

# The Hindu EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

4th 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. Tepid (निष्क्रिय)

- **Meaning:** Showing little enthusiasm or energy; lukewarm.
- **Synonyms:** Unenthusiastic, indifferent, dull
- **Antonyms:** Enthusiastic, passionate, intense
- **Example:** The audience gave a tepid response to the new product launch.

## 2. Buttress (सहारा देना)

- **Meaning:** To support or strengthen.
- **Synonyms:** Reinforce, uphold, bolster
- **Antonyms:** Weaken, impair, undermine
- **Example:** The recent reforms aim to buttress the banking sector against financial crises.

### 3. Tweaking (थोड़ा सुधार करना)

- **Meaning:** Making small adjustments or modifications.
- **Synonyms:** Adjusting, modifying, fine-tuning
- **Antonyms:** Keeping unchanged, maintaining, preserving
- **Example:** The software developers are tweaking the system to improve its performance.

## 4. Unprecedented (अभूतपूर्व)

- **Meaning:** Never done or known before.
- **Synonyms:** Unparalleled, unheard-of, exceptional
- **Antonyms:** Common, ordinary, usual
- **Example:** The company achieved unprecedented success with its latest product launch.

## 5. Spat (झगड़ा, विवाद)

- **Meaning:** A small argument or quarrel.
- **Synonyms:** Dispute, tiff, quarrel
- **Antonyms:** Agreement, harmony, peace
- **Example:** The two ministers had a brief spat over the budget allocation.

## 6. Snub (अपमान करना, ठुकराना )

- **Meaning:** To ignore or treat someone with disdain.
- **Synonyms:** Rebuff, reject, insult
- **Antonyms:** Welcome, accept, acknowledge
- **Example:** The actor snubbed the reporters by walking away without answering questions.

## 7. Spiralling (बढ़ता हुआ, नियंत्रण से बाहर होता हुआ)

- **Meaning:** Increasing or worsening rapidly and uncontrollably.
- **Synonyms:** Escalating, surging, skyrocketing
- **Antonyms:** Declining, reducing, stabilizing
- **Example:** The country is struggling to control spiralling inflation.



## 8. Opaque (अपारदर्शी )

- **Meaning:** Not able to be seen through; not transparent.
- **Synonyms:** Cloudy, obscure, unclear
- **Antonyms:** Transparent, clear, lucid
- **Example:** The windows were so dirty they were almost opaque.

## 9. Engulfed (निगल लिया)

- **Meaning:** To sweep over something so as to surround or cover it completely.
- **Synonyms:** Overwhelmed, inundated, swallowed
- **Antonyms:** Uncovered, exposed, freed
- **Example:** The valley was engulfed by the sudden flood.

## 10. Adept (निपुण)

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

## VOCABULARY

### One-word substitute:

**1. An intense fear of snakes:**

Ophidiophobia

**2. A short journey or trip, usually for leisure or educational purposes:**

Excursion

**3. A person recovering from an illness or medical treatment:**

Convalescent

**4. A person who believes that all events are predetermined and inevitable:**

Fatalist

## VOCABULARY

### Phrasal Verbs:

#### **1. Claw back**

Meaning – To regain or recover something, often with difficulty.

#### **2. Cling on**

Meaning – To hold tightly onto something or persistently remain attached.

#### **3. Clog up**

Meaning – To block or obstruct the flow of something.

#### **4. Come across**

Meaning – To meet or find something/someone by chance or to give a particular impression.

# VOCABULARY

## Idioms & Phrases

### 1. Flogging a dead horse

Meaning – Wasting time or effort on something that is no longer useful or achievable.

### 2. Fair and square

Meaning – In an honest and straightforward manner.

### 3. White elephant

Meaning – A costly but useless possession that is difficult to maintain or get rid of.

## VOCABULARY

### **4. Take to one's heels**

Meaning – To run away quickly.

### **5. Heads will roll**

Meaning – People will be punished or lose their positions, usually due to a serious mistake or failure.

## Article for Reading

**War and peace: on  
the U.S., Russia and  
Ukraine**



**The dramatic showdown in the White House between U.S. President Donald Trump and his Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelenskyy, in full view of television cameras, was unprecedented in the history of modern diplomacy. For Mr. Zelenskyy, who was to sign an agreement on minerals and discuss Mr. Trump's peace plan, the visit was both humiliating and disastrous. Humiliating because Mr. Zelenskyy's apparent questioning of U.S. Vice President J.D. Vance's push for diplomacy triggered a spiralling spat, prompting Mr. Trump to say that Ukraine was not winning the war and that Mr. Zelenskyy was being ungrateful to the U.S. It was disastrous because Mr. Trump asked Mr. Zelenskyy to take the deal he was negotiating with the Russians or "we are out". This was a threat that the U.S. would stop supplying weapons to Kyiv, which is struggling to slow down an advancing Russia.**

**Mr. Trump's snub that Mr. Zelenskyy had "disrespected America in its cherished Oval Office" and that "he can come back when he is ready for peace", marked a breakdown in his relationship with the Ukrainians. This, unless reversed, could prove costly for Ukraine at a time when it needs the support of all its allies. The tragedy of Ukraine is that it became a pawn in the great game between a powerful Russia and the U.S.-dominated North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the bloc Kyiv wanted to join. When Joe Biden was the U.S. President, he promised to support Ukraine "as long as it takes". The weapons and training that the U.S. and Europe have provided to Ukraine helped it mount an effective resistance. But the problem has been that even with that support, Ukraine does not have a path towards victory. And the return of Mr. Trump, who promised to shut down the war through a reset with Russia, has meant the end of the 'as-long-as-it-takes' policy.**

**Mr. Trump seems determined to make a deal with Russia, while Ukraine wants security guarantees, which Washington is reluctant to provide. This is the main reason for the rift. After the Oval Office spat, Mr. Zelenskyy was welcomed in London by U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer, who said Europe must “do heavy lifting”. But he also emphasised that for any European plan to succeed, it “must have strong U.S. backing”. So it is important for Ukraine and Europe to work with the Trump administration in negotiations with Russia. And if America, which until two months ago was Ukraine’s greatest supporter, abandons Kyiv, it would only hurt its reputation as a global power. The U.S. should make sure that Ukraine’s security concerns are adequately addressed in any final agreement with Russia, and aimed at ending the war and bringing lasting peace in Europe.**

## **Summary**

**The passage discusses the recent diplomatic fallout between former U.S. President Donald Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy during a White House meeting. Trump criticized Ukraine for its lack of gratitude and warned that U.S. military support could be withdrawn if Zelenskyy did not accept a deal with Russia. This marks a significant shift in U.S. foreign policy from the Biden administration's commitment to supporting Ukraine indefinitely. The passage highlights Ukraine's vulnerable position in the geopolitical struggle between Russia and NATO. It also emphasizes the importance of European efforts and U.S. involvement in securing a lasting peace. If America abandons Ukraine, it could damage its credibility as a global power.**

## **Tone:**

**The tone of the passage is critical, analytical, and concerned. It critiques Trump's diplomatic approach, analyzes the geopolitical implications, and expresses concern over Ukraine's uncertain future and the potential weakening of U.S. global influence.**

## **Reading Comprehension**

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

**Question 1:**

**Why was President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's visit to the White House described as both "humiliating" and "disastrous"?**

- A) He was denied an audience with President Donald Trump and was forced to return to Ukraine without any negotiations.**
- B) His questioning of U.S. Vice President J.D. Vance's stance on diplomacy led to a heated dispute, and he was pressured to accept a deal with Russia under threat of losing U.S. support.**
- C) He was accused of disrespecting the United States in the Oval Office, leading to his immediate expulsion from Washington.**
- D) He was denied entry into the White House, and his meeting with U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer was also canceled.**
- E) None of the above**

## **Question 2:**

**What is the primary reason for the growing rift between the U.S. and Ukraine under Trump's administration?**

- A) Ukraine's insistence on joining NATO, which the U.S. firmly opposes.**
- B) Ukraine's refusal to accept security guarantees from European nations instead of the U.S.**
- C) The reluctance of Washington to provide the security guarantees Ukraine seeks, while Trump pushes for a deal with Russia.**
- D) The U.S.'s increased funding to NATO, which Ukraine perceives as a betrayal.**
- E) None of the above**



### **Question 3:**

**What was U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer's stance regarding Europe's role in Ukraine's crisis?**

- A) He stated that Europe must take primary responsibility for Ukraine's defense without relying on the U.S.**
- B) He insisted that European nations should negotiate peace with Russia independently of Washington.**
- C) He emphasized that Europe must take on a greater role but acknowledged that any plan would require strong U.S. support.**
- D) He proposed the formation of a new European military alliance separate from NATO to address the crisis.**
- E) None of the above**

## **Article for Skimming**

**Battle for growth: on  
India's economic  
trajectory**

**There was a significant uptick in India's economic trajectory, in the December quarter of this financial year (Q3FY25), registering a 6.2% real GDP growth rate, compared with a low revised estimate of 5.6% (5.4%) in the previous quarter. To be sure, this growth rate was the slowest since Q4FY23, except for the previous quarter's 5.6%. The 6.2% growth rate also suggests that the government's full-year growth target of 6.5% is virtually unattainable, given global headwinds of tariffs that could lead to imported inflation, amid tepid performance by the manufacturing and services sector domestically. The bulk of Q3FY25 growth has been bolstered by the primary sector, with a value-add of 5.2%, up from 1.8% in the same quarter last year. But growth in the secondary and tertiary sectors that make up manufacturing and services slowed to 4.8% and 7.4% respectively, compared with 12.4% and 8.3% last year.**

**While Chief Economic Adviser V. Anantha Nageswaran acknowledged that a growth rate of 7.6% in the current quarter is ambitious amid global economic uncertainties, his suggestion that this growth is attainable sounds rather optimistic, unless the Maha Kumbh propelled a consumption spike that was able to buttress the current quarter's growth numbers. India's manufacturing and services sectors remain vulnerable to global trade uncertainties, such as the U.S.'s 25% import tariff on steel, and an equal percentage proposed on pharmaceuticals. About a third (31%) of India's pharma exports totalling \$8.7 billion were to the U.S. in FY24. News of the proposed tariffs has sent shock waves, with some firms suggesting a pivot to producing in the U.S., which could potentially lead to a trade revenue loss for India. There are bright spots, however. The uptick of 8.3% (2.3%) in government spending and 6.9% (5.7%) growth in private consumption expenditure have been bolstered by a moderation in inflation.**

**The RBI has projected inflation to average 4.8% in FY25, estimating that this would ease further to 4.2% in FY26, indicating a possible alignment with the RBI's medium-term target of 4%. However, these current estimates have come into question as the National Statistical Office (NSO) indicated that it has attempted a tweaking of its methodology, factoring in “industry-wise/institution-wise detailed information” but not quite elaborating on what material influence this has had on the quality and quantity of the data collected. The NSO went on to say that the ‘overall as well as sectoral variations in advanced estimates is attributed to a revision of benchmark estimates and additional or updated data available on various indicators’. The NSO must clarify this revision in methodology to enable a more informed analysis of the data that it provides.**

#### **Question 4:**

**What is the significance of the RBI's projected inflation estimates for FY25 and FY26?**

- A) They indicate a sharp increase in inflation, leading to tighter monetary policies**
- B) They suggest inflation is aligning with the RBI's medium-term target of 4%**
- C) They predict a significant decline in inflation due to supply-side disruptions**
- D) They highlight inflationary risks associated with fiscal expansion and wage growth**
- E) None of the above**

### **Question 5:**

**What concern has been raised regarding the National Statistical Office's (NSO) methodology for GDP calculations?**

- A) The NSO has used outdated statistical models that no longer reflect economic realities**
- B) The NSO has overestimated growth figures by not accounting for inflation adjustments**
- C) The NSO has revised benchmark estimates without clarifying their impact on data quality**
- D) The NSO has included unverified data sources, leading to questions on data reliability**
- E) None of the above**

# Today's Descriptive Question

## Precis Writing:



## **Original Text:**

**Multinational Corporations (MNCs) play a crucial role in India's economic growth by bringing foreign direct investment (FDI), advanced technology, employment opportunities, and global business practices. Companies like Google, Amazon, Microsoft, Unilever, and Samsung have established a strong presence, contributing significantly to various sectors, including IT, manufacturing, retail, and pharmaceuticals.**

**One of the primary benefits of MNCs in India is job creation. These corporations generate direct and indirect employment across different skill levels, fostering economic growth and improving living standards. MNCs also introduce modern technology, innovation, and research & development (R&D) investments, helping local industries become more competitive.**

**Their presence encourages skill development through training programs and knowledge transfer, enhancing the capabilities of India's workforce. MNCs contribute to infrastructure development by investing in production facilities, logistics, and supply chains. They also play a pivotal role in India's integration into the global economy by boosting exports and improving trade relations. Additionally, they promote consumer choices by offering a diverse range of products and services.**

**However, MNCs also pose challenges such as market dominance, environmental concerns, profit repatriation, and local business competition. Excessive reliance on foreign companies can impact the growth of domestic industries, leading to economic dependency. To maximize benefits, India must implement strong regulatory frameworks, promote fair competition, and ensure sustainable business practices.**

## Precis:

**MNCs play a vital role in India's economic growth by creating jobs, introducing advanced technology, fostering innovation, and improving infrastructure. They integrate India into the global economy and enhance consumer choices. However, challenges such as market dominance, local business competition, and profit repatriation need careful regulation. Ensuring a balanced approach will help India leverage MNC investments while protecting domestic interests.**

- **You are the admissions officer at a university. Write an email to a student confirming their admission and providing the next steps.**

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**Subject: Admission Confirmation & Next Steps**

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

**Congratulations! We are pleased to inform you that you have been admitted to [University Name] for the [Program Name] program, starting in [Semester/Year]. We are excited to welcome you to our academic community and look forward to seeing you thrive.**

**To confirm your admission, please log into your student portal at [portal link] and accept the offer by [confirmation deadline]. You will also need to submit any remaining documents, such as transcripts or identification proof, by [document deadline]. Additionally, securing your place requires an enrollment deposit of [amount], which must be paid by [payment deadline].**

**As you prepare for the semester, we encourage you to register for our orientation program, where you will receive important information about academic resources, campus life, and course registration. If you are interested in on-campus housing, please apply by [housing deadline]. Course registration will begin on [registration date], and further details will be sent to your email.**

**If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to our Admissions Office at [email address] or call [phone number]. We are here to assist you in making your transition as smooth as possible.**

**Once again, congratulations on your admission! We look forward to welcoming you to [University Name].**

**Best regards,  
[Your Name]**

## Match the column

1. Flogging a dead horse
2. Fair and square
3. White elephant
4. Take to one's heels
5. Heads will roll

- A. People will be punished or lose their positions
- B. To run away quickly
- C. In an honest and straightforward manner
- D. A costly possession that is difficult to maintain
- E. Wasting time or effort on something

**Answer:**

**1-e**

**2-c**

**3-d**

**4-b**

**5-a**



## **Vocabulary**

1. Tepid:
2. Buttress:
3. Tweaking:
4. Unprecedented:
5. Spat:
6. Snub:
7. Spiralling:
8. Opaque:
9. Engulfed:
10. Adept:

**Rc ans**

**1.**

**Ans: B**

**Explanation:**

**Reference:** "Humiliating because Mr. Zelenskyy's apparent questioning of U.S. Vice President J.D. Vance's push for diplomacy triggered a spiraling spat... It was disastrous because Mr. Trump asked Mr. Zelenskyy to take the deal he was negotiating with the Russians or 'we are out.'"

The passage states that Zelenskyy's visit was humiliating because his questioning of J.D. Vance's diplomatic stance led to a heated exchange, and disastrous because Trump pressured him to accept a deal with Russia by threatening to withdraw U.S. military aid.

**Why other options are incorrect:**

- A) Incorrect because Zelenskyy did meet with Trump, though the meeting did not go well.
- C) Although Trump accused Zelenskyy of disrespecting the U.S., he was not expelled.
- D) There is no mention of Zelenskyy being denied entry into the White House or his meeting with Starmer being canceled.

**2.**

**Ans: C**

**Explanation:**

**Reference:** "Mr. Trump seems determined to make a deal with Russia, while Ukraine wants security guarantees, which Washington is reluctant to provide. This is the main reason for the rift."

The passage explicitly states that Ukraine seeks security guarantees, which Washington is hesitant to provide, while Trump is focused on reaching an agreement with Russia.

**Why other options are incorrect:**

A) Although NATO is mentioned, it is not the primary reason for the rift.

B) There is no mention of Ukraine refusing European security guarantees.

D) The passage does not suggest increased U.S. funding to NATO is causing tension with Ukraine.

**3.**

**Ans: C**

**Explanation:**

**Reference:** "After the Oval Office spat, Mr. Zelenskyy was welcomed in London by U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer, who said Europe must 'do heavy lifting'. But he also emphasized that for any European plan to succeed, it 'must have strong U.S. backing.'"

The passage states that Starmer acknowledged Europe must take on more responsibility but also stressed that any successful plan would require U.S. backing.

**Why other options are incorrect:**

- A) Starmer did not suggest that Europe should act without the U.S.
- B) He did not propose that European nations negotiate peace without Washington.
- D) There is no mention of a new European military alliance separate from NATO.

4.

**Ans: B**

**Explanation:**

The passage states, “The RBI has projected inflation to average 4.8% in FY25, estimating that this would ease further to 4.2% in FY26, indicating a possible alignment with the RBI’s medium-term target of 4%.” This suggests that inflation is moving towards the desired level.

**Why the other options are incorrect:**

A) Sharp increase in inflation leading to tighter monetary policies: Incorrect because inflation is expected to decline, not increase.

C) Significant decline in inflation due to supply-side disruptions: Incorrect as the passage attributes the decline to broader economic factors rather than supply-side disruptions.

D) Inflationary risks from fiscal expansion and wage growth: Incorrect since the passage does not highlight these as major concerns.

**5.**

**Ans: C**

**Explanation:**

The passage states, “The NSO indicated that it has attempted a tweaking of its methodology, factoring in ‘industry-wise/institution-wise detailed information’ but not quite elaborating on what material influence this has had on the quality and quantity of the data collected.” This suggests that the revision in methodology has raised concerns about data accuracy and transparency.

**Why the other options are incorrect:**

A) Outdated statistical models: Incorrect because the passage does not suggest that the models are outdated.

B) Overestimation due to inflation adjustments: Incorrect as the passage does not mention inflation miscalculations.

D) Inclusion of unverified data sources: Incorrect because there is no mention of data verification issues.

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