

CLASS NOTES OF 5TH MAY

VOCABULARY

1. **Scrambled** – Hurriedly moved or did something in response to urgency.
2. **Onerous** – Involving a great deal of effort and difficulty.
3. **Trounced** – Defeated heavily in a contest.
4. **Parlous** – Full of danger or uncertainty.
5. **Denouement** – The final part of a story where everything is resolved.
6. **Disparaged** – Spoke of someone or something as being of little worth.
7. **Crippling** – Causing severe damage or weakness.
8. **Derelict** – In very poor condition due to neglect or disuse.
9. **Prodigious** – Remarkably great in size, amount, or degree.
10. **Edify** – To instruct or improve someone morally or intellectually.

ARTICLE FOR READING

Temporary respite: on GST, India's manufacturing

India's Goods and Services Tax collection in April, since the indirect taxation framework was implemented in 2017, has consistently hit record highs. This April was no different — generally because of businesses tallying their books and completing their financial year-end tax commitments. The gross GST collected this time was about ₹2.37 lakh crore, marking an on-year growth of 12.6% from last April. After refunds, the central government netted over ₹2.09 lakh crore, an on-year rise of 9.1%. This also signifies a marked rise in GST compliance, also aided by faster refunds, which are crucial for small businesses as they work with thin working capital, and the mass adoption of fintech. The fintech adoption rate in India, at 87%, which is well above the global average, and aided by the insular COVID-19 years of 2020-21, has brought in millions from the MSME sector into the formal banking system, enabling better tax compliance and regulatory supervision. Wider compliance is also evident from April's GST collections from 2018 to 2025, which has more than doubled from ₹1.03 lakh crore to ₹2.37 lakh crore. What is significant this April has been the 86% rise in refunds issued to exporters and the 20.8% increase in GST revenues from imports. This correlates with the 10-month high growth in the April print of HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI). The PMI rose from 58.1 in March to 58.2 in April. The survey indicated a sharp rise in new business aided by greater international demand. Orders from abroad grew to the largest degree in over 14 years in the first month of the 2026 fiscal year, with demand led by Africa, Asia, Europe, West Asia and the Americas. This suggests that businesses have scrambled to get their

orders in before the 90-day pause on tariffs by the U.S. ends on July 9. It also suggests a possible re-alignment in supply chains, with greater sourcing from India, as the U.S. tariffs on China appear to be more onerous and certain, with the possibility of transshipment goods from China being taxed, without a high value-add threshold. Apple has said at its January-to-March quarterly earnings call that it intends to source 'most of its iPhones' for the U.S., its largest market, from India. This suggests a temporary respite for India's manufacturing sector, which witnessed a four-year growth low at 4% in the last fiscal. A more durable growth strategy would be to boost domestic consumption and wrangle favourable concessions for its manufacturing sector from the many ongoing trade agreements.

ARTICLE FOR SKIMMING

Sober verdicts: election results from Australia, Singapore

The re-election of the centre-left Labor party in the Australian general election on Saturday is a shot in the arm for Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, who became the first Australian leader to win a second term in more than two decades. The centre-right Liberal-National coalition was trounced, with Labor winning 87 of the 151 seats in the Australian parliament's lower house, against its previously razor-thin edge of 77 seats. Welcoming Mr. Albanese's win, Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated him for an "emphatic mandate" and a commitment to take India-Australia bilateral ties and cooperation in the Indo-Pacific forward. Both countries signed an 'early-harvest' partial FTA (ECTA) in 2022, and have agreed to conclude a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) by the end of this year. India will host the Quad summit later this year, and Mr. Albanese is expected to discuss closer cooperation on trade, resilient supply chains, and critical mineral and technology partnerships. The geopolitical changes wrought by China and the U.S. signal the need for Indo-Pacific region countries to diversify their economic interests and shore up each other's strategic needs. His re-election comes despite a rocky three-year term since 2022, as he faced low ratings on issues such as the economy, inflation and immigration; a recent poll said he would either lose or face a hung parliament. Given the timing of the turnaround, just after U.S. President Donald Trump took office, his win is seen as mirroring the results in Canada, where a dark horse centre-left Liberal party candidate, Mark Carney, won. As with the Conservative leadership in Canada, the Australian opposition's 'Liberal' candidate Peter Dutton was seen as a Trump policy

admirer, and had taken a tough “anti-woke” stance, pillorying Mr. Albanese for allowing too many immigrants into the country, and vowing to stand with Israel on Gaza. However, as Mr. Trump unleashed a barrage of measures including tariffs on countries, his policies also appear to have had a negative impact on Mr. Dutton’s chances. Despite being a staunch U.S. ally, Mr. Albanese’s relatively tough stand against the tariffs was seen favourably by voters — much as Mr. Carney’s tough stand against the U.S.’s tariffs and threats won him votes. Another election result this weekend, in Singapore, saw a win, albeit quite expected, for Lawrence Wong, whose party won its 14th term. Mr. Wong too made Mr. Trump’s policies a rallying cry during his campaign, even suggesting that countries would simply “stop exporting to USA” if the tariffs were not taken down. In each of the wins, voters chose sober candidates seen as more rational at the wheel, and not those seen as tough leaders with strong rhetoric. This is a trend among America’s closest allies, and Mr. Trump will have to pay heed to sane voices from outside his circle of advisers.

DESCRIPTIVE WRITING

Inclusive growth refers to economic growth that is broad-based and benefits all sections of society, particularly marginalized and disadvantaged groups. Unlike traditional growth models that may disproportionately benefit the wealthy or urban populations, inclusive growth aims to ensure that economic progress translates into better living standards, opportunities, and access to resources for everyone. Key to inclusive growth is addressing disparities in income, education, healthcare, employment, and basic services. It focuses on providing equal opportunities, reducing poverty, and promoting social inclusion. Governments and organizations pursuing inclusive growth implement policies aimed at improving access to education, healthcare, clean water, and social security, especially in rural and underserved areas. In India, inclusive growth has been a priority, as the country seeks to reduce poverty and inequality while maintaining high economic growth rates. Initiatives like the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), and Skill India aim to bring marginalized communities into the mainstream economy by providing access to financial services, employment opportunities, and skill development. However, challenges persist, such as unequal access to education and healthcare, rural-urban divides, and gender inequality. To achieve sustainable and inclusive growth, policies need to be holistic, targeting both economic and social dimensions.

Precis Writing:

Inclusive growth ensures that economic progress benefits all segments of society, focusing on reducing poverty, inequality, and ensuring equal opportunities. In India, initiatives like MGNREGA and Skill India promote financial inclusion and access to employment. Despite challenges like education gaps, rural-urban divides, and gender inequality, inclusive growth requires holistic policies to ensure sustainable development and improved living standards for marginalized communities.

- **You failed to submit an important report on time due to unforeseen circumstances. Write an email to your supervisor apologizing for the delay and mentioning the new submission timeline**

To:@gmail.com

Subject: Request for Salary Increment

Dear [Manager's Name],

I hope you are doing well. I would like to take this opportunity to discuss my current compensation in light of the contributions I have made to the company over the past [duration of your tenure]. Since joining [Company Name], I have consistently strived to contribute positively to our team's success. Some key highlights of my contributions include: [Contribution 1: e.g., Successfully managing projects that resulted in a [specific result]] [Contribution 2: e.g., Improving team efficiency through [specific action or process]] [Contribution 3: e.g., Exceeding performance targets or taking on additional responsibilities such as [specific task]] I believe these efforts, alongside my ongoing commitment to the company's growth, demonstrate my value. Given my performance, I would like to request a salary review, with the aim of aligning my compensation with my contributions and the industry standards. I would be happy to discuss this further at a time that is convenient for you.

Thank you for considering my request.

Best regards,

[Your Name]

PERFECTION VOCAB

- Potent – Powerful and effective.
- Neurotoxin – A poison that affects the nervous system.
- Immunity – The ability to resist a particular toxin or disease.
- Breakthrough – A sudden, important discovery or development.
- Antivenom – A substance used to counteract snake venom.
- Collaboration – Working together on a project.
- Donating – Giving something, especially for a good cause.
- Demographic – Related to the structure of populations.
- Projections – Predictions based on current data or trends.
- Underscored – Emphasized or highlighted.
- Hypothetical – Based on a suggested idea or theory; not real.
- Transition – A process of changing from one state to another.
- Intriguing – Fascinating or interesting.

- Encouraging – Giving hope or confidence.
- Concerning – Causing worry or anxiety.
- Modest – Small or limited in amount.
- Mission – A specific task or purpose, especially a space operation.
- Malfunctioned – Failed to function or work properly.
- Astronauts – People trained to travel in space.
- Ceremony – A formal event for a special occasion.
- Scheduled – Planned to happen at a specific time.
- Congratulation – Expression of praise or best wishes.
- Orbit – The curved path of an object around a planet or star.
- Three-dimensional – Having height, width, and depth.
- Telescope – An instrument used to observe distant objects.
- Filter – A device that removes unwanted parts of a signal or light.
- Unprecedented – Never done or known before.

- Complexity – The state of having many different parts and being difficult to understand.
- Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) – A massive burst of solar wind and magnetic fields from the sun.
- Ionized – Electrically charged.
- Plasma – A state of matter similar to gas, consisting of charged particles.
- Sunspots – Dark spots on the surface of the sun caused by magnetic activity.
- Disturbances – Interferences or disruptions, especially in systems.