

The Hindu EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

12th 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. Impetus (प्रेरणा)

- **Meaning:** A driving force or stimulus that encourages activity or development.
- **Synonyms:** Stimulus, boost, encouragement
- **Antonyms:** Hindrance, deterrent, obstruction
- **Example:** The government's new policies gave a fresh impetus to the struggling manufacturing sector.

2. Eluded (बचना)

- **Meaning:** Escaped the understanding or perception of; evaded.
- **Synonyms:** Escaped, avoided, bypassed
- **Antonyms:** Confronted, faced, captured
- **Example:** The deeper constitutional implications of the case had eluded the High Court.

3. Vigorously (जोरदार ढंग से)

- **Meaning:** In a way that involves physical strength, effort, or energy; forcefully or actively.
- **Synonyms:** Energetically, forcefully, powerfully
- **Antonyms:** Weakly, passively, lazily
- **Example:** The Supreme Court stated that critical issues should be vigorously debated in public.

4. Abridge (संक्षेप करना / सीमित करना)

- **Meaning:** To curtail or limit rights or privileges.
- **Synonyms:** Shorten, reduce, curtail
- **Antonyms:** Expand, prolong, extend
- **Example:** Any action that abridges the right to know should be constitutionally scrutinized.

5. Insipid (नीरस)

- **Meaning:** Lacking flavor, interest, or excitement.
- **Synonyms:** Bland, dull, uninteresting, lifeless
- **Antonyms:** Flavorful, exciting, interesting, engaging
- **Example:** The professor's insipid lecture made it difficult for the students to stay attentive.

6. Succour (सहायता / समर्थन)

- **Meaning:** Assistance and support in times of hardship and distress.
- **Synonyms:** Aid, help, support
- **Antonyms:** Hindrance, obstruction, opposition
- **Example:** The volunteers provided succour to the flood victims by distributing food and water.

7. Gingerly (सावधानी से)

- **Meaning:** In a careful or cautious manner, especially to avoid causing harm or injury.
- **Synonyms:** Cautiously, delicately, carefully
- **Antonyms:** Recklessly, carelessly, boldly
- **Example:** She gingerly placed the fragile vase on the table, worried it might fall.

8. Intemperate (अत्यधिक / असंयमी)

- **Meaning:** Having or showing a lack of self-control; excessive or extreme, especially in behavior or speech.
- **Synonyms:** Excessive, immoderate, reckless
- **Antonyms:** Moderate, restrained, controlled
- **Example:** His intemperate remarks during the meeting led to heated arguments.

9. Clemency (दयालुता / माफी)

- **Meaning:** Mercy or leniency, especially towards someone who has committed a wrongdoing.
- **Synonyms:** Mercy, forgiveness, compassion
- **Antonyms:** Severity, harshness, cruelty
- **Example:** The president granted clemency to the prisoners, reducing their sentences.

10. Encumbrance (बाधा / भार)

- **Meaning:** A burden or hindrance, something that weighs down or obstructs progress.
- **Synonyms:** Burden, obstacle, hindrance
- **Antonyms:** Aid, assistance, help
- **Example:** The heavy equipment proved to be an encumbrance to the workers trying to finish the project on time.

VOCABULARY

One-word substitute:

1. Word for word; in exactly the same words as used originally:

Verbatim

2. A form of government or rule in which the leaders are significantly older than most of the adult population:

Gerontocracy

3. A person who renounces a religious or political belief or principle:

Apostate

4. A person who writes badly or has poor handwriting:

Cacographer

VOCABULARY

Phrasal Verbs:

1. Catch up on

Meaning - to do something you missed or fell behind on.

2. Cheer on

Meaning - to encourage someone.

3. Come forward

Meaning - to volunteer information or help.

4. Ease into

Meaning - to approach or enter something gradually.

VOCABULARY

Idioms & Phrases

1. Grease the palm

Meaning: to bribe discreetly to gain favours

2. Turn a deaf ear

Meaning: to ignore someone when they complain or ask for something

3. In a flutter

Meaning: to be in a state of confusion or excitement

VOCABULARY

4. At a loose end

Meaning: not knowing what to do

5. Blow hot and cold

Meaning: keep changing their attitude towards something

Article for Reading

**A fundamental reset
to drive
manufacturing
growth**

Global manufacturing and trade is shifting rapidly toward innovation-driven, medium-high- and high-tech products. It is driven by advanced research and development (R&D), technological sophistication, high skills and a complex network of supply chains. In addition, there are the current high tariffs introduced by the United States. It is likely to redefine the manufacturing sector. Irrespective of whether there are tariffs or not, the fundamentals need to be set right. This demands policies that address challenges squarely. India has a challenge at hand. Realising the criticality of manufacturing in the economy, the country has been making consistent efforts since the economic reforms in 1991 together with renewed efforts using flagship programmes such as the National Manufacturing Competitiveness Programme (NMCP) in 2005 and Make in India in 2014. Multiple initiatives have provided impetus to the electronics, pharmaceuticals and automobile sectors. A close examination of basic indicators such as per capita value added in manufacturing and productivity provide useful pointers.

For India, in 2023, the per capita value added has been \$0.32 K (K: 1000) and productivity stands at \$8.9 K, while the same figures are \$2 K and \$32 K, respectively, for the world average, which are significantly high in comparison, as in World Bank data on manufacturing. The total value added for India stands at \$461 billion, while that for China is \$4,658 billion and the U.S. is \$2,497 billion. On productivity linked to R&D and innovation, developed economies lead significantly (\$159 K for the U.S., \$103 K for Germany); Asian countries such as Taiwan (\$79 K), Malaysia (\$36 K), and China (\$21 K) have moved ahead. Thus, it requires raising per capita value addition to expand and focus on enhancing productivity to be competitive. The world over, manufacturing has leveraged R&D, skill development, and progressive university education. In India, engineering educational institutions have played an important role. Still, in response to emerging needs, there is a need to institute changes to advance innovation.

There is a need to look at basic features such as how students are selected for admission, which laboratories and workshops are set up in departments, and which skills for medium- and high-tech manufacturing processes are imparted. It should begin with the entrance examination. There is a need to move beyond the notion of how tough an entrance examination is. It should encourage interest in fundamental knowledge, creativity and problem-solving skills. During graduation, an over-reliance on heavy academic inputs, a culture of notes, and a focus on the 10-point grade take up most of the time and the energy of students, which should be also spent on creative problem solving. At the end of graduation, they are good at solving problems quickly that have defined contours or proven concepts. But there is also the need for an ability to visualise bigger engineering problems and undertake innovation, which demand higher-order thinking and research skills. The focus should be on the application of science and technology in solving industry problems.

Summary

The passage highlights the global shift in manufacturing and trade toward innovation-driven, high-tech sectors, emphasizing the role of advanced R&D, technological sophistication, and skilled labor. Despite efforts through programmes like the NMCP and Make in India, India's manufacturing performance lags significantly in terms of per capita value added and productivity compared to global benchmarks. The article stresses the need for structural reforms in India's education system, especially in engineering, to foster innovation and higher-order problem-solving. It calls for rethinking entrance exams, improving laboratory infrastructure, and aligning skills training with the demands of medium- and high-tech manufacturing. Ultimately, the focus should be on integrating science and technology to address industry challenges and drive competitiveness.

Tone:

The tone of the passage is analytical and reformist, with a sense of urgency. It combines factual reporting with critical insight and offers constructive suggestions for policy and educational reforms to enhance India's manufacturing competitiveness.

Reading Comprehension

Based on the above passage, answer the following questions:

Question 1:

Based on the passage, which of the following most accurately contrasts India's manufacturing performance with global trends?

- A. India has higher innovation-linked productivity than the U.S., but lower than Germany.**
- B. India's per capita productivity matches that of Taiwan, though overall output remains low.**
- C. India's productivity in manufacturing surpasses that of Malaysia but trails behind Germany.**
- D. India significantly underperforms in both per capita value addition and productivity compared to global averages.**
- E. None of the above**

Question 2:

What critique does the author offer regarding the existing engineering education model in India?

- A. The absence of theoretical grounding undermines technical skill development.**
- B. The education system overly emphasizes rote learning, grades, and predefined problem solving, limiting creativity.**
- C. Entrance examinations are structured to assess higher-order thinking and innovation capacity.**
- D. Students in India are not exposed to any industrial applications of science and technology.**
- E. None of the above**

Question 3:

Which of the following best describes a paradox or contradiction implied in the passage?

- A. India's economic reforms helped the service sector thrive, but manufacturing has consistently been its strongest area.**
- B. The use of entrance exams fosters critical thinking but also limits admission to innovative students.**
- C. Students are trained to solve well-defined problems efficiently, yet struggle with open-ended innovation tasks.**
- D. India's R&D spending is among the highest, yet its innovation output remains unmatched.**
- E. None of the above**

Article for Skimming

**Right to know: on the
Wikimedia case, key
rights**

The Supreme Court of India order on May 9, setting aside the Delhi High Court order directing the Wikimedia Foundation to take down a page on its Wikipedia Internet encyclopaedia, is notable for several reasons. In October 2024, a single judge of the High Court had issued the interim order after Wikipedia users floated a new page detailing the defamation case and a discussion forum in which some users commented adversely on the single judge's order, construing these actions to be in contempt. After a Division Bench upheld the order, the Foundation moved the Court. Subsequently, the Bench of Justices Abhay S. Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan observed that “[e]very important issue needs to be vigorously debated by the people and the press, even if the issue of debate is sub judice before a court” and that the High Court had overreacted to adverse comments of its take-down order in the forum.

The Bench's order was limited to the Foundation's appeal over the legality of the take-down order, following on from a similar one in April to set aside an order to remove allegedly defamatory edits on ANI's Wikipedia page. Yet the order is also clear that the right to know is a basic right under Articles 19(1)(a) and 21, casting the case against the Foundation in a light that may have eluded the High Court. While discussing the presumption of contempt, Justices Oka and Bhuyan noted that the right to know controls the people's ability to participate in public development and to access justice. Since ANI's suit continues, the High Court may consider applying the value of the right to know to the question of the Foundation's intermediary status under the Information Technology Act. The Foundation only avails the technical infrastructure to Wikipedia users, who then operate according to a set of guidelines to maintain the encyclopaedia.

The setup allows users to act independently even as the guidelines are clear that Wikipedia will only collect and organise information from other sources, and not develop new theses of its own. Thus, the Foundation caters to the people's right to know by protecting users against reprisals by the aggrieved powerful and by enhancing the quality of their contributions through the platform's democratic apparatus. The right to know and the right to freedom of expression should be upheld before the Supreme Court is involved in each case. As the Justices invoked former Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud quoting Jeremy Bentham to say: "publicity about courtroom proceedings ... keeps the judge himself, while trying, under trial."

Question 4:

According to the passage, how did the Supreme Court interpret the High Court's take-down order?

- A. As a necessary step to prevent online misinformation**
- B. As a justified response to protect judicial dignity**
- C. As an overreaction to public criticism and contempt fears**
- D. As aligned with international digital rights norms**
- E. None of the above**

Question 5:

Which of the following inferences can be drawn about the Supreme Court's position on Wikipedia's role?

- A. Wikipedia must screen all content before publishing it.**
- B. Wikipedia is merely a technical intermediary, not a content creator.**
- C. Wikipedia's Foundation is liable for all defamatory content posted.**
- D. Wikipedia should avoid controversial legal topics on its platform.**
- E. None of the above**

Today's Descriptive Question

Precis Writing:

Original Text:

The X-ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat) is India's first dedicated space mission for studying X-ray polarization from celestial sources. Developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in collaboration with the Raman Research Institute (RRI), XPoSat was launched on January 1, 2024, marking a significant milestone in India's space exploration efforts. The mission aims to enhance our understanding of black holes, neutron stars, and other high-energy cosmic sources by analyzing the polarization of X-ray emissions. XPoSat is equipped with two key payloads: the Polarimeter Instrument in X-rays (POLIX) and the X-ray Spectroscopy and Timing (XSPECT) instrument. POLIX, developed by RRI, is designed to measure the degree and angle of X-ray polarization, while XSPECT will study the spectral and temporal properties of cosmic X-ray sources.

By examining how X-rays interact with matter in extreme astrophysical environments, the mission will provide valuable insights into the structure and behavior of some of the universe's most enigmatic objects. The satellite operates in a low Earth orbit (LEO) and is expected to function for about five years. The data collected by XPoSat will help astrophysicists refine existing models of black holes, pulsars, and other high-energy cosmic bodies, complementing global efforts in X-ray astronomy. It places India alongside nations like the USA and Italy, which have previously launched similar missions. With XPoSat, India strengthens its position in space research, expanding its capabilities beyond Earth observation and planetary missions. The mission represents a step forward in understanding the universe's most energetic phenomena and paves the way for future advancements in astrophysics and space exploration.

Precis:

XPoSat, India's first X-ray polarimetry mission, was launched by ISRO on January 1, 2024, to study X-ray polarization from cosmic sources like black holes and neutron stars. It carries two instruments, POLIX for measuring polarization and XSPECT for studying X-ray spectra and timing properties.

Operating in low Earth orbit, XPoSat is expected to function for five years, contributing to global X-ray astronomy research. The mission enhances India's space research capabilities, advancing astrophysical studies and strengthening its position in high-energy space exploration.

- You had earlier lodged a complaint regarding poor internet service. Write an email following up on the status of your complaint.

To:@gmail.com

Subject: Follow-up on Complaint Regarding Poor Internet Service

Dear [Service Provider's Name/Customer Support Team],

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to follow up on the complaint I lodged on [Date of Complaint] regarding the poor internet service I have been experiencing. The reference/complaint number for my issue is [Complaint Number].

Despite raising the concern, I have not noticed any significant improvement in the service, and I have not received any update on the status of my complaint. The persistent connectivity issues have been causing inconvenience, and I would appreciate it if you could provide an update on the resolution timeline.

Please let me know the current status of my complaint and any further steps being taken to resolve the issue. I look forward to your prompt response.

**Best regards,
[Your Full Name]
[Your Contact Number]**

Match the column

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| 1. Grease the palm | A. to ignore someone |
| 2. Turn a deaf ear | B. to bribe |
| 3. In a flutter | C. to be in a state of confusion or excitement |
| 4. At a loose end | D. keep changing their attitude towards something |
| 5. Blow hot and cold | E. not knowing what to do |

Answer:

1-b

2-a

3-c

4-e

5-d

Vocabulary

1. Impetus:
2. Eluded:
3. Vigorously:
4. Abridge:
5. Insipid:
6. Succour:
7. Gingerly:
8. Intemperate:
9. Clemency:
10. Encumbrance:

ENGLISH

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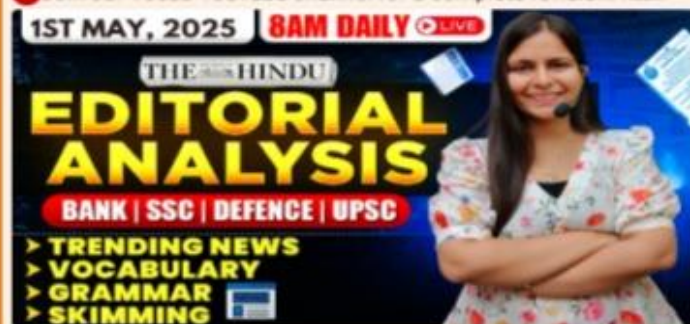


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RC ANS

1.

Ans: D

Explanation:

"For India, in 2023, the per capita value added has been \$0.32 K and productivity stands at \$8.9 K, while the same figures are \$2 K and \$32 K, respectively, for the world average."

This directly confirms underperformance in both metrics.

Incorrect options:

A. India is not ahead of the U.S. (\$159K) or Germany (\$103K) in innovation-linked productivity.

B. Taiwan has \$79K in productivity (linked to R&D), while India has \$8.9K. So this is clearly inaccurate.

C. Malaysia: \$36K productivity (R&D-linked), India: \$8.9K. Hence, India does not surpass Malaysia.

2.

Ans: B

Explanation:

“An over-reliance on heavy academic inputs, a culture of notes, and a focus on the 10-point grade... which should be also spent on creative problem solving.”

“They are good at solving problems quickly... But there is also the need for an ability to visualise bigger engineering problems and undertake innovation.”

The critique centers on rote learning and lack of innovation focus.

Incorrect options:

A. The problem is not lack of theory, but too much emphasis on it at the cost of creativity.

C. “There is a need to move beyond the notion of how tough an entrance examination is. It should encourage interest in fundamental knowledge, creativity and problem-solving skills.”

This suggests current exams lack this orientation.

D. The author suggests some application exists, but not enough. Industrial relevance is mentioned as needed improvement, not an absence.

3.

Ans: C

Explanation:

“They are good at solving problems quickly... But there is also the need for an ability to visualise bigger engineering problems and undertake innovation.”

This highlights a paradox: technical proficiency exists, but true innovation is lacking.

Incorrect options:

A. Manufacturing has not been India’s strongest area. The data show underperformance.

B. Entrance exams do not foster critical thinking currently; the author calls for reform in that regard.

D. India’s R&D productivity is low, and the passage makes no claim that spending is among the highest.

4.

Ans: C

Explanation:

The passage states:

“...the High Court had overreacted to adverse comments of its take-down order in the forum.”

The Supreme Court viewed the High Court’s response as disproportionate to the comments made online.

Incorrect options:

A. Incorrect – The passage never frames the HC's order as combating misinformation; it critiques it as an overreaction.

B. Incorrect – The SC did not validate the HC's decision as “justified”; it implied the HC was too defensive.

D. Incorrect – The SC ruling is about Indian constitutional rights; no international legal standards are referenced.

5.

Ans: B

Explanation:

The article clarifies:

“The Foundation only avails the technical infrastructure... users operate according to a set of guidelines...”

It emphasizes Wikipedia’s role as an intermediary, reinforcing its limited liability under the IT Act.

Incorrect options:

A. Incorrect – This goes against the Court's acknowledgment that Wikipedia only provides infrastructure and does not pre-screen content.

C. Incorrect – The SC distances the Foundation from liability by recognizing its intermediary role under the IT Act.

D. Incorrect – The passage supports open debate, even on sub judice matters, dismissing the idea of silencing controversial discussions.