

The Hindu EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

12th 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. Unsurmountable (अजेय / अप्राप्य)

- **Meaning:** Too great to be overcome.
- **Synonyms:**
Insurmountable,
unconquerable,
unbeatable
- **Antonyms:** Surmountable,
manageable, conquerable
- **Example:** The engineers triumphed over what once seemed like unsurmountable Himalayan terrain.

2. Protracted (लंबा खिंचा हुआ)

- **Meaning:** Lasting for a long time or longer than expected.
- **Synonyms:** Lengthy, prolonged, extended
- **Antonyms:** Brief, short-lived, concise
- **Example:** The legal battle against NEET has become a protracted issue in Tamil Nadu.

3. Repugnant (विरोधी /घृणास्पद)

- **Meaning:** In conflict with; unacceptable or offensive.
- **Synonyms:** Contrary, objectionable, abhorrent
- **Antonyms:** Agreeable, acceptable, pleasant
- **Example:** The Bill was seen as repugnant to the central law on NEET.

4. Stifled (दबाया हुआ)

- **Meaning:** Prevented or constrained from continuing or developing.
- **Synonyms:** Suppressed, restrained, smothered
- **Antonyms:** Encouraged, liberated, allowed
- **Example:** The strict policies stifled innovation within the organization.

5. Turmoil (अराजकता)

- **Meaning:** A state of great disturbance, confusion, or uncertainty.
- **Synonyms:** Chaos, disorder, upheaval
- **Antonyms:** Peace, stability, order
- **Example:** The political turmoil in the region has led to widespread protests.

6. Atrophy (गिरावट)

- **Meaning:** Gradual decline or wasting away
- **Synonyms:** Decline, degeneration, weakening
- **Antonyms:** Growth, development, strengthening
- **Example:** Without consistent efforts, the organization is likely to atrophy like its predecessor.

7. Languished (कमज़ोर होना / उपेक्षित होना)

- **Meaning:** To lose strength or vitality; to be neglected or forgotten
- **Synonyms:** Deteriorated, declined, weakened
- **Antonyms:** Flourished, thrived, progressed
- **Example:** The regional grouping languished for years without any significant progress.

8. Impede (रोकना)

- **Meaning:** To hinder or obstruct the progress of something.
- **Synonyms:** Hinder, obstruct, delay
- **Antonyms:** Facilitate, assist, expedite
- **Example:** The heavy traffic will impede our ability to arrive on time.

9. Colossal (विशालकाय)

- **Meaning:** Extremely large or great.
- **Synonyms:** Massive, gigantic, enormous
- **Antonyms:** Tiny, small, minute
- **Example:** The company made a colossal investment in de-extinction research.

10. Siloed (अलग-थलग किया हुआ)

- **Meaning:** Isolated from others, especially in a way that prevents communication or collaboration.
- **Synonyms:** Isolated, compartmentalized, fragmented
- **Antonyms:** Integrated, connected, unified
- **Example:** The NEP aims to eliminate the siloed structure of higher education institutions.

VOCABULARY

One-word substitute:

1. A ruler who has absolute power:

Autocrat

2. A tightrope walker:

Funambulist

3. A dentist specializing in treating dental pulp and performing root canal therapy:

Endodontist

4. A doctor specializing in pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum care:

Obstetrician

VOCABULARY

Phrasal Verbs:

1. Stick around

Meaning - to stay in a place for a while.

2. Take back

Meaning - to retract a statement or take responsibility for a mistake.

3. Think up

Meaning - to invent or imagine something.

4. Wade through

Meaning - to struggle through something difficult, often a large amount of information.

VOCABULARY

Idioms & Phrases

1. Over the hill

Meaning - Something is old and no longer fit, attractive, or capable of doing useful work.

2. Hit the books

Meaning - To study

3. Keep Nose to the Grindstone

Meaning: To work hard and diligently.

VOCABULARY

4. Drop the Ball

Meaning: To make a mistake or fail to do something.

5. Off the chain

Meaning - Extremely good

Article for Reading

**Connecting bridge:
on Kashmir, India and
the Chenab Rail
Bridge**

Kashmir to Kanniyakumari' is a figurative expression to denote the geographical expanse of India, from its northernmost point to its southern tip, and for the first time in history these are connected by rail. With the inauguration of the 272-kilometre Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project which has been 28 years in the making, the Kashmir Valley has been connected to the national rail network. The tough, unsurmountable topography of the Himalayas challenged the engineering capabilities of the Indian Railways, but it has come out with flying colours. The engineering marvel, the Chenab Rail Bridge, that stands 35 metres higher than the Eiffel Tower, is the world's highest railway arch bridge at 359 metres above the riverbed. Spanning 1,315 m, it will endure wind speeds of up to 260 km per hour and has been built to last 120 years. Nearby, the Anji Khad Bridge, rises boldly across the rugged terrain as India's first cable-stayed railway bridge.

Towering 331 m above the riverbed and stretching 725 m across, it is anchored by 96 high-tensile cables; 8,200 metric tonnes of structural steel went into its construction. Built at a cost of ₹43,780 crore, the USBRL link witnessed drilling of mountains to set up 36 tunnels that span 119 kilometres and 943 bridges through ridges and mountain passes. Kashmir's decades of geographical isolation have finally come to an end. The Vande Bharat Express between Srinagar in the Kashmir region and Katra in the Jammu region, which was also flagged off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, cuts the surface journey to three hours between the two points. Later this year, a scheduled direct train service between the national capital New Delhi and Srinagar will allow commuters to touch base in just 13 hours compared to over 24 hours in the past. The Vande Bharat Express, a long-distance high-speed service, is bound to end the psychological barriers, multiply the development dividend and act as a game changer for the economy of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).

The train service has brought renewed hope to the region not long after the Pahalgam terror attack in April 2025 pushed India and Pakistan to a short conflict. India's 'Operation Sindoor', against terror infrastructure across the border, saw Pakistan ending the ceasefire agreement and targeting civilians, leaving 18 dead and over 1,500 houses damaged. While inaugurating the train service in Katra, Mr. Modi rightly described the rail link as "a symbol of a new, empowered J&K". The bridge will go a long way to bring the people of Kashmir closer to the rest of India.

Summary

The passage discusses the historic completion and inauguration of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL), a transformative infrastructure project that connects Kashmir to the rest of India by rail for the first time. Taking 28 years to complete, the project showcases engineering marvels like the Chenab Rail Bridge—the world's highest railway arch bridge—and the Anji Khad Bridge, India's first cable-stayed railway bridge. Built at a cost of ₹43,780 crore, the link includes 36 tunnels and 943 bridges, overcoming the difficult Himalayan terrain. The launch of the Vande Bharat Express between Srinagar and Katra significantly reduces travel time and is seen as a symbol of progress, unity, and economic integration for the region. The rail link comes soon after a brief conflict between India and Pakistan following the Pahalgam terror attack and is viewed as a major step in ending Kashmir's geographical isolation, boosting development, and strengthening national unity.

Tone of the Passage:

Celebratory – Emphasizes national pride in a monumental engineering and infrastructural achievement.

Optimistic – Projects the development as a game changer for Jammu & Kashmir's economy and connectivity.

Patriotic & Empowering – Highlights national integration, with PM Modi calling the project “a symbol of a new, empowered J&K.”

Resilient – Acknowledges past conflict and challenges but focuses on the enduring progress being made.

Reading Comprehension

Based on the above passage, answer the following questions:

Question 1:

What structural attribute makes the Chenab Rail Bridge stand out as a global engineering feat?

- A) Its total length exceeds that of any railway bridge in the world**
- B) Its arch supports train loads with no intermediate piers**
- C) It stands 35 metres taller than the Eiffel Tower, making it the highest railway arch bridge globally**
- D) It is capable of withstanding seismic activity equivalent to 9.0 on the Richter scale**
- E) None of the above**

Question 2:

Which of the following consequences of the USBRL project is described as psychological in the passage?

- A) Overcoming the fear of terrorist attacks in Kashmir**
- B) Mitigating the mental strain of long travel durations**
- C) Rebuilding public confidence in Indian Railways after natural disasters**
- D) Ending the psychological barriers caused by geographic isolation**
- E) None of the above**

Question 3:

Which of the following elements BEST reflects the logistical and construction scale of the USBRL project, as described in the passage?

- A) Its integration of high-speed bullet train technology**
- B) The cost of ₹1.2 lakh crore and employment of over 1 million workers**
- C) The deployment of 943 bridges and 36 tunnels across ridges and mountain passes**
- D) The realignment of over 70 km of existing railway tracks in the Kashmir Valley**
- E) None of the above**

Article for Skimming

**The Global and
National Challenge of
Eradicating Child
Labour**

Every year, June 12 is observed as World Day Against Child Labor (WDACL) under the auspices of the International Labour Organization (ILO). In an attempt to draw the attention of the world on the issue of child labour, the day brings together governments, employers and workers' organisations as well as civil society to work towards ending child labour. Though Sustainable Development Goal Target 8.7 calls on the global community to take effective measures to end child labour in all its forms by 2025, we are far from achieving this. Child labour is prevalent all over the world, robbing many children of their basic right to live with dignity, enjoy their childhood and attain their full development potential. Across the world, 160 million children are estimated to be involved in child labour — which is almost one among 10 children. The Africa, Asia and the Pacific regions together account for almost nine out of every 10 children being in child labour.

The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the situation for many underprivileged children, when their schools closed, and their parents lost their jobs/wages. Many children who dropped out of school, and who were forced to work to supplement their family income, have not returned to school. India has a significant incidence of child labour. Census 2011 estimated that 43.53 lakh children in the age group of five to 14 were involved in child labour due to factors such as poverty, non-accessibility and illiteracy. Child labour is preferred in beedi, carpet-weaving and firework factories. India enacted the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act (CLPRA) in 1986, while the National Policy on Child Labour, 1987 sought to adopt a gradual and sequential approach with a focus on rehabilitation. Its action plan included strict enforcement of the CLPRA and implementation of the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) in areas where there is a high incidence of child labour.

The CLPRA was replaced with the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016, which prohibited the employment of children below 14 and had provisions for the prohibition on employment of adolescents (14-18 years) in scheduled hazardous occupations. The Right to Education now mandates that the state shall provide free and compulsory education to all children in the age group six to 14 years. Most drives against child labour have been effective but only for a short time. There are several instances of children who were engaged earlier in labour and who dropped out of school returning to their workplace.

Question 4:

Which statement best reflects the passage's view on the effectiveness of anti-child labour initiatives in India?

- A) Most drives have eradicated child labour sustainably**
- B) Anti-child labour drives are consistently implemented at national scale**
- C) The National Child Labour Project has succeeded in eliminating labour in all high-risk districts**
- D) Most interventions show short-term effectiveness but lack lasting impact**
- E) None of the above**

Question 5:

How did the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbate the child labour problem, as discussed in the passage?

- A) It delayed international funding for anti-child labour campaigns**
- B) It led to stricter enforcement of hazardous labour permits**
- C) It pushed many school-going children into work due to closures and family income loss**
- D) It triggered a rise in child trafficking across state borders**
- E) None of the above**

Today's Descriptive Question

- Write an essay of 200 words about highlighting the psychology of addiction.

The psychology of addiction explores the complex interplay between biological, psychological, and social factors that lead to compulsive substance use or behavior despite negative consequences. At its core, addiction is a chronic brain disorder characterized by the dysregulation of the reward system.

Biologically, addiction involves changes in brain chemistry and function. Substances like drugs and alcohol, or behaviors such as gambling, trigger the release of dopamine, a neurotransmitter associated with pleasure and reward. Over time, the brain's reward system becomes hijacked, leading to tolerance (needing more of the substance or behavior to achieve the same effect) and dependence. Psychologically, addiction is influenced by various factors including stress, trauma, and mental health disorders such as depression and anxiety.

Individuals may turn to addictive substances or behaviors as a coping mechanism to alleviate emotional pain or to escape from reality. This self-medication cycle reinforces the addiction, making it difficult to break free. Socially, peer pressure, family dynamics, and socio-economic status play significant roles in the development and maintenance of addiction. Social environments that normalize or encourage substance use can increase the risk of addiction, while supportive social networks can aid in recovery. Understanding the psychology of addiction is crucial for effective treatment. Approaches like cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT), which addresses the underlying psychological factors and changes thought patterns, combined with medical interventions and social support, can help individuals overcome addiction and lead healthier lives.

- **Write a letter to the superintendent of police of your town reporting a theft of a wallet.**

[Your Name]

[Your Address]

[City, State, ZIP Code]

[Email Address]

[Phone Number]

[Date]

[Superintendent's Name]

[Police Department Name]

[Police Department Address]

[City, State, ZIP Code]

Subject: Letter to SI, reporting a theft of a wallet.

Dear Superintendent [Superintendent's Last Name],

I am writing to report the theft of my wallet on [date] at approximately [time]. The incident occurred at [location].

The wallet contained my driver's license, credit and debit cards, a small amount of cash, and other personal identification documents. I have already canceled the cards to prevent unauthorized transactions.

I would appreciate any assistance your department can provide in recovering my wallet and its contents. Please let me know if any additional information is needed from my side. I can be reached at [your phone number] or [your email address].

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Contact Information]

Match the column

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Over the hill | A. To work hard and diligently |
| 2. Hit the books | B. To make a mistake |
| 3. Keep Nose to the Grindstone | C. Something is old and no longer fit |
| 4. Drop the Ball | D. Extremely good |
| 5. Off the chain | E. To study |

Answer:

1-c

2-e

3-a

4-b

5-d

Vocabulary

1. Unsurmountable:
2. Protracted:
3. Repugnant:
4. Stifled:
5. Turmoil:
6. Atrophy:
7. Languished:
8. Impede:
9. Colossal:
10. Siloed:

ENGLISH

EXCLUSIVE SUBSCRIPTION



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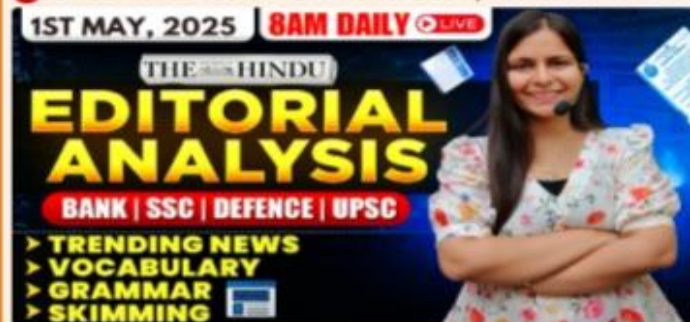


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Rc ans

1.

Ans: C

Explanation:

The passage clearly says: “The engineering marvel, the Chenab Rail Bridge, that stands 35 metres higher than the Eiffel Tower, is the world’s highest railway arch bridge at 359 metres above the riverbed.”

Incorrect Options:

- A) The total length (1,315 m) is mentioned, but not claimed to be the longest railway bridge globally.
- B) There’s no reference to arch supports or absence of intermediate piers.
- D) There is no mention of earthquake resistance or seismic specifications in the passage.

2.

Ans: D

Explanation:

The passage says: “The Vande Bharat Express ... is bound to end the psychological barriers, multiply the development dividend and act as a game changer for the economy of J&K.”

Incorrect Options:

- A) Terrorist attacks like Pahalgam are mentioned, but the rail link is not described as a fear mitigation tool.
- B) It shortens travel (e.g., 13 hours vs 24 hours), but the phrase “psychological barriers” is linked to isolation, not duration.
- C) No natural disaster is discussed in the passage.

3.

Ans: C

Explanation:

The passage states: “Built at a cost of ₹43,780 crore, the USBRL link witnessed drilling of mountains to set up 36 tunnels that span 119 kilometres and 943 bridges through ridges and mountain passes.”

Incorrect Options:

- A) The project features the Vande Bharat Express, which is high-speed but not a bullet train.
- B) ₹1.2 lakh crore and 1 million workers are not mentioned; the cost given is ₹43,780 crore.
- D) There is no mention of realigning existing tracks.

4.

Ans: D

Explanation:

The passage says:

“Most drives against child labour have been effective but only for a short time.”

This directly supports the idea of short-term effectiveness but limited long-term success.

Incorrect Options:

A) The term “eradicated sustainably” is too strong and not supported by the passage.

B) No claim is made about consistent national-scale implementation.

C) While the National Child Labour Project is mentioned, there’s no claim of complete success.

5.

Ans: C

Explanation:

Passage says:

“The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the situation for many underprivileged children, when their schools closed, and their parents lost their jobs/wages. Many children ... were forced to work to supplement their family income.”

Incorrect Options:

- A) There's no mention of international funding delays.
- B) The passage does not reference stricter permits.
- D) There is no mention of child trafficking.