

The Hindu EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

19th April 2025

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

1. Slackening (मंदी)

- **Meaning:** The process of becoming slower or less intense.
- **Synonyms:** Decline, slowing, easing
- **Antonyms:** Intensification, increase, escalation
- **Example:** A slackening in consumer demand has affected the retail industry.

2. Ostensible (प्रकट)

- **Meaning:** Stated or appearing to be true, but not necessarily so.
- **Synonyms:** Apparent, seeming, superficial
- **Antonyms:** Real, genuine, actual
- **Example:** The ostensible reason for the crackdown was security, but many believed it was politically motivated.

3. Staggering (चकित करने वाला)

- **Meaning:** Deeply shocking; astonishing.
- **Synonyms:** Astonishing, shocking, overwhelming
- **Antonyms:** Ordinary, unsurprising, expected
- **Example:** The number of cases rose to a staggering figure, surprising the authorities.

4. Quashing (रद्द करना)

- **Meaning:** Rejecting or voiding a legal decision or order
- **Synonyms:** Overturning, annulling, nullifying
- **Antonyms:** Upholding, affirming, validating
- **Example:** The Supreme Court's quashing of the earlier ruling restored faith in free speech.

5. Sobering (गंभीर)

- **Meaning:** Making you feel serious or thoughtful.
- **Synonyms:** Serious, thought-provoking, alarming
- **Antonyms:** Reassuring, comforting, casual
- **Example:** The report's findings on poverty levels were sobering.

6. Defamatory (मानहानिकारक)

- **Meaning:** Damaging the good reputation of someone; slanderous
- **Synonyms:** Libellous, slanderous, injurious
- **Antonyms:** Complimentary, flattering, laudatory
- **Example:** The court had to determine whether the statements were truly defamatory or based on verified reporting.

7. Repugnant (घृणित)

- **Meaning:** Extremely distasteful, unacceptable, or offensive; causing strong dislike or disgust.
- **Synonyms:** Offensive, distasteful, revolting, abhorrent
- **Antonyms:** Pleasing, agreeable, attractive, enjoyable
- **Example:** The idea of cheating on an exam is repugnant to most students who value academic integrity.

8. Contentious (विवादास्पद)

- **Meaning:** Causing or likely to cause an argument; controversial.
- **Synonyms:** Disputed, controversial, provocative
- **Antonyms:** Uncontroversial, agreeable, harmonious
- **Example:** The decision to remove the Wikipedia page was contentious and sparked intense debates.

9. Salubrious (स्वस्थ)

- **Meaning:** Health-giving; conducive to well-being.
- **Synonyms:** Healthy, wholesome, beneficial
- **Antonyms:** Unhealthy, harmful, detrimental
- **Example:** The salubrious climate of the mountains made it an ideal retreat for those seeking relaxation and health.

10. Castigating (कड़ी आलोचना करना)

- **Meaning:** Scolding or reprimanding someone severely.
- **Synonyms:** Reprimanding, rebuking, chastising
- **Antonyms:** Praising, rewarding, applauding
- **Example:** The teacher was castigating the students for their repeated failure to complete the assignment on time.

VOCABULARY

One-word substitute:

1. Belonging to the same time period; modern or current:
Contemporary

2. Occurring every three years:
Triennial

3. A person who studies or collects coins, currency, and medals:
Numismatist

4. A psychological disorder involving a recurrent urge to steal, typically without need or profit:
Kleptomania

VOCABULARY

Phrasal Verbs:

1. Zero in on

Meaning - to focus on something specifically or precisely.

2. Ask around

Meaning - to inquire with multiple people.

3. Dig into

Meaning - to investigate thoroughly; to begin eating with enthusiasm.

4. Drag on

Meaning - to last longer than expected or necessary.

VOCABULARY

Idioms & Phrases

1. Catch someone red-handed

Meaning: To catch someone in the act of doing something wrong or illegal.

2. Give someone the green light

Meaning: To give permission to proceed or continue.

3. In the pink of health

Meaning: In very good health.

VOCABULARY

4. Golden opportunity

Meaning: A rare and valuable opportunity.

5. Once in a blue moon

Meaning: Something that happens very rarely.

Article for Reading

**A welcome move: on
Wikipedia and
Supreme Court order**

The Supreme Court, in quashing the Delhi High Court's orders against Wikimedia to take down a Wikipedia page on the basis of a defamation case filed by the news agency, Asian News International (ANI), has set right an error by the High Court. A High Court judgment, passed on April 2, allowed the taking down of the Wikipedia page by saying that the statements were defamatory and were not a verbatim reproduction of the text in the references that it quoted; that the references were themselves "editorials" or "opinionated articles" and that being an encyclopaedia, Wikipedia carried a "higher responsibility". The reasoning is problematic as the references are based on long form reporting and quotes from independent investigators, and are not "opinions" or "editorials" as the High Court made them out to be.

The Court has clearly differed with the High Court's reasoning by observing that the takedown order was based on too wide a prayer, and noted that the directions to remove all false, misleading and defamatory content were too broadly worded. The Bench has now directed the news agency to make a fresh plea to the High Court pointing out specific portions to be removed from the webpage. The fact that Wikipedia is an Internet intermediary which enjoys safe harbour provisions as the content creation and moderation are handled by users of its site should suggest that any wide-ranging takedown order could punish the very model on which the encyclopaedia operates. Wikipedia is a community-driven encyclopaedia freely available on the Internet and is maintained by volunteers across the world. Even if the quality of articles is not uniform, their editors generally include experts and Wikipedia allows users to edit the content provided they stick to site guidelines.

Disputes on content leading to “editing wars” are generally resolved by discussions on the page and measures such as placing the page on “extended confirmed protection” or “full protection”, allowing only “extended confirmed users” for the former and administrators for the latter to make changes. These users are not selected by Wikimedia but elected by community members based on their prior editing activity and reputation. These processes have ensured a significant degree of reliability on the encyclopaedia, even as it has become a repository of more than 62.95 million articles in over 350 languages. In asking for the takedown of articles by interpreting critical information as defamation and by even threatening penal action against Wikipedia, judicial actions could unwittingly lead to the stifling of open discussion of entities on the encyclopaedia, thereby acting against the interest of the free flow of information.

Summary

The Supreme Court of India has overturned a Delhi High Court ruling that ordered Wikipedia to take down a page following a defamation case by Asian News International (ANI). The High Court had claimed the page was defamatory and relied on opinionated sources, imposing a higher standard on Wikipedia due to its status as an encyclopaedia. The Supreme Court disagreed, pointing out that the takedown order was overly broad and improperly worded. It highlighted Wikipedia's nature as a user-driven platform protected by safe harbour provisions, emphasizing the importance of preserving its open, community-led model. The Court has now asked ANI to specify the exact content it finds objectionable. The article warns that broad takedown orders risk stifling open discourse and the free flow of information on platforms like Wikipedia.

Tone:

The tone is critical of the Delhi High Court's judgment and supportive of the Supreme Court's stance. It is also cautious and concerned about the implications of legal overreach on freedom of information and collaborative platforms like Wikipedia.

Reading Comprehension

Based on the above passage, answer the following questions:

Question 1:

What was the Supreme Court's primary criticism of the Delhi High Court's order directing the removal of the Wikipedia page related to ANI?

- A. The High Court failed to recognize Wikipedia's status as an intermediary.**
- B. The order was based on too broad a request without specifying the defamatory content.**
- C. The High Court did not consider the international implications of its order.**
- D. The order did not account for the volunteer-driven nature of Wikipedia.**
- E. None of the above**

Question 2:

What concern does the passage raise about judicial actions threatening penal action against Wikipedia?

- A. They could lead to Wikipedia shutting down globally.**
- B. They might result in increased misinformation on the platform.**
- C. They could stifle open discussion and hinder the free flow of information.**
- D. They may cause Wikipedia to implement stricter editing guidelines.**
- E. None of the above**

Question 3:

Why did the Delhi High Court initially order the removal of the Wikipedia page related to ANI?

- A. Because the page contained classified government information.**
- B. Due to the page being edited by anonymous users.**
- C. Because Wikipedia failed to respond to ANI's requests.**
- D. Because the statements were defamatory and not exact quotes.**
- E. None of the above**

Article for Skimming

**Self-inflicted wound:
on higher education
and Trump
administration's
move**

President Donald Trump's threat to revoke the tax-exempt status of Harvard University as an educational institution will have far-reaching consequences not only for the wider student community but also for corporate America and the military-industrial complex. The administration also indicated that it would block the admission of foreign students, who make up nearly a third of Harvard's student body. The university has refused to accept intrusive federal government control over its activities based on the premise that the government is providing hefty grants. The ostensible reason for the Trump administration's move is the so-called "leftwing, antisemitic" protests against the Gaza War that broke out at Harvard and Columbia, which have the image of being left-liberal. The Trump administration seems to be playing to its 'Make America Great Again' (MAGA) base which has nursed historical grievances against northeastern elites and their universities, exemplified in the Ivy Leagues.

These institutions are indeed elite in terms of academic standards but Harvard admits students from a socio-economic spectrum through generous scholarships. The Trump administration opposes Diversity, Equity and Inclusion principles ideologically and Harvard could also have been targeted for this reason. But Harvard has deep pockets and has heft in the corridors of power to outlast Mr. Trump. Mr. Trump's slashing of government research funds has also affected several public universities, including in deep-red States such as Alabama. Public universities, barring a few such as in Michigan, Texas, and California that have built a sizeable endowment, depend on state support and are under increasing political control. America's government-induced crisis in higher education threatens a key edifice of American strength and power. It strikes at a long-standing belief in that nation, which is borne out by data, that getting a college degree is a surer path towards prosperity.

Mr. Trump, formerly a Democrat, is only part of a long-term global mega-trend in politics. The big picture is that America is only a late entrant in defunding public higher education. The U.K., under Margaret Thatcher, was an early starter. India joined the stream long ago with the NDA government only deepening the cutbacks. Australia, Singapore, Germany and the Scandinavian countries are holding out among the developed nations. It is no coincidence that China's ascent has paralleled continued public funding of higher education. Much like the U.S. universities of the past, Chinese higher education institutions are building a knowledge base on other nations and regions. Future generations of Americans will see this as a self-inflicted wound.

Question 4:

According to the passage, what is one ideological reason the Trump administration may have targeted Harvard University?

- A. Harvard's emphasis on technological innovation.**
- B. The university's support for conservative student groups.**
- C. Harvard's adherence to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion principles.**
- D. The institution's focus on international business partnerships.**
- E. None of the above**

Question 5:

According to the passage, what is the reason behind the Trump administration's threat to revoke Harvard University's tax-exempt status?

- A. Harvard is not following federal laws on diversity and inclusion.**
- B. Harvard has been promoting left-wing, anti-Semitic protests related to the Gaza War.**
- C. Harvard is refusing to accept government funding for research.**
- D. Harvard is not admitting enough international students.**
- E. None of the above**

Today's Descriptive Question

Precis Writing:

Original Text:

Good governance is the cornerstone of a prosperous, just, and equitable society. It refers to the process by which public institutions conduct public affairs, manage public resources, and ensure the realization of human rights in a manner that is transparent, accountable, inclusive, and responsive to the needs of the people. In a democratic country like India, good governance involves a combination of efficient administration, participatory decision-making, rule of law, transparency, and accountability. It ensures that the government is not only effective in delivering services and maintaining order but also fair in upholding the rights and dignity of its citizens. A key feature of good governance is transparency, which enables citizens to access information and understand how decisions are made. This builds trust between the government and the people. Accountability ensures that those in power are answerable for their actions and decisions.

Another important component is responsiveness, where institutions and officials act promptly to address public needs and grievances. Participation of citizens in the decision-making process, either directly or through elected representatives, is essential to ensure that governance reflects the will and needs of the people. Inclusiveness ensures that the voices of marginalized communities are heard and respected, promoting social justice and equality. Furthermore, the use of technology and digital platforms can enhance good governance by improving service delivery, reducing corruption, and enabling better citizen-government interaction. In conclusion, good governance is not just about rules and procedures; it is about achieving results that improve the quality of life for all. A government that is accountable, inclusive, and responsive can foster sustainable development, uphold democratic values, and ensure the well-being of every citizen.

Precis:

Good governance is essential for a fair and efficient society. It involves transparency, accountability, inclusiveness, and responsiveness in public administration. By encouraging citizen participation, upholding the rule of law, and using technology for better service delivery, good governance fosters trust and ensures justice and development.

- **You've changed your phone number and residential address. Write an email to the HR department updating your contact details.**

To:@gmail.com

Subject: Update of Contact Details

Dear [HR Manager's Name / HR Department],

I hope this message finds you well.

I am writing to inform you that I have recently changed my phone number and residential address. Kindly update my records with the following new contact details:

New Phone Number: [Your New Phone Number]

New Residential Address: [Your New Address]

Please let me know if you require any additional information or documentation to complete this update.

Thank you for your assistance.

Best regards,

[Your Full Name]

[Your Employee ID, if applicable]

[Your Department/Designation]

Match the column

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Catch someone red-handed | A. In very good health |
| 2. Give someone the green light | B. A rare and valuable opportunity |
| 3. In the pink of health | C. To give permission to proceed |
| 4. Golden opportunity | D. Something that happens very rarely |
| 5. Once in a blue moon | E. To catch someone in the act of doing something illegal |

Answer:

1-e

2-c

3-a

4-b

5-d

Vocabulary

1. **Slackening:**
2. **Ostensible:**
3. **Staggering:**
4. **Quashing:**
5. **Sobering:**
6. **Defamatory:**
7. **Repugnant:**
8. **Contentious:**
9. **Salubrious:**
10. **Castigating:**

Rc ans

1.

Ans: B

Explanation: The Supreme Court observed that the Delhi High Court's takedown order was based on a "too wide a prayer" and noted that the directions to remove all false, misleading, and defamatory content were too broadly worded. The Bench directed the news agency to make a fresh plea pointing out specific portions to be removed from the webpage.

Incorrect Options:

A: While Wikipedia's status as an intermediary was discussed, the primary criticism was about the breadth of the order, not the recognition of its intermediary status.

C: The passage does not mention international implications as a point of criticism.

D: Although Wikipedia's volunteer-driven nature is highlighted, the Supreme Court's main concern was the broadness of the takedown order.

2.

Ans: C

Explanation: The passage states that judicial actions interpreting critical information as defamation and threatening penal action against Wikipedia could unwittingly lead to the stifling of open discussion on the encyclopedia, acting against the interest of the free flow of information.

Incorrect Options:

A: There is no indication that Wikipedia would shut down globally due to these actions.

B: The concern is about stifling discussion, not increasing misinformation.

D: While stricter guidelines might be a response, the passage focuses on the broader impact on open discussion.

3.

Ans: D

Explanation: The High Court allowed the takedown of the Wikipedia page by stating that the statements were defamatory and were not verbatim reproductions of the text in the references that it quoted.

Incorrect Options:

A: There is no mention of classified information being involved.

B: While user anonymity is a feature of Wikipedia, it was not the reason for the takedown order.

C: The passage does not indicate that Wikipedia failed to respond to ANI's requests.

4.

Ans: C

Explanation:

The passage notes that "The Trump administration opposes Diversity, Equity and Inclusion principles ideologically and Harvard could also have been targeted for this reason."

Incorrect Options:

- A. Technological innovation is not mentioned as a factor.
- B. There is no mention of support for conservative student groups.
- D. International business partnerships are not discussed.

5.

Ans: B

Explanation:

The passage explains that the Trump administration's reason for threatening Harvard's tax-exempt status is the "leftwing, antisemitic" protests that erupted at Harvard and Columbia regarding the Gaza War. These protests have created tension, which the administration has used as the basis for its threat.

Incorrect Options:

- A. There is no mention in the passage that Harvard is not following federal laws specifically related to diversity and inclusion. The issue is ideological opposition to those principles.
- C. The passage mentions that Harvard has refused to accept federal government control over its activities but doesn't directly attribute this to refusing government funding for research. The issue discussed is broader than funding.
- D. While foreign students make up a significant portion of the student body, the passage doesn't suggest that Harvard's foreign student population is a reason for the tax exemption issue.



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