

The Hindu EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

8th April 2025

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

1. Accentuate (ज़ोर देना)

- Meaning: To make something more noticeable or prominent.**
- Synonyms: Emphasize, highlight, stress**
- Antonyms: Minimize, downplay, understate**
- Example: The report accentuates the need for aligning education with global market demands.**

2. Resilience (लचीलापन /सहनशीलता)

- **Meaning:** The capacity to recover quickly from difficulties or adapt to change.
- **Synonyms:** Toughness, adaptability, flexibility
- **Antonyms:** Fragility, vulnerability, rigidity
- **Example:** Resilience is a crucial skill in today's dynamic job market.

3. Protracted (लंबा खिंचा हुआ)

- **Meaning:** Lasting for a long time or longer than expected.
- **Synonyms:** Lengthy, prolonged, extended
- **Antonyms:** Brief, short-lived, concise
- **Example:** The legal battle against NEET has become a protracted issue in Tamil Nadu.

4. Repugnant (विरोधी /घृणास्पद)

- **Meaning:** In conflict with; unacceptable or offensive.
- **Synonyms:** Contrary, objectionable, abhorrent
- **Antonyms:** Agreeable, acceptable, pleasant
- **Example:** The Bill was seen as repugnant to the central law on NEET.

5. Stark (स्पष्ट/कड़ा)

- **Meaning:** Severe or clear in appearance or outline; harsh.
- **Synonyms:** Harsh, severe, blunt
- **Antonyms:** Subtle, mild, soft
- **Example:** The report highlights stark gaps in India's skill development.

6. Stifled (दबाया हुआ)

- **Meaning:** Prevented or constrained from continuing or developing.
- **Synonyms:** Suppressed, restrained, smothered
- **Antonyms:** Encouraged, liberated, allowed
- **Example:** The strict policies stifled innovation within the organization.

7. Overhaul (पुनर्निर्माण / सुधार)

- **Meaning:** A thorough examination and necessary repair or improvement.
- **Synonyms:** Revamp, restructure, reform
- **Antonyms:** Damage, neglect, deteriorate
- **Example:** The government plans to overhaul the education system to make it more effective.

8. Turmoil (अराजकता)

- **Meaning:** A state of great disturbance, confusion, or uncertainty.
- **Synonyms:** Chaos, disorder, upheaval
- **Antonyms:** Peace, stability, order
- **Example:** The political turmoil in the region has led to widespread protests.

9. Astounding (आश्चर्यजनक)

- **Meaning:** Extremely surprising or impressive.
- **Synonyms:** Amazing, astonishing, breathtaking
- **Antonyms:** Ordinary, unimpressive, expected
- **Example:** His astounding performance in the competition left everyone speechless.

10. Ruinous (विनाशकारी)

- **Meaning:** Causing great damage or distress.
- **Synonyms:** Catastrophic, devastating, disastrous
- **Antonyms:** Successful, fortunate, beneficial
- **Example:** The military's intervention in the region had disastrous consequences.

VOCABULARY

One-word substitute:

1. One who is extremely passionate or obsessed with a cause, especially in an unreasonable or extreme way:

Fanatic

2. One who is beyond expression in words:

Ineffable

3. One who knows and can use several languages:

Polyglot

4. One who is very attentive to detail and difficult to please:

Fastidious

VOCABULARY

Phrasal Verbs:

1. Zone out

Meaning - to lose concentration, usually because of boredom.

2. Wind up

Meaning - to end or finish something; to arrive at a situation.

3. Act up

Meaning - to misbehave or not function properly.

4. Bank on

Meaning - to rely on something or someone.

VOCABULARY

Idioms & Phrases

1. Blood is thicker than water

Meaning: family relationships and loyalties are the strongest and most important ones

2. An axe to grind

Meaning: have a private reason for doing or being involved in something

3. Cast a shadow on

Meaning: to spoil a good situation with something unpleasant

VOCABULARY

4. Keep an ear to the ground

Meaning: staying informed about everything

5. Run around in circles

Meaning: putting efforts into something that is not a worthwhile result

Article for Reading

**Shaping a
future-ready
workforce**

The World Economic Forum's Future of Jobs Report 2025 and QS's World Future Skills Index contain critical insights into the state of India's workforce and its preparedness for the future. They offer a roadmap for the government and universities to address the pressing challenges and opportunities in shaping a future-ready workforce. Their findings accentuate the urgency of aligning educational strategies with the rapidly evolving demands of the global economy. The Future of Jobs Report highlights the significant forces driving global labour market changes by 2030. Among these, technological advancements, demographic shifts, geo-economic fragmentation, economic uncertainties, and the green transition stand out. Technological change and digital access are anticipated to play a crucial role, with 60% of employers identifying them as major drivers. At the same time, 50% of employers expect economic factors, such as job displacement, to reshape industries.

Climate change mitigation is seen as a dual force, both creating jobs in renewable energy and environmental fields and requiring adaptations to business models due to geopolitical tensions. These trends point to a dynamic labour market characterised by job creation (170 million new jobs are projected) and job displacement (92 million roles could become obsolete). In response to these shifts, employers have prioritised workforce training, wage increases, and employee well-being. Notably, 59 out of every 100 workers will require training in crucial skills such as analytical thinking, resilience, and technological literacy. Emerging roles such as Big Data specialists and AI engineers are expected to see substantial growth, highlighting the need for a workforce equipped with advanced technical and cognitive skills. The emphasis on upskilling indicates that educational institutions must proactively prepare students for a competitive job market. Equally important is the integration of soft skills, such as emotional intelligence, adaptability, and leadership, into professional development programmes.

Employers are increasingly valuing these attributes as critical for navigating dynamic work environments. The QS World Future Skills Index complements these findings. Ranking second globally in terms of preparedness for AI and green skills, India demonstrates considerable potential. However, the report reveals stark gaps in workforce skills, particularly on supply-side indicators. While India excels in its ability to identify and recruit for future-focused skills, as evidenced by its 99.1 score in the 'Future of Work' parameter, its performance in 'Skills Fit' — the ability of the workforce to meet these demands — lags significantly, with the country scoring just 59.1. The report also identifies deficiencies in fostering entrepreneurial and innovative mindsets, with India's overall ranking in 'Academic Readiness' placing it at a modest 26th position. Further, India's performance in future-oriented innovation and sustainability is alarmingly low, a mere 15.6 out of 100.

Summary

The passage analyzes insights from the World Economic Forum's Future of Jobs Report 2025 and the QS World Future Skills Index regarding India's workforce preparedness. It emphasizes the urgent need for educational reform and workforce development in response to major global shifts like technological advancement, economic uncertainty, and climate change. While these changes are projected to create 170 million jobs, they may also render 92 million roles obsolete. Employers are focusing on upskilling, especially in analytical thinking, tech literacy, and soft skills like adaptability and emotional intelligence. Though India ranks high in recognizing future skills needs (especially in AI and green skills), significant gaps remain in actual workforce capability, entrepreneurial mindset, and innovation, with poor performance in key indicators like 'Skills Fit' and 'Academic Readiness'.

Tone:

The tone of the passage is analytical, informative, and cautionary. It presents data-driven insights with a forward-looking approach, highlighting both achievements and urgent challenges in India's workforce readiness for the future.

Reading Comprehension

Based on the above passage, answer the following questions:

Question 1:

Which of the following best reflects the dual nature of climate change mitigation as described in the passage?

- A. It primarily leads to job displacement in energy-intensive industries.**
- B. It encourages isolationist economic policies to protect local ecosystems.**
- C. It creates jobs in environmental sectors while requiring businesses to adapt due to geopolitical tensions.**
- D. It fosters wage stagnation in green sectors due to initial transition costs.**
- E. None of the above**

Question 2:

In the context of workforce development, which of the following reflects the most critical gap highlighted by the QS World Future Skills Index for India?

- A. Lack of demand for AI-based skills in domestic markets**
- B. Low performance in entrepreneurial and innovative mindsets**
- C. Inability to identify future skill needs**
- D. Decline in overall literacy rates**
- E. None of the above**

Question 3:

Which of the following best explains the discrepancy between India's strong performance in the 'Future of Work' and its weaker showing in 'Skills Fit'?

- A. The education system is excessively focused on rote memorisation.**
- B. Employers are unwilling to invest in workforce upskilling.**
- C. While India identifies future skill needs well, the actual workforce lacks the skills to meet them.**
- D. Government policies restrict private sector participation in education.**
- E. None of the above**

Article for Skimming

**Inconclusive chapter:
On Tamil Nadu and
NEET**

With President Droupadi Murmu withholding assent for the Tamil Nadu Admission to Undergraduate Medical Degree Courses Bill 2021, the State is bracing for another battle against National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET)-based admissions. State Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has convened a meeting of legislature party leaders on April 9 to strategise the next move. With the admission season approaching, the development is bound to cause uncertainty and make medical aspirants anxious. Exemption from NEET now remains an inconclusive chapter in the State's decade-old policy discourse. No other State effort to legislate against a central mandate has been so protracted and unpredictable. In September 2017, two anti-NEET Bills met with a similar fate in Rashtrapati Bhavan. Four years later, the ruling DMK — having made NEET exemption a central electoral promise — passed the Bill in the Assembly based on the recommendations of the Justice A.K. Rajan Committee.

Instead of forwarding it for presidential assent, Governor R.N. Ravi returned it to the House after five months. In a historic first, the Assembly unanimously re-adopted the Bill and sent it back to him; the Governor subsequently forwarded it to the President. Last week, Mr. Stalin informed the Assembly that assent had been denied, without specifying when Rashtrapati Bhavan had communicated the decision. This delay in the matter attaining finality is concerning as students have been left facing a state of perpetual uncertainty. The State remains firm in its policy of conducting admission for government quota medical seats based on the Class 12 Board examination scores. Early on, the Ministry of Home Affairs had asked “whether the Bill endangered the sovereignty, unity and integrity of the nation” to which the AYUSH Ministry responded affirmatively. The framers of the Constitution had incorporated Article 254 (2) empowering the President to grant assent to Bills repugnant to central laws on Concurrent List matters.

NEET has been consistently upheld by the Supreme Court of India too. The President is under no obligation to give assent, although the Bill reflects the collective will of Tamil Nadu's legislature: it was passed unanimously. True, NEET is neither foolproof nor an absolute measure of academic competency, but Tamil Nadu's legal options are limited. The judiciary is unlikely to settle the issue with any urgency. The State must prepare for a legal struggle, and in the interim, coach students to face NEET with confidence.

Question 4:

According to the passage, what unprecedented legislative act was carried out by the Tamil Nadu Assembly?

- A. Filing a suit against the central government in the Supreme Court.**
- B. Requesting international mediation for educational autonomy.**
- C. Passing a Bill unanimously and re-adopting it after the Governor returned it.**
- D. Abolishing NEET in private colleges independently.**
- E. None of the above**

Question 5:

What does the passage imply about the State's immediate responsibility, given the deadlock on the NEET Bill?

- A. Demand the Governor's resignation through legislative vote.**
- B. Suspend all medical admissions until the court settles the issue.**
- C. Shift medical admissions entirely to private institutions.**
- D. Prepare for legal action while ensuring students are coached to face NEET confidently.**
- E. None of the above**

Today's Descriptive Question

Precis Writing:

Original Text:

A green economy is an economic system that aims to improve human well-being and social equity while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities. It promotes sustainable development by integrating economic growth with environmental responsibility, ensuring that development today does not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their needs. The concept of a green economy gained prominence following the 2008 global financial crisis, as governments and international institutions began exploring ways to rebuild economies while tackling climate change, pollution, and resource depletion. In a green economy, growth is driven by investments in renewable energy, energy efficiency, sustainable agriculture, clean transportation, and green infrastructure. India, like many other countries, has recognized the importance of transitioning toward a green economy.

Initiatives like the National Solar Mission, promotion of electric vehicles (EVs), Afforestation programmes, and the Perform, Achieve, and Trade (PAT) scheme for industries are key examples of India's commitment to green growth. The government's focus on clean energy transitions and climate-resilient agriculture is also helping align economic goals with environmental protection. However, transitioning to a green economy is not without challenges. It requires large-scale investment, technological innovation, capacity building, and policy reforms. There is also a need to ensure that the green transition is inclusive, providing new opportunities for employment and ensuring support for those whose livelihoods may be affected by the shift away from traditional industries. A green economy offers a holistic approach to development, balancing progress with planetary health. It holds the potential to address pressing issues such as climate change, pollution, resource scarcity, and unemployment—making it an essential path forward for India and the world.

Precis:

A green economy focuses on sustainable growth that protects the environment and promotes social equity. It emphasizes clean energy, green infrastructure, and sustainable practices to address issues like climate change and pollution. India is advancing through policies supporting solar power, EVs, and climate-smart agriculture. However, the transition demands investment, innovation, and inclusivity. As a balanced model, the green economy offers a solution for both economic and environmental challenges in the long term.

- You are organizing a university event and need financial sponsorship. Write an email to a corporate sponsor requesting support.

To:@gmail.com

Subject: Sponsorship Request for [Event Name] – [University Name]

Dear [Sponsor's Name],

I hope you're well. I'm [Your Name], and I'm organizing [Event Name] at [University Name], scheduled for [Date]. This event aims to [briefly state purpose, e.g., promote innovation/culture/awareness] and will attract over [number] students and faculty.

We're seeking financial sponsorship to help cover event costs. In return, we'd offer your brand visibility through banners, social media promotions, and event acknowledgments.

I've attached a brief proposal for your review. We'd be grateful for your support and would love to discuss this further at your convenience.

**Best regards,
[Your Name]
[Your Position] | [University Name]
[Email] | [Phone Number]**

Match the column

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 1. Blood is thicker than water | A. to spoil a good situation with something unpleasant |
| 2. An axe to grind | B. staying informed about everything |
| 3. Cast a shadow on | C. family relationships are the strongest ones |
| 4. Keep an ear to the ground | D. putting efforts into something that is not a worthwhile |
| 5. Run around in circles | E. have a private reason for doing something |

Answer:

1-c

2-e

3-a

4-b

5-d

Vocabulary

1. Accentuate:
2. Resilience:
3. Protracted:
4. Repugnant:
5. Stark:
6. Stifled:
7. Overhaul:
8. Turmoil:
9. Astounding:
10. Ruinous:

Rc ans

1.

Ans: C

Explanation:

The passage says:

“Climate change mitigation is seen as a dual force, both creating jobs in renewable energy and environmental fields and requiring adaptations to business models due to geopolitical tensions.”

Incorrect Options:

- A. Only partial and lacks the "creation" part of the duality.
- B. No mention of isolationist economic policies.
- D. Wage stagnation is not discussed.

2.

Ans: B

Explanation:

The passage mentions:

“The report also identifies deficiencies in fostering entrepreneurial and innovative mindsets, with India’s overall ranking in ‘Academic Readiness’ placing it at a modest 26th position.”

Incorrect Options:

- A. The passage states India ranks high in AI preparedness.
- C. India excels in identifying skill needs (99.1 score).
- D. Literacy rates are not discussed.

3.

Ans: C

Explanation:

The passage states:

“India excels in its ability to identify and recruit for future-focused skills... but its performance in ‘Skills Fit’ — the ability of the workforce to meet these demands — lags significantly.”

Incorrect Options:

- A. May be generally true, but not stated in the passage.
- B. Employers are actually investing in training and well-being.
- D. No such policy restriction is mentioned.

4.

Ans: C

Explanation:

The passage notes:

“In a historic first, the Assembly unanimously re-adopted the Bill and sent it back to him [Governor]; the Governor subsequently forwarded it to the President.”

Incorrect Options:

- A. No suit in the SC is mentioned; legal struggle is anticipated, not initiated.
- B. No mention of international involvement.
- D. The Bill was about government quota seats, not private colleges.

5.

Ans: D

Explanation:

Final lines of the passage state:

“The State must prepare for a legal struggle, and in the interim, coach students to face NEET with confidence.”

Incorrect Options:

- A. No suggestion of demanding Governor's resignation.
- B. No mention of suspending admissions.
- C. Shifting to private institutions isn't proposed.

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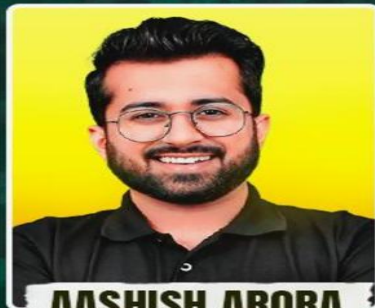
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