

The Hindu EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

29th May 2025

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

1. Quirks (विचित्रताएँ)

- **Meaning:** Peculiar or unexpected traits or aspects of something
- **Synonyms:** Oddities, peculiarities, anomalies
- **Antonyms:** Normalities, consistencies, standards
- **Example:** One of the quirks of the IMD's rainfall measurements is that it doesn't count pre-June rains as part of the monsoon.

2. Portent (संकेत)

- **Meaning:** A sign or warning that something momentous or calamitous is likely to happen
- **Synonyms:** Omen, sign, warning
- **Example:** Frequent flooding is a portent of the climate challenges we are yet to face.

3. Erratic (अस्थिर)

- **Meaning:** Not even or regular in pattern or movement; unpredictable
- **Synonyms:** Unstable, inconsistent, unpredictable
- **Antonyms:** Steady, consistent, regular
- **Example:** Climate change has made monsoon patterns increasingly erratic.

4. Stranglehold (जकड़/कब्जा)

- **Meaning: Complete control or domination over something**
- **Synonyms: Grip, domination, chokehold**
- **Antonyms: Freedom, liberation, release**
- **Example: Nadal had a stranglehold over the French Open with 14 titles.**

5. Disheartened (हताश)

- **Meaning:** Having lost determination or confidence
- **Synonyms:** Discouraged, demoralised, dejected
- **Antonyms:** Encouraged, inspired, motivated
- **Example:** Despite his loss, Sinner did not look disheartened as he showed top-level performance.

6. Airier (हल्का/कम ठोस)

- **Meaning:** Lighter or less dense; metaphorically used to mean more open or uncertain
- **Synonyms:** Open, uncertain, spacious
- **Antonyms:** Dense, crowded, tightly-packed
- **Example:** The women's field at the French Open seems airier than the men's this year.

7. Contentious (विवादास्पद)

- **Meaning:** Causing or likely to cause an argument.
- **Synonyms:** Controversial, debatable, disputed
- **Antonyms:** Uncontroversial, agreeable, peaceful
- **Example:** The taxation policy has been a contentious issue in the political sphere.

8. Scupper (नाकाम करना)

- **Meaning:** To ruin or prevent something from happening.
- **Synonyms:** Ruin, thwart, sabotage, wreck
- **Antonyms:** Assist, support, facilitate, aid
- **Example:** The sudden rainstorm scuppered our plans for a picnic.

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. Adroitly (चतुराई से)

- **Meaning:** In a skillful or clever manner.
- **Synonyms:** Skillfully, adeptly, dexterously
- **Antonyms:** Clumsily, awkwardly, ineptly
- **Example:** The negotiator adroitly handled the complex trade discussions.

VOCABULARY

One-word substitute:

1. A longer or less direct route taken to avoid something or reach a destination differently:

Detour

2. The act of neglecting duties or responsibilities:

Dereliction

3. A formal charge or accusation of a serious crime:

Indictment

4. A recollection or memory of past experiences:

Reminiscence

VOCABULARY

Phrasal Verbs:

1. Drop out

Meaning - to leave school, a class, or an activity before finishing it.

2. Fall apart

Meaning - to break into pieces; to become emotionally upset.

3. Work out

Meaning - to exercise; to solve a problem.

4. Account for

Meaning - to explain or justify something.

VOCABULARY

Idioms & Phrases

1. Play your cards right

Meaning: to do things in an intelligent and well-planned way

2. A night owl

Meaning: someone who prefers to be awake and active at night

3. Get a grip

Meaning: keep or recover one's self-control

VOCABULARY

4. Between a rock and a hard place

Meaning: faced with two equally undesirable alternatives

5. A whole new ballgame

Meaning: a completely different situation

Article for Reading

**Sound and fury: On
the monsoon**

The southwest monsoon stormed into Kerala, a week ahead of its scheduled arrival on June 1. This was not a surprise because as early as the first week of May, meteorologists had tipped off the country about its early arrival over the Andaman Sea — a crucial pit stop before its advent over Kerala. A May onset is not an exceptional occurrence — it has happened four times since 2014 — but additional support from a pre-cyclonic circulation in the Arabian Sea gave it a tremendous surge due to which several parts of Maharashtra and the Konkan coast saw the monsoon reach their shores earlier than anticipated. It was the first time in 35 years that Mumbai, which usually welcomes the monsoon around June 10, saw a May onset. Even prior to the onset, the India Meteorological Department (IMD), as far back as mid-April, had forecast an ‘above normal’ monsoon rainfall, or 5% more than the historical average of 87 cm.

Following the monsoon's onset, it has retained this outlook of 'above normal' rain, and has since increased it to 6% above the average. One of the quirks of how the IMD measures monsoon rainfall is that it only counts rainfall from June 1 to September 30 as 'monsoon rainfall.' Thus all the rain that has flooded Kerala, Mumbai and other cities since May 24 (when the monsoon landed) is accounted as 'pre-monsoon' rainfall. In its update, the IMD said that it anticipates June to receive 'above normal' rains. This means that the rains so far are a mere trailer to what is to come. This could be good news for kharif sowing and help the country improve its stocks of grain as well as shore up reserves for exports. The way the monsoon and forecasts are framed in the Indian context is that more rain is seen as a positive, given its connection to agriculture and that a large part of India is entirely reliant, disconcertingly, on the monsoon for a healthy crop.

With accelerating urbanisation, excess rains are not always an unmitigated good. The floods that overwhelm cities are no longer restricted to the major metropolises but also tier-2 and tier-3 towns. While several of these cities are not even equipped for 'normal' rainfall, administrations — State and central — must seriously incorporate the portent from climate change which translates into citizens navigating erratic rainfall and greater disruptions from floods. While improved and high-resolution forecasts are a positive development, they have limited value without a wide-ranging societal effort to incorporate its warnings to improve everyday living.

Summary

The southwest monsoon arrived in Kerala earlier than its usual date of June 1, influenced by favorable conditions such as a pre-cyclonic circulation in the Arabian Sea. This early onset also brought the monsoon to parts of Maharashtra and Mumbai ahead of schedule — a rare event. Although the rainfall began in May, it is officially classified as "pre-monsoon" rain by the India Meteorological Department (IMD), which only considers rainfall from June 1 to September 30 as "monsoon rainfall." The IMD has predicted above-normal rainfall this year, which is expected to benefit agriculture, particularly the kharif crop, and boost grain reserves. However, the increasing intensity and unpredictability of rainfall due to climate change pose challenges, especially in urban areas that are often unprepared even for normal rainfall. The passage underscores the need for better infrastructure and planning to cope with erratic weather, beyond just improving weather forecasts.

Tone:

The tone of the passage is informative and cautionary. While it highlights the positive aspects of early and abundant rainfall for agriculture, it also raises concerns about the vulnerability of urban infrastructure and the pressing need for climate resilience planning.

Reading Comprehension

Based on the above passage, answer the following questions:

Question 1:

What does the passage suggest is the main reason more rainfall is seen as a positive development in the Indian context?

- A. It helps control temperatures and combat climate change**
- B. It reduces dependence on imported food grains**
- C. It is vital for agriculture, on which much of India relies**
- D. It ensures hydroelectric power generation remains stable**
- E. None of the above**

Question 2:

Which of the following best reflects the paradox described in the passage about increased rainfall?

- A. While essential for agriculture, excess rains increasingly cause urban flooding**
- B. Despite scientific progress, meteorologists still fail to predict monsoon accurately**
- C. Although rain is abundant, rural areas continue to suffer from water scarcity**
- D. Even with high rainfall, drought conditions persist in central India**
- E. None of the above**

Question 3:

What does the passage imply about the usefulness of improved forecasting tools?

- A. They are becoming obsolete as climate patterns are too erratic**
- B. They are helpful but need strong institutional and societal support to be impactful**
- C. They eliminate the need for disaster management in urban planning**
- D. They are most valuable for military and industrial planning**
- E. None of the above**

Article for Skimming

**Hot on clay: On the
French Open**

The French Open 2025, which got underway on Sunday, at once seems empty and so full of promise. It is the first edition without the now-retired 14-time champion Rafael Nadal, who had established such a stranglehold in Paris that Roland-Garros, during a soul-stirring ceremony on the opening evening, immortalised his footprint — quite literally — on Court Philippe-Chatrier. But in his absence, the field is now open for a new player to stake claim.

Defending champion Carlos Alcaraz is the leading candidate and is closely followed by World No. 1 Jannik Sinner. Spaniard Alcaraz has warmed up well, with Masters titles in Monte Carlo and Rome, and the Italian Open triumph, which came with a straight-sets victory over Sinner in the final, seen as the sounding of the bugle. But Sinner, despite the defeat, will not be disheartened.

Rome was his first tournament after serving a three-month doping-related suspension, and a five-match winning run, including a 6-0, 6-1 demolition of two-time French Open finalist and World No. 8 Casper Ruud, proved that elite tennis was still part of his muscle memory. Novak Djokovic, the 24-time Major winner, is without a Slam since US Open 2023, his worst run since 2016-18, but by winning in Geneva last week — his 100th Tour-level title — he is, at least, back in the conversation. Alexander Zverev, a semifinalist or better for four successive years in Paris, will want to shrug off his patchy recent form and show that he belongs among the world's best. The women's field is airier than the men's, for three-time defending champion Iga Swiatek is far from being in tournament-winning form and a handful of stars are jostling to fill the space. The Polish player, hands down the best clay-court practitioner among women of the present era, has not even reached the final of a tune-up event and has an incredibly difficult draw to grapple with.

Her principal rival and World No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka looks primed to take advantage even as those like No. 2 Coco Gauff, No. 4 Jasmine Paolini – finalist in 2024 – and No. 7 Qinwen Zheng are snapping at her heels. Three-time Major winner Sabalenka is playing the best tennis of her career, and made the final in Stuttgart on indoor clay before bagging the Madrid trophy recently. Gauff, despite looking undercooked, reached back-to-back finals in Madrid and Rome while Paolini secured the Italian Open. Though without a title in the lead-up, Zheng will have happy memories of Paris, a place where she won the 2024 Olympic singles gold medal. An outside bet would be the all-action Jelena Ostapenko, the Roland-Garros titlist in 2017 who also triumphed in Stuttgart recently. A victory for her will be in line with the women's Tour's propensity to throw up an eclectic array of champions.

Question 4:

What challenge makes Iga Swiatek vulnerable in the 2025 French Open?

- A. Lack of match fitness following injury**
- B. She has never performed well on clay courts**
- C. She has a difficult draw and no recent finals appearances**
- D. A loss to Gauff in both Madrid and Rome finals**
- E. None of the above**

Question 5:

What does the article suggest about the unpredictability of the women's draw at Roland-Garros?

- A. It's the least competitive field in years**
- B. The players are inexperienced on clay**
- C. The top seeds are withdrawn due to injury**
- D. The draw lacks a clear favorite, with several players capable of winning**
- E. None of the above**

Today's Descriptive Question:

- **Write an essay of 200 words about the Reusable Launch Vehicle.**

A Reusable Launch Vehicle (RLV) represents a revolutionary approach to space exploration, aimed at reducing the cost and environmental impact of space missions. Unlike traditional expendable rockets, which are discarded after a single use, RLVs are designed for multiple flights, making them economically viable and resource-efficient.

The concept of RLVs gained prominence with advancements in aerospace technology, highlighted by companies like SpaceX and Blue Origin. SpaceX's Falcon 9, with its ability to return and land vertically, has set a benchmark in reusability, significantly lowering the cost per launch. Similarly, India's ISRO is developing its own RLV technology, focusing on a winged-body design capable of autonomous landing.

The benefits of RLVs are multifaceted. By reusing key components like boosters and first stages, space agencies can

save millions of dollars per mission. Moreover, the reduced production demand decreases the carbon footprint associated with manufacturing new rockets. These innovations pave the way for sustainable satellite launches, interplanetary missions, and commercial space travel.

However, challenges remain, including ensuring durability, safety, and efficiency over multiple uses. Despite these hurdles, RLVs are a game-changer, promising to make space exploration more accessible and sustainable, marking a new era in humanity's quest to explore the cosmos.

- **Write a letter to a local government official, requesting improvements to public transportation in your area.**

[Your Name]
[Your Address]
[City, State, ZIP Code]
[Date]

[Official's Name]
[Official's Title]
[Office Address]
[City, State, ZIP Code]

Subject: Request for Improvements to Public Transportation

Dear [Official's Name],

I am writing to highlight the urgent need for improvements to public transportation in [Your Area/City]. Overcrowded vehicles, irregular schedules, and limited routes make commuting difficult

for many residents and discourage the use of public transit, leading to increased traffic congestion and pollution.

I kindly request your support to increase service frequency, expand routes to underserved areas, and upgrade facilities at stops and terminals. Introducing eco-friendly options like electric buses would also greatly benefit our community.

Improving public transportation is essential for reducing pollution, easing traffic, and enhancing the quality of life for residents. I urge you to consider this matter and take action to address these challenges.

Thank you for your attention.

**Sincerely,
[Your Name]
[Contact Information]**

Match the column

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Play your cards right | A. someone who prefers to be awake at night |
| 2. A night owl | B. a completely different situation |
| 3. Get a grip | C. faced with two equally undesirable alternatives |
| 4. Between a rock and a hard place | D. to do things in well-planned way |
| 5. A whole new ballgame | E. keep or recover one's self-control |

Answer:

1-d

2-a

3-e

4-c

5-b

Vocabulary

1. Quirks:
2. Portent:
3. Erratic:
4. Stranglehold:
5. Disheartened:
6. Airier:
7. Contentious:
8. Scupper:
9. Umbrage:
10. Adroitly:

ENGLISH

EXCLUSIVE SUBSCRIPTION



BASIC TO ADVANCE

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

BY NIMISHA BANSAL

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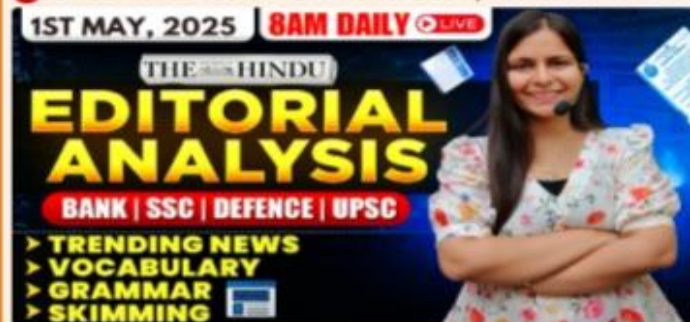


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Rc ans

1.

Ans: C

Explanation:

“...more rain is seen as a positive, given its connection to agriculture and that a large part of India is entirely reliant, disconcertingly, on the monsoon for a healthy crop.”

This clearly supports Option C.

Incorrect options:

- A. Climate change is mentioned, but not as the reason more rain is seen as good
- B. Grain exports and stocks are discussed, but not import dependency
- D. Hydroelectric power is not mentioned in the passage

2.

Ans: A

Explanation:

“...more rain is seen as a positive... With accelerating urbanisation, excess rains are not always an unmitigated good. The floods... overwhelm cities... While several... are not even equipped for ‘normal’ rainfall...”

This contrast between agricultural need and urban flooding risk validates Option A.

Incorrect options:

- B. The passage praises IMD forecasts, saying they were accurate
- C. Water scarcity in rural areas is not mentioned
- D. Droughts are not part of this discussion

3.

Ans: B

Explanation:

“While improved and high-resolution forecasts are a positive development, they have limited value without a wide-ranging societal effort to incorporate its warnings...”

This makes Option B the best answer.

Incorrect options:

- A. No suggestion that tools are obsolete; in fact, they are described as improved
- C. Disaster management is still necessary and mentioned as inadequate
- D. No mention of military or industrial uses

4.

Ans: C

Explanation:

“...far from being in tournament-winning form... has not even reached the final of a tune-up event and has an incredibly difficult draw to grapple with.”

That clearly supports Option C.

Incorrect options:

A. No injury is mentioned

B. She's described as “the best clay-court practitioner among women” — so the opposite is true

D. There's no mention of losses to Gauff

5.

Ans: D

Explanation:

“The women’s field is airier than the men’s... a handful of stars are jostling to fill the space... Jelena Ostapenko... in line with the women’s Tour’s propensity to throw up an eclectic array of champions.”

This diversity of potential winners supports Option C.

Incorrect options:

A. The field is not weak; it’s open and competitive

B. Several top players are strong clay-court performers (Swiatek, Sabalenka, Paolini)

C. No top seed withdrawal is mentioned