

The Hindu EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

13th 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. Festering (सड़ता हुआ/बढ़ता हुआ)

- **Meaning:** Becoming worse or more intense, especially through long-term neglect or indifference.
- **Synonyms:** Worsening, aggravating, rotting
- **Antonyms:** Healing, improving, soothing
- **Example:** The festering conflict between the two countries has led to years of unrest.

2. Condemned (निंदा किया हुआ)

- **Meaning:** Express complete disapproval of something, typically in public.
- **Synonyms:** Denounced, criticized, censured
- **Antonyms:** Praised, endorsed, approved
- **Example:** The international community condemned the use of force against innocent civilians.

3. Ratchet up (बढ़ाना)

- **Meaning:** To increase something in controlled stages over a period of time.
- **Synonyms:** Intensify, escalate, amplify
- **Antonyms:** Decrease, reduce, lessen
- **Example:** The government decided to ratchet up economic sanctions to pressure the opposing country.

4. Disastrous (विनाशकारी)

- **Meaning:** Causing great damage or harm.
- **Synonyms:** Catastrophic, devastating, calamitous
- **Antonyms:** Beneficial, successful, fortunate
- **Example:** The disastrous consequences of the prolonged war have left the country in ruins.

5. Trespassing (अवैध रूप से घुसपैठ करना)

- **Meaning:** Entering someone's land or property without permission.
- **Synonyms:** Intruding, encroaching, violating
- **Antonyms:** Respecting, complying, obeying
- **Example:** The authorities warned against trespassing into foreign territorial waters.

6. Undermine (कमजोर करना)

- **Meaning:** To weaken or damage something, especially gradually or secretly.
- **Synonyms:** Weaken, sabotage, erode
- **Antonyms:** Strengthen, support, bolster
- **Example:** His actions were seen as an attempt to undermine the authority of the board.

7. Euphoria (उत्साह)

- **Meaning:** A feeling or state of intense excitement and happiness.
- **Synonyms:** Elation, joy, bliss
- **Antonyms:** Despair, misery, gloom
- **Example:** There was a sense of euphoria in the crowd as the concert began.

8. Haste (जल्दबाज़ी)

- **Meaning:** Excessive speed or urgency of movement or action.
- **Synonyms:** Hurry, rush, speed
- **Antonyms:** Slowness, delay, hesitation
- **Example:** In his haste to leave, he forgot to take his wallet.

9. Limbo (अनिश्चितता की स्थिति)

- **Meaning:** A state of uncertainty or suspension.
- **Synonyms:** Uncertainty, suspension, delay
- **Antonyms:** Certainty, resolution, conclusion
- **Example:** The case remains in legal limbo until further judgment.

10. Reiteration (पुनरावृत्ति)

- **Meaning:** The action of repeating something for emphasis or clarity.
- **Synonyms:** Repetition, reaffirmation, restatement
- **Antonyms:** Neglect, omission, silence
- **Example:** The judgment is a reiteration of the importance of secular and socialist principles.

VOCABULARY

One-word substitute:

1. Patricide

Meaning – The act of killing one's father.

2. Regicide

Meaning – The act of killing a king.

3. Homicide

Meaning – The act of killing a human being.

4. Filicide

Meaning – The act of killing one's son or daughter.

VOCABULARY

Phrasal Verbs:

1. Catch up

Meaning: To reach the same level or standard as someone or something after falling behind.

2. Drop back

Meaning: To move back or fall behind in position or progress.

3. Run away

Meaning: To leave a place or situation quickly, often to avoid trouble or danger.

4. Turn up

Meaning: To appear or arrive unexpectedly or after being awaited.

VOCABULARY

Idioms & Phrases

1. Around the corner

Meaning: it will happen very soon

2. Back to basics

Meaning: to return to a simpler way of thinking or doing something

3. A bolt from the blue

Meaning: a sudden and unexpected event or piece of news

VOCABULARY

4. Out of the red

Meaning: to be financially stable or able to pay

5. School of thought

Meaning: a particular way of thinking

Article for Reading

**Time for truce: On
the Russia-Ukraine
conflict**

Ukraine's decision to accept an 'immediate, interim' 30-day ceasefire with Russia, which can be extended upon mutual agreements, is an important first step towards shutting down the three-year-long war. The decision, announced in a joint statement issued by the U.S. and Ukraine, after senior-level talks in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, also shows that U.S. President Donald Trump's heavy-pressure tactics seem to be working on Kyiv, at least for now. Until recently, Ukraine had ruled out any ceasefire, arguing that Moscow would use a truce to rearm itself. Ukraine, which had demanded a complete Russian withdrawal from all the territories it had captured, including Crimea, as a pre-condition for talks, had floated the idea of freezing the conflict on the current line of contact in return for NATO membership. Later, Kyiv's demand shifted to security guarantees from the West. But the Trump administration ratcheted up the pressure by halting all military assistance and intelligence sharing.

Up against the wall in Jeddah, Ukraine accepted the American proposal and agreed to sign a mineral deal “to expand Ukraine’s economy” and guarantee its “long-term prosperity and security”. The U.S. immediately resumed military and intelligence assistance for Kyiv. But more complicated is the next step. The ball is now “in Russia’s court”, said Marco Rubio, the U.S. Secretary of State, after the Jeddah talks. U.S. officials are expected to travel to Moscow to discuss the proposal. If there is a ceasefire, Russia and Ukraine are expected to begin direct talks, to bring the war to a definite end. But, both sides have escalated their air war. Last week, Russia launched massive missile and air strikes on Ukraine, targeting its energy infrastructure. On Tuesday, hours before the Jeddah talks began, Ukraine unleashed its largest drone strike on several parts of Russia, including Moscow. Russia is also making dramatic advances in its Kursk region, where Ukraine still holds on to some territory.

If Mr. Trump had leverage over Ukraine with which he forced Kyiv into accepting his proposal, he has very little influence over the Kremlin. But Russia should see the tilt in Washington and the U-turn in Kyiv as an opportunity. It has also suffered huge losses and its relationship with the West, in particular with Europe, has been badly damaged. Its economy is under heavy sanctions. The U.S. has already accepted some of Vladimir Putin's demands, such as ruling out NATO membership for Ukraine. Instead of continuing this disastrous, illegal war, which has claimed tens of thousands of lives on both sides, the Kremlin should respond positively to the offer for truce and start direct talks with Ukraine to find a lasting solution to the conflict.

Summary

Ukraine has agreed to a 30-day ceasefire with Russia, which can be extended through mutual agreement, marking a crucial step towards ending the three-year-long war. This decision came after U.S.-Ukraine talks in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, under pressure from U.S. President Donald Trump, who halted military aid and intelligence sharing to push Kyiv into negotiations. Initially, Ukraine demanded a complete Russian withdrawal but later shifted its stance to security guarantees from the West. The U.S. has now resumed its support for Kyiv following the agreement. However, challenges remain, as Russia and Ukraine have escalated air strikes, and Moscow's stance on the ceasefire is uncertain. The U.S. plans to engage with Russia to further the peace process, emphasizing that a truce could be beneficial for Moscow, given its strained ties with the West and economic sanctions. The passage suggests that Russia should take this opportunity to end the war through negotiations.

Tone:

The tone of the passage is analytical and persuasive, with a slight cautionary undertone. It presents a detailed account of the geopolitical developments while advocating for Russia to seize the ceasefire opportunity.

Reading Comprehension

Based on the above passage, answer the following questions:

Question 1:

What prompted Ukraine to accept the 30-day ceasefire with Russia?

- A) A shift in Ukraine's leadership favoring diplomacy over war.**
- B) Russia's proposal for an immediate ceasefire in exchange for territorial concessions.**
- C) U.S. pressure, including halted military aid and intelligence sharing.**
- D) NATO's intervention to mediate between Russia and Ukraine.**
- E) None of the above**

Question 2:

What was Ukraine's initial stance on a ceasefire before agreeing to the 30-day truce?

- A) Ukraine was always open to a ceasefire but was waiting for U.S. approval.**
- B) Ukraine demanded a complete Russian withdrawal, including from Crimea, before talks.**
- C) Ukraine insisted on Russia recognizing its NATO membership before any ceasefire.**
- D) Ukraine was willing to negotiate but only after Russia lifted all economic sanctions.**
- E) None of the above**

Question 3:

What does the passage imply about Russia's current military position?

- A) Russia is on the verge of defeat and is seeking peace to avoid further losses.**
- B) Russia is advancing in the Kursk region, while also conducting airstrikes on Ukraine.**
- C) Russia is completely retreating from occupied territories as a sign of goodwill.**
- D) Russia has stopped military actions and is waiting for negotiations.**
- E) None of the above**

Article for Skimming

**Resolving the
vexatious fishing
dispute**

Last week, the Leader of the House in the Sri Lankan Parliament, Bimal Rathnayake, called upon the Indian and Tamil Nadu governments to take “decisive action” against “ illegal fishing in Sri Lankan waters”. Mr. Rathnayake, also the Transport and Highways Minister, is a key figure in the ruling Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP)-led National People’s Power (NPP) government. While acknowledging the support of India in general, and Tamil Nadu in particular, to his country during the civil war, the economic crisis, and floods, Mr. Rathnayake made it clear that “the real help” would be to help protect the livelihood of Tamil-speaking fishermen of the Northern Province, who have been “victims of illegal fishing”. In recent years, this is the first time that a high-ranking dignitary from Sri Lanka has spoken so strongly about the festering Palk Bay fisheries dispute, which should have been resolved long ago. In March 2015, the then Sri Lankan Prime Minister, Ranil Wickremesinghe, defended the response of the Sri Lanka Navy to Indian fishermen and termed it as legitimate to “shoot fishermen” trespassing into Sri Lankan waters.

So far, neither the External Affairs Ministry nor the Tamil Nadu government's representative has reacted to Mr. Rathnayake's statement. This is not surprising; it is an open secret that fishermen from the districts of Ramanathapuram, Pudukottai, Thanjavur, and Nagapattinam in Tamil Nadu, and from the Karaikal district of the Union Territory of Puducherry, have been crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line for fishing, in pursuit of their livelihoods. More than illegal fishing, fisherfolk of the Northern Province have been complaining about bottom trawling by Indian fishermen. Widely condemned for its destructive impact on marine ecosystems, bottom trawling is responsible for nearly half of all discarded fish and marine life globally and disrupts the breeding cycle. The asymmetric economic relationship between the Tamil Nadu fishing community, which is wealthier, and the Sri Lankan fisherfolk from the Northern Province, which is recovering from the aftermath of the civil war, complicates the situation.

The north Sri Lankan fishermen, who depend on conventional forms of fishing, are seeking a sustainable solution to protect their waters from over-exploitation. At the same time, the Indian fishermen are constrained by many factors. There is a small area available for fishing within Indian waters, which is marked by rocks and coral reefs. The Tamil Nadu Marine Fishing Regulation Act, 1983, restricts fishing activities along the Tamil Nadu coastline. Unlike the current 24-hour voyages in the Palk Bay region, the duration for deep-sea fishing, which has long been suggested as an alternative to the fisherfolk, takes around three weeks and naturally involves higher costs of operation and labour. Moreover, diversification requires fishermen to change their orientation, which, in a traditional occupation, can only happen in a gradual manner. It is for these and other reasons that the joint scheme executed by the Union and State governments for deep-sea fishing since July 2017 has come as a cropper.

Question 4:

Based on the passage, what is the primary reason that deep-sea fishing has not been widely adopted by Tamil Nadu fishermen?

- A) The Indian government has not provided adequate training.**
- B) Deep-sea fishing takes longer and is more expensive than traditional fishing.**
- C) Sri Lankan authorities have imposed restrictions on deep-sea fishing.**
- D) Climate change has reduced fish populations in deep-sea regions.**
- E) None of the above**

Question 5:

What is the tone of the author in the passage regarding the Palk Bay fisheries dispute?

- A) Neutral and detached**
- B) Critical and accusatory**
- C) Persuasive and concerned**
- D) Optimistic and celebratory**
- E) Indifferent and dismissive**

Today's Descriptive Question:

Original Text:

The global energy crisis refers to the widespread challenges in meeting the world's growing demand for energy due to constrained supplies, rising costs, and geopolitical tensions. This crisis affects the availability and affordability of energy resources, including fossil fuels, renewable energy, and electricity. Rooted in a combination of economic, environmental, and political factors, the energy crisis poses significant threats to global stability, economic development, and environmental sustainability. A primary driver of the energy crisis is the heavy reliance on finite fossil fuels such as coal, oil, and natural gas. These resources are unevenly distributed globally, making supply chains vulnerable to geopolitical conflicts and trade restrictions.

Additionally, the transition to renewable energy, though vital for sustainability, has been slow due to high costs, technological barriers, and inadequate infrastructure. Events like the COVID-19 pandemic, which disrupted supply chains, and the Russia-Ukraine war, which destabilized global oil and gas markets, have further exacerbated the situation. The impacts of the energy crisis are far-reaching. Skyrocketing energy prices strain household budgets, increase inflation, and slow industrial output. In many developing nations, energy shortages limit access to electricity, affecting education, healthcare, and economic opportunities. The crisis also highlights the urgent need for sustainable energy solutions to address climate change and reduce dependency on volatile fossil fuel markets. Addressing the global energy crisis requires a multi-pronged approach, including diversifying energy sources, accelerating the adoption of renewable energy, enhancing energy efficiency, and fostering international cooperation. Innovation, investments, and policy reforms will be crucial in navigating this pressing global challenge.

Precis

The global energy crisis stems from constrained energy supplies, rising costs, and geopolitical conflicts, driven by reliance on finite fossil fuels and slow renewable energy transitions. Events like the COVID-19 pandemic and geopolitical tensions have worsened the crisis, affecting economies, households, and energy access in developing nations.

The crisis underscores the need for sustainable energy solutions to mitigate climate change and reduce fossil fuel dependency. Diversifying energy sources, adopting renewables, enhancing efficiency, and fostering international collaboration are essential to overcoming this global challenge.

- Write an email to the HR department of a company, inquiring about any job vacancies in your field of expertise. Include your key skills and attach your resume for reference.

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**Subject: Inquiry About Job Vacancies in [Field of Expertise]
Dear [HR Manager's Name/ Hiring Team],**

I hope this email finds you well. My name is [Your Name], and I am writing to inquire about potential job openings at [Company Name] that align with my expertise in [Your Field of Expertise].

I have [X years] of experience as a [Your Current/Previous Role], during which I have honed my skills in [Key Skill 1], [Key Skill 2], and [Key Skill 3]. At my current/previous organization, [Organization Name], I have contributed to [mention any notable achievements or responsibilities relevant to the company you're applying to].

With a strong passion for [relevant aspect of the industry/field], I believe my skill set and experience would make a valuable addition to your team.

Attached to this email, you will find my updated resume, which provides further details about my professional background and accomplishments.

I would be delighted to explore any opportunities where I can contribute to the success of [Company Name]. Please let me know if there are any openings that align with my profile or if you require any additional information.

Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to the opportunity to discuss how I can contribute to your esteemed organization.

**Best regards,
[Your Full Name]
[Your Contact Information]**

Match the column

- 1. Around the corner**
- 2. Back to basics**
- 3. A bolt from the blue**
- 4. Out of the red**
- 5. School of thought**

- A. a sudden and unexpected event**
- B. to be financially stable or able to pay**
- C. it will happen very soon**
- D. a particular way of thinking**
- E. to return to a simpler way of thinking**

Answer:

1-c

2-e

3-a

4-b

5-d

Vocabulary

1. Festering:
2. Condemned:
3. Ratchet up:
4. Disastrous:
5. Trespassing:
6. Undermine:
7. Euphoria:
8. Haste:
9. Limbo:
10. Reiteration:

Rc ans

1.

Ans: C

Explanation:

Reference from passage:

"The Trump administration ratcheted up the pressure by halting all military assistance and intelligence sharing. Up against the wall in Jeddah, Ukraine accepted the American proposal and agreed to sign a mineral deal 'to expand Ukraine's economy' and guarantee its 'long-term prosperity and security'."

The passage clearly states that the U.S. halted military and intelligence assistance to Ukraine, effectively forcing Kyiv into accepting the ceasefire proposal.

Why the other options are incorrect:

- (A) Incorrect: There is no mention of a leadership change in Ukraine that led to the decision.
- (B) Incorrect: The ceasefire was proposed by the U.S., not Russia.
- (D) Incorrect: NATO was not mentioned as a direct mediator in this decision.

2.

Ans: B

Explanation:

Reference from passage:

"Ukraine, which had demanded a complete Russian withdrawal from all the territories it had captured, including Crimea, as a pre-condition for talks, had floated the idea of freezing the conflict on the current line of contact in return for NATO membership."

Initially, Ukraine rejected any ceasefire, arguing that Russia would use a truce to rearm itself. It had demanded a full Russian withdrawal, including from Crimea, as a pre-condition for negotiations.

Why the other options are incorrect:

(A) Incorrect: Ukraine was not always open to a ceasefire. It initially resisted.

(C) Incorrect: Ukraine later shifted its demand to security guarantees, not NATO membership.

(D) Incorrect: Ukraine's concerns were military-based, not tied to Russian economic sanctions.

3.

Ans: B

Explanation:

Reference from passage:

"Last week, Russia launched massive missile and air strikes on Ukraine, targeting its energy infrastructure. Russia is also making dramatic advances in its Kursk region, where Ukraine still holds on to some territory."

The passage mentions that Russia launched massive missile and air strikes on Ukraine and is advancing in the Kursk region, where Ukraine still holds some territory.

Why the other options are incorrect:

(A) Incorrect: There is no mention of Russia being on the verge of defeat.

(C) Incorrect: Russia has not completely retreated—it is still advancing in some areas.

(D) Incorrect: Russia has not stopped military actions, as it continues airstrikes.

4.

Ans: B

Explanation:

Reference from passage:

"Unlike the current 24-hour voyages in the Palk Bay region, the duration for deep-sea fishing takes around three weeks and naturally involves higher costs of operation and labour."

The passage explicitly states that deep-sea fishing involves higher costs and longer voyages, making it an impractical alternative for many traditional fishermen.

Why the other options are incorrect:

(A) Incorrect: The passage does not discuss a lack of training as a major issue.

(C) Incorrect: The Sri Lankan government is not restricting deep-sea fishing.

(D) Incorrect: Climate change is not mentioned in connection with deep-sea fishing viability.

5.

Ans: C

Explanation:

The author highlights the ongoing dispute and its impact on Sri Lankan and Indian fishermen, expressing concern about the consequences of illegal fishing and bottom trawling. The language used encourages action and solutions, making the tone persuasive and concerned.

Why the other options are incorrect:

(A) Incorrect: The author does not take a neutral stance; rather, they advocate for a resolution.

(B) Incorrect: The tone is not accusatory; the passage presents both sides of the issue.

(D) Incorrect: The passage does not express optimism or celebrate any solution.

(E) Incorrect: The author does not dismiss the issue; instead, they analyze it thoroughly.

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