

The Hindu EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

30th May 2025

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

1. Fortuitous (संयोगवश)

- **Meaning:** Happening by chance, often in a lucky or beneficial way.
- **Synonyms:** Accidental, serendipitous, unforeseen
- **Antonyms:** Deliberate, planned, intentional
- **Example:** It was fortuitous that the oil had not yet seeped out from the sunken ship.

2. Ravaged (विनाश किया हुआ)

- **Meaning:** Severely damaged or devastated.
- **Synonyms:** Devastated, destroyed, wrecked
- **Antonyms:** Preserved, restored, protected
- **Example:** The Chennai coast was ravaged by a massive oil spill in 2017.

3. Profound (गंभीर/गहरा)

- **Meaning:** Very great or intense; having deep insight or understanding.
- **Synonyms:** Deep, insightful, intense
- **Antonyms:** Superficial, trivial, shallow
- **Example:** Heckman's model gave a profound insight into the value of early education.

4. Limn (चित्रित करना)

- **Meaning:** To depict or describe in painting or words; to highlight or outline clearly.
- **Synonyms:** Depict, portray, outline, illustrate
- **Antonyms:** Obscure, distort, conceal
- **Example:** The report limns the challenges faced by rural educators with vivid detail.

5. Antithetical (विरोधी या विपरीत)

- **Meaning:** Directly opposed or contrasted; mutually incompatible.
- **Synonyms:** Contradictory, contrary, opposite, conflicting
- **Antonyms:** Similar, consistent, compatible
- **Example:** His views on climate change are antithetical to scientific consensus.

6. Chagrin (शर्मिंदगी या अपमान का अनुभव)

- **Meaning:** Distress or embarrassment at having failed or been humiliated.
- **Synonyms:**
Embarrassment,
humiliation,
disappointment, dismay
- **Antonyms:** Delight, pride, satisfaction
- **Example:** Much to her chagrin, her idea was dismissed without discussion.

7. Fillip (प्रोत्साहन या प्रेरणा)

- **Meaning:** Something which acts as a stimulus or boost to an activity.
- **Synonyms:** Boost, stimulus, encouragement, spur
- **Antonyms:** Hindrance, deterrent, obstacle
- **Example:** The government's investment in infrastructure provided a much-needed fillip to the economy.

8. Haste (जल्दबाज़ी)

- **Meaning:** Excessive speed or urgency of movement or action.
- **Synonyms:** Hurry, rush, speed
- **Antonyms:** Slowness, delay, hesitation
- **Example:** In his haste to leave, he forgot to take his wallet.

9. Perennial (दीर्घकालिक , निरंतर)

- **Meaning:** Lasting or existing for a long or apparently infinite time.
- **Synonyms:** Everlasting, enduring, constant
- **Antonyms:** Temporary, fleeting, short-lived
- **Example:** The perennial problem of traffic congestion required a long-term solution from city planners.

10. Indisputable (अविवादित)

- **Meaning:** Unable to be challenged or denied.
- **Synonyms:**
Unquestionable,
undeniable, irrefutable
- **Antonyms:** Debatable,
questionable, disputable
- **Example:** The scientist presented indisputable evidence to support his theory.

VOCABULARY

One-word substitute:

1. The act of restoring or compensating for loss or damage:

Restitution

2. The violation or disrespect of something considered sacred:

Sacrilege

3. Making amends or reparation for a wrong or sin:

Atonement

4. The act or practice of marrying into a higher social or economic class:

Hypergamy

VOCABULARY

Phrasal Verbs:

1. Carve out

Meaning: To create or establish something through effort

2. Get across

Meaning: To communicate or make something understood

3. Get it

Meaning: To understand something

4. Fall out

Meaning: To have a disagreement or argument leading to a break in a relationship

VOCABULARY

Idioms & Phrases

1. Call it a day

Meaning – To stop working for the day or to decide to quit an activity.

2. Catch some Z's

Meaning – To go to sleep or take a nap.

3. Go cold turkey

Meaning – To suddenly and completely stop a habit, especially an addiction.

VOCABULARY

4. Days are numbered

Meaning – Someone or something will not last much longer.

5. Down in the dumps

Meaning – Feeling sad, depressed, or unhappy.

Article for Reading

**Danger in the sea: on
Kerala and the MSC
Elsa 3 sinking**

On the afternoon of May 24, MSC Elsa 3, carrying more than 640 containers, started tilting off the coast of Kochi, apparently due to an operational problem. The nearly three-decade-old ship was said to be structurally safe. The crew abandoned the ship after unsuccessfully trying to right her. Now, Elsa 3 is lying at the bottom of the seabed 50 metres below. As per the cargo manifest, officials say the ship had 13 containers with hazardous goods. Twelve had calcium carbide, a reactive compound, and one had “rubber solution”. Some 50 containers, many empty, were floating and getting tossed around by monsoon weather. Officials say the rubber solution has reacted with the seawater and accounts for the plastic pellets being found on the Kerala coast. Five containers with calcium carbide, another pollution hazard, are lying on the seabed and need to be safely disposed of before they cause damage.

Some oil pollution has also been reported. There is as yet no clarity on how to safely dispose of the plastic pellets. Though containers have tremendously boosted world trade logistics, oversight and control of what each container that passes several hands, ships and yards has is a global problem. Besides the 600-odd containers still lodged inside Elsa 3's cargo space, some 365 tonnes of heavy fuel oil and 60 tonnes of diesel lie inside the ship's tanks. That much of the oil has not seeped out yet is fortuitous but there is every possibility of it happening if quick action is not taken. The Chennai coast was ravaged by 250 tonnes of heavy fuel oil from an oil tanker that collided with an LPG carrier in 2017. MSC Elsa 3 is a toxic dump that needs to be quickly disposed of. Salvors are being engaged and they will follow international insurance protocols. The National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan (NOS-DCP) names the Coast Guard as the nodal agency for such responses.

In Chennai, the response was delayed by several days and there was much confusion and a lack of coordination between agencies. In Kerala, however, there has been enough time to rig up an effective response. With ambitious plans for economic growth that will inevitably lead to a surge in ship traffic, the government has also planned to draw more national and global transshipment traffic into India's waters. India is only set to see a great number and variety of ships of varying cargoes on its coast in future. The Kerala response will show how well prepared India is to handle a major maritime disaster.

Summary

On May 24, the cargo ship MSC Elsa 3 began tilting near Kochi due to an operational failure and eventually sank with over 640 containers, including hazardous materials like calcium carbide and rubber solution. Some containers floated, releasing plastic pellets along the Kerala coast, and five containers with calcium carbide now lie on the seabed, posing an environmental threat. The ship also contains 365 tonnes of heavy fuel oil and 60 tonnes of diesel, which risk leaking. This incident highlights the global issue of inadequate cargo oversight and the urgent need for effective disaster response. The Indian Coast Guard, as per the National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan, is responsible for managing the situation. Compared to a delayed response in a similar 2017 Chennai oil spill, Kerala has had more time to prepare. With increasing maritime traffic expected due to India's economic ambitions, this incident is a test of the country's preparedness for maritime disasters.

Tone:

Serious, cautionary, and urgent, with an underlying concern for environmental safety and institutional preparedness.

Reading Comprehension

Based on the above passage, answer the following questions:

Question 1:

Which of the following is a key concern with the five calcium carbide containers lying on the seabed?

- A. Their low reactivity makes recovery impossible**
- B. They are non-toxic but could damage ship engines**
- C. They could react dangerously with water and cause pollution**
- D. They have already dissolved and spread across the seabed**
- E. None of the above**

Question 2:

What positive factor distinguishes Kerala's response to the MSC Elsa 3 crisis compared to the 2017 Chennai oil spill?

- A. Presence of international aid teams**
- B. Faster deployment of Coast Guard aircraft**
- C. Prior experience in handling container explosions**
- D. More time to prepare an effective response**
- E. None of the above**

Question 3:

What broader concern does the passage raise about global container shipping logistics?

- A. Inadequate shipbuilding quality in developing nations**
- B. Poor tracking and verification of container contents**
- C. Overdependence on automated navigation systems**
- D. Inability to operate in rough weather conditions**
- E. None of the above**

Article for Skimming

**Rewriting the script
of early childhood
education**

“Some kids win the lottery at birth; far too many don’t — and most people struggle to catch up,” said the Nobel Laureate Prof. James Heckman. This holds true for India as well where its employment problem is partly a consequence of this “lottery of birth”. A child born in India has a one-in-five chance of being born into poverty, affecting their health, nutrition, learning and earning potential. Yet, there is a way to beat these odds. From the decision by Uttar Pradesh to hire 11,000 dedicated Early Childhood Care and Education educators for Balavatikas to Odisha launching Shishu Vatikas and Jaduipedi Kits, States in India are showing the way. The Heckman curve was a powerful economic model that provided a simple yet profound insight — of the relationship between age and the rate of return on investments in human capital. Heckman found that every dollar invested in early childhood education yields a return that ranges from \$7 to \$12, with lasting impacts: children who receive quality early education are four times more likely to have higher earnings and three times more likely to own a home as adults.

By age five, many gaps in outcomes — such as earning potential and quality of life — are already evident. Children often struggle throughout life if motivation and learning habits are not nurtured early. Yet, India's ECE system faces some major challenges. First, children are not receiving sufficient instructional time. Nearly 5.5 crore children between ages three to six are enrolled in 14 lakh operational Anganwadis and 56,000 government pre-primary schools. However, Anganwadi workers spend only 38 minutes per day on preschool instruction, which is far short of the scheduled two hours, and only 9% of pre-primary schools have a dedicated ECE teacher. We are planting trees without the right care to help them grow. The effects are reflected in learning outcomes. The India Early Childhood Education Impact Study found that only 15% of pre-primary children could match basic objects, a skill essential for letter recognition in Class one. Similarly, only 30% could identify larger and smaller numbers, which are foundational for arithmetic.

As a result, children often start formal schooling without the skills they need, with many bypassing essential ECE years entirely: 2% of three-year-olds, 5.1% of four-year-olds, and nearly one-fourth of five-year-olds are enrolled directly in Class one. Second, the thoughtful optimisation of resources for early childhood education remains a challenge. The Government of India spends only ₹1,263 a child annually on ECE compared to ₹37,000 a student on school education — largely on producing teaching-learning materials that are often underused. There simply are not enough teachers to implement these resources, and there is a lack of oversight — one supervisor is responsible for monitoring 282 Anganwadis. To improve oversight, we need targeted funding to hire more supervisors and dedicated ECE teachers. These measures, though modest, promise high returns.

Question 4:

Which of the following is a critical financial mismatch highlighted in the passage regarding India's education spending?

- A. Most of India's education budget is spent on digital learning initiatives**
- B. The cost of mid-day meals surpasses that of classroom instruction**
- C. School education receives far more funds per student than early childhood education**
- D. Higher education receives less funding than Anganwadi services**
- E. None of the above**

Question 5:

According to the passage, which of the following statements best explains the core insight from the Heckman curve?

- A. Investment in adolescent education yields the highest returns over time**
- B. Early investment in human capital results in the highest economic returns**
- C. Higher spending on teaching-learning materials guarantees academic success**
- D. Outcomes in education are largely random and not influenced by age**
- E. None of the above**

Today's Descriptive Question

- Write an essay of 200 words about highlighting the role of Education in Reducing Inequality.

Education plays a crucial role in reducing inequality by providing individuals with the knowledge, skills, and opportunities needed to improve their socio-economic status. It serves as a powerful tool for social mobility, enabling people from disadvantaged backgrounds to achieve better employment prospects, higher incomes, and improved quality of life. Firstly, education helps to level the playing field by offering equal opportunities for learning and development. Through access to quality education, individuals can acquire critical thinking skills, literacy, and numeracy, which are essential for participating fully in the economy and society. This reduces the gap between different socio-economic groups, promoting a more equitable distribution of wealth and resources.

Moreover, education fosters social inclusion and cohesion. By bringing together students from diverse backgrounds, it promotes understanding, tolerance, and respect for others.

This helps to break down social barriers and prejudices, creating a more inclusive society where everyone has the chance to succeed regardless of their background.

Additionally, educated individuals are more likely to advocate for themselves and their communities. They are better equipped to understand and navigate social, political, and economic systems, enabling them to fight for their rights and access to resources.

In conclusion, education is a vital instrument in the fight against inequality. By empowering individuals with knowledge and skills, it not only enhances their personal and professional lives but also contributes to the creation of a more just and equitable society.

- **Write a complaint letter to a teacher or principal about a school issue.**

[Your Name]

[Your Address]

[City, State, ZIP Code]

[Email Address]

[Phone Number]

[Date]

[Principal's Name or Teacher's Name]

[School Name]

[School Address]

[City, State, ZIP Code]

Subject - Complaint letter about a school issue

Dear [Principal's Name or Teacher's Name],

I am writing to bring to your attention a concern regarding [specific issue, e.g., the cleanliness of the restrooms, quality of school lunches, bullying incidents] at [School Name].

Recently, I have observed that [briefly describe the issue, e.g., the restrooms are often unclean and lack necessary supplies, the school lunches lack nutritional value, etc.]. This problem is affecting [mention who is being affected, e.g., the students' well-being, the learning environment, etc.]. For example, [provide a specific instance, e.g., my child has complained about the poor quality of the food and has been reluctant to eat lunch at school].

I kindly request that you address this issue promptly to ensure a better environment for all students. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

**Sincerely,
[Your Name]
[Your Contact Information]**

Match the column

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| 1. Call it a day | A. Someone or something will not last much longer |
| 2. Catch some Z's | B. To suddenly and completely stop a habit |
| 3. Go cold turkey | C. Feeling sad, depressed, or unhappy |
| 4. Days are numbered | D. To stop working for the day |
| 5. Down in the dumps | E. To go to sleep or take a nap. |

Answer:

1-d

2-e

3-b

4-a

5-c

Vocabulary

1. Fortuitous:
2. Ravaged:
3. Profound:
4. Limn:
5. Antithetical:
6. Chagrin:
7. Fillip:
8. Haste:
9. Perennial:
10. Indisputable:

ENGLISH

EXCLUSIVE SUBSCRIPTION



BASIC TO ADVANCE

- ➞ PERFECTION 2025 (1.0 – 12.0)
- ➞ PERFECTION 2024 (1.0–10.0)
- ➞ GRAMMAR GRANTH
- ➞ RECORDED + LIVE

BY NIMISHA BANSAL

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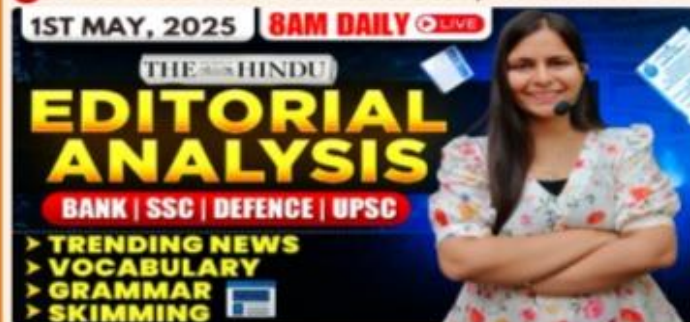


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RC ANS

1.

Ans: C

Explanation:

“Five containers with calcium carbide, another pollution hazard, are lying on the seabed and need to be safely disposed of before they cause damage.”

Calcium carbide reacts with water to produce acetylene gas, a hazardous reaction.

Incorrect options:

- A. Calcium carbide is highly reactive, not low
- B. It is toxic and hazardous, contrary to Option B
- D. The containers are still intact and on the seabed

2.

Ans: D

Explanation:

“In Chennai, the response was delayed... In Kerala, however, there has been enough time to rig up an effective response.”

This directly supports Option D.

Incorrect options:

A. No international teams are mentioned

B. No detail is given on Coast Guard aircraft deployment

C. Kerala's response isn't linked to prior experience with explosions

3.

Ans: B

Explanation:

“Oversight and control of what each container that passes several hands, ships and yards has is a global problem.”

This directly addresses Option B.

Incorrect options:

A. Shipbuilding quality is not discussed

C. Automation is never mentioned

D. Ships are implied to operate in monsoon weather, even if it complicates recovery

4.

Ans: C

Explanation:

“The Government of India spends only ₹1,263 a child annually on ECE compared to ₹37,000 a student on school education...”

This stark contrast highlights the funding mismatch.

Incorrect options:

A. No mention of digital learning budgets

B. Mid-day meals are not discussed

D. Higher education isn't compared with ECE in the passage

5.

Ans: B

Explanation:

“The Heckman curve was a powerful economic model that provided... the relationship between age and the rate of return on investments in human capital.”

“Heckman found that every dollar invested in early childhood education yields a return that ranges from \$7 to \$12...”

This makes B the correct answer.

Incorrect options:

A. The passage emphasizes early childhood, not adolescence

C. While materials are mentioned, they are underused and not the main source of return

D. Outcomes are clearly linked to timing and quality of intervention, not randomness