

The Hindu EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

25th February 2025

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

1. Reunification (पुनः एकीकरण)

- **Meaning:** The process of bringing together parts of a country, organization, or group that were previously separated.
- **Synonyms:** Restoration, integration, merging
- **Antonyms:** Separation, division, disintegration
- **Example:** The reunification of Germany in 1990 marked a historic moment in European politics.

2. Notoriety (कुख्याति)

- **Meaning:** The state of being famous or well-known for something bad.
- **Synonyms:** Infamy, disrepute, dishonor
- **Antonyms:** Fame, honor, reputation
- **Example:** The company gained notoriety for violating safety regulations in its drug production.

3. Irrefutable (अखंडनीय)

- **Meaning:** Impossible to deny or disprove.
- **Synonyms:** Undeniable, indisputable, unquestionable
- **Antonyms:** Questionable, disputable, uncertain
- **Example:** The video evidence presented in the case was irrefutable proof of the company's illegal activities.

4. Clinching (निर्णायक)

- **Meaning:** Decisively settling an argument or proving a point.
- **Synonyms:** Conclusive, definitive, final
- **Antonyms:** Inconclusive, uncertain, debatable
- **Example:** The forensic report provided clinching evidence of the suspect's involvement in the crime.

5. Surging (तेजी से बढ़ता हुआ)

- **Meaning:** Moving quickly and forcefully in a particular direction.
- **Synonyms:** Soaring, rising, escalating
- **Antonyms:** Declining, falling, decreasing
- **Example:** The demand for electric vehicles is surging due to environmental concerns.

6. Deterrent (निवारक)

- **Meaning:** Something that discourages or prevents a certain action.
- **Synonyms:** Hindrance, obstacle, prevention
- **Antonyms:** Encouragement, incentive, motivation
- **Example:** Strict laws act as a deterrent against reckless driving.

7. Illicit (गैरक़ानूनी)

- **Meaning:** Forbidden by law, rules, or customs.
- **Synonyms:** Illegal, unlawful, prohibited
- **Antonyms:** Legal, lawful, permitted
- **Example:** The police uncovered an illicit drug trade operating in the city.

8. Imploded (अंदर की ओर गिर जाना)

- **Meaning:** To collapse inward violently.
- **Synonyms:** Collapsed, crumbled, disintegrated
- **Antonyms:** Expanded, strengthened, flourished
- **Example:** The party imploded due to internal conflicts and leadership failures.

9. Grappling (संघर्ष कर रहा है)

- **Meaning:** Struggling to deal with or overcome a difficult problem.
- **Synonyms:** Struggling, wrestling, tackling
- **Antonyms:** Resolving, overcoming, mastering
- **Example:** The government is grappling with high unemployment and economic instability.

10. Permeate (फैलाना)

- **Meaning:** To spread throughout something; to pass through or penetrate.
- **Synonyms:** Pervade, saturate, infiltrate
- **Antonyms:** Contain, restrict, block
- **Example:** The aroma of freshly baked bread permeated the entire house.

VOCABULARY

One-word substitute:

1. Lasting for a very short time:

Ephemeral

2. To clear from blame or wrongdoing:

Exonerate

3. Sociable and fond of company:

Gregarious

4. Impossible to remove, forget, or erase:

Indelible

VOCABULARY

Phrasal Verbs:

1. Big up

Meaning – To praise or promote enthusiastically

2. Black out

Meaning – To lose consciousness or memory temporarily

3. Blare out

Meaning – To produce a loud, harsh sound

4. Bliss out

Meaning – To become extremely happy or relaxed

VOCABULARY

Idioms & Phrases

1. Make ends meet

Meaning – To manage finances so that one can cover expenses

2. Making a mountain out of a molehill

Meaning – Exaggerating a small problem into a big one

3. Ninety (90) to nothing

Meaning – Moving very fast or with great energy

VOCABULARY

4. Not worth a hill of beans

Meaning – Having very little value or importance

5. Off the top of my head

Meaning – Saying something without much thought or preparation

Article for Reading

Not business as usual: On upholding India's reputation for quality drugs

The pharmacy of the global South is facing a crisis of reputation. After cough syrups made by pharmaceutical companies based in India, which had unacceptable amounts of diethylene glycol and/or ethylene glycol, killed 66 children in the Gambia, 65 children in Uzbekistan in 2022, and 12 children in Cameroon in 2023, and India-made eye drops contaminated by drug-resistant bacteria killed three persons and blinded eight in the U.S., again in 2023, the spotlight is back on Indian drug companies for all the wrong reasons. A BBC Eye investigation has brought to light the criminal actions of Aveo Pharmaceuticals, a Maharashtra-based company, which was manufacturing and exporting unapproved, highly addictive opioid drug combinations to West Africa. The “medicines” contain tapentadol, a powerful opioid, and carisoprodol, a highly addictive muscle relaxant. While the Indian drug regulator has approved tapentadol and carisoprodol as standalone drugs, the combination has no clearance.

Even if the company's claim that the drug combination has been approved by the State drug authority turns out to be correct, it is still illegal as only the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) can approve any novel fixed dose combination (FDC) drugs for safety and efficacy. It is only after this approval that State drug authorities can issue a manufacturing licence. The Health Ministry routinely banning FDCs is only because the State drug authorities ignore this provision in the law with impunity. India questioned and denied the World Health Organization's report about the lethal cough syrup sent to Gambia, but in the latest case, CDSCO and the State regulatory authority swung into action even in the absence of any complaint by West African countries. The reason: the BBC investigation's irrefutable video evidence that the company was in the "business" of manufacturing and exporting the dangerous combination drug despite knowing the harmful effects.

The seizure of nearly 13 million “medicines” and 26 batches of active pharmaceutical ingredients of tapentadol and carisoprodol are clinching evidence for taking criminal action against the company. While the moves by the authorities — to issue a ‘stop activity’ order, withdraw the manufacturing licence and permission to export the drugs by any company, and a show cause notice — inspire some confidence, only stringent punishment can serve as a deterrent. Indian pharmaceutical companies are known in the global South for their high-quality generic drugs. It is for the drug regulator to ensure that India continues to be famous for this and not gain notoriety for producing and exporting deadly synthetic opioids as drugs. Manufacturing synthetic opioid drugs cannot be any pharmaceutical company’s “business”.

Summary

The article highlights a crisis in the reputation of Indian pharmaceutical companies due to recent scandals involving unsafe drugs. It recounts multiple incidents where Indian-made medicines, including cough syrups and eye drops, led to fatalities and severe health issues in different countries. A BBC investigation exposed Aveo Pharmaceuticals, a Maharashtra-based company, for illegally manufacturing and exporting unapproved opioid drug combinations to West Africa. The article criticizes the failure of regulatory authorities, particularly State drug authorities, which often bypass legal approval processes. Although Indian regulators took action against Aveo Pharmaceuticals following the BBC's findings, the article stresses that only strict punishments can prevent such violations in the future. It calls for stronger oversight to ensure that India remains known for high-quality generic medicines rather than for producing harmful drugs.

Tone:

The tone is critical, urgent, and cautionary. The article strongly condemns regulatory failures and illegal pharmaceutical practices while emphasizing the need for stricter enforcement to protect public health and India's reputation.

Reading Comprehension

Based on the above passage, answer the following questions:

Question 1:

What action was taken against Aveo Pharmaceuticals after the BBC investigation?

- A) The company's top executives were immediately arrested and prosecuted.**
- B) The CDSCO banned all exports of Indian pharmaceuticals.**
- C) Authorities issued a 'stop activity' order and withdrew the company's manufacturing and export license.**
- D) The company was fined heavily but allowed to continue operations.**
- E) None of the above**

Question 2:

What is a major weakness in India's drug regulatory system as highlighted in the passage?

- A) The CDSCO lacks authority to approve any new drug formulations.**
- B) State drug authorities frequently approve fixed-dose combination (FDC) drugs without CDSCO clearance.**
- C) India lacks stringent laws against illegal drug manufacturing.**
- D) The government does not regulate exports of pharmaceutical products.**
- E) None of the above**

Question 3:

Why is the drug combination of tapentadol and carisoprodol illegal in India?

- A) It was found to be ineffective in clinical trials.**
- B) It was banned by the World Health Organization (WHO).**
- C) It has been prohibited under international drug control treaties.**
- D) It has not been approved by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO).**
- E) None of the above**

Article for Skimming

**New direction: On the
German poll results,
Russia relations**

When Germans went to vote on Sunday (February 23, 2025), in one of the most consequential elections in the country's post-reunification history, there was little doubt about the outcome. The Olaf Scholz-led three-party coalition had collapsed months earlier and his centrist Social Democratic Party (SPD) was hugely unpopular. Germany, once hailed as a model country, was in its third year of economic contraction and the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD), with neo-Nazi roots, was surging ahead with its anti-establishment and anti-immigrant campaign. In the results, the conservative Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and its Bavarian sister party, Christian Social Union, led by Friedrich Merz, emerged as the largest bloc, with 28.5% votes, while the AfD doubled its vote share to 20.8%. The Social Democrats got a 16.1% share, one of its worst performances since the 19th century, while the Greens won 11.6%.

The left-wing Die Linke saw rising popularity, with 8.8% of the vote. Mr. Merz had asked voters for a strong mandate to fix Germany's problems. While the CDU's performance is weaker than expected, its strong lead puts it on the path toward power. He will now kick off a complicated process of coalition talks. Mr. Merz has already ruled out any alliance with the AfD, which would be allocated 152 seats. In the 630-member Bundestag, a coalition needs at least 316 seats to form a government. So, it is likely that Mr. Merz, whose bloc has 208 seats, would form a two-party coalition government with the Social Democrats, with its 120 seats. But government formation would be the least of his challenges. He must reboot a contracting economy, which has barely grown since the pre-COVID years, tackle the immigration problem, which was exploited by the far-right, and formulate foreign policy that addresses both the Ukraine war and Europe's security challenges.

As Germany joined western allies in imposing sanctions on Russia, it effectively lost access to cheap Russian gas. The country is today grappling with a deep recession and deindustrialisation. And as the crisis deepened, the German elites' bid to weaken the AfD through a political 'firewall' ceased working. But Mr. Merz has the advantage of leading a new government on a new mandate. He should look at the U.S. reset with Russia to begin afresh rather than as an impediment to furthering the old policies that have backfired. His focus should be on bringing the Ukraine war to a quick and just end and rebuilding the economy. He should also drive a new, hard bargain with Russia for security and stability in Europe. Only a peaceful Europe can guarantee Germany's continued rise as the continent's economic and political engine.

Question 4:

Which of the following is NOT listed as a major challenge for Friedrich Merz after the election?

- A) Reviving Germany's struggling economy.**
- B) Managing the immigration crisis.**
- C) Strengthening ties with China for economic recovery.**
- D) Addressing security issues related to the Ukraine war.**
- E) None of the above**

Question 5:

Why is Germany currently struggling with recession and deindustrialisation?

- A) A global supply chain crisis caused by China's economic policies.**
- B) The European Union's decision to impose strict monetary policies.**
- C) The collapse of the euro currency against the U.S. dollar.**
- D) The loss of access to cheap Russian gas due to sanctions.**
- E) None of the above**

Today's Descriptive Question

Precis Writing:

Original Text:

Poverty remains one of the most pressing socio-economic challenges in India, affecting millions of people despite significant economic progress. It refers to a condition where individuals lack the necessary resources to meet their basic needs, including food, shelter, healthcare, and education. India, with its large and diverse population, faces a complex mix of rural and urban poverty, influenced by factors such as unemployment, inadequate access to education, and socio-economic inequalities. The causes of poverty in India are multifaceted. Rapid population growth, limited job opportunities, and lack of proper education hinder economic mobility. The rural population, primarily dependent on agriculture, suffers from low productivity, lack of modern technology, and climate-related uncertainties, which exacerbate poverty levels. In urban areas, unorganized labor, underemployment, and rising living costs contribute to economic hardships. Historical factors such as colonial exploitation, social inequalities, and caste-based discrimination have also played a role in perpetuating poverty.

The Indian government has implemented several poverty alleviation programs, such as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), which provides wage employment, and the Public Distribution System (PDS), which ensures subsidized food for the poor. Initiatives like Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) and Aatmanirbhar Bharat aim to promote financial inclusion and self-reliance. Furthermore, skill development programs and rural development schemes have been introduced to enhance employment opportunities. While these measures have led to a decline in poverty rates, challenges persist, including corruption, inefficient policy implementation, and income disparity. The COVID-19 pandemic further exposed vulnerabilities, pushing millions back into poverty. A comprehensive approach focusing on education, healthcare, employment generation, and social welfare is necessary for sustainable poverty reduction. Ensuring inclusive growth, technological advancements in agriculture and industry, and equitable wealth distribution can help India overcome poverty and achieve long-term economic stability.

Precis:

Poverty in India remains a major challenge, affecting millions due to unemployment, lack of education, and economic disparities. Rural poverty is driven by low agricultural productivity, while urban poverty results from underemployment and high living costs. Historical factors have further deepened economic inequality.

The government has launched various programs like MGNREGA, PDS, and PMJDY to provide employment, subsidized food, and financial inclusion. While these efforts have reduced poverty, challenges such as policy inefficiencies and economic disparity persist. A comprehensive strategy focusing on education, employment, and inclusive growth is crucial to achieving sustainable poverty eradication.

- **Your company is relocating to a new office. Write an email informing all employees about the change in address, the moving date, and any necessary instructions.**

To:@gmail.com

Subject: Important: Office Relocation Announcement

Dear Team,

We are excited to inform you that our company is relocating to a new office! This move marks a significant milestone for us, and we look forward to working in a more spacious and modern environment.

**New Office Address:
[New Office Address]**

**Moving Date:
[Moving Date]**

To ensure a smooth transition, please take note of the following instructions:

Last Working Day at Current Office: [Last Working Day]

Packing Guidelines: [Brief packing instructions if applicable]

IT & Equipment Setup: [Any relevant IT setup details]

First Working Day at New Office: [First Working Day at New Location]

Should you have any questions or require assistance, please reach out to [Contact Person/Department]. We appreciate your cooperation and look forward to welcoming you to our new office!

Best regards,

[Your Name]

[Your Position]

[Company Name]

Match the column

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Make ends meet | A. Moving very fast or with great energy |
| 2. Making a mountain out of a molehill | B. Having very little value or importance |
| 3. Ninety (90) to nothing | C. To manage finances so that one can cover expenses |
| 4. Not worth a hill of beans | D. Saying something without much thought |
| 5. Off the top of my head | E. Exaggerating a small problem into a big one |

Answer:

1-c

2-e

3-a

4-b

5-d

Vocabulary

1. Reunification:
2. Notoriety:
3. Irrefutable:
4. Clinching:
5. Surging:
6. Deterrent:
7. Illicit:
8. Imploded:
9. Grappling:
10. Permeate:

1.

Ans: C

Explanation:

Reference from the Passage:

"The moves by the authorities — to issue a 'stop activity' order, withdraw the manufacturing licence and permission to export the drugs by any company, and a show cause notice — inspire some confidence."

The passage mentions that after the BBC investigation provided irrefutable video evidence, Indian authorities seized 13 million medicines, withdrew the company's license, issued a stop order, and took legal action.

Why Other Options Are Incorrect:

A) The company's top executives were immediately arrested and prosecuted – The passage does not state any immediate arrests.

B) The CDSCO banned all exports of Indian pharmaceuticals – The ban applied only to this specific drug combination and company, not all pharmaceutical exports.

D) The company was fined heavily but allowed to continue operations – The passage indicates that production and exports were stopped rather than allowing continued operations.

2.

Ans: B

Explanation:

Reference from the Passage:

"The Health Ministry routinely banning FDCs is only because the State drug authorities ignore this provision in the law with impunity."

The passage criticizes State drug authorities for approving FDC drugs without CDSCO clearance, which is illegal and leads to unregulated drug production.

Why Other Options Are Incorrect:

A) The CDSCO lacks authority to approve any new drug formulations – The passage states the CDSCO does have this authority, but State drug authorities bypass it.

C) India lacks stringent laws against illegal drug manufacturing – The problem lies in regulatory enforcement, not the absence of laws.

D) The government does not regulate exports of pharmaceutical products – The passage suggests regulations exist but are sometimes ignored.

3.

Ans: D

Explanation:

Reference from the Passage:

"Even if the company's claim that the drug combination has been approved by the State drug authority turns out to be correct, it is still illegal as only the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) can approve any novel fixed dose combination (FDC) drugs for safety and efficacy."

The passage states that while tapentadol and carisoprodol are approved as standalone drugs, their combination has no clearance from the CDSCO, making it illegal.

Why Other Options Are Incorrect:

A) It was found to be ineffective in clinical trials – The passage does not mention clinical trials as the reason for illegality.

B) It was banned by the World Health Organization (WHO) – The passage does not mention a WHO ban on this drug combination.

C) It has been prohibited under international drug control treaties – The passage does not indicate international treaties banning the combination.

4.

Ans: C

Explanation:

Reference from the Passage:

"He must reboot a contracting economy... tackle the immigration problem... and formulate foreign policy that addresses both the Ukraine war and Europe's security challenges."

The passage discusses economic revival, immigration, the Ukraine war, and relations with Russia as major challenges for Friedrich Merz but does not mention China as a focus.

Why Other Options Are Incorrect:

A) Reviving Germany's struggling economy – The passage states that Germany is in a deep recession and deindustrialisation.

B) Managing the immigration crisis – The passage states that the far-right AfD capitalized on anti-immigrant sentiments, making this a key issue.

D) Addressing security issues related to the Ukraine war – The passage mentions that Merz must focus on Ukraine and European security.

5.

Ans: D

Explanation:

Reference from the Passage:

"As Germany joined western allies in imposing sanctions on Russia, it effectively lost access to cheap Russian gas. The country is today grappling with a deep recession and deindustrialisation."

The passage states that Germany lost access to cheap Russian gas due to its decision to impose sanctions on Russia, leading to economic struggles.

Why Other Options Are Incorrect:

A) A global supply chain crisis caused by China's economic policies – The passage does not mention China as a factor in Germany's recession.

B) The European Union's decision to impose strict monetary policies – The passage does not discuss EU monetary policies as a reason.

C) The collapse of the euro currency against the U.S. dollar – The passage does not mention currency devaluation as a factor.



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