

The Hindu EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

17th 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. Culminate (परिणति होना / समाप्त होना)

- **Meaning:** To reach a climax or point of highest development.
- **Synonyms:** Conclude, peak, result
- **Antonyms:** Begin, start
- **Example:** The team's long struggle culminated in a historic victory at Lord's.

2. Dogged (हठी / दढ़)

- **Meaning:** Showing tenacity and determination.
- **Synonyms:** Persistent, determined
- **Antonyms:** Weak, hesitant
- **Example:** A dogged Bavuma played a key role in the fourth innings.

3. Bane (अभिशाप)

- **Meaning:** A cause of great distress or annoyance.
- **Synonyms:** Curse, burden, scourge
- **Antonyms:** Blessing, boon, benefit
- **Example:** While automation has improved efficiency, it has also become a bane for many traditional traders.

4. Wrath (क्रोध)

- **Meaning:** Extreme anger or fury.
- **Synonyms:** Rage, ire, indignation.
- **Antonyms:** Calmness, contentment, happiness.
- **Example:** The villagers feared the wrath of the king if they did not pay their taxes.

5. Irrefutable (अखंडनीय)

- **Meaning:** Impossible to deny or disprove.
- **Synonyms:** Undeniable, indisputable, unquestionable
- **Antonyms:** Questionable, disputable, uncertain
- **Example:** The video evidence presented in the case was irrefutable proof of the company's illegal activities.

6. Vaulting (अत्यधिक बढ़ना)

- **Meaning:** Jumping or rising suddenly and dramatically.
- **Synonyms:** Soaring, escalating, surging
- **Antonyms:** Falling, declining, plummeting
- **Example:** The company's profits came vaulting after the release of its new product line.

7. Gumption (साहस, समझ)

- **Meaning:** Initiative and resourcefulness.
- **Synonyms:** Courage, shrewdness, ingenuity
- **Antonyms:** Cowardice, ineptitude, apathy
- **Example:** She had the gumption to start her own business despite the risks.

8. Heinous (हानिकारक)

- **Meaning:** Utterly wicked or reprehensible.
- **Synonyms:** Atrocious, vile, abominable
- **Antonyms:** Admirable, virtuous, noble
- **Example:** The criminal was convicted of a heinous act that shocked the nation.

9. Reinforced (मजबूत किया गया)

- **Meaning:** Strengthened or supported, especially with additional personnel or material.
- **Synonyms:** Strengthened, bolstered, fortified
- **Antonyms:** Weakened, undermined, diminished
- **Example:** His concerns were reinforced by the negative reactions of global markets.

10. Incarceration (कैद)

- **Meaning:** The state of being confined in prison; imprisonment.
- **Synonyms:** Imprisonment, confinement, detention
- **Antonyms:** Release, freedom, liberation
- **Example:** He was granted bail after undergoing a year of incarceration.

VOCABULARY

One-word substitute:

1. Cruel and oppressive rule or government:

Tyranny

2. A sudden, violent gust of wind, often with rain or snow:

Squall

3. A hidden or unexpected danger or difficulty:

Pitfall

4. Decaying or rotting and emitting a foul smell:

Putrid

VOCABULARY

Phrasal Verbs:

1. Carve up

Meaning: To divide something into parts, often unfairly or destructively

2. Cash in

Meaning: To take advantage of a situation for personal gain or to exchange something for money

3. Cash out

Meaning: To withdraw money from an investment or account

4. Cast off

Meaning: To get rid of or discard something, often something unwanted or no longer useful

VOCABULARY

Idioms & Phrases

1. All at sea

Meaning: Confused or unsure about what to do

2. In fits and starts

Meaning: Irregularly; starting and stopping unpredictably

3. Face the music

Meaning: To accept the unpleasant consequences of one's actions

VOCABULARY

4. Look down upon

Meaning: To regard someone or something with a sense of superiority or disdain

5. Flogging a dead horse

Meaning: Wasting time or effort on something that has no chance of success

Article for Reading

**Deserving winners:
on South Africa's win
at Lord's**

It was a long wait that culminated in delight. Until Saturday's high at Lord's, South Africa was often resigned to playing second fiddle in the big cricketing contests. The Proteas always had strong units and some great players, but a stumble in the climactic stages of ICC events became the norm. Finally, when Temba Bavuma's men prevailed over defending champion Australia in the World Test Championship's summit clash in London, many ghosts were laid to rest. South Africa's previous ICC silverware was the title in the Wills International Cup at Dhaka in 1998. That tournament became the precursor to the Champions Trophy and even as this particular event grew, South Africa regressed with comical run-outs, dropped catches and miscalculation of rain-rules often becoming steep hurdles. To concede a first innings lead and then to chase 282 in a grim fourth innings pursuit was never easy, but a dogged Bavuma and centurion Aiden Markram ensured that the early strikes of spearhead Kagiso Rabada were never wasted.

The trio performed admirably and it was also a reflection of the diverse ethnic groups that constitute South Africa, often called the Rainbow Nation. This fact and the need for unity was reiterated through Bavuma's impassioned post-match speech. The skipper truly led from the front. Cricket needed this result as whispers of the 'Big Three' of India, Australia and England, calling the shots and elbowing out other opposition in the overall scheduling have been doing the rounds. Besides applying salve to a country searching for cricketing glory, the South African triumph also revealed that other teams can acquire the champions' halo. To get past Pat Cummins and his men is always tough but Bavuma and his troops held firm in an engrossing Test. Australia has a potent attack that never allows batters to settle, and to counter this and emerge on top is a tribute to an outfit that was acutely conscious about past failures. Even last year, Markram's men slipped in the ICC T20 World Cup final against India.

From being tagged as chokers and to then become the number one Test squad is a stupendous achievement. South Africa never had it easy in cricket as its previous apartheid policy rightly left it isolated from sport. The comeback was gradual from the 1990s and then the match-fixing crisis that consumed Hansie Cronje, was a mighty blow. To put all these setbacks and losses behind them needed a special effort and it was this that Bavuma and his men provided at cricket's spiritual home.

Summary

The passage celebrates South Africa's historic triumph in the World Test Championship final against Australia at Lord's, marking its first ICC title since 1998. Long burdened by a reputation for faltering at crucial moments, South Africa overcame past failures, including their infamous "chokers" tag, to achieve a remarkable victory. Temba Bavuma's leadership, Aiden Markram's century, and Kagiso Rabada's bowling were pivotal in chasing down a challenging fourth-innings target. The win is seen as not just a sporting triumph but a symbol of unity for the "Rainbow Nation" and a reminder that power in world cricket need not be confined to the traditional "Big Three" (India, Australia, and England). It also highlights the resilience of a team that has overcome historical and sporting adversities—from apartheid isolation to match-fixing scandals.

Tone:

The tone is celebratory, inspirational, and reflective. It honors South Africa's achievement while acknowledging the long and difficult journey marked by setbacks, resilience, and eventual redemption.

Reading Comprehension

Based on the above passage, answer the following questions:

Question 1:

What central message does the author convey through the phrase “many ghosts were laid to rest”?

- A) South Africa defeated all its past opponents**
- B) South Africa has finally broken its trend of underperformance in crucial ICC matches**
- C) South Africa no longer struggles with team selection and fitness issues**
- D) Australia’s dominance in cricket has permanently ended**
- E) None of the above**

Question 2:

Why does the author refer to South Africa as the “Rainbow Nation” in this context?

- A) To highlight the team’s colorful uniforms**
- B) To criticize the lack of white players in the squad**
- C) To emphasize the nation's cultural and ethnic diversity as reflected in the team**
- D) To draw attention to the team's inconsistent performance**
- E) None of the above**

Question 3:

What does the author imply by stating that “Cricket needed this result”?

- A) Cricket viewership was declining globally**
- B) The dominance of the ‘Big Three’ had reduced the competitiveness in the game**
- C) Cricket lacked emotional appeal until this match**
- D) South Africa was about to be excluded from the ICC**
- E) None of the above**

Article for Skimming

**Escalation spiral: on
the Israel-Iran conflict**

Israel's unprovoked aggression against Iran has not only plunged West Asia into its gravest regional crisis since the 1973 Arab-Israeli war but also pushed the Jewish nation into an unprecedented security calamity. If Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu expected the June 13 attack on Iran, hitting its nuclear facilities and assassinating its top generals and nuclear scientists, to cripple Tehran — like how Israel destroyed the Egyptian air force on June 5, 1967 during the Six-Day War — he appears to have made a mistake. Iran, in a swift and forceful response, rained ballistic missiles on Israeli cities. Until Monday morning, it had fired over 370 missiles, hitting an oil refinery in Haifa, a top research institute in Rehovot near Tel Aviv and even residential areas. At least 24 Israelis have been killed and over 500 wounded. While Israel has established air supremacy in Iran, it has not managed to destroy Iran's nuclear programme, which is dispersed and buried across the country.

Israel keeps targeting Iran's military and intelligence leadership, with the aim of weakening the government. On Sunday, Mr. Netanyahu said regime change in Iran could be one of the outcomes of Israel's attack. But every time Israel hits Iran, Tehran fires dozens of ballistic missiles back. While Israel is trying to take escalation dominance, Iran is trying to establish deterrence through offence. The result is an escalation spiral. Mr. Netanyahu should have carefully considered the consequences and avoided launching this reckless, illegal war. The Israeli attack came just days before the United States and Iran were to hold the sixth round of nuclear talks. The war has practically killed the possibility of a diplomatic solution to the nuclear crisis. This also raises questions about Israel's endgame. If Israel is not able to completely dismantle Iran's nuclear programme, it may, as Mr. Netanyahu has suggested, push for a state collapse or regime change in Tehran.

Nobody knows what comes next. U.S. President Donald Trump has said that he is still open to a deal with Iran. But Mr. Trump wants Tehran to completely abandon its nuclear enrichment programme, which Iranian leaders are not ready to do — not yet. This deadlock only makes the conflict more dangerous. If the war drags on, the risk of U.S. involvement increases. And If Iran retaliates by bombing American bases in the Persian Gulf, shutting down the Strait of Hormuz or targeting tankers in the Gulf of Oman, it could trigger a security and economic catastrophe. This is another reason why a ceasefire between Iran and Israel is urgently needed. Global powers, particularly the U.S., Israel's chief patron, and Russia, an Iranian ally, must play a more proactive role in mediation and peacemaking. If Mr. Trump is really a man of peace, as he claims to be, this is his moment to take the lead in restoring order in West Asia.

Question 4:

What does the author primarily criticize about Prime Minister Netanyahu's decision to attack Iran?

- A) That it was a delayed military strategy**
- B) That it was inspired by historical military successes**
- C) That it failed to provoke a nuclear response**
- D) That it was reckless and has dangerously escalated regional tensions**
- E) None of the above**

Question 5:

According to the passage, what is the strategic difference between Israel and Iran in this conflict?

- A) Israel uses cyberwarfare while Iran uses diplomacy**
- B) Israel aims for regime change while Iran aims for de-escalation**
- C) Israel is seeking escalation dominance, whereas Iran is pursuing deterrence through offense**
- D) Israel wants peace while Iran wants nuclear expansion**
- E) None of the above**

Today's Descriptive Question:

- **Write an essay of 200 words about the future of Autonomous Vehicles**

The future of autonomous vehicles (AVs) holds transformative potential, promising to revolutionize transportation. AVs, equipped with advanced sensors and AI, are poised to enhance road safety by reducing human error, which accounts for over 90% of traffic accidents. As technology progresses, fully self-driving cars will become a reality, eliminating the need for human drivers.

One significant impact of AVs will be on urban mobility. Shared autonomous fleets could reduce the number of privately owned vehicles, alleviating traffic congestion and decreasing the demand for parking spaces. This shift could lead to the redesign of urban landscapes, with more green spaces and pedestrian-friendly areas.

Moreover, AVs have the potential to enhance accessibility for individuals with disabilities and the elderly, providing them with greater independence

and mobility. In the logistics sector, self-driving trucks could streamline supply chains, reducing delivery times and operational costs.

However, the widespread adoption of AVs faces challenges, including regulatory hurdles, cybersecurity threats, and the need for robust infrastructure. Public trust and acceptance will also play a crucial role in the transition to autonomous transportation.

In conclusion, while the path to fully autonomous vehicles presents challenges, their potential benefits in terms of safety, efficiency, and accessibility make them a cornerstone of future transportation systems. As technology and infrastructure evolve, AVs are set to redefine how we move and live.

- **Write a letter to a company for a job, also highlight your qualifications and interest in the position.**

[Your Name]

[Your Address]

[Email Address]

[Date]

[Recipient's Name]

[Company Name]

[Company Address]

[City, State, ZIP Code]

Subject: Application for [Job Title] Position

Dear [Recipient's Name],

I am writing to express my interest in the [Job Title] position at [Company Name], as advertised on [Job Board/Company Website]. With a background in [Your Field] and a passion for [related to the company/position], I am eager to contribute to your team.

I hold a [Your Degree] in [Your Major] from [Your University], and have experience in [related experience] at [Previous Company]. There, I successfully [specific achievement or project], enhancing my skills in [relevant skills].

I am particularly impressed by [specific project or initiative] at [Company Name], and I am excited about the opportunity to bring my expertise in [relevant skills] to your organization.

I have attached my resume for your review and would welcome the opportunity to discuss how my background fits the [Job Title] role. Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to the possibility of contributing to your team.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

Match the column

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 1. All at sea | A. To accept the unpleasant consequences |
| 2. In fits and starts | B. Confused or unsure about what to do |
| 3. Face the music | C. Irregularly; starting and stopping unpredictably |
| 4. Look down upon | D. Wasting time on something that has no chance of success |
| 5. Flogging a dead horse | E. To regard something with a sense of superiority |

Answer:

1-b

2-c

3-a

4-e

5-d

Vocabulary

- 1. Culminate:**
- 2. Dogged:**
- 3. Bane:**
- 4. Wrath:**
- 5. Irrefutable:**
- 6. Vaulting:**
- 7. Gumption:**
- 8. Heinous:**
- 9. Reinforced:**
- 10. Incarceration:**

ENGLISH

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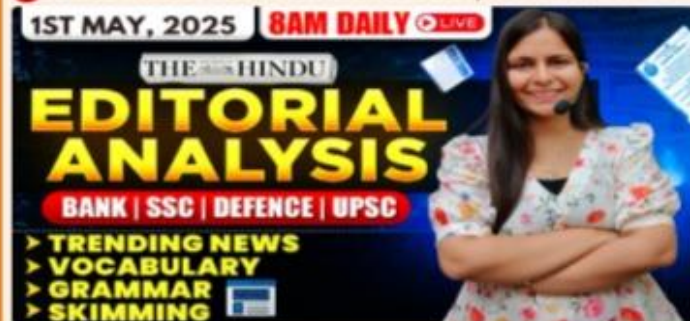


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