

The Hindu EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

16th 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. Bolster (सहारा देना / मज़बूत करना)

- **Meaning:** To support or strengthen something.
- **Synonyms:** Reinforce, support, boost
- **Antonyms:** Weaken, undermine, obstruct
- **Example:** The government's effort to bolster food stocks helped control inflation.

2. Vagaries (अनिश्चितताएँ)

- **Meaning:** Unpredictable changes or fluctuations.
- **Synonyms:** Uncertainties, fluctuations, whims
- **Antonyms:** Predictability, consistency, stability
- **Example:** Inflation may rise again depending on the vagaries of the monsoon.

3. Sham (ढोंग)

- **Meaning:** Something false or fake that is presented as genuine.
- **Synonyms:** Pretence, fraud, hoax
- **Antonyms:** Reality, truth, authenticity
- **Example:** The so-called dynamic fuel pricing policy is increasingly seen as a sham.

4. Ambiguity (अस्पष्टता)

- **Meaning:** Uncertainty or inexactness in meaning or interpretation.
- **Synonyms:** Vagueness, obscurity, uncertainty
- **Antonyms:** Clarity, precision, certainty
- **Example:** The ambiguity in NP licensure laws has stalled their integration into the system.

5. Denouement (परिणाम /अंतिम परिणाम)

- **Meaning:** The final outcome or resolution of a complex situation
- **Synonyms:** Conclusion, resolution, finale
- **Antonyms:** Beginning, introduction, inception
- **Example:** The novel's denouement was unexpected, leaving the readers in shock.

6. Coerce (दबाव डालना)

- **Meaning:** To persuade someone to do something by using force or threats.
- **Synonyms:** Compel, force, intimidate
- **Antonyms:** Persuade, encourage, convince
- **Example:** The kidnappers tried to coerce the victim into signing over his property.

7. Jeopardise (खतरे में डालना)

- **Meaning:** To put something at risk of harm, loss, or failure.
- **Synonyms:** Endanger, threaten, imperil, compromise
- **Antonyms:** Protect, safeguard, secure
- **Example:** The government's silence on cybersecurity issues may jeopardize public trust.

8. Draconian (कठोर)

- **Meaning:** Excessively harsh or severe.
- **Synonyms:** Oppressive, authoritarian, stringent, harsh
- **Antonyms:** Lenient, mild, permissive, flexible
- **Example:** Critics labeled the new surveillance laws as draconian measures.

9. Plausible (संभव)

- **Meaning:** Seeming reasonable or probable.
- **Synonyms:** Believable, credible, likely, feasible
- **Antonyms:** Implausible, unlikely, improbable, doubtful
- **Example:** The explanation provided by the officials seemed plausible at first glance.

10. Fiendish (क्रूर / अमानवीय)

- **Meaning:** Extremely cruel or unpleasant; also used to describe something very difficult or complex.
- **Synonyms:** Diabolical, wicked, brutal, vicious, devilish
- **Antonyms:** Kind, gentle, humane, pleasant
- **Example:** The terrorists had devised a fiendish plan to cause maximum damage.

VOCABULARY

One-word substitute:

1. Famous or well-known for something bad:

Notorious

2. Too ready to believe things; easily fooled or cheated:

Credulous

3. A person who never drinks alcohol:

Teetotaler

4. A ruler who has absolute power and does not consult others:

Autocrat

VOCABULARY

Phrasal Verbs:

1. Mooch around

Meaning: to walk around without a specific purpose.

2. Phase in

Meaning: to gradually introduce or start using something over a period of time.

3. Touch on

Meaning: to speak briefly about something.

4. Flare out

Meaning: get angry suddenly

VOCABULARY

Idioms & Phrases

1. Behind the times

Meaning: not modern or fashionable

2. Bells and whistles

Meaning: attractive additional features or trimmings

3. Best thing since sliced bread

Meaning: used to emphasize one's enthusiasm about a new idea, person, or thing

VOCABULARY

4. Thick in the head

Meaning: someone is stupid or lacks the ability to absorb ideas easily

5. To be off base

Meaning: not being in agreement with what is true

Article for Reading

**Under control: On the
latest inflation data**

April's 69-month low retail inflation and 13-month low wholesale inflation should come as a relief to the public and policymakers alike. For the public, it shows that the easing of prices in the first few months of the year is continuing. For policymakers, it goes a step further in confirming that last year's alarming levels of inflation are well and truly under control, and that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) was right to cut interest rates twice in a row. The fall in retail inflation was driven by a contraction of nearly 11% in vegetable prices, and 5.2% in the price of pulses. However, it is important to note that although vegetable prices are lower than last year, this contraction is mainly due to a very high base — vegetable inflation was in the 27%-30% range in the February-April period of last year. Inflation at the wholesale level, too, was driven down by easing vegetable prices, which contracted 18.26% in April. This, too, was on a relatively high base of nearly 12% last April.

The base effect aside, it does look like the government's efforts to bolster buffer stocks of essential food items, conduct open market releases, and ease imports during supply shortages have helped in easing inflation. The other — less positive — factor could have been the liquidity crunch that banks were facing in the first few months of the year. Lower liquidity results in lower amounts left to lend, which squeezes money with companies and the public, and thus can lower inflation. As things stand, even though retail inflation has been decreasing for six consecutive months, its trajectory for the rest of the year will significantly be determined by the monsoon and its vagaries. Similarly, the ongoing tariff uncertainty and threats of retaliation by India will also play a part. The latest inflation data does have some policy implications. The first and most obvious one is that it will likely encourage the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee to cut interest rates again in June.

However, an important consideration for it will also be how the latest GDP growth data — to be released this month end — will look. The other, more immediate step for public sector oil marketing companies is to finally cut fuel prices in line with crude oil inflation in the WPI coming in at a 22-month low. If not, then the government should officially abandon its dynamic pricing policy, where prices are supposedly revised daily. That fuel prices have been virtually unchanged in three years, despite oil prices falling 42% over the period, means the policy is a sham in any case.

Summary

The passage discusses the significant decline in India's retail and wholesale inflation in April, marking a 69-month and 13-month low, respectively. This drop, largely driven by falling vegetable and pulse prices, offers relief to both the public and policymakers. The contraction is partly attributed to a high base effect from last year and supportive government measures like increased buffer stocks and relaxed imports. A liquidity crunch in early months may have also contributed. Despite the positive trend, future inflation depends on unpredictable monsoon patterns and global trade uncertainties. The data could prompt the RBI to cut interest rates further, while public sector oil firms are urged to reduce fuel prices in line with falling crude costs — failure to do so would expose flaws in the government's dynamic pricing policy.

Tone:

Analytical and mildly critical — the author objectively explains the causes and implications of falling inflation but also critiques inconsistencies in fuel pricing policy.

Reading Comprehension

Based on the above passage, answer the following questions:

Question 1:

Which of the following most accurately reflects the reason why inflation at the wholesale level declined in April?

- A. Decrease in industrial input prices due to global trade disruptions**
- B. Correction in crude oil prices and lower transport costs**
- C. Continued contraction in vegetable prices compared to the previous year**
- D. Impact of weak currency reducing import demand**
- E. None of the above**

Question 2:

According to the passage, which factor may have unintentionally contributed to lowering inflation in early 2024?

- A. The government's open market operations**
- B. A liquidity crunch in the banking sector**
- C. India's counter-tariff threats to the West**
- D. Expansion of agricultural subsidies**
- E. None of the above**

Question 3:

What is the key policy implication the author expects from the recent inflation trends?

- A. Increased foreign direct investment in agriculture**
- B. Strengthening of the rupee through rate hikes**
- C. Removal of all import duties on essential goods**
- D. RBI likely to initiate another interest rate cut**
- E. None of the above**

Article for Skimming

The yearly 'thank you' to nurses is not enough

May 12 has passed, an annual day where we honour Florence Nightingale and celebrate the unsung heroes of health care — nurses. We praised nurses on this day (International Nurses Day), but the urgency to truly empower the stars of our health-care system quickly fades. Nurses and midwives form nearly 47% of India's total health workforce, yet remain under-represented in leadership, policymaking, and autonomous clinical roles. The perception of nurses as being mere assistants to doctors still prevails, limiting their potential, despite global trends that prove otherwise. The role of Nurse Practitioners (NPs) as independent, advanced care providers capable of addressing health-care gaps has been embraced in Australia, Botswana, Brazil, South Africa, Thailand, the United Kingdom, the United States and Zambia. NPs are advanced practice registered nurses (such as clinical nurse specialists, certified nurse midwives and certified registered nurse anaesthetists) with specialised training, usually at the master's level.

They are certified to diagnose, treat, and prescribe independently in many settings. India has recognised the need for NPs, particularly to expand health-care access in underserved areas. The National Health Policy 2017 has acknowledged that mid-level providers, including NPs, are crucial to primary care. Despite the Indian Nursing Council (INC) initiating structured NP programmes, notably the Nurse Practitioner in Critical Care (NPCC) in 2017 and also the Nurse Practitioner in Primary Health Care (NPPHC), integration remains slow. Initiatives such as the NP in Midwifery programme (2002) in West Bengal and similar efforts in Telangana and Kerala have struggled in the absence of a clear legal framework, defined roles and protected titles. Although some institutions have developed in-house training for extended roles (stoma nurses, diabetes educators, stroke nurses), these positions lack regulatory backing and national recognition. India's NP education programmes are designed to focus on advanced clinical skills, diagnosis, treatment, limited prescribing authority, and community engagement.

However, there are challenges, a key barrier being the absence of a clear legal framework defining the NP scope of practice, including prescriptive rights. Resistance within some in the medical community, driven by fear of losing power, complicates integration. The curriculum emphasises clinical skills but leaves regulatory frameworks, licensure clarity, and career pathways murky. Who will licence NPs? Will they be recognised legally? Will they be absorbed into public systems or left out? This ambiguity is not just administrative, but is also existential for nurses. The NP movement in Australia is instructive, having begun with a clear goal to improve access in underserved areas and provide clinical autonomy to qualified nurses. But what made it work was more than just policy; it was politics. Nursing movements were part of the policy dialogues. Legislation protected the NP title. Licensure was formalised. Career ladders were created. Importantly, nurse-led models such as walk-in centres demonstrated that care does not always need a physician's stamp to be effective, safe, and appreciated.

Question 4:

According to the passage, what is the primary systemic challenge faced by India in integrating Nurse Practitioners (NPs) into mainstream healthcare?

- A. Inadequate funding of NP education programs**
- B. Ambiguity surrounding legal recognition and scope of practice**
- C. Lack of willingness among nurses to pursue advanced roles**
- D. Shortage of training institutions in rural regions**
- E. None of the above**

Question 5:

What irony does the passage highlight about the perception of nurses in India?

- A. They are highly paid professionals who lack public recognition.**
- B. They are better trained than doctors in some cases, yet underused.**
- C. They dominate in numbers but are marginalised in decision-making roles.**
- D. Their international success has led to domestic resentment.**
- E. None of the above**

Today's Descriptive Question

Precis Writing:

Original Text:

Caller Name Presentation (CNAP) is a telecommunication feature that allows recipients to see the name of the caller along with the phone number, even if the contact is not saved in their device. Unlike Caller ID, which only displays the phone number, CNAP fetches and presents the caller's registered name from the telecom network's database. This feature enhances call transparency, security, and user experience, particularly in preventing spam, fraud, and unwanted calls.

In India, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has been considering implementing CNAP to combat the rising menace of spam calls, fraudulent activities, and telemarketing harassment. Currently, third-party applications like Truecaller provide similar services, but they rely on crowdsourced databases, which can sometimes lead to inaccuracies.

A telecom-regulated CNAP system would ensure authentic and verified caller information, improving trust and reducing call-related scams.

However, implementing CNAP presents technical and privacy challenges. The system requires telecom operators to maintain updated caller name databases, and concerns about data privacy and consent must be addressed to prevent misuse. Additionally, network compatibility, cost implications, and regulatory approvals play a crucial role in its nationwide rollout.

Despite these challenges, CNAP has the potential to enhance communication security, reduce call fraud, and improve user convenience. If implemented effectively with strong privacy safeguards, it could revolutionize caller identification in India and contribute to a more secure and transparent telecommunication ecosystem.

Precis:

Caller Name Presentation (CNAP) is a telecom feature that displays a caller's name along with their number, improving call transparency and security. TRAI is considering its implementation in India to reduce spam, fraud, and telemarketing harassment, offering a more authentic alternative to third-party apps like Truecaller. However, privacy concerns, database management, and network compatibility pose challenges. If implemented with proper safeguards, CNAP could enhance communication security and user trust, making India's telecom ecosystem more reliable and transparent.

- **You are the HR manager organizing a mandatory training session for employees. Write an email informing them about the session details.**

To:.....@gmail.com

Subject: Mandatory Training Session – Attendance Required

Dear Team,

I hope this email finds you well.

We are conducting a mandatory training session to enhance our skills and ensure alignment with company policies. Please find the session details below:

Topic: [Training Topic]

Date: [Date]

Time: [Time]

Venue: [Location/Online Meeting Link]

Trainer: [Trainer's Name]

Your participation is crucial, as this session will provide valuable insights and updates relevant to your role. Please ensure your attendance and be on time. If you have any scheduling conflicts, notify us in advance.

For any queries, feel free to reach out.

**Best regards,
[Your Name]
HR Manager
[Company Name]**

Match the column

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 1. Behind the times | A. used to emphasize one's enthusiasm |
| 2. Bells and whistles | B. not modern or fashionable |
| 3. Best thing since sliced bread | C. someone is stupid |
| 4. Thick in the head | D. attractive adAdditional features |
| 5. To be off base | E. not being in agreement with what is true |

Answer:

1-b

2-d

3-a

4-c

5-e

Vocabulary

1. Bolster:
2. Vagaries:
3. Sham:
4. Ambiguity:
5. Denouement:
6. Coerce:
7. Jeopardise:
8. Draconian:
9. Plausible:
10. Fiendish:

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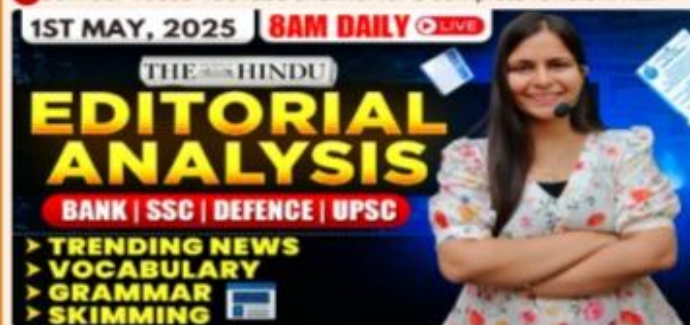


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RC ANS

1.

Ans: C

Explanation:

Reference from passage:

“Inflation at the wholesale level, too, was driven down by easing vegetable prices, which contracted 18.26% in April. This, too, was on a relatively high base of nearly 12% last April.”

Incorrect options:

- A. Trade disruptions or industrial input costs are not discussed as factors.
- B. Crude oil price correction is mentioned later, but not linked to the overall WPI drop in April. It refers specifically to fuel prices.
- D. No mention of currency or imports reducing demand is made.

2.

Ans: B

Explanation:

Reference from passage:

“The other — less positive — factor could have been the liquidity crunch that banks were facing... which squeezes money... and thus can lower inflation.”

Incorrect options:

A. Open market releases are mentioned as deliberate interventions, not unintended.

C. Tariff threats are discussed as future uncertainties, not as having contributed to past inflation changes.

D. No mention of agricultural subsidies in the passage.

3.

Ans: D

Explanation:

Reference from passage:

“...it will likely encourage the RBI’s Monetary Policy Committee to cut interest rates again in June.”

Incorrect options:

A. No discussion of FDI or agriculture investment.

B. RBI is mentioned to have cut rates, not raised them for rupee strengthening.

C. Import easing is mentioned, but not full removal of duties.

4.

Ans: B

Explanation:

Reference from passage:

“...a key barrier being the absence of a clear legal framework defining the NP scope of practice, including prescriptive rights.”

“This ambiguity is not just administrative, but is also existential for nurses.”

Incorrect Options:

A. Inadequate funding is not mentioned in the passage.

C. There's no indication that nurses are unwilling; the issue is structural, not aspirational.

D. Shortage of rural training institutions is not discussed; the passage focuses on integration and regulation.

5.

Ans: C

Explanation:

Reference from passage:

“Nurses and midwives form nearly 47% of India’s total health workforce, yet remain under-represented in leadership, policymaking, and autonomous clinical roles.”

Incorrect Options:

- A. The passage never mentions high pay or lack of recognition.
- B. There’s no claim that nurses are better trained than doctors.
- D. No mention of domestic resentment due to international success.