

# The Hindu EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

21st 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. Détente (सुलह / तनाव में कमी)

- **Meaning:** The easing of hostility or strained relations, especially between countries.
- **Synonyms:** Truce, reconciliation, ceasefire
- **Antonyms:** Tension, hostility, conflict
- **Example:** The recent talks between the two nations signal a possible détente in their diplomatic relations.

## **2. Stalemate (गतिरोध )**

- **Meaning:** A situation in which further progress by opposing parties seems impossible.
- **Synonyms:** Deadlock, impasse, gridlock
- **Antonyms:** Breakthrough, resolution, progress
- **Example:** The negotiations reached a stalemate as neither side was willing to compromise.

### 3. Escalation (वृद्धि / बढ़ोतरी )

- **Meaning:** A rapid increase or intensification in the seriousness of a situation.
- **Synonyms:** Intensification, aggravation, expansion
- **Antonyms:** De-escalation, reduction, alleviation
- **Example:** The escalation of tensions at the border led to urgent diplomatic discussions.

## 4. Intrusion (अतिक्रमण / दखल)

- **Meaning:** The act of entering a place or situation where one is unwelcome.
- **Synonyms:**  
Encroachment, trespass, invasion
- **Antonyms:** Withdrawal, retreat, permission
- **Example:** The unauthorised intrusion into the military zone led to a serious security alert.

## 5. Denialism (अस्वीकृति / इनकार करने की प्रवृत्ति)

- **Meaning:** Refusal to accept reality or facts, despite clear evidence.
- **Synonyms:** Rejection, disbelief, skepticism
- **Antonyms:** Acceptance, acknowledgment, recognition
- **Example:** The government's denialism regarding pollution concerns has delayed crucial environmental reforms.

## 6. Repercussions (प्रभाव)

- **Meaning: Unintended consequences, especially negative ones.**
- **Synonyms: Consequences, aftermath, ramifications**
- **Antonyms: Benefits, rewards, advantages**
- **Example: The repercussions of environmental pollution can be severe for future generations.**

## 7. Impetus (प्रेरणा / प्रोत्साहन )

- **Meaning:** A driving force or stimulus that encourages activity or development.
- **Synonyms:** Motivation, stimulus, boost
- **Antonyms:** Deterrent, hindrance, obstacle
- **Example:** A monetary policy shift could provide the necessary impetus for economic growth.



## 8. Acrimonious (कटु / झगड़ालू)

- **Meaning:** Angry and bitter, typically in speech or debate.
- **Synonyms:** Bitter, hostile, caustic
- **Antonyms:** Harmonious, peaceful, friendly
- **Example:** The acrimonious exchanges between the government and the Opposition disrupted the entire session.

## 9. Penchant (रुचि)

- **Meaning:** A strong or habitual liking for something or tendency to do something.
- **Synonyms:** Liking, preference, inclination
- **Antonyms:** Dislike, aversion, indifference
- **Example:** She has a penchant for collecting rare books from different parts of the world.

## 10. Lacuna (फ़ासला)

- **Meaning:** An unfilled space or gap, especially a missing portion in a manuscript, text, or idea.
- **Synonyms:** Gap, omission, void, deficiency
- **Antonyms:** Continuity, completeness, fullness
- **Example:** The lacuna in the policy left many citizens confused about their rights.

## VOCABULARY

### One-word substitute:

**1. A social outcast; someone who is despised or rejected by society.**

**Pariah**

**2. A person involved in a lawsuit, either as a plaintiff or a defendant.**

**Litigant**

**3. A person who endures pain or hardship without showing emotions or complaining.**

**Stoic**

**4. Curious or eager to learn; asking many questions.**

**Inquisitive**

# VOCABULARY

## Phrasal Verbs:

### 1. Bawl out

Meaning – To scold or reprimand someone harshly.

### 2. Be along

Meaning – To arrive or show up at a place.

### 3. Be down

Meaning – To feel sad or depressed; to be reduced in number or amount.

### 4. Bear down on

Meaning – To move toward someone or something in a determined or threatening way.

# VOCABULARY

## Idioms & Phrases

### 1. Green with envy

Meaning – Very jealous or envious.

### 2. Have one's hands full

Meaning – To be very busy or occupied with something.

### 3. Hit the books

Meaning – To study hard.

## VOCABULARY

### **4. Hit the nail on the head**

**Meaning – To describe exactly what is causing a situation or problem.**

### **5. Hold your horses**

**Meaning – Wait or be patient; slow down before making a decision or taking action.**

## **Article for Reading**

**The long and winding  
road of India-China  
relations**



**India's Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri was in China in January 2025, during which India and China made several announcements on the future of their bilateral relations. He met Wang Yi, who is China's Foreign Minister, the Director of the Office of Central Commission of Foreign Affairs and also a politburo member of the party, and also Liu Jianchao, Minister of the International Department of the Chinese Communist Party. The Indian statement after this meeting indicated that the process of restoration of several aspects of bilateral relations including media and think tank exchanges, the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra, and bilateral flights is on the cards for the summer of 2025. India and China have attempted to move forward after more than four years of tense and stalemate-based relations since the clashes in Galwan in June 2020. Stalemates cannot be permanent. Both sides have made their points and moved to the détente. One can argue that there are several reasons for the timing of this bilateral agreement, the main being the election of Donald Trump, who is a known disruptor and unpredictable in his ways of doing business.**

**The other is about economic concerns in China and in India in recent times. India and China have been bracing for the Trump impact especially when by the middle of October last year his election was already beginning to look more likely to happen. This possibility may have pushed the October 2024 de-escalation agreement between India and China, and Mr. Trump's gigantic electoral victory in November 2024 may have pushed the January 2025 agreement between India and China. There is a historic logic to this as well. China agreed to normalising relations with India, after the 1962 war, only in the backdrop of the backlash in the aftermath of the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre. Again, China may have agreed to normalise its relations with India given that it had to brace for the Trump impact. Thus, there is both internal and external logic around the restoration of normalcy. However, since we do not know whether patrolling rights have been/are fully restored or whether demobilisation is in its advanced stages, such an absence of communication on the part of the government raises doubts and questions needlessly.**

**The Government of India has maintained absolute silence on the status of de-escalation, demilitarisation and demobilisation of the fairly large number of troops. Troops were mobilised and deployed on the border, first during the tensions of May-June 2020, and then in even larger numbers in the aftermath of the June 15, 2020 clashes. These troops were on active duty or in newly created barracks close to the six points of tension along the border including in Galwan, Depsang Bulge, Charding Nala, Gogra Post and Hot Springs and on the north bank of the Pangong lake. There is also no clarity whether the large number of People's Liberation Army troops on the Chinese side, before and after the clashes, have retreated to their bases. Confirmation of this would mean that the actual restoration of normalcy on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) has been achieved. India has also made it clear in the aftermath of 2020 that it was China that had violated the several agreements and protocols the two sides had signed. One is not sure about whether these have been rectified in a verifiable way. This in turn can only be established when patrolling rights have not only been agreed to but also exercised.**

## Summary

The passage discusses the recent diplomatic developments between India and China following Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri's visit to China in January 2025. Both countries announced efforts to restore bilateral relations, including resuming media exchanges, the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra, and bilateral flights. The passage highlights that after four years of tense relations following the Galwan clashes in June 2020, both nations are moving toward détente. It suggests that the normalization of ties may be influenced by external factors, particularly Donald Trump's electoral victory in 2024, and China's economic concerns. However, the passage also points out a lack of transparency regarding military de-escalation and the restoration of patrolling rights along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). It raises concerns about whether China has fully retreated its troops and whether previous agreements have been reinstated in a verifiable manner.

## **Tone:**

**The tone of the passage is analytical and cautious. While it acknowledges diplomatic progress, it also expresses skepticism and concern over the lack of transparency regarding military disengagement and the restoration of agreements.**

## Reading Comprehension

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

**Question 1:**

**What does the passage suggest as one of the main reasons for the timing of the India-China agreement in January 2025?**

- A) The growing influence of Russia in South Asia.**
- B) The resolution of all previous border disputes between India and China.**
- C) The economic downturn in the European Union.**
- D) The election of Donald Trump and its potential impact on global geopolitics.**
- E) None of the above**

**Question 2:**

**According to the passage, what remains uncertain about the de-escalation process between India and China?**

- A) Whether both nations will sign a peace treaty.**
- B) Whether patrolling rights have been restored and exercised.**
- C) Whether India will station permanent troops at the LAC.**
- D) Whether China has proposed a new economic partnership with India.**
- E) None of the above**



**Question 3:**

**What does the passage indicate about India's communication regarding troop movements?**

- A) India has publicly confirmed the demobilization of all its troops.**
- B) India has announced that full peace has been restored at the border.**
- C) India has kept silent on the issue, raising doubts about the status of de-escalation.**
- D) India has signed an agreement allowing China to patrol the LAC freely.**
- E) None of the above**

## **Article for Skimming**

**Watering down: On  
water quality at  
Prayagraj**

**Official estimates suggest that around 45 crore visitors, nearly a third of India's population, have already been to Prayagraj for the Maha Kumbh Mela, which began in mid-January. With such a massive influx, even a small percentage of individuals who carry microbes could trigger extensive chains of disease transmission. The Ganga at Prayagraj, where devotees not only have ritual baths but also drink the water, inevitably becomes a complex receptacle of microbiomes. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), which is responsible for monitoring and controlling air, water and land pollution, has been assessing water quality at Prayagraj since the festival began. Its reports, which are publicly accessible, present a mixed picture. On January 14, which was Makar Sankranti, one of the most auspicious bathing days, faecal coliform levels, a key indicator of contamination from human and animal waste, were at a high — nearly 11,000 units at the Sangam Ghat, which is more than four times the permissible limit of 2,500 units.**

**At the Old Naini Bridge Ghat, along the Yamuna, the count was even higher, at 33,000 units. However, on other days, these numbers dropped to as low as 200 and 780 units. Similar fluctuations were observed for other parameters of water quality such as biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) and dissolved oxygen (DO). A CPCB report submitted to the National Green Tribunal on February 3 stated that the water quality on January 12-13, 2025 was not fit for bathing, let alone drinking, despite bathing having a higher tolerance limit. However, the report also noted a reduction in organic pollution due to freshwater intrusion upstream. It further observed that the sheer number of people bathing in the river during the Maha Kumbh Mela, particularly on auspicious days, led to an inevitable spike in faecal contamination. These fluctuations are not exclusive to the Kumbh Mela.**

**Routine monitoring of water quality by the CPCB has consistently recorded similar patterns, reinforcing the fact that, regardless of what the festival may be, water in the Ganga at Prayagraj is not fit for consumption, whether as a few drops or bucketful. The National Mission for Clean Ganga is based on a sustained effort to restore the river's health, and Uttar Pradesh, its largest beneficiary, must prioritise continuous cleanup efforts instead of undermining legitimate pollution concerns. The Kumbh Mela highlights the urgent need for long-term solutions, not denialism.**

**Question 4:**

**What is the broader implication of the Maha Kumbh Mela concerning water pollution, as suggested by the passage?**

- A) The CPCB lacks the necessary expertise to monitor pollution effectively.**
- B) Temporary pollution spikes occur only during the Kumbh Mela.**
- C) Water quality issues in the Ganga persist beyond festival periods.**
- D) Bathing rituals are solely responsible for pollution in the river.**
- E) None of the above**

**Question 5:**

**What key factor contributed to the reduction of organic pollution in the Ganga, as observed by the CPCB?**

- A) A shift in the CPCB's monitoring methods.**
- B) Freshwater intrusion from upstream sources.**
- C) Deployment of advanced filtration systems.**
- D) A significant decrease in the number of visitors.**
- E) None of the above**

**Today's Descriptive Question**

**Precis Writing:**



## **Original Text:**

**The banking sector plays a crucial role in the economic development of a country by acting as the backbone of financial stability, facilitating investments, and driving economic growth. Banks serve as financial intermediaries, mobilizing savings from individuals and businesses and channeling them into productive investments, thereby fostering industrialization, infrastructure development, and entrepreneurship. A strong banking system enhances capital formation, which is essential for a country's economic progress. One of the primary functions of banks is to provide credit to businesses, industries, and individuals. By offering loans for infrastructure projects, manufacturing, agriculture, and small enterprises, banks support economic activities that generate employment and contribute to GDP growth. They also play a key role in financing startups and innovation, which are vital for a country's competitiveness in the global market.**

**Moreover, banks facilitate trade and commerce by offering financial instruments such as letters of credit, trade financing, and foreign exchange services, enabling smooth international transactions and boosting exports. Financial inclusion is another critical aspect of banking in economic development. Through initiatives such as Jan Dhan Yojana in India, banks extend banking services to rural and underserved populations, ensuring access to savings accounts, credit, and insurance. This reduces dependency on informal lenders and empowers individuals economically. Additionally, the adoption of digital banking and fintech innovations has revolutionized financial services, making transactions faster, more efficient, and accessible to a larger population. Banks also contribute to economic stability by regulating money supply and controlling inflation through monetary policies set by central banks. By adjusting interest rates and managing liquidity, banks help maintain price stability and foster a favorable investment climate.**

**Moreover, they play a crucial role in tax collection, ensuring government revenue generation for public welfare and infrastructure projects. Despite their significance, banks face challenges such as non-performing assets (NPAs), cybersecurity threats, and financial frauds, which can impact economic stability. Strengthening regulatory frameworks, improving risk management, and embracing digital transformation are essential for ensuring a resilient banking system. A well-functioning banking sector is fundamental to economic prosperity, as it not only supports businesses and individuals but also strengthens the financial foundation of a nation.**

## Precis:

**Banks are pivotal to economic development as they mobilize savings, provide credit, and support industries and infrastructure projects. They facilitate trade, promote financial inclusion, and contribute to GDP growth by funding businesses and individuals. Digital banking and fintech advancements have further enhanced accessibility and efficiency.**

**Additionally, banks help maintain economic stability through monetary policies, controlling inflation and ensuring smooth financial operations. However, challenges like NPAs and cybersecurity risks require strong regulatory frameworks. A robust banking system is essential for a nation's financial strength and long-term economic growth.**

- **You are a student representative. Write an email to your principal requesting permission to organize a field visit to an industry.**

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

**Subject: Request for Permission to Organize an Industrial Field Visit**

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

**I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to seek your permission to organize an industrial field visit for our students as part of our academic and practical learning experience.**

**We believe that this visit will provide valuable insights into real-world industry operations, enhance our understanding of theoretical concepts, and expose us to the latest advancements in the field. The proposed visit is to [Industry Name], located at [Location], on [Proposed Date]. The trip will be supervised by faculty members, and all necessary safety measures will be taken.**

**We kindly request your approval to proceed with the arrangements. If required, we can provide further details regarding the visit. We look forward to your positive response.**

**Thank you for your time and consideration.**

**Best regards,  
[Your Name]  
Student Representative  
[Your Class/Department]**

## **Match the column**

- |                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| <b>1. Green with envy</b>          | <b>A. Wait or be patient</b>                              |
| <b>2. Have one's hands full</b>    | <b>B. To describe exactly what is causing a situation</b> |
| <b>3. Hit the books</b>            | <b>C. To study hard</b>                                   |
| <b>4. Hit the nail on the head</b> | <b>D. To be very busy or occupied with something</b>      |
| <b>5. Hold your horses</b>         | <b>E. Very jealous or envious</b>                         |



**Answer:**

**1-e**

**2-d**

**3-c**

**4-b**

**5-a**

## Vocabulary

1. Détente:
2. Stalemate:
3. Escalation:
4. Intrusion:
5. Denialism:
6. Repercussions:
7. Impetus:
8. Acrimonious:
9. Penchant:
10. Lacuna:

## **RC ANS**

1.

**Ans: D**

**Explanation:**

**The passage states:**

"One can argue that there are several reasons for the timing of this bilateral agreement, the main being the election of Donald Trump, who is a known disruptor and unpredictable in his ways of doing business."

This indicates that the primary factor for the agreement was Trump's election and its anticipated consequences for India-China relations.

**Why the other options are incorrect:**

A) The growing influence of Russia in South Asia → The passage does not mention Russia's influence as a factor in the agreement.

B) The resolution of all previous border disputes → The passage clearly states that patrolling rights, demobilization, and troop withdrawal remain uncertain.

C) The economic downturn in the EU → While economic concerns in India and China are mentioned, no reference is made to the EU.

**2.**

**Ans: B**

**Explanation:**

**The passage states:**

"There is also no clarity whether the large number of People's Liberation Army troops on the Chinese side, before and after the clashes, have retreated to their bases. Confirmation of this would mean that the actual restoration of normalcy on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) has been achieved."

**Why the other options are incorrect:**

A) A peace treaty → The passage does not mention any treaty being considered.

C) Permanent Indian troops at the LAC → While troop deployments are mentioned, permanent stationing is not discussed.

D) China proposing an economic partnership → The passage discusses economic concerns but not a specific proposal from China.

**3.**

**Ans: C**

**Explanation:**

**The passage states:**

"The Government of India has maintained absolute silence on the status of de-escalation, demilitarisation and demobilisation of the fairly large number of troops."

This suggests that India has not provided any official confirmation on the issue, leading to uncertainty.

Why the other options are incorrect:

A) India has publicly confirmed demobilization → The passage states that there is no confirmation of demobilization.

B) India declared full peace → The passage highlights ongoing doubts about normalcy at the border.

D) India allowed China free patrolling → The passage suggests the opposite: India is still unsure whether patrolling rights have been restored.

**4.**

**Ans: C**

**Explanation:**

The passage explicitly states that pollution concerns exist regardless of what the festival may be, reinforcing that water quality problems are ongoing.

**Reference from the Passage:**

"Routine monitoring of water quality by the CPCB has consistently recorded similar patterns, reinforcing the fact that, regardless of what the festival may be, water in the Ganga at Prayagraj is not fit for consumption."

**Why Other Options Are Incorrect:**

A) The CPCB lacks the necessary expertise to monitor pollution effectively – The CPCB actively monitors and reports water quality issues.

B) Temporary pollution spikes occur only during the Kumbh Mela – Pollution persists beyond festival times.

D) Bathing rituals are solely responsible for pollution in the river – Other sources, such as faecal coliform, contribute to contamination.

**5.**

**Ans: B**

**Explanation:**

The passage mentions that the CPCB report observed a reduction in organic pollution due to freshwater intrusion upstream.

**Reference from the Passage:**

"The report also noted a reduction in organic pollution due to freshwater intrusion upstream."

**Why Other Options Are Incorrect:**

A) A shift in the CPCB's monitoring methods – The passage does not suggest any changes in CPCB monitoring techniques.

C) Deployment of advanced filtration systems – The passage does not discuss any filtration systems.

D) A significant decrease in the number of visitors – The festival saw a large influx of people, not a decline.

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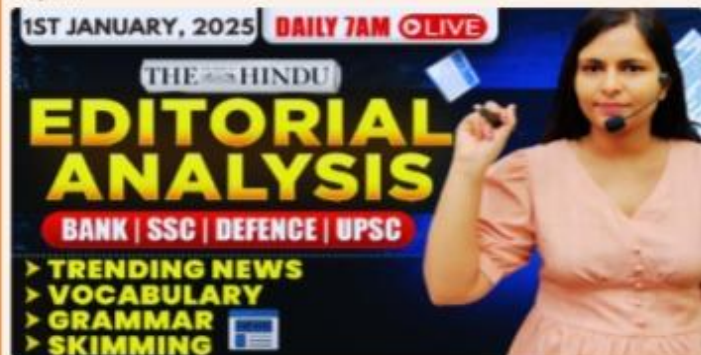
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