

# The Hindu

# EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

7th 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. Feckless (अकारथ / निर्थक)

- **Meaning:** Lacking initiative or strength of character; irresponsible.
- **Synonyms:** Ineffective, incompetent, weak
- **Antonyms:** Effective, responsible, competent
- **Example:** His feckless leadership led to the collapse of the entire project.

## 2. Rescind (रद्द करना)

- **Meaning:** To revoke, cancel, or repeal a decision or agreement
- **Synonyms:** Revoke, repeal, annul, withdraw
- **Antonyms:** Enforce, validate, approve
- **Example:** Some U.S. universities have rescinded PhD offers to Indian students.

### 3. Fret (चिंता करना / परेशान होना)

- **Meaning:** To be constantly or visibly worried or anxious.
- **Synonyms:** Worry, brood, agonize
- **Antonyms:** Relax, calm, soothe
- **Example:** There's no need to fret over minor mistakes; just learn and move on.

## 4. Repercussion (प्रतिक्रिया / प्रभाव)

- **Meaning:** An unintended consequence, usually negative, of an event or action
- **Synonyms:** Consequence, effect, backlash
- **Antonyms:** Cause, origin, reason
- **Example:** The repercussions of ending the OPT program would affect job opportunities for graduates.

## 5. Docile (विनम्र / आज्ञाकारी )

- **Meaning:** Ready to accept control or instruction; submissive.
- **Synonyms:** Obedient, compliant, meek
- **Antonyms:** Rebellious, defiant, headstrong
- **Example:** The docile child followed every instruction without protest.

## 6. Incumbent (वर्तमान)

- **Meaning:** Currently holding office.
- **Synonyms:** Current, reigning, in-office
- **Antonyms:** Former, previous, past
- **Example:** The incumbent mayor is running for re-election this year.

## 7. Capitulate (आत्मसमर्पण करना)

- **Meaning:** Cease to resist an opponent or an unwelcome demand; surrender.
- **Synonyms:** Surrender, yield, submit
- **Antonyms:** Resist, defy, fight
- **Example:** The army had no choice but to capitulate after being surrounded.



## 8. Belligerence (आक्रमणशील )

- **Meaning:** Aggressive or warlike behavior.
- **Synonyms:** Hostility, aggression, combativeness
- **Antonyms:** Peacefulness, friendliness, amity
- **Example:** His belligerence often led to conflicts with his neighbors.

## 9. Humdinger (शानदार / धमाकेदार चीज़)

- **Meaning:** A remarkable or outstanding person or thing.
- **Synonyms:** Stunner, dazzler, marvel
- **Antonyms:** Dud, disappointment, flop
- **Example:** That last scene in the movie was a real humdinger—totally unforgettable!

## 10. Ruffle (उलझा देना / अस्त-व्यस्त करना)

- **Meaning:** To disturb the smoothness or order of something; figuratively, to challenge or unsettle.
- **Synonyms:** Disrupt, agitate, disorganise
- **Antonyms:** Smooth, soothe, settle
- **Example:** The translator's work ruffles traditional language to convey complex emotions.

## VOCABULARY

### One-word substitute:

**1. Impossible to defeat or discourage:**

**Indomitable**

**2. Showing no emotion or reaction:**

**Impassive**

**3. Inspiring fear or respect through being impressively large, powerful, or capable:**

**Formidable**

**4. Poorly built or in a state of severe disrepair; likely to collapse:**

**Ramshackle**

# VOCABULARY

## Phrasal Verbs:

### 1. Dump on

**Meaning:** To criticize or treat someone unfairly or harshly.

### 2. Ease off

**Meaning:** To reduce in intensity, pressure, or effort; to become less severe.

### 3. Edge up

**Meaning:** To increase gradually or slightly.

### 4. Embark upon

**Meaning:** To begin a new project, venture, or course of action.

# VOCABULARY

## Idioms & Phrases

### 1. Rome wasn't built in a day

Meaning: achieving something great takes time and effort

### 2. A penny for your thoughts

Meaning: asking someone to share their thoughts

### 3. Cat got your tongue?

Meaning: asking why someone is not speaking or suddenly became quiet

## VOCABULARY

### **4. Put the best foot forward**

**Meaning:** start impressively

### **5. Bear the palm**

**Meaning:** to win or take the prize

## **Article for Reading**

**Common goals: On  
India and a  
five-nation tour**



**On his way to Brazil to attend the ongoing BRICS summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made back-to-back bilateral visits to Ghana, Trinidad and Tobago, and Argentina. Each stop was with a view to enhancing bilateral cooperation in fields which included some common themes on pharmaceuticals and vaccines, digital technology, food security and critical minerals. In Accra, India-Ghana ties were upgraded to a comprehensive partnership, with discussions on helping Ghana become a “vaccine hub” for West Africa. In the Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, there was a major MoU on “Indian pharmacopeia”, to improve access to quality and affordable generic medicines from India. In Buenos Aires, President Javier Milei agreed to enhance cooperation on critical minerals as well as Argentina’s vast reserves of shale gas and oil, while India pitched its pharma to Argentina.**

**The three stops were in countries of the “developing world” or the Global South, and the onward journey to Brazil, and then to Namibia, also highlight India’s commitment to building alternative economic mechanisms to the “developed world” or Global North. India’s offer of cooperation for low-cost solutions to global challenges includes the promotion of India-led international organisations such as the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) to these countries. Mr. Modi also made his signature pitch to the Indian diaspora — his speech in the Port of Spain, where Indian labour was brought by British colonial ventures since 1845, is one to note. Referring to the Indian ancestry of President Christine Carla Kangaloo and Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar, Mr. Modi said that the 35 million Indian diaspora worldwide were India’s “pride”. It is also impossible to escape the deep connections between India and the five nations in terms of political history.**

**Each country shares a bond — colonies that suffered under British, Spanish, Portuguese and German forces — and why some of them joined the Non-Aligned Movement. They have all, at various points, committed to building South-South cooperation, and India and Brazil's role in founding the BRIC mechanism, along with Russia and China, and IBSA with South Africa, was an outcome, strongly pitching the interests of the Global South. None of the countries on the tour can be called “anti-West”, and New Delhi has had some differences with them over specific conflicts (Ukraine and Gaza). The motivating force behind the ties, however, and consequently Mr. Modi's nine-day itinerary, is more about a common desire to look beyond the present global order to one that is more equal, representative, and sensitive to the needs of developing and under-developed nations.**

## Summary

**Prime Minister Narendra Modi, en route to the BRICS summit in Brazil, visited Ghana, Trinidad and Tobago, and Argentina to strengthen bilateral cooperation in key sectors such as pharmaceuticals, vaccines, digital technology, food security, and critical minerals. The visits focused on enhancing South-South cooperation and promoting India's role as a provider of affordable, sustainable solutions for developing nations. Agreements included upgrading India-Ghana ties to a comprehensive partnership, a pharmaceutical MoU with Trinidad and Tobago, and cooperation on critical minerals and shale energy with Argentina. Modi also addressed the Indian diaspora, emphasizing shared colonial histories and cultural links. The broader goal of the tour is to push for a more balanced and inclusive global order that represents the interests of the Global South.**

## **Tone:**

**The tone is strategic and optimistic, with an underlying sense of solidarity, diplomatic engagement, and global leadership from India. It reflects a forward-looking approach, aimed at reshaping international relations toward equity and inclusion for the developing world.**

## Reading Comprehension

Based on the above passage, answer the following questions:

**Question 1:**

**What is the significance of the MoU signed in Port of Spain between India and Trinidad and Tobago?**

- A. It enables co-development of vaccines using Caribbean biotechnology.**
- B. It provides maritime cooperation and naval exercises in the Atlantic.**
- C. It promotes Indian pharmacopeia and access to quality generic drugs.**
- D. It establishes a disaster response command centre for the region.**
- E. None of the above**

**Question 2:**

**Why does the editorial highlight President Christine Carla Kangaloo and Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar during Mr. Modi's visit to Trinidad and Tobago?**

- A. To celebrate the Indo-Caribbean alliance for regional security.**
- B. To emphasise the historic Indian diaspora's integration and influence.**
- C. To reaffirm bilateral defence agreements with India.**
- D. To criticise colonial British immigration policies.**
- E. None of the above**



**Question 3:**

**What historical-political connection does the passage draw among the countries visited?**

- A. They have all been part of BRICS since its inception.**
- B. They share opposition to market liberalization.**
- C. They were once colonies under European imperial powers.**
- D. They have all hosted Indian military bases post-2020.**
- E. None of the above**

## Article for Skimming

**Pivot away: On U.S.  
student visas, Trump  
administration**

**Fresh appointments for U.S. student visa interviews have commenced at consulates as per the extended vetting programme that includes rigorous checking of the applicant's social media activities. A chunk of visa applications is still pending at a time when the visa processing winds down and students prepare to depart. Fresh appointments were frozen for nearly a month until the extended vetting programme could be launched. With a wait time of more than a month, many visa applications may go down to the wire as classes begin by the end of August/beginning of September. The extended vetting is only one among many disruptors to the flow of Indian students to the U.S. Many other policy proposals have had a chilling effect. The Trump administration's nominee to head the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has vowed to end the Optional Practical Training programme (OPT) that allows students time to work in the U.S. after graduation while still on student visa, and which serves as a segue toward jobs, work visas and green cards.**

**Ending OPT will disincentivise studying in America. The Trump administration has also said that it will provide only fixed-tenure student visas. The axing of government spending and funding of research and other activities of higher education institutions has had its impact — there are reports of universities rescinding PhD admissions of Indian students. Anecdotal evidence points to a sharp decline in visa issuance in several cities and increased scrutiny of the ranking of institutions granting admissions. Many of the applicants this year had begun the application process before the 2024 U.S. presidential election and, therefore, have sought to go through the process despite the fears. Next year will truly gauge how attractive the U.S. still is for Indian students. When the Trump administration took office, it was felt that the worst of its anti-immigrant impulses would be softened by the tech billionaires who were supporting it. In the past, too, big business had driven policies bringing in talented immigrant workers and foreign students in Republican administrations.**

**The exit of Elon Musk, however, is not a singular event but part of a trend of top techies exiting the Trump team. The cuts on green energy research in the recently passed “Big Beautiful Bill” only serve to highlight the almost complete dominance of right-wing extremists in the administration, marked by the extreme views of its leading lights such as Stephen Miller, White House Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy. The decline of the U.S. as a major attraction for Indian talent is perhaps only an indicator of how much India may have to pivot away from the U.S. in other areas as well.**

**Question 4:**

**What is a key function of the Optional Practical Training (OPT) programme, as per the passage?**

- A. It offers fully funded scholarships to international students.**
- B. It allows students to transition from student visas to employment pathways.**
- C. It provides housing subsidies during graduate studies.**
- D. It guarantees permanent residency post-study.**
- E. None of the above**

**Question 5:**

**What does the article cite as a consequence of funding cuts to U.S. higher education institutions?**

- A. Closure of community colleges across multiple states.**
- B. Suspension of all student exchange programs.**
- C. Rescinding of PhD admissions for some Indian students.**
- D. Increase in tuition for international students.**
- 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. Rome wasn't built in a day | A. asking someone to share their thoughts |
| 2. A penny for your thoughts  | B. asking why someone is not speaking     |
| 3. Cat got your tongue?       | C. to win or take the prize               |
| 4. Put the best foot forward  | D. achieving something great takes time   |
| 5. Bear the palm              | E. start impressively                     |

## **Answer:**

**1-d**

**2-a**

**3-b**

**4-e**

**5-c**

## Vocabulary

1. Feckless:
2. Rescind:
3. Fret:
4. Repercussion:
5. Docile:
6. Incumbent:
7. Capitulate:
8. Belligerence:
9. Humdinger:
10. Ruffle:

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+

TARGET BATCH

+

YES MOCK

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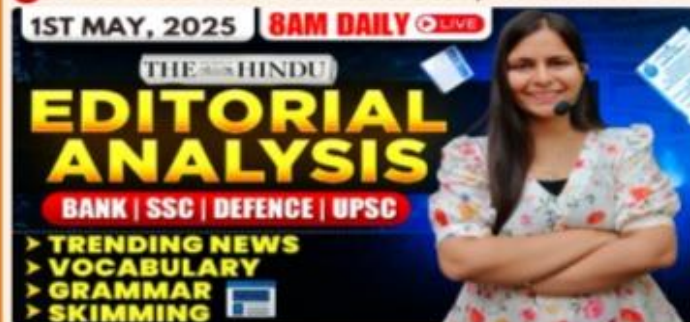


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**Rc ans**

**1.**

**Ans: C**

**Explanation:**

**Reference:** “There was a major MoU on ‘Indian pharmacopeia’, to improve access to quality and affordable generic medicines from India.”

C is directly mentioned and is the only accurate description of the MoU.

**Incorrect options:**

A, B, and D are not mentioned in the passage.

2.

**Ans: B**

**Explanation:**

**Reference:** “Mr. Modi also made his signature pitch to the Indian diaspora... Referring to the Indian ancestry of President Christine Carla Kangaloo and Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar...”

B correctly identifies the celebration of the Indian diaspora’s legacy.

**Incorrect options:**

A, C, and D are not referenced.

**3.**

**Ans: C**

**Explanation:**

**Reference:** “Each country shares a bond — colonies that suffered under British, Spanish, Portuguese and German forces...”

C correctly notes the shared colonial history.

**Incorrect options:**

A is false — only India, Brazil (BRICS founders) are mentioned as such.

B is not discussed.

D is untrue — no military bases are mentioned.

**4.**

**Ans: B**

**Explanation:**

**Reference:** “OPT... serves as a segue toward jobs, work visas and green cards.”

**Incorrect options:**

A: No mention of scholarships.

C: No housing benefits were mentioned.

D: It aids green card processes but doesn't guarantee them.

**5.**

**Ans: C**

**Explanation:**

**Reference:** “There are reports of universities rescinding PhD admissions of Indian students.”

**Incorrect options:**

A: No closures of institutions mentioned.

B: No mention of exchange program suspensions.

D: No tuition hikes are discussed.