

# The Hindu EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

18th July 2025

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

# 1. Vaulting (अत्यधिक बढ़ना)

- **Meaning:** Jumping or rising suddenly and dramatically.
- **Synonyms:** Soaring, escalating, surging
- **Antonyms:** Falling, declining, plummeting
- **Example:** The company's profits came vaulting after the release of its new product line.

## **2. Gumption (साहस, समझ)**

- Meaning: Initiative and resourcefulness.**
- Synonyms: Courage, shrewdness, ingenuity**
- Antonyms: Cowardice, ineptitude, apathy**
- Example: She had the gumption to start her own business despite the risks.**

### 3. Piecemeal (टुकड़ों में)

- **Meaning:** Done or made in a gradual way, often lacking coordination.
- **Synonyms:** Fragmented, partial, step-by-step
- **Antonyms:** Unified, comprehensive, wholesale
- **Example:** ISRO's piecemeal communication strategy risks missing public engagement.

## 4. Copious (प्रचुर)

- **Meaning:** Abundant in supply or quantity.
- **Synonyms:** Ample, profuse, plentiful
- **Antonyms:** Scanty, meagre, sparse
- **Example:** ISRO can make copious gains by enhancing public outreach.

## 5. Intransigent (हठी)

- **Meaning:** Unwilling to change one's views or to agree.
- **Synonyms:** Stubborn, uncompromising, inflexible
- **Antonyms:** Flexible, yielding, accommodating
- **Example:** Russia remained intransigent on its goals in Ukraine.

## 6. Wobbled (लड़खड़ाना )

- **Meaning:** To move unsteadily from side to side; to show uncertainty.
- **Synonyms:** Faltered, teetered, hesitated
- **Antonyms:** Steadied, stabilized, fixed
- **Example:** The cyclist wobbled as he tried to balance on the uneven road.

## 7. Euphoria (उल्लास)

- **Meaning:** A feeling or state of intense excitement and happiness.
- **Synonyms:** Elation, joy, ecstasy
- **Antonyms:** Depression, sadness, despair
- **Example:** The fans were in a state of euphoria after their team won the championship.



## 8. Indecorous (अशोभनीय )

- **Meaning:** Not in keeping with good taste and propriety; improper or inappropriate in behavior or conduct.
- **Synonyms:** Improper, unseemly, rude, inappropriate
- **Antonyms:** Decorous, proper, appropriate, refined
- **Example:** His indecorous remarks during the formal dinner shocked everyone present.

## 9. Sagacious (ज्ञानी)

- **Meaning:** Having or showing good judgment; wise.
- **Synonyms:** Wise, insightful, prudent
- **Antonyms:** Foolish, naive, unwise
- **Example:** The sagacious leader made decisions that ensured the long-term success of the company.

## 10. Unpalatable (अप्रिय)

- **Meaning:** Not pleasant or agreeable to the taste or mind.
- **Synonyms:** Unpleasant, distasteful, disagreeable
- **Antonyms:** Palatable, agreeable, pleasant
- **Example:** The unpalatable terms of the agreement were rejected by the opposition.

# VOCABULARY

## One-word substitute:

**1. A deep, persistent sadness or sorrow:**

**Melancholy**

**2. A scene of uproar, chaos, or confusion:**

**Bedlam**

**3. The last or final part of something; often symbolizes the end:**

**Omega**

**4. Something attached to a larger or more important thing:**

**Appendage**

## VOCABULARY

### Phrasal Verbs:

#### 1. Break in

Meaning - to enter forcibly; to interrupt a conversation.

#### 2. Bring in

Meaning - to introduce or include something; to earn money.

#### 3. Burn out

Meaning - to become physically or mentally exhausted.

#### 4. Carry out

Meaning - to perform or complete a task.

# VOCABULARY

## Idioms & Phrases

### 1. Have a heart of gold

Meaning: To be very kind and generous.

### 2. Break someone's heart

Meaning: To cause emotional pain or sadness.

### 3. Stab someone in the back

Meaning: To betray someone.

## VOCABULARY

### **4. Get off my back**

**Meaning:** To stop bothering or criticizing

### **5. Put your foot down**

**Meaning:** To assert authority.

## **Article for Reading**

**Middle ground: on  
Donald Trump and  
the Ukraine war**



**U.S. President Donald Trump has made a U-turn on Ukraine, shifting from his campaign pledge to end the war within 24 hours of taking office to promising to send more weapons to Ukraine and threatening to impose “severe tariffs” on Russia and its trading partners if the crisis is not resolved in 50 days. The shift reflects the complex realities on the ground. Ukraine, which has lost more than 20% of its territories, including its Sea of Azov coastline, to Russia since 2014, agreed to a ceasefire, under pressure from the Trump administration, based on the current frontline. Russia had initially responded to Mr. Trump’s peace push. It agreed to a naval ceasefire in the Black Sea, and halted attacks on Ukraine’s energy infrastructure for 30 days. Moscow also declared brief ceasefires and sent negotiators to Istanbul for talks with Kyiv on June 2, despite a drone strike by Ukraine deep inside Russia, targeting its bombers.**

**But after the U.S. joined Israel to bomb Iran, despite Tehran's nuclear talks with Washington, Russia accelerated attacks on Ukraine with drone attacks and troop advances in the Dnipropetrovsk region. In a call with Mr. Trump, Russian President Vladimir Putin said he would not back down from his goals in Ukraine. Caught between an intransigent Moscow and pressure from his allies, Mr. Trump seems to have decided to change course. Nevertheless, Mr. Trump has ruled out giving Ukraine long-range offensive weapons. The plan is to send defensive weapons, including Patriot systems and ammunition to Ukraine through NATO allies. While Patriots could be effective in shielding Ukraine's skies from Russian missile strikes, they are unlikely to alter the balance in the battlefield. And, the U.S.'s ability to hurt Russia through direct tariffs is limited as bilateral trade stood at just \$3 billion in 2024. But if Mr. Trump opts for secondary tariffs, the impact would extend to other countries, including India, China, and Brazil.**

**Since the start of the Ukraine war, the U.S. and Europe have imposed multiple layers of sanctions on Russia, which have failed to impact the Kremlin's war policies. By threatening to penalise third countries for Russia's actions, Mr. Trump is doubling down on a failed policy, and also jeopardising the energy security of countries such as India, an American partner. Mr. Trump must realise that he cannot resolve global conflicts through imperial-style ultimatums and threats. Instead, sustained diplomacy with Moscow and Kyiv is essential. Russia must come down from its maximalist demands, and Ukraine's security concerns should be addressed. His focus should be on finding a middle ground between the Russian and Ukrainian positions to achieve a durable peace.**

## Summary

**The passage discusses former U.S. President Donald Trump's reversal on his Ukraine policy. Initially promising to end the war swiftly, Trump has shifted to sending more defensive weapons to Ukraine and threatening severe tariffs on Russia and its trading partners. The change reflects the complexities of the conflict, including Russia's territorial gains, a fragile ceasefire, and renewed hostilities after U.S.-Israel strikes on Iran. Although Trump ruled out long-range weapons, his plan to impose secondary tariffs could affect countries like India and China. The editorial criticizes Trump's approach, calling it ineffective and potentially damaging to global energy security. It argues for sustained diplomacy rather than threats, urging compromise between Russia's ambitions and Ukraine's security needs to secure lasting peace.**

## **Tone:**

**Critical, analytical, and cautionary.**

**The passage scrutinizes Trump's policy shift and warns against relying on coercive strategies over diplomatic engagement.**

## Reading Comprehension

Based on the above passage, answer the following questions:

**Question 1:**

**What strategic limitation does the passage highlight regarding Trump's plan to impose tariffs on Russia?**

- A. Bilateral trade is too low to create a meaningful economic impact**
- B. Russian sanctions already limit their trade—tariffs would be redundant**
- C. Trump's trade office opposes “secondary tariffs” under WTO rules**
- D. Russia can easily shift trade to emerging economies unaffected by sanctions**
- E. None of the above**

**Question 2:**

**According to the passage, what is the potential consequence of Trump's “secondary tariffs”?**

- A. Recession in Europe due to disrupted supply chains**
- B. Inflation hike in the U.S. from higher import costs**
- C. Energy supply disruption in India and other major consumers**
- D. Agricultural price spikes in Latin America**
- E. None of the above**



**Question 3:**

**What key policy prescription does the author recommend for resolving the Ukraine conflict?**

- A. Expanding sanctions to full-spectrum economic warfare**
- B. Immediate NATO deployment to border areas**
- C. Ukrainian government transition toward neutral alignment**
- D. Sustained diplomacy to reach a negotiated ceasefire and long-term peace**
- E. None of the above**

## Article for Skimming

**Stepping stone: on  
Shubhanshu Shukla,  
NASA-Axiom-ISRO  
tie-up**

**A crew of four astronauts including India's Shubhanshu Shukla completed their roughly two-week mission to the International Space Station on July 15. Mr. Shukla's trip was presumed to have been an intensive rehearsal ahead of his flight as part of India's first batch of astronauts for ISRO's 'Gaganyaan' mission, currently expected in 2027. The presumption is because the goals of Mr. Shukla's trip, which ISRO arranged for by paying north of ₹500 crore to Axiom Space, have not been officially communicated by Indian authorities. Fortunately, clarifications from Axiom and NASA have since cast more light on its purpose. While ISRO and the Department of Space are still expected to proactively disseminate what they know about their activities under Gaganyaan, not least because of the mission's ₹20,000 crore price tag, Mr. Shukla's trip ought to strengthen ISRO's preparations. Human spaceflight is a highly involved endeavour: once in space, the crew is on its own and the resources to respond to a variety of situations are limited.**

**According to a statement ISRO published after the mission launched on June 25, Mr. Shukla and Prasanth Nair — who is also part of Gaganyaan's first cohort of astronauts and was part of the Axiom mission's backup crew — were familiarised with “advanced spacecraft systems, emergency protocols, scientific payload operations, microgravity adaptation, space medicine, and survival traits”. As the mission pilot, per Axiom, Mr. Shukla was also coached on docking and undocking, manual operations, atmospheric reentry, and anomaly management. Onboard the space station, Mr. Shukla was exposed to operations in the Japanese and European modules, for which he and Mr. Nair were trained in Japan and Germany. ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan has also said that the Axiom mission cost less than what ISRO might have had to invest if it had to train Mr. Shukla on its own. In all, the NASA-Axiom-ISRO tie-up emerges as an admirable outcome, even as space agencies continue to closely guard space technologies for their strategic value.**

**Concerns that the limitations imposed by the U.S.'s International Traffic in Arms Regulations would prevent the duo from learning much may also be laid to rest. Instead, they may be replaced by concerns about ISRO's piecemeal communication. Astronauts cut inspirational figures and appeal to all ages. As India prepares for its first human spaceflight mission, there can be no better way to build excitement than by facilitating access to India's astronauts. The lack of initiative is hard to rationalise, although it is still not too late. ISRO as well as India's soft power platform will make copious gains by expanding outreach and easing public access to the spacefarers.**

**Question 4:**

**Which of the following best describes the strategic value of Mr. Shukla's mission, according to the passage?**

- A. It secured India's independent access to space through self-reliance.**
- B. It provided practical exposure to human spaceflight systems at reduced cost.**
- C. It enabled ISRO to test advanced life-support systems before Gaganyaan.**
- D. It bypassed restrictions imposed by NASA on space collaborations.**
- E. None of the above**

**Question 5:**

**What tone does the author adopt toward ISRO's participation in the Axiom mission?**

- A. Critical and skeptical of international collaboration**
- B. Disparaging of ISRO's technological capabilities**
- C. Alarmist about the strategic risks involved**
- D. Appreciative of the collaboration, but critical of public communication**
- E. None of the above**

## Today's Descriptive Question:

- Write an essay of 200 words about the future of work.



**The future of work is rapidly evolving, driven by technological advancements, globalization, and changing societal expectations. Automation, artificial intelligence (AI), and robotics are transforming industries, reshaping traditional roles, and creating new opportunities. While these innovations enhance efficiency, they also pose challenges, particularly the displacement of jobs requiring routine tasks.**

**The workplace of the future will prioritize adaptability and lifelong learning. As technology reshapes industries, individuals must acquire new skills to remain relevant. Fields such as data analysis, cybersecurity, and AI development will thrive, while creativity, emotional intelligence, and critical thinking will be highly valued in roles that machines cannot replicate.**

**Remote work, accelerated by the pandemic, is becoming the norm in many sectors.**

**This shift demands advanced digital infrastructure and fosters a global talent pool, enabling organizations to diversify and innovate. However, it also raises concerns about work-life balance and the erosion of traditional office culture.**

**Moreover, ethical considerations will shape the future of work. Companies must address issues such as data privacy, equitable access to opportunities, and the environmental impact of technological growth.**

**In essence, the future of work promises a dynamic landscape requiring individuals and organizations to embrace change, prioritize upskilling, and navigate the interplay between technology and humanity.**

- **Read the passage given below and answer the following questions on the basis of the passage in your own words.**

**The Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme, launched by the Government of India in 2013, is a revolutionary step aimed at improving the delivery of welfare schemes by transferring subsidies and financial assistance directly into the bank accounts of beneficiaries. This move was designed to eliminate middlemen, reduce corruption, and ensure that benefits reach the intended recipients without delay or distortion.**

**One of the major advantages of DBT is its ability to reduce leakages and fraudulent claims. By directly crediting the money into verified bank accounts, the government has significantly curbed the presence of ghost beneficiaries and pilferage of funds. This system has enhanced transparency and accountability while promoting efficiency in the disbursement process. Moreover, DBT has played a pivotal role in financial inclusion by encouraging the poor to open bank accounts under schemes like Jan Dhan Yojana, thereby giving them access to formal banking services.**

**However, despite its benefits, the DBT system is not without challenges. In many rural and remote areas, inadequate banking infrastructure, poor internet connectivity, and digital illiteracy have hindered the smooth implementation of the scheme. Exclusion errors have also become a significant concern, as elderly or illiterate beneficiaries often face difficulties in biometric authentication or managing their accounts, resulting in denied payments. Additionally, technical glitches such as Aadhaar mismatches and server failures can delay fund transfers. The heavy reliance on Aadhaar for authentication has also sparked debates around privacy, data security, and the right to welfare.**

**In conclusion, while the DBT scheme has made welfare delivery more transparent and efficient, it requires continuous infrastructural upgrades, user-friendly systems, and robust grievance redressal mechanisms. Only then can it ensure inclusive, reliable, and corruption-free service to all intended beneficiaries.**

**Q1. What are the key benefits of the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme?**

**Ans:**

**The DBT scheme offers several important benefits. It reduces corruption by eliminating middlemen and ensures that subsidies reach genuine beneficiaries directly. By transferring funds into verified bank accounts, it curbs leakages and prevents fraudulent claims. The system promotes transparency and accountability in welfare delivery. Additionally, DBT has enhanced financial inclusion by encouraging the poor to open bank accounts under schemes like Jan Dhan Yojana, granting them access to formal banking services. Its streamlined approach also enables quicker and more efficient distribution of benefits, making welfare programs more effective and responsive to the needs of citizens.**

**Q2. What challenges limit the effectiveness of the DBT scheme?**

**Ans:**

**Despite its strengths, the DBT scheme faces significant implementation challenges. Rural and remote areas often lack proper banking infrastructure and internet access, making it difficult for beneficiaries to receive payments. Many face digital illiteracy, especially elderly or marginalized individuals, who struggle with biometric authentication and managing bank accounts. Technical glitches such as Aadhaar mismatches, server errors, and failed transactions can delay or deny transfers. The heavy dependence on Aadhaar also raises privacy and data security concerns. Without addressing these issues, the scheme risks excluding the very people it aims to help, weakening its overall impact.**

## **Match the column**

- |                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| <b>1. Have a heart of gold</b>     | <b>A. To cause emotional pain or sadness</b> |
| <b>2. Break someone's heart</b>    | <b>B. To assert authority</b>                |
| <b>3. Stab someone in the back</b> | <b>C. To stop bothering or criticizing</b>   |
| <b>4. Get off my back</b>          | <b>D. To betray someone</b>                  |
| <b>5. Put your foot down</b>       | <b>E. To be very kind and generous</b>       |



**Answer:**

**1-e**

**2-a**

**3-d**

**4-c**

**5-b**

## Vocabulary

1. Vaulting:
2. Gumption:
3. Piecemeal:
4. Copious:
5. Intransigent:
6. Wobbled:
7. Euphoria:
8. Indecorous:
9. Sagacious:
10. Unpalatable:

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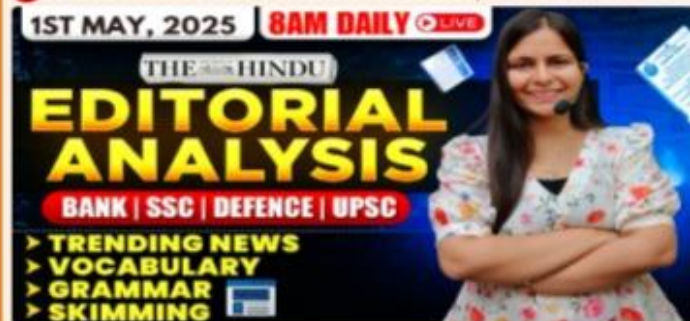


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## RC ANS

1.

**Ans: A**

**Explanation:**

**The passage notes that**

“...bilateral trade stood at just \$3 billion in 2024,”  
making the direct impact of U.S. tariffs on Russia quite small.

**Incorrect option:**

B. Redundancy with other sanctions isn't mentioned.

C–D. These policy/process issues are not discussed in the passage.

**2.**

**Ans: C**

**Explanation:**

**The passage warns:**

“...jeopardising the energy security of countries such as India...”

because secondary tariffs would affect trade with countries like India, China, and Brazil.

**Incorrect options:**

A, B, D. None of these outcomes are discussed in the text.



**3.**

**Ans: D**

**Explanation:**

**The passage concludes with:**

“His focus should be on finding a middle ground... sustained diplomacy with Moscow and Kyiv,”  
emphasising diplomatic engagement over economic or military escalation.

**Incorrect options:**

- A. The author criticises previous sanction failures.
- B. NATO deployment is not suggested.
- C. Ukrainian neutrality isn't mentioned.

4.

**Ans: B**

**Explanation:**

The passage notes that ISRO gained exposure to complex space systems, and “the Axiom mission cost less than what ISRO might have had to invest...”

This highlights both the strategic and economic benefits.

**Incorrect options:**

- A. The mission was conducted through international collaboration, not self-reliance.
- C. The passage doesn't mention life-support systems specifically.
- D. Rather than bypassing, it worked within regulatory limits (ITAR).

**5.**

**Ans: D**

**Explanation:**

The passage describes the tie-up as:

“an admirable outcome,”

but also notes:

“ISRO and the Department of Space are still expected to proactively disseminate...”

This reflects balanced praise and constructive critique.

**Incorrect options:**

A. The author supports the collaboration.

B. The author praises ISRO’s readiness and progress.

C. No alarmist tone or strategic panic is evident.