

# The Hindu EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

10th 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. Conciliatory (मेलमिलाप करने वाला)**

- **Meaning:** Intended to gain goodwill or reduce hostility.
- **Synonyms:** Pacifying, appeasing, peacemaking
- **Antonyms:** Provocative, antagonistic, confrontational
- **Example:** The leader's conciliatory speech helped ease tensions between the two conflicting groups.

## 2. Sabotage (तोड़फोड़ करना)

- **Meaning:** Deliberately destroy, damage, or obstruct something.
- **Synonyms:** Undermine, wreck, disrupt
- **Antonyms:** Assist, support, aid
- **Example:** The rival company was accused of attempting to sabotage the launch of the new product.

### 3. Retaliated (प्रतिशोध लिया)

- **Meaning:** Made an attack or response in return for a similar action.
- **Synonyms:** Reprised, avenged, counterattacked
- **Antonyms:** Forgave, pardoned, tolerated
- **Example:** The army retaliated swiftly after the attack on its base.

## 4. Escalated (बढ़ जाना या तेज हो जाना)

- **Meaning:** Increased in intensity, magnitude, or seriousness.
- **Synonyms:** Intensified, aggravated, heightened
- **Antonyms:** De-escalated, reduced, alleviated
- **Example:** The disagreement between the two nations escalated into a full-blown diplomatic crisis.

## 5. Reprieve (दंड स्थगन)

- **Meaning:** A temporary relief from a difficult or unpleasant situation.
- **Synonyms:** Respite, postponement, delay
- **Antonyms:** Continuation, execution, enforcement
- **Example:** The accused received a last-minute reprieve from the court.

## 6. Rebuffed (ठुकराना / अस्वीकार करना)

- **Meaning:** To reject someone or something in an abrupt or ungracious manner.
- **Synonyms:** Rejected, dismissed, spurned
- **Antonyms:** Accepted, embraced, welcomed
- **Example:** The company rebuffed the takeover bid, insisting on remaining independent.

## 7. Skeptical (संशयशील / अविश्वासी )

- **Meaning:** Not easily convinced; having doubts or reservations.
- **Synonyms:** Doubtful, suspicious, wary
- **Antonyms:** Trusting, convinced, certain
- **Example:** The investors were skeptical about the startup's ambitious expansion plans.



## 8. Deterioration (गिरावट / अवनति)

- **Meaning:** The process of becoming progressively worse.
- **Synonyms:** Decline, degradation, worsening
- **Antonyms:** Improvement, enhancement, progress
- **Example:** The economic deterioration forced the government to introduce new policies.

## 9. Impede (रोकना)

- **Meaning:** To hinder or obstruct the progress of something.
- **Synonyms:** Hinder, obstruct, delay
- **Antonyms:** Facilitate, assist, expedite
- **Example:** The heavy traffic will impede our ability to arrive on time.

## 10. Adept (कुशल)

- **Meaning:** Very skilled or proficient at something.
- **Synonyms:** Skilled, expert, proficient
- **Antonyms:** Inept, unskilled, clumsy
- **Example:** He is adept at solving complex mathematical problems quickly.

## VOCABULARY

### One-word substitute:

**1. The study of ancient writing systems and historical manuscripts:**

**Paleography**

**2. The study of mountains and their formation:**

**Orology**

**3. The scientific study of birds:**

**Ornithology**

**4. The study of colors, their properties, and perception:**

**Chromatics**

# VOCABULARY

## Phrasal Verbs:

### 1. Egg on

Meaning - to encourage or provoke someone to do something.

### 2. Iron out

Meaning - to resolve or smooth out problems or difficulties.

### 3. Jack up

Meaning - to increase something (e.g., prices) sharply.

### 4. Reel in

Meaning - to attract or bring someone or something closer.

# VOCABULARY

## Idioms & Phrases

### 1. Blue in the face

Meaning: exhausted from anger, strain, or other great effort

### 2. Worth its weight in gold

Meaning: something or someone is very useful, valuable, or important

### 3. Time is money

Meaning: time is a valuable resource, therefore it's better to do things as quickly as possible

## VOCABULARY

### **4. That ship has sailed**

**Meaning:** it is too late to do something

### **5. Wear your heart on your sleeve**

**Meaning:** to be extremely open about what you feel and think

## **Article for Reading**

**Second chance: on  
the U.S. and the Iran  
nuclear deal**



**It was Donald Trump who sabotaged the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), better known as the Iran nuclear deal. When Mr. Trump, in his first term as President (2017-21), unilaterally withdrew the U.S. from the agreement in May 2018, Iran was fully compliant with the terms. Mr. Trump then adopted his ‘maximum pressure’ policy aimed at forcing Iran to renegotiate the deal — a move which Tehran rebuffed. Last week, Mr. Trump said he had sent a letter to Iran’s Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, asking him to reopen dialogue or risk military action. While the letter’s details are still private, it took only two days for the Iranian leader to reject the outreach. Mr. Khamenei said “some bullying governments” insist on talks not to resolve the issue but to impose their deals. Iran’s reaction is not entirely surprising. In 2013, Tehran had taken Barack Obama’s overtures quite seriously.**

**Mr. Khamenei had fully backed the Hassan Rouhani presidency's bid to negotiate with the West. And they had reached a result-oriented agreement which cut Iran's path towards nuclear weapons in return for the lifting of international sanctions. Now, when the American leader who demolished the functional agreement reaches out to them, the Iranians are sceptical for obvious reasons. Yet, there is a compelling argument to retake the path of diplomacy. In 2018, when Mr. Trump imposed maximum pressure, Iran responded with maximum resistance. This mutual brinkmanship escalated regional tensions — Saudi Arabian oil facilities came under attack, Iran shot down an American drone, the U.S. assassinated Gen. Qassem Soleimani and Tehran retaliated with a missile strike on an American base in Iraq. While Mr. Trump's White House exit in 2021 ushered in the hope that the nuclear deal could be revived under the Biden administration, it did not happen.**

**Over the four years, the region has seen dramatic developments. Today's Iran is weaker than what it was in 2020. Israel's war against Hamas and Hezbollah has weakened the 'Axis of Resistance'. Last year saw Israel and Iran exchange attacks. The fall of Syria's Assad regime, Tehran's only state ally in West Asia, in December 2024, shrank Iran's strategic depth in a hostile region. The country is also in deep economic pain, and the Israelis seem willing to take greater military risks, provided they have American backing. Amid challenges, Iran reportedly possesses enough high-grade fuel to produce weapons — Mr. Trump has acknowledged this with his 'we are reaching a critical point'. The U.S. wants to resolve the nuclear problem and Iran wants lasting economic and diplomatic reprieves. Beneath the hostility, there is a strategic possibility to resume dialogue. There is no harm in the Iranians giving it a second chance.**

## Summary

**The passage discusses the history and implications of the U.S.-Iran nuclear deal (JCPOA). It highlights how former U.S. President Donald Trump withdrew from the deal in 2018 despite Iran's compliance, replacing it with a 'maximum pressure' strategy to force renegotiation, which Iran rejected. Recently, Trump attempted to reopen dialogue with Iran, but Supreme Leader Khamenei dismissed it due to past betrayals. The passage further details how regional tensions escalated post-withdrawal, including attacks on Saudi oil facilities, the U.S. assassination of Qassem Soleimani, and retaliatory strikes. Despite these hostilities, there remains a strategic opportunity for renewed diplomacy, given Iran's weakened position, economic troubles, and the broader geopolitical landscape.**

## **Tone:**

**The tone of the passage is analytical and objective, with a slight inclination towards critical regarding Trump's approach while emphasizing the necessity of diplomacy.**

## Reading Comprehension

Based on the above passage, answer the following questions:

**Question 1:**

**Which of the following factors has weakened Iran's position in West Asia as mentioned in the passage?**

- A) The U.S. imposing new economic sanctions in 2024**
- B) The fall of Syria's Assad regime in December 2024**
- C) The withdrawal of Russian military support from Iran**
- D) The European Union offering Iran an alternative economic deal**
- E) None of the above**

## **Question 2:**

**What was the main consequence of Trump's 'maximum pressure' policy on Iran?**

- A) Iran immediately complied and accepted new terms for the nuclear deal.**
- B) Iran strengthened its economy through alternative global trade partnerships.**
- C) Iran expanded its nuclear capabilities and regional conflicts escalated.**
- D) Iran's leadership changed as a result of internal political turmoil.**
- E) None of the above**



**Question 3:**

**Why did Iran reject Donald Trump's outreach attempt regarding the nuclear deal?**

- A) Iran had already developed nuclear weapons, making negotiations unnecessary.**
- B) Iran viewed the approach as an insincere attempt to impose unfavorable terms.**
- C) Iran believed that President Biden would soon reinstate the original agreement.**
- D) Iran had lost its influence in the West Asian region and lacked bargaining power.**
- E) None of the above**

## **Article for Skimming**

**Building capacities:  
on India and Europe  
trade talks**

**The security breach where a Khalistani protester approached External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's car in London overshadowed the headlines on his week-long visit to the United Kingdom and Ireland. And the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) made its displeasure clear to the Minister's British hosts. The scheduled visit, however, was not changed and Mr. Jaishankar side-stepped the scare, announcing that India-U.K. relations were set for a "very big pickup" despite their "complex history" and current problems. India is building its capacities in the U.K., with two consulates, in Manchester and Belfast, while Mr. Jaishankar's extended talks with U.K. Foreign Secretary David Lammy focused on the much-delayed conclusion of a Free Trade Agreement (FTA). The Agreement, which was due to be finished after U.K.'s 'Brexit' in 2020, has missed deadlines.**

**Talks over an FTA dominated discussions in Ireland too, and came days after India and the European Union (EU) committed to concluding their Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) — for which talks began in 2007 — by the end of 2025. Bilateral trade with the U.K. (\$52 billion) and Ireland (\$17 billion) are underpowered, and discussions on enhancing collaborations, especially in high-tech trade, were on the agenda in both capitals. The FTA talks, India-U.K. (restarted last month) and India-EU (another round this week), will benefit from India's more conciliatory position on import duties with the U.S., which have been a sticking point for them as well. The government's decision to reduce tariffs on wines and spirits, motor and electric vehicles, in deference to U.S. President Trump's demands, is a case in point, and more cuts are expected in negotiating an India-U.S. BTA. In that sense, Mr. Trump's reordering of U.S. alliances and trade policy may well have been the wind in Mr. Jaishankar's sails.**

**The trip followed visits to Delhi by a high-power EU delegation led by European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and a senior ministerial and business team led by Belgian Princess Astrid, that imparted the sense that Europe is looking for new, more dependable friends. Mr. Jaishankar's visit also came close on the heels of the dramatic showdown at the White House between Mr. Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, which led to an urgent summit of non-U.S. NATO countries being held in London, where U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer committed to support Ukraine with a "Coalition of the Willing". As geopolitical and geo-financial calculations are being reworked across the Atlantic, India stands to gain by accelerated diplomacy and offering a hand of friendship to both sides.**

**Question 4:**

**Why has Europe been seeking stronger relations with India, as suggested in the passage?**

- A) The European Union sees India as a reliable alternative partner in trade.**
- B) India has agreed to increase arms exports to European nations.**
- C) The European Union wants to integrate India into its monetary system.**
- D) India has pledged to mediate between the U.S. and Russia on Ukraine.**
- E) None of the above**

**Question 5:**

**What geopolitical development coincided with Jaishankar's visit to the U.K. and Ireland?**

- A) The signing of a historic peace treaty between Ukraine and Russia.**
- B) The collapse of U.S.-European trade negotiations.**
- C) A major diplomatic crisis between India and China.**
- D) A NATO summit in London amid tensions between Trump and Zelenskyy.**
- E) None of the above**

**Today's Descriptive Question**

**Precis Writing:**



## **Original Text:**

**In recent years, the world has witnessed an exponential rise in the use of digital technologies, marking a fundamental shift in how people communicate, work, and interact with the world around them. Devices such as smartphones, laptops, and tablets have become integral to daily life, allowing individuals to stay connected, access information, and carry out tasks with unprecedented ease. Social media platforms, in particular, have revolutionized how people share information, form relationships, and express opinions. The proliferation of these technologies has undeniably brought numerous benefits, including greater convenience, new avenues for business growth, and enhanced educational opportunities for students and professionals alike. However, the rapid rise of digital technologies has also brought with it a series of challenges and concerns. The constant connection to devices and social media has raised alarms about its impact on mental health, particularly regarding issues like addiction, anxiety, and the erosion of privacy.**

**Studies have shown that excessive screen time can disrupt sleep patterns, contribute to feelings of isolation, and negatively affect attention spans. Furthermore, the rapid pace of technological advancements has led to a growing digital divide. While many individuals enjoy the benefits of digital innovation, there remains a significant portion of the global population that lacks access to the necessary resources, skills, or infrastructure to take advantage of these technologies. The digital divide is particularly evident in developing countries, where access to reliable internet and modern devices is often limited. This disparity has led to concerns about widening inequality, as those who are unable to engage with the digital world are increasingly left behind in terms of education, employment opportunities, and access to essential services. In light of these issues, there has been a growing call for governments, businesses, and educational institutions to invest in digital literacy programs. By improving access to digital tools and education, it is hoped that more people can fully participate in the digital revolution and bridge the gap between those who have access to technology and those who do not.**

## **Precis:**

**The rise of digital technologies, including smartphones, laptops, and social media platforms, has fundamentally transformed how people communicate, work, and access information. These advancements have brought benefits such as increased convenience, business opportunities, and enhanced education. However, concerns about mental health, such as addiction and privacy issues, have emerged due to constant device usage. Additionally, the rapid technological development has created a digital divide, especially in developing countries where access to technology is limited. This disparity has raised issues of inequality in education, employment, and access to services. To address this, there are calls for governments and businesses to invest in digital literacy programs to ensure broader participation in the digital age.**

- **Write an email to an organization requesting a collaboration opportunity.**

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

**Subject: Request for Collaboration Opportunity**

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

**I hope this email finds you well. My name is [Your Name], and I represent [Your Organization's Name]. We specialize in [briefly describe your organization's services or products], and we have been following your organization's work with great interest.**

**We believe that a collaboration between our organizations could be mutually beneficial, and we are eager to explore the possibility of working together.**

**Specifically, we are interested in [mention the type of collaboration you're seeking, such as joint events, co-branded initiatives, or sharing expertise].**

**We would love the opportunity to discuss how we could align our goals and create a partnership that adds value to both organizations. Please let us know a convenient time for a meeting or a call to further explore this opportunity.**

**Thank you for considering this request. We look forward to the possibility of collaborating with your team.**

**Best regards,  
[Your Full Name]  
[Your Job Title]  
[Your Organization's Name]**

## Match the column

- |                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. Blue in the face               | A. time is a valuable resource              |
| 2. Worth its weight in gold       | B. to be extremely open about what you feel |
| 3. Time is money                  | C. something or someone is very useful      |
| 4. That ship has sailed           | D. exhausted from anger, or strain          |
| 5. Wear your heart on your sleeve | E. it is too late to do something           |

## **Answer:**

**1-d**

**2-c**

**3-a**

**4-e**

**5-b**



## Vocabulary

1. Conciliatory:
2. Sabotage:
3. Retaliated:
4. Escalated:
5. Reprieve:
6. Rebuffed:
7. Skeptical:
8. Deterioration:
9. Impede:
10. Adept:

**Rc ans**

1.

**Ans: B**

**Explanation:**

**Reference from passage:** "The fall of Syria's Assad regime, Tehran's only state ally in West Asia, in December 2024, shrank Iran's strategic depth in a hostile region."

The passage explicitly states that the fall of Syria's Assad regime reduced Iran's strategic depth in the region. This loss weakened Iran's influence in an already hostile geopolitical environment.

**Why the other options are incorrect:**

- (A) Incorrect: The passage does not mention any new U.S. economic sanctions in 2024.
- (C) Incorrect: There is no reference to Russia withdrawing military support from Iran.
- (D) Incorrect: The passage does not mention any European Union offer to Iran.

2.

**Ans: C**

**Explanation:**

**Reference from passage:** "In 2018, when Mr. Trump imposed maximum pressure, Iran responded with maximum resistance. This mutual brinkmanship escalated regional tensions—Saudi Arabian oil facilities came under attack, Iran shot down an American drone, the U.S. assassinated Gen. Qassem Soleimani, and Tehran retaliated with a missile strike on an American base in Iraq."

The passage states that when Trump imposed 'maximum pressure,' Iran responded with 'maximum resistance,' leading to military conflicts such as drone attacks, missile strikes, and the assassination of General Soleimani. Additionally, Iran reportedly possesses enough high-grade fuel to produce nuclear weapons.

**Why the other options are incorrect:**

(A) Incorrect: Iran rebuffed Trump's attempt to renegotiate the deal.

(B) Incorrect: The passage does not mention that Iran formed alternative trade partnerships that strengthened its economy.

(D) Incorrect: There is no mention of a leadership change in Iran.

3.

**Ans: B**

**Explanation:**

**Reference from passage:** "Mr. Khamenei said 'some bullying governments' insist on talks not to resolve the issue but to impose their deals."

The passage states that Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei dismissed Trump's outreach because "some bullying governments insist on talks not to resolve the issue but to impose their deals." This clearly indicates that Iran perceived the outreach as a pressure tactic rather than a genuine effort to negotiate.

**Why the other options are incorrect:**

(A) Incorrect: The passage mentions that Iran possesses enough high-grade fuel to produce weapons but does not confirm that nuclear weapons have already been developed.

(C) Incorrect: The passage highlights that the Biden administration did not reinstate the original agreement despite expectations.

(D) Incorrect: While the passage states that Iran is weaker than in 2020, it still retains bargaining power, particularly regarding its nuclear capabilities.

**4.**

**Ans: A**

**Explanation:**

**Reference from passage:**

"The trip followed visits to Delhi by a high-power EU delegation led by European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and a senior ministerial and business team led by Belgian Princess Astrid, that imparted the sense that Europe is looking for new, more dependable friends."

The passage describes a high-power EU delegation visiting Delhi, suggesting that Europe is looking for "more dependable friends" amid shifting geopolitical and economic circumstances.

**Why the other options are incorrect:**

(B) Incorrect: The passage does not mention India increasing arms exports to Europe.

(C) Incorrect: There is no mention of India integrating into the EU's monetary system.

(D) Incorrect: The passage does not suggest India has taken a mediator role in the U.S.-Russia conflict.

**5.**

**Ans: D**

**Explanation:**

**Reference from passage:**

"Mr. Jaishankar's visit also came close on the heels of the dramatic showdown at the White House between Mr. Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, which led to an urgent summit of non-U.S. NATO countries being held in London."

The passage mentions that Jaishankar's visit occurred shortly after a dramatic confrontation between Trump and Ukrainian President Zelenskyy at the White House, which led to an urgent NATO summit in London.

**Why the other options are incorrect:**

- (A) Incorrect: There is no mention of a peace treaty between Ukraine and Russia.
- (B) Incorrect: U.S.-European trade negotiations are not described as collapsing.
- (C) Incorrect: No India-China diplomatic crisis is mentioned.

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