

The Hindu EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

26th December 2024

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

VOCABULARY

1. Stratified (विभाजित)

Meaning: Divided into levels or layers, often socially or hierarchically.

Synonyms: Layered, tiered, hierarchical

Antonyms: Equal, unified, homogeneous

Example: Relief efforts in India often reflect its stratified societal structure.

2. Perfunctory (ऊपरी मन से)

Meaning: Carried out with minimal effort or reflection; superficial.

Synonyms: Cursory, mechanical, indifferent, negligent

Antonyms: Thorough, meticulous, diligent, attentive

Example: The perfunctory relief efforts in some regions left many affected people dissatisfied.

VOCABULARY

3. Inundation (जलप्रलय)

Meaning: An overwhelming abundance of things or flooding of water.

Synonyms: Flood, deluge, overflow, surge

Antonyms: Drought, scarcity, deficiency

Example: The tsunami caused an inundation that submerged entire villages.

4. Ostensible (प्रकट)

Meaning: Appearing to be true but not necessarily so.

Synonyms: Apparent, superficial, seeming, outward

Antonyms: Genuine, real, actual, true

Example: The ostensible purpose of privatising beaches was tourism development, but it displaced communities.

VOCABULARY

5. Deleterious (हानिकारक)

Meaning: Causing harm or damage.

Synonyms: Harmful, detrimental, injurious, adverse

Antonyms: Beneficial, advantageous, helpful, salutary

Example: Shrimp farming has had deleterious effects on coastal ecosystems.

6. Efficacy (प्रभावशीलता)

Meaning: The ability to produce the desired result.

Synonyms: Effectiveness, efficiency, success, potency

Antonyms: Ineffectiveness, inefficacy, failure, ineptness

Example: The efficacy of disaster response teams was evident in their quick action.

VOCABULARY

7. Palliative (आराम देने वाला)

Meaning: Relieving pain or alleviating a problem without addressing the root cause.

Synonyms: Soothing, alleviating, mitigating, temporary relief

Antonyms: Curative, exacerbating, intensifying

Example: Constructing temporary shelters provided a palliative solution to the housing crisis post-tsunami.

8. Impunity (दंड से छूट)

Meaning: Exemption from punishment or harm.

Synonyms: Immunity, exemption, protection, indemnity

Antonyms: Accountability, liability, penalty, culpability

Example: The unchecked destruction of mangroves continued with impunity despite environmental laws.

VOCABULARY

9. Recalcitrant (अवज्ञाकारी)

Meaning: Stubbornly resistant to authority or control.

Synonyms: Defiant, uncooperative, rebellious, obstinate

Antonyms: Compliant, obedient, submissive, cooperative

Example: Recalcitrant attitudes towards environmental laws have hampered conservation efforts.

10. Precarious (अनिश्चित)

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

Synonyms: Unstable, insecure, risky, uncertain

Antonyms: Stable, secure, safe, firm

Example: The precarious condition of mangroves highlights the urgency for conservation.

VOCABULARY

Phrasal Verbs:

1. Phase in

Meaning: To gradually choose to incorporate something new.

2. Bow out of

Meaning: To choose to withdraw from something.

3. Dip into

Meaning: To choose to use a small part of a resource or reserve.

4. Hold back from

Meaning: To hesitate or choose not to pursue something immediately.

VOCABULARY

Idioms & Phrases

1. Snug as a bug in a rug

Meaning - in an extremely comfortable position or situation.

2. Step up your game

Meaning - to enhance performance, quality, skills, or talents.

3. Lose your marbles

Meaning - to become insane

VOCABULARY

4. A bit obtuse

Meaning - A little dull and stupid

5. Blue in the face

Meaning - To be exhausted due to strain or anger

Article for Reading

**The lessons from a
spectrum of areas**

The 2004 tsunami affected a number of countries, making it a truly global disaster. There are some critical lessons we must consider. First, the importance of mangroves in providing natural protection to coastal areas — they serve as vital buffers against waves. Unfortunately, the significant destruction of mangroves in India and other countries — to promote shrimp farming, meet basic wood and fuel needs, and for tourism — has disrupted the natural ecosystem. In many cases, the construction of artificial barriers (brick and mortar walls), may actually increase people's susceptibility to the damaging effects of waves. Second, keeping common resources such as beaches in the public domain is crucial. In Thailand, the privatisation of coastlines during the 1980s and 1990s allowed private interests to develop hotels and leisure activities, displacing local communities. This led to significant changes in labour. Additionally, a large section of the population transitioned to informal sector jobs.

Thailand's economy became highly vulnerable to global fluctuations, and is a lesson for India. Third, the tsunami created winners and losers in the market. Rents, the price of land, goods, and services all rose, benefiting only asset owners and service providers. The disruption of local markets led to the replacement of local products with externally sourced goods, disrupting interdependent local economies. A number of people transitioned from traditional livelihoods to casual, low-paid labour. The push for mechanised fishing became particularly noticeable, displacing traditional artisanal fishing practices using catamarans. The degradation of natural resources intensified, leading to over-fishing, waste accumulation, loss of fish breeding areas, and further erosion of beaches and soil. Addressing these economic processes of production, consumption, and exchange — aggravated by privatisation and liberalisation — is a challenge. Unfortunately, no studies exist to measure these patterns.

Fourth, there are lessons to be learned about relief efforts and long-term rehabilitation. It is not surprising that the social structures that create and sustain discrimination, injustice, and exclusion in society continue doing so during and after disasters. In a highly stratified society such as India, relief and rehabilitation efforts can often reinforce and even exacerbate pre-existing inequalities, discrimination, and marginalisation. Evidence from tsunami-affected countries suggests that social divisions significantly affected access to relief and rehabilitation services. There was a notable tendency to overlook the needs of vulnerable groups, including labourers, Dalits, tribes, immigrants, ethnic minorities, widows, and single women, in the distribution of relief and rehabilitation unless some vocal groups advocated their cause.

Summary

The passage discusses critical lessons learned from the 2004 tsunami, emphasizing environmental, economic, and social issues. It highlights the importance of mangroves as natural buffers, the adverse effects of their destruction, and the drawbacks of artificial barriers. The privatization of coastal areas, particularly in Thailand, displaced communities and led to economic vulnerabilities. Market disruptions post-tsunami benefited asset owners while disadvantaging traditional livelihoods, leading to environmental degradation. The challenges of addressing production, consumption, and exchange processes exacerbated by privatization are underlined. Relief and rehabilitation efforts often reinforced existing societal inequalities, with vulnerable groups such as Dalits, tribes, and single women receiving inadequate attention.

The tone of the passage is analytical and cautionary, with a focus on critically examining the socio-economic and environmental consequences of disasters while urging better management and inclusivity in relief efforts.

Reading Comprehension

Based on the above passage, answer the following questions:

Question 1:

How did the privatization of coastlines in Thailand impact its economy, as per the passage?

- a) It boosted local employment opportunities in traditional sectors.**
- b) It led to the displacement of local communities and economic vulnerability.**
- c) It prevented global economic fluctuations from affecting the country.**
- d) It encouraged sustainable tourism practices along the coastlines.**
- e) None of the above**

Question 2:

What does the passage suggest about the distribution of relief and rehabilitation services post-tsunami?

- a) Social divisions played a significant role in determining access to aid.**
- b) Relief efforts were equally accessible to all affected groups.**
- c) Vulnerable groups received priority in the distribution of aid.**
- d) Relief efforts eradicated pre-existing inequalities in society.**
- e) None of the above**

Question 3:

Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a challenge in addressing economic processes post-tsunami?

- a) Over-fishing and its impact on natural resources.**
- b) Loss of fish breeding areas due to environmental degradation.**
- c) Mechanisation replacing traditional artisanal fishing practices.**
- d) Decreased interest in tourism development along coastlines.**
- e) None of the above**

Article for Skimming

**Nagapattinam's
journey of resilience,
lessons for the future**

Disasters have always served as harsh reminders of nature's overwhelming power and humanity's vulnerability. On December 26, 2004, the Indian Ocean tsunami delivered an unparalleled wave of destruction. Among the hardest-hit areas was Nagapattinam, Tamil Nadu, yet the disaster also marked a turning point, becoming a case study in how tragedy can inspire systemic reforms and lay the groundwork for more resilient societies. Two decades later, India has made substantial strides in disaster preparedness, response, mitigation. However, evolving risks, fuelled by urbanisation, climate change, and the growing complexity of disasters and increasing frequency of extreme weather events, require continuous innovation and vigilance. Revisiting Nagapattinam's experience offers valuable lessons for shaping future strategies. When the tsunami struck the Indian coast, Nagapattinam's 187.9-kilometre-long coastline, dotted with 73 habitations, bore the brunt. Early warning systems for a tsunami were non-existent in the Indian Ocean region, and infrastructure was ill-equipped to withstand such a calamity.

After overcoming the initial chaos, rescue operations were spearheaded by self-contained area-specific teams, led by experienced officers drawn from unaffected districts and supported by personnel from critical departments such as revenue, local bodies, health, police, public works, and fisheries. Further additional resources, including the Indian Army, Indian Navy, police and fire services were mobilised. Local volunteers also played a critical role. The quick and dignified disposal of bodies was prioritised to prevent disease outbreaks, with coastal areas disinfected using microbial inoculants and chemicals. Infrastructure restoration efforts focused on re-establishing electricity, water supply, and road connectivity. Over 13,000 temporary shelters were constructed across 50 locations to house displaced families, providing essential shelter and safety. Additionally, the government issued dynamic, field-based orders that went beyond standard permissible categories to address the diverse needs of all affected sectors.

The rehabilitation and recovery efforts provided a holistic and scalable model for disaster recovery by incorporating Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) measures applicable to various disasters. These efforts emphasised building resilient communities through the construction of over 55,000 multi-hazard-resistant homes, supported by integrated risk transfer via comprehensive insurance. Disaster-ready health-care facilities were established, and anganwadi centres, schools, and community halls were transformed into multi-hazard shelters. Livelihoods were revived and economic growth propelled by empowering coastal communities with strengthened infrastructure, including modern ports, fishing harbours, and improved agricultural practices. Alternative livelihoods were fostered by supporting women's self-help groups and improving market access, while educational facilities were upgraded to serve as disaster-safe environments. Enhanced mobility and safety were ensured through the rebuilding of roads, bridges, and critical escape routes.

Question 4:

How did the rehabilitation efforts in Nagapattinam contribute to Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)?

- a) By promoting traditional fishing practices over mechanized methods.**
- b) Through the construction of disaster-ready health-care facilities and multi-hazard shelters.**
- c) By reducing the population's dependency on coastal livelihoods.**
- d) Through the rapid establishment of temporary shelters for displaced families.**
- e) None of the above**

Question 5:

Which of the following was NOT mentioned as part of Nagapattinam's recovery efforts?

- a) Reviving livelihoods and empowering coastal communities.**
- b) Upgrading educational facilities to ensure disaster safety.**
- c) Enhancing connectivity through the rebuilding of roads and bridges.**
- d) Establishing a global warning system for tsunamis.**
- e) None of the above**

Today's Descriptive Question

- Write an essay of 200 words about highlighting the influence of Artificial Intelligence on Employment.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is significantly transforming the employment landscape, offering both opportunities and challenges. On one hand, AI enhances productivity and creates new job categories. By automating routine tasks, AI allows employees to focus on more complex and creative aspects of their work, leading to increased efficiency and innovation. For instance, AI-powered tools in industries like healthcare and finance streamline operations, reduce errors, and enhance decision-making processes. On the other hand, AI poses a risk of job displacement, particularly for roles involving repetitive tasks. Automation can replace jobs in manufacturing, customer service, and data entry, leading to concerns about unemployment and the need for workforce reskilling. Workers in affected industries must adapt by acquiring new skills that are in demand, such as programming, data analysis, and AI system management.

Moreover, AI is reshaping the job market by creating demand for new roles that did not exist before, such as AI specialists, data scientists, and machine learning engineers. These roles require advanced technical skills and knowledge, underscoring the importance of education and training in these fields.

In conclusion, while AI brings about significant improvements in productivity and innovation, it also necessitates a shift in the workforce towards higher-skilled jobs. Addressing the challenges posed by AI requires proactive measures in education, training, and policy-making to ensure that the workforce can thrive in an increasingly automated world.

- **Write a letter to the controller of District Transport Authority complaining against the auto rickshaw drivers for charging excess fare.**

[Your Name]

[Your Address]

[City, State, ZIP Code]

[Email Address]

[Phone Number]

[Date]

The Controller

District Transport Authority

[Authority Address]

[City, State, ZIP Code]

Subject: Complaint Regarding Excessive Fare Charging by Auto Rickshaw Drivers

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to bring to your attention the issue of auto rickshaw drivers in our area charging excessive fares. Over the past few weeks, I, along with several other residents, have experienced instances where drivers demand fares significantly higher than the metered rates. This practice is causing undue financial strain and inconvenience to commuters, and it is essential that it be addressed promptly. I kindly request that your office take appropriate measures to ensure that auto rickshaw drivers adhere to the regulated fare structure.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Your prompt action will be greatly appreciated by the community.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Contact Information]

Match the column

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1. Snug as a bug in a rug | A. A little dull and stupid |
| 2. Step up your game | B. To enhance performance |
| 3. Lose your marbles | C. In comfortable position |
| 4. A bit obtuse | D. To be exhausted due to strain or anger |
| 5. Blue in the face | E. To become insane |

Answer:

1-c

2-b

3-e

4-a

5-d

Vocabulary

1. Stratified:
2. Perfunctory:
3. Inundation:
4. Ostensible:
5. Deleterious:
6. Efficacy:
7. Palliative:
8. Impunity:
9. Recalcitrant:
10. Precarious:

Rc ans

1.

Answer: b) It led to the displacement of local communities and economic vulnerability.

Explanation:

Reference: "Privatisation of coastlines... allowed private interests to develop hotels... displacing local communities... Thailand's economy became highly vulnerable to global fluctuations."

The passage explains that privatization displaced communities and shifted a significant portion of the population to informal sector jobs, making the economy more vulnerable to global fluctuations.

- a) Incorrect: Employment in traditional sectors decreased.
- c) Incorrect: Economic vulnerability to global fluctuations increased.
- d) Incorrect: Sustainable practices are not mentioned.

2.

Answer: a) Social divisions played a significant role in determining access to aid.

Explanation:

Reference: “Social divisions significantly affected access to relief and rehabilitation services... the needs of vulnerable groups... were overlooked unless some vocal groups advocated their cause.”

The passage notes that relief and rehabilitation often reinforced pre-existing inequalities, with vulnerable groups being overlooked unless vocal advocacy groups supported them.

- b) Incorrect: Access was unequal due to social divisions.
- c) Incorrect: Vulnerable groups were often overlooked, not prioritized.
- d) Incorrect: Efforts exacerbated inequalities instead of eradicating them.

3.

Answer: d) Decreased interest in tourism development along coastlines.

Explanation:

Reference: "The degradation of natural resources intensified, leading to over-fishing, waste accumulation... disrupting interdependent local economies."

The passage does not mention decreased interest in tourism; rather, it discusses tourism as a contributing factor to the destruction of mangroves and displacement of local communities.

a) Mentioned: Over-fishing is cited as a result of mechanisation.

b) Mentioned: Loss of fish breeding areas is discussed.

c) Mentioned: Mechanised fishing displaced traditional methods.

4.

Answer: b) Through the construction of disaster-ready health-care facilities and multi-hazard shelters.

Explanation:

Reference: “Disaster-ready health-care facilities were established, and... community halls were transformed into multi-hazard shelters.”

The rehabilitation efforts included creating multi-hazard-resistant homes, disaster-ready health-care facilities, and transforming schools and community halls into multi-hazard shelters.

a) Incorrect: Mechanized fishing is not mentioned in this context.

c) Incorrect: Coastal livelihoods were empowered rather than reduced.

d) Incorrect: Temporary shelters were a short-term measure, not part of long-term DRR.

5.

Answer: d) Establishing a global warning system for tsunamis.

Explanation:

Reference: “Early warning systems for a tsunami were non-existent in the Indian Ocean region.”

While the passage mentions the lack of an early warning system during the tsunami, it does not discuss the establishment of a global system as part of Nagapattinam’s recovery efforts.

a) Mentioned: Livelihood revival and community empowerment are highlighted.

b) Mentioned: Educational facilities were upgraded to serve as disaster-safe environments.

c) Mentioned: Rebuilding roads and bridges is part of the recovery efforts.

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