

The Hindu EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

16th June 2025

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

1. Billowing (उमड़ता हुआ / लहराता हुआ)

- **Meaning:** Rising or swelling outward, often in the form of smoke or waves.
- **Synonyms:** Swelling, surging, puffing
- **Antonyms:** Settling, subsiding, flattening
- **Example:** Smoke was billowing from the cargo ship, indicating an active fire onboard.

2. Commandeer (कब्जा कर लेना / जब्त करना)

- **Meaning:** To officially take control of something, especially for military or emergency use.
- **Synonyms:** Seize, requisition, take over
- **Antonyms:** Surrender, release, relinquish
- **Example:** The vessel owner commandeered tugs to aid in the emergency towing operation.

3. Salvage (बचाव कार्य / मलबे से बचाना)

- **Meaning:** To save or rescue a ship, cargo, or property from loss or destruction.
- **Synonyms:** Recover, rescue, retrieve
- **Antonyms:** Abandon, lose, forfeit
- **Example:** The team worked swiftly to salvage the burning cargo vessel.

4. Tussle (झगड़ा / खींचतान)

- **Meaning:** A vigorous struggle or fight.
- **Synonyms:** Struggle, conflict, scuffle
- **Antonyms:** Agreement, peace, harmony
- **Example:** India's political history has witnessed a long tussle over women's representation.

5. Charade (नौटंकी / ढोंग)

- **Meaning:** An absurd pretense intended to create a pleasant or respectable appearance.
- **Synonyms:** Farce, sham, pretense
- **Example:** The delay in passing the Women's Reservation Bill was seen as a political charade.

6. Impediment (बाधा / अड़चन)

- **Meaning:** A hindrance or obstruction in doing something.
- **Synonyms:** Obstacle, barrier, hurdle
- **Antonyms:** Assistance, support, aid
- **Example:** Bureaucratic hurdles were major impediments in implementing the reservation bill.

7. Lacunae (रिक्त स्थान / कमियाँ)

- **Meaning:** Gaps, missing parts, or deficiencies.
- **Synonyms:** Deficiency, void, shortcoming
- **Antonyms:** Completeness, fullness, sufficiency
- **Example:** The report highlighted lacunae in women's political representation.

8. Snap (टूटना / झटका लगना)

- **Meaning:** To break suddenly and completely.
- **Synonyms:** Break, shatter, crack
- **Antonyms:** Join, unite, mend
- **Example:** The tow rope snapped under the pressure of the drifting vessel.

9. Perusal (अवलोकन /समीक्षा)

- **Meaning:** The act of reading or examining something carefully.
- **Synonyms:** Examination, inspection, scrutiny
- **Example:** The lawyer conducted a detailed perusal of the contract before signing.

10. Melancholy (उदासी/अवसाद)

- **Meaning:** A deep, long-lasting sadness.
- **Synonyms:** Sorrow, gloom, despair
- **Antonyms:** Happiness, joy, exuberance
- **Example:** There was a hint of melancholy in his voice as he spoke about the past.

VOCABULARY

One-word substitute:

1. A confused fight or scuffle involving many people:

Melee

2. Relating to young people or immature behavior:

Juvenile

3. Continuing without pause or interruption:

Incessant

4. Highly decorated or embellished in a detailed, elaborate way:

Ornate

VOCABULARY

Phrasal Verbs:

1. Calm down

Meaning: To become or help someone become quiet and relaxed

2. Cap off

Meaning: To finish or complete something in a successful or impressive way

3. Carried away

Meaning: To become overly excited or involved in something

4. Cart off

Meaning: To take someone or something away, especially by force or without their consent, often to an unwanted place

VOCABULARY

Idioms & Phrases

1. Every Nook and Corner

Meaning - every part or aspect of something

2. Chicken- Hearted

Meaning - timid; fearful; cowardly

3. Laugh in Their Sleeves

Meaning - to laugh quietly and secretly at others' mistakes

VOCABULARY

4. While Away

Meaning - spend time idly or pleasantly

5. Throw Cold Water on Someone's Pleasure

Meaning - to be negative about someone's ideas or plans

Article for Reading

**Fire on waters: on
India and maritime
accidents**

The Indian coast needs to be protected against three types of major peacetime maritime accidents involving merchant ships: sinking of merchant ships, causing the loss of cargo, disruption of maritime traffic, and environmental damage; fire onboard merchant vessels that can seriously threaten not just the environment but also life and property on the coast; and oil spills. The recent fire onboard MV Wan Hai 503, that started with explosions when the ship was some 44 nautical miles off the Azhikkal coast in Kannur, Kerala, on June 9, has been successfully controlled now. Photographs of the ship showed a cocktail of smoke of brown, white, grey and black colours billowing out, indicating that many substances were burning. The cargo manifest showed that more than 140 of the 1,754 containers had various types of hazardous cargo. Coast Guard officials report that the raging Wan Hai had started drifting dangerously towards the coast even as firefighting was on and the sea remained rough under monsoon conditions.

A tow rope was passed onto the ship but it snapped. An Indian Navy helicopter flew in to airdrop a salvage team and pass a wire rope that was made of steel, which was then used to tow the ship 45 nautical miles away from the coast where the depth is nearly one kilometre. The owner of the vessel pitched in by commandeering tugs through their agents. Wan Hai does not pose an immediate danger to the Indian coast now. Smoke is still seen from the ship and there are hot spots, but it is now up to the ship owner to salvage the vessel after completely putting out the fire. Most of the patrol vessels, the workhorse of the Coast Guard, are now fitted with firefighting equipment since firefighting is a key mandate of the agency. While hazardous cargo on containers are indeed a major fire hazard, a more severe fire hazard is oil. Gas-carrying merchant ships are perhaps the greatest fire and explosion hazards. Nightmare scenarios that can bring the world to its knees involve gas carrier accidents at choke points such as the Suez Canal or the Strait of Malacca off Singapore.

In 2020, the Indian Coast Guard and Navy successfully put out a massive fire that broke out off Colombo on the Very Large Crude Carrier (VLCC), New Diamond, chartered by the Indian Oil Corporation. The VLCC was carrying 2,70,000 tonnes of crude oil and bound for Paradip in Odisha. That these ships were structurally intact despite week-long infernos is a testament as much to the maritime firefighting capabilities of India as the advanced design, materials and construction of the ships. Quick salvage of sunk ships and fighting oil spills, which require quick, extensive and close multi-agency coordination, are the other areas where India needs to build and demonstrate more expertise.

Summary

The passage highlights the critical need to protect the Indian coast from three major types of peacetime maritime accidents involving merchant ships: sinking, onboard fires, and oil spills. It cites the recent fire incident aboard MV Wan Hai 503 off the coast of Kerala as a case study, describing the coordinated efforts by the Indian Coast Guard and Navy to control the fire and prevent environmental and coastal damage. The passage stresses that hazardous cargo and gas-carrying ships pose serious fire and explosion risks. It recalls a similar 2020 incident involving the VLCC New Diamond, which was successfully managed due to strong maritime firefighting capabilities. The conclusion emphasizes the need for enhanced expertise in ship salvage and oil spill response, highlighting the importance of multi-agency coordination in such crises.

Tone:

The tone is informative, urgent, and cautionary, with a strong emphasis on the need for preparedness and coordination in handling maritime emergencies.

Reading Comprehension

Based on the above passage, answer the following questions:

Question 1:

Which of the following best reflects the primary concern the author has regarding gas-carrying merchant ships?

- A) They frequently pass through Indian waters without monitoring**
- B) Their design is outdated and needs urgent revamping**
- C) They pose catastrophic explosion risks, especially at global chokepoints**
- D) They are not classified properly under international maritime law**
- E) None of the above**

Question 2:

Why does the author mention the 2020 fire incident on the New Diamond VLCC?

- A) To criticize Indian Oil Corporation's safety protocols**
- B) To suggest that fires on large ships cannot be controlled**
- C) To highlight India's growing dependence on imported oil**
- D) To showcase India's maritime firefighting and salvage capabilities**
- E) None of the above**

Question 3:

Which of the following is the most suitable title for the passage?

- A) India's Coastal Tourism and Its Environmental Risks**
- B) Merchant Ship Explosions: A Recurring Menace**
- C) Guarding the Coast: India's Evolving Maritime Emergency Response**
- D) Why India Needs to Ban Hazardous Cargo Ships**
- E) None of the above**

Article for Skimming

**Mind the gap: on
India and the Global
Gender Gap Index
report**

India has dropped two points from its position last year in the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index report, holding at 131 out of 148 countries. The parity score is just 64.1%, making it among one of the lowest-ranked countries in South Asia, according to the report released last week. The Index measures gender parity in a country across four aspects — economic participation and opportunity; educational attainment; health and survival, and political empowerment. While the performance of India in three of the four dimensions is either stable or has marginally improved, the significant lack of achievement in the fourth weighs down the overall result. The report says, in the economic participation and opportunity category, India has improved by +0.9 percentage points. The parity in estimated earned income rises from 28.6% to 29.9%, positively impacting the subindex score, the report said.

Scores in labour force participation rate remained the same (45.9%) as last year — India's highest achieved to date. In the educational attainment and health and survival categories, the scores have been driven up by positive shifts. It is in the political empowerment category that India records a drop in parity, since the last evaluation. Female representation in Parliament fell from 14.7% to 13.8% in 2025, lowering the indicator score for the second year in a row below 2023 levels. Also evaluated was the share of women in ministerial roles, which fell from 6.5% to 5.6 %, continuing the sinking trend since 2023. The path ahead is obvious — consolidate and improve on the gains and make efforts to set right the lacunae with policies and political will. India has had a long, shameful tussle on this issue as it toyed with the idea of increasing representation for women in polity. The controversial Women's Reservation Bill was passed in 2023, 27 years after it was first introduced in 1996.

The Bill has been visited upon by many charades, was blocked at every turn, and the path to actualisation of the goal was lined with monumental impediments. The present Act reserves one third of the seats for women in Parliament and the State legislatures, but will only be implemented from 2029, after the completion of the Census, and the delimitation exercise. But India climbing up the ranks of a global index should be only secondary to achieving a rounded, applause-worthy, gender parity structure within the country. There is, also, nothing keeping political parties from increasing women's participation in the electoral process, even before the law necessitates it.

Question 4:

Which of the following statements would most weaken the passage's concern over the delay in implementing the Women's Reservation Act?

- A) The census and delimitation processes are constitutionally required and cannot be bypassed**
- B) Most political parties already exceed 33% female candidate quotas voluntarily**
- C) India's scores in education and income parity are improving**
- D) Parliamentary seats for women have always been high in India**
- E) None of the above**

Question 5:

What is the central message the author conveys about India's gender parity efforts?

- A) India's primary focus should be on climbing global indices to enhance reputation**
- B) Technical improvements in economic indicators should be celebrated more**
- C) Without international pressure, India will never progress on gender issues**
- D) True gender parity requires political commitment beyond legal mandates**
- E) None of the above**

Today's Descriptive Question:

- **Write an essay of 200 words about the cybersecurity challenges in the Digital Age.**

In the Digital Age, cybersecurity challenges have escalated due to the increasing reliance on technology and the internet. One of the primary concerns is the rise in cyberattacks, which target both individuals and organizations. These attacks range from data breaches and ransomware to phishing and advanced persistent threats. As more devices become interconnected through the Internet of Things (IoT), the attack surface for cybercriminals expands, making it harder to secure all potential entry points.

Moreover, the sophistication of cyber threats is growing. Hackers are continually developing new techniques to bypass security measures, often exploiting human vulnerabilities through social engineering. The rapid pace of technological advancements also means that security protocols frequently lag behind, leaving systems exposed to newly discovered vulnerabilities.

Another significant challenge is the lack of cybersecurity expertise. The demand for skilled cybersecurity professionals far exceeds the supply, leading to a gap that many organizations struggle to fill. This shortage can result in inadequate security measures and delayed responses to incidents.

Additionally, the regulatory landscape is constantly evolving, with governments implementing stringent data protection laws. Organizations must navigate these regulations while ensuring their cybersecurity strategies are robust and compliant.

In conclusion, the Digital Age presents numerous cybersecurity challenges that require a proactive and adaptive approach to safeguard sensitive information and maintain trust in digital systems.

- **Write a letter of recommendation for a colleague to support their application for a new position.**

[Your Title]

[Your Company]

[Company Address]

[City, State, Zip Code]

[Date]

[Recipient Name]

[Recipient Company]

[Company Address]

[City, State, Zip Code]

Subject: Letter of recommendation

Dear [Recipient Name],

I am pleased to recommend [Colleague's Name] for the position of [Position Title] at [Recipient Company]. Having worked with [Colleague's Name] for [number] years at [Your Company], I have seen their exceptional skills in [specific skill or area] and dedication to their work. They are proficient in [mention relevant skills or tools] and excel in [mention another relevant skill or trait].

I am confident that [Colleague's Name] would be a valuable addition to your team.

**Sincerely,
[Your Name]**

Match the column

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Every Nook and Corner | A. to be negative about someone's ideas |
| 2. Chicken- Hearted | B. every part or aspect of something |
| 3. Laugh in Their Sleeves | C. timid; fearful; cowardly |
| 4. While Away | D. to laugh quietly |
| 5. Throw Cold Water on Someone's Pleasure | E. spend time idly |

Answer:

1-b

2-c

3-d

4-e

5-a

Vocabulary

1. Billowing:
2. Commandeer:
3. Salvage:
4. Tussle:
5. Charade:
6. Impediment:
7. Lacunae:
8. Snap:
9. Perusal:
10. Melancholy:

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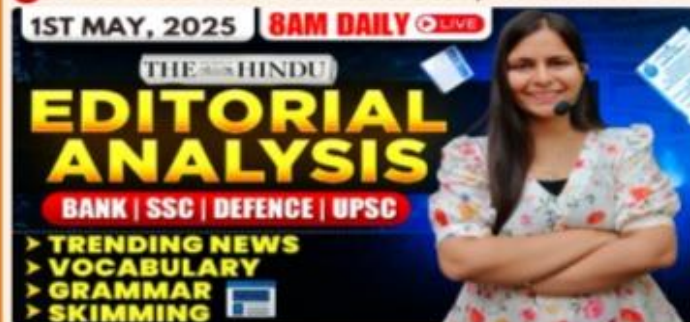


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Rc ans

1.

Ans: C

Explanation:

Reference from the passage:

“Nightmare scenarios... involve gas carrier accidents at choke points such as the Suez Canal or the Strait of Malacca...”

Incorrect options:

- A) No mention of unmonitored movement
- B) In fact, the design and material were praised
- D) No legal classification issue discussed

2.

Ans: D

Explanation:

Reference from the passage:

“...a testament as much to the maritime firefighting capabilities of India as the advanced design...”

Incorrect options:

A) No criticism of the chartering company

B) Fires were controlled

C) Oil dependence is not the topic

3.

Ans: C

Explanation:

Why this fits best:

The passage focuses on India's preparedness, response, challenges, and capabilities in handling maritime accidents, especially related to fires, oil spills, and salvage.

Incorrect options:

A) No mention of tourism

B) Not just about explosions

D) The author does not advocate banning ships

4.

Ans: B

Explanation:

Why this weakens the concern:

If parties already ensure high female representation voluntarily, the delayed legal implementation becomes less urgent, undermining the passage's frustration.

Incorrect options:

A) Explains delay, but doesn't weaken the concern over lost time

C) Irrelevant — addresses different categories

D) False; passage shows declining representation

5.

Ans: D

Explanation”

Reference from the passage:

“The path ahead is obvious... set right the lacunae with policies and political will... there is nothing keeping political parties from increasing women’s participation... even before the law necessitates it.”

Incorrect options:

A) The author says global ranking should be secondary

B) Celebrates improvement but stresses political representation more

C) Author doesn’t suggest reliance on global pressure