

The Hindu EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

3rd 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. Unerringly (बिना गलती के)

- **Meaning:** Without making any mistake; always accurate or correct.
- **Synonyms:** Infallibly, accurately, flawlessly
- **Antonyms:** Erratically, incorrectly, inaccurately
- **Example:** The factory incidents occur unerringly during the scorching summer months.

2. Laxity (ढीलापन)

- **Meaning:** Lack of strictness or care.
- **Synonyms:** Negligence, carelessness, leniency
- **Antonyms:** Strictness, vigilance, discipline
- **Example:** The laxity of the manufacturers in following safety regulations has led to recurring accidents.

3. Farce (स्वांग, मज़ाक)

- **Meaning:** A situation that is absurd or disorganized, often masking a serious issue.
- **Synonyms:** Mockery, sham, absurdity
- **Antonyms:** Seriousness, sincerity, gravity
- **Example:** The recurring accidents make a farce of the regulatory framework in place.

4. Sordid (घिनौना , नीच)

- **Meaning:** Involving immoral or dishonorable actions; dirty or unpleasant.
- **Synonyms:** Shameful, vile, disgraceful
- **Antonyms:** Noble, respectable, clean
- **Example:** The Bhopal disaster remains one of the most sordid chapters in industrial history.

5. Assuage (शांत करना, कम करना)

- **Meaning:** To make an unpleasant feeling less intense.
- **Synonyms:** Alleviate, soothe, ease
- **Antonyms:** Aggravate, intensify, worsen
- **Example:** The outreach programme was launched to assuage public fears about toxic emissions.

6. Ambiguous (अस्पष्ट)

- **Meaning:** Open to more than one interpretation; not having one obvious meaning.
- **Synonyms:** Unclear, vague, equivocal
- **Antonyms:** Clear, definite, explicit
- **Example:** The ambiguous statement left everyone confused about his intentions.

7. Indispensable (अनिवार्य , अत्यावश्यक)

- **Meaning:** Absolutely necessary or essential.
- **Synonyms:** Crucial, vital, essential
- **Antonyms:** Unnecessary, dispensable, optional
- **Example:** Good communication skills are indispensable for a successful career in management.

8. Anguish (व्यथा, पीड़ा)

- **Meaning:** Severe mental or physical pain or suffering.
- **Synonyms:** Agony, distress, torment
- **Antonyms:** Comfort, relief, peace
- **Example:** She was in deep anguish after hearing the tragic news.

9. Fanned (उत्तेजित करना/फैलाना)

- **Meaning:** To stir up or increase the intensity of something.
- **Synonyms:** Inflame, provoke, intensify
- **Antonyms:** Suppress, extinguish, calm
- **Example:** His remarks fanned the flames of controversy.

10. Expatriates (प्रवासी)

- **Meaning:** People who live outside their native country.
- **Synonyms:** Emigrant, migrant, foreign resident
- **Antonyms:** Native, local, citizen
- **Example:** Many expatriates send money back home to support their families.

VOCABULARY

One-word substitute:

1. A harsh, discordant mixture of sounds:

Cacophony

2. Strong public criticism or verbal abuse:

Obloquy

3. Having a pleasantly sharp taste or stimulating quality:

Piquant

4. Having unlimited power or authority:

Omnipotent

VOCABULARY

Phrasal Verbs:

1. Dish up

Meaning: To serve food onto plates.

2. Do in

Meaning: To kill or severely exhaust someone.

3. Do up

Meaning: To fasten or decorate something; to renovate.

4. Doze off

Meaning: To fall asleep, especially unintentionally.

VOCABULARY

Idioms & Phrases

1. Ins and outs

Meaning: All the detailed facts or complexities of something.

2. A white elephant

Meaning: A costly but useless or burdensome possession.

3. In the good books

Meaning: In someone's favor or on their positive side.

VOCABULARY

4. In high spirits

Meaning: Feeling happy, cheerful, and lively.

5. Shake in (one's) shoes

Meaning: To be very frightened or nervous.

Article for Reading

**Away from the edge:
On waste disposal
from the 1984 Bhopal
plant accident**

The Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Board has confirmed that officials had incinerated 337 tonnes of toxic waste moved to a private waste treatment facility in Pithampur from the defunct Union Carbide facility in Bhopal. The event closes a single, but important, chapter in the sordid history of the 1984 Bhopal disaster, the state response to which pushed the city and its people to the edge. The successful incineration is illustrative in that it demanded interventions from the Madhya Pradesh High Court, the Supreme Court of India, and the Union Environment Ministry, among other stakeholders, over more than a decade. In the end, the State government was able to arrange for the waste to be safely disposed of — including an outreach exercise to assuage public anxiety over the emissions — within six months at a cost of ₹126 crore. Evidently the means have always existed; the political initiative to effect them has been wanting.

This is an important detail: waste, once it has entered the environment, has a tendency to be converted to different forms; it seldom goes away. The toxic waste incinerated thus far has yielded more than 800 tonnes of ash and residue that officials will have to landfill in a scientific manner. Like solid waste landfills around the country, this new facility will require regular upkeep, monitoring, and funds of its own. The site of the Union Carbide plant also retains several more tonnes of contaminated soil and other hazardous artefacts, plus contaminated subsurface resources in the area. Crucially, much of the impetus for positive change in the matter, including waste removal, has come from victims' families, survivors, and activists rather than from the state. Survivors' groups have filed petitions arguing that deaths and injuries continue to be undercounted and that they are owed inflation-adjusted damages.

Since the Supreme Court closed the door on the curative route, also in dispute is whether a new valuation of losses can be forced on The Dow Chemical Company, notwithstanding the fact that it remains a proclaimed offender. Long-term surveillance has been patchy, with activists and survivors alleging that the advisory committee appointed by the top court has met only sporadically and that local hospitals continue to suffer a shortage of specialist medical workers to attend to survivors. In the final analysis, Dow must account for all remediation activities. Both the State and the Centre must close pending settlement claims and attend on a self-motivated basis to the survivors' well-being, if required with the assistance of a new statutory body to unify health, relief, and remediation goals. Ultimately, the families must be able to move on.

Summary

The Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Board has completed the incineration of 337 tonnes of toxic waste from the defunct Union Carbide plant in Bhopal, a significant but partial step in addressing the long-standing aftermath of the 1984 gas tragedy. The effort required sustained legal and governmental intervention and cost ₹126 crore. While the incineration marks progress, challenges remain, including safe landfilling of over 800 tonnes of residue, ongoing soil and groundwater contamination, and underaddressed health and compensation concerns. Activists and survivors — rather than the government — have driven most of the progress. Criticism persists over inadequate medical care, inconsistent oversight, and the unresolved liability of The Dow Chemical Company. The editorial urges the creation of a statutory body to coordinate health, relief, and environmental remediation, emphasizing the need for the state to proactively support survivors and bring closure.

Tone:

Critical yet constructive — The passage critiques governmental apathy, delayed action, and fragmented responses, but also acknowledges recent progress and calls for unified, proactive measures to ensure justice and healing for survivors.

Reading Comprehension

Based on the above passage, answer the following questions:

Question 1:

What ongoing challenge remains despite the incineration of the waste?

- A. Disposal cost of ₹126 crore is yet unpaid**
- B. 800 tonnes of residual ash needs secure landfill**
- C. Judicial committees have refused to meet**
- D. Dow Chemical Company has been convicted criminally**
- E. None of the above**

Question 2:

What legal mechanism remains in contention even after the Supreme Court closed the curative route?

- A. Criminal prosecution of Madhya Pradesh officials**
- B. Legislative ban on incineration**
- C. New valuation of survivor losses against Dow Chemical**
- D. Wider public access to environmental emission data**
- E. None of the above**

Question 3:

What final institutional step do survivors believe Central and State governments must undertake?

- A. Shift all responsibilities to Dow Chemical**
- B. Create a statutory body coordinating health, relief, and remediation**
- C. Merge judicial and environmental regulatory functions**
- D. Privatised remaining clean-up operations**
- E. None of the above**

Article for Skimming

Under fire: On Tamil Nadu and the fireworks industry blasts

An accident is, by definition, both unexpected and preventable. But the numerous fireworks industry blasts that dot the summer months with stunning regularity in the firecracker manufacturing belt of Tamil Nadu in Virudhunagar challenge this definition. A total of 26 people have died and 20 others injured in eight accidents that have occurred in the first six months of 2025. According to official data, 17 accidents were reported in fireworks units in the State in 2024 and claimed the lives of 52 people. Of these, 42 people died in 12 accidents in Virudhunagar, which has roughly 1,000 fireworks units and 3,000 cracker shops. In 2023, 79 workers were killed in 27 accidents in the State, including 28 workers in 15 accidents in Virudhunagar. In the latest episode, eight persons died and five others were injured in an explosion at a fireworks factory in Sattur, near Sivakasi this week. Preliminary reports said friction caused during the process of filling chemicals that are used to make special fireworks may have caused the explosion. Investigations are on to pinpoint the exact cause.

But whatever the cause, there is unlikely to be any new learning from this kind of post mortem. Temperatures in the rather dry, hot belt of Virudhunagar often soar unbearably during the day. It is also common knowledge that firecracker units store chemicals that are highly inflammable, and can ignite and burn easily when exposed to an ignition source such as a spark, flame, or high heat. And yet, unerringly, the summer months, usually, have unfortunate accidents resulting in the death or the disability of people who are already vulnerable, socially and economically. While the laxity of manufacturers is condemnable, there is also a big role for the state in regulating these fireworks units, since all of them require a licence from the Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organization to function. The Explosives Rules, 2008, which govern fireworks units, specify that packages containing explosives shall not be allowed to remain in the sun or exposed to excessive heat, and all due precautions ought to be taken to prevent accidents by fire or explosion.

Following the rules is essential to retaining the licence to operate and manufacture explosives. Clearly, here is a situation where the heft of the state can be utilised to ensure compliance, but a better way of handling it is to involve manufacturers in an effort to ensure there are no further accidents, no further lives lost as a result. Such cooperation has produced results in the past in curbing the employment of child labourers in the industry. It will now have to be leveraged to save precious lives. A preventable tragedy that repeats itself makes a farce of state regulation and enforcement.

Question 4:

According to the passage, which of the following is most crucial in ensuring fireworks factory safety?

- A. Import restrictions on chemicals**
- B. Automated temperature control systems**
- C. Strict compliance with Explosives Rules, 2008**
- D. Privatization of the Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organization**
- E. None of the above**

Question 5:

What does the passage suggest about involving manufacturers in safety regulation?

- A. It has failed in all previous attempts.**
- B. It's only effective when penalties are increased.**
- C. It must be replaced with third-party audit mechanisms.**
- D. It can be effective as shown in reducing child labour.**
- E. None of the above**

Today's Descriptive Question:

- **Write an essay of 200 words about deglobalisation.**

Deglobalization refers to the reversal or slowing of globalization, where countries and regions become more economically, politically, and culturally independent. This shift has gained momentum in recent years due to various factors, including rising protectionism, economic nationalism, and geopolitical tensions. Trade wars, most notably between the U.S. and China, have led to increased tariffs and stricter trade policies, reducing cross-border trade and investment. Additionally, the COVID-19 pandemic exposed vulnerabilities in global supply chains, prompting nations to reconsider reliance on foreign goods and services and prioritize domestic production for essential industries.

Deglobalization also arises from concerns about economic inequality, as many argue that globalization disproportionately benefits large corporations and developed nations, leaving smaller economies disadvantaged. Environmental concerns are

another driving force, with increased emphasis on local sourcing to reduce carbon footprints. As countries become more focused on self-sufficiency, we see a rise in local manufacturing and a shift from international to regional trade agreements.

However, deglobalization has its drawbacks. Reduced cooperation and interconnectedness can limit innovation and economic growth, as well as strain international relations. Balancing globalization's benefits with national interests is complex, and how nations manage this shift will shape the future of the global economy and international cooperation.

- **Write a letter to the newspaper editor on how to stop crime in city.**

[Your Address]

[City, Postal Code]

[Date]

The Editor

[Newspaper Name]

[Newspaper Address]

[City, Postal Code]

Subject: Measures to Curb Crime in Our City

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to express concern about the rising crime rates in our city and to propose measures that could help curb this alarming trend. Every day, citizens are faced with incidents of theft, assault, and vandalism, which have generated fear and insecurity in our community.

To tackle these issues, a strong collaborative approach is essential. First, increasing the visibility of police patrols, especially in crime-prone areas, would serve as a deterrent. Establishing neighborhood watch programs and encouraging active citizen participation can also help keep communities vigilant. Additionally, better street lighting and the installation of CCTV cameras at strategic locations would improve surveillance and prevent criminal activities.

Moreover, addressing social factors contributing to crime, such as unemployment and lack of educational opportunities, can have a lasting impact. Investing in vocational training and youth engagement programs will not only empower individuals but also reduce the likelihood of their involvement in criminal activities.

Public awareness campaigns on crime prevention and safety measures should also be regularly conducted. I hope these suggestions find consideration to make our city a safer place for all.

**Yours sincerely,
[Your Name]**

Match the column

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1. Ins and outs | A. To be very frightened or nervous |
| 2. A white elephant | B. A costly but useless possession |
| 3. In the good books | C. Feeling happy, cheerful, and lively. |
| 4. In high spirits | D. All the detailed facts of something |
| 5. Shake in (one's) shoes | E. In someone's favor |

Answer:

1-d

2-b

3-e

4-c

5-a

Vocabulary

1. Unerringly:
2. Laxity:
3. Farce:
4. Sordid:
5. Assuage:
6. Ambiguous:
7. Indispensable:
8. Anguish:
9. Fanned:
10. Expatriates:

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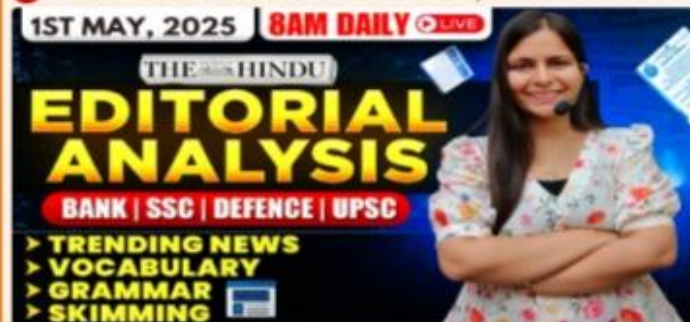


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Rc ans

1.

Ans: B

Explanation:

The passage states:

“The toxic waste incinerated thus far has yielded more than 800 tonnes of ash and residue that officials will have to landfill in a scientific manner.”

Thus, B is correct.

Incorrect options:

A is unmentioned.

C partially true but not the challenge “despite incineration”.

D Dow is only a “proclaimed offender,” not convicted.

2.

Ans: C

Explanation:

The paragraph says:

“Whether a new valuation of losses can be forced on The Dow Chemical Company ... is also in dispute.”

Thus C captures the continuing contention.

Incorrect options:

A is not mentioned.

B not discussed.

D data transparency not focal.

3.

Ans: B

Explanation:

The author argues:

“if required with the assistance of a new statutory body to unify health, relief, and remediation goals.”

This implies correct answer B.

Incorrect options

A is not suggested—they demand accountability, not abdication.

C no mention of merging institutions.

D not advocated.

4.

Ans: C

Explanation:

Reference: “The Explosives Rules, 2008... specify that packages containing explosives shall not be allowed to remain in the sun... all due precautions ought to be taken...”

Also: “Following the rules is essential to retaining the licence...”

Incorrect options:

A: No mention of imports or restrictions thereof.

B: While heat is a factor, the passage emphasizes compliance with rules, not automation.

D: No support or reference for privatization.

5.

Ans: D

Explanation:

Reference: “Such cooperation has produced results in the past in curbing the employment of child labourers in the industry.”

The author clearly supports collaborative regulation, particularly with manufacturers.

Incorrect options:

A: Opposite of what is said.

B: Penalties are not discussed in relation to cooperation.

C: No mention of third-party audits.