

# The Hindu EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

22nd 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. Burgeoning (तेज़ी से बढ़ना)

- **Meaning:** Growing or expanding rapidly.
- **Synonyms:** Expanding, flourishing, thriving
- **Antonyms:** Declining, waning, withering
- **Example:** The burgeoning tech industry has led to increased employment opportunities.

## 2. Untenable (अस्थिर/अस्वीकार्य )

- **Meaning:** Not able to be defended or justified.
- **Synonyms:** Indefensible, unsustainable, unjustifiable
- **Antonyms:** Defensible, tenable, justified
- **Example:** Demanding Ukraine to limit its alliances is an untenable condition.

### 3. Affluent (धनी)

- **Meaning:** Having a lot of money or wealth.
- **Synonyms:** Wealthy, rich, prosperous
- **Antonyms:** Poor, destitute, impoverished
- **Example:** The affluent neighborhood is known for its luxurious homes and high-end shopping.

## 4. Baulked (झिझकना/रोकना)

- **Meaning:** To be unwilling to accept an idea or undertaking.
- **Synonyms:** Resisted, hesitated, refused
- **Antonyms:** Accepted, embraced, agreed
- **Example:** Developed countries baulked at committing to share vaccines and technology.

## 5. Reminiscent (स्मरण दिलाने वाला)

- **Meaning:** Tending to remind one of something in the past.
- **Synonyms:** Evocative, suggestive, redolent
- **Antonyms:** Forgetful, unmindful, oblivious
- **Example:** The current debate is reminiscent of the H5N1 sample-sharing controversy.

## 6. Annexed (कब्ज़ा करना)

- **Meaning:** To take control of a territory and add it to one's own, especially forcibly.
- **Synonyms:** Seized, occupied, appropriated
- **Antonyms:** Surrendered, relinquished, gave up
- **Example:** Russia annexed Crimea in 2014 after a disputed referendum.

## 7. Impetus (प्रेरणा / प्रोत्साहन )

- **Meaning:** A driving force or stimulus that encourages activity or development.
- **Synonyms:** Motivation, stimulus, boost
- **Antonyms:** Deterrent, hindrance, obstacle
- **Example:** A monetary policy shift could provide the necessary impetus for economic growth.



## 8. Fervour (जोश/उत्साह)

- **Meaning:** Intense and passionate feeling.
- **Synonyms:** Enthusiasm, zeal, passion
- **Antonyms:** Apathy, indifference, dullness
- **Example:** The students prepared for the competition with great fervour.

## 9. Outrageous (अपमानजनक )

- **Meaning:** Shockingly bad or excessive.
- **Synonyms:** Scandalous, disgraceful, appalling
- **Antonyms:** Acceptable, reasonable, modest
- **Example:** The outrageous remarks made by the leader sparked global condemnation.

## 10. Penchant (रुचि)

- **Meaning:** A strong or habitual liking for something or tendency to do something.
- **Synonyms:** Liking, preference, inclination
- **Antonyms:** Dislike, aversion, indifference
- **Example:** She has a penchant for collecting rare books from different parts of the world.

# VOCABULARY

## One-word substitute:

**1. The scientific study of insects:**

**Entomology**

**2. The comparative and analytical study of cultures; a branch of anthropology:**

**Ethnology**

**3. A point of congestion or blockage that slows or stops progress or flow:**

**Bottleneck**

**4. A person who pretends to be someone else in order to deceive others:**

**Imposter**

# VOCABULARY

## Phrasal Verbs:

### 1. Run across

Meaning - to find something or someone by chance.

### 2. Speak up

Meaning - to express one's opinion clearly or loudly.

### 3. Stick with

Meaning - to continue doing something or staying with something.

### 4. Turn out

Meaning - to end up being; to attend or participate in something.

# VOCABULARY

## Idioms & Phrases

### 1. Over one's head

Meaning: Something that is too difficult to understand.

### 2. Use your head

Meaning: Think logically or use common sense.

### 3. In the blink of an eye

Meaning: Very quickly or instantly.

## VOCABULARY

### **4. Turn a blind eye**

**Meaning:** To ignore something intentionally.

### **5. Music to one's ears**

**Meaning:** Something very pleasing to hear.

## **Article for Reading**

**Landmark  
agreement: on the  
draft WHO Pandemic  
Agreement**



**After nearly three-and-a-half years and 13 rounds of meetings, member-states of the World Health Organization (WHO) have agreed on measures to prevent, prepare for and respond to pandemics. On April 16, the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body finalised a proposal for the WHO Pandemic Agreement. The draft, described as a “generational accord to make the world safer”, is now ready to be adopted next month by the World Health Assembly. Though more limited in scope than the ambitious one first proposed by WHO, it is still a remarkable achievement considering the varied priorities and compulsions for the Global North and the developing countries, especially with the U.S. not a part of WHO since January. While the developed countries baulked on firm commitments to sharing diagnostics, treatments, vaccines and technology transfers, developing countries hesitated to commit to sharing pathogen samples and genome sequences without assured access to tests, treatments and vaccines developed using the shared material.**

**The disagreements are reminiscent of how Indonesia turned the spotlight on the inequitable H5N1 sample sharing mechanism in the mid-2000s in the absence of equitable and affordable access to vaccines developed using its samples. The first article that all countries agreed upon was the commitment to protect health-care workers better. The most remarkable achievement was in getting every country to agree on the pathogen access and benefit sharing system. Developing countries that share pathogen samples and genome sequence data are guaranteed to get access to any diagnostics, vaccines or treatments that are developed using the samples/data. Negotiations on how countries will share samples and vaccines/drugs are set to continue. Pharmaceutical companies have committed to donate 10% of their production to WHO and offer up to another 10% at affordable prices. The COVID-19 pandemic brought the inequitable vaccine distribution to the fore.**

**Many developed countries stockpiled vaccines while many developing countries, especially those in Africa, were left waiting for vaccines. The case of vaccine manufacturers sharing the technology with developing countries during a pandemic has also been sorted out. The main debate centered around the conditions under which this transfer will happen. Countries have agreed that technology transfer will be on “mutually agreed terms”, and not “voluntary” as pharma companies wanted it to be. According to the journal, Nature, besides “promoting equitable access to health products, the treaty underlines that countries should ‘promote and otherwise facilitate or incentivise’ the exchange of technology and know-how” that will enable developing countries to make their own vaccines.**

## Summary

**After over three years of negotiations, the World Health Organization (WHO) member states have finalized a draft of the Pandemic Agreement, which aims to enhance global preparedness and response to future pandemics. The agreement, now ready for adoption by the World Health Assembly, is less ambitious than initially proposed but is still significant given the differing interests of developed and developing nations. Key achievements include a commitment to protect healthcare workers, and the establishment of a pathogen access and benefit-sharing system, ensuring that developing countries providing pathogen data are guaranteed access to the resulting diagnostics, vaccines, and treatments. Although developed nations were reluctant to commit to sharing technologies, and developing nations sought assurances before sharing samples, consensus was reached on major issues. Pharmaceutical companies will donate 10% of their products to the WHO and sell another 10% at affordable rates. The issue of technology transfer during pandemics has been resolved, with countries agreeing that such transfers will happen on “mutually agreed terms” rather than being merely voluntary.**

## **Tone:**

**The tone of the passage is measured, cautiously optimistic, and informative. While acknowledging limitations and past challenges, the author emphasizes the progress made and the significance of the global consensus achieved despite divergent national interests.**

## Reading Comprehension

Based on the above passage, answer the following questions:

**Question 1:**

**What is the most notable achievement of the WHO Pandemic Agreement negotiations?**

- A. Establishment of a global healthcare fund**
- B. Agreement on voluntary tech transfer terms**
- C. Global consensus on protecting health workers**
- D. Binding pharmaceutical production limits**
- E. None of the above**

## **Question 2:**

**What condition did countries insist on regarding technology transfer for vaccines or treatments during a pandemic?**

- A. It must be mandated by WHO's Director-General**
- B. It must occur only after public health approval**
- C. It must involve compulsory licensing provisions**
- D. It must take place on mutually agreed terms**
- E. None of the above**



**Question 3:**

**What lesson from the COVID-19 pandemic significantly influenced the current pandemic treaty?**

- A. The inefficiency of WHO in coordinating national lockdowns**
- B. The vaccine hoarding by developed countries**
- C. The danger of misinformation in digital health communication**
- D. The overregulation of diagnostics in low-income countries**
- E. None of the above**

## **Article for Skimming**

**Elusive truce: on the  
U.S. and the  
Russia-Ukraine war**

**The Trump administration's frustration over the lack of progress in diplomatic efforts to end the Ukraine war was evident in Secretary of State Marco Rubio's remarks in Paris last week. After talks with America's European allies, he warned that the U.S. would "move away" if there was no progress "within days". U.S. President Donald Trump appeared to endorse the comments. Despite Mr. Trump's campaign promise to end the war "within 24 hours", months into his presidency, he remains far from building a consensus on even a temporary ceasefire. If he expected the Russians to jump on a proposal for a ceasefire in return for some Ukrainian concessions, he has miscalculated. The U.S. has already ruled out NATO membership for Ukraine and declared it would not be part of any post-war security guarantees for Kyiv prior to direct negotiations with Russia. It also arm-twisted Ukraine into proposing a 30-day ceasefire.**

**However, while Mr. Trump appears focused on an immediate cessation of hostilities, the Kremlin has insisted that any ceasefire deal must be part of a comprehensive peace agreement that addresses its core security concerns. The U.S. is reportedly circulating a new proposal to end the fighting — shared with European and Ukrainian officials, it has the U.S. prepared to recognise Crimea, which Russia annexed in 2014 following a contentious referendum, as Russian territory. The plan also takes NATO membership “off the table” for Ukraine and seeks to freeze the conflict along the front line, effectively leaving the territories Russia captured since the war began in 2022 in its hands. After responses from Ukraine and Europe, the U.S. plans to approach Moscow. But Russia has stuck to its maximalist positions, which include rejecting security guarantees for Ukraine and insisting on its demilitarisation. Wars rarely end through maximalist positions.**

**While Russia has made territorial gains, it has also paid a price. Ukraine, despite its apparent weakness on the battlefield, signals that it is ready to continue the fight, with western support. Europe has also made it clear that it will continue backing Ukraine — with or without American involvement. For any lasting peace in Ukraine, it is important to address Russia's legitimate security concerns. However, the Russian demands that Ukraine limit its defence partnership with its allies or accept restrictions on its military capabilities are untenable for any sovereign nation. So, Mr. Trump should continue to strive for common ground between all the parties — the U.S., Ukraine, Europe and Russia — for a durable peace, instead of appeasing just one power.**

**Question 4:**

**Which statement most accurately reflects Russia's stance on the ceasefire negotiations?**

- A. Russia is open to halting military operations if Ukraine withdraws from NATO**
- B. Russia views a temporary ceasefire as acceptable without broader concessions**
- C. Russia demands a full demilitarisation of Ukraine as part of a peace agreement**
- D. Russia insists on being included in post-war security guarantees for Kyiv**
- E. None of the above**

**Question 5:**

**Which statement best captures the passage's tone regarding a possible resolution to the Ukraine conflict?**

- A. Optimistic, with belief in an imminent ceasefire**
- B. Critical of both sides' unwillingness to negotiate**
- C. Supportive of U.S. recognition of Russia's claims**
- D. Balanced but concerned about skewed peace efforts**
- E. None of the above**

# Today's Descriptive Question

## Precis Writing:



## **Original Text:**

**In recent years, Indian banks have shown notable improvement in their financial health and resilience, placing them in a better position to absorb losses and withstand economic shocks. A combination of regulatory reforms, better risk management, capital infusion, and technological advancement has contributed to this strengthened position. One of the major issues that plagued Indian banks for years was the high level of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs). However, consistent efforts through the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), better provisioning norms, and improved credit monitoring have helped bring down NPAs significantly. This has improved asset quality across both public and private sector banks. The capital adequacy ratio (CAR) of many Indian banks has improved, especially after government recapitalization of public sector banks and increased vigilance by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).**

**Enhanced capital buffers mean banks are now better prepared to absorb potential loan defaults and market disruptions. Moreover, the RBI has taken proactive steps in stress testing and supervisory oversight, which ensures that banks maintain sufficient liquidity and capital to manage unexpected financial shocks. The digital transformation in banking has also played a critical role by improving efficiency, transparency, and customer service, while reducing operational risks. That said, challenges remain. Global uncertainties, inflation, interest rate volatility, and geopolitical tensions can affect asset quality. Also, banks need to remain cautious about aggressive lending practices that could sow the seeds for future NPAs. In conclusion, Indian banks are in a stronger position today than they were a decade ago, thanks to reforms and regulatory support. However, continued vigilance, prudent lending, and robust governance are essential to sustain this resilience in the face of evolving economic challenges.**

## **Precis:**

**Indian banks are better equipped to handle losses today due to reduced NPAs, improved capital adequacy, regulatory reforms, and better risk management. RBI's oversight and digital advancements have further strengthened their resilience. While external challenges remain, prudent practices and strong governance can help maintain their financial stability.**

- You are a student and have doubts regarding the submission format of an assignment. Write an email to your teacher requesting clarification.

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**Subject: Clarification Regarding Assignment Submission Format**

**Dear [Teacher's Name],**

**I hope you are doing well. I am writing to seek clarification regarding the submission format for the [name of the assignment or subject] assignment due on [due date].**

**I want to ensure that I follow the correct format and meet all the requirements. Could you please confirm the preferred file type (e.g., PDF, Word document), font style and size, spacing, and whether there are any specific guidelines for headings, citations, or file naming conventions?**

**Your guidance will be really helpful in completing the assignment as per the expectations.**

**Thank you for your time and support.**

**Warm regards,  
[Your Full Name]  
[Your Roll Number/Class/Section, if applicable]**

**Match the column**

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1. Over one's head        | A. Think logically or use common sense           |
| 2. Use your head          | B. Something very pleasing to hear               |
| 3. In the blink of an eye | C. To ignore something intentionally             |
| 4. Turn a blind eye       | D. Something that is too difficult to understand |
| 5. Music to one's ears    | E. Very quickly or instantly                     |

## **Answer:**

**1-d**

**2-a**

**3-e**

**4-c**

**5-b**



## Vocabulary

1. **Burgeoning:**
2. **Untenable:**
3. **Affluent:**
4. **Baulked:**
5. **Reminiscent:**
6. **Annexed:**
7. **Impetus:**
8. **Fervour:**
9. **Outrageous:**
10. **Penchant:**

**Rc ans**

**1.**

**Ans: C**

**Explanation:**

"The first article that all countries agreed upon was the commitment to protect health-care workers better."

This signals strong universal agreement, making it a key milestone.

**Why others are incorrect:**

A. No global healthcare fund was created.

B. Tech transfers are now on "mutually agreed terms," not voluntary.

D. No mention of limiting production—only donations and affordability.

**2.**

**Ans: D**

**Explanation:**

“Countries have agreed that technology transfer will be on ‘mutually agreed terms’, and not ‘voluntary’ as pharma companies wanted it to be.”

**Why the others are incorrect:**

- A. WHO cannot mandate transfer directly.
- B. Public health approval isn't the condition mentioned.
- C. Compulsory licensing is not discussed in this context.

**3.**

**Ans: B**

**Explanation:**

“The COVID-19 pandemic brought the inequitable vaccine distribution to the fore. Many developed countries stockpiled vaccines while many developing countries... were left waiting...”

**Why the others are incorrect:**

A. Lockdowns are not addressed in this passage.

C. Digital misinformation isn't discussed.

D. Overregulation isn't mentioned.

4.

**Ans: C**

**Explanation:**

“Russia has stuck to its maximalist positions... and insisting on its demilitarisation.”  
This is central to its stance — a comprehensive deal that includes Ukraine reducing military capabilities.

**Why the others are incorrect:**

- A. The passage doesn't mention Russia being open to stopping military actions merely if Ukraine exits NATO.
- B. Russia rejects temporary ceasefires without a full agreement.
- D. Russia rejects giving security guarantees to Ukraine, not seeks them.

**5.**

**Ans: D**

**Explanation:**

The passage acknowledges complex stakes on all sides but expresses concern over the U.S. leaning too far toward Russia's demands:

“Wars rarely end through maximalist positions... Mr. Trump should continue to strive for common ground...”

**Why the others are incorrect:**

A. No optimism is shown about an immediate resolution.

B. The author is not equally critical of all sides.

C. The recognition of Russian claims is presented as a problem, not endorsed.



# ENGLISH



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