

The Hindu EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

21st 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. Ubiquitous (सर्वव्यापी)

- **Meaning:** Present or found everywhere.
- **Synonyms:** Omnipresent, pervasive, universal
- **Antonyms:** Rare, uncommon, scarce
- **Example:** Smartphones have become ubiquitous in modern society.

2. Subjugated (अधीन किया हुआ)

- **Meaning:** Brought under control; dominated or oppressed.
- **Synonyms:** Conquered, dominated, oppressed
- **Antonyms:** Liberated, free, empowered
- **Example:** The subjugated communities struggled for years before gaining their freedom.

3. Catapult (आगे बढ़ाना)

- **Meaning:** To launch or propel something forcefully.
- **Synonyms:** Propel, boost, thrust
- **Antonyms:** Halt, stop, hinder
- **Example:** His innovation helped catapult the company to the top of the industry.

4. Coax (मनाना)

- **Meaning:** To persuade or urge someone gently and persistently.
- **Synonyms:** Persuade, convince, entice
- **Antonyms:** Dissuade, repel, discourage
- **Example:** She managed to coax her little brother into doing his homework by offering him a treat.

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. 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.

8. Surreptitious (गुप्त/छिपा हुआ)

- **Meaning:** Done secretly, without being noticed.
- **Synonyms:** Clandestine, covert, stealthy
- **Antonyms:** Open, overt, transparent
- **Example:** The journalist made surreptitious attempts to gather information on the scandal.

9. Saboteur (विनाशक / बाधा डालने वाला)

- **Meaning:** A person who deliberately destroys, damages, or obstructs something.
- **Synonyms:** Wrecker, destroyer, underminer
- **Antonyms:** Supporter, helper, contributor
- **Example:** If not trained, the subconscious mind can act as a silent saboteur of success.

10. Malfeasance (दुराचार)

- **Meaning:** Wrongdoing, especially by a public official.
- **Synonyms:** Misconduct, wrongdoing, corruption
- **Antonyms:** Integrity, honesty, righteousness
- **Example:** The mayor was accused of malfeasance after evidence of bribery came to light.

VOCABULARY

One-word substitute:

1. Deceptive strategy or trick used to achieve a goal:

Subterfuge

2. A cry of joy or triumph at a discovery:

Eureka

3. Valuable goods or treasure, especially taken by force:

Booty

4. Something enormous and powerful, often overwhelming:

Behemoth

VOCABULARY

Phrasal Verbs:

1. Take after

Meaning: To resemble a family member in appearance or behavior.

2. Put up with

Meaning: To tolerate or endure something unpleasant.

3. Look into

Meaning: To investigate or examine something.

4. Drop by

Meaning: To visit someone informally or without an appointment.

VOCABULARY

Idioms & Phrases

1. Break a leg

Meaning - Good luck

2. Salt of the earth

Meaning - someone who is very good, honest, and reasonable.

3. On the ball

Meaning - Doing a good job

VOCABULARY

4. The best of both worlds

Meaning - An ideal situation

5. To get bent out of shape

Meaning - To get upset

Article for Reading

**A long list: on the
U.S., designation of
The Resistance Front
group**

The decision of the U.S. to designate The Resistance Front (TRF) group that claimed responsibility for the Pahalgam terror attack in April 2025, as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) and a Specially Designated Global Terrorist is a development that should undergird the global fight against terror. The Ministry of External Affairs has called it “a timely and important step”. For one, the U.S. State Department has acknowledged the severity of the Pahalgam attack. It also names the TRF as a “front and proxy” for the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), which Pakistan claims it has rendered “defunct”. Even though the U.S. added groups such as the LeT and the Jaish-e-Mohammad to its FTO list in 2001, they have masterminded attacks in India since then. The U.S. has also partially made amends for the TRF’s name having been kept out of the UN Security Council (UNSC) resolution condemning the Pahalgam attack, apparently at Pakistan’s behest, but with the concurrence of the U.S. and other P-5 members.

It is hoped that the designation will now help India's case in designating the TRF at the UNSC, under the 1267 Committee for sanctions, also strengthening the trans-national legal pursuit of those behind the attack. While this is a positive step, it is necessary to put the Trump's administration's other actions since the Pahalgam attack into perspective. After India launched Operation Sindoor, the U.S. has countered India's narrative on the four-day conflict on several occasions. Mr. Trump, as well as Secretary of State Marco Rubio, have repeatedly made the claim that the U.S. negotiated the India-Pakistan ceasefire, and averted a nuclear conflict by using trade ties as leverage — an equivalence which Pakistan has been happy to endorse. Mr. Trump's unprecedented White House lunch and praise for the Pakistan military chief, Field Marshal Asim Munir, came hours after the government had said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had cleared the picture with Mr. Trump, and brings into question just how much pressure the U.S. is willing to put on Pakistan to act against terrorism.

The Trump administration had held out the promise of doing more to support India in its fight against terrorism by fast-tracking the extradition, in April, of Tahawwur Hussain Rana, who was wanted by India for the 2008 Mumbai attacks. It is hoped that the TRF's listing means that the U.S. is recommitting to that objective. Given that the real challenge lies more in credibly ending Pakistan's support to these groups, New Delhi must focus on its efforts, diplomatic as well as legal, to ensure justice for the victims and to prevent further terrorist acts.

Summary

The passage discusses the United States' recent decision to designate The Resistance Front (TRF), which claimed responsibility for the April 2025 Pahalgam terror attack, as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) and Specially Designated Global Terrorist. This move has been welcomed by India as an acknowledgment of the gravity of the attack and TRF's links to Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT). However, the editorial also critically examines the Trump administration's contradictory stance — including its claims of mediating the India-Pakistan ceasefire, its outreach to Pakistan's military chief, and its inconsistent pressure on Pakistan. Despite some positive actions like the extradition of Tahawwur Hussain Rana, the editorial stresses that the core issue remains Pakistan's continued support to terror outfits. It urges India to pursue a strong diplomatic and legal strategy to ensure accountability and prevent future terror attacks.

Tone:

Analytical – The passage evaluates recent U.S. actions in a broader geopolitical and diplomatic context.

Cautiously Optimistic – It welcomes the designation of TRF but remains skeptical about the overall U.S. commitment.

Critical – It critiques the inconsistency in the Trump administration's policy towards Pakistan.

Assertive – It emphasizes the need for India to remain focused and proactive in counter-terrorism efforts

Reading Comprehension

Based on the above passage, answer the following questions:

Question 1:

What complicates the U.S.'s stance after deploying the designation of TRF?

- A. Acknowledging TRF in the UNSC**
- B. Hosting Pakistan's military chief at the White House**
- C. Removing all terror sanctions on Lashkar-e-Taiba**
- D. Closing Operation Sindoor led by India**
- E. None of the above**

Question 2:

Which action by the U.S. government is mentioned as a hopeful follow-up to the TRF designation?

- A. Dropping trade leverage discussions**
- B. Expelling Pakistan from global coalitions**
- C. Fast-tracking the extradition of Tahawwur Rana**
- D. Deactivating UNSC 1267 sanctions on Pakistan**
- E. None of the above**

Question 3:

What does the passage identify as the core challenge remaining after the U.S. designation of TRF?

- A. Building India-led tax evasion cases on terror funding**
- B. Convincing the U.S. to remove all Pakistani diplomats worldwide**
- C. Ending Pakistan's support for terror groups through diplomacy and law**
- D. Ensuring Lashkar-e-Taiba's integration into mainstream politics**
- E. None of the above**

Article for Skimming

**Republican
rumblings: on Trump
and the Epstein files**

President Donald Trump, under pressure from a segment of his support base, has instructed his Attorney General, Pam Bondi, to request a court to unseal grand jury transcripts related to sex offender and former friend of the President, Jeffrey Epstein. While Mr. Trump had vowed, even during his presidential campaign, to unveil the files, in recent days he has faced mounting pressure to supply all relevant and new information pertaining to the case. The latest turn in the murky saga relating to Mr. Trump's prior association with Epstein, the former financier who died by suicide in a New York prison cell in 2019 while awaiting trial on trafficking charges, came after a report claimed that Mr. Trump, in 2003, sent a "bawdy" birthday letter to Epstein with references to a shared "secret". Mr. Trump has filed a libel lawsuit against the newspaper and its publisher Rupert Murdoch.

He went on to post, on the Truth Social platform, “Based on the ridiculous amount of publicity given to Jeffrey Epstein, I have asked Attorney General Pam Bondi to produce any and all pertinent Grand Jury testimony, subject to Court approval. This SCAM, perpetuated by the Democrats, should end, right now!”. Mr. Trump’s publicity woes regarding Epstein have been compounded, however, not due to any action by Democrats, but the fact that far-right MAGA groups, including conspiracy theorists such as QAnon, who believe that the U.S. government, media, and financial worlds are controlled by elites associated with a global trafficking operation, have been applying pressure on the administration within Republican circles. Even prior to the latest report linking Mr. Trump and Epstein, the President had said that some “stupid Republicans... have fallen into the net” in asking for more information to be released.

Now, it is possible that lawmakers in the House of Representatives will have the opportunity to vote on the decision to release the documents relating to the prosecution of Epstein, relying on a legislative mechanism known as a “discharge petition”. A bipartisan team, led by Republican Thomas Massie and Democrat Ro Khanna, has proposed this petition under the moniker of the “Epstein Files Transparency Act”, which, if it is passed with 218 signatures, could require the Attorney General to “make publicly available ... all unclassified records, documents, communications, and investigative materials in the possession of the Department of Justice...” relating to Epstein. Mr. Trump may soon discover that while it helps his policy agenda to have a federal government trifecta and a sympathetic Supreme Court, his political prospects ultimately rest upon his support base, and it is one that is capable of abruptly turning the tide against him.

Question 4:

What contradiction does the article highlight in Trump's narrative regarding the Epstein issue?

- A. He claims the Democrats fabricated Epstein's existence.**
- B. He discredits MAGA while being influenced by it.**
- C. He secretly funded Epstein's enterprises.**
- D. He promoted Epstein for a federal post.**
- E. None of the above**

Question 5:

What broader political risk does the passage suggest Trump may face due to the Epstein issue?

- A. Judicial impeachment by the Supreme Court**
- B. Reversal of his policy agenda by the Senate**
- C. Loss of loyalty from his political base**
- D. Legal action by foreign governments**
- E. None of the above**

Today's Descriptive Question

- Write an essay of 200 words about highlighting the role of Education in Reducing Inequality.

Education plays a crucial role in reducing inequality by providing individuals with the knowledge, skills, and opportunities needed to improve their socio-economic status. It serves as a powerful tool for social mobility, enabling people from disadvantaged backgrounds to achieve better employment prospects, higher incomes, and improved quality of life. Firstly, education helps to level the playing field by offering equal opportunities for learning and development. Through access to quality education, individuals can acquire critical thinking skills, literacy, and numeracy, which are essential for participating fully in the economy and society. This reduces the gap between different socio-economic groups, promoting a more equitable distribution of wealth and resources.

Moreover, education fosters social inclusion and cohesion. By bringing together students from diverse backgrounds, it promotes understanding, tolerance, and respect for others.

This helps to break down social barriers and prejudices, creating a more inclusive society where everyone has the chance to succeed regardless of their background.

Additionally, educated individuals are more likely to advocate for themselves and their communities. They are better equipped to understand and navigate social, political, and economic systems, enabling them to fight for their rights and access to resources.

In conclusion, education is a vital instrument in the fight against inequality. By empowering individuals with knowledge and skills, it not only enhances their personal and professional lives but also contributes to the creation of a more just and equitable society.

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

Slums are densely populated urban areas marked by poor housing, lack of basic services, and substandard living conditions. With rapid urbanization and migration, slums have become a common feature in many developing countries, including India. Improving slums is not just a matter of infrastructure but also of dignity, health, and economic opportunity for millions of people living in them.

One of the first steps to improving slums is ensuring access to basic amenities like clean drinking water, sanitation, electricity, and waste management. Lack of proper sanitation and clean water often leads to the spread of diseases and poor health outcomes. Governments must invest in affordable and safe housing with adequate ventilation, drainage, and sewage systems to replace makeshift homes that are vulnerable to fire, floods, and structural collapse.

Legal recognition of slums is also essential. Granting property rights or legal tenure to slum dwellers provides them security and encourages them to invest in improving their homes. It also enables the government to deliver targeted welfare schemes more effectively. In-situ slum redevelopment—where slums are upgraded without relocating the residents—can be an inclusive approach that preserves community networks and minimizes displacement.

Community participation is vital in any slum improvement project. Involving residents in planning and execution ensures that solutions are need-based, sustainable, and respectful of local culture. Education, skill development, and healthcare services should also be expanded to empower residents and help them break the cycle of poverty.

Public-private partnerships can play a significant role by combining government support with private sector efficiency. NGOs and local bodies can assist in community mobilization and awareness campaigns.

In conclusion, improving slums requires a multi-dimensional approach that addresses physical infrastructure, legal rights, economic empowerment, and community participation. Sustainable development of slums can transform them into livable, dignified spaces and contribute to inclusive urban growth.

Q1. What are the key measures needed to improve slum conditions effectively?

Ans:

To improve slum conditions, it is essential to provide basic amenities such as clean drinking water, proper sanitation, electricity, and waste management. Safe and affordable housing must replace unsafe makeshift dwellings, with proper ventilation and drainage. Legal recognition and property rights for slum dwellers give them security and enable access to welfare schemes. In-situ redevelopment is a preferred approach to avoid displacing communities. Additionally, investing in education, skill development, and healthcare services helps empower residents. Active community participation and involvement of NGOs and private players further ensure that solutions are sustainable, inclusive, and tailored to local needs.

Q2. Why is community participation important in slum redevelopment projects?

Ans:

Community participation is crucial in slum redevelopment because it ensures that development is based on the actual needs and preferences of residents. When slum dwellers are actively involved in planning and execution, the outcomes are more likely to be sustainable, culturally appropriate, and widely accepted. Participation builds trust, empowers residents, and helps maintain social networks within the community. It also fosters a sense of ownership, encouraging maintenance and long-term care of the improved facilities. Engaging the community helps identify local challenges, promotes innovative grassroots solutions, and ensures that interventions do not unintentionally harm the very people they aim to support.

Match the column

1. Break a leg
2. Salt of the earth
3. On the ball
4. The best of both worlds
5. To get bent out of shape

- A. To get upset
- B. An ideal situation
- C. very good, honest, and reasonable
- D. Good luck
- E. Doing a good job

Answer:

1-d

2-c

3-e

4-b

5-a

Vocabulary

1. Ubiquitous:
2. Subjugated:
3. Catapult:
4. Coax:
5. Reminiscent:
6. Annexed:
7. Fervour:
8. Surreptitious:
9. Saboteur:
10. Malfeasance:

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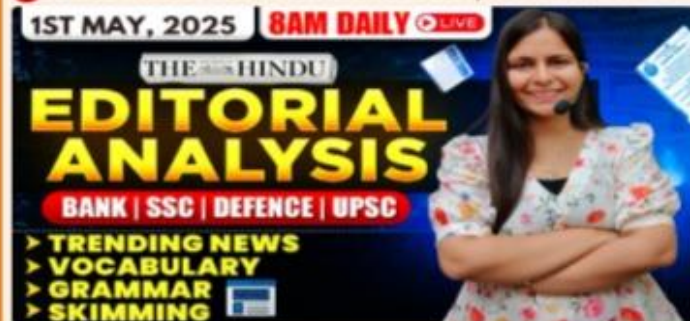


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Rc ans

1.

Ans: B

Explanation:

The passage states the White House hosted Pakistan's military chief shortly after the U.S. acknowledged TRF and praised the move, raising doubts about the seriousness of U.S. pressure on Pakistan.

Why Others Are Incorrect:

- A. The UNSC omission had already happened.
- C. U.S. hasn't removed sanctions on LeT; they remain designated.
- D. Operation Sindoor was India-led.

2.

Ans: C

Explanation:

The passage mentions the Trump administration had promised to expedite Tahawwur Hussain Rana's extradition as part of renewed support to India—and hopes this designation confirms that commitment.

Why Others Are Incorrect:

- A. No such mention.
- B. No indication of Pakistan's expulsion.
- D. No deactivation is cited.

3.

Ans: C

Explanation:

The passage remarks:

“Given that the real challenge lies more in credibly ending Pakistan’s support to these groups, New Delhi must focus on its efforts, diplomatic as well as legal... to prevent further terrorist acts.”

Why Others Are Incorrect:

- A. Not discussed.
- B. No calls to remove diplomats.
- D. No push for mainstreaming LeT.

4.

Ans: B

Explanation:

The contradiction is clear: Trump calls MAGA critics “stupid Republicans” yet reacts to their pressure.

“Even prior to the latest report... the President had said that some ‘stupid Republicans... have fallen into the net’... [yet]... MAGA groups... have been applying pressure on the administration...”

Incorrect Options:

A. Claims Democrats fabricated Epstein

False. He calls the situation a “SCAM... perpetuated by Democrats,” but not Epstein’s existence.

C. Secretly funded Epstein

No financial links or funding mentioned.

D. Promoted Epstein for a federal post

Fictional. Epstein was never considered for government appointment.

5.

Ans: C

Explanation:

The article ends with a warning that MAGA's influence may turn against Trump:

“...his political prospects ultimately rest upon his support base, and it is one that is capable of abruptly turning the tide against him.”

Incorrect Options:

A. Judicial impeachment by the Supreme Court

Legally impossible. The Supreme Court doesn't impeach presidents.

B. Senate reversal of his policy agenda

No mention of Senate opposition; rather, he has a “sympathetic Supreme Court.”

D. Legal action by foreign governments

Out of scope. Only domestic issues are discussed.