

The Hindu EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

2nd April 2025

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

1. Reiterate (दोहराना)

- **Meaning:** To say or do something again, often for emphasis or clarity.
- **Synonyms:** Repeat, restate, emphasize
- **Antonyms:** Ignore, neglect, disregard
- **Example:** The teacher reiterated the importance of submitting assignments on time.

2. Pittance (तुच्छ राशि)

- **Meaning:** A very small or inadequate amount of money paid as wages or allowance.
- **Synonyms:** Meager sum, trifle, peanuts
- **Antonyms:** Fortune, abundance, plenty
- **Example:** The workers protested against the pittance they received for their hard labor.

3. Undeterred (अविचलित)

- **Meaning:** Not discouraged or prevented from taking action despite difficulties.
- **Synonyms:** Unfazed, resolute, unshaken
- **Antonyms:** Discouraged, intimidated, hesitant
- **Example:** Undeterred by criticism, she continued her campaign for social justice.

4. Bygone (बीता हुआ)

- **Meaning:** Belonging to an earlier time; past.
- **Synonyms:** Past, former, previous
- **Antonyms:** Present, current, modern
- **Example:** The museum showcases artifacts from a bygone era.

5. Soured (बिगाड़ना)

- **Meaning:** To become unpleasant, bitter, or unfriendly, often due to a disagreement or conflict.
- **Synonyms:** Spoiled, worsened, deteriorated
- **Antonyms:** Improved, mended, reconciled
- **Example:** The relationship between the two nations soured after the trade deal fell apart.

6. Unfazed (निरलिप्त)

- **Meaning:** Not disturbed or affected by something.
- **Synonyms:** Unaffected, calm, indifferent
- **Antonyms:** Disturbed, shaken, worried
- **Example:** Despite the criticism, he remained unfazed and continued with his work.

7. Subjugation (अधीनता)

- **Meaning:** The action of bringing someone or something under control or domination.
- **Synonyms:** Domination, control, oppression
- **Antonyms:** Freedom, independence, liberation
- **Example:** The region struggled for years under the subjugation of foreign rule before gaining independence.

8. Opacity (अस्पष्टता)

- **Meaning:** The quality of being difficult to understand or see through.
- **Synonyms:** Obscurity, cloudiness, ambiguity
- **Antonyms:** Clarity, transparency, openness
- **Example:** The opacity of the new policy made it challenging for employees to understand its purpose.

9. Mushrooming (फैलना)

- **Meaning:** Rapidly growing or expanding in size or quantity.
- **Synonyms:** Spreading, multiplying, flourishing
- **Antonyms:** Shrinking, reducing, contracting
- **Example:** Startups are mushrooming in the tech industry as digital demand increases.

10. Imprudent (अविवेकी)

- **Meaning:** Not showing care for the consequences of an action; rash.
- **Synonyms:** Unwise, reckless, thoughtless
- **Antonyms:** Prudent, cautious, careful
- **Example:** It was imprudent of the company to invest heavily without researching the market conditions.

VOCABULARY

One-word substitute:

1. Lack of skill or competence:

Ineptness

2. The branch of medicine dealing with skin and its diseases:

Dermatology

3. An extreme passion for collecting books:

Bibliomania

4. A universal solution or remedy for all problems or diseases:

Panacea

VOCABULARY

Phrasal Verbs:

1. Stick with

Meaning: To continue with a choice or decision rather than changing.

2. Hold onto

Meaning: To keep or retain something as a choice or preference.

3. Tap into

Meaning: To access and utilize something selected for its usefulness or benefit.

4. Lean toward

Meaning: To prefer or be inclined to choose a particular option.

VOCABULARY

Idioms & Phrases

1. A gut feeling

Meaning - An intuitive feeling or response to something

2. A hard nut to crack

Meaning - A person or thing that is difficult to deal with

3. A harrowing experience

Meaning - A frightening occurrence

VOCABULARY

4. A hell of a time

Meaning - A difficult time trying to get something accomplished

5. A hothead

Meaning - Someone who quickly get angry

Article for Reading

**Leave it alone: on the
status of Greenland**

United States Vice President J.D. Vance's recent visit to Greenland, where he reaffirmed U.S. President Donald Trump's plan to assert control over the Arctic island, was a blunt demonstration of American power over a strategically vital territory inhabited by around 56,000 people. The visit drew sharp disapproval from Greenland's local leaders and the Danish government, which retains sovereignty over the island. It marked a new low in U.S.-Greenland relations, which have soured in recent weeks. While Mr. Vance was inspecting the Pituffik Space Base (formerly Thule Air Base), Mr. Trump declared that the U.S. would "go as far as we have to" to take control of Greenland. This is not the first time that an American administration has attempted to acquire the island. In 1867, following the purchase of Alaska from Russia, the U.S. held unsuccessful talks with Denmark to buy Greenland.

During the Second World War, after Nazi Germany occupied Denmark, the U.S. established military and radio stations on the island. In 1946, Washington offered Denmark \$100 million for Greenland, which it rejected. More recently, during his first term, Mr. Trump made a similar offer, which was again declined by Denmark and Greenland. Now, in his second term, he is aggressively pursuing the idea, undeterred by the strong opposition from both sides of the Atlantic. But the Greenland of today is different from the Greenland of the 19th or even the mid-20th century. Once a Danish colony, it was formally incorporated into the Kingdom of Denmark in 1953. After a 1979 referendum, it gained autonomy, with foreign affairs and defence under Danish control. Since then, nationalist sentiment has grown, with polls indicating over 80% of Greenlanders in support of full independence. In another survey, 85% of the population opposed becoming a part of the U.S. The American push for Greenland is rooted in geopolitical calculations.

As climate change accelerates Arctic ice melt, the region is becoming more accessible for navigation and resource extraction. Only five countries have direct access to the Arctic seabed: Canada, Russia, Norway, Denmark (via Greenland), and the U.S. (via Alaska). Russia already maintains a strong military presence in the region.

Washington sees control of Greenland as a way to expand its Arctic claims and access to untapped natural resources. But attempting to seize territory for strategic or economic gain echoes the behaviour of bygone empires. Mr. Trump's expansionist ambitions risk further undermining the fragile post-war international order, which is grounded in principles of territorial integrity and national sovereignty. The U.S. should respect the will of the people of Greenland. Any change in the island's status must come through the democratic choices of its residents, and not through external pressure or geopolitical gamesmanship.

Summary

U.S. Vice President J.D. Vance's visit to Greenland, reinforcing President Donald Trump's intent to assert control over the island, has intensified tensions with Greenland and Denmark. This is part of a long history of U.S. attempts to acquire Greenland, dating back to 1867. While past efforts were unsuccessful, Trump's renewed push in his second term is driven by geopolitical interests, particularly access to Arctic resources and strategic positioning against Russia. However, Greenland has evolved over time, gaining autonomy from Denmark, and nationalism among its population has grown, with strong opposition to U.S. control. The article criticizes the U.S. approach, warning that such expansionist ambitions threaten global norms of territorial integrity and sovereignty.

Tone:

The tone of the passage is critical and cautionary, with a strong emphasis on geopolitical concerns, historical context, and the importance of respecting Greenland's sovereignty.

Reading Comprehension

Based on the above passage, answer the following questions:

Question 1:

What is the primary reason behind the United States' renewed interest in Greenland, as per the passage?

- A) To establish a new military base on the island.**
- B) To secure access to Arctic resources and strengthen geopolitical influence.**
- C) To assist Greenland in achieving full independence from Denmark.**
- D) To expand U.S. tourism and commercial investments in the region.**
- E) None of the above**

Question 2:

According to the passage, how has Greenland's strategic importance changed in recent years?

- A) It has declined due to reduced military activity in the Arctic.**
- B) It has remained unchanged since the Cold War.**
- C) It has increased because of climate change and new economic opportunities.**
- D) It has diminished as Denmark has taken full control of the region.**
- E) None of the above**

Question 3:

Which historical attempts by the U.S. to acquire Greenland are mentioned in the passage?

- A) An agreement between the U.S. and Denmark in 1946.**
- B) The establishment of military bases during World War I.**
- C) A failed purchase attempt in 1867 and another offer in 1946.**
- D) A referendum held by Greenlanders in the 19th century.**
- E) None of the above**

Article for Skimming

**Pension woes: on
EPFO
member-pensioners**

The Standing Committee of Parliamentarians on Labour, Textiles and Skill Development, in its report on the 2025–26 demands for grants to the Union Ministry of Labour and Employment, has rightly reiterated the urgent need to revise the minimum monthly pension of ₹1,000 for member-pensioners under the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO). This amount, fixed in August 2014 under the Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS) of 1995, has remained unchanged for over a decade. Ironically, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led government continues to take credit for the pension hike in 2014, though it merely implemented a decision announced earlier by the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) regime. Back in 2014, when the UPA proposed the ₹1,000 minimum pension, the BJP, which was in the Opposition, criticised the move as insufficient. Its senior leader, Prakash Javadekar, called it a “pittance” and demanded a hike to at least ₹3,000.

At present, the government allocates an average of ₹980 crore annually for minimum pension payments. This figure needs to be tripled in order to make it a meaningful increase. Additionally, the Centre contributes 1.16% of wages (capped at a ₹15,000 monthly wage ceiling) towards the EPS corpus — an amount revised to ₹9,250 crore for 2024-25 and expected to cross ₹10,000 crore in 2025-26. The government's argument is that it cannot afford a further financial burden, but feasible suggestions to manage the additional expenditure have been submitted to the Labour and Finance Ministries and the EPFO. Equally concerning is the EPFO's handling of applications from those opting for pensions based on higher wages. Many applicants, now receiving demand notices requiring contributions amounting to several lakhs of rupees, have been left in the dark about their entitled pension amounts and arrears.

In several cases, applicants have had to rely on their online accounts to track updates, as the EPFO has failed to issue any official communication. Instead of providing clarity, applicants are expected to calculate their expected pension through a portal-based calculator that comes with a disclaimer and no assurance of accuracy. The situation is worse for member-pensioners from exempted establishments, where authorities have summarily rejected applications for higher pension and even stopped previously sanctioned higher pensions without proper explanation. The Union government must initiate comprehensive stakeholder consultations, take steps to increase the monthly pension and ensure the fair treatment of all member-pensioners.

Question 4:

What is the primary concern highlighted by the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians in its report?

- A) The declining number of EPFO member-pensioners**
- B) The lack of transparency in the pension distribution process**
- C) The mismanagement of labour and employment policies**
- D) The need to increase the minimum monthly pension under EPS**
- E) None of the above**

Question 5:

What key problem exists with EPFO's communication regarding pension calculations?

- A) Applicants are unaware of how much pension they will receive.**
- B) EPFO officials provide conflicting information on pension schemes.**
- C) Pensioners are given incorrect pension amounts due to miscalculations.**
- D) The pension calculation method is changed frequently without notification.**
- E) None of the above**

Today's Descriptive Question

Precis Writing:

Original Text:

India's initiative to provide a unique identification number to every citizen is primarily implemented through Aadhaar, the world's largest biometric identification system. Introduced by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) in 2009, Aadhaar assigns a 12-digit unique identification number to residents based on their biometric and demographic data, ensuring accurate identity verification. This system plays a crucial role in improving governance, financial inclusion, and social welfare delivery. Aadhaar has transformed subsidy distribution by eliminating duplication and fraud, ensuring that benefits such as food rations, LPG subsidies, and pensions reach the rightful beneficiaries directly through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). It has also facilitated banking access, enabling seamless Know Your Customer (KYC) verification for opening bank accounts and availing financial services.

In addition to welfare schemes, Aadhaar is integrated into multiple sectors, including telecommunications, taxation (PAN linking), and digital payments. It supports e-KYC processes for businesses, reducing paperwork and making transactions faster. The introduction of Aadhaar-enabled Payment Systems (AePS) has boosted digital transactions, even in remote areas. However, concerns over privacy, data security, and potential misuse have sparked debates. The Supreme Court of India has ruled that Aadhaar should be voluntary for most services, except for essential government schemes and taxation. Strong data protection laws and cybersecurity measures are crucial to maintaining trust in the system. A unique identification number like Aadhaar enhances transparency, efficiency, and governance, making India's digital economy more robust. If implemented with adequate security safeguards, it can serve as a model for other nations aiming to create a secure and inclusive digital identity framework.

Precis:

India's Aadhaar system provides a 12-digit unique identification number to residents based on biometric and demographic data, enhancing identity verification and governance. It has streamlined subsidy distribution, banking access, and digital transactions, improving financial inclusion. Aadhaar also supports taxation, telecom, and business KYC processes, but concerns over privacy and data security persist. While it strengthens transparency and efficiency, maintaining strong legal safeguards is essential to protect citizens' rights.

- You are the HR manager, and a senior employee is retiring. Write an email to inform the staff and invite them to a farewell event.

To:@gmail.com

Subject: Invitation to Farewell Event for [Senior Employee's Name]

Dear Team,

I hope this email finds you well.

After years of dedication and invaluable contributions, [Senior Employee's Name] is retiring from [Company Name]. As a respected member of our team, [he/she/they] has played a significant role in shaping our success, and we would like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt gratitude.

To honor [Senior Employee's Name] and celebrate [his/her/their] journey with us, we are organizing a farewell event.

Date: [Event Date]
Time: [Event Time]
Venue: [Event Venue]

Please join us in sharing fond memories, expressing appreciation, and wishing [Senior Employee's Name] the very best for the future. Your presence will make this occasion even more special.

Kindly confirm your attendance by [RSVP Deadline] so we can make the necessary arrangements.

Looking forward to seeing you all there.

**Best regards,
[Your Name]
HR Manager**

Match the column

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1. A gut feeling | A. Someone who quickly get angry |
| 2. A hard nut to crack | B. An intuitive feeling or response to something |
| 3. A harrowing experience | C. Very bad or difficult |
| 4. A hell of a time | D. A person or thing that is difficult to deal with |
| 5. A hothead | E. A frightening occurrence |

Answer:

1-b

2-d

3-e

4-c

5-a

Vocabulary

1. Reiterate:
2. Pittance:
3. Undeterred:
4. Bygone:
5. Soured:
6. Unfazed:
7. Subjugation:
8. Opacity:
9. Mushrooming:
10. Imprudent:

Rc ans

1.

Ans: B

Explanation:

The passage states, "The American push for Greenland is rooted in geopolitical calculations. As climate change accelerates Arctic ice melt, the region is becoming more accessible for navigation and resource extraction." This suggests that the U.S. aims to expand its Arctic claims and gain access to untapped natural resources.

Why the other options are incorrect?

A) Establishing a new military base – The passage mentions the existing Pituffik Space Base but does not suggest plans for a new base.

C) Helping Greenland gain independence – The U.S. is trying to assert control, not support independence.

D) Expanding tourism and investment – No mention of tourism or commercial expansion.

2.

Ans: C

Explanation:

The passage states, "As climate change accelerates Arctic ice melt, the region is becoming more accessible for navigation and resource extraction." This implies that Greenland's strategic significance has grown due to greater accessibility and resource availability.

Why the other options are incorrect?

A) Declined due to reduced military activity – The U.S. is actively pursuing control, showing military interest remains high.

B) Unchanged since the Cold War – The passage suggests increased importance, not stability.

D) Diminished due to Danish control – Denmark still holds foreign affairs and defense, but Greenland's strategic value has risen.

3.

Ans: C

Explanation:

The passage states, "In 1867, following the purchase of Alaska, the U.S. held unsuccessful talks with Denmark to buy Greenland. In 1946, Washington offered Denmark \$100 million for Greenland, which it rejected."

Why the other options are incorrect?

- A) Agreement in 1946 – Denmark rejected the U.S. offer.
- B) Military bases in WWI – The passage mentions World War II, not WWI.
- D) Referendum in the 19th century – The first Greenlandic referendum was in 1979.

4.

Ans: D

Explanation:

The passage states, "The Standing Committee of Parliamentarians... has rightly reiterated the urgent need to revise the minimum monthly pension of ₹1,000 for member-pensioners under the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)." This confirms that the primary focus is on increasing the pension amount.

Why the other options are incorrect?

- A) Declining number of pensioners – The passage does not mention a decline in EPFO pensioners.
- B) Lack of transparency in distribution – While transparency issues exist, the main focus is on increasing the pension amount.
- C) Mismanagement of labour policies – The report is about pension revision, not overall labour policy.

5.

Ans: A

Explanation:

The passage states, "Many applicants, now receiving demand notices requiring contributions amounting to several lakhs of rupees, have been left in the dark about their entitled pension amounts and arrears." This means pensioners do not know how much they will receive, even after making large contributions.

Why the other options are incorrect?

B) Conflicting information from officials – The passage does not mention this.

C) Incorrect pension amounts – The problem is lack of clarity, not errors in calculation.

D) Frequent method changes – No mention of changing pension calculation methods.

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Perfection I

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