The Hindu
EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

27th February 2025

1. Contours (रूपरेखा)

➔ **Meaning: The outline or shape of something.**

➔ **Synonyms: Outline, shape, form, structure**

➔ **Example: The contours of the mountain became visible as the mist cleared.**

2. Curbed (नियंत्रण में रखना)

➔ **Meaning: To control or limit something that is undesirable.**

➔ **Synonyms: Restrained, controlled, suppressed**

➔ **Antonyms: Encouraged, escalated, promoted**

➔ **Example: The government has taken measures to curb air pollution in urban areas.**

3. Crumbling (टूटना या गिरना)

➜ **Meaning: Breaking into small fragments or falling apart.**

➜ **Synonyms: Collapsing, disintegrating, deteriorating**

➜ **Antonyms: Strengthening, reinforcing, stabilizing**

➜ **Example: The old building is crumbling due to years of neglect.**

4. Stranded (फँसा हुआ)

➔ **Meaning: Left without the means to move from somewhere.**

➔ **Synonyms: Trapped, marooned, stuck**

➔ **Antonyms: Rescued, liberated, free**

➔ **Example: The storm left many travellers stranded at the airport.**

5. Breakthrough (सफलता)

➔ **Meaning: A significant development or discovery that helps solve a problem.**

➔ **Synonyms: Achievement, advancement, progress**

➔ **Antonyms: Setback, failure, stagnation**

➔ **Example: The scientist's breakthrough in cancer research gave hope to many patients.**

6. Catastrophic (विनाशकारी)

➔ **Meaning: Involving or causing sudden great damage or suffering.**

➔ **Synonyms: Disastrous, devastating, ruinous**

➔ **Antonyms: Beneficial, fortunate, favorable**

➔ **Example: The earthquake had a catastrophic impact on the town's infrastructure.**

7. Rupture (फटना)

➜ **Meaning: A break or burst suddenly.**

➜ **Synonyms: Breakage, fracture, split**

➜ **Antonyms: Connection, union, closure**

➜ **Example: The pipeline rupture led to an oil spill in the ocean.**

8. Tardy (ढीला/सुस्त)

➔ **Meaning: Slow in movement, action, or response.**

➔ **Synonyms: Delayed, sluggish, unpunctual**

➔ **Antonyms: Prompt, quick, timely**

➔ **Example: The teacher warned the student for his tardy arrival in class.**

9. Indispensable (अत्यावश्यक)

➔ **Meaning: Absolutely necessary or essential.**

➔ **Synonyms: Essential, crucial, vital**

➔ **Antonyms: Unnecessary, optional, dispensable**

➔ **Example: Water is indispensable for survival.**

10. Mitigate (कम करना)

➔ **Meaning: To make less severe or painful.**

➔ **Synonyms: Reduce, alleviate, lessen**

➔ **Antonyms: Intensify, worsen, aggravate**

➔ **Example: The new policies aim to mitigate the effects of climate change.**

One-word substitute:

1. Safe to drink:
Potable

2. Special clothing, ornaments, or symbols associated with royalty or official ceremonies:
Regalia

3. A job or position requiring little or no work but providing financial benefits:
Sinecure

4. An object kept as a reminder of a place, person, or event:
Souvenir

Phrasal Verbs:

1. Call for
Meaning – To demand or require something

2. Call forth
Meaning – To bring into existence or evoke a reaction

3. Call in
Meaning – To summon or request someone's presence or help

4. Call off
Meaning – To cancel or stop something

Idioms & Phrases

1. On the ball
Meaning – Alert, aware, and quick to respond

2. On the tip of my tongue
Meaning – Almost remembered but not quite recalled

3. Once in a blue moon
Meaning – Very rarely

4. A pretty penny

Meaning – A large amount of money

5. Take a rain check

Meaning – To postpone or decline an offer with the intention of accepting later

Article for Reading

AI has an environmental problem

AI has become an indispensable part of our lives, transforming how we work, live, and do business. Broadly defined, AI encompasses technologies that simulate human thinking and decision-making. While basic forms of AI have existed since the 1950s, the field has advanced rapidly in recent years, driven by improvements in computing power and the exponential surge in data availability. With the global AI market valued at $200 billion and projected to contribute up to $15.7 trillion to the global economy by 2030, AI adoption and its recognition as a driver of economic value have reached unprecedented levels. In the U.S., the announcement of the Stargate Project, involving more than $500 billion in AI infrastructure investments over four years, is testament to this. In India, Reliance Industries is planning to build the world's largest data centre in Jamnagar, in partnership with Nvidia. India has also announced plans to build its own LLM (large language model) to compete with DeepSeek and ChatGPT.

However, as governments race to tap AI's economic potential, it is crucial to acknowledge that its rapid rise brings not only opportunities but also risks, particularly environmental costs. The environmental impact of AI arises across several stages of its value chain, including energy consumption from infrastructure, computing hardware production, cloud data centre operations, AI model training, inferencing, validation, and related processes. In terms of hardware, data centres, the backbone of AI operations, contribute 1% of global greenhouse gas emissions, according to the International Energy Agency (IEA). This figure is expected to rise significantly as electricity demand from data centres is projected to double by 2026. Generative AI models like ChatGPT, which rely on sophisticated machine learning (ML) techniques, require 10–100 times more computing power than earlier versions, further driving demand for graphic processing units and worsening the environmental footprint.

Moreover, the rapid expansion of data centres is also fuelling a growing e-waste crisis. AI's software life cycle emissions arise from processes like data collection, model development, training, validation, maintenance and retirement, and are equally concerning. Training advanced AI models, such as GPT-3, can emit up to 552 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent — comparable to the annual emissions of dozens of cars. To mitigate these environmental risks, governments and the private sector must proactively work towards embedding sustainability into AI ecosystem design. Global conversations on this issue have been gaining momentum. At COP29, the International Telecommunication Union emphasised the urgent need for greener AI practices. Such commitments demand that businesses also align their processes with sustainability targets. Over 190 countries have adopted non-binding ethical AI recommendations addressing the environment, and regions such as the European Union and the U.S. have introduced laws to curb AI's environmental impact.

<u>Summary</u>

The passage discusses the rapid advancement and widespread adoption of artificial intelligence (AI), highlighting its economic significance and the substantial investments made by various countries, including the U.S. and India. However, alongside its benefits, AI also poses significant environmental challenges. The passage elaborates on the high energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions associated with AI infrastructure, particularly data centers, which are projected to double their electricity demand by 2026. It also points out the growing e-waste crisis and the carbon footprint of AI model training. To mitigate these environmental risks, governments and businesses must integrate sustainability into AI development. International efforts, such as discussions at COP29 and regulatory measures in the U.S. and the EU, aim to address these concerns.

Tone:

The tone of the passage is informative and analytical, as it presents both the benefits and challenges of AI adoption with a focus on environmental concerns. It is also cautiously optimistic, suggesting that while AI's growth poses risks, proactive measures and global commitments can help mitigate its environmental impact.

Reading Comprehension

Based on the above passage, answer the following questions:

Question 1:
Which of the following statements about AI's economic impact is true?

A) The global AI market is currently valued at $15.7 trillion.
B) India is planning to build its own LLM to compete with ChatGPT.
C) AI's economic potential is currently limited to developed nations.
D) The Stargate Project in the U.S. is focused solely on AI ethics research.
E) None of the above

Question 2:
According to the passage, how does AI model training contribute to environmental concerns?

A) It reduces data processing efficiency, leading to longer computing cycles
B) It significantly increases the carbon footprint due to high energy consumption
C) It disrupts traditional industries by replacing human workers
D) It causes physical degradation of computing hardware
E) None of the above

Article for Skimming

Water blight: on the Srisailam tunnel cave-in

Barely a week after the remains of nine coal miners were recovered at the end of a 44-day operation, from a coal mine that had flooded in Assam in early January, a disaster of similar contours, this time in Nagarkurnool, Telangana, is in the making. A portion of the Srisailam Left Bank Canal tunnel, which is under construction, collapsed on February 22, leaving eight workers trapped. What is known so far is that a three-metre section of the roof collapsed due to water seepage. The roof collapse eventually led to the tunnel crumbling over a stretch of eight metres. Despite nine specialised rescue teams, drawn from the Centre and the State governments, working round-the-clock, no significant progress has been made so far on ascertaining the condition of the workers and in devising an optimal rescue plan.

So far, the playbook that is being experimented with seems to be inspired by the successful rescue work in the Silkyara Tunnel collapse in Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand, in November 2023, where a portion of the four -kilometre-long tunnel that was being constructed collapsed, stranding 41 workers. It took a 16-day operation that started out with a variety of approaches, including drilling horizontally, and later on vertically, from both ends of the tunnel to reach the stranded workers. In the end, key breakthroughs were achieved by a team of 'rat hole' miners from Assam, who use manual excavation methods that are considered hazardous and deemed illegal. The key difference between the Silkyara episode and the one in Srisailam is the presence of water. There were 70 workers in the tunnel when a deluge of water and muck suddenly began to gush inside. Barring the eight, the rest escaped, with 13 of them sustaining injuries.

However, in the subsequent days, it is the torrential flow that has proved to be a barrier to rescue operations. The history of tunnel-linked disasters globally shows that while rare, they can often be catastrophic. A large proportion of these accidents, studies show, are due to a rupture in aquifers (underground water channels). It is to determine such risks that extensive studies are commissioned to understand the sub-surface geology of a site. A report by the Uttarakhand disaster management authority on the Silkyara episode says that there was insufficient analysis of the rock formations at Silkyara but also that a complete picture of structural deformities cannot be known before tunnelling. While the rescue of the trapped personnel at the Srisailam tunnel is paramount, there has to be a proper investigation by the authorities on the reasons for the collapse and action taken, if evidence emerges of tardy pre-tunnelling analysis.

Question 3:
According to the passage, what is a common cause of tunnel-linked disasters globally?

A) The use of outdated construction techniques
B) The sudden collapse of artificial support structures
C) A rupture in underground water channels
D) The excessive use of heavy machinery in confined spaces
E) None of the above

Question 4:
What conclusion can be drawn about the importance of pre-tunneling geological studies from the passage?

A) They are essential, but cannot completely eliminate structural risks
B) They are unnecessary because tunnel collapses are rare
C) They are more important in smaller tunnels than larger ones
D) They should only be conducted when signs of instability appear
E) None of the above

Question 5:
What key difference does the passage highlight between the Silkyara Tunnel collapse and the Srisailam tunnel collapse?

A) The number of trapped workers was significantly higher in Srisailam
B) The presence of a water-related challenge in the Srisailam collapse
C) The Srisailam collapse involved vertical excavation methods
D) The Silkyara rescue operation did not require manual excavation
E) None of the above

Today's Descriptive Question

Precis Writing:

Original Text:

Crony capitalism in India has significantly influenced economic growth, governance, and social equity by allowing businesses with political connections to gain undue advantages. This system distorts free-market competition, leading to wealth concentration among a few, while small businesses and startups struggle to compete. It fosters corruption, as influential corporations manipulate policies, secure favorable contracts, and receive excessive bank loans without proper risk assessment, contributing to rising Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) in public sector banks. The 2G spectrum scam, coal allocation scam, and large-scale loan defaults are examples of how cronyism has led to economic inefficiencies and loss of public trust. Consumers suffer due to higher prices, poor-quality services, and reduced choices as monopolistic practices dominate key sectors like telecommunications, real estate, and infrastructure.

To combat this issue, India needs transparent policies, strong regulatory institutions, independent watchdogs like the Competition Commission of India (CCI), and strict enforcement of corporate governance laws. Additionally, promoting political funding transparency and reducing bureaucratic red tape can curb the undue influence of businesses on governance. While India has made strides in economic reforms, addressing crony capitalism is crucial for ensuring fair market competition, economic equality, and long-term sustainable growth. By fostering a transparent and merit-based system, India can strengthen its position as a thriving democracy with a resilient economy.

Precis:

Crony capitalism in India distorts free-market competition by favoring politically connected businesses, leading to wealth concentration, corruption, and economic inefficiencies. It contributes to rising NPAs, financial scams, and monopolistic practices in key sectors like telecommunications, real estate, and banking, harming consumer welfare and public trust. To counter this, India must enforce transparent policies, regulatory oversight, and corporate governance laws while promoting political funding transparency and reducing bureaucratic red tape. Addressing crony capitalism is vital for ensuring fair competition, economic equality, and sustainable growth, strengthening India's position as a resilient and democratic economy.

- **You are working on a critical project but need more time to complete it. Write an email to your manager requesting an extension, explaining the reason and suggesting a revised deadline.**

To: ………………@gmail.com

Subject: Request for Extension on Project Deadline

Dear [Manager's Name],

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to request an extension for the [Project Name] deadline, originally set for [Original Deadline]. While I have been making steady progress, I require additional time to ensure that the final deliverables meet the expected quality standards.

The primary reason for this request is [mention reason briefly, e.g., unexpected complexities in the project, need for further research, additional data analysis, or resource constraints]. To maintain the accuracy and effectiveness of the project, I believe an extension would allow me to refine the work and address all necessary aspects thoroughly.

I propose extending the deadline to [Revised Deadline], which will give me sufficient time to finalize the project while ensuring its quality and completeness. I am happy to discuss this further and explore any adjustments that might help in meeting expectations effectively.

Please let me know if you would like to discuss this in more detail. I appreciate your consideration and support.

Best regards,
[Your Name]
[Your Position]

Match the column

1. On the ball	A. Very rarely
2. On the tip of my tongue	B. A large amount of money
3. Once in a blue moon	C. Alert, aware, and quick to respond
4. A pretty penny	D. To decline an offer
5. Take a rain check	E. Almost remembered but not quite recalled

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

Vocabulary

1. Contours:
2. Curbed:
3. Crumbling:
4. Stranded:
5. Breakthrough:
6. Catastrophic:
7. Rupture:
8. Tardy:
9. Indispensable:
10. Mitigate:

1.

Ans: B

Explanation:

Reference from the Passage:

"India has also announced plans to build its own LLM (large language model) to compete with DeepSeek and ChatGPT."

The passage mentions that India has announced plans to build its own large language model (LLM) to compete with ChatGPT and DeepSeek, making this statement correct.

Why Other Options Are Incorrect:

A) The global AI market is currently valued at $15.7 trillion – The market is valued at $200 billion but expected to contribute up to $15.7 trillion by 2030.

C) AI's economic potential is currently limited to developed nations – The passage highlights India's AI advancements, showing that AI is expanding globally.

D) The Stargate Project in the U.S. is focused solely on AI ethics research – The passage states it involves over $500 billion in AI infrastructure investments, not just ethics research.

2.

Ans: B

Explanation:

Reference from the Passage:

"Training advanced AI models, such as GPT-3, can emit up to 552 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent — comparable to the annual emissions of dozens of cars."

The passage states that training advanced AI models, such as GPT-3, can emit up to 552 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent, making AI training a major contributor to emissions.

Why Other Options Are Incorrect:

A) It reduces data processing efficiency, leading to longer computing cycles – The passage does not mention inefficiency as a primary concern.

C) It disrupts traditional industries by replacing human workers – This is a potential AI impact, but not the environmental concern discussed in the passage.

D) It causes physical degradation of computing hardware – AI model training relies on computing hardware but does not physically degrade it.

3.
Ans: C
Explanation:
Reference from the Passage:
"A large proportion of these accidents, studies show, are due to a rupture in aquifers (underground water channels)."

The passage states that tunnel-linked disasters are often caused by ruptures in aquifers, which are underground water channels.

Why Other Options Are Incorrect:
A) The use of outdated construction techniques – While construction techniques may play a role, the passage does not cite this as the primary cause.
B) The sudden collapse of artificial support structures – The passage does not attribute most tunnel disasters to artificial structures failing.
D) The excessive use of heavy machinery in confined spaces – The passage does not discuss heavy machinery as a factor leading to collapses.

4.
Ans: A
Explanation:
Reference from the Passage:
"A report by the Uttarakhand disaster management authority on the Silkyara episode says that there was insufficient analysis of the rock formations at Silkyara but also that a complete picture of structural deformities cannot be known before tunnelling."

The passage explains that pre-tunneling studies are important, but a complete picture of structural deformities cannot always be known beforehand.

Why Other Options Are Incorrect:
B) They are unnecessary because tunnel collapses are rare – The passage acknowledges that collapses are rare, but it still stresses the importance of geological studies.
C) They are more important in smaller tunnels than larger ones – The passage does not differentiate based on tunnel size.
D) They should only be conducted when signs of instability appear – Studies should be conducted before construction, not just when problems arise.

5.

Ans: B

Explanation:

Reference from the Passage:

"The key difference between the Silkyara episode and the one in Srisailam is the presence of water."

The primary distinction between the two incidents is that Srisailam's tunnel collapse involved water seepage and flooding, whereas Silkyara did not.

Why Other Options Are Incorrect:

A) The number of trapped workers was significantly higher in Srisailam – This is incorrect; only eight workers are trapped in Srisailam, while 41 were trapped in Silkyara.

C) The Srisailam collapse involved vertical excavation methods – There is no mention of vertical excavation in Srisailam so far.

D) The Silkyara rescue operation did not require manual excavation – The passage explicitly states that 'rat hole' miners from Assam were crucial in the Silkyara rescue.

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