

The Hindu EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

28th 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. Buoyed (प्रेरित/उत्साहित)

- **Meaning:** Encouraged or made more confident
- **Synonyms:** Inspired, uplifted, motivated
- **Antonyms:** Discouraged, demoralized, disheartened
- **Example:** The students were buoyed by their teacher's appreciation after performing well in the exams.

2. Depleting (क्षीण हो रहा/घट रहा)

- **Meaning:** Reducing in quantity, size, or strength
- **Synonyms:** Exhausting, diminishing, draining
- **Antonyms:** Replenishing, increasing, augmenting
- **Example:** Overuse of groundwater is rapidly depleting the water table in the region.

3. Hazardous (खतरनाक /संकटपूर्ण)

- **Meaning:** Involving risk or danger
- **Synonyms:** Dangerous, perilous, harmful
- **Antonyms:** Safe, harmless, secure
- **Example:** Workers in chemical plants are required to wear protective gear due to hazardous conditions.

4. Ambiguous (अस्पष्ट)

- **Meaning:** Open to more than one interpretation; unclear or doubtful
- **Synonyms:** Vague, uncertain, equivocal
- **Antonyms:** Clear, definite, explicit
- **Example:** His response was so ambiguous that no one could understand what he really meant.

5. Denouement (परिणाम /अंतिम परिणाम)

- **Meaning:** The final outcome or resolution of a complex situation
- **Synonyms:** Conclusion, resolution, finale
- **Antonyms:** Beginning, introduction, inception
- **Example:** The novel's denouement was unexpected, leaving the readers in shock.

6. Guzzling (अधिक मात्रा में सेवन करना)

- **Meaning:** Consuming something in large quantities, especially greedily
- **Synonyms:** Devouring, consuming, drinking excessively
- **Antonyms:** Sipping, conserving, rationing
- **Example:** The car was guzzling fuel at an alarming rate, making it expensive to run.

7. Contentious (विवादास्पद / झगड़ालू)

- **Meaning:** Causing or likely to cause disagreement or conflict
- **Synonyms:** Controversial, debatable, disputable
- **Antonyms:** Uncontroversial, agreeable, harmonious
- **Example:** The issue of ethanol blending remains a contentious topic among experts.

8. Impediment (अवरोध)

- **Meaning:** A hindrance or obstruction in doing something.
- **Synonyms:** Obstacle, barrier, limitation
- **Antonyms:** Aid, assistance, support
- **Example:** Poor internet connectivity was a major impediment to remote learning.

9. Coerce (दबाव डालना)

- **Meaning:** To persuade someone to do something by using force or threats.
- **Synonyms:** Compel, force, intimidate
- **Antonyms:** Persuade, encourage, convince
- **Example:** The kidnappers tried to coerce the victim into signing over his property.

10. Reiterated (दोहराया)

- **Meaning:** Say something again or a number of times, typically for emphasis or clarity.
- **Synonyms:** Repeated, restated, emphasized, reaffirmed
- **Antonyms:** Retracted, revoked, rescinded
- **Example:** The CEO reiterated the company's commitment to sustainability.

VOCABULARY

One-word substitute:

1. Anarchy

Meaning – Absence of government or authority; lawlessness and disorder.

2. Aristocracy

Meaning – A form of government where power is held by the nobility or elite class.

3. Autocracy

Meaning – A system of government where one person holds absolute power.

4. Autonomy

Meaning – Self-governance or independence; the ability to make one's own decisions.

VOCABULARY

Phrasal Verbs:

1. Cap off

Meaning – To finish or complete something in a successful or impressive way

2. Carried away

Meaning – To become overly excited or enthusiastic about something

3. Cart off

Meaning – To take someone or something away, often in a forceful or unwanted manner

4. Carve out

Meaning – To establish or create something

VOCABULARY

Idioms & Phrases

1. Under the weather

Meaning – Feeling unwell or sick.

2. Between the cup and the lips

Meaning – Something that is almost certain but can still go wrong at the last moment.

3. A damp squib

Meaning – Something that fails to meet expectations; a disappointment.

VOCABULARY

4. A dime a dozen

Meaning – Very common and easily available.

5. Cast iron stomach

Meaning – The ability to eat or drink anything without getting sick.

Article for Reading

**Art of the deal: on
Trump and a Ukraine
mineral deal**

President Donald Trump has invited Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to Washington to sign a deal that would give Washington access to Ukraine's rare earth mineral deposits, in exchange for the White House's support in ending the three-year war there since the Russia invasion. While Mr. Trump has — to his domestic constituents — positioned the deal as favourable to the U.S., to help American taxpayers “get their money back” in the context of U.S. aid to Ukraine, he has also emphasised that responsibility for the security angle of the Ukraine situation would fall on Europe. Hinting at what appears to be a limited future U.S. commitment to and involvement with the conflict, the Trump administration has so far avoided providing any security guarantee to Ukraine that would accompany the minerals deal, even though Mr. Zelenskyy has said: “If we don't get security guarantees, we won't have a ceasefire, nothing will work, nothing.”

Nevertheless, both sides are closing ranks on an agreement that revolves around a “Reconstruction Investment Fund”, towards which Ukraine would be required to contribute 50% of “all revenues earned from the future monetisation of all relevant Ukrainian Government-owned natural resource assets [... including] deposits of minerals, hydrocarbons, oil, natural gas, and other extractable materials, and other infrastructure relevant to natural resource assets”. An early draft suggests that the fund will be managed by both countries, yet details on its governance and operation have not been hammered out yet. On the one hand, the unambiguous positive outcome to hope for would be a robust ceasefire between Moscow and Kyiv, followed by bilateral territorial and institutional agreements that ensure peace as a precursor to reconstruction and rehabilitation of the areas devastated by Russia.

Yet, sceptics may wonder whether this deal tips more in favour of resource extraction by the U.S. rather than any broader peace-seeking efforts, especially because the EU, as a critical stakeholder to any denouement in Ukraine, has been left in the cold; and because the Trump White House appears to have discussed with Russian President Vladimir Putin the possibility of Moscow working with U.S. companies to “mine rare earth mineral deposits in both Russia, and parts of Russian-occupied Ukraine”. There is nothing wrong with healthy competition and bilateral or multi-party deals for the extraction and sale of rare earth minerals, now a vital resource. However, when investment deals in this sector are used to blunt and deflect from strategic questions regarding Russian aggression and the large-scale violations of human rights, it becomes considerably harder to distinguish Mr. Trump’s plans for the region from an unapologetic neo-colonial agenda.

Summary

Former U.S. President Donald Trump has invited Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to Washington to sign an agreement granting the U.S. access to Ukraine's rare earth mineral deposits. In return, the U.S. would support Ukraine in ending the war with Russia, though Trump has positioned the deal as a way for American taxpayers to recover aid funds. However, the U.S. has not offered Ukraine any security guarantees, despite Zelenskyy's insistence that such assurances are essential for peace. The agreement centers around a "Reconstruction Investment Fund," which Ukraine would partially finance through revenues from its natural resources. Critics argue that the deal appears more focused on U.S. resource extraction than on peace, especially given Trump's discussions with Russian President Vladimir Putin regarding joint mining operations in Russian-occupied Ukrainian territories. The exclusion of the European Union further raises concerns about the deal's geopolitical implications. The article suggests that using resource deals to overshadow critical security and human rights issues aligns with a neo-colonial approach.

Tone:

The tone is critical and skeptical, highlighting potential exploitation, geopolitical maneuvering, and the lack of genuine commitment to Ukraine's security. The passage questions Trump's intentions, emphasizing concerns about resource-driven diplomacy overshadowing humanitarian and strategic considerations.

Reading Comprehension

Based on the above passage, answer the following questions:

Question 1:

Why are sceptics concerned about the true nature of the deal between the U.S. and Ukraine?

- A) The deal does not include Europe as a stakeholder**
- B) The deal primarily focuses on economic gains rather than peace**
- C) The Trump administration has offered security guarantees to Ukraine**
- D) The deal allows China to invest in Ukraine's rare earth minerals**
- E) None of the above**

Question 2:

What strategic concern does the passage highlight regarding Russia's involvement in rare earth minerals?

- A) The Trump administration has discussed allowing U.S. companies to mine in Russian-controlled areas**
- B) Russia has formed an alliance with China to control global rare earth supplies**
- C) Russia has prevented Ukraine from accessing its own mineral resources**
- D) The EU is dependent on Russian rare earth minerals for its industries**
- E) None of the above**

Question 3:

Which of the following best describes the EU's role in the U.S.-Ukraine deal?

- A) The EU is actively mediating the terms of the agreement**
- B) The EU is expected to contribute financially to the reconstruction efforts**
- C) The EU has been excluded from the negotiations, despite being a key stakeholder**
- D) The EU has been invited to oversee the governance of the Reconstruction Investment Fund**
- E) None of the above**

Article for Skimming

**The impact of ethanol
on the environment**

Concerns about the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) programme refuse to die down in Andhra Pradesh, with scientists and farmers saying water resources are depleting and emissions from factories are polluting the air, water, and soil. Buoyed by the encouraging results of the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) programme, which was introduced in India as a pilot project in 2001, the Central government in 2020 decided to advance the target of 20% ethanol blending in petrol from 2030 to 2025 as the way towards a greener future. The EBP programme was said to be the way of addressing multiple concerns — of growing energy consumption, oil imports, and increasing carbon emissions from vehicles. Under the EBP, ethanol is made using grains, such as broken rice and corn, and is therefore said to double farmers' income as well. As of 2024, the blend percentage was 15% in the country. To meet the required target of 20% ethanol in petrol by 2025-26, 1,016 crore litres of ethanol would be required.

The Centre announced relaxations in the application processes for environmental clearance and also offered subsidies on purchase of grains to ensure a smoother process for ethanol factories. Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Haryana and Punjab have the highest number of ethanol factories in the country, contributing a substantial portion to the overall production capacity of 947 crore litres in 2022, as per information provided by former Union Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti, to the Lok Sabha. Since 2024, there have been continuous protests at the Gummaladoddi, Gandepalli, Arugolanu villages in Andhra Pradesh against the EBP programme. All the three villages are located near a river or a canal, which is the source of drinking water and agricultural needs. Lokayukta officials had also said officials of the Pollution Control Board had failed to take action in 2022 against a factory producing ethanol since 2008 in Gandepalli despite knowing that effluents were being discharged into a nearby canal, which is used by farmers for agricultural purposes.

Much of the confusion regarding how polluting an ethanol plant can be arises from the fact that environmental clearances do not mention emissions to begin with. Experts say that hazardous, cancer-causing chemicals such as acetaldehyde, formaldehyde, and acrolein are some of the emissions from ethanol factories, but these don't find a mention in the clearances given to the ethanol factories in the East Godavari, Krishna and NTR districts in the State, as per environmentalists. All ethanol production plants and distilleries fall under the 'red category', which means that they have a pollution score of 60 or more, as per Central government norms. But to facilitate a smoother and quicker clearance process, the Centre has allowed them to be set up without public hearings. Many of them are near human settlements. Farmers also fear that the water-guzzling factories will leave them with no water for their crops. Their fears are not unfounded.

Question 4:

Why did protests against the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) programme increase in 2024 in Andhra Pradesh?

- A) Farmers were forced to grow specific crops for ethanol production**
- B) Ethanol production caused a severe drought in the region**
- C) Water pollution from ethanol factories began affecting agriculture and drinking water**
- D) Ethanol factories refused to employ local workers, leading to economic unrest**
- E) None of the above**

Question 5

What government policy change made it easier to set up ethanol factories despite environmental concerns?

- A) Ethanol factories were removed from the 'red category' of pollution**
- B) The Centre relaxed the environmental clearance process and removed public hearings**
- C) State governments were given complete control over ethanol production policies**
- D) Farmers were forced to provide land for ethanol factories at low prices**
- E) None of the above**

Today's Descriptive Question

Precis Writing:

Original Text:

Caller Name Presentation (CNAP) is a telecommunication feature that allows recipients to see the name of the caller along with the phone number, even if the contact is not saved in their device. Unlike Caller ID, which only displays the phone number, CNAP fetches and presents the caller's registered name from the telecom network's database. This feature enhances call transparency, security, and user experience, particularly in preventing spam, fraud, and unwanted calls.

In India, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has been considering implementing CNAP to combat the rising menace of spam calls, fraudulent activities, and telemarketing harassment. Currently, third-party applications like Truecaller provide similar services, but they rely on crowdsourced databases, which can sometimes lead to inaccuracies.

A telecom-regulated CNAP system would ensure authentic and verified caller information, improving trust and reducing call-related scams.

However, implementing CNAP presents technical and privacy challenges. The system requires telecom operators to maintain updated caller name databases, and concerns about data privacy and consent must be addressed to prevent misuse. Additionally, network compatibility, cost implications, and regulatory approvals play a crucial role in its nationwide rollout.

Despite these challenges, CNAP has the potential to enhance communication security, reduce call fraud, and improve user convenience. If implemented effectively with strong privacy safeguards, it could revolutionize caller identification in India and contribute to a more secure and transparent telecommunication ecosystem.

Precis:

Caller Name Presentation (CNAP) is a telecom feature that displays a caller's name along with their number, improving call transparency and security. TRAI is considering its implementation in India to reduce spam, fraud, and telemarketing harassment, offering a more authentic alternative to third-party apps like Truecaller. However, privacy concerns, database management, and network compatibility pose challenges. If implemented with proper safeguards, CNAP could enhance communication security and user trust, making India's telecom ecosystem more reliable and transparent.

- You are the HR manager organizing a mandatory training session for employees. Write an email informing them about the session details.

To:.....@gmail.com

Subject: Mandatory Training Session – Attendance Required

Dear Team,

I hope this email finds you well.

We are conducting a mandatory training session to enhance our skills and ensure alignment with company policies. Please find the session details below:

Topic: [Training Topic]

Date: [Date]

Time: [Time]

Venue: [Location/Online Meeting Link]

Trainer: [Trainer's Name]

Your participation is crucial, as this session will provide valuable insights and updates relevant to your role. Please ensure your attendance and be on time. If you have any scheduling conflicts, notify us in advance.

For any queries, feel free to reach out.

**Best regards,
[Your Name]
HR Manager
[Company Name]**

Match the column

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 1. Under the weather | A. The ability to eat anything without getting sick |
| 2. Between the cup and the lips | B. Something that fails to meet expectations |
| 3. A damp squib | C. Very common and easily available |
| 4. A dime a dozen | D. Feeling unwell or sick |
| 5. Cast iron stomach | E. Something that is almost certain but can still go wrong at the last moment |

Answer:

1-d

2-e

3-b

4-c

5-a

Vocabulary

- 1. Buoyed:**
- 2. Depleting:**
- 3. Hazardous:**
- 4. Ambiguous:**
- 5. Denouement:**
- 6. Guzzling:**
- 7. Contentious:**
- 8. Impediment:**
- 9. Coerce:**
- 10. Reiterated:**

RC ANS

1.

Ans: B

Explanation:

Reference from the Passage:

"Sceptics may wonder whether this deal tips more in favour of resource extraction by the U.S. rather than any broader peace-seeking efforts."

Sceptics are concerned that the deal is less about peace and security and more about resource extraction by the U.S.

Why Other Options Are Incorrect:

A) The deal does not include Europe as a stakeholder – While this is mentioned, it is not the primary concern of sceptics.

C) The Trump administration has offered security guarantees to Ukraine – The passage explicitly states that no security guarantees have been given.

D) The deal allows China to invest in Ukraine's rare earth minerals – China is not mentioned in the passage.

2.

Ans: A

Explanation:

Reference from the Passage:

"The Trump White House appears to have discussed with Russian President Vladimir Putin the possibility of Moscow working with U.S. companies to 'mine rare earth mineral deposits in both Russia, and parts of Russian-occupied Ukraine'."

The passage explicitly states that the Trump administration has discussed with Putin the possibility of U.S. companies mining in Russian-occupied Ukraine, raising concerns about the true motivations behind the deal.

Why Other Options Are Incorrect:

B) Russia has formed an alliance with China to control global rare earth supplies – China is not mentioned in this context.

C) Russia has prevented Ukraine from accessing its own mineral resources – The passage does not indicate that Russia is blocking access.

D) The EU is dependent on Russian rare earth minerals for its industries – The EU's dependence on Russian minerals is not discussed.

3.

Ans: C

Explanation:

Reference from the Passage:

"Especially because the EU, as a critical stakeholder to any denouement in Ukraine, has been left in the cold."

The passage states that the EU, despite being a critical stakeholder, has been left out of the negotiations. This raises concerns about the deal's true intentions.

Why Other Options Are Incorrect:

A) The EU is actively mediating the terms of the agreement – The passage does not indicate that the EU is involved in negotiations.

B) The EU is expected to contribute financially to the reconstruction efforts – There is no mention of EU financial contributions.

D) The EU has been invited to oversee the governance of the Reconstruction Investment Fund – The passage states that Ukraine and the U.S. will manage the fund, not the EU.

4.

Ans: C

Explanation:

Reference from the Passage:

"There have been continuous protests... against the EBP programme... officials had failed to take action despite knowing that effluents were being discharged into a nearby canal, which is used by farmers for agricultural purposes."

The passage mentions protests in villages near rivers and canals due to pollution from ethanol factories. Farmers rely on these water sources for agriculture, and effluent discharge has contaminated them.

Why Other Options Are Incorrect:

A) Farmers were forced to grow specific crops for ethanol production – The passage states that ethanol is made from grains like rice and corn, but does not mention compulsory cultivation.

B) Ethanol production caused a severe drought in the region – While factories consume a lot of water, the passage does not mention a drought.

D) Ethanol factories refused to employ local workers, leading to economic unrest – There is no mention of employment issues in the passage.

5.

Ans: B

Explanation:

Reference from the Passage:

"But to facilitate a smoother and quicker clearance process, the Centre has allowed them to be set up without public hearings."

The passage states that the government allowed ethanol factories to be set up without public hearings to facilitate a smoother clearance process. This change weakened environmental oversight.

Why Other Options Are Incorrect:

A) Ethanol factories were removed from the 'red category' of pollution – The passage states they are still in the 'red category' but benefit from relaxed clearance rules.

C) State governments were given complete control over ethanol production policies – The passage does not indicate a shift in control to state governments.

D) Farmers were forced to provide land for ethanol factories at low prices – There is no mention of forced land acquisition.



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Perfection Class: Debunking English Grammar Myths I

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