The Hindu EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

30th 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. Debacle (विनाश)

- → Meaning: A sudden and ignominious failure; a fiasco
- → Synonyms: Fiasco, disaster, collapse,
- catastrophe

 → Antonyms: Success,
- triumph, achievement
- → Example: Many believed the Liberals were heading for an electoral debacle after Trudeau's resignation.

2. Galvanised (प्रेरित किया गया)

- → Meaning: Shock or excite someone into taking action
- → Synonyms: Stimulated, provoked, spurred,
- motivated
 → Antonyms: Discouraged,
- dissuaded, deterred
- → Example: Trump's rhetoric galvanised Canadian nationalism ahead of the elections.

3. Precarious (अनिश्चित)

- Meaning: Not securely held or in position; dangerously likely to fall or collapse.
- or collapse.

 → Synonyms: Unstable, insecure, risky
- → Antonyms: Stable, secure, safe
- ⇒ Example: The precarious financial condition of urban municipalities needs urgent attention.

4. Plummet (गिरावट आना)

- → Meaning: To fall or drop straight down at high speed
 → Synonyms: Tumble.
- → Synonyms: Tumble, decline, slump
- → Antonyms: Soar, rise, ascend➤ Exercise The NDB's are
- → Example: The NDP's vote share plummeted from 18% to just 6%.

5. Relentless (अथक)

- **Meaning: Continuing** without becoming weaker or less severe.
- **Synonyms: Persistent,**
- unyielding, continuous **Antonyms: Intermittent,**
- yielding, sporadic **Example: Relentless focus** on governance efficiency is needed to transform
- cities.

6. Tepid (कमज़ोर)

- → Meaning: Showing little enthusiasm or lacking force
 → Synonyms: Lukewarm,
- indifferent, half-hearted
- → Antonyms: Enthusiastic, passionate, fervent
- → Example: Tepid growth in goods exports contributed to the industrial slowdown.

7. Impetus (प्रेरणा)

- → Meaning: A force or influence that makes something happen or happen more quickly
 → Synonyms: Motivation,
- → Synonyms: Motivation,
 stimulus, push
 → Antonyms: Hindrance,
- deterrent, obstacle

 → Example: The economy needs domestic consumption impetus to revive growth.

8. Lingering (लंबे समय तक बना रहने वाला)

- Meaning: Lasting for a long time or slow to end
- **Synonyms: Persistent,**
- remaining, enduring
- **Antonyms: Fleeting,**
- short-lived, momentary
- **Example: Lingering effects**
- of food inflation have strained rural demand.

9. Sprawling (फैला हुआ)

- → Meaning: Spreading out over a large area in an untidy or irregular way
- → Synonyms: Expansive, extensive, widespread
- → Antonyms: Compact, confined, limited
- → Example: India's sprawling MSME sector faces growing challenges amid weak exports.

10. Flamboyantly (शानदार ढंग से)

- Meaning: In a very confident and lively way.
- → Synonyms:
- Ostentatiously, exuberantly, vividly
- → Antonyms: Modestly, subtly, quietly
- → Example: She flamboyantly announced her victory to the entire school.

One-word substitute:

- 1. The art of effective or persuasive speaking or writing: Rhetoric
- 2. Excessively fond of or submissive to one's wife: Uxorious
- 3. The emblems or insignia of royalty: Regalia
- 4. A society or system ruled by the wealthy: Plutocracy

Phrasal Verbs:

1. Get by

Meaning: To manage or survive, especially with limited resources.

2. Look forward to

Meaning: To anticipate something with excitement or pleasure.

3. Show up

Meaning: To arrive or appear, often unexpectedly or late.

4. Give in

Meaning: To stop resisting; to surrender or yield to something.

Idioms & Phrases

1. A hard nut to crack

Meaning: a problem that is very difficult to solve

2. Better late than never

Meaning: doing something late is better than not doing it at all

3. Draw a longbow

Meaning: to exaggerate in telling stories; overstate something

4. Eat like a bird

Meaning: eat very little

5. Find your feet

Meaning: to become confident and independent in a new situation

Article for Reading

Liberal rally: on the Canadian election result

When Justin Trudeau resigned as the Prime Minister of Canada in January, it seemed that his party, the Liberals, who were trailing the Conservatives by 25 points in opinion polls, was headed for an electoral debacle. Mr. Trudeau, in power for nearly a decade, had become highly unpopular amid economic woes. Pierre Poilievre, the Conservative leader, built his campaign on a call for change, branding the three consecutive terms of the Liberal party as "the lost decade" for Canada. Yet, in a stunning political turnaround, the Liberal Party beat the Conservatives in the April 28 national election. Two pivotal developments between Mr. Trudeau's exit and the elections reshaped the country's political landscape. First, Mark Carney, an economist and former banker, was chosen as Mr. Trudeau's successor. Mr. Carney distanced himself from Mr. Trudeau's legacy and reframed the election as an opportunity to rebuild Canada's economy.

Second, Donald Trump's rhetoric about making Canada "the 51st State" of the U.S. galvanised Canadian nationalism and offered a new purpose and perspective to Mr. Carney's electoral battle. He presented himself as the best candidate equipped to stand up to Mr. Trump's threats and tariffs. His record as a successful central banker who led Canada through the 2008-09 recession and the U.K. through the chaotic Brexit years also helped his cause. The results were not entirely disappointing for the Conservatives. According to the preliminary figures, the party won 41.4% of the vote, surpassing its 2011 majority with 39.6% votes. But what happened this time was a more unified consolidation of progressive and liberal votes favouring the Liberals. When Mr. Poilievre talked about a crackdown on fentanyl, opposed tax hikes and threatened to withhold federal funding for universities, non-conservative voters saw these as Trump-style rhetoric, and gravitated towards the Liberal Party.

The New Democratic Party, led by Jagmeet Singh, saw its vote share plummet from 18% in 2021 to just 6%, while the Liberals surged from 32.6% to 43.5%. While Mr. Carney deserves credit for the turnaround, he should prepare the country for the path ahead. Despite the Liberals' surging popularity, they are still projected to fall short of the 172-seat majority mark in the 343-member Parliament. A coalition government dependent on smaller parties could complicate his legislative ambitions. Moreover, Mr. Carney and Mr. Trump agree that the traditional relationship between Canada and the U.S. is over, which means the leaders will have to launch talks for a new economic and security framework. Mr. Carney must also take swift measures to offset the impact of the Trump tariffs and revitalise economic growth, all the while standing firm against American pressure and for Canada's sovereignty.

Summary

The passage discusses a surprising political turnaround in Canada's 2025 national election. Despite initial predictions of a Liberal defeat following Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's resignation, the Liberal Party, under new leader Mark Carney, defeated the Conservatives. Carney distanced himself from Trudeau's legacy and focused on economic rebuilding, while also leveraging nationalistic sentiment provoked by Donald Trump's controversial remarks. Although the Conservatives achieved a strong vote share, a consolidation of liberal and progressive votes, along with a decline in support for the New Democratic Party, favored the Liberals. However, Carney now faces the challenges of forming a coalition government, negotiating a new Canada-U.S. framework, countering Trump's tariffs, and restoring economic growth.

Tone:

Analytical and informative, with a hint of cautious optimism.

Reading Comprehension

Based on the above passage, answer the following questions:

Question 1: What was the most decisive factor in the Liberal Party's unexpected electoral success following Justin Trudeau's resignation?

- A. Increase in agricultural subsidies before the election B. Mark Carney's distancing from Trudeau's legacy and appeal to nationalism
- C. A coalition between the Liberals and New Democratic Party before polling
- D. Suppression of conservative turnout due to election-day weather
- E. None of the above

Question 2:
Why is Mark Carney's previous experience as a central banker highlighted as a significant advantage in the election?

A. It enabled him to issue monetary policy during the campaign B. It discredited Poilievre's economic proposals

C. It helped him earn cross-border endorsements from U.S. officials

D. It bolstered his image as capable of leading through economic crises

E. None of the above

Question 3: What political strategy backfired for Pierre Poilievre in this election?

- A. Promoting a climate change bill similar to the Liberals'
- B. Attempting to appeal to progressive voters
- C. Using Trump-style rhetoric on social issues
- D. Supporting universal healthcare expansion
- E. None of the above

Article for Skimming

Growth pangs: on industrial activity

At 4%, India's fiscal 2025 average of Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is at its lowest in the past four years, marking a slowdown in industrial activity. This could be attributed to uncertainties in the global economic outlook leading to tepid goods exports growth, lower than expected consumption demand growth, and a dip in private capital expenditure. While the monthly barometer of the nation's industrial output, the IIP, grew in March to 3% from February's 2.7%, this has been mainly on account of a rise in power production, which cyclically peaks in summer. Power output growth almost doubled between February (3.6%) and March (6.3%). But the fall in the IIP, from 5.9% (2023-24) to 4% (2024-25), warrants a closer look at the sectors that have lagged. While mining steeply declined from 7.5% (FY24) to 2.9% (FY25), manufacturing followed with 5.5% (FY24) and 4% (FY25) and electricity at 7% (FY24) and 5.1% (FY25).

What is more significant is the degrowth of -1.6% in fiscal 25 witnessed in consumer non-durables from 4.1% in the previous year. Contrasting this with the growth almost doubling in consumer durables from 3.6% (FY24) to 8% (FY25) likely indicates an uptick in urban private consumption, while lingering effects of high food inflation in the October to December quarter of the last fiscal continue to strain rural consumption. Sure, retail inflation was at its lowest in six years at 4.6% in FY25, aided by steep falls in vegetable prices in the last quarter, but this also heavily impacted farm incomes, further straining rural consumption. While a decrease in the RBI's bank lending rate to 6% in April from 6.5% in January has led to lower capex lending rates across banks, an uncertain economic and trade environment is unlikely to encourage the private sector to raise investment, without substantial domestic consumption impetus from the government.

The flat growth in goods exports in FY25 is another area that must concern policymakers as it indicates considerable strain on India's sprawling small businesses, the MSME sector, that contributes about 45.8% in exports. This sector has witnessed remarkable growth over the past five years, quadrupling in size from about ₹4 lakh crore in FY21 to ₹12 lakh crore in FY25. However, given strained trade relations with the country's largest trading partner, the United States, India must ensure that the Bilateral Trade Agreement that is under negotiation fortifies India's nearly 60 million MSMEs, the vast majority of which are classified as micro industries. Consequently, this will protect the over 250 million jobs that the sector provides.

Question 4:
What is the most likely reason for the slowdown in India's Index of Industrial Production (IIP) to 4% in FY25?

- A. Fall in electricity production and rising inflation

 B. Surge in consumer durables and MSME exports
- C. Tepid goods export growth, lower consumption demand, and dip in private capex
- D. Unavailability of accurate IIP data from March onwards
- E. None of the above

Question 5: What critical implication does the flat goods export growth in FY25 have for India's economy?

- A. Boosts microfinance institutions
- B. Strains the MSME sector that heavily depends on exports
- C Poduces dependency on countries for raw materials
- C. Reduces dependency on countries for raw materials
- D. Enhances India's trade surplus with Europe E. None of the above

Today's Descriptive Question Precis Writing:

Original Text:

In recent years, the world has witnessed an exponential rise in the use of digital technologies, marking a fundamental shift in how people communicate, work, and interact with the world around them. Devices such as smartphones, laptops, and tablets have become integral to daily life, allowing individuals to stay connected, access information, and carry out tasks with unprecedented ease. Social media platforms, in particular, have revolutionized how people share information, form relationships, and express opinions. The proliferation of these technologies has undeniably brought numerous benefits, including greater convenience, new avenues for business growth, and enhanced educational opportunities for students and professionals alike. However, the rapid rise of digital technologies has also brought with it a series of challenges and concerns.

The constant connection to devices and social media has raised alarms about its impact on mental health, particularly regarding issues like addiction, anxiety, and the erosion of privacy. Studies have shown that excessive screen time can disrupt sleep patterns, contribute to feelings of isolation, and negatively affect attention spans. Furthermore, the rapid pace of technological advancements has led to a growing digital divide. While many individuals enjoy the benefits of digital innovation, there remains a significant portion of the global population that lacks access to the necessary resources, skills, or infrastructure to take advantage of these technologies. The digital divide is particularly evident in developing countries, where access to reliable internet and modern devices is often limited. This disparity has led to concerns about widening inequality, as those who are unable to engage with the digital world are increasingly left behind in terms of education, employment opportunities, and access to essential services. In light of these issues, there has been a growing call for governments, businesses, and educational institutions to invest in digital literacy programs. By improving access to digital tools and education, it is hoped that more people can fully participate in the digital revolution and bridge the gap between those who have access to technology and those who do not.

Precis: The rise of digital technologies, including smartphones, laptops, and social media platforms, has fundamentally transformed how people communicate, work, and access information. These advancements have brought benefits such as increased convenience, business opportunities, and enhanced education. However, concerns about mental health, such as addiction and privacy issues, have emerged due to constant device usage. Additionally, the rapid technological development has created a digital divide, especially in developing countries where access to technology is limited. This disparity has raised issues of inequality in education, employment, and access to services. To address this, there are calls for governments and businesses to invest in digital literacy programs to ensure broader participation in the digital age.

You have a suggestion to improve workflow in your department.
 Write a formal email to your manager proposing the idea.

To:@gmail.com

Subject: Suggestion for Enhancing Department Workflow

Dear [Manager's Name],

I hope you're doing well. I wanted to share a suggestion that could help improve our department's workflow and boost overall efficiency. Currently, we manage tasks and project updates through multiple email threads, which can sometimes lead to missed information or redundant efforts. To address this, I propose implementing a centralized task management tool such as Asana or Trello. This would allow us to assign tasks clearly, track progress in real-time, and maintain better communication across the team. I believe this change could streamline our processes, reduce follow-ups, and enhance collaboration.

tool could be integrated into our current system. Looking forward to your thoughts on this.

I would be happy to discuss this further or demonstrate how the

Best regards,
[Your Full Name]
[Your Job Title]

Match the column

- 1. A hard nut to crack A. doing something late is better than not doing it at all
- 2. Better late than never B. eat very little
- 3. Draw a longbow C. to become confident and independent in a new situation
- 4. Eat like a bird D. to overstate something
- 5. Find your feet E. a problem that is very difficult to solve

Answer:

1-e 2-a 3-d 4-b 5-c

Vocabulary

- 1. Debacle:
- 2. Galvanised:
- 3. Precarious:
- 4. Plummet:
- 5. Relentless:
- 6. Tepid:
- 7. Impetus:
- 8. Lingering:
- 9. Sprawling:
- 10. Flamboyantly:

Rc ans

1.

Ans: B

Explanation:

"Mark Carney... distanced himself from Mr. Trudeau's legacy and reframed the election as an opportunity to rebuild Canada's economy... Donald Trump's rhetoric... galvanised Canadian nationalism... Carney presented himself as the best candidate equipped to stand up to Trump."

Incorrect options:

A is not mentioned at all in the passage.

C is incorrect: No pre-election coalition is mentioned.

D is also not conveyed from the passage.

Ano:

Ans: D

Explanation:

"His record as a successful central banker who led Canada through the 2008-09 recession and the U.K. through... Brexit also helped his cause."

Incorrect options:

A is incorrect: he was not in a policy-making role during the campaign.

B and **C** are not mentioned.

3.

Ans: C

Explanation:

"When Mr. Poilievre talked about a crackdown on fentanyl, opposed tax hikes and threatened to withhold federal funding for universities, non-conservative voters saw these as Trump-style rhetoric, and gravitated towards the Liberal Party."

A, B, and **D** are not mentioned anywhere in the passage.

4.

Ans: C

Explanation:

As per the passage:

"This could be attributed to uncertainties in the global economic outlook leading to tepid goods exports growth, lower than expected consumption demand growth, and a dip in private capital expenditure."

Incorrect options:

A is incorrect because electricity output increased in March and the passage notes a fall in inflation, not a rise.

B is wrong: while consumer durables grew, MSME exports saw flat growth, not a surge.

D is incorrect: data is available and referenced for March.

Ans: B

5.

Explanation:

"Flat growth in goods exports... indicates considerable strain on India's sprawling small businesses, the MSME sector, that contributes about 45.8% in exports."

Incorrect options:

A is not referenced at all.

C and **D** are irrelevant to the MSME and export discussion in this passage.

Parajumble Answer:

The correct order of the given sentences in the paragraph is QTSPR. Q begins the paragraph by introducing the main topic of discussion—how Ola is currently facing challenges. T follows, providing details about when Ola was launched and highlighting its initial success. SP is a mandatory pair and comes next, with S stating the company's valuation and its growth, which has been overshadowed by several controversies, particularly those involving its electric vehicles (continued by P). Finally, R concludes the paragraph by explaining how the controversies related to Ola's electric vehicles (mentioned in P) have impacted its valuation, reducing it by 70 percent.



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