

The Hindu EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

16th 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. Impetus (प्रेरणा)

- **Meaning:** A force or energy with which something moves or progresses.
- **Synonyms:** Stimulus, drive, motivation
- **Antonyms:** Hindrance, deterrent, obstacle
- **Example:** The new regulations provided the necessary impetus for foreign universities to establish campuses in India.

2. Incomprehensible (अस्पष्ट)

- **Meaning:** Difficult or impossible to understand.
- **Synonyms:** Unintelligible, baffling, confusing
- **Antonyms:** Understandable, clear, comprehensible
- **Example:** The workers found the company's AI-driven policies incomprehensible.

3. Intermittent (विरामिक)

- **Meaning:** Occurring at irregular intervals; not continuous.
- **Synonyms:** Periodic, sporadic, irregular
- **Antonyms:** Continuous, constant, uninterrupted
- **Example:** Solar and wind energy are intermittent sources, which means they are not always available.

4. Profound (गहन)

- **Meaning:** Very great or intense, especially in terms of depth or complexity.
- **Synonyms:** Deep, significant, intense
- **Antonyms:** Superficial, shallow, trivial
- **Example:** The gig workers face profound economic exploitation under the guise of flexibility.

5. Ubiquitous (सर्वव्यापक)

- **Meaning:** Present, appearing, or found everywhere.
- **Synonyms:** Omnipresent, pervasive, universal
- **Antonyms:** Rare, scarce, occasional
- **Example:** The use of fossil fuels for heat is ubiquitous across industries.

6. Entice (लुभाना)

- **Meaning:** To attract or tempt by offering pleasure or advantage.
- **Synonyms:** Attract, lure, tempt
- **Antonyms:** Repel, discourage, dissuade
- **Example:** Companies entice workers with flexible hours but rarely mention the challenges involved.

7. Reinforces (मज़बूत बनाना)

- **Meaning:** To strengthen or support something.
- **Synonyms:** Strengthen, bolster, support
- **Antonyms:** Weaken, undermine, reduce
- **Example:** The joint statement reinforces GIFT City's importance in global education.

8. Clampdown (कठोर कार्यवाही)

- **Meaning:** A sudden and strict enforcement of regulations or laws, often to limit or stop undesirable behavior.
- **Synonyms:** Suppression, repression, crackdown
- **Antonyms:** Relaxation, tolerance, leniency
- **Example:** The government's clampdown on free speech led to protests across the country.

9. Exasperate (क्रोधित करना / चिढ़ाना)

- **Meaning:** To make someone very annoyed, irritated, or angry.
- **Synonyms:** Infuriate, irritate, provoke, madden
- **Antonyms:** Soothe, calm, pacify, comfort
- **Example:** The constant delays in the project began to exasperate the investors.

10. Frivolous (तुच्छ / महत्वहीन)

- **Meaning:** Not having any serious purpose or value; carefree and superficial.
- **Synonyms:** Trivial, silly, superficial, flippant
- **Antonyms:** Serious, important, meaningful, thoughtful
- **Example:** The committee rejected his proposal, calling it a frivolous suggestion with no practical merit.

VOCABULARY

One-word substitute:

1. A person who collects or studies coins, paper money, and medals:

Numismatist

2. The scientific study of caves and cave systems:

Speleology

3. An extreme scarcity of food causing widespread hunger:

Famine

4. Too ready to believe things; easily fooled or deceived:

Credulous

VOCABULARY

Phrasal Verbs:

1. Measure up

Meaning - to meet expectations or standards.

2. Pan out

Meaning - to develop in a particular way or to succeed.

3. Patch up

Meaning - to repair or fix, often a relationship.

4. Play along

Meaning - to cooperate or pretend to agree.

VOCABULARY

Idioms & Phrases

1. On the back burner

Meaning: in the position of something that will not receive immediate attention

2. In the same boat

Meaning - in a similar situation

3. Get the ball rolling

Meaning - to make something begin

VOCABULARY

4. At the helm

Meaning - something is in charge or in command

5. Pig Out

Meaning - to eat a lot or too much

Article for Reading

**Towards a
monoculture of
foreign university
campuses**

India's ambition to globalise its higher education system has evolved beyond policy frameworks to various strategic initiatives. One major example is the setting up of foreign university campuses in the country, with GIFT City in Gujarat leading the way. This momentum has been further strengthened by recent high-level diplomatic efforts that underscore the Union government's commitment to advancing its agenda. A notable example is Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's recent visit to London, which brought renewed international attention to GIFT City. This renewed focus was highlighted in the Joint Statement released following the 13th India-U.K. Economic and Financial Dialogue held on April 9. Co-signed by U.K. Chancellor of the Exchequer Rachel Reeves and Ms. Sitharaman, the statement welcomed U.K. universities to establish campuses in India — specifically naming the University of Southampton in New Delhi, along with Queen's University Belfast and Coventry University in GIFT City.

The explicit inclusion of GIFT City in this high-level economic communiqué reinforces its emerging role as a key destination for international branch campuses in the country. This transformative development, however, is not occurring in isolation. Its foundation was laid by the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020, which recommended that universities from among the “top 100” category in the world be allowed to operate in India. Subsequently, the University Grants Commission (UGC) provided a further impetus through the release of a comprehensive regulatory framework in 2023, designed to facilitate the establishment and operation of foreign higher educational institutions in India (UGC Setting up and Operation of Campuses of Foreign Higher Educational Institutions in India Regulations, 2023). However, it is important to note that foreign universities in GIFT City could function under a unique regulatory framework that is independent of the UGC Regulations.

The foundation for GIFT City's emergence as a hub for international higher education was laid in the Union Budget for 2022-23 when Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced that “world-class foreign universities” would be permitted to operate within the zone in Gandhinagar. This policy vision was soon backed by a dedicated regulatory framework — the International Financial Services Centres Authority (Setting up and Operation of International Branch Campuses and Offshore Education Centres) Regulations, 2022 — which provided the legal and operational blueprint for foreign institutions to establish a presence in GIFT City. Soon the moves gained momentum. In late 2023, Australia became the first country to engage with the initiative, with Deakin University receiving approval to set up a campus in the zone. Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan welcomed this milestone as “a gift that the nation has been looking forward to”, positioning GIFT City as a groundbreaking model for foreign branch campuses in the country.

Summary

The passage discusses India's growing efforts to globalise its higher education system through strategic initiatives, particularly by encouraging foreign universities to establish campuses within the country. GIFT City in Gujarat has emerged as a key hub for this transformation, supported by high-level diplomatic engagements like the recent India-U.K. Economic and Financial Dialogue. The initiative is backed by policy measures such as the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the UGC's 2023 regulatory framework, and a special regulatory structure under the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) for GIFT City. Notably, universities from the U.K. and Australia have already committed to setting up campuses, marking significant progress in India's educational internationalisation efforts.

Tone:

The tone of the passage is informative, optimistic, and forward-looking. It reflects a sense of progress and national ambition, highlighting the strategic and diplomatic momentum behind India's push to become a global education hub.

Reading Comprehension

Based on the above passage, answer the following questions:

Question 1:

What strategic move by the Indian government has facilitated the establishment of foreign university campuses in GIFT City?

- A. Implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.**
- B. Introduction of the UGC Regulations, 2023.**
- C. Announcement in the Union Budget 2022-23 allowing world-class foreign universities in GIFT City.**
- D. Signing of the Joint Statement during the 13th India-U.K. Economic and Financial Dialogue.**
- E. None of the above**

Question 2:

What was a key development in 2023 that illustrated growing global participation in the GIFT City initiative?

- A. The approval of Deakin University's campus in Delhi.**
- B. The release of UGC's regulatory guidelines.**
- C. Queen's University Belfast setting up a campus in London.**
- D. Deakin University receiving approval to set up a campus in GIFT City.**
- E. None of the above**

Question 3:

Which of the following best illustrates the role of diplomatic engagement in reinforcing India's higher education globalisation strategy?

- A. The NEP 2020 recommendations regarding top 100 foreign universities**
- B. The UGC's 2023 regulatory framework on foreign campuses**
- C. The Union Budget announcement on foreign universities in GIFT City**
- D. The 13th India-U.K. Economic and Financial Dialogue and its Joint Statement**
- E. None of the above**

Article for Skimming

**India, rising power
demand and the
'hydrogen factor'**

The goal of achieving a net-zero economy can be realised only by massive electrification of end uses of energy. Besides their use in generating electricity, fossil fuels are used to provide heat and molecules for industrial processes. The use of fossil fuels for providing heat is ubiquitous and well understood. Examples of providing molecules include the use of carbon (from coal) in steel making to reduce iron ore, and the use of hydrogen from natural gas to make ammonia, which is a feedstock for the fertilizer industry. In the steel industry, hydrogen can be substituted for carbon. Thus, a net-zero economy would mean electrification of end uses and the use of hydrogen for many industrial processes. Forecasts made by several academics, including this writer and his colleagues, predict a steep increase in electricity demand to meet the goal of economy-wide net-zero emissions for a developed India. Solar, wind and hydro cannot provide all the electricity that India needs, and nuclear has to be part of the energy mix in India.

Considering this, the Government of India has set an aspirational target to reach 100 GW of installed capacity based on nuclear power by 2047. The Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) has announced an ambitious programme to set up several 700 MW Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs). Two units are working at Kakrapar in Gujarat. One unit in Rajasthan was synchronised to the grid in March 2025 and another is under commissioning. Two units are coming up in Haryana. In 2017, the NPCIL announced the construction of a fleet of 10 reactors, and on March 11 this year, the Chairman and Managing Director of NPCIL announced plans to construct an additional 10 units. When completed, the total will amount to 26 units of 700 MW rating. Many public sector undertakings and departments such as the Indian Railways are looking to deploy nuclear power plants. The NPCIL has invited proposals from the industry for setting up 220 MW PHWRs, christened as Bharat Small Reactors (BSRs) for its captive use.

The NPCIL has several 220 MW PHWRs in its portfolio, and the BSR is its evolutionary version. Thus, the NPCIL is marching ahead to set up PHWRs, a technology that it has mastered. Indian industry is capable of manufacturing all equipment and components for PHWRs. Therefore, in the years ahead, the share of electricity provided by low-carbon sources, that is, hydro, nuclear, solar and wind, will increase. Solar and wind are intermittent sources, and nuclear is best operated as base load. At present, to balance supply and demand during solar hours, coal-fired power plants are flexed. Flexing coal-fired plants and letting solar and wind continue to operate lowers carbon emissions from electricity generation. In the emerging scenario, when all sources are low-carbon, balancing supply and demand will need innovative solutions.

Question 4:

What was the NPCIL's strategic development in 2025 as per the passage?

- A. Launch of solar-nuclear hybrid plants**
- B. Commissioning of a small modular reactor fleet**
- C. Synchronisation of a 700 MW reactor to the grid in Rajasthan**
- D. Partnership with private companies to set up wind farms**
- E. None of the above**

Question 5:

Why is hydrogen considered an essential component in India's industrial transition to a net-zero economy?

- A. It replaces hydroelectricity in ammonia production.**
- B. It produces electricity more efficiently than coal.**
- C. It is a waste by-product in nuclear power plants.**
- D. It can substitute for carbon in steelmaking processes.**
- E. None of the above**

Today's Descriptive Question

Precis Writing:

Original Text:

Generating employment in rural areas is crucial for economic growth, poverty reduction, and preventing migration to urban centers. A multi-pronged approach involving agriculture, entrepreneurship, infrastructure development, and skill training can help boost rural job opportunities. Strengthening the agricultural sector is key, as it remains the primary source of rural employment. Promoting modern farming techniques, organic farming, and agro-processing industries can create additional jobs. Establishing food processing units and cold storage facilities will not only enhance farm incomes but also generate employment in allied sectors. Encouraging rural entrepreneurship through micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) can create sustainable livelihoods. Providing financial support, market access, and digital platforms will help small businesses thrive. The promotion of cottage industries, handicrafts, and rural tourism can also contribute significantly to job creation. Investment in infrastructure projects, such as roads, electricity, and internet connectivity, will attract businesses and industries to rural areas.

Expanding rural electrification and digital connectivity can open doors for e-commerce, telemedicine, and remote work opportunities, providing employment beyond traditional sectors. Skill development and vocational training play a crucial role in making the rural workforce job-ready. Government schemes like Skill India and MNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) can be expanded to train individuals in modern trades, IT services, and technical skills. Collaborations between corporates, educational institutions, and the government can help equip rural youth with market-relevant skills. Encouraging eco-friendly industries such as renewable energy, sustainable forestry, and waste management can also create employment while preserving natural resources. Decentralized manufacturing units and the expansion of self-help groups (SHGs) can further support women-led employment initiatives. By adopting a comprehensive strategy that integrates agriculture, entrepreneurship, infrastructure, skill development, and technology, rural job creation can be significantly enhanced, ensuring sustainable economic development and improved livelihoods.

Precis:

Creating jobs in rural areas requires a multi-faceted approach involving agriculture, entrepreneurship, infrastructure, and skill development. Modern farming, agro-processing, and rural industries can boost employment. Investments in roads, electricity, and digital connectivity attract businesses and enable e-commerce and remote work. Skill training programs prepare the workforce for diverse opportunities, while eco-friendly industries and self-help groups create sustainable jobs. A comprehensive strategy integrating technology, industry, and policy support is essential for rural economic growth.

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Have questions? Our team is here to assist you. Reply to this email or visit our website for more details.

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

Match the column

1. On the back burner
2. In the same boat
3. Get the ball rolling
4. At the helm
5. Pig Out

- A. In a similar situation
- B. Something is in charge or in command
- C. To eat a lot or too much
- D. To make something begin
- E. A state of temporary suspension

Answer:

1-e

2-a

3-d

4-b

5-c

Vocabulary

1. Impetus:
2. Incomprehensible:
3. Intermittent:
4. Profound:
5. Ubiquitous:
6. Entice:
7. Reinforces:
8. Clampdown:
9. Exasperate:
10. Frivolous:

Rc ans

1.

Ans: C

Explanation:

The passage states that the foundation for GIFT City's emergence as a hub for international higher education was laid in the Union Budget for 2022-23 when Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced that "world-class foreign universities" would be permitted to operate within the zone in Gandhinagar.

Why the other options are incorrect:

A: While the NEP 2020 recommended allowing top 100 global universities to operate in India, it did not specifically facilitate the establishment of campuses in GIFT City.

B: The UGC Regulations, 2023, provide a framework for foreign universities in India but GIFT City operates under a separate regulatory framework.

D: The Joint Statement during the 13th India-U.K. Economic and Financial Dialogue welcomed U.K. universities to establish campuses but did not initiate the policy.

2.

Ans: D

Explanation: The passage states: "In late 2023, Australia became the first country to engage... with Deakin University receiving approval to set up a campus in the zone."

Why others are incorrect:

A: The Deakin campus is in GIFT City, not Delhi.

B: UGC's guidelines are important but were released earlier and not a sign of international participation.

C: Queen's University is mentioned as coming to GIFT City, not London.

3.

Ans: D

Explanation:

The passage states:

“This momentum has been further strengthened by recent high-level diplomatic efforts... highlighted in the Joint Statement released following the 13th India-U.K. Economic and Financial Dialogue...”

This diplomatic event underscored and added credibility to India's commitment.

Why others are incorrect:

A: NEP 2020 laid the policy foundation, not a diplomatic effort.

B: The UGC regulation is domestic policy, not international engagement.

C: The budget announcement is a national financial policy, not diplomatic.

4.

Ans: C

Explanation:

The passage says: “One unit in Rajasthan was synchronised to the grid in March 2025.”

This is a notable development in NPCIL's expansion plans.

Why others are incorrect:

A: Solar-nuclear hybrids are not mentioned.

B: Small reactors are discussed (BSRs), but not as a fleet or commissioned.

D: No mention of partnerships for wind farms.

5.

Ans: D

Explanation:

The passage mentions: “In the steel industry, hydrogen can be substituted for carbon.” This shift is essential for reducing carbon emissions from steelmaking, where traditionally coal (carbon) is used to reduce iron ore.

Why others are incorrect:

- A. Hydrogen replaces natural gas in ammonia production, not hydroelectricity.
- B Hydrogen is not discussed as a direct electricity generator here.
- C. The passage doesn't mention hydrogen as a by-product of nuclear energy.

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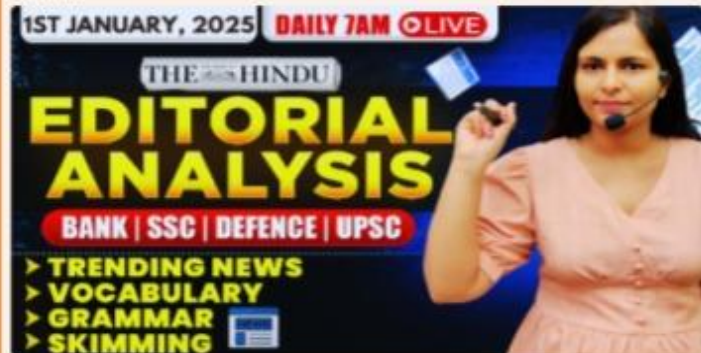
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