

The Hindu EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

6th May 2025

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

1. Detrimental (हानिकारक / नुकसानदायक)

- **Meaning:** Tending to cause harm or damage.
- **Synonyms:** Harmful, damaging, adverse
- **Antonyms:** Beneficial, helpful, advantageous
- **Example:** The environmental impact of AI's energy consumption is becoming increasingly detrimental.

2. Perturbing (परेशान करने वाला)

- **Meaning:** Causing worry or concern.
- **Synonyms:** Disturbing, troubling, unsettling.
- **Antonyms:** Comforting, reassuring, soothing.
- **Example:** The lack of transparency in the decision-making process is perturbing.

3. Baulk (नकारना)

- **Meaning:** To hesitate or refuse to proceed or act in a certain way.
- **Synonyms:** Hesitate, resist, recoil
- **Antonyms:** Proceed, agree, accept
- **Example:** Many countries baulked at the idea of cutting down their plastic production.

4. Impasse (गिरावट)

- **Meaning:** A situation in which no progress is possible, especially because of disagreement.
- **Synonyms:** Stalemate, deadlock, standstill
- **Antonyms:** Breakthrough, progress, resolution
- **Example:** The negotiations reached an impasse when neither side could agree on the terms.

5. Meliorate (सुधारना)

- **Meaning:** To make something better or more tolerable; improve
- **Synonyms:** Improve, enhance, refine, ameliorate
- **Antonyms:** Worsen, deteriorate, degrade
- **Example:** The new policy aims to meliorate the conditions of underfunded schools.

6. Credence (विश्वास)

- **Meaning:** Belief or acceptance that something is true
- **Synonyms:** Belief, trust, faith, confidence
- **Antonyms:** Disbelief, doubt, skepticism
- **Example:** The witness's testimony gave credence to the defendant's version of events.

7. Diffidence (संकोच)

- **Meaning:** Modesty or shyness resulting from a lack of self-confidence
- **Synonyms:** Shyness, timidity, insecurity
- **Antonyms:** Confidence, boldness, assertiveness
- **Example:** Her diffidence kept her from speaking up during the meeting.

8. Fiasco (बुरी तरह विफल होना)

- **Meaning:** A complete failure, especially in a ludicrous or humiliating way
- **Synonyms:** Disaster, debacle, flop, catastrophe
- **Antonyms:** Success, triumph, accomplishment
- **Example:** The product launch was a complete fiasco due to poor planning.

9. Prowess (कौशल)

- **Meaning:** Skill or expertise in a particular activity or field
- **Synonyms:** Expertise, mastery, competence, excellence
- **Antonyms:** Incompetence, inability, ineptitude
- **Example:** The soldier was awarded a medal for his prowess in battle.

10. Startling (आश्चर्यजनक)

- **Meaning:** Very surprising, astonishing, or remarkable
- **Synonyms:** Shocking, surprising, astounding, eye-opening
- **Antonyms:** Predictable, expected, ordinary
- **Example:** The report revealed some startling facts about data privacy violations.

VOCABULARY

One-word substitute:

1. The belief that God is identical with the universe and everything in it:

Pantheism

2. A person who is between 90 and 99 years old:

Nonagenarian

3. A specialist in treating foot disorders; also known as a podiatrist:

Chiropodist

4. An extreme fear of heights:

Acrophobia

VOCABULARY

Phrasal Verbs:

1. Abide by

Meaning: to comply with a rule or to carry out a promise.

2. Knuckle under

Meaning: submit to someone else's authority.

3. Cut up

Meaning: to behave in a very active and silly way in order to make people laugh.

4. Delve into

Meaning: to examine something carefully to gain a deeper understanding of it.

VOCABULARY

Idioms & Phrases

1. Penny for your thoughts

Meaning: asking someone what is on their minds

2. Hook, line and sinker

Meaning: to emphasize that someone is tricked or forced into a situation completely

3. Down for the count

Meaning: someone has fallen and is unable to rise up again

VOCABULARY

4. Fish out of water

Meaning: to be out of your comfort zone

5. In the fast lane

Meaning: a life filled with excitement

Article for Reading

**Maritime hub: on the
Vizhinjam port**

The commissioning of the Vizhinjam International Transshipment Deepwater Multipurpose Seaport, developed by Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ) under a public-private partnership model with the Kerala government, marks a milestone in India's maritime history. For a country such as India, which relies heavily on foreign ports for handling around 75% of its inbound and outbound transshipment cargo, resulting in an annual revenue loss of approximately \$200 million-\$220 m, the port presents enormous economic opportunities. Its natural draft of about 20 metres, requiring minimal capital dredging, and its proximity to international shipping routes linking Europe, West Asia and the Far East — the east-west shipping axis — position it as a strong contender to become a transshipment hub. This could potentially bring home a significant portion of Indian cargo transshipment handled by the Singapore, Colombo, Salalah and Dubai ports.

Ultra-large container vessels can berth without deviating from their route, thereby saving costs. As India's first semi-automated port equipped with remote-controlled quay cranes and an AI-powered vessel traffic management system, Vizhinjam will significantly reduce vessel turnaround times. India's container throughput capacity last year was approximately 20 million TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units), contrasting with China's 330 million TEUs. This highlights the need for modern ports such as Vizhinjam along India's coastline. Following the project's agreement in 2015, the Kerala government faced challenges, including protests from fisherfolk supported by the Latin Church, natural calamities and the COVID-19 pandemic. Commercial operations commenced in July 2024, with 265 ships, including large mother ships, having berthed so far.

In the first phase, the Kerala government invested ₹5,595 crore, Adani Ports spent ₹2,454 crore, and the Union government provided a viability gap fund loan of ₹818 crore — a funding structure that sparked political debate. For Vizhinjam, an all-weather port, to become a game-changer in South Asia's maritime trade, the Centre and the State must ensure the timely completion of rail and road connectivity, which is crucial for leveraging the port's full potential. This will facilitate efficient cargo delivery to the entire hinterland of South India. The subsequent development phases, for which APSEZ and the Kerala government have signed an agreement involving an investment of around ₹9,500 crore by 2028, must also be implemented promptly. Warehousing, logistics, and industrial facilities are essential for the port to evolve into a thriving commercial maritime hub.

Summary

The commissioning of the Vizhinjam International Transshipment Deepwater Multipurpose Seaport in Kerala, developed by Adani Ports under a public-private partnership, represents a major step forward for India's maritime infrastructure. The port's deep natural draft, strategic location near key international shipping routes, and advanced automation make it well-suited to reduce India's reliance on foreign transshipment ports like Singapore and Colombo, potentially saving the country up to \$220 million annually. Despite delays caused by local protests, natural disasters, and the pandemic, commercial operations began in July 2024. To fully realize its potential, the port requires timely completion of supporting infrastructure such as rail and road links. Future investment of ₹9,500 crore is planned to further develop the port into a major logistics and industrial hub.

Tone:

The tone is informative and optimistic, with a forward-looking perspective. While it acknowledges past challenges and political debates, the passage emphasizes the strategic and economic benefits of the project and the importance of continued development and connectivity.

Reading Comprehension

Based on the above passage, answer the following questions:

Question 1:

What makes Vizhinjam port a strong candidate to emerge as a transshipment hub in the region?

- A) Its superior inland logistics and highest port fees in Asia**
- B) Government subsidies that attract international carriers**
- C) Deep natural draft, minimal dredging needs, and proximity to global shipping routes**
- D) The promise of free trade zones and tax holidays for exporters**
- E) None of the above**

Question 2:

What financial model was used to develop the Vizhinjam port, and what controversy did it spark?

- A) Fully central government-funded project, criticized for ignoring private investors**
- B) State-owned initiative, facing backlash for excessive international borrowing**
- C) A tax-neutral model that excluded all forms of public sector involvement, causing protests among local industries**
- D) A PPP model with shared investment from Centre, State, and private entity, leading to political debate over funding structure**
- E) None of the above**

Question 3:

According to the passage, why is completion of rail and road connectivity critical for Vizhinjam's success?

- A) It is required to meet the contractual obligations of international shipping corporations.**
- B) It is essential to link the port to South India's hinterland for efficient cargo delivery.**
- C) It would prevent further protests by local stakeholders and environmental activists.**
- D) It helps offset the lower container throughput compared to Chinese ports.**
- E) None of the above**

Article for Skimming

**Redrawing the
not-so-pretty energy
footprint of AI**

Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) has undoubtedly eased access to art and reduced the time and the effort required to complete certain tasks. For example, ChatGPT-4o can generate a Studio Ghibli-inspired portrait in seconds with just a prompt. But this ease comes at a significant energy cost that is often overlooked — one that has even led to Graphic Processing Units (GPUs) melting. As AI tools advance, this environmental impact will continue to become more detrimental, making this an unsustainable technology. How can AI be developed sustainably? And can leveraging nuclear energy, specifically Small Modular Reactors (SMR), be a possible alternative? AI is not free. Every time one uses ChatGPT or any other AI tool, somewhere in the world, there is a data centre chugging electricity, much of which is generated from fossil fuels. “It’s super fun seeing people love images in ChatGPT, but our GPUs are melting,” tweeted Sam Altman, CEO of OpenAI. Projections indicate that these data centres could account for 10% of the world’s total electricity usage by 2030.

Though these estimates mirror worldwide energy trends, it is necessary to highlight that India currently has sufficient capacity to generate electricity for its own domestic AI needs. Yet, with increasing adoption and ambitions, proactive planning is imperative. Training an AI model, whether it is a conversational tool such as ChatGPT or an image-generator tool such as Midjourney, can generate the same amount of CO2 as five cars running continuously across their life. Once deployed, AI tools continue to draw immense power from data centres as they serve countless users around the globe. This resource consumption is staggering, and it is becoming more unsustainable as AI adoption grows. To start with, AI companies need to be transparent about their energy consumption. Just as some regulations mandate the disclosure of privacy practices surrounding data usage, companies must also be mandated to disclose their environmental impact — first, how much energy is being consumed? Second, where is it coming from? Third, what steps are being taken to minimise energy consumption?

Such data would provide further insights on where energy is being used the most and encourage research and development to create a more sustainable model of AI development. Another, perhaps controversial, solution would be to address the energy source behind all of this technological growth. It is time nuclear energy, particularly SMRs, is discussed seriously. While this is often a subject of heated debate, it is also a powerful potential solution to the energy demands created by AI and other emerging technologies. The AI boom is happening fast, and the current energy infrastructure will just not be able to keep up. SMRs present a transformative opportunity for the global energy landscape to support booming AI and data infrastructure. Unlike traditional large-scale nuclear power plants that demand extensive land, water, and infrastructure, SMRs are designed to be compact and scalable. This flexibility allows them to be deployed closer to high-energy-demand facilities, such as data centres, which require consistent and reliable power to manage vast amounts of computational workloads.

Question 4:

What is the primary concern highlighted by the author regarding the rapid advancement of Generative AI?

- A) The decline in traditional artistic professions due to AI-generated art**
- B) The increased complexity of AI algorithms and user interfaces**
- C) The excessive energy consumption and environmental impact of AI systems**
- D) The monopolisation of AI technology by Western corporations**
- E) None of the above**

Question 5:

Which of the following best captures the author's stance on Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)?

- A) SMRs are outdated and inefficient compared to renewable energy sources.**
- B) SMRs are controversial but present a viable and transformative energy alternative for powering AI infrastructure.**
- C) SMRs are a last resort that should only be used if solar energy fails.**
- D) SMRs can completely replace all fossil fuel consumption worldwide.**
- E) None of the above**

Today's Descriptive Question

Precis:

Original Text:

The E-Rupee (Digital Rupee) is India's Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC), launched by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to modernize the financial system and promote a cashless economy. Unlike cryptocurrencies, the Digital Rupee is a sovereign-backed, legal tender issued and regulated by the central bank. It aims to provide a secure, efficient, and digital alternative to physical cash. The Digital Rupee is available in two forms: Wholesale (CBDC-W) – Used for interbank transactions and financial settlements. Retail (CBDC-R) – Designed for the public to make everyday transactions, just like cash or digital payments. E-Rupee transactions are conducted via digital wallets or apps, eliminating the need for intermediaries and reducing transaction costs. It ensures faster payments, financial inclusion, and enhanced transparency while combating issues like counterfeiting and tax evasion.

Despite its benefits, challenges exist, such as cybersecurity risks, user adoption, and integration with existing financial systems. The RBI is carefully implementing the Digital Rupee in phases to address these concerns and ensure a stable transition to digital currency.

With increasing digital adoption, the E-Rupee has the potential to transform India's economy, providing a secure, cashless, and efficient payment system while reinforcing the country's leadership in fintech innovation.

Precis

The E-Rupee (Digital Rupee) is India's CBDC, introduced by the RBI to promote a cashless economy. Available in wholesale (CBDC-W) and retail (CBDC-R) forms, it ensures faster transactions, financial inclusion, and transparency.

While challenges like cybersecurity and user adoption persist, the RBI is implementing it cautiously. If successfully integrated, the Digital Rupee could revolutionize India's financial system, making transactions efficient, secure, and cost-effective.

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Match the column

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| 1. Penny for your thoughts | A. a life filled with excitement |
| 2. Hook, line and sinker | B. to be out of your comfort zone |
| 3. Down for the count | C. to emphasize that someone is tricked |
| 4. Fish out of water | D. asking someone what is on their minds |
| 5. In the fast lane | E. someone has fallen and is unable to rise up again |

Answer:

1-d

2-c

3-e

4-b

5-a

Vocabulary

1. Detrimental:
2. Perturbing:
3. Baulk:
4. Impasse:
5. Meliorate:
6. Credence:
7. Diffidence:
8. Fiasco:
9. Prowess:
10. Startling:

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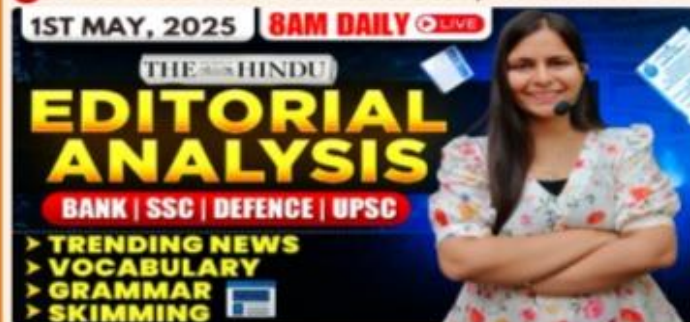


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ENGLISH MAINS VIJETA CHECKLIST-123 (1st May 2025)

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P. In a highly unusual development, the interest rates the US government must offer on its bonds have surged sharply, while bond prices have dropped.

Q. In the US, governments issue bonds to fund public spending, and in exchange, they pay interest to investors.

R. However, investors are keeping a close eye on a typically steady area—the US bond market.

S. This volatility indicates a growing sense of unease among investors about the health of the world's largest economy.

T. Global stock markets have remained relatively stable this week, following a turbulent period triggered by US trade tariffs.

Rc ans

1.

Ans: C

Explanation:

The passage clearly states:

“Its natural draft of about 20 metres, requiring minimal capital dredging, and its proximity to international shipping routes... position it as a strong contender to become a transshipment hub.”

Why others are incorrect:

- A) Inland logistics are still under development; port fees aren't mentioned.
- B) While government funding is noted, subsidies to carriers are not.
- D) No mention of free trade zones or tax holidays.

2.

Ans: D

Explanation:

The passage says:

“...developed by Adani Ports... under a public-private partnership model with the Kerala government... the Union government provided a viability gap fund loan... — a funding structure that sparked political debate.”

Why others are incorrect:

A) Not fully funded by Centre.

B) It wasn't state-owned alone.

C) The project includes public sector involvement.

3.

Ans: B

Explanation:

From the passage:

“...timely completion of rail and road connectivity... is crucial for leveraging the port’s full potential. This will facilitate efficient cargo delivery to the entire hinterland of South India.”

Why others are incorrect:

A) No mention of such contractual obligations.

C) The protests mentioned were pre-construction, not about connectivity.

D) Connectivity isn’t directly linked to offsetting throughput gaps with China.

4.

Ans: C

Explanation:

The passage consistently emphasizes the environmental and energy costs of using and training AI models:

“But this ease comes at a significant energy cost that is often overlooked... this environmental impact will continue to become more detrimental, making this an unsustainable technology.”

Why others are incorrect:

A) Artistic displacement is not the main concern.

B) Complexity isn't discussed.

D) No reference to monopolisation.

5.

Ans: B

Explanation:

The author states:

“It is time nuclear energy, particularly SMRs, is discussed seriously... a powerful potential solution... SMRs present a transformative opportunity...”

The passage acknowledges controversy while supporting their potential.

Why others are incorrect:

A) SMRs are seen as innovative, not outdated.

C) SMRs are proposed proactively, not as a fallback.

D) The author doesn't make such an absolute claim.

Parajumble Answer:

The correct order of the given sentences in the paragraph is **TRQPS**. **T begins the paragraph** by highlighting the main topic of discussion — how the global market has stabilized after a period of chaos. **R follows by noting that**, despite this stability, investors are closely watching the U.S. bond market. **Q comes next, explaining** that government-issued bonds carry interest rates, which have surged recently, leading to a decrease in bond prices (**continued in P**). **The volatility mentioned in P** reflects a sense of unease among investors, **which is further elaborated on in S**.