The Hindu EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

11th 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. Rebuts (खंडन करना)

- → Meaning: To argue against or prove a statement or accusation to be false.
 → Symposium Pofutos
- → Synonyms: Refutes,
 contradicts, disproves
- contradicts, disproves

 → Antonyms: Confirms,
- → Antonyms: Confirms,
 accepts, validates
 → Example: The student
 calmly rebuts the claim

that grades are the only

measure of intelligence.

2. Telltale (प्रकट करने वाला / संकेत देने वाला)

- Meaning: Clearly revealing or indicating something.
- → Synonyms: Revealing, indicative, suggestive
- → Antonyms: Concealing,
- hidden, ambiguous → Example: None of the
- listed documents were telltale signs of citizenship, the Court rightly noted.

3. Prattling (बकबक करना / अनावश्यक बातें करना)

- → Meaning: Talking at length in a foolish or inconsequential way.
- → Synonyms: Babbling, chattering, rambling
- → Antonyms: Silence,
- conciseness, quiet→ Example: Instead of
- → Example: Instead of addressing the issue, the speaker kept prattling about irrelevant details.

4. Catastrophic (विनाशकारी)

- Meaning: Involving great damage, suffering, or failure.
- → Synonyms: Disastrous, ruinous, calamitous
- → Antonyms: Fortunate,
- harmless, beneficial

 → Example: The bridge
 collapse in Vadodara is
 another example of a
 catastrophic infrastructure
 failure.

5. Laden (लदा हुआ / भरा हुआ)

- → Meaning: Heavily loaded or weighed down.
- → Synonyms: Burdened, loaded, weighed
- → Antonyms: Light, empty, unburdened
- → Example: The student walked in, emotionally laden with stress from back-to-back exams.

6. Ubiquity (सर्वव्यापकता)

- → Meaning: The fact of appearing everywhere or being very common.
- → Synonyms:
 Pervasiveness,
- universality → Antonyms: Rarity,

omnipresence,

- uniqueness, isolation

 → Example: The ubiquity
- → Example: The ubiquity of accidents calls for uniform audits and preventive measures.

7. Raddled (थका हुआ और बुरी हालत में)

- Meaning: Worn out, discolored, or looking tired and unwell, often due to age, stress, or overwork.
- → Synonyms: Haggard, worn, fatigued, weathered
- → Antonyms: Fresh, healthy, vibrant
- → Example: After years of working double shifts, his raddled face showed signs of exhaustion.

8. Caved in (धंस जाना / गिर जाना)

- → Meaning: Collapsed or fell inward, especially suddenly or under pressure.
 → Symposic Collapsed
- → Synonyms: Collapsed, gave way, crumbled
- → Antonyms: Stood firm,
- held up, remained intact
 → Example: The bridge caved in without warning, plunging vehicles into the river.

9. Cachet (प्रतिष्ठा / गौरव)

- → Meaning: The state of being respected or admired; a mark of distinction or prestige.
- → Synonyms: Prestige,
 status, distinction, dignity
- → Antonyms: Disgrace,
 dishonor, insignificance
 → Example: A degree from a
 top university carries a
 certain cachet in the

professional world.

10. Fulgent (दीप्तिमान / चमकदार)

- Meaning: Shining brightly;
 dazzling in appearance.
 Synonyms: Radiant,
- luminous, brilliant,
- gleaming→ Antonyms: Dim, dull, shadowy→ Example: The palace was
- fulgent under the moonlight, glowing like a jewel in the dark.

One-word substitute:

1. Something prohibited or restricted by social or cultural norms:

Taboo

- 2. In a state of inactivity or dormancy: Quiescent
- 3. Not alive; lacking life or spirit: Inanimate
- 4. Allowing light to pass through, but not detailed shapes: Translucent

Phrasal Verbs:

1. Rule out

Meaning - to eliminate or exclude an option.

2. Sink in

Meaning - to become understood or accepted.

3. Spell out

Meaning - to explain something in detail.

4. Stand up to

Meaning - to confront or resist.

Idioms & Phrases

1. Stick one's neck out

Meaning: to take a risk

2. Get your walking papers

Meaning: get fired from the job

3. Cork something up

Meaning: to not allow oneself to express once anger, worry, or sadness.

4. Cook someone's goose

Meaning: spoil other person's chances of success

5. Throw caution to the wind

Meaning: to do something without worrying about the risk or negative results.

Article for Reading

Bridge too far: On the bridge collapse in Vadodara

On July 9, 2025, a span of a 40-year-old bridge in Vadodara in Gujarat caved in, sending half-a-dozen vehicles into the Mahisagar river below. On Thursday (July 10, 2025), 18 people were confirmed dead. Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel has ordered an investigation into the cause, which locals have alleged to be the long-standing neglect by local authorities. On June 15, 2025, an iron pedestrian bridge over the Indrayani river in Pune district collapsed due to overloading, leaving four dead. In May, a concrete slab being hoisted by a crane at the site of the construction of a bridge over the Kathajodi river in Cuttack fell on workers below, killing three. Similarly, in 2024, the Ghatkopar hoarding collapse in Mumbai resulted in 17 fatalities. And in 2023, there were more accidents — a girder failure at an under-construction railway bridge in Mizoram left 26 workers dead; a rooftop billboard collapse killed two women in Lucknow; and a pillar collapse at a metro construction site in Bengaluru killed a mother and her toddler.

In 2022, the Morbi suspension bridge over the Machchhu river, again in Gujarat, failed, killing more than 140 people. These are only some of the hundreds of incidents involving the catastrophic failure of public infrastructure. They are accompanied by road accidents and deadly fires in crowded areas, both of which regularly claim many lives. Even if they are isolated, they are not entirely accidental: they are symptoms of India's ageing infrastructure that is being tested, especially in peri-urban areas, as industrial growth and urban populations expand. Facilities such as bridges, roads and hospitals that were designed for some number of users, are progressively giving way under the weight of more. So also are the departments responsible for their upkeep, many of which remain underfunded, understaffed or complacent. While the authorities have ordered investigations into these incidents, few have yielded failure analysis reports into the public domain. Some also prompted audits but they were restricted to infrastructure of the same type.

Given the evident ubiquity of the problem, India must modify asset-creating initiatives such as the Urban Infrastructure Development Fund to have additional priorities and adjust the incentives of rehabilitative schemes such as the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation to help regularly maintain ageing urban assets in all centres, with greater frequency in those peopled by 10 lakh or more. Second, while baseline audit frameworks for municipal bridges exist, they must be enforced more uniformly and transparently. Finally, until then, accidents must trigger a probe by a statutory body plus a mandatory audit of all major infrastructure, and States must endeavour to publish the findings at the earliest.

Summary

The passage highlights a series of tragic infrastructure failures in India—such as bridge collapses, construction site accidents, and billboard falls—that have caused numerous fatalities in recent years. including a July 2025 bridge collapse in Gujarat that killed 18 people. These incidents, though seemingly isolated, point to a deeper systemic issue of ageing and overburdened infrastructure, particularly in rapidly growing peri-urban areas. Contributing factors include neglect by local authorities, underfunded maintenance departments, and lack of transparency in investigations. The editorial calls for stronger enforcement of audit frameworks, broader maintenance efforts under schemes like the Urban Infrastructure Development Fund and AMRUT, and the mandatory publication of audit findings to prevent future disasters.

Tone:

Critical – highlighting governmental negligence and systemic failures.

Urgent – calling for immediate reforms and institutional accountability.

Constructive – offering specific policy suggestions for improvement.

Reading Comprehension

Based on the above passage, answer the following questions:

Question 1:

According to the passage, what shortcoming in response mechanisms is highlighted in the aftermath of these accidents?

- A. Excessive central government interference in state affairs
- B. Delayed emergency services reaching the sites
- C. Lack of comprehensive and public failure analysis reports
- D. Overregulation by municipal safety boards
- E. None of the above

Question 2:

What long-term structural issue does the editorial cite as exacerbating the problem of infrastructure failure?

- A. Outdated legal frameworks governing public construction
- B. Rapid urbanisation placing stress on older infrastructure
- C. Privatisation of essential infrastructure services
- D. Centralisation of urban planning under the Smart Cities Mission
- E. None of the above

Question 3: What is the central concern raised by the editorial regarding recent infrastructure-related accidents in India?

- A. Natural disasters are responsible for most of the collapses
 B. Poor quality construction materials used in rural areas
 C. A sudden rise in traffic-related accidents in metropolitan cities
- D. A pattern of systemic neglect, under-maintenance, and reactive

governance

E. None of the above

Article for Skimming

Widen the net: On Supreme Court and Bihar's revision of electoral rolls The Supreme Court of India's pointed observations on Thursday (July 10, 2025) regarding Bihar's ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls are a crucial course correction for the Election Commission of India (ECI), which it must heed immediately. By urging the ECI to consider including the Aadhaar, the Elector Photo Identity Card, and the ration card among the acceptable documents for identity verification, the Court has acknowledged the critique of the SIR that the 11 documents listed for verification are a restrictive and unnecessary barrier to voter registration. The Court has nudged the ECI toward inclusivity in a way that could help resolve the core issues with the SIR. The Court rightly observed that "the entire exercise of SIR is about identity only", that none of the 11 documents currently listed are "telltale ones for citizenship", and that they are all meant to prove identity.

It also rightly went on to question why Aadhaar, which is "considered basic for getting other documents", is excluded while dependent documents such as caste certificates are accepted, exposing the inconsistency in the ECI's position. The ECI's objection to Aadhaar as merely proving residence rather than citizenship reveals a misunderstanding of the practical realities of Bihar, besides legal precedents. For example, data show that while 87% of Bihar's population have an Aadhaar card, only 45%-50% are matriculates and close to just 2% have passports. The Court's earlier judgments remain relevant too, having decisively rejected putting the "onus of proof of citizenship" on voters already enrolled in previous elections. This precedent contradicts the SIR's approach of treating every voter as a potential non-citizen unless proven otherwise and which risks significant disenfranchisement of electors despite their having valid identification.

While not staying the SIR, the Court also listed the judicial review of the whole process, including its timing and nature, which "goes to the very roots of our democracy [and] is about the right to vote". The Court has reminded the ECI that its mandate, under Article 324, is to facilitate democratic participation, and not to create obstacles. There has been enough confusion on the ground following a more liberal reading of the ECI's SIR rules on document submission and verification by the Chief Electoral Officer, which was overruled by the Chief Election Commissioner. With its suggestion on expanding the list of verifiable documents, the Court has provided the ECI an opportunity to transform the SIR from a dangerously exclusionary exercise — one that could affect marginalised citizens — into a genuinely inclusive process.

- **Question 4:** Why did the Supreme Court criticise the ECI's exclusion of Aadhaar from accepted SIR documents?
- A. Because Aadhaar is internationally accepted as citizenship proof
- B. Because Aadhaar is more reliable than voter ID cards C. Because Aadhaar is foundational and widely held, unlike other
- documents
- D. Because Aadhaar contains biometric authentication
- E. None of the above

Question 5: Which of the following BEST reflects the Supreme Court's implied critique of the ECI's stance in the SIR process?

- A. It prioritises outdated documents over modern digital tools B. It misinterprets identity verification as citizenship determination
- C. It undermines the authority of state governments

 D. It fails to provide alternate formats for physically challenged voters
- E. None of the above

Today's Descriptive Question

 Write an essay of 200 words about highlighting the importance of Voting in Democratic Societies. Voting is a cornerstone of democratic societies, embodying the principles of freedom and equality. It is a fundamental right and responsibility that allows citizens to influence government decisions and policies. Through voting, individuals can express their preferences for leaders and legislation, ensuring that their voices are heard and considered in the political process.

One of the primary importance of voting is that it legitimizes the government. When citizens participate in elections, they consent to be governed by the elected officials, thereby strengthening the democratic framework. High voter turnout is indicative of a healthy democracy where the populace is engaged and invested in the governance of their country. Moreover, voting promotes accountability among politicians.

Elected officials are more likely to be responsive to the needs and concerns of their constituents if they know that their re-election depends on their performance. This accountability is crucial for good governance, as it encourages transparency, responsiveness, and integrity in public office. Voting also ensures representation. In diverse societies, it is vital that all groups have a say in how they are governed. By participating in elections, minority and marginalized groups can elect representatives who understand and advocate for their specific interests and rights.

In conclusion, voting is essential for maintaining the health and vitality of democratic societies. It empowers citizens, ensures government accountability, and promotes fair representation, all of which are crucial for the functioning of a just and equitable society.

• Write a letter to request a salary increase from the Manager.

[Your Name]
[Your Address]
[City, State, ZIP Code]
[Email Address]
[Phone Number]
[Date]

[Manager's Name]
[Company Name]
[Company Address]
[City, State, ZIP Code]

Subject: Request for Salary Increase

Dear [Manager's Name],

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to discuss the possibility of a salary increase.

Over the past [time period, e.g., year], I have taken on additional responsibilities and contributed significantly to our team's success, including [briefly mention specific achievements or contributions]. I believe my efforts and the value I bring to the company merit a review of my current compensation.

I am committed to continuing my hard work and dedication to our team's goals. I would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this request further and explore how my compensation can better reflect my contributions and the current market standards.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]
[Your Contact Information]

Match the column

- 1. Stick one's neck out A. get fired from the job
- 2. Get your walking papers B. to do something without worrying about the risk
- 3. Cork something up C. spoil other person's chances of success
- 4. Cook someone's goose D. to not allow oneself to express once anger
- 5. Throw caution to the wind E. to take a risk

Answer:

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

Vocabulary

- 1. Rebuts:
- 2. Telltale:
- 3. Prattling:
- 4. Catastrophic:
- 5. Laden:
- 6. Ubiquity:
- 7. Raddled: 8. Caved in:
- o. Caveu III
- 9. Cachet:
- 10. Fulgent:

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Rc ans

1.

Ans: C

Explanation:

Reference: "Few have yielded failure analysis reports into the public domain... Some also prompted audits but they were restricted..."

The lack of transparent and public reporting, including comprehensive root-cause analysis, is a major concern.

Incorrect options:

A: No central-state political tension is mentioned.

B: Emergency response time is not discussed.

D: The article argues underregulation, not overregulation.

Ans: B

Explanation:

Reference: "India's ageing infrastructure that is being tested... as industrial growth and urban populations expand."

The passage explains that older infrastructure is buckling under the pressure of growing urbanisation and population density.

Incorrect options:

A: Legal frameworks are not discussed.

C: Privatisation is not blamed here.

D: The Smart Cities Mission isn't mentioned.

Ans: D

Explanation:

Reference: "These are symptoms of India's ageing infrastructure... tested... underfunded, understaffed or complacent... facilities giving way under the weight of more."

The article links frequent collapses to systemic neglect, inadequate maintenance, overuse, and a lack of proactive governance.

Incorrect options:

A: No mention of natural disasters being a primary cause.

B: The issue isn't about rural materials; the events occurred in urban or peri-urban areas.

C: The focus is on infrastructure collapse, not traffic accidents.

Ans: C

Explanation:

Reference: "Why Aadhaar, which is 'considered basic for getting other documents', is excluded while dependent documents such as caste certificates are accepted"

The critique is not about security or biometrics, but practicality and prevalence — 87%

of Bihar's population has Aadhaar, making it a more inclusive tool.

Incorrect options:

A: Aadhaar is not citizenship proof even in Indian law.

B: No claim that it's more reliable than EPIC.

D: Biometrics aren't central to the Court's reasoning.

Ans: B

Explanation:

Reference: "None of the 11 documents currently listed are 'telltale ones for citizenship'" and "ECI's objection to Aadhaar... reveals a misunderstanding"

The core issue is that identity documents are being wrongly treated as proof of citizenship, putting voters under unfair suspicion.

Incorrect options:

A: The critique is not about technology preference, but logic and consistency.

C: State authority is not part of this discussion.

D: No mention of physically challenged voters.