

The Hindu EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

25th April 2025

**PREPARE FOR BANK (PO/ CLERK), SSC, UPSC,
State PSC, CAT, CTET, RAILWAY EXAMS, CDS,
TET, NDA/AIRFORCE, NET and all Govt.
Exams**

1. Reinforced (मजबूत किया गया)

- **Meaning:** Strengthened or supported, especially with additional personnel or material.
- **Synonyms:** Strengthened, bolstered, fortified
- **Antonyms:** Weakened, undermined, diminished
- **Example:** His concerns were reinforced by the negative reactions of global markets.

2. Ushered (शुरुआत करना)

- **Meaning:** To cause or mark the start of something new.
- **Synonyms:** Initiated, commenced, launched
- **Antonyms:** Ended, concluded, terminated
- **Example:** The tariff measures ushered in a new era of trade uncertainty.

3. Incarceration (कैद)

- **Meaning:** The state of being confined in prison; imprisonment.
- **Synonyms:** Imprisonment, confinement, detention
- **Antonyms:** Release, freedom, liberation
- **Example:** He was granted bail after undergoing a year of incarceration.

4. Ignominy (अपमान / बदनामी)

- **Meaning:** Public shame or disgrace.
- **Synonyms:** Disgrace, dishonor, humiliation
- **Antonyms:** Honor, glory, esteem
- **Example:** He should resign to avoid the ignominy of being dismissed by the Chief Minister.

5. Starkly (स्पष्टता से, तीव्रता से)

- **Meaning:** In a way that is clear and obvious, often harshly so.
- **Synonyms:** Bluntly, clearly, sharply
- **Antonyms:** Subtly, vaguely, indistinctly
- **Example:** The report starkly highlighted the flaws in the system.

6. Dousing (डुबाना , भर देना)

- **Meaning:** To saturate or thoroughly cover with liquid.
- **Synonyms:** Soaking, drenching, flooding
- **Antonyms:** Drying, parching
- **Example:** Firefighters were dousing the flames with water.

7. Induct (शामिल करना)

- **Meaning:** To formally admit someone to a position or organization.
- **Synonyms:** Appoint, instate, enlist
- **Antonyms:** Expel, dismiss, exclude
- **Example:** His decision to induct the Minister back into the Cabinet was controversial.

8. Stumbled (डगमगाना , गिरावट आना)

- **Meaning:** To experience a sudden decline or difficulty.
- **Synonyms:** Faltered, slipped, struggled
- **Antonyms:** Thrived, succeeded, advanced
- **Example:** The company stumbled after losing its biggest client.

9. Dystopian (विकट भावी संसार, अमानवीय दुनिया)

- **Meaning:** Relating to an imagined state or society where there is great suffering, oppression, or injustice.
- **Synonyms:** Apocalyptic, nightmarish, totalitarian, oppressive
- **Antonyms:** Utopian, ideal, perfect, harmonious
- **Example:** The novel depicts a dystopian future where citizens are constantly monitored and have no personal freedom.

10. Anguish (व्यथा, पीड़ा)

- **Meaning:** Severe mental or physical pain or suffering.
- **Synonyms:** Agony, distress, torment
- **Antonyms:** Comfort, relief, peace
- **Example:** She was in deep anguish after hearing the tragic news.

VOCABULARY

One-word substitute:

1. The act of formally giving up power or responsibility, especially by a monarch or leader:

Abdication

2. Impossible to erase, remove, or forget; lasting:

Indelible

3. Incapable of making mistakes or being wrong:

Infallible

4. Certain to happen; unavoidable:

Inevitable

VOCABULARY

Phrasal Verbs:

1. Catch up on

Meaning - to do something you missed or fell behind on.

2. Cheer on

Meaning - to encourage someone.

3. Come forward

Meaning - to volunteer information or help.

4. Ease into

Meaning - to approach or enter something gradually.

VOCABULARY

Idioms & Phrases

1. Get a foot in the door

Meaning: To gain an initial opportunity.

2. Carry the weight on one's shoulders

Meaning : To take responsibility for something difficult.

3. Speak with a forked tongue

Meaning: To speak deceitfully or say one thing but mean another.

VOCABULARY

4. Sink your teeth into

Meaning: To get involved in something with enthusiasm and energy

5. Face the music

Meaning: To confront the consequences of one's actions.

Article for Reading

**Where tariffs trump
economics**

The recently announced reciprocal tariffs by U.S. President Donald Trump have led to a decline in the prices of key commodities, crude oil, volatility, and a downturn in stock markets. Since the tariff announcement, crude oil prices have declined by nearly 14%. This drop is driven by fears that the global economy, particularly trade between major economies, may slow down, which could lead to reduced demand for oil. The responses to the announcement have reinforced concerns that a full-scale global trade war is now under way. New trade tensions could lead to higher inflation, slower economic growth, and escalating disputes. More importantly, the announcement has ushered in an extended period of uncertainty, opening up new challenges to economic policy making. While higher-income economies have the time and armoury to retaliate to U.S. policies, lower-income ones face a double disadvantage. They have to cope with a new world order, while addressing pressing domestic economic issues.

Reciprocal tariff is a tax that one country places on another in response to similar actions taken by that country. The rationale for this response is to protect local businesses, preserve jobs, and fix trade imbalances. Though the idea behind reciprocal tariffs is to create balance in trade, they can lead to a back-and-forth increase in trade barriers with negative impacts on both economies. The evolution of reciprocal tariffs can be traced to when countries began using tariffs to shield their local industries, boost economic growth, and negotiate better trade deals. While reciprocal tariffs can help local industries in the short run, they lead to higher prices for consumers, disrupt supply chains, and slow down growth. Tariffs were a major source of income for governments, but this has greatly reduced. They now serve as protective measures or negotiation tools. Two aspects of the tariff tirade stand out. First, no other regions have been hit as hard as South Asia and Southeast Asia.

Economic development over the past three decades in these regions has largely been driven by exports to the rest of the world, particularly the U.S. Exports to the U.S. contribute around 30% of Vietnam's GDP and 25% of Cambodia's. Vietnam and Cambodia have been hit by some of the highest tariffs (46% and 49%, respectively). Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Singapore have been hit by tariffs of varying magnitudes. Among countries of that region, this round of tariffs poses perhaps the greatest threat for Cambodia. The garment industry, which employs close to 7,50,000 workers, has been crucial in providing steady incomes to the poor. Thousands of jobs in this sector are now likely to be lost. The smaller economies of Southeast Asia are not in a position to retaliate, unlike China, which has hit back with its own measures. These economies can only negotiate. And the interests of the U.S. would primarily guide such negotiations.

Summary

The passage discusses the impact of reciprocal tariffs announced by U.S. President Donald Trump, particularly their effect on global trade, commodity prices, and economic stability. These tariffs have led to a decline in crude oil prices and triggered stock market volatility due to fears of a global trade slowdown. While the intent behind reciprocal tariffs is to protect local industries and correct trade imbalances, they often escalate into trade wars with widespread negative consequences like inflation, disrupted supply chains, and slowed economic growth. The effects are especially harsh on lower-income economies, particularly in South and Southeast Asia, which heavily depend on exports to the U.S. Countries like Vietnam and Cambodia, whose GDPs significantly rely on U.S. trade, have been hit by high tariffs, severely threatening key industries like Cambodia's garment sector. Unlike China, these smaller economies lack the leverage to retaliate and can only resort to negotiations where the U.S. holds the upper hand.

Tone:

The tone of the passage is analytical and cautionary. It objectively examines the economic implications of reciprocal tariffs while expressing concern about their broader consequences, especially for vulnerable economies.

Reading Comprehension

Based on the above passage, answer the following questions:

Question 1:

What is the primary concern arising from the recent announcement of reciprocal tariffs by the U.S.?

- A. The declining effectiveness of domestic economic policies in the U.S.**
- B. The rise in oil prices caused by a tightening of global supply**
- C. The onset of a global trade war resulting in economic volatility and uncertainty**
- D. The improved negotiating power of Southeast Asian economies**
- E. None of the above**

Question 2:

Why are lower-income economies at a greater disadvantage compared to higher-income ones in the face of reciprocal tariffs?

- A. They lack the infrastructure to track international trade flows**
- B. They have fewer legal protections under global trade rules**
- C. They refuse to engage in retaliatory trade practices**
- D. They must manage both global economic changes and internal challenges**
- E. None of the above**

Question 3:

Which of the following best describes the impact of U.S. tariffs on countries like Vietnam and Cambodia?

- A. The tariffs have improved trade balance in these nations**
- B. The tariffs have disrupted key export-driven industries**
- C. These countries have increased their retaliatory tariffs**
- D. The U.S. has exempted them due to bilateral agreements**
- E. None of the above**

Article for Skimming

**Power and freedom:
On the Senthilbalaji
case**

The Supreme Court's remark on April 23, asking Tamil Nadu Minister for Electricity, Prohibition and Excise V.

Senthilbalaji, who has been out on bail since September 2024 in an alleged money laundering case, to choose between his post and freedom was expected. In the last four months, the Court used strong language against the Minister on more than one occasion. Last December, the Court expressed its objection to the return of Mr. Senthilbalaji to the Cabinet a few days after it granted him bail. On March 24, it took a dim view of the lack of response from him to its question raised on February 12 over his continuance as Minister. Mr. Senthilbalaji, in all likelihood, would have anticipated what the Court said now. That two senior advocates, Kapil Sibal and Mukul Rohatgi, and an advocate for the Minister, had to persuade a Bench of Justices A.S. Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan not to issue an interim order till Monday (April 29) is no common event in any court of law, let alone the Supreme Court.

The observations of the Bench that it had been a “mistake” in granting him bail and that the conduct of the Minister was “dishonest,” and the statement of Justice Oka to Mr. Sibal that “you [Mr. Senthilbalaji] will ensure that no witness comes to the box”, reflect concerns that a Minister could tamper with evidence and influence witnesses. Clearly, Mr. Senthilbalaji would have done himself a favour by not returning to the Cabinet. Even now, it is not too late for him to resign. If he does not, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin would be forced to act against him. What is at stake is not just the continuance of a Minister, but propriety. After all, the Court had granted Mr. Senthilbalaji bail not on merits, but on the ground that he had undergone an incarceration of one year as an under trial in the case.

When it had not given him a clean chit in the first instance, his re-induction into the Cabinet has naturally become a subject matter before the Court, regardless of the correctness or otherwise of the Minister's claim that "there is not even a whisper of violation of any bail condition." On September 28, 2024, at the time when he was granted bail, The Hindu had pointed out that "the cause of justice for the victims of the job scandal and a fair trial for the accused would be served well if Mr. Stalin avoids inducting Mr. Senthilbalaji again in his Cabinet until he is cleared of the charges." The point still holds. Mr. Senthilbalaji should not risk the ignominy of getting dropped from the Cabinet on the recommendation of the Chief Minister.

Question 4:

What is the Supreme Court's primary concern regarding Mr. Senthilbalaji's continuance as a Minister?

- A. His return to the Cabinet despite being declared innocent**
- B. The legal ambiguity surrounding his arrest**
- C. The possibility of evidence tampering and influencing witnesses**
- D. The administrative inexperience he has shown**
- E. None of the above**

Question 5:

Why does the editorial suggest that Mr. Senthilbalaji should have avoided returning to the Cabinet?

- A. His ministerial duties are in conflict with state policies**
- B. His re-induction undermines the judicial process and raises ethical concerns**
- C. He failed to secure enough support within the Cabinet**
- D. His health condition does not allow him to serve**
- E. None of the above**

Today's Descriptive Question:

Precis Writing.

Original Text

The term "Silver Economy" refers to the economic opportunities associated with the aging population. As life expectancy increases and birth rates decline, many countries face a demographic shift toward an older population. This trend presents both challenges and opportunities for governments, businesses, and society at large. The silver economy is fueled by the purchasing power and specific needs of older adults, including healthcare, assistive technologies, housing, travel, and financial services. Globally, the spending power of the elderly is expected to grow, driving innovation in products and services tailored to their requirements.

For instance, advancements in telemedicine, age-friendly smart homes, and recreational activities are increasingly becoming popular among senior citizens. From a policy perspective, nations are focusing on creating inclusive environments that enable older individuals to remain active participants in society. Initiatives such as lifelong learning programs, senior employment policies, and social engagement activities aim to harness the potential of this demographic while improving their quality of life. Additionally, intergenerational collaboration—where younger and older generations share skills and resources—can foster a more harmonious society. However, challenges such as increased healthcare costs, pension sustainability, and social isolation among the elderly persist. Governments must strike a balance between leveraging the silver economy and addressing these issues to ensure equitable and inclusive growth. As the silver economy continues to expand, it highlights the importance of treating aging not as a burden but as an opportunity to build a more inclusive, innovative, and sustainable global economy.

Precis:

The "Silver Economy" taps into the economic opportunities arising from an aging population. With growing life expectancy and declining birth rates, older adults significantly influence markets like healthcare, housing, and technology. Policies focusing on lifelong learning, senior employment, and social inclusion aim to harness their potential. However, challenges like rising healthcare costs and social isolation must be addressed. Viewing aging as an opportunity, the silver economy emphasizes innovation and inclusivity, transforming aging populations into valuable contributors to global growth.

- **You are the HR Manager of XYZ Pvt. Ltd. Write an email to a candidate, John Doe, informing him about his selection for the role of Marketing Executive and providing details of the joining process.**

To:@gmail.com

Subject: Congratulations on Your Selection as Marketing Executive

Dear John Doe,

I hope this email finds you well. I am delighted to inform you that you have been selected for the role of Marketing Executive at XYZ Pvt. Ltd. after an impressive performance during the interview process. Congratulations on this achievement!

We are excited to have you join our team and contribute to our organization's success. Below are the details of the joining process:

- 1. Joining Date: [Insert date, e.g., Monday, February 5, 2025]**
- 2. Reporting Time: [Insert time, e.g., 10:00 AM]**

3. Reporting Location: [Insert office address, e.g., XYZ Pvt. Ltd., 123 Business Avenue, City, State, ZIP]

4. Documents to Carry:

A copy of this email for reference

Valid government-issued ID proof (original and photocopy)

Academic and professional certificates (originals and photocopies)

Two passport-sized photographs

Bank account details for salary processing

5. Contact Person: [Insert name and contact information of HR representative]

On your first day, you will undergo an induction session to familiarize yourself with our company policies, team structure, and work culture.

Please confirm your acceptance of this offer and your availability to join on the specified date by replying to this email at your earliest convenience. If you have any questions or require further assistance, feel free to reach out to us.

We are thrilled to welcome you to the XYZ Pvt. Ltd. family and look forward to a successful journey together!

**Best regards,
[Your Full Name]
HR Manager
XYZ Pvt. Ltd.**

Match the column

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Get a foot in the door | A. To speak deceitfully |
| 2. Carry the weight on one's shoulders | B. To get involved in something |
| 3. Speak with a forked tongue | C. To gain an initial opportunity |
| 4. Sink your teeth into | D. To confront the consequences |
| 5. Face the music | E. To take responsibility |

Answer:

1-c

2-e

3-a

4-b

5-d

Vocabulary

1. Reinforced:
2. Ushered:
3. Incarceration:
4. Ignominy:
5. Starkly:
6. Dousing:
7. Induct:
8. Stumbled:
9. Dystopian:
10. Anguish:

Rc ans

1.

Ans: C

Explanation:

The passage mentions that the announcement has “reinforced concerns that a full-scale global trade war is now under way” and “ushered in an extended period of uncertainty,” making this the central concern.

Incorrect Options:

- A. The focus isn't on domestic U.S. economic policy.
- B. Crude oil prices are falling, not rising.
- D. Smaller Southeast Asian economies lack negotiating power and cannot retaliate.

2.

Ans: D

Explanation:

The passage says, “lower-income ones face a double disadvantage. They have to cope with a new world order, while addressing pressing domestic economic issues.”

Incorrect Options:

- A. Infrastructure is not mentioned.
- B. Trade rules are not the focus here.
- C. They can't retaliate, but not because they refuse to.

3.

Ans: B

Explanation:

The passage highlights that “Vietnam and Cambodia have been hit by some of the highest tariffs... The garment industry... crucial in providing steady incomes... now likely to be lost.”

Incorrect Options:

- A. Trade balances aren't discussed positively.
- C. These countries can't retaliate, unlike China.
- D. No mention of exemptions.

4.

Ans: C

Explanation:

The Court expressed concerns that the Minister could tamper with evidence or influence witnesses, particularly through the observation: “you [Mr. Senthilbalaji] will ensure that no witness comes to the box.”

Incorrect Options:

- A. He was not declared innocent; bail was granted on the basis of time served.
- B. The legality of his arrest isn't questioned in this context.
- D. Administrative capability is not discussed.

5.

Ans: B

Explanation:

The editorial states: “Mr. Senthilbalaji would have done himself a favour by not returning to the Cabinet,” implying that his re-induction while on bail questions propriety and could affect judicial fairness.

Incorrect Options:

- A. There's no mention of policy conflict.
- C. Support within the Cabinet isn't discussed.
- D. Health is not raised as an issue.



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