

# The Hindu EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

01st 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. Rigorous (कठोर)

- **Meaning:** Extremely thorough, exhaustive, or accurate.
- **Synonyms:** Strict, severe, exacting, meticulous
- **Antonyms:** Lenient, easygoing, lax
- **Example:** The students had to undergo rigorous training before appearing for the final examination.

## 2. Hinge (निर्भर होना)

- **Meaning:** To depend entirely on something.
- **Synonyms:** Depend, rely, rest on
- **Antonyms:** Disregard, ignore
- **Example:** The success of the company hinges on its ability to adapt to the changing market trends.

### 3. Impersonation (प्रतिरूपण )

- **Meaning:** Pretending to be someone else to deceive others.
- **Synonyms:** Imitation, deception, mimicry
- **Antonyms:** Authenticity, originality
- **Example:** The fraudster was arrested for impersonation and identity theft.

## 4. Inexorable (अटल/अनिवार्य )

- **Meaning:** Impossible to stop or prevent.
- **Synonyms:** Unrelenting, inevitable, relentless
- **Antonyms:** Flexible, lenient, merciful
- **Example:** The inexorable rise of artificial intelligence is transforming industries worldwide.

## 5. Obfuscate (जटिल बनाना /अस्पष्ट करना)

- **Meaning:** To deliberately make something difficult to understand.
- **Synonyms:** Confuse, obscure, complicate
- **Antonyms:** Clarify, simplify, illuminate
- **Example:** The company's legal team attempted to obfuscate the terms of the contract to avoid liability.

## 6. Vindicate (साबित करना/निर्दोष साबित करना)

- **Meaning:** To clear someone of blame or suspicion.
- **Synonyms:** Justify, exonerate, acquit
- **Antonyms:** Condemn, accuse, blame
- **Example:** The new evidence helped vindicate the scientist, proving his theory was correct.

## 7. Subjugation (विजय/दमन)

- **Meaning:** Bringing under control, especially by force.
- **Synonyms:** Domination, oppression, enslavement
- **Antonyms:** Liberation, freedom, independence
- **Example:** The subjugation of smaller companies by tech giants has raised concerns about monopolistic practices.



## 8. Sagacious (बुद्धिमान /चतुर)

- **Meaning:** Having or showing keen mental discernment and good judgment.
- **Synonyms:** Wise, shrewd, insightful
- **Antonyms:** Foolish, ignorant, naive
- **Example:** The sagacious leader quickly identified the root cause of the crisis and took action.

## 9. Conundrum (पहेली/समस्या)

- **Meaning:** A confusing and difficult problem or question.
- **Synonyms:** Puzzle, dilemma, enigma
- **Antonyms:** Solution, answer, clarity
- **Example:** The conundrum of balancing AI regulation with innovation remains unresolved.

## 10. Acrimonious (कटु/तिखा)

- **Meaning:** Bitter and angry in tone or speech.
- **Synonyms:** Hostile, caustic, harsh
- **Antonyms:** Friendly, harmonious, pleasant
- **Example:** The acrimonious debate between the political leaders escalated quickly.

## VOCABULARY

### One-word substitute:

#### 1. Aviary

Meaning – A large enclosure for keeping birds.

#### 2. Plutocracy

Meaning - A system of government or society ruled by the wealthy.

#### 3. Apiary

Meaning – A place where beehives or bees are kept for honey production.

#### 4. Arsenal

Meaning – A place where weapons and military equipment are stored.

# VOCABULARY

## Phrasal Verbs:

### **1. Cave in**

Meaning – To collapse or give way; to yield under pressure.

### **2. Chicken out**

Meaning – To withdraw from doing something due to fear or lack of courage.

### **3. Chase down**

Meaning – To pursue and catch someone or something.

### **4. Chase off**

Meaning – To force someone or something to leave, often by scaring or confronting them.

# VOCABULARY

## Idioms & Phrases

### 1. A mare's nest

Meaning – A confused or illusory discovery; a situation that appears impressive or promising but is actually chaotic or false.

### 2. A chip on your shoulder

Meaning – A resentful or combative attitude due to past grievances.

### 3. At the drop of a hat

Meaning – Instantly; without hesitation or delay.

## VOCABULARY

### **4. A man of straw**

**Meaning – A weak or insubstantial person; someone who lacks real power or substance.**

### **5. Bite your tongue**

**Meaning – To hold back from speaking, especially to avoid saying something inappropriate or offensive.**

## **Article for Reading**

**The necessity of  
mainstreaming  
wetland conservation**



**The suo motu public interest litigation by the Meghalaya High Court very recently, to monitor the conservation of wetlands in the State brings the focus back on this important ecosystem. Since 1971, February 2 is observed every year as 'World Wetland Day' to mark the adoption of the Ramsar Convention, an international treaty for the conservation of wetlands, which was signed in the Iranian city of Ramsar. The theme this year was 'Protecting Wetlands for Our Common Future'. It is a theme that has appropriately positioned wetlands in the sustainable development perspective, as espoused in the Brundtland report, 'Our Common Future', and published by the UN World Commission on Environment and Development in 1987. Wetlands, one of the most biologically productive ecosystems, provide multiple benefits. Globally, wetlands cover an area of 12.1 million km<sup>2</sup>, or around 6% of the earth surface, providing 40.6% of global ecosystem services.**

**However, they are under severe stress, both qualitatively and quantitatively, due to various development activities including population growth, urbanisation, industrialisation, and increasing demand for land to cater to various human needs and climate change. Since 1900, as much as 50% of the area under wetlands has been diverted to accommodate various other uses, as one of the studies indicated. Wetland surface area, both coastal and inland, declined by about 35% between 1970 and 2015. Globally, the rate of loss estimated with the Wetland Extend Trends (WET) index is (-)0.78% a year, which is more than three times higher than the loss rate of natural vegetation as estimated by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Around 81% of inland wetland species population and 36% of coastal and marine species have declined since 1970. The extinction risk of wetland species, both plants and animals, is increasing, globally.**

**The conservation and the management of wetlands have emerged as a major challenge as they are linked to other development issues and can serve in devising nature-based solutions for water management and the mitigation of climate change impacts, besides providing blue-green infrastructures in urban areas. Recognising the importance of wetlands in the larger development context, the Ramsar Convention COP14 that was held in Wuhan, China and Geneva, Switzerland from November 5-13, 2022, laid stress on preparation of the fifth Ramsar Strategic Plan and recognised that the conservation and management of wetlands cannot be a stand-alone initiative. It needs to be contextualised and appropriately linked to other international environment development initiatives.**

## Summary

**The passage discusses the significance of wetlands and the ongoing conservation efforts to protect them. It highlights the Meghalaya High Court's suo motu intervention for wetland conservation, bringing attention to their ecological importance. Wetlands cover 6% of the Earth's surface and contribute significantly to global ecosystem services. However, they are under threat due to urbanization, industrialization, and climate change, leading to their rapid decline. The passage also references the Ramsar Convention, which promotes wetland conservation, and the COP14 meeting that emphasized integrating wetland conservation with broader environmental and developmental strategies.**

## Tone

**The tone of the passage is informative, concerned, and persuasive. It presents factual data about wetlands while emphasizing the urgency of conservation efforts.**

## **Reading Comprehension**

**Based on the above passage, answer the following questions:**

**Question 1:**

**Which factor has contributed the most to the decline of wetland ecosystems globally?**

- A) The spread of invasive wetland species**
- B) The increase in carbon emissions from industries**
- C) Population growth, urbanization, and land demand**
- D) The decrease in rainfall due to climate change**
- E) None of the above**

## **Question 2:**

**According to the passage, how does the Ramsar Convention's COP14 view wetland conservation?**

- A) As an independent issue that should be prioritized over all other environmental concerns**
- B) As a problem best handled through government-led policies rather than international cooperation**
- C) As an issue that requires strict laws but does not need a strategic plan**
- D) As something that should be integrated with other environmental and developmental efforts**
- E) None of the above**



## **Article for Skimming**

**The steps that will  
shape India's AI  
ambition**

**In the heart of Bengaluru, software developers find themselves racing against time to outbid Chinese rivals for major Artificial Intelligence (AI)-driven projects with international clients. Despite being part of a skilled workforce, deals often slip away due to capabilities Indian firms struggle to match. This is not just a single developer's dilemma. It is a glimpse into India's crossroads. Faced with a three-way race to catch up with Silicon Valley while being chased by China and South East Asia, India is being subject to rigorous competition. But, if it wants to prevail at the forefront of the AI race, India must recognise that the challenge lies not in whether businesses prefer a local or foreign AI platform but in whether market regulations will inadvertently stifle India's momentum. Export competitiveness hinges on the nationwide deployment of productivity-enhancing technologies. Indian services and consultancies must incorporate AI technologies to maintain their lead position in the global market.**

**But concerns remain over the massive loss of routine jobs, discriminatory algorithmic decision-making, and the negative risks of human impersonation. In particular, “deepfakes” undermine trust by spreading misinformation, and destabilise political processes eroding credibility rapidly. AI adoption issues such as misinformation and intermediary liability are at the forefront of the AI discussion in India, as digital platforms have become primary conduits for information dissemination. The general opinion among startups in India is that intermediaries — usually foreign tech giants — often set the rules of engagement, making it challenging for local startups to compete. Tension has increased since, with recent Indian app developers filing a complaint against Google before the Competition Commission of India. But, putting regulatory and administrative pressure on those companies will not necessarily resolve the core problem of monopolistic business practices.**

**Regulating AI will interfere with technological adaptation, which will have undesirable consequences on India's relative competitiveness. India has already localised a significant portion of the AI value chain, and additional AI-related compliance costs may hamper India's ability to outpace commercial rivals such as China and the United States, which have decided to leave AI unregulated. India's position as the world's IT powerhouse gives it a unique advantage in the AI era. Attempts to govern and regulate AI occur as industrialised nations compete globally for industrial leadership. The European Union (EU) opted for strict regulation to address risks and societal impacts. In contrast, the U.S. maintains a more hands-off stance, prioritising innovation. India finds itself in a delicate balancing act between these two paths. But the sooner misconceptions about quickly outdated market rules addressing a limited set of hypothetical risks are set aside, the better India can focus on outpacing commercial rivals such as China and the U.S.**

**Question 3:**

**Why do Indian startups struggle against foreign tech giants in the AI sector?**

- A) They lack funding to compete with large international corporations**
- B) Foreign companies control the rules of engagement, creating an unfair advantage**
- C) India has stricter AI regulations than other countries**
- D) Indian startups struggle with AI talent shortages**
- E) None of the above**

#### **Question 4**

**According to the passage, what risk does deepfake technology pose?**

- A) It reduces AI efficiency in business applications**
- B) It discourages AI adoption in India**
- C) It creates distrust by spreading misinformation**
- D) It increases cybersecurity risks in cloud computing**
- E) None of the above**

### **Question 5**

**Which of the following is a reason India might struggle to compete with China and the U.S. in AI?**

- A) Higher AI adoption costs due to additional compliance requirements**
- B) The government's reluctance to promote AI research**
- C) The lack of proper digital infrastructure in India**
- D) A nationwide shortage of AI-trained professionals**
- E) None of the above**

**Today's Descriptive Question**

**Precis Writing:**



## **Original Text:**

**A declining rupee against the U.S. dollar has significant economic implications for India, affecting various sectors such as trade, inflation, foreign investments, and economic growth. The primary reason for a weakening rupee is the demand-supply dynamics of foreign exchange, driven by factors like rising crude oil prices, trade deficits, global economic uncertainty, and foreign capital outflows. One of the most immediate impacts of a depreciating rupee is higher inflation. Since India is heavily dependent on oil imports, a weaker rupee makes crude oil and other essential imports costlier, leading to a rise in transportation and manufacturing costs. This, in turn, increases the prices of goods and services, affecting the common citizen. Additionally, industries that rely on imported raw materials, such as electronics, automobiles, and pharmaceuticals, face higher production costs, which may be passed on to consumers.**

**On the trade front, a falling rupee can benefit exporters as Indian goods become cheaper in international markets, making them more competitive. However, this advantage may be offset if India imports more than it exports, widening the trade deficit. Foreign investors also tend to pull out investments from emerging markets like India when the rupee depreciates, leading to capital outflows and volatility in the stock market. The impact is also felt in foreign debt repayment. Since India borrows in U.S. dollars, a weaker rupee increases the burden of external debt servicing, affecting government and corporate finances. Similarly, students studying abroad and travelers face higher expenses as tuition fees and travel costs rise. To manage currency depreciation, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) intervenes by selling dollars from its foreign exchange reserves, adjusting interest rates, and implementing policy measures to stabilize the rupee. However, long-term stability requires structural economic reforms, boosting exports, and reducing dependency on imports.**

## Precis:

**A falling rupee against the dollar impacts inflation, trade, foreign investments, and economic stability. It raises import costs, leading to higher fuel, manufacturing, and consumer prices, while exporters gain competitiveness. Capital outflows weaken investor confidence, and external debt repayment becomes costlier. Students, travelers, and businesses relying on imports face financial strain. To mitigate depreciation, the RBI intervenes through forex reserves and policy measures, but long-term stability requires export growth and economic reforms to reduce dependency on imports and strengthen the rupee.**

- **Your colleague has been promoted to a higher position. Write an email congratulating them and expressing your best wishes.**

**To: .....@gmail.com**

**Subject: Congratulations on Your Well-Deserved Promotion!**

**Dear [Colleague's Name],**

**I am delighted to hear about your well-deserved promotion to [New Position]! Congratulations on this significant achievement. Your dedication, hard work, and leadership have truly set you apart, and this new role is a testament to your commitment and excellence.**

**Wishing you all the success and fulfillment in your new responsibilities. I am confident that you will continue to inspire and lead with the same enthusiasm and determination.**

**Once again, congratulations! Looking forward to seeing all the great things you will accomplish.**

**Best regards,  
[Your Name]**

**Match the column**

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| 1. A mare's nest           | A. A resentful attitude due to past grievances |
| 2. A chip on your shoulder | B. A weak or insubstantial person              |
| 3. At the drop of a hat    | C. A confused or illusory discovery            |
| 4. A man of straw          | D. To hold back from speaking                  |
| 5. Bite your tongue        | E. Instantly                                   |

**Answer:**

**1-c**

**2-a**

**3-e**

**4-b**

**5-d**



## Vocabulary

1. **Rigorous:**
2. **Hinge:**
3. **Impersonation:**
4. **Inexorable:**
5. **Obfuscate:**
6. **Vindicate:**
7. **Subjugation:**
8. **Sagacious:**
9. **Conundrum:**
10. **Acrimonious:**

## **Rc ans**

1.

**Ans: C**

**Explanation:**

**Reference from the Passage:**

"However, they are under severe stress... due to various development activities including population growth, urbanisation, industrialisation, and increasing demand for land."

The passage highlights that wetlands are under stress due to development activities such as population growth, urbanization, industrialization, and increasing demand for land. These activities are the primary reasons for wetland degradation.

**Why Other Options Are Incorrect:**

A) The spread of invasive wetland species – The passage does not mention invasive species as a primary cause.

B) The increase in carbon emissions from industries – While climate change is mentioned, carbon emissions are not the main factor behind wetland loss.

D) The decrease in rainfall due to climate change – While climate change is mentioned, land-use change is the bigger cause of wetland loss.

**2.**

**Ans: D**

**Explanation:**

**Reference from the Passage:**

"Recognising the importance of wetlands in the larger development context, the Ramsar Convention COP14... recognised that the conservation and management of wetlands cannot be a stand-alone initiative."

The passage states that COP14 emphasized that wetland conservation should not be a stand-alone initiative but should be linked to other environmental and development initiatives.

**Why Other Options Are Incorrect:**

A) As an independent issue that should be prioritized over all other environmental concerns – The passage states that wetland conservation should be contextualized with other efforts, not treated in isolation.

B) As a problem best handled through government-led policies rather than international cooperation – The passage highlights global efforts, such as the Ramsar Convention.

C) As an issue that requires strict laws but does not need a strategic plan – COP14 focused on the fifth Ramsar Strategic Plan, showing that strategic planning is essential.

3.

**Ans: B**

**Explanation:**

**Reference from the Passage:**

"The general opinion among startups in India is that intermediaries — usually foreign tech giants — often set the rules of engagement, making it challenging for local startups to compete."

The passage states that Indian startups feel disadvantaged because foreign tech giants set the rules of engagement, making it difficult for local businesses to compete.

**Why Other Options Are Incorrect:**

A) They lack funding to compete with large international corporations – The passage does not specifically mention funding as the primary issue.

C) India has stricter AI regulations than other countries – India is still debating AI regulations, unlike the EU, which has strict rules.

D) Indian startups struggle with AI talent shortages – India is described as having a skilled workforce, so talent shortages are not the issue.

**4.**

**Ans: C**

**Explanation:**

**Reference from the Passage:**

"In particular, 'deepfakes' undermine trust by spreading misinformation, and destabilise political processes eroding credibility rapidly."

The passage highlights that deepfakes are a significant risk because they spread misinformation, eroding trust and destabilizing political processes.

**Why Other Options Are Incorrect:**

A) It reduces AI efficiency in business applications – The passage does not mention deepfakes affecting business efficiency.

B) It discourages AI adoption in India – AI adoption challenges are discussed, but deepfakes specifically relate to misinformation.

D) It increases cybersecurity risks in cloud computing – While deepfakes may have security implications, the passage focuses on misinformation and political risks.

**5.**

**Ans: A**

**Explanation:**

**Reference from the Passage:**

"India has already localised a significant portion of the AI value chain, and additional AI-related compliance costs may hamper India's ability to outpace commercial rivals such as China and the United States."

The passage warns that additional AI-related compliance costs may slow India's ability to compete with China and the U.S., as those countries have taken a more hands-off approach to AI regulation.

**Why Other Options Are Incorrect:**

B) The government's reluctance to promote AI research – The passage does not suggest that India lacks AI promotion initiatives.

C) The lack of proper digital infrastructure in India – India is described as a global IT powerhouse, implying strong digital infrastructure.

D) A nationwide shortage of AI-trained professionals – The passage emphasizes that India has a skilled workforce.

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