

The Hindu EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

19th July 2025

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

1. Sedentary (बैठे रहने वाला / निष्क्रिय)

- **Meaning:** Involving little physical activity; spending much time seated.
- **Synonyms:** Inactive, motionless, desk-bound
- **Antonyms:** Active, energetic, mobile
- **Example:** A sedentary lifestyle can lead to various health problems.

2. Relentless (लगातार बना रहने वाला)

- **Meaning:** Continuing without becoming weaker; harsh or inflexible.
- **Synonyms:** Persistent, unyielding, nonstop
- **Antonyms:** Gentle, intermittent, lenient
- **Example:** The relentless pursuit of success can sometimes lead to burnout.

3. Remorse (पछतावा)

- **Meaning:** Deep regret or guilt for a wrong committed.
- **Synonyms:** Regret, repentance, contrition
- **Antonyms:** Indifference, defiance, satisfaction
- **Example:** He felt deep remorse after realizing the pain he had caused his family.

4. Indecipherable (अस्पष्ट / पढ़ने में असमर्थ)

- **Meaning:** Not able to be read, understood, or interpreted.
- **Synonyms:** Illegible, incomprehensible, cryptic
- **Antonyms:** Clear, readable, intelligible
- **Example:** The old manuscript was so damaged that its text became completely indecipherable.

5. Confuting (खंडन करना)

- **Meaning:** To prove a person or an argument to be wrong or false.
- **Synonyms:** Refuting, disproving, rebutting
- **Antonyms:** Confirming, validating, supporting
- **Example:** The scientist presented clear evidence confuting the previous theory.

6. Impinging (टकराना / प्रभाव डालना)

- **Meaning:** Having a negative or intrusive impact or effect on something; to encroach or infringe.
- **Synonyms:** Encroaching, intruding, infringing, affecting
- **Antonyms:** Avoiding, respecting, ignoring
- **Example:** The loud construction noise was impinging on the students' ability to concentrate during exams.

7. Irretrievably (अवापसी रूप से / जिसे वापस नहीं पाया जा सके)

- **Meaning:** In a way that cannot be recovered or undone.
- **Synonyms:** Permanently, irreversibly, hopelessly
- **Antonyms:** Reversibly, temporarily, recoverably
- **Example:** The files were irretrievably lost after the system crashed without a backup.

8. Subsumed (समाहित करना / समावेश करना)

- **Meaning:** To include or absorb something into something else, often larger or more comprehensive.
- **Synonyms:** Included, incorporated, assimilated
- **Antonyms:** Excluded, separated, isolated
- **Example:** State-level schemes will be subsumed under the new national programme.

9. Bolstered (मजबूत किया)

- **Meaning:** Supported or strengthened.
- **Synonyms:** Reinforced, boosted, buttressed
- **Antonyms:** Weakened, undermined, eroded
- **Example:** The early success of the biotech startups was bolstered by government grants and private investments.

10. Insipid (नीरस)

- **Meaning:** Lacking flavor, interest, or excitement.
- **Synonyms:** Bland, dull, uninteresting, lifeless
- **Antonyms:** Flavorful, exciting, interesting, engaging
- **Example:** The professor's insipid lecture made it difficult for the students to stay attentive.

VOCABULARY

One-word substitute:

1. The 200th anniversary of a significant event:

Bicentenary

2. A distinctive or peculiar characteristic or habit of an individual:

Idiosyncrasy

3. To waste something (especially money, time, or resources)

recklessly:

Squander

4. The use of trickery or deception to achieve a political, financial, or legal purpose:

Chicanery

VOCABULARY

Phrasal Verbs:

1. Fit in

Meaning: To be accepted by a group; to blend or conform harmoniously.

2. Fix up

Meaning: To repair or improve something; to arrange or organize (often a meeting or date).

3. Fizzle out

Meaning: To gradually fail or end weakly after starting off strong or with promise.

4. Flare out

Meaning: To expand or spread outward suddenly; can also mean to lose one's temper or to burn brightly for a short time before fading.

VOCABULARY

Idioms & Phrases

1. A close-fisted man

Meaning: A very stingy or miserly person; someone who is unwilling to spend money.

2. Eat humble pie

Meaning: To admit one's fault or error and apologise humbly.

3. Play ducks and drakes

Meaning: To waste money or resources recklessly.

VOCABULARY

4. Be taken aback

Meaning: To be surprised or shocked, often suddenly and unexpectedly.

5. Lay it on thick

Meaning: To exaggerate or overstate something, especially praise or flattery.

Article for Reading

**All in one: On the
Prime Minister
Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi
Yojana scheme**

The Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY), a scheme approved by the Union Cabinet, is to be implemented through the convergence of 36 existing schemes across 11 Departments. According to Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, the scheme seeks to address the “disparities in productivity” between States, and even among districts within a State. The Centre’s pet schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) and the PM Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) as well as relevant State schemes, to be identified by the District Dhan Dhaanya Samitis, will be subsumed in the PMDDKY. Local partnerships with the private sector will also be promoted under the proposed scheme, which will begin in October during the rabi crop season. The scheme is to get an annual outlay of ₹24,000 crore for six years. Modelled on NITI Aayog’s Aspirational Districts Programme, the Centre will identify 100 districts based on low productivity and cropping intensity and less credit disbursement.

The hope is that the scheme will result in higher productivity, value addition in agriculture and allied sectors, local livelihood creation, leading to increased domestic production and self-reliance. This convergence of schemes must be viewed in the background of decreasing public spending on agriculture. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture, in the latest report on Demands for Grants, had observed a continuous decline, from 3.53% in 2021-22 to 3.14% (2022-23), 2.57% (2023-24), 2.54% (2024-25) and 2.51% (2025-26), of the allocations for agriculture as a percentage of total Central Plan outlay. This aggregation of all schemes under one umbrella suggests that the Government wants uniformity in running the welfare, financial and technical schemes in the agriculture sector. It is keen to add States' measures too in the new scheme. It remains to be seen how effective such uniformity will be on the ground as further decrease in public investment in agriculture could be disastrous.

Private-public partnerships should be for the larger good of self-reliance, particularly in the production of foodgrains, edible oil and pulses. The progress of area coverage under kharif crops, released last week, points to a decrease in the sowing of oil seeds and popular pulses. Though it promotes national uniformity, it is welcome that the new scheme will function based on 'District Plans' that will be aligned to the national goals of crop diversification, conservation of water and soil health, self-sufficiency in agriculture and allied sectors. For the PMDDKY, the Centre will monitor 117 key indicators of progress on a monthly basis. But to make it more participatory, States, local self governments, primary agriculture cooperative societies, agriculture universities and organisations of farmers and traders must be involved in this process.

Summary

Private-public partnerships should be for the larger good of self-reliance, particularly in the production of foodgrains, edible oil and pulses. The progress of area coverage under kharif crops, released last week, points to a decrease in the sowing of oil seeds and popular pulses. Though it promotes national uniformity, it is welcome that the new scheme will function based on 'District Plans' that will be aligned to the national goals of crop diversification, conservation of water and soil health, self-sufficiency in agriculture and allied sectors. For the PMDDKY, the Centre will monitor 117 key indicators of progress on a monthly basis. But to make it more participatory, States, local self governments, primary agriculture cooperative societies, agriculture universities and organisations of farmers and traders must be involved in this process.

Tone:

The tone is analytical and cautiously optimistic. It appreciates the scheme's intent and structure but raises concerns about declining public investment and challenges in ground-level implementation, emphasizing the need for inclusive participation and safeguards for self-reliance in agriculture.

Reading Comprehension

Based on the above passage, answer the following questions:

Question 1:

According to the passage, which of the following may become a concern if the current trend continues?

- A. Increase in subsidies for fertilizers**
- B. Decline in public investment in agriculture**
- C. Over-centralization of fertilizer procurement**
- D. Expansion of Kharif sowing beyond optimal levels**
- E. None of the above**

Question 2:

What role are District Dhan Dhaanya Samitis expected to play under PMDDKY?

- A. Set national-level targets for crop yields**
- B. Allocate fertilizer and irrigation quotas**
- C. Identify relevant State schemes to be included**
- D. Create export-oriented agricultural corridors**
- E. None of the above**

Question 3:

Which of the following reflects the key monitoring mechanism adopted for the implementation of PMDDKY?

- A. Annual review by the Election Commission of India**
- B. Fortnightly field inspections by NITI Aayog**
- C. Bi-annual evaluations by the Finance Commission**
- D. Monthly tracking of 117 key indicators**
- E. None of the above**

Article for Skimming

**Fostering Well-being:
Healthy Habits for a
Strong Body and
Mind**

In today's fast-paced world, where stress, burnout, and anxiety are increasingly common, the importance of fostering well-being cannot be overstated. True success—whether personal, academic, or professional—rests on the foundation of a healthy body and a sound mind. While society often emphasizes external achievements, it is time to refocus on internal strength and resilience, cultivated through mindful habits that nurture overall well-being. Well-being is not a luxury or an afterthought—it is a necessity. Physical health and mental health are deeply interconnected. When we take care of our bodies through balanced nutrition, regular exercise, and adequate sleep, we also support our mental clarity, emotional balance, and cognitive functioning. Yet, the demands of modern life often push these basic needs aside. Long hours of screen time, irregular eating patterns, and sedentary routines have become the norm, silently chipping away at our vitality.

Equally crucial is mental wellness. The stigma around mental health still lingers, preventing many from seeking help or even acknowledging their struggles. Developing habits like mindfulness, journaling, spending time in nature, or simply disconnecting from digital distractions can significantly improve mental resilience. Practicing gratitude, maintaining social connections, and setting healthy boundaries are not just therapeutic—they are transformative. Healthy habits are not about extreme routines or unrealistic goals. They are about consistent, intentional choices. Choosing water over soda, a walk over the elevator, or rest over relentless hustle may seem small, but such habits accumulate into profound change. They not only enhance physical health but also build a mindset that values balance, self-respect, and sustainability. Educational institutions, workplaces, and families all have a role in promoting a culture of wellness. Schools can integrate physical activity and mental health education into their curriculum.

Workplaces can encourage movement breaks, offer mental health resources, and avoid glorifying overwork. Families can model healthy behavior and provide supportive environments where well-being is prioritized. Ultimately, fostering well-being is not about perfection—it is about awareness and alignment. When we cultivate habits that honor both body and mind, we become more capable of handling life's challenges with calm, clarity, and confidence. In a world that often prizes productivity over peace, choosing well-being is a quiet act of courage—and one that yields lifelong rewards.

Question 4:

Which of the following best defines the author's view on mental health practices?

- A. They are complementary only to physical health and secondary in importance.**
- B. They require professional intervention in all circumstances to be effective.**
- C. They should be treated with the same seriousness as physical health and include habits like gratitude and mindfulness.**
- D. They are impossible to integrate in educational or work environments.**
- E. None of the above**

Question 5:

What underlying assumption does the author make about institutions like schools, workplaces, and families?

- A. They lack the authority to promote wellness strategies effectively.**
- B. They are best suited to handle clinical treatment of psychological disorders.**
- C. They should limit involvement in individual health decisions.**
- D. They play a pivotal role in shaping daily habits and fostering a culture of wellness.**
- E. None of the above**

Today's Descriptive Question:

- **Write an essay of 200 words about the role of ethics in business.**

Ethics plays a crucial role in business as it helps create a foundation for trust, transparency, and fairness in all dealings. In today's competitive world, companies are not only expected to deliver high-quality products or services but also to operate responsibly and ethically. Ethical practices ensure that businesses do not exploit workers, harm the environment, or engage in dishonest advertising. By adhering to ethical guidelines, companies build credibility with customers, employees, and investors, fostering long-term success.

Furthermore, ethical behavior in business promotes accountability, which reduces the risk of corruption and fraud. It encourages businesses to consider the broader social impact of their decisions, balancing profitability with responsibility. When businesses prioritize ethics, they contribute to the well-being of their communities and the planet.

Companies that follow ethical principles also create positive workplace cultures, boosting employee morale and attracting top talent. Ethical decision-making in areas such as labor practices, product safety, and financial reporting reinforces the integrity of the organization. In the end, ethics is not just about compliance with laws, but about setting standards that guide businesses toward doing the right thing, ensuring sustainable success in the long run.

- **Read the passage given below and answer the following questions on the basis of the passage in your own words.**

India has long held a deep cultural and emotional attachment to gold. It is more than just a precious metal; it symbolizes wealth, status, and prosperity. Gold plays a central role in Indian weddings, festivals, and traditions, making the country one of the largest consumers of gold in the world. However, this obsession with gold has significant economic implications—both positive and negative—for the Indian economy. On the positive side, gold acts as a trusted store of value for households, especially in rural areas where access to banking and financial instruments remains limited. It is considered a safe investment during times of inflation or economic uncertainty. The demand for gold also supports a vast jewelry industry, generating employment and contributing to exports. Furthermore, gold can be monetized through schemes like Gold Sovereign Bonds and Gold Deposit Schemes, potentially reducing idle assets and strengthening the economy.

However, the excessive demand for physical gold also brings considerable downsides. India imports the vast majority of its gold, leading to a large outflow of foreign exchange and widening the current account deficit. This dependence on imports puts pressure on the rupee and weakens the country's external financial stability. Additionally, investing heavily in gold often diverts savings away from more productive financial assets like equities, mutual funds, or infrastructure bonds, which could otherwise boost economic growth. Moreover, hoarding gold keeps a large portion of household wealth locked in unproductive assets, limiting liquidity in the financial system. Efforts by the government to encourage gold monetization have had limited success due to low public awareness and cultural resistance. In conclusion, while gold holds undeniable cultural and economic importance in India, striking a balance between tradition and economic rationality is crucial to avoid long-term macroeconomic imbalances.

Q1. What are the positive impacts of India's gold obsession on the economy?

Ans:

India's strong demand for gold has several economic advantages. Gold serves as a secure store of value, especially in rural areas where banking access is limited. During periods of inflation or economic uncertainty, it provides a safe investment option. The thriving jewelry industry, fueled by gold consumption, creates employment and contributes to exports. Government schemes like Gold Sovereign Bonds and Gold Deposit Schemes aim to monetize idle gold assets, thereby channeling them into the formal economy. These initiatives can help reduce dependency on imports and enhance financial inclusion if implemented effectively and adopted more widely by the public.

Q2. How does India's high demand for gold negatively impact the economy?

Ans:

India's heavy reliance on gold imports leads to substantial foreign exchange outflows, widening the current account deficit and putting pressure on the rupee. This affects overall financial stability. Additionally, excessive household investment in gold locks wealth in unproductive assets, reducing liquidity in the economy and diverting savings from growth-oriented avenues like equities or infrastructure. The result is slower capital formation and weaker economic momentum. Government efforts to curb this trend through gold monetization schemes have seen limited success due to cultural preferences and lack of awareness. Thus, unchecked gold demand can hinder long-term economic growth and financial health.

Match the column

1. A close-fisted man

2. Eat humble pie

3. Play ducks and drakes

4. Be taken aback

5. Lay it on thick

A. To waste money or resources recklessly

B. To be surprised or shocked

C. A very stingy or miserly person

D. To exaggerate or overstate something

E. To admit one's fault and apologise humbly

Answer:

1-c

2-e

3-a

4-b

5-d

Vocabulary

1. Sedentary:
2. Relentless:
3. Remorse:
4. Indecipherable:
5. Confuting:
6. Impinging:
7. Irretrievably:
8. Subsumed:
9. Bolstered:
10. Insipid:

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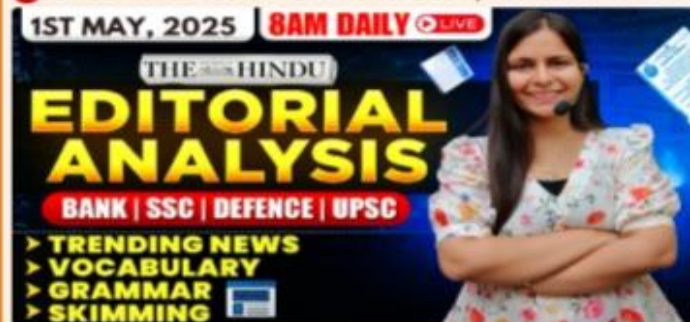


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Rc ans

1.

Ans: B

Explanation:

The passage highlights:

"The Parliamentary Standing Committee... observed a continuous decline... of the allocations for agriculture as a percentage of total Central Plan outlay."

"...further decrease in public investment in agriculture could be disastrous."

Incorrect options:

A. Fertiliser subsidies are not mentioned.

C. Over-centralisation of procurement is not discussed.

D. The passage reports a decrease, not expansion, in Kharif sowing.

2.

Ans: C

Explanation:

"...relevant State schemes, to be identified by the District Dhan Dhaanya Samitis, will be subsumed..."

Their role is clearly to identify which State schemes are to be merged into the PMDDKY.

Incorrect options:

- A. National targets are likely set by the Centre, not District Samitis.
- B. Allocation of fertiliser/irrigation is not mentioned in their scope.
- D. Export corridors are not mentioned.

3.

Ans: D

Explanation:

From the passage:

"For the PMDDKY, the Centre will monitor 117 key indicators of progress on a monthly basis."

This confirms the correct and only mentioned monitoring mechanism.

Incorrect options:

A, B, C are not mentioned anywhere in the context of PMDDKY.

4.

Ans: C

Explanation:

The passage asserts, “Equally crucial is mental wellness... Developing habits like mindfulness, journaling, spending time in nature, or simply disconnecting from digital distractions can significantly improve mental resilience.”

It also mentions gratitude and social connection.

Incorrect options:

A: The word “equally crucial” shows equal importance, not secondary status.

B: While professional help is vital, the passage stresses self-care practices, not exclusive reliance on experts.

D: The passage encourages integration in schools and workplaces (“Schools can integrate... Workplaces can encourage...”).

5.

Ans: D

Explanation:

The author writes, “Educational institutions, workplaces, and families all have a role in promoting a culture of wellness... Schools can integrate... Workplaces can encourage... Families can model...”

Incorrect options:

A: Institutions are empowered in the passage, not undermined.

B: The focus is on everyday healthy habits, not clinical disorders.

C: The author wants them to be actively involved, not restrained.