

The Hindu EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

15th May 2025

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

1. Repercussions (प्रतिक्रिया / प्रभाव)

- **Meaning:** Unintended consequences or effects of an action or event, often negative.
- **Synonyms:** Consequences, effects, outcomes
- **Antonyms:** Causes, origins, antecedents
- **Example:** The economic repercussions of road accidents cost India nearly 3% of its GDP annually.

2. Rebutted (खंडन किया)

- **Meaning:** To contradict or refute an accusation or argument.
- **Synonyms:** Denied, refuted, disproved
- **Antonyms:** Accepted, confirmed, acknowledged
- **Example:** India firmly rebutted claims that the ceasefire was mediated by the U.S.

3. Trivialises (तुच्छ बनाना)

- **Meaning:** To make something seem less important or serious than it is.
- **Synonyms:** Belittles, downplays, minimizes
- **Antonyms:** Emphasizes, magnifies, highlights
- **Example:** Suggesting a casual dinner trivialises the severity of the diplomatic tensions.

4. Outrage (आक्रोश / क्रोध)

- **Meaning:** A strong feeling of anger or shock caused by something perceived as unjust, offensive, or wrong.
- **Synonyms:** Fury, indignation, wrath, resentment
- **Antonyms:** Calm, acceptance, contentment, approval
- **Example:** Mr. Trump's assertions have been a cause for obvious outrage in Delhi.

5. Murky (अस्पष्ट / गंदा)

- **Meaning:** Not clear; obscure or suspiciously unclear.
- **Synonyms:** Opaque, obscure, ambiguous, dubious
- **Antonyms:** Clear, transparent, explicit
- **Example:** The administration's murky stance on defining forests has raised concerns among environmentalists.

6. Retrenchment (कटौती)

- **Meaning:** The reduction of costs or spending in response to economic difficulty.
- **Synonyms:** Downsizing, cutback, economizing
- **Antonyms:** Expansion, enlargement, growth
- **Example:** Retrenchment in the coal sector led to widespread job losses during the 1980s.

7. Rampant (अनियंत्रित)

- **Meaning:** Spreading or growing quickly and uncontrolled, especially in a way that is harmful or unwelcome.
- **Synonyms:** Uncontrolled, unrestrained, widespread.
- **Antonyms:** Controlled, restrained, limited.
- **Example:** Corruption was rampant in the organization, affecting its efficiency and public trust.

8. Nimble (चुस्त / फुर्तीला)

- **Meaning:** Quick and light in movement or action; able to think and understand quickly.
- **Synonyms:** Agile, swift, alert, quick-witted
- **Antonyms:** Clumsy, sluggish, slow, dull
- **Example:** The nimble response of the traffic police prevented a major accident.

9. Probity (ईमानदारी / सत्यनिष्ठा)

- **Meaning:** The quality of having strong moral principles; honesty and decency.
- **Synonyms:** Integrity, honesty, uprightness, righteousness
- **Antonyms:** Dishonesty, corruption, deceit
- **Example:** The officer was admired for his unwavering probity in public service.

10. Liaison (संपर्क / मध्यस्थता)

- **Meaning:** Communication or cooperation that facilitates a close working relationship between people or organizations.
- **Synonyms:** Connection, link, coordination, communication
- **Antonyms:** Separation, disconnection, isolation
- **Example:** The embassy acted as a liaison between the two governments to resolve the conflict.

VOCABULARY

One-word substitute:

1. Extreme and uncontrollable emotion, often fear or panic:

Hysteria

2. A mild or indirect word used in place of one that may be harsh or offensive:

Euphemism

3. A skilled public speaker:

Orator

4. The scientific study of cats, especially domestic cats:

Felinology

VOCABULARY

Phrasal Verbs:

1. Scrape along

Meaning: Manage with little money

2. Screen out

Meaning: Exclude

3. Screw up

Meaning: Do badly or fail

4. Set about

Meaning: Start doing something

VOCABULARY

Idioms & Phrases

1. Acid test

Meaning: proves the effectiveness of something

2. Back to basics

Meaning: returning to the simple and most important things

3. Against the clock

Meaning: being rushed and having little time to complete something.

VOCABULARY

4. Bad apple

Meaning: a discontented, troublemaking, or dishonest person

5. Bee in one's bonnet

Meaning: be preoccupied or obsessed with something

Article for Reading

The road to safety

India is at a crucial juncture in mobility transformation, where economic growth and urbanisation bring both opportunities and challenges to road safety. With one of the world's largest road networks, India also carries the burden of having among the highest number of road traffic fatalities globally. In 2022, India recorded 1.68 lakh road accident fatalities. This translates to approximately 12.2 deaths per 1 lakh population. To put this in perspective, Japan and the U.K. have road traffic death rates of 2.57 and 2.61, respectively. The economic repercussions of this are equally alarming. Road crashes cost India an estimated 3% of its GDP annually. This hampers national development and underscores the urgency for effective road safety measures. The foundation of all road safety efforts must rest on a fundamental constitutional principle: the right to safe road travel is an essential component of the right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution. Every citizen, whether a pedestrian, cyclist, or driver, has the right to move through public spaces without fear of injury or death.

Recognising this right imposes a moral and legal duty on the state and society to treat road safety not as a privilege or technical matter, but as a human right and public good. India's urban landscape is poised for significant transformation. By 2047, the urban population is expected to account for about 50% of the total population. This rapid urbanisation will be accompanied by a substantial rise in vehicle ownership. The growing urban and vehicular population necessitates people-centric interventions to ensure that streets remain safe, especially for vulnerable road users such as pedestrians, cyclists, the elderly, and public transport commuters. At the heart of future-ready urban mobility lies the Safe System Approach, which places human vulnerability and error at the centre of road design. This philosophy acknowledges that people will make mistakes, but those mistakes should not result in fatalities or serious injuries. Prioritising pedestrian safety is fundamental under this approach.

Urban streets must be redesigned with wider footpaths, dedicated cycling tracks, well-marked crossings, pedestrian refuge islands, reduced speed limits, and calming measures such as raised intersections. This system moves away from blaming individual road users and instead emphasises creating a forgiving and resilient road environment. Recognising the urgency of the road safety crisis, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has launched a series of targeted initiatives. These include rectification of over 5,000 black spots on highways, mandatory road safety audits, and stricter safety norms such as airbags and anti-lock braking systems in vehicles. Electronic enforcement mechanisms such as speed cameras and CCTV surveillance have also been rolled out to improve compliance. In a major push to strengthen driver training, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari recently announced the setting up of driving training centres and vehicle fitness centres in every district.

Summary

The passage discusses India's pressing road safety crisis amidst rapid economic growth and urbanisation. With one of the highest road fatality rates globally—1.68 lakh deaths in 2022—road accidents cost India nearly 3% of its GDP annually. Emphasising that the right to safe road travel falls under Article 21 of the Constitution (right to life), the article calls for viewing road safety as a human right. As urbanisation increases—with 50% of the population expected to live in cities by 2047—the need for safe, inclusive mobility becomes more urgent. The Safe System Approach is advocated, which focuses on human error tolerance and prioritises infrastructure redesign to protect vulnerable road users. Measures like wider footpaths, cycle tracks, speed limits, and raised intersections are highlighted. The government has responded with initiatives from MoRTH, including black spot rectification, mandatory safety audits, stricter vehicle norms, and enhanced driver training infrastructure.

Tone:

The tone is urgent, informative, and advocacy-driven. It blends factual reporting with a persuasive appeal for systemic reforms in road safety, urging recognition of safe mobility as a legal and moral right.

Reading Comprehension

Based on the above passage, answer the following questions:

Question 1:

According to the passage, what is the primary reason for treating road safety as a constitutional and human right in India?

- A. It helps reduce the number of traffic fines issued.**
- B. It promotes infrastructure growth and urbanisation.**
- C. It is essential to uphold the right to life under Article 21.**
- D. It supports the expansion of public transportation.**
- E. None of the above**

Question 2:

Which of the following statistics underscores the economic burden of road accidents in India?

- A. India's road accident death rate is 12.2 per 1 lakh population.**
- B. India has 1.68 lakh road accident fatalities in 2022.**
- C. The U.K. has a road traffic death rate of 2.61.**
- D. Road crashes cost India an estimated 3% of its GDP annually.**
- E. None of the above**

Question 3:

What does the passage suggest is the central challenge in the context of India's urbanisation and road safety?

- A. Expanding highways to reduce urban congestion.**
- B. Ensuring safety for vulnerable road users amid rising vehicle ownership.**
- C. Reducing the size of public transport fleets.**
- D. Discouraging walking and cycling in city zones.**
- E. None of the above**

Article for Skimming

**Trumpeting claims:
On the U.S.
President's claims,
India and Pakistan**

For the fifth time in as many days the U.S. President has claimed credit for bringing India and Pakistan back from “nuclear conflict” by mediating the May 10 ceasefire agreement, a claim that is puzzling and problematic. The claim of mediation has been rebutted by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), unofficially and more formally several times, with officials giving a timeline of how the talks had been held “directly” between the Directors General of Military Operation (DGMO) on a hotline, after the Pakistani DGMO proposed a stop to hostilities three days after Operation Sindoor began, and India acceded to the request. The government has said that Pakistan’s request came after it received a jolt over India’s strikes on Pakistani bases. It has also said that like many countries, the U.S. was engaged with the situation, and officials including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval had kept them apprised of India’s position.

Mr. Trump's assertions, backed by his administration, have been a cause for obvious outrage in Delhi, as they violate India's "long-stated" principle of not accepting third-party mediation on bilateral issues. His other comments, including an offer to mediate to resolve the Kashmir dispute and the equivalence he draws between India and Pakistan, also go against India's previously well-respected policies against the internationalisation of an "internal issue" and the hyphenation with Pakistan. Moreover, the MEA spokesperson has categorically denied that any trade-related issues were discussed between Indian and U.S. interlocutors, even as Mr. Trump has repeated that he had prevailed on India and Pakistan to put aside their "nuclear missiles" by threatening to stop trade with them if they did not, and promising to enhance trade ties if they did. That Mr. Trump has not once referred to India's core concerns on terrorism, appeared to swallow the Pakistani narrative on a "nuclear war", and even suggested a "dinner" between Mr. Modi and Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, trivialises the serious nature of the rupture between Delhi and Islamabad.

New Delhi must also analyse what lies behind Mr. Trump's obvious shift from the camaraderie on display with Mr. Modi just months ago. Are the comments explained as simply "Trump being Trump", or is he sending a more considered message on U.S. policy for the region? The extent of the China-Pakistan political and military cooperation may also have caused some alarm in the U.S. India must make it clear that its battle against cross-border terrorism from Pakistan cannot be brushed aside by any country, especially if it is one of India's closest partners, and co-founder of the Quad. The U.S. President's statements have not just challenged India's narrative or policy principles but also questioned New Delhi's credibility, and some tough messaging will be required to clear the air convincingly on the issue.

Question 4:

Which of the following best reflects India's concern regarding Mr. Trump's stance on the India-Pakistan situation?

- A. It undermines the constitutional status of Kashmir.**
- B. It encourages Pakistan to intensify its terrorism.**
- C. It ignores India's core concerns while equating it with Pakistan.**
- D. It supports India's narrative on cross-border strikes.**
- E. None of the above**

Question 5:

What is the primary tone of the passage towards the U.S. President's actions?

- A. Condescending and mocking**
- B. Critical and cautionary**
- C. Neutral and factual**
- D. Defensive and emotional**
- E. None of the above**

Today's Descriptive Question

Precis Writing:

Original Text:

Crony capitalism in India has significantly influenced economic growth, governance, and social equity by allowing businesses with political connections to gain undue advantages. This system distorts free-market competition, leading to wealth concentration among a few, while small businesses and startups struggle to compete. It fosters corruption, as influential corporations manipulate policies, secure favorable contracts, and receive excessive bank loans without proper risk assessment, contributing to rising Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) in public sector banks. The 2G spectrum scam, coal allocation scam, and large-scale loan defaults are examples of how cronyism has led to economic inefficiencies and loss of public trust. Consumers suffer due to higher prices, poor-quality services, and reduced choices as monopolistic practices dominate key sectors like telecommunications, real estate, and infrastructure.

To combat this issue, India needs transparent policies, strong regulatory institutions, independent watchdogs like the Competition Commission of India (CCI), and strict enforcement of corporate governance laws. Additionally, promoting political funding transparency and reducing bureaucratic red tape can curb the undue influence of businesses on governance. While India has made strides in economic reforms, addressing crony capitalism is crucial for ensuring fair market competition, economic equality, and long-term sustainable growth. By fostering a transparent and merit-based system, India can strengthen its position as a thriving democracy with a resilient economy.

Precis:

Crony capitalism in India distorts free-market competition by favoring politically connected businesses, leading to wealth concentration, corruption, and economic inefficiencies. It contributes to rising NPAs, financial scams, and monopolistic practices in key sectors like telecommunications, real estate, and banking, harming consumer welfare and public trust. To counter this, India must enforce transparent policies, regulatory oversight, and corporate governance laws while promoting political funding transparency and reducing bureaucratic red tape. Addressing crony capitalism is vital for ensuring fair competition, economic equality, and sustainable growth, strengthening India's position as a resilient and democratic economy.

- You are working on a critical project but need more time to complete it. Write an email to your manager requesting an extension, explaining the reason and suggesting a revised deadline.

To:@gmail.com

Subject: Request for Extension on Project Deadline

Dear [Manager's Name],

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to request an extension for the [Project Name] deadline, originally set for [Original Deadline]. While I have been making steady progress, I require additional time to ensure that the final deliverables meet the expected quality standards.

The primary reason for this request is [mention reason briefly, e.g., unexpected complexities in the project, need for further research, additional data analysis, or resource constraints]. To maintain the accuracy and effectiveness of the project, I believe an extension would allow me to refine the work and address all necessary aspects thoroughly.

I propose extending the deadline to [Revised Deadline], which will give me sufficient time to finalize the project while ensuring its quality and completeness. I am happy to discuss this further and explore any adjustments that might help in meeting expectations effectively.

Please let me know if you would like to discuss this in more detail. I appreciate your consideration and support.

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

Match the column

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| 1. Acid test | A. being rushed |
| 2. Back to basics | B. a dishonest person |
| 3. Against the clock | C. be preoccupied or obsessed with something |
| 4. Bad apple | D. proves the effectiveness of something |
| 5. Bee in one's bonnet | E. returning to the most important things |

Answer:

1-d

2-e

3-a

4-b

5-c

Vocabulary

1. Repercussions:
2. Rebutted:
3. Trivialises:
4. Outrage:
5. Murky:
6. Retrenchment:
7. Rampant:
8. Nimble:
9. Probity:
10. Liaison:



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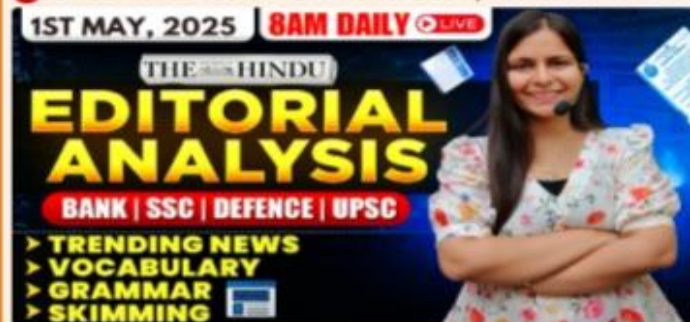


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Rc ans

1.

Ans: C

Explanation:

The passage emphasizes that safe road travel is a component of the right to life under Article 21, thus making it a moral and legal duty of the state.

“The foundation of all road safety efforts must rest on a fundamental constitutional principle: the right to safe road travel is an essential component of the right to life under Article 21...”

Incorrect options:

A is irrelevant to the core legal framing.

B and D are related to mobility goals but not legal justifications.

2.

Ans: D

Explanation:

This statistic directly relates to economic repercussions and shows the financial strain road crashes impose on national development.

“Road crashes cost India an estimated 3% of its GDP annually.”

Other choices are related to safety or demographic trends, not economic cost.

3.

Ans: B

Explanation:

The passage discusses rapid urbanisation and rising vehicle numbers, emphasizing the need to protect pedestrians, cyclists, elderly, and commuters.

“...necessitates people-centric interventions to ensure that streets remain safe, especially for vulnerable road users...”

Other options are either not mentioned or contradict the passage's concerns.

4.

Ans: C

Explanation:

The passage criticizes the U.S. President for not acknowledging India's concerns about terrorism, equating India with Pakistan, and suggesting third-party mediation, all of which India rejects.

“...violate India's ‘long-stated’ principle... the equivalence he draws between India and Pakistan...”

Incorrect options:

A. Kashmir's status isn't directly discussed here.

B. No evidence of encouraging terrorism.

D. The U.S. President did not support India's strikes.

5.

Ans: B

Explanation:

The passage strongly critiques Mr. Trump's claims and suggests that India must respond with tough messaging. It warns about undermining India's credibility.

“...statements have not just challenged India's narrative... some tough messaging will be required...”

Incorrect options:

A. No mockery or sarcasm used.

C. It is not neutral — it expresses dissatisfaction.

D. The tone is analytical, not emotionally defensive.