

The Hindu

EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

8th March 2025

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

1. Resilience (लचीलापन)

- **Meaning:** The ability to recover quickly from difficulties or adversity.
- **Synonyms:** Toughness, endurance, flexibility
- **Antonyms:** Fragility, weakness, vulnerability
- **Example:** Despite facing numerous challenges, her resilience helped her

2. Rebound (पुनरुद्धार)

- **Meaning:** A return to a normal or better condition after a setback.
- **Synonyms:** Recovery, revival, comeback
- **Antonyms:** Decline, downturn, deterioration
- **Example:** After the financial crisis, the stock market made a strong rebound.

3. Expansion (विस्तार)

- **Meaning:** The process of becoming larger or more extensive.
- **Synonyms:** Growth, increase, enlargement
- **Antonyms:** Contraction, reduction, shrinkage
- **Example:** The company's expansion into new markets led to higher profits.

4. Disruption (विघटन)

- **Meaning:** A disturbance or interruption to the normal flow or function of something.
- **Synonyms:** Interruption, disturbance, chaos
- **Antonyms:** Continuity, stability, order
- **Example:** The sudden change in technology caused a major disruption in the industry.

5. Pivot (मोड़)

- **Meaning:** A significant change in direction or strategy.
- **Synonyms:** Shift, turn, change
- **Antonyms:** Stability, consistency, standstill
- **Example:** The company decided to pivot its business model towards online sales.

6. Geopolitical (भूराजनीतिक)

- **Meaning:** Relating to politics, especially international relations, as influenced by geographical factors.
- **Synonyms:** International, political, global
- **Antonyms:** Domestic, local, internal
- **Example:** Geopolitical tensions in the region led to increased trade barriers.

7. Cautioned (चेतावनी दी)

- **Meaning:** To warn or advise against potential dangers or risks.
- **Synonyms:** Warned, advised, alerted
- **Antonyms:** Encouraged, assured, praised
- **Example:** The teacher cautioned the students about the dangers of cheating.

8. Tariffs (शुल्क)

- **Meaning:** Taxes or duties imposed on imports or exports.
- **Synonyms:** Duties, taxes, levies
- **Antonyms:** Subsidies, exemptions, free trade
- **Example:** The government imposed tariffs on foreign goods to protect local industries.

9.Compounded (संयोजित)

- **Meaning:** To make something worse or more intense by adding more elements.
- **Synonyms:** Aggravated, intensified, worsened
- **Antonyms:** Eased, alleviated, improved
- **Example:** His stress was compounded by the looming deadline.

10. Disruptive (विघटनकारी)

- **Meaning:** Causing disturbance or interruption in the normal flow of something.
- **Synonyms:** Disturbing, disruptive, revolutionary
- **Antonyms:** Smooth, stable, non-interfering
- **Example:** The startup introduced a disruptive technology that changed the way businesses operated.

VOCABULARY

One-word substitute:

1. A person who believes in a single god –

Monotheist

2. A person who loves fine art –

Aesthete

3. A person who cannot be corrected or reformed –

Unrepentant

4. A person who collects coins –

Numismatist

VOCABULARY

Phrasal verbs:

1. Bring about

Meaning: To cause something to happen or to initiate a change.

2. Tide over

Meaning: To help someone get through a difficult period, often with temporary support.

3. Rub off on

Meaning: To influence someone in a positive or negative way through proximity or example.

4. Wade through

Meaning: To deal with something in a slow, deliberate, and sometimes tedious manner, often referring to large amounts of information or work.

VOCABULARY

Idioms and Phrases:

1. **A penny for your thoughts**

Meaning: Used to ask someone what they are thinking.

2. **At the drop of a hat**

Meaning: Immediately, without any hesitation.

3. **Burn the midnight oil**

Meaning: To work late into the night.

VOCABULARY

4. Break the ice

Meaning: To initiate conversation in a social setting, making people feel more comfortable.

5. In the same boat

Meaning: To be in the same situation or facing the same difficulties as others.

Article for Reading

**Diversify now: On
India and looming
economic risks**

February's sharp rise in the monthly services Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), to 59, has provided a welcome relief to investors and policymakers, following the rise in GDP growth numbers, released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) for the December quarter of the current fiscal (Q3FY25).

The strong rebound in the services PMI, up from 56.5 in January, which marked a 25-month low, helped offset the decline in the manufacturing PMI, which fell to a 14-month low of 56.3 in February. A PMI reading above 50 signals expansion, while anything below this indicates contraction. The PMI survey, conducted every month by S&P Global across over 40 countries, is a key indicator of economic momentum. The fact that manufacturing and services — sectors that have accounted for about 80% of India's GDP since 2010 — remain in expansion mode is positive. This resilience persists despite capital outflows from Indian markets, suggesting that the

country's economic fundamentals remain strong. A more telling indicator of long-term economic strength is the quarterly earnings of the Sensex, India's benchmark index comprising 30 of the most valued and actively traded companies on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE). The Q3FY25 results point to solid net profit growth for nearly all firms.

However, looming economic risks remain. The threat of reciprocal tariffs announced by United States President Donald Trump, and set to take effect on April 2, poses a challenge for the manufacturing sector. Meanwhile, the services sector is facing a different disruption: the rapid pivot to artificial intelligence (AI)-driven solutions. While the NSO reported 6.2% real GDP growth for Q3FY25, top executives from India's leading IT firms have, at an industry event in Mumbai, cautioned that growth in the sector could be as low as 5.1% in FY25, up from 3.8% in FY24. Although this may seem concerning for an industry that has enjoyed a 16% compounded

annual growth rate for nearly 25 years, it still represents an increase of \$29 billion, bringing the sector's expected value to \$283 billion in FY25. In its 2025 Strategic Review report, NASSCOM has identified geopolitical upheavals and rising tariffs as key challenges. But business leaders at the event attributed much of the slowdown to the disruptive impact of AI, which is reducing earnings from new contracts and reshaping hiring and training practices. India's services and manufacturing sectors face a triple challenge: rapid technological transformation, increasing global protectionism, and the potential for a U.S. recession. This could have significant repercussions for India, given that the U.S. remains its largest trading partner. To navigate these headwinds, India must urgently diversify its trading base.

Summary

The passage discusses the recent economic developments in India, highlighting the strong performance of the services sector with a sharp rise in the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), which helped counteract the decline in the manufacturing PMI. Despite challenges such as capital outflows and potential reciprocal tariffs from the U.S., India's economic fundamentals remain strong, as indicated by solid corporate earnings. However, looming risks such as geopolitical tensions, rising tariffs, and disruptions caused by artificial intelligence (AI) in the services sector threaten future growth. The IT industry in India is expected to experience slower growth due to these factors, although it still represents a substantial increase in value. The passage concludes by emphasizing the need for India to diversify its trade relationships to mitigate these risks.

Tone:

The tone of the passage is analytical and cautious. It presents a balanced view, acknowledging the positive economic indicators while also emphasizing the challenges and risks that could undermine long-term growth. There is a sense of concern about the potential disruptions from global trade dynamics and technological advancements, but the overall tone remains pragmatic, suggesting the need for strategic adjustments to maintain economic stability.

Reading Comprehension

Based on the above passage, answer the following questions:

Question 1.

According to the passage, what is the primary reason for the expected slowdown in growth in India's IT sector in FY25?

- a) Increased competition from foreign markets
- b) The rise of artificial intelligence (AI)-driven solutions
- c) A decrease in government subsidies
- d) The imposition of new tariffs by the Indian government
- e) The decline in global GDP growth

Question 2.

What is the significance of a PMI reading above 50, as mentioned in the passage?

- a) It signals a contraction in the economy.
- b) It suggests that the services sector is underperforming.
- c) It indicates that manufacturing has entered a decline.
- d) It signifies economic expansion.
- e) It shows that the global economy is shrinking.

Question 3.

What major economic challenge is posed by the United States, as discussed in the passage?

- a) The risk of a global recession affecting India.
- b) The imposition of reciprocal tariffs on Indian products.
- c) The rise of AI affecting Indian exports.
- d) The decline in U.S. investments in Indian markets.
- e) Increased tariffs on services offered by India.

Article for Skimming

**Himalayan tragedy:
On avalanches in the
Himalayan States**

Earlier this week, Indian Army and Indo-Tibetan Border Police teams rescued 23 workers who were stuck in a rubble of snow and ice, following an avalanche at Mana village, Uttarakhand. Eight workers died in the disaster, which occurred at a Border Roads Organisation construction site that had housed 54 labourers in eight containers. To say that the rescue operation was arduous would be an understatement. The rescue teams worked in a near-continuous 60-hour shift amidst heavy snowfall at an elevation of 10,500 feet above mean sea level. With the roads blocked by the snow, helicopters were used to evacuate those rescued to the Joshimath Army Hospital — five helicopters from the Indian Army, two from the Indian Air Force and one civilian copter. Along with the sheer physical effort expended in the extraction, the rescue operation employed a drone-based detection system to detect the containers that were buried under several feet of snow, ice and rock.

Avalanches in the Himalayan States, like the one in Mana, which is among the last outposts in Indian territory and close to the border with China, are not uncommon. Villagers here have historically been 'winter-migrants', which means that during the winter months the village is deserted. Coinciding with the ritual closing of the Badrinath temple in November, there is migration to villages lower down, such as Gopeshwar and Jyotirmath, for the winter, with residents returning only when the temple reopens in April or May. This is part of traditional wisdom and has a lot to do with the historical experience of the upper Himalayan stretches being prone to disasters. While these practices may have saved the resident villagers, it still raises the question as to whether the workers — several of them migrants — were adequately aware of the risks of their enterprise. Given the strategic location of the village and the need to develop improved roads for civilian and military access, there will always be a sizeable number of people engaged in

activity in regions that are inherently inhospitable and risk-prone. Once disaster strikes, efforts focus on the rescue operation, and once they conclude, there is little reflection on whether preventive measures could have been taken. Avalanches cannot be predicted with precision, but steps can be taken to design containers that are safer to live in and can improve the odds of survival. There is much to learn from the way bomb shelters are imagined or how research stations at Antarctica are designed. All of this requires a greater sensitivity to workers who toil amidst hazards and not merely label these tragedies as inevitable consequences of natural disasters.

Question 4.

According to the passage, why are avalanches in the Himalayan States, like the one in Mana, not uncommon?

- a) They occur due to poor infrastructure development.
- b) The region has a history of heavy snowfall, which makes avalanches frequent.
- c) Villagers practice migration to avoid the winter weather.
- d) The location is prone to seismic activity that triggers avalanches.
- e) The military operations in the region increase the chances of avalanches.

Question 5.

What is mentioned as a possible consequence of the workers' unfamiliarity with the risks of their enterprise?

- a) Increased reliance on helicopters for future rescue missions.
- b) A greater number of migrant workers being employed in the region.
- c) The lack of preventive measures to design safer containers.
- d) More traditional practices being followed by the workers in the region.
- e) Reduced military activity in the region to avoid such disasters.

Today's Descriptive Question

Precis Writing:

Original Text:

In today's competitive world, people are constantly under pressure to perform at their best. The demands of work, education, and personal life often leave little room for relaxation or leisure. With deadlines looming and tasks piling up, it's not uncommon to see individuals working late into the night, burning the midnight oil. In fact, many people feel that their success depends on their ability to work tirelessly and make sacrifices in their personal time. As a result, stress has become an inevitable part of modern life, affecting both physical and mental health.

However, amidst all the hustle and bustle, it's important to remember that we are not alone in our struggles. Everyone, whether a colleague, friend, or family member, is often in the same boat, dealing with their own set of challenges. The key to managing these pressures lies in finding a balance. Taking a step back, seeking support from others, and taking time to relax can help break the ice, reduce stress, and foster a positive mindset. In the end, it is essential to remember that success is not just about working hard but also about maintaining well-being.

Precis:

In today's fast-paced world, individuals face immense pressure to excel in their personal and professional lives, often leading to stress and exhaustion. People frequently work late into the night, sacrificing their personal time in the pursuit of success. However, it is crucial to recognize that everyone is facing similar challenges. Finding a balance by seeking support and taking breaks can help alleviate stress. Success is not solely about hard work but also about maintaining good health and well-being. By managing stress and prioritizing self-care, individuals can foster a positive mindset and navigate challenges more effectively.

Write an email to a customer thanking them for their feedback and informing them that their suggestions are being taken into consideration for future improvements

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Dear [Customer's Name],

Thank you so much for taking the time to share your feedback with us. We truly appreciate your valuable insights, as they help us improve our products and services.

We want you to know that your suggestions have been forwarded to our team for consideration, and we are actively working on making enhancements to better serve you and all of our customers. Your satisfaction is very important to us, and we are committed to providing the best possible experience.

If you have any further suggestions or questions, feel free to reach out. We're always happy to hear from you!

Once again, thank you for your feedback. We look forward to serving you again soon.

Best regards,

[Your Name]

Customer Service Team

[Your Company Name]

[Your Contact Information]

Match the following:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 1. A penny for your thoughts | A. To work late into the night. |
| 2. At the drop of a hat | B. To ask someone what they are thinking |
| 3. Burn the midnight oil
others | C. To be in the same situation or face the same difficulties as |
| 4. Break the ice | D. To immediately take action without hesitation |
| 5. In the same boat | E. To initiate a conversation and make people feel comfortable |

Answer:

1 - B

2 - D

3 - A

4 - E

5 - C

VOCABULARY:

- 1. Compounded**
- 2. Disruptive**
- 3. Tariffs**
- 4. Cautioned**
- 5. Resilience**
- 6. Rebound**
- 7. Expansion**
- 8. Pivot**
- 9. Geopolitical**
- 10. Disruption**

Rc ans

1.

Answer: b) The rise of artificial intelligence (AI)-driven solutions

Explanation:

The passage directly mentions that the slowdown in India's IT sector is largely attributed to the disruptive impact of artificial intelligence (AI), which is reducing earnings from new contracts and changing hiring and training practices. This is cited as a key factor influencing growth, despite geopolitical issues and tariffs.

Why the other options are incorrect:

- a) Increased competition from foreign markets: This is not mentioned in the passage as a primary reason for the slowdown in the IT sector. The main focus is on AI disruptions.
- c) A decrease in government subsidies: The passage does not mention a reduction in government subsidies affecting the IT sector.
- d) The imposition of new tariffs by the Indian government: The passage discusses U.S. tariffs impacting Indian industries, not the Indian government imposing new tariffs.
- e) The decline in global GDP growth: The passage doesn't specifically attribute the slowdown in India's IT sector to global GDP growth. The challenges are primarily related to AI disruption and geopolitical factors.

2.

Answer: d) It signifies economic expansion.

Explanation:

The passage explicitly states that a PMI reading above 50 signals economic expansion, while anything below 50 indicates contraction. The PMI (Purchasing Managers' Index) is an important indicator of economic momentum.

Why the other options are incorrect:

- a) It signals a contraction in the economy: This is the opposite of what a PMI above 50 indicates. A PMI above 50 indicates expansion, not contraction.
- b) It suggests that the services sector is underperforming: A PMI above 50 doesn't indicate underperformance; it actually signals expansion in the services sector.
- c) It indicates that manufacturing has entered a decline: A PMI above 50 does not indicate a decline. In fact, it shows growth, even if manufacturing PMI might have dropped.
- e) It shows that the global economy is shrinking: The passage talks about the PMI in India, not the global economy, and a PMI above 50 suggests expansion, not a shrinking economy.

3.

Answer: b) The imposition of reciprocal tariffs on Indian products.

Explanation:

The passage mentions that the United States has announced reciprocal tariffs, which are set to take effect on April 2, posing a challenge to the manufacturing sector in India. This directly points to tariffs as a key economic risk.

Why the other options are incorrect:

a) The risk of a global recession affecting India: While a global recession could be a potential challenge, the passage does not highlight this as a major challenge from the U.S. It focuses on tariffs and AI disruptions.

c) The rise of AI affecting Indian exports: The passage discusses AI's effect on the services sector (specifically IT), not on exports broadly.

d) The decline in U.S. investments in Indian markets: The passage does not focus on a decline in U.S. investments. Instead, it talks about the imposition of tariffs.

e) Increased tariffs on services offered by India: The passage mentions tariffs affecting the manufacturing sector, not services. It focuses on the impact of reciprocal tariffs on Indian products.

4.

Answer: b) The region has a history of heavy snowfall, which makes avalanches frequent.

Explanation:

Avalanches are common in the Himalayan States, like Mana, due to the region's history of heavy snowfall, which leads to frequent avalanches.

Why the other options are incorrect:

a) Poor infrastructure development: Not linked to avalanches; the passage focuses on natural conditions.

c) Villagers' migration: This is a practice to avoid harsh conditions, not a cause of avalanches.

d) Seismic activity: The passage does not mention seismic activity as a cause of avalanches.

e) Military operations: Military activity is not stated as a cause of avalanches in the passage.

5.

Answer: c) The lack of preventive measures to design safer containers.

Explanation:

The passage suggests that the workers' unfamiliarity with risks led to the lack of preventive measures, like designing safer containers.

Why the other options are incorrect:

a) Increased reliance on helicopters: Not suggested as a consequence of workers' unfamiliarity with risks.

b) Greater number of migrant workers: The passage doesn't mention an increase in migrant workers as a result of risk awareness.

d) More traditional practices: The passage doesn't indicate that workers followed traditional practices.

e) Reduced military activity: Military activity is not mentioned as a solution to avoid disasters.

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