

The Hindu EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

22nd 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. Candour (ईमानदारी)

- **Meaning:** The quality of being open, honest, and straightforward in expression.
- **Synonyms:** Frankness, honesty, openness
- **Antonyms:** Deceit, dishonesty, evasion
- **Example:** Her candour about the harsh realities faced by women added depth to her stories.

2. Wry (व्यंग्यपूर्ण)

- **Meaning:** Using or expressing dry, especially mocking, humour.
- **Synonyms:** Ironic, sardonic, sarcastic
- **Antonyms:** Sincere, serious, straightforward
- **Example:** She described her characters' struggles with a wry sense of humour.

3. Defy (अवहेलना करना)

- **Meaning:** To openly resist or refuse to obey.
- **Synonyms:** Resist, oppose, challenge
- **Antonyms:** Obey, comply, yield
- **Example:** The translation seems to defy traditional norms of language structure.

4. Chokehold (काबू)

- **Meaning:** A strong or oppressive influence or control.
- **Synonyms:** Stranglehold, grip, control
- **Antonyms:** Freedom, liberation, autonomy
- **Example:** Israel's chokehold on humanitarian aid has worsened the crisis in Gaza.

5. Depredation (लूटपाट)

- **Meaning:** An act of attacking or plundering.
- **Synonyms:** Plunder, pillage, devastation
- **Antonyms:** Protection, preservation, security
- **Example:** Despite the ongoing depredation, Israel has failed to meet its goals.

6. Ruffle (उलझा देना / अस्त-व्यस्त करना)

- **Meaning:** To disturb the smoothness or order of something; figuratively, to challenge or unsettle.
- **Synonyms:** Disrupt, agitate, disorganise
- **Antonyms:** Smooth, soothe, settle
- **Example:** The translator's work ruffles traditional language to convey complex emotions.

7. Solace (सांत्वना)

- **Meaning:** Comfort or consolation in a time of distress or sadness.
- **Synonyms:** Comfort, consolation, relief
- **Antonyms:** Distress, discomfort, anguish
- **Example:** Most of the deceased were from the economically vulnerable sections of society and were in search of spiritual solace.

8. Incessant (लगातार / अनवरत)

- **Meaning:** Continuing without interruption; never-ending.
- **Synonyms:** Continuous, unceasing, relentless
- **Antonyms:** Intermittent, occasional, paused
- **Example:** The incessant bombardment of Gaza has caused unbearable human suffering.

9. Feckless (अकुशल / लापरवाह)

- **Meaning:** Lacking initiative or strength of character; irresponsible or ineffective.
- **Synonyms:** Inept, careless, incompetent, irresponsible
- **Antonyms:** Effective, competent, responsible, diligent
- **Example:** The feckless response of the administration worsened the humanitarian crisis.

10. Vivacious (चंचल / जीवंत)

- **Meaning:** Attractively lively and animated (especially of a woman).
- **Synonyms:** Lively, spirited, energetic, bubbly
- **Antonyms:** Dull, lifeless, listless, lethargic
- **Example:** Her vivacious personality lit up the room and uplifted everyone's mood.

VOCABULARY

One-word substitute:

1. Extremely poor; lacking the basic necessities of life:

Destitute

2. People of high social class, especially in the past; often landowners just below the nobility:

Gentry

3. All future generations of people:

Posterity

4. A wicked or cruel person; an evil spirit or demon:

Fiend

VOCABULARY

Phrasal Verbs:

1. Buy into

Meaning: to completely believe in a set of ideas

2. Cap off

Meaning: to finish or complete something, especially with a decisive action

3. Egg on

Meaning: to encourage or urge someone to do something, usually something that is foolish or dangerous

4. Flip out

Meaning: to become very angry or excited

VOCABULARY

Idioms & Phrases

1. Up in smoke

Meaning: something that ends before getting a result

2. Tricks of the trade

Meaning: a quick or clever way of doing something

3. Thinking on one's feet

Meaning: to be able to react quickly and effectively to unexpected situations or problems

VOCABULARY

4. The time is ripe

Meaning: a suitable time has arrived

5. Stuck in a time warp

Meaning: something or someone has not changed, even though everything else has

Article for Reading

**Stories from the
heart: on Heart Lamp
and the Booker Prize
2025**

The marginalised have come to the fore with Banu Mushtaq winning the International Booker Prize for 2025. In a first for Kannada, Mushtaq and her translator Deepa Bhashti walked away with the top honours on Tuesday night in London for Heart Lamp. This is also the first time in the history of the prize that a collection of short stories has won. Braeaching walls, breaking ceilings, and enduring angry outbursts, Mushtaq chronicles the lives of women and their anxieties. Her stories are also peopled by clueless husbands, children who are like “monkeys without tails”, loving and, sometimes overbearing, grandmothers and muscular brothers. But as Mushtaq has said in interviews, the narratives are primarily about women and how “religion, society, and politics demand unquestioning obedience from them, and in doing so, inflict inhumane cruelty upon them”.

She writes with candour and wry humour, even as the women are often struggling to stay afloat with their backs against the wall. In her moving acceptance speech, Mushtaq harped on the power of words to “create a world where every voice is heard, every story matters, and every person belongs”. Showering praise on Kannada, she said that it is a language that sings of resilience and nuance — “to write in Kannada is to inherit a legacy of cosmic wonder and earthly wisdom”. The 77-year-old Mushtaq hails from Hassan in Karnataka, like another illustrious writer, Raja Rao, who wrote in Kannada, English and French. Mushtaq, a lawyer and activist, was inspired to write after hearing of the “pain, suffering, and helpless lives” of the women she interacted with. The “radical translation” by Bhasthi was praised by the Jury chair Max Porter who said it “ruffles language to create new textures in a plurality of Englishes”.

Heart Lamp's Booker, just three years after Geetanjali Shree won for Tomb of Sand, should open doors for India's rich regional languages to gain a wider readership. Mushtaq follows a trail of writers such as Perumal Murugan, Vivek Shanbhag, Bama, Jayant Kaikini, M. Mukundan and S. Hareesh who observe the human condition in a socio-political context with their translators ensuring the rhythms of the original language are not lost. In a world that often tries to divide people, Mushtaq said that literature remains one of the "last sacred spaces where we can live inside each other's minds if only for a few pages". It is the only place that can embrace stories from unheard corners and translations that defy borders.

Summary

Banu Mushtaq, a 77-year-old writer from Karnataka, has become the first Kannada author to win the International Booker Prize (2025) for her short story collection Heart Lamp, along with translator Deepa Bhasthi. This marks the first time a short story collection and a Kannada work have received this honor. Mushtaq's stories vividly portray the lives and struggles of women, exposing societal and religious injustices with candour and wry humour. In her acceptance speech, she emphasized the transformative power of language and praised Kannada's literary richness. The jury also applauded Bhasthi's "radical translation" for preserving linguistic diversity. Mushtaq joins a growing list of Indian regional writers gaining international recognition, showing literature's ability to unite humanity across boundaries.

Tone:

Celebratory – Highlights a historic win for Kannada literature and regional voices.

Empathetic – Reflects concern for the marginalized, especially women.

Hopeful and Uplifting – Emphasizes the unifying power of literature and language.

Reflective – Considers the socio-political impact of storytelling and translation.

Reading Comprehension

Based on the above passage, answer the following questions:

Question 1:

Why is Banu Mushtaq's win considered historic in the context of the International Booker Prize?

- A. It marked the first win for an Indian author in the prize's history**
- B. It is the first time a collection of short stories has won the prize**
- C. It is the first Kannada-to-English translation to be published globally**
- D. It marked the youngest-ever winner in the prize's history**
- E. None of the above**

Question 2:

How does the jury chair, Max Porter, describe Deepa Bhasthi's translation of Heart Lamp?

- A. As a faithful reproduction of the original's cultural idioms**
- B. As a scholarly work that captures philosophical depth**
- C. As an emotional retelling with poetic license**
- D. As a radical translation that "ruffles language" and creates new textures**
- E. None of the above**

Question 3:

What does Mushtaq's win imply for regional Indian languages, as inferred from the passage?

- A. It confirms that regional languages are unsuitable for translation**
- B. It diminishes the value of mainstream literary awards in India**
- C. It opens doors for regional languages to gain wider readership**
- D. It reinforces English as the only acceptable literary medium**
- E. None of the above**

Article for Skimming

**Israel's isolation: on
the western world
and Gaza**

The joint statement by the leaders of Canada, France and the United Kingdom, and announcements by the U.K. and the EU to pause trade talks with Israel are proof that the Netanyahu government is growing more isolated over its brutal campaign on Gaza. Since the ceasefire ended on March 18, over 3,000 residents have been killed in the enclave, according to the Gaza Health Ministry. Israel's chokehold on aid and humanitarian supplies has pushed thousands to the brink of starvation, a fact that even Donald Trump, President of Israel's all-time ally, the U.S., referred to during a trip to West Asia last week. Mr. Trump's decision to skip Israel was seen as a mark of his displeasure with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's policy on the issue. Despite the rebukes, Mr. Netanyahu has said Israeli Defence Forces needed to continue to target Hamas operatives in the area, and added that Israel would now re-take full "military control" of the Gaza strip, which the IDF had vacated in 2005.

The comments provoked an angry response from the leaders of Canada (Mark Carney), France (Emmanuel Macron), and the U.K. (Keir Starmer), all of whom had pledged their support to Israeli actions in response to the October 7, 2023 terror attacks. They called the level of human suffering in Gaza “intolerable” and Israel’s escalation of bombardment a “disproportionate” response, condemned the Israeli leadership for threatening to evict all Palestinians forcibly from the strip, and recommitted to a “two-state solution” for Israel and Palestine, to be discussed at a United Nations conference in June. Significantly, the three countries even threatened sanctions against Israel. Mr. Netanyahu’s response, to accuse the three leaders of handing Hamas a “huge prize”, and vowing not to stop “until total victory is achieved”, indicates that he still believes that he can continue without being checked. It is time for the international community to speak up so that Mr. Netanyahu does not think he can get away with what international agencies are calling genocide.

New Delhi has notably thus far not issued any statement. This silence may be because of its own preoccupation with Pakistan and due to Israel's unequivocal support over Operation Sindoor. There is no link or equivalence between the two situations, however. Too many lives have been lost in the incessant bombardment by Israel of an area of two million people. Despite the depredations, Israel has not, with any clarity, met its objectives of bringing back the hostages or of wiping out Hamas's presence there yet. Mr. Netanyahu has tried to frame his government's actions as a "war of civilisation over barbarism", but it is he who must consider how much this direction-less war that appears to punish the weakest and most defenceless the most resembles the latter more than the former, as the numbers of supporters for this war diminish worldwide.

Question 4:

Why was Donald Trump's decision to skip Israel during his recent trip to West Asia perceived as significant?

- A. It violated established diplomatic protocols between the U.S. and Israel**
- B. It indicated U.S. recognition of Palestine's full sovereignty**
- C. It signified Trump's condemnation of Israeli settlement expansions**
- D. It was seen as a mark of his displeasure with Netanyahu's Gaza policy**
- E. None of the above**

Question 5:

How did the leaders of Canada, France, and the U.K. characterize Israel's current military campaign in Gaza?

A. As a lawful and proportionate response to ongoing terror threats

B. As a legitimate effort to retrieve hostages and eliminate Hamas

C. As an intolerable and disproportionate response inflicting massive human suffering

D. As a defensive measure aligned with international humanitarian law

E. None of the above

Today's Descriptive Question

Original Text:

The emergence of AI tools like ChatGPT has significantly impacted journalism, transforming how news is produced, distributed, and consumed. These AI-driven tools enhance efficiency by assisting journalists in content creation, fact-checking, and data analysis. However, they also raise concerns about misinformation, job displacement, and ethical implications in news reporting. One of the most notable benefits of ChatGPT in journalism is speed and efficiency. AI can generate reports, summarize articles, and analyze vast amounts of data within seconds, allowing journalists to focus on investigative work and in-depth reporting.

ChatGPT can also assist in fact-checking, identifying inconsistencies in news stories, and providing multilingual translations to make news accessible to a broader audience. However, AI-driven journalism comes with risks. ChatGPT lacks human judgment and contextual understanding, sometimes generating inaccurate or biased content. The spread of AI-generated misinformation or deepfakes can undermine public trust in the media. Additionally, as AI takes over routine reporting tasks, concerns about job losses in journalism arise, potentially reducing employment opportunities in traditional newsrooms. Despite these challenges, AI and journalism can coexist productively. News organizations must establish ethical guidelines for AI use, ensuring human oversight in news production. Combining AI's efficiency with human editorial judgment can improve journalism's quality, making news more accurate, accessible, and engaging.

Precis:

ChatGPT has transformed journalism by enhancing efficiency in content creation, fact-checking, and data analysis. It allows journalists to focus on investigative work while making news more accessible. However, risks like misinformation, bias, and job displacement remain concerns.

To balance AI's benefits and challenges, human oversight and ethical guidelines are essential. Combining AI's speed with human judgment can improve journalism's accuracy and reliability while preserving its integrity.

- **Write an email to the customer service department of a company to lodge a formal complaint about the poor quality of their product or service.**

To:@gmail.com

**Subject: Formal Complaint Regarding Poor Quality of
[Product/Service]**

Dear Customer Service Team,

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to formally lodge a complaint regarding the poor quality of [product/service] that I recently purchased/experienced from your company.

On [purchase date/service date], I bought/used [product/service name] from [store/website/location]. Unfortunately, I was extremely disappointed with its quality/performance. [Briefly describe the issue, e.g., “The product stopped working within a few days,” or “The service provided was unsatisfactory due to delays/errors.”]

This has caused significant inconvenience, and I believe it does not meet the quality standards expected from your brand.

I have attached relevant documents, including the receipt, photographs, and any communication related to this issue, for your reference. I request an immediate resolution, either through a replacement, refund, or appropriate corrective action.

Looking forward to your swift resolution. You may contact me at [your phone number] or [your email address] for further discussion.

**Best regards,
[Your Full Name]
[Your Contact Information]
[Your Address (if required)]**

Match the column

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1. Up in smoke | A. to be able to react quickly |
| 2. Tricks of the trade | B. something that ends before getting a result |
| 3. Thinking on one's feet | C. something or someone has not changed, |
| 4. The time is ripe | D. a quick or clever way of doing something |
| 5. Stuck in a time warp | E. a suitable time has arrived |

Answer:

1-b

2-d

3-a

4-e

5-c

Vocabulary

1. Candour:
2. Wry:
3. Defy:
4. Chokehold:
5. Depredation:
6. Ruffle:
7. Solace:
8. Incessant:
9. Feckless:
10. Vivacious:

ENGLISH

EXCLUSIVE SUBSCRIPTION



BASIC TO ADVANCE

- ➞ PERFECTION 2025 (1.0 – 12.0)
- ➞ PERFECTION 2024 (1.0–10.0)
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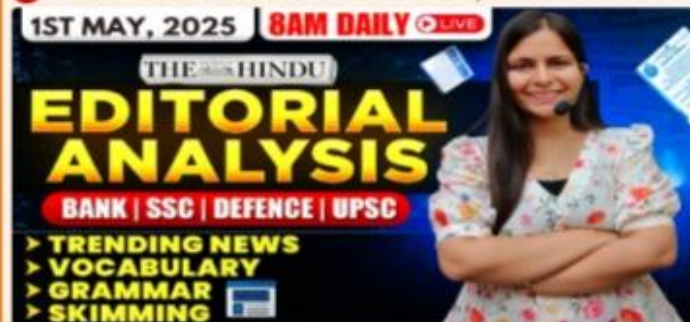


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Rc ans

1.

Ans: B

Explanation:

The passage mentions, “This is also the first time in the history of the prize that a collection of short stories has won.”

Incorrect options:

A. Indian authors have previously won (e.g., Geetanjali Shree in 2022).

C. It’s the first Booker for a Kannada work, not necessarily the first translation published.

D. Mushtaq is 77, not the youngest winner.

2.

Ans: D

Explanation:

From the passage: “The ‘radical translation’ by Bhashi was praised by the Jury chair Max Porter who said it ‘ruffles language to create new textures in a plurality of Englishes’.”

Incorrect options:

- A. While the translation is sensitive to culture, it is described as radical, not “faithful”.
- B. No mention of it being “philosophical” or “scholarly”.
- C. “Poetic license” is not attributed here.

3.

Ans: C

Explanation:

The passage concludes, “Heart Lamp’s Booker... should open doors for India’s rich regional languages to gain a wider readership.”

Incorrect options:

- A. Contradicted by the success of the translation.
- B. The Booker win increases, not diminishes, literary recognition.
- D. The translation embraces a plurality of Englishes, not just one form.

4.

Ans: D

Explanation:

The passage says:

“Mr. Trump’s decision to skip Israel was seen as a mark of his displeasure with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s policy on the issue.”

This underscores the diplomatic disapproval of Israel’s ongoing actions in Gaza.

Incorrect options:

A. There’s no mention of protocol violations in the passage.

B. The U.S. did not recognize full Palestinian sovereignty in this context.

C. Settlement expansion is not the focal issue discussed.

5.

Ans: C

Explanation:

The passage says:

“They called the level of human suffering in Gaza ‘intolerable’ and Israel’s escalation of bombardment a ‘disproportionate’ response...”

This clearly indicates disapproval of Israel’s campaign as being excessive and harmful to civilians.

Incorrect options:

A. The opposite is implied; they called it “disproportionate.”

B. Although Israel claims these objectives, the international response questions the legitimacy and efficacy.

D. No mention of compliance with international humanitarian law.