

The Hindu EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

9th 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. Stellar (बेहतरीन)

- **Meaning:** Exceptionally good or outstanding
- **Synonyms:** Excellent, superb, outstanding
- **Antonyms:** Poor, mediocre, substandard
- **Example:** He has a stellar publication record that places him among the top researchers in his field.

2. Exodus (निर्गमन)

- **Meaning:** A mass departure of people
- **Synonyms:** Migration, departure, evacuation
- **Antonyms:** Influx, arrival, return
- **Example:** The political climate has led to an academic exodus from the country.

3. Acrimony (कटुता)

- **Meaning:** Bitterness or ill feeling
- **Synonyms:** Bitterness, hostility, rancor
- **Antonyms:** Harmony, goodwill, friendliness
- **Example:** The acrimony between the neighboring countries was evident during the summit.

4. Atrophy (गिरावट)

- **Meaning:** Gradual decline or wasting away
- **Synonyms:** Decline, degeneration, weakening
- **Antonyms:** Growth, development, strengthening
- **Example:** Without consistent efforts, the organization is likely to atrophy like its predecessor.

5. Intrinsic (मूलभूत)

- **Meaning:** Belonging naturally; essential
- **Synonyms:** Inherent, innate, fundamental
- **Antonyms:** Extrinsic, external, acquired
- **Example:** Scientific curiosity is an intrinsic part of human nature.

6. Repute (प्रतिष्ठा)

- **Meaning:** The opinion generally held of someone or something; reputation
- **Synonyms:** Esteem, fame, distinction
- **Antonyms:** Disgrace, dishonor, obscurity
- **Example:** He secured a postdoc position at a university of international repute.

7. Rift (दरार)

- **Meaning:** A serious break in friendly relations
- **Synonyms:** Breach, split, conflict
- **Antonyms:** Unity, harmony, agreement
- **Example:** The rift within the scientific community has grown due to funding issues.

8. Languished (कमज़ोर होना / उपेक्षित होना)

- **Meaning:** To lose strength or vitality; to be neglected or forgotten
- **Synonyms:** Deteriorated, declined, weakened
- **Antonyms:** Flourished, thrived, progressed
- **Example:** The regional grouping languished for years without any significant progress.

9. Stasis (स्थिरता / ठहराव)

- **Meaning:** A state of inactivity or equilibrium
- **Synonyms:** Standstill, stagnation, pause
- **Antonyms:** Movement, change, progress
- **Example:** BIMSTEC remained in a state of stasis due to political inaction.

10. Impede (रोकना)

- **Meaning:** To hinder or obstruct the progress of something.
- **Synonyms:** Hinder, obstruct, delay
- **Antonyms:** Facilitate, assist, expedite
- **Example:** The heavy traffic will impede our ability to arrive on time.

VOCABULARY

One-word substitute:

1. A position that requires little or no work but provides a salary:

Sinecure

2. One who never gets tired; persistent and tireless:

Indefatigable

3. One who believes in peace and opposes war or violence:

Pacifist

4. One who believes in the equality of all people:

Egalitarian

VOCABULARY

Phrasal Verbs:

1. Egg on

Meaning - to encourage or provoke someone to do something.

2. Iron out

Meaning - to resolve or smooth out problems or difficulties.

3. Jack up

Meaning - to increase something (e.g., prices) sharply.

4. Reel in

Meaning - to attract or bring someone or something closer.

VOCABULARY

Idioms & Phrases

1. Blue in the face

Meaning: exhausted from anger, strain, or other great effort

2. Worth its weight in gold

Meaning: something or someone is very useful, valuable, or important

3. Time is money

Meaning: time is a valuable resource, therefore it's better to do things as quickly as possible

VOCABULARY

4. That ship has sailed

Meaning: it is too late to do something

5. Wear your heart on your sleeve

Meaning: to be extremely open about what you feel and think

Article for Reading

**A regional revival: on
the BIMSTEC summit**

Last week's Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) summit — the sixth — which brought the leaders of seven neighbouring countries to Bangkok at a time of global turbulence, was an opportunity to reignite the regional grouping after years of stasis. Originally cast as a “bridging” mechanism between South Asia's SAARC and South East Asia's ASEAN countries, the grouping has languished due to a lack of purpose or due to political underpinnings. After the collapse of India-Pakistan ties, post-2014, SAARC has made little movement, whereas the micro-grouping of Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal ran aground after the Bhutanese Parliament rejected the Motor Vehicles Agreement between them, as a result of which New Delhi has invested in BIMSTEC. While the objective of having a summit every two years was derailed by the COVID-19 pandemic, what is important is that the summit was held in spite of a possible derailment after the earthquake in Myanmar and Thailand.

But the summit proved useful, given the number of agreements and areas of cooperation. These include a BIMSTEC chamber of commerce and work on the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway that will connect India's North-East region, billed a BIMSTEC "hub", all the way to the Pacific ocean. The BIMSTEC region is prone to natural disasters and building a joint mechanism for disaster management is critical. Negotiating a free trade agreement (FTA) and Customs agreements are among other plans outlined in a 'Vision 2030' document that was adopted. Apart from the multilateral outcomes, the summit provided the leaders a rare opportunity for bilateral meetings. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bangladesh Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus put aside months of acrimony and aired their grievances over the treatment of minorities, border killings and former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's stay in India. Mr. Modi's advice that "rhetoric" must be avoided between neighbours is important, but must be followed in Dhaka and Delhi.

Mr. Modi's meeting with Nepal leader K.P. Sharma Oli came after months of tensions over India's refusal to issue Mr. Oli an invite, and it is hoped that these exchanges will lead to an early visit and the resolution of issues. The inclusion of Myanmar's Prime Minister General Min Aung Hlaing was a special gesture by the BIMSTEC grouping, and it is hoped that Mr. Modi's counsel to Gen. Min and Mr. Yunus on restoring democratic processes in Myanmar and Bangladesh will be heeded. While the summit was productive, many of its initiatives are replicas of agreements once adopted by SAARC, and it is important that member-states focus on the group's cohesion and sustainability so that BIMSTEC is not allowed to atrophy the same way as SAARC did.

Summary

The sixth BIMSTEC summit, held in Bangkok, provided a much-needed opportunity to revive the regional grouping that had long been stagnant. Initially envisioned as a bridge between SAARC and ASEAN, BIMSTEC had lost momentum due to political issues and lack of purpose. With SAARC paralyzed due to India-Pakistan tensions and BBIN stalling, India has shifted focus to BIMSTEC. Despite challenges like the COVID-19 pandemic and natural disasters, the summit was productive, resulting in initiatives such as the BIMSTEC Chamber of Commerce, progress on the India-Myanmar-Thailand Highway, disaster management plans, and a Vision 2030 document aiming for deeper trade and customs cooperation. Bilateral talks between leaders, including India's Prime Minister Modi and counterparts from Bangladesh, Nepal, and Myanmar, helped ease tensions and addressed key regional concerns. However, many initiatives mirror past SAARC efforts, underlining the need for strong commitment to ensure BIMSTEC's relevance and avoid a similar fate.

Tone:

The tone is analytical and cautiously optimistic. While acknowledging past setbacks and ongoing challenges, the passage emphasizes the summit's constructive outcomes and the potential for renewed regional cooperation.

Reading Comprehension

Based on the above passage, answer the following questions:

Question 1:

Which of the following best describes the primary significance of the 2024 BIMSTEC summit being held?

- A. It marked the first inclusion of Central Asian countries into BIMSTEC.**
- B. It revived SAARC's original agenda under a new platform.**
- C. It happened despite natural disasters and symbolized resilience and commitment.**
- D. It formalized the exclusion of Myanmar from regional partnerships.**
- E. None of the above**

Question 2:

What concern is subtly conveyed by the author about BIMSTEC's future?

- A. Its agreements are heavily dominated by Western nations.**
- B. It may become irrelevant like SAARC if cohesion is not prioritized.**
- C. Its members lack the political will to form diplomatic missions.**
- D. It excludes economic discussions in favor of political dialogue.**
- E. None of the above**

Question 3:

The phrase “aired their grievances” in the context of the meeting between Mr. Modi and Bangladesh’s leader implies:

- A. They resolved all bilateral disputes amicably.**
- B. They publicly announced a joint statement of unity.**
- C. They ignored differences to maintain summit decorum.**
- D. They candidly discussed mutual concerns and past tensions.**
- E. None of the above**

Article for Skimming

**The Trump effect and
a possible exodus of
expertise**

A LinkedIn post by a former student of the Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, currently employed as a postdoc in a university of repute in the United States, caught me off guard a few days ago. He is actively seeking new positions where he may be able to leverage his experience in the biotech, pharma, or health-care analytics domains. He is a student who completed his doctorate in the U.S. and has a stellar publication record. Is his case an example of an immediate consequence of the fund cutting and the curbing of academic freedom by the Trump administration? The U.S. has for long been the world leader in almost every area of research. The National Science Foundation (NSF), which was established in 1950, marked the beginning of the modern American research university. The National Institutes of Health (NIH), which go back to the late-19th century, saw significant expansion in the post-war years. Together, these two organisations transformed previously underperforming American scientific institutions into becoming the world's pre-eminent research universities.

However, America's higher education is almost in a mess ever since Donald Trump returned to the White House. The U.S. academic community is moving away from fundamental ideas of democracy and freedom as a result of Mr. Trump's war on science. For example, Columbia University has agreed to enact a number of policy changes in response to threats from the Trump administration. One research centre after another is being slashed or shut down by Mr. Trump and Elon Musk, whether it is at the NIH or the Environmental Protection Agency. Mr. Trump has made a move to completely dismantle the U.S. Department of Education. He has ordered widespread layoffs within federal science agencies, including senior positions at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). He has also terminated grants in specific research areas, taken unprecedented control over university affairs, and, in effect, threatened academic freedom.

Scientists who retain their jobs wonder whether they still have a place in American agencies and research institutes. There could be a fear of more hiring and funding freezes, data transfer limitations, and censorship related to gender studies, vaccine hesitancy, and climate change. The resultant rift in American society may continue and transform American culture for a generation even if the current university financing issue is resolved. Early-career researchers are undoubtedly concerned about Mr. Trump's disruptions because job cuts in federal research agencies and universities may increase competition and uncertainty. It may also be confusing for lakhs of international students aspiring to pursue doctoral studies in the U.S. An editorial in the science journal, Nature, has described Mr. Trump's actions as an "assault on science". Science and its intrinsic economics, however, can still constitute the endless frontier. Mr. Trump's policies are expected to reshape global academic flows — a worldwide vacancy is opening up as a large-scale academic exodus from the U.S. seems inevitable.

Question 4:

What does the author imply by the phrase “Science and its intrinsic economics... can still constitute the endless frontier”?

- A. Scientific research will continue to receive massive funding despite political changes.**
- B. The U.S. will regain its global academic dominance in the future.**
- C. Despite political setbacks, science remains a field of boundless potential and opportunity.**
- D. Economic theories will shape the future of scientific development.**
- E. None of the above**

Question 5

According to the passage, what could be a global consequence of the Trump administration's science policies?

- A. The U.S. will import more scientists to address its research gaps.**
- B. A significant number of U.S. universities will shift operations to Asia.**
- C. China will become the new leader in biotech and analytics.**
- D. An academic exodus from the U.S. will reshape international research landscapes.**
- E. None of the above**

Today's Descriptive Question

Precis Writing:

Original Text:

Banks play a pivotal role in the economic development of a country by serving as the backbone of its financial system. They act as intermediaries between depositors and borrowers, ensuring the smooth flow of funds within the economy. By mobilizing savings from individuals and institutions and channeling them into productive investments, banks stimulate economic activity, promote entrepreneurship, and support the growth of industries. One of the most critical functions of banks is credit creation. Through loans and advances, banks provide much-needed capital to sectors such as agriculture, industry, infrastructure, trade, and services. This availability of credit helps businesses expand, generate employment, and increase the country's gross domestic product (GDP). Moreover, by supporting micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), banks foster inclusive growth and help bridge the urban-rural economic divide.

Banks also play a vital role in financial inclusion by bringing the unbanked population into the formal financial fold. Through initiatives like the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), banks have provided millions of people with access to basic banking services, enabling them to save securely, receive subsidies directly, and access credit. This, in turn, empowers people economically and socially.

Furthermore, banks help maintain monetary stability by implementing policies set by the central bank, such as regulating interest rates and controlling inflation. They also contribute to foreign trade and investment by facilitating international payments and providing foreign exchange services. In the digital era, banks are adopting technology-driven services like internet banking, mobile banking, and UPI payments, which have enhanced the efficiency and reach of banking services, especially in rural and remote areas.

Thus, banks are not merely financial institutions; they are essential instruments for nation-building. By facilitating capital formation, supporting development projects, and promoting financial literacy, banks contribute significantly to the socio-economic progress of a country.

Precis:

Banks play a key role in a country's economic development by mobilizing savings, providing credit, and supporting industries and businesses. They promote employment, entrepreneurship, and financial inclusion, especially through initiatives like PMJDY. Banks also help maintain monetary stability and facilitate foreign trade. In the digital age, technology has expanded their reach, making them vital for inclusive and sustainable growth.

- **A company has sent a partnership proposal, but you have decided not to proceed. Write an email declining the offer professionally.**

To:@gmail.com

Subject: Re: Partnership Proposal

Dear [Partner's Name],

Thank you for reaching out and for taking the time to share your partnership proposal with us. We truly appreciate your interest in collaborating with [Your Company Name].

After careful consideration, we have decided not to move forward with the partnership at this time. This decision was made based on our current strategic priorities and focus areas, and does not reflect any shortcomings in your proposal.

We value the opportunity to connect and will certainly keep your organization in mind should future opportunities arise that align more closely with our goals.

Wishing you continued success in all your endeavors.

**Warm regards,
[Your Full Name]
[Your Position]
[Your Company Name]**

Match the column

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. Blue in the face | A. time is a valuable resource |
| 2. Worth its weight in gold | B. to be extremely open about what you feel |
| 3. Time is money | C. something or someone is very useful |
| 4. That ship has sailed | D. exhausted from anger, or strain |
| 5. Wear your heart on your sleeve | E. it is too late to do something |

Answer:

1-d

2-c

3-a

4-e

5-b

Vocabulary

1. Stellar:
2. Exodus:
3. Acrimony:
4. Atrophy:
5. Intrinsic:
6. Repute:
7. Rift:
8. Languished:
9. Stasis:
10. Impede:

Rc ans

1.

Ans: C

Explanation:

From the passage:

“...the summit was held in spite of a possible derailment after the earthquake in Myanmar and Thailand...”

Incorrect Options:

- A. Central Asian countries were not mentioned.
- B. SAARC's agenda wasn't revived — some SAARC-like initiatives were replicated, not restored.
- D. Myanmar was included, not excluded.

2.

Ans: B

Explanation:

The author cautions:

“It is important that member-states focus on the group’s cohesion and sustainability so that BIMSTEC is not allowed to atrophy the same way as SAARC did.”

Incorrect Options:

A. Western nations are not involved.

C. No such issue is mentioned.

D. Trade (FTA, Customs) is clearly discussed.

3.

Ans: D

Explanation:

The passage notes:

“...put aside months of acrimony and aired their grievances over the treatment of minorities, border killings...”

Incorrect Options:

A. No resolution was stated.

B. No joint statement was mentioned.

C. They did discuss tensions.

4.

Ans: C

Explanation:

The phrase suggests that science inherently has limitless possibilities, even if current policies are regressive.

Incorrect Options:

- A. Funding cuts are already discussed; the author does not say funding will continue.
- B. Regaining dominance is not directly implied.
- D. "Intrinsic economics" refers to the value within science, not economic theories.

5.

Ans: D

Explanation:

The author states:

“A worldwide vacancy is opening up as a large-scale academic exodus from the U.S. seems inevitable.”

Incorrect Options:

- A. Importing scientists is not suggested.
- B. No university relocation is mentioned.
- C. China is not discussed in this context.

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