

# The Hindu EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

24th February 2025

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

## 1. Obstruct (रोकना / बाधा डालना)

- **Meaning:** Block or hinder the movement or progress of something.
- **Synonyms:** Impede, hinder, prevent
- **Antonyms:** Facilitate, assist, enable
- **Example:** Complex visa regulations obstruct the movement of skilled workers across borders.

## 2. Grumpy (चिड़चिड़ा )

- **Meaning:** Easily annoyed or in a bad mood.
- **Synonyms:** Irritable, cranky, grouchy
- **Antonyms:** Cheerful, pleasant, amiable
- **Example:** The old man was always grumpy in the morning before his coffee.

### 3. Pivotal (महत्वपूर्ण / केंद्रीय)

- **Meaning:** Of crucial importance in relation to the development or success of something.
- **Synonyms:** Crucial, essential, key
- **Antonyms:** Insignificant, minor, trivial
- **Example:** The manufacturing and construction sectors are pivotal for workforce demand in the GCC and Australia.

## 4. Stingy (कंजूस)

- **Meaning:** Unwilling to spend money or share resources.
- **Synonyms:** Miserly, tight-fisted, parsimonious
- **Antonyms:** Generous, lavish, charitable
- **Example:** He was so stingy that he hesitated to donate even a small amount to charity.

## 5. Prevalence (प्रसार / व्यापकता )

- **Meaning:** The condition of being widespread or commonly occurring.
- **Synonyms:** Ubiquity, dominance, frequency
- **Antonyms:** Rarity, infrequency, scarcity
- **Example:** The prevalence of automation is reshaping global job markets.

## 6. Eulogize (प्रशंसा करना)

- **Meaning:** To praise someone or something highly, often in a speech or writing.
- **Synonyms:** Commend, extol, glorify
- **Antonyms:** Criticize, condemn, denounce
- **Example:** The professor was eulogized for his contributions to the field of science.

## 7. Insidious (कपटी)

- **Meaning:** Proceeding in a gradual, subtle way, but with harmful effects.
- **Synonyms:** Sneaky, subtle, treacherous
- **Antonyms:** Obvious, straightforward, honest
- **Example:** The disease progressed in an insidious manner, unnoticed by many.



## 8. Uproot (जड़ से उखाड़ना )

- **Meaning:** To pull something out of the ground or to remove someone from their home or position.
- **Synonyms:** Displace, eradicate, remove
- **Antonyms:** Plant, settle, establish
- **Example:** The war uprooted thousands of families, forcing them to flee their homeland.

## 9. Sobering (गंभीर)

- **Meaning:** Making you feel serious or thoughtful.
- **Synonyms:** Serious, thought-provoking, alarming
- **Antonyms:** Reassuring, comforting, casual
- **Example:** The report's findings on poverty levels were sobering.

## 10. Intricate (जटिल)

- **Meaning:** Very detailed and complicated.
- **Synonyms:** Complex, complicated, elaborate
- **Antonyms:** Simple, straightforward, easy
- **Example:** The intricate design of the machine required careful study.

## VOCABULARY

### One-word substitute:

1. The act of formally resigning or giving up a position, power, or responsibility.

**Abdication**

2. An annual publication containing calendars, weather forecasts, astronomical data, and other useful information.

**Almanac**

3. A story, poem, or picture that uses symbolic figures and events to convey a deeper moral or political meaning.

**Allegory**

4. A universally accepted principle or truth that does not require proof.

**Axiom**

## VOCABULARY

### Phrasal Verbs:

#### **1. Beat up**

**Meaning:** To attack or hit someone severely.

#### **2. Beaver away**

**Meaning:** To work hard and persistently on something.

#### **3. Bed down**

**Meaning:** To settle in a place to sleep, especially temporarily.

#### **4. Belt out**

**Meaning:** To sing or play music loudly and forcefully.

# VOCABULARY

## Idioms & Phrases

### 1. In over one's head

Meaning – To be involved in a situation that is too difficult to handle.

### 2. In the nick of time

Meaning – Just in time; at the last possible moment.

### 3. It's a piece of cake

Meaning – Something very easy to do.

## VOCABULARY

### 4. Jump the gun

**Meaning – To act too soon or before the right time.**

### 5. Know by heart

**Meaning – To memorize something completely.**

## **Article for Reading**

**Talent shortage —  
global challenge,  
India's opportunity**



**The global labour market does not seem to be future-ready. No one has the crystal ball to tell the future exactly, but it can be safely said that the skills needed in 2030 will be quite different from what we have today. This is a challenge for the entire world — and an opportunity for India. A recent FICCI-KPMG study, ‘Global Mobility of Indian Workforce’, has estimated that by 2030, the demand for skilled workers will exceed supply, leading to a talent shortage of over 85.2 million people. “This global skills shortage could result in estimated \$8.45 trillion in unrealised annual revenue by 2030 — equivalent to the combined GDPs of Germany and Japan,” the study says. For India, the challenge, and the opportunity, is to grab as large a slice of the 8.45 trillion pie as soon as possible. Addressing this challenge requires targeted strategies, international cooperation and proactive policy interventions to optimise workforce mobility and economic productivity. At the national level, the need of the hour is a properly coordinated effort among government, the private sector and other stakeholders.**

**The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Europe (including the United Kingdom) and Australia emerge as three key geographies where workforce mobility will be critical. The talent shortage will neither be uniform across all regions nor follow similar patterns. Each of these regions faces specific workforce demands. However, health care will be a common requirement across all three regions, with aging populations and increasing health-care needs driving demand. In general, services will be prevalent in the three geographies. Manufacturing and construction are pivotal for the GCC and Australia, while Europe, being the oldest post-industrial society, will require more service-sector workers. Besides, there are emerging sectors. As in the study, 'Across all these sectors, there is growing demand towards skills pertaining to automation, AI [Artificial Intelligence], big data, predictive analytics, IoT (internet of things), blockchain, management, resource efficiency and sustainability.' There are several barriers that obstruct the efficient movement of skilled workers across borders.**

**Some of these are regulatory and immigration barriers (complex visa processes and stringent work permit regulations hinder skilled migration) and recruitment malpractices and trafficking (exploitative recruitment practices and human trafficking that pose serious threats to migrant workers' safety and rights). In his recent visit to the United States, Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted this menace and underlined the need to fight it. Other obstructions include policy barriers and skill mismatches (many Indian degrees, particularly in medicine, are not recognised everywhere in Europe, leading to underemployment or unemployment of qualified professionals) and language and cultural barriers (integration challenges, including language proficiency and cultural adaptation, affect workforce efficiency and productivity).**

## Summary

**The global labor market is not prepared for future demands, with significant skill shortages expected by 2030. A FICCI-KPMG study predicts a talent shortfall of over 85.2 million workers, potentially leading to \$8.45 trillion in unrealized annual revenue. India has a major opportunity to capitalize on this demand by addressing workforce mobility challenges. Key regions requiring skilled workers include the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Europe, and Australia, with high demand in healthcare, services, manufacturing, and emerging technologies like AI, big data, and blockchain. However, several barriers hinder skilled migration, including complex visa regulations, recruitment malpractices, policy mismatches, and cultural differences. Addressing these issues requires coordinated efforts between governments, industries, and international stakeholders.**

**The tone of the passage is informative and analytical. It presents data-driven insights, discusses challenges, and highlights potential opportunities for India in the global labor market. The passage also has a cautiously optimistic tone, acknowledging obstacles while emphasizing strategic solutions.**

## Reading Comprehension

Based on the above passage, answer the following questions:

**Question 1:**

**Which of the following best describes India's opportunity in the global labour market by 2030?**

- A) Indian workers will replace European service-sector employees.**
- B) India will become the primary exporter of skilled labour to the United States.**
- C) Indian manufacturing workers will be in high demand globally.**
- D) India can capture a significant portion of the projected unrealized revenue.**
- E) None of the above**

**Question 2:**

**Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a major barrier to skilled workforce mobility?**

- A) Stringent immigration and work permit regulations**
- B) Exploitative recruitment practices**
- C) Lack of affordable housing in destination countries**
- D) Non-recognition of Indian degrees in some regions**
- E) None of the above**



**Question 3:**

**What is the role of international cooperation in addressing the global talent shortage?**

- A) It helps standardize immigration policies across all countries.**
- B) It ensures the recognition of Indian degrees worldwide.**
- C) It eliminates all forms of recruitment malpractices.**
- D) It facilitates workforce mobility and enhances economic productivity.**
- E) None of the above**

## Article for Skimming

**Necessary infusion:  
on the RBI's currency  
swap**

**The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) recent decision to inject an additional \$10 billion into the financial system through a dollar/rupee swap auction is a timely measure aimed at addressing long-term liquidity concerns among domestic lenders. These concerns stem from a flight of foreign capital from Indian stock markets, as investors seek better returns in the United States amid President Donald Trump's proposed corporate tax cuts and ongoing tariff wars, which have strengthened the U.S. dollar against global currencies. This marks the second such rupee infusion in less than a month. However, unlike the first tranche of \$5 billion on January 31, which had a six-month tenor, the latest swap auction has a three-year duration. The combined effect of these two auctions will inject approximately ₹1.3 trillion into the banking system, as lenders deposit their dollar reserves with the RBI in exchange for rupees at a pre-determined buyback premium.**

**Currency swaps are among the tools central banks deploy during periods of high volatility in the global financial system. These measures have the primary aim of stabilising the local currency, mitigating liquidity constraints in the domestic financial system, and curbing inflationary pressures. Economists estimate that an additional \$5 billion infusion may be necessary to neutralise the ₹1.7 trillion liquidity deficit in India's banking system as of February 20, 2025. This is the second time that the RBI has conducted a long-duration currency swap. The first was in 2019, in response to global financial volatility during Mr. Trump's first term, amid trade tariff tensions and tax cuts. However, unlike 2019, when India's foreign exchange reserves were rising, ensuring dollar availability while rupee liquidity remained constrained, today's situation is more challenging. Between October 2024 and February 21, 2025, the rupee has depreciated approximately 3.3% against the dollar, breaching the 85 per dollar mark on December 19, 2024.**

**Foreign portfolio investors and foreign institutional investors have also withdrawn roughly \$31 billion from Indian equity markets. Since December 2024, the RBI has sold an estimated \$111.2 billion (about 18% of its foreign exchange reserves) to stabilise the rupee. Given these conditions, the latest long-term currency swap appears to be a necessity rather than a proactive measure. Indian banks must capitalise on this liquidity infusion by continuing to extend credit, ensuring that the cycle of capital investment, employment generation, wage growth, and consumer demand remains intact. This, in turn, could help propel India's real GDP growth beyond the current 6.4%, despite prevailing global economic headwinds.**

**Question 4:**

**What was the main reason behind the flight of foreign capital from Indian stock markets?**

- A) India's GDP growth rate dropping below 5%.**
- B) A sharp decline in the U.S. dollar value.**
- C) Investors seeking better returns in the U.S. amid policy changes.**
- D) India's foreign exchange reserves increasing significantly.**
- E) None of the above**

**Question 5:**

**What is the primary reason behind the RBI's recent decision to conduct a dollar/rupee swap auction?**

- A) To stabilize the rupee against global currencies and mitigate liquidity constraints.**
- B) To encourage foreign investors to return to the Indian stock market.**
- C) To prevent the depreciation of the U.S. dollar against the rupee.**
- D) To increase India's foreign exchange reserves.**
- 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. In over one's head**
- 2. In the nick of time**
- 3. It's a piece of cake**
- 4. Jump the gun**
- 5. Know by heart**

- A. To act too soon or before the right time**
- B. Just in time**
- C. To memorize something completely**
- D. Something very easy to do**
- E. To be involved in a situation that is too difficult to handle**

## **Answer:**

**1-e**

**2-b**

**3-d**

**4-a**

**5-c**



## Vocabulary

1. Obstruct:
2. Grumpy:
3. Pivotal:
4. Stingy:
5. Prevalence:
6. Eulogize:
7. Insidious:
8. Uproot:
9. Sobering:
10. Intricate:

## **RC ANS**

1.

**Ans: D**

**Explanation:**

**Reference from the Passage:**

"For India, the challenge, and the opportunity, is to grab as large a slice of the 8.45 trillion pie as soon as possible."

The passage states that India has both a challenge and an opportunity in the global labour market. The \$8.45 trillion in unrealized revenue represents a huge economic opportunity that India must capture as soon as possible.

**Why Other Options Are Incorrect:**

A) Indian workers will replace European service-sector employees – The passage states that Europe will require more service-sector workers, but it does not say they will be replaced by Indian workers.

B) India will become the primary exporter of skilled labour to the United States – The passage primarily focuses on opportunities in the GCC, Europe, and Australia, not just the US.

C) Indian manufacturing workers will be in high demand globally – While manufacturing is mentioned for GCC and Australia, the passage focuses more on services, AI, and automation-related skills.

**2.**

**Ans: C**

**Explanation:**

**Reference from the Passage:**

"Some of these are regulatory and immigration barriers (complex visa processes and stringent work permit regulations hinder skilled migration) and recruitment malpractices and trafficking (exploitative recruitment practices and human trafficking that pose serious threats to migrant workers' safety and rights). Other obstructions include policy barriers and skill mismatches (many Indian degrees, particularly in medicine, are not recognised everywhere in Europe) and language and cultural barriers (integration challenges, including language proficiency and cultural adaptation, affect workforce efficiency and productivity)."

The passage does not mention affordable housing as a barrier. Instead, it lists regulatory barriers, exploitative recruitment, non-recognition of degrees, and language/cultural barriers as key challenges.

**Why Other Options Are Incorrect:**

A) Stringent immigration and work permit regulations – The passage mentions "complex visa processes and stringent work permit regulations" as a major hindrance.

B) Exploitative recruitment practices – The passage highlights "recruitment malpractices and human trafficking" as serious concerns.

D) Non-recognition of Indian degrees in some regions – The passage specifically states that many Indian degrees, particularly in medicine, are not recognized in Europe.

**3.**

**Ans: D**

**Explanation:**

**Reference from the Passage:**

"Addressing this challenge requires targeted strategies, international cooperation and proactive policy interventions to optimise workforce mobility and economic productivity."

The passage states that targeted strategies, international cooperation, and proactive policy interventions are needed to optimize workforce mobility and economic productivity.

**Why Other Options Are Incorrect:**

A) It helps standardize immigration policies across all countries – The passage does not claim that cooperation will lead to standardized immigration policies.

B) It ensures the recognition of Indian degrees worldwide – The passage states that Indian degrees are not recognized everywhere in Europe, but it does not say that international cooperation will resolve this entirely.

C) It eliminates all forms of recruitment malpractices – Cooperation may reduce malpractices but will not eliminate them completely.

**4.**

**Ans: C**

**Explanation:**

**Reference from the Passage:**

"These concerns stem from a flight of foreign capital from Indian stock markets, as investors seek better returns in the United States amid President Donald Trump's proposed corporate tax cuts and ongoing tariff wars, which have strengthened the U.S. dollar against global currencies."

The passage explains that foreign capital outflows were triggered by U.S. economic policies, including corporate tax cuts and tariff wars under President Donald Trump, which strengthened the U.S. dollar and made American investments more attractive.

**Why Other Options Are Incorrect:**

- A) India's GDP growth rate dropping below 5% – The passage mentions India's GDP at 6.4%, but does not link a GDP drop to capital flight.
- B) A sharp decline in the U.S. dollar value – The passage states that the U.S. dollar strengthened, leading to capital flight.
- D) India's foreign exchange reserves increasing significantly – The passage states that India sold 18% of its forex reserves, implying a decline rather than an increase.

**5.**

**Ans: A**

**Explanation:**

,

"Currency swaps are among the tools central banks deploy during periods of high volatility in the global financial system. These measures have the primary aim of stabilising the local currency, mitigating liquidity constraints in the domestic financial system, and curbing inflationary pressures."

The passage explicitly states that the RBI's dollar/rupee swap auction aims to stabilize the local currency, mitigate liquidity constraints, and curb inflationary pressures in response to capital flight from Indian stock markets.

**Why Other Options Are Incorrect:**

B) To encourage foreign investors to return to the Indian stock market – While this could be an indirect effect, the primary stated goal is to stabilize the rupee and manage liquidity.

C) To prevent the depreciation of the U.S. dollar against the rupee – The passage highlights that the rupee has depreciated against the dollar, but the RBI's focus is on stabilizing the rupee, not preventing dollar depreciation.

D) To increase India's foreign exchange reserves – The passage notes that India has already sold 18% of its forex reserves, making this swap a necessity, not a reserve-building measure.

**COMPLETE ENGLISH IN ONE SUBSCRIPTION**

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