

# The Hindu EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

1st 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. Revocation (निरस्तीकरण )**

- **Meaning:** The act of officially canceling or withdrawing something.
- **Synonyms:** Cancellation, annulment, repeal
- **Antonyms:** Approval, confirmation, validation
- **Example:** The revocation of student visas has caused widespread concern among international students.

## 2. Internment (नज़रबंदी)

- **Meaning:** The act of confining people, especially during wartime.
- **Synonyms:** Detention, imprisonment, captivity
- **Antonyms:** Freedom, liberation, release
- **Example:** The internment of Japanese Americans during World War II remains a dark chapter in history.

### 3. Curtailing (कटौती करना/सीमित करना)

- **Meaning:** Reducing or restricting something.
- **Synonyms:** Limiting, restricting, diminishing
- **Antonyms:** Expanding, increasing, extending
- **Example:** There are concerns that the U.S. government is curtailing the free speech rights of foreign students.

## 4. Evident (स्पष्ट/सुस्पष्ट)

- **Meaning:** Clearly seen or understood.
- **Synonyms:** Obvious, apparent, noticeable
- **Antonyms:** Hidden, obscure, unclear
- **Example:** The positive impact of FLN training was evident in the improved classroom teaching methods.

## 5. Overhaul (सुधार/परिवर्तन)

- **Meaning:** A thorough examination and complete change or repair.
- **Synonyms:** Revamp, renovation, restructuring
- **Antonyms:** Preservation, maintenance, stagnation
- **Example:** The education system needs an overhaul to ensure foundational literacy for all children.

## 6. Precarious (अनिश्चित / खतरनाक )

- **Meaning:** Not secure; uncertain and risky.
- **Synonyms:** Unstable, uncertain, hazardous
- **Antonyms:** Secure, stable, safe
- **Example:** The precarious status of foreign students in the U.S. has caused distress among many.

## 7. Skewed (विकृत)

- **Meaning:** To distort or alter something from its true or natural state.
- **Synonyms:** Distorted, biased, slanted
- **Antonyms:** Straight, aligned
- **Example:** The survey results were skewed by the small sample size.



## 8. Elicited (उत्तेजित)

- **Meaning:** To draw out a response or reaction from someone.
- **Synonyms:** Evoked, extracted, drawn out
- **Antonyms:** Suppressed, stifled
- **Example:** The teacher's questions elicited thoughtful responses from the students.

## 9. Abdicate (त्याग करना)

- **Meaning:** To renounce a throne, high office, dignity, or function.
- **Synonyms:** Relinquish, renounce, resign
- **Antonyms:** Assume, claim, accept
- **Example:** The king decided to abdicate his throne in favor of his son.

## 10. Imperil (खतरे में डालना)

- **Meaning:** To put at risk of being harmed, injured, or destroyed.
- **Synonyms:** Endanger, jeopardize, risk
- **Antonyms:** Protect, safeguard, secure
- **Example:** Pollution can imperil marine life.

## VOCABULARY

### One-word substitute:

**1. An exact copy or reproduction of something:**

**Facsimile**

**2. Relating to young people; immature or childish:**

**Juvenile**

**3. A person who secretly listens to others' conversations:**

**Eavesdropper**

**4. Impossible to appease, calm, or satisfy:**

**Implacable**

# VOCABULARY

## Phrasal Verbs:

### 1. Turn to

**Meaning:** To choose or rely on someone or something for help or support.

### 2. Latch onto

**Meaning:** To choose or select something, often enthusiastically or eagerly.

### 3. Set aside

**Meaning:** To reserve or choose something for future use.

### 4. Stand out

**Meaning:** To be noticeably better or different from the rest, often chosen because of this.

# VOCABULARY

## Idioms & Phrases

### **1. A flash in the pan**

**Meaning:** A temporary success or something that initially shows promise but fails to deliver long-term results

### **2. Fly off the handle**

**Meaning:** To suddenly become very angry or lose one's temper

### **3. Cut the mustard**

**Meaning:** To meet expectations or reach the required standard

## VOCABULARY

### **4. Steal someone's thunder**

**Meaning:** To take credit for someone else's achievements

### **5. Bury the hatchet**

**Meaning:** To make peace or resolve a long-standing dispute

## **Article for Reading**

**Alarming shift: on the  
U.S. government and  
free speech rights**



**Secretary of State Marco Rubio has confirmed that there is an ongoing programme in the United States to revoke the visas of foreign students who are “taking activities that are counter to our national interest, to our foreign policy”. Reports suggest that several hundred visas have been revoked, which include those held by Indian students. These reports also indicate that the U.S. government is using surveillance of social media activity as a basis for these revocations. Mr. Rubio also referenced the more troubling aspects of the Gaza war protests — Jewish students were reportedly harassed or university buildings were occupied. In his view, if an action would justify denying a visa at the application stage, it is grounds for revocation after issuance. However, this development raises concerns about the U.S. government’s stance on the free speech rights of foreign nationals who reside in the country legally.**

**Not all those affected by these visa revocations have been disruptive. The right to free speech is enshrined in the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Although the amendment explicitly restricts Congress from curtailing speech, it has long been interpreted broadly. It protects “people”, not just “citizens” — though the distinction may have been less defined at the time of its writing. Whether this right extends to foreign nationals legally present in the U.S. remains a grey area. Various laws — from those of the late 18th century to more recent regulations concerning the impact on U.S. foreign policy — have placed limits on such expression. Yet, historically, foreign students have often been vocal critics of U.S. domestic and foreign policies without facing punitive action. And, university administrations have generally defended the free speech rights of students and academics.**

**Despite its imperfections — both historic, such as the internment of Japanese Americans during the Second World War, and ongoing, such as systemic racial inequalities — the U.S. has been a beacon of liberal values and due process. These are principles admired around the world, often more than its material wealth or professional opportunities. For many, it is the commitment to values such as free speech that makes the U.S. exceptional. That commitment now appears to be at risk. The U.S. system of checks and balances, which guards against the abuse of power, should assert itself — perhaps through judicial intervention — to rein in the overreach by the Trump administration and preserve the freedoms that define American democracy and inspire large parts of the world.**

## Summary

The passage discusses the U.S. government's recent decision to revoke the visas of foreign students, including Indian students, based on their social media activity and perceived actions against national interest. Secretary of State Marco Rubio justified this move by citing incidents related to the Gaza war protests, where Jewish students were allegedly harassed, and university buildings were occupied. However, this decision raises concerns about the free speech rights of foreign nationals in the U.S. While the First Amendment protects freedom of speech broadly, its application to non-citizens remains uncertain. Historically, foreign students have expressed dissent without facing severe consequences, and universities have defended their rights. The passage also highlights that the U.S. has been a symbol of liberal values and due process despite past and present flaws. The move to revoke visas based on speech appears to contradict these ideals, threatening the principles that make the U.S. exceptional. The author suggests that judicial intervention may be necessary to prevent governmental overreach and protect democratic freedoms.

## **Tone:**

**The tone of the passage is critical, concerned, and cautionary. The author critiques the U.S. government's actions as an overreach that threatens democratic values, particularly free speech. The passage conveys concern about the erosion of fundamental rights and urges the judiciary to act as a check against executive power.**

## Reading Comprehension

Based on the above passage, answer the following questions:

**Question 1:**

**What is the primary concern raised in the passage regarding the revocation of visas for foreign students?**

- A) The revocations may indicate the U.S. is tightening immigration laws across all categories.**
- B) The revocations raise concerns about free speech rights for foreign nationals.**
- C) The decision was made without consulting the affected students' home governments.**
- D) The move will primarily affect students from non-democratic countries.**
- E) None of the above**

## **Question 2:**

**According to the passage, on what basis are the U.S. visa revocations being carried out?**

- A) Foreign students' academic performance.**
- B) Involvement in violent activities against U.S. citizens.**
- C) Actions deemed counter to U.S. national interest and foreign policy.**
- D) Complaints from American university administrations.**
- E) None of the above**



**Question 3:**

**Which of the following best captures the author's stance on the U.S. as a beacon of democracy?**

- A) The U.S. has always upheld free speech rights without exception.**
- B) The U.S. no longer upholds democratic principles and is losing global respect.**
- C) While imperfect, the U.S. has consistently prioritized security over democratic freedoms.**
- D) While imperfect, the U.S. has historically been admired for its commitment to liberal values.**
- E) None of the above**

## **Article for Skimming**

**NEP 2020 in the  
classroom, from  
policy to practice**

**The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 frames the universal acquisition of Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) as an urgent national mission. Since the release of the policy, the central and State governments have put in enormous efforts into programmes intended to meet the goal of ensuring that every child acquires FLN by Class two, the end of the newly designated 'foundational stage' of education for three to eight year olds. Findings from the nationwide Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2024 survey that was released recently provide some indicators of the percolation of these policy pushes to individual schools. For example, more than 80% of the 15,728 rural schools across the country that were visited as a part of the survey reported having received a directive from the government to implement FLN activities for Classes one to three. In over 75% of these schools, at least one teacher had received in-person training on FLN. A deep dive into 24 Class two classrooms in eight States earlier this year provided glimpses of how these changes are translating into practice on the ground.**

**The first conclusion that was clear from observations of the teaching practice of these teachers, and subsequent conversations with them, is that the rationale for why FLN is important appears to have been communicated clearly and on scale. In the eight States and in most of the schools that the writers of this article visited, teachers articulated this new focus and, for the most part, approved of it. Aspects of the new approach that required attitudinal shifts rather than new pedagogical practices were visible in their classrooms. However, the challenges and opportunities facing teachers vary substantially, depending on the local context. For example, a classroom that comprises a large number of Class two students with limited space to move about requires a different approach than one with students from several different grades sitting outdoors. Several teachers said that they have limited opportunities to identify and discuss these challenges during training workshops. Creating spaces for practice, discussion and adaptation may be the key to increasing uptake.**

**Consequently, post-training support systems for teachers are of vital importance. Here, States differ markedly in the amount and the type of support that they provide. In some States, the teachers we spoke to were unable to name any form of support available to them post training. In others, trainers were available to be consulted if teachers wished to do so. In still others, regular “monitoring” visits from officials ensured that the focus on FLN was not lost, but the focus was on compliance with data collection protocols rather than teaching-learning in the classroom. In just a couple of cases, teachers spoke about block- or district-level officials actually demonstrating how to do a particular activity in the classroom. Without the space to practise and then adapt the new methods and materials as needed, teachers are often unable to make full use of the guidelines and materials provided to them.**

**Question 4:**

**What is the main objective of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 regarding Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN)?**

- A) To introduce digital learning methods for foundational education.**
- B) To train teachers on modern pedagogical practices.**
- C) To ensure every child acquires FLN by the end of Class two.**
- D) To promote self-learning among students using technology.**
- E) To create uniform teaching methods for all subjects.**

**Question 5:**

**What improvement is suggested in the passage for enhancing FLN training effectiveness?**

- A) Increasing the number of schools implementing FLN.**
- B) Creating spaces for teachers to practice, discuss, and adapt training methods.**
- C) Introducing compulsory weekly tests for students.**
- D) Reducing the use of teaching-learning materials (TLM).**
- E) None of the above**

**Today's Descriptive Question**

**Precis Writing:**



## **Original Text:**

**Climate change is emerging as one of the biggest challenges to India's economy, affecting various sectors and undermining growth prospects. As a country heavily reliant on agriculture, India is highly vulnerable to the impacts of rising temperatures, altered rainfall patterns, and extreme weather events. Changes in the monsoon, droughts, and floods have already led to crop failures, reduced agricultural productivity, and food insecurity in many regions. Since a significant portion of the Indian population depends on agriculture for livelihood, these disruptions threaten rural incomes and increase poverty. The agriculture sector is not the only one at risk. Coastal areas are also vulnerable to rising sea levels and more intense storms, which threaten infrastructure, housing, and industries. Cities like Mumbai and Kolkata, situated along the coast, face the possibility of flooding and erosion due to the rising sea. Such events could lead to a decrease in property values, destruction of infrastructure, and a decline in industrial productivity.**

**Climate change is also impacting water resources in India, with many river systems drying up or experiencing unpredictable flow patterns. This has major implications for drinking water supplies, irrigation systems, and hydropower production, further straining resources for both urban and rural populations. In addition to these direct impacts, the broader economic growth of India is at risk due to climate change. The costs of adaptation, disaster relief, and recovery are expected to rise, placing pressure on government budgets. Moreover, extreme weather events can lead to disruptions in supply chains, affecting manufacturing and trade, both of which are crucial for India's economic performance. The transition to a low-carbon economy will require substantial investments in renewable energy, energy efficiency, and sustainable infrastructure. However, this shift can open up new economic opportunities if managed properly. In the long run, India can mitigate some of the effects of climate change by investing in climate-resilient technologies, green jobs, and policies that encourage sustainable development.**

## Precis:

**Climate change poses a significant threat to India's economy, particularly impacting agriculture, water resources, and coastal infrastructure. Rising temperatures, erratic rainfall, and extreme weather events disrupt crop yields, reduce rural incomes, and increase poverty. Coastal flooding and water scarcity exacerbate challenges, while economic growth is hindered by rising adaptation costs and supply chain disruptions. Transitioning to a low-carbon economy presents opportunities for sustainable development, but requires substantial investments in renewable energy, resilient infrastructure, and climate adaptation strategies.**

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**Subject: Friendly Reminder: Outstanding Invoice Payment Due**

**Dear [Client's Name],**

**I hope this email finds you well.**

**I am writing to kindly remind you that the payment for the outstanding invoice [Invoice Number], dated [Invoice Date], in the amount of [Invoice Amount], is still pending. As per our records, the payment was due on [Due Date], and we would appreciate it if you could arrange for the payment at your earliest convenience.**

**We understand that delays can sometimes occur, and we kindly ask that you let us know if there are any issues or concerns regarding the payment process.**

**Should you need any assistance or further details related to the invoice, please feel free to reach out.**

**Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter, and we look forward to receiving the payment soon.**

**Best regards,  
[Your Name]  
[Your Position]  
[Company Name]**

**Match the column**

- |                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1. A flash in the pan      | A. To reach the required standard                 |
| 2. Fly off the handle      | B. A temporary success                            |
| 3. Cut the mustard         | C. To suddenly become very angry                  |
| 4. Steal someone's thunder | D. To make peace                                  |
| 5. Bury the hatchet        | E. To take credit for someone else's achievements |

## **Answer:**

**1-b**

**2-c**

**3-a**

**4-e**

**5-d**



## Vocabulary

1. Revocation:
2. Internment:
3. Curtailing:
4. Evident:
5. Overhaul:
6. Precarious:
7. Skewed:
8. Elicited:
9. Abdicate:
10. Imperil:

## Rc ans

1.

**Ans: B**

**Explanation:**

The passage emphasizes concerns about free speech, stating, "This development raises concerns about the U.S. government's stance on the free speech rights of foreign nationals who reside in the country legally." It questions whether visa revocations based on social media activity and protest participation are justified.

**Why the other options are incorrect?**

A) Tightening immigration laws – The passage focuses on specific revocations, not a broad immigration policy shift.

C) Home governments not consulted – The passage does not suggest that this is a major issue.

D) Affects non-democratic countries – The revocations include Indian students, but no link is made to non-democratic nations.

**2.**

**Ans: C**

**Explanation:**

The passage explicitly states, "Secretary of State Marco Rubio has confirmed that there is an ongoing programme in the United States to revoke the visas of foreign students who are 'taking activities that are counter to our national interest, to our foreign policy'." This confirms that national interest and foreign policy are the criteria for revocations.

**Why the other options are incorrect?**

A) Academic performance – The passage does not mention academic issues as a reason.

B) Violent activities – The passage does not say all affected students engaged in violence; it even notes that "not all those affected have been disruptive."

D) University complaints – The passage does not say universities requested the revocations.

**3.**

**Ans: D**

**Explanation:**

The passage states, "Despite its imperfections... the U.S. has been a beacon of liberal values and due process. These are principles admired around the world, often more than its material wealth or professional opportunities." This acknowledges flaws while recognizing the country's broader commitment to democratic values.

**Why the other options are incorrect?**

A) Always upheld free speech – The passage acknowledges past failures (e.g., Japanese internment).

B) U.S. losing global respect – The passage questions recent actions but does not say the U.S. has completely lost respect.

C) Prioritized security over democracy – The passage does not suggest a consistent prioritization of security over democracy.

4.

**Ans: C**

**Explanation:**

The passage clearly states, "Since the release of the policy, the central and State governments have put in enormous efforts into programmes intended to meet the goal of ensuring that every child acquires FLN by Class two, the end of the newly designated 'foundational stage' of education." This confirms that the primary goal is to achieve FLN by Class two.

**Why the other options are incorrect?**

- A) Digital learning – The passage does not emphasize digital education.
- B) Teacher training – While training is mentioned, it is not the primary objective.
- D) Self-learning through technology – The passage does not mention technology-based self-learning.

**5.**

**Ans: B**

**Explanation:**

The passage states, "Creating spaces for practice, discussion and adaptation may be the key to increasing uptake." This suggests that interactive and adaptive teacher training would improve FLN implementation.

**Why the other options are incorrect?**

A) Increasing the number of schools – The focus is on training quality, not just expansion.

C) Compulsory weekly tests – The passage does not emphasize frequent testing.

D) Reducing TLM usage – The passage encourages effective TLM use, not reduction.

**ENGLISH**

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