen my application. Additionally, I plan to gain hands-on experience through internships and volunteer work with environmental organizations.

Your support and encouragement mean a lot to me as I embark on this journey. I promise to keep you updated on my progress.

With love,
[Your Name]

Match the column

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 1. Barking up the wrong tree | A. To pursue a misguided course of action |
| 2. Beat around the bush | B. Something that happens very rarely |
| 3. Break a leg | C. To start a task with enthusiasm |
| 4. Hit the ground running | D. To avoid getting to the point |
| 5. Once in a blue moon | E. A way to wish someone good luck |

Answer:

1-a

2-d

3-e

4-c

5-b

Vocabulary

- 1. Regressive:**
- 2. Fraying:**
- 3. Whimsical:**
- 4. Floundering:**
- 5. Relishing:**
- 6. Slackening:**
- 7. Wobbly:**
- 8. Tethered:**
- 9. Exuberant:**
- 10. Discernible:**

RC ANSWERS

1.

Ans: C

Explanation:

Reference:

“Cricket’s spiritual home has also gifted some special Indian memories like... 1983 World Cup victory, Dilip Vengsarkar’s three hundreds... debuts of Ganguly and Dravid...”

Incorrect options:

A) Incorrect: No mention of a lost ICC final in England.

B) Incorrect: The passage notes bowlers like Bumrah but doesn't claim England favors Indian bowlers.

D) Incorrect: The opposite is true—batters have floundered in English swing.

2.

Ams: D

Explanation:

Reference:

“The Punjab star has to deliver on two counts, both as batter and skipper.”

“A 35.05 average after 32 Tests does not reflect the quality innate in him.”

Incorrect options:

A) Incorrect: Gill is not involved in spin bowling.

B) Incorrect: He does not lead the pace unit or slip cordon explicitly.

C) Incorrect: No mention of media or mentoring.

3.

Ans: B

Explanation:

Reference:

“Retirements of Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma and R. Ashwin... omission of Rahane and Pujara...”

Incorrect options:

A) Incorrect: Pink-ball Tests are not mentioned.

C) Incorrect: Coaching staff changes are not discussed.

D) Incorrect: There's no shift to ODI priority.

4.

Ans: C

Explanation:

Reference:

“...has sent a disquieting signal to India... blurs the line between counter-terrorism partnership and political expediency.”

Incorrect Options:

- A) Opposite: It undermined trust in counter-terrorism cooperation.
- B) Incorrect: U.S. is still involved — the issue is how it is involved.
- D) Incorrect: No mediation attempt is mentioned here.

5.

Ans: D

Explanation:

Reference:

“He reportedly discouraged Apple’s CEO from expanding manufacturing in India... the message was undermining.”

Incorrect Options:

A) Not mentioned in the passage.

B) Irrelevant: ASEAN is not referenced.

C) Misleading: Tariffs are discussed in global context (e.g., China), not on India.



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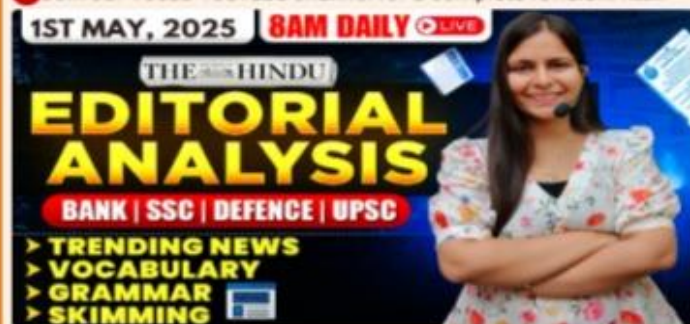


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