

The Hindu EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

05th 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. Contingent (निर्भर)

- **Meaning:** Dependent on certain conditions being met
- **Synonyms:** Conditional, dependent, subject to
- **Antonyms:** Unconditional, independent
- **Example:** The reduced duty is contingent upon the company investing ₹4,150 crore in local manufacturing.

2. Interminably (अनंत रूप से)

- **Meaning:** Seemingly endless or without limit
- **Synonyms:** Endlessly, ceaselessly, perpetually
- **Antonyms:** Briefly, temporarily, concisely
- **Example:** The IPL interminably stretched into June due to the unforeseen break.

3. Lukewarm (उदासीन / ठंडा)

- **Meaning:** Showing little enthusiasm or interest
- **Synonyms:** Tepid, indifferent, half-hearted
- **Antonyms:** Enthusiastic, passionate, fiery
- **Example:** Mumbai Indians had a lukewarm start but later entered the playoffs.

4. Pauper (गरीब / निर्धन व्यक्ति)

- **Meaning:** A very poor person, especially one who depends on public charity
- **Synonyms:** Beggar, indigent, destitute, mendicant
- **Antonyms:** Wealthy, affluent, millionaire, rich person
- **Example:** After losing all his property in a scam, he was reduced to a pauper overnight.

5. Fortuitous (संयोगवश / आकस्मिक)

- **Meaning:** Happening by chance, often in a lucky or beneficial way
- **Synonyms:** Accidental, serendipitous, lucky, chance
- **Antonyms:** Intentional, planned, deliberate
- **Example:** It was fortuitous that he met an old friend at the airport who helped him catch the last flight.

6. Mayhem (अराजकता)

- **Meaning:** Violent or chaotic disorder; havoc.
- **Synonyms:** Chaos, disorder, anarchy
- **Antonyms:** Order, calm, peace
- **Example:** The lack of proper planning led to mayhem on the roads and at the venue.

7. Poignancy (मार्मिकता , भावनात्मक तीव्रता)

- **Meaning:** The quality of evoking a strong sense of sadness or regret.
- **Synonyms:** Deep emotion, intensity, pathos
- **Antonyms:** Insensitivity, dullness, numbness
- **Example:** The poignancy of the farewell speech left everyone in tears.

8. Dystopian (विकट भावी संसार, अमानवीय दुनिया)

- **Meaning:** Relating to an imagined state or society where there is great suffering, oppression, or injustice.
- **Synonyms:** Apocalyptic, nightmarish, totalitarian, oppressive
- **Antonyms:** Utopian, ideal, perfect, harmonious
- **Example:** The novel depicts a dystopian future where citizens are constantly monitored and have no personal freedom.

9. Clandestinely (गुप्त रूप से)

- **Meaning:** In a secretive or concealed manner, often to avoid detection.
- **Synonyms:** Secretly, covertly, furtively
- **Antonyms:** Openly, publicly, transparently
- **Example:** The documents were clandestinely smuggled out of the country to avoid government scrutiny.

10. Inadvertent (अनजाने में हुआ)

- **Meaning:** Not resulting from deliberate planning or intention.
- **Synonyms:** Unintentional, accidental, careless
- **Antonyms:** Intentional, deliberate, planned
- **Example:** The error in the report was inadvertent, but it caused a lot of confusion.

VOCABULARY

One-word substitute:

1. The method and practice of teaching:

Pedagogy

2. A damaging or derogatory remark; slander:

Aspersions

3. Unexpected and inappropriate or unfortunate:

Untoward

4. To deprive someone of a loved one through death:

Bereave

VOCABULARY

Phrasal Verbs:

1. Turn to

Meaning: To choose or rely on someone or something for help or support.

2. Latch onto

Meaning: To choose or select something, often enthusiastically or eagerly.

3. Set aside

Meaning: To reserve or choose something for future use.

4. Stand out

Meaning: To be noticeably better or different from the rest, often chosen because of this.

VOCABULARY

Idioms & Phrases

1. A flash in the pan

Meaning: A temporary success or something that initially shows promise but fails to deliver long-term results

2. Fly off the handle

Meaning: To suddenly become very angry or lose one's temper

3. Cut the mustard

Meaning: To meet expectations or reach the required standard

VOCABULARY

4. Steal someone's thunder

Meaning: To take credit for someone else's achievements

5. Bury the hatchet

Meaning: To make peace or resolve a long-standing dispute

Article for Reading

**Falling short: on
India's EV journey**

On June 2, India took a turn for the better in its transport electrification journey by offering a concessional import duty of 15% on completely built-up units. This is contingent on the EV manufacturer investing a minimum of about ₹4,150 crore over three years to localise manufacturing in India, with a base domestic value add of 25% in three years, going up to 50% in another two years. The notification, under the Scheme to Promote Manufacturing of Electric Passenger Cars in India (SPMEPCI) announced in March 2024, allows for a maximum import of 8,000 completely built units annually for each manufacturer for five years. The SPMEPCI adds to the bouquet of policies that attempts to boost EV adoption and manufacturing. However, these policies put together fall short of addressing a pressing issue in India's journey to decarbonise and transform mobility — technology transfer. India began this journey in 2015, about five years later than most large economies.

An outlay of ₹895 crore for the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles in India (FAME) scheme, for five years, expanded to ₹10,000 crore in 2019. China announced its ambitious New Energy Vehicle subsidy programme in 2009, which, coupled with mandatory joint venture manufacturing of EVs until 2022, enabled technology transfer. In addition, a reduced import duty on EVs (25% in 2010 to 15% in 2018), and cumulative incentives of about \$230 billion in the past 15 years — the most by any country — enabled China to achieve the highest global EV adoption rate. This also supported rapid charging infrastructure deployment, making China the largest producer and consumer of EVs. The U.S. began this journey in 2010 with an initial outlay of \$25 billion for its Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Loans Program. This was greatly expanded under the Biden administration's Inflation Reduction Act. But its EV adoption rate is much lower than China's.

In 2024, out of 17 million global EV car sales, China alone accounted for 11.3 million, followed by Europe with 3.2 million, the U.S. with another 1.5 million, and the rest of the world accounting for the remainder. China's vertical integration of battery manufacturing, from mining, processing to assembling, has aided economies of scale with competitive pricing of EVs against conventional ICE vehicles. For now, the 25% DVA that India could aim for under the just announced scheme would be repurposing locally made auto components meant for ICE vehicles to EVs and layering it with Software-as-a-service. But to obtain the crucial technology for the heart of the EV — its battery — India must replicate its approach to localising ICE manufacturing, which is to mandate joint ventures with local ICE or EV makers, and gradually allow for a complete open market.

Summary

The passage discusses India's recent policy move to accelerate electric vehicle (EV) adoption by offering a concessional 15% import duty on fully built EVs under the Scheme to Promote Manufacturing of Electric Passenger Cars in India (SPMEPCI). This benefit is conditional upon manufacturers investing at least ₹4,150 crore over three years and gradually increasing domestic value addition. While the policy adds to India's efforts like the FAME scheme to promote EVs, the article highlights that India still lags behind countries like China and the U.S. due to the lack of technology transfer mechanisms, particularly for battery technology. It suggests India should mandate joint ventures with domestic firms, as China once did, to build technological capability and achieve competitive pricing through economies of scale.

Tone:

Informative and analytical, with a mildly critical undertone — especially regarding India's delayed and less strategic approach to technology transfer compared to global leaders like China.

Reading Comprehension

Based on the above passage, answer the following questions:

Question 1:

According to the passage, what key mechanism helped China ensure technology transfer in its early EV policy framework?

- A. Export duty exemptions**
- B. Mandatory joint venture manufacturing of EVs**
- C. Introduction of AI in battery diagnostics**
- D. Ban on fossil fuel vehicle imports**
- E. None of the above**

Question 2:

As per the passage, what strategic approach could India replicate from its ICE vehicle policy to improve EV technology localisation?

- A. Reducing customs duties on ICE components**
- B. Establishing a nationalised EV manufacturing corporation**
- C. Mandating joint ventures with local EV or ICE manufacturers**
- D. Subsidising conventional fuel use**
- E. None of the above**

Question 3:

Which of the following is a key shortfall in India's current set of EV policies including the SPMEPCI scheme?

- A. Insufficient incentives for ICE vehicle manufacturing**
- B. Inadequate local demand for EVs**
- C. Absence of a long-term fuel policy**
- D. Lack of provision for technology transfer**
- E. None of the above**

Article for Skimming

**At long last: On the
IPL, Royal
Challengers
Bengaluru's win**

Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) played the Indian Premier League's (IPL) inaugural game on April 18, 2008. It was a night that, however, belonged to rival Kolkata Knight Riders with Brendon McCullum's unbeaten 158 putting the match well beyond the host in its backyard at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium. In the subsequent editions, the franchise with a fiercely loyal fan base, promised much, delivered little and had three runner-up finishes to show. Finally, the ghosts of the past were laid to rest when Rajat Patidar's men claimed the title with a six-run victory over Punjab Kings in the summit clash at Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi Stadium on Tuesday night (June 3, 2025). RCB's triumph in the IPL's 18th edition was also a tribute to Virat Kohli's longevity. He has been with the squad since its first game in 2008. In a unit that featured stars such as Rahul Dravid, AB de Villiers, Chris Gayle and Ross Taylor in the past, Kohli has been the forever spine.

The young lad has grown into a patriarch, and he has achieved enough and more with the Indian team, both as player and captain, but a missing IPL trophy, always rankled him. Finally that aberration has been corrected and there was no mistaking the relief and joy that coursed through him on a surreal June night. Patidar's assurance, Kohli's experience, spinner Krunal Pandya's choking spells, and Josh Hazlewood's sharp pace, all combined well while many others dished out cameos to keep RCB in the hunt through the latest IPL. Even if the cup proved elusive, Punjab Kings did remarkably well, especially its captain Shreyas Iyer; he will have a larger role with the Indian ODI team whenever Rohit Sharma and Kohli bid adieu to that format. Among the rest, Mumbai Indians, after a lukewarm start, surged back and found a berth in the play-offs, one that also featured Gujarat Titans. If the IPL was all about RCB's redemption song and Punjab Kings' chutzpah, equally, it mirrored the decline of a pedigreed outfit, the Chennai Super Kings (CSK), which finished last.

An ageing M.S. Dhoni could not stem the rot and former champion CSK will have to rebuild afresh in the coming editions. Having commenced on March 22, the IPL stretched interminably and a break caused by the Pahalgam terror attack and the resultant Operation Sindoor, forced a change in schedule. The IPL also highlighted talented players such as young Vaibhav Suryavanshi and Sai Sudharsan. As a sporting brand, the league is formidable but, as Kohli said, Tests are five levels above in quality and, hopefully, modern players will respect this reality.

Question 4:

Why is the IPL 2025 final considered particularly meaningful for Virat Kohli according to the passage?

- A. It marked his retirement from all cricket formats.**
- B. He finally added an IPL title to his decorated career.**
- C. It was his debut match as a full-time captain of RCB.**
- D. He was awarded Player of the Match in the final.**
- E. None of the above**

Question 5:

Which of the following statements best characterizes Virat Kohli's journey with Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) as depicted in the passage?

- A. He captained RCB to every playoff appearance since 2008.**
- B. His contribution to India was minimal, but he dominated the IPL.**
- C. He remained the consistent backbone of the team through its highs and lows.**
- D. He frequently switched IPL teams but always returned to RCB.**
- E. None of the above**

Today's Descriptive Question

- Write an essay of 200 words about highlighting the influence of Pop Culture on Youth.

Pop culture exerts a profound influence on youth, shaping their identities, values, and behaviors in significant ways. From music and movies to fashion and social media, pop culture provides a lens through which young people view the world and themselves.

One of the most noticeable impacts of pop culture is on fashion and self-expression. Trends set by celebrities and influencers often become the standard for what is considered stylish, encouraging youth to adopt similar clothing, hairstyles, and accessories. This emulation helps them to feel a sense of belonging and identity within their peer groups. Music and movies also play a crucial role in shaping attitudes and beliefs. Songs with powerful messages about love, rebellion, and social issues resonate deeply with young listeners, often influencing their views and emotional responses.

Similarly, movies and TV shows offer narratives and characters that young people can relate to, providing them with role models and shaping their understanding of various life situations.

Social media amplifies the reach of pop culture, allowing trends and ideas to spread rapidly. Platforms like Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube enable influencers to impact youth culture on a global scale, promoting everything from beauty standards to lifestyle choices.

In conclusion, pop culture significantly molds the perceptions and behaviors of youth. While it offers avenues for self-expression and connection, it also requires critical engagement to ensure that the influence is positive and empowering.

- **Write a letter to the mayor of your city requesting him/her for a playground in your locality.**

[Your Name]

[Your Address]

[Date]

[Mayor's Name]

[City Hall]

[City, State, ZIP Code]

Subject: Request a playground in your locality

Dear Mayor [Mayor's Last Name],

I am writing to bring to your attention the need for a playground in our locality, [Name of Your Locality]. As a resident, I have observed that our community lacks a safe and engaging space for children to play and engage in physical activities.

I kindly request your support in considering the development of a playground in [Name of Your Locality]. Your attention to this matter would be greatly appreciated by all community members. I am more than willing to assist in any way possible to help make this project a reality.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

Match the column

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1. A flash in the pan | A. To reach the required standard |
| 2. Fly off the handle | B. A temporary success |
| 3. Cut the mustard | C. To suddenly become very angry |
| 4. Steal someone's thunder | D. To make peace |
| 5. Bury the hatchet | E. To take credit for someone else's achievements |

Answer:

1-b

2-c

3-a

4-e

5-d

Vocabulary

1. Contingent:
2. Interminably:
3. Lukewarm:
4. Pauper:
5. Fortuitous:
6. Mayhem:
7. Poignancy:
8. Dystopian:
9. Clandestinely:
10. Inadvertent:

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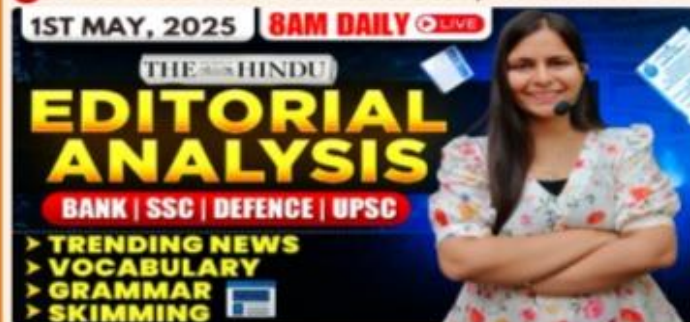


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Rc ans

1.

Ans: B

Explanation:

The passage explicitly states:

“...mandatory joint venture manufacturing of EVs until 2022, enabled technology transfer.”

Incorrect options:

A. Export duty exemptions: Export duties aren't mentioned as a tool for technology transfer.

C. Introduction of AI in battery diagnostics: AI isn't referenced in this context.

D. Ban on fossil fuel vehicle imports: No such ban is described.

2.

Ans: C

Explanation:

The passage suggests:

“India must replicate its approach to localising ICE manufacturing, which is to mandate joint ventures with local ICE or EV makers...”

Incorrect options:

A. Reducing customs duties on ICE components: Not suggested as a solution for EV tech transfer.

B. Establishing a nationalised EV corporation: No such recommendation is made.

D. Subsidising conventional fuel: Counterproductive to electrification goals.

3.

Ans: D

Explanation:

The passage states:

“However, these policies put together fall short of addressing a pressing issue in India’s journey to decarbonise and transform mobility — technology transfer.”

This highlights that technology transfer, especially for battery manufacturing, remains unaddressed.

Incorrect options:

A. Insufficient incentives for ICE vehicle manufacturing: The focus of the passage is on EVs, not ICE vehicles.

B. Inadequate local demand for EVs: The passage doesn't highlight demand as the issue, but manufacturing and technology constraints.

C. Absence of a long-term fuel policy: This is not mentioned.

4.

Ans: B

Explanation:

The passage states:

"...a missing IPL trophy, always rankled him. Finally that aberration has been corrected..."

This confirms the emotional and symbolic importance of the win for Kohli.

Incorrect Options:

A. Retirement: The passage does not mention his retirement.

C. Debut as captain: No mention of him captaining in this edition.

D. Player of the Match: Not indicated.

5.

Ans: C

Explanation:

The passage clearly states:

"Kohli has been the forever spine... the young lad has grown into a patriarch..."

This shows Kohli's continuous presence and central role in RCB's journey since 2008.

Incorrect Options:

A. He captained RCB to every playoff appearance: The passage doesn't mention him captaining every playoff-bound team.

B. His contribution to India was minimal: This is false; the passage says:

"He has achieved enough and more with the Indian team..."

D. He frequently switched IPL teams: Factually incorrect; he has always been with RCB.