

The Hindu EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

7th 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. Allure (आकर्षण)

- **Meaning:** The quality of being attractive or fascinating
- **Synonyms:** Attraction, charm, appeal, magnetism
- **Antonyms:** Repulsion, distaste, aversion
- **Example:** Starlink's global roaming plan adds to its allure among international travelers.

2. Implicate (फँसाना)

- **Meaning:** To show or suggest that someone is involved in a crime or wrongdoing
- **Synonyms:** Incriminate, involve, accuse
- **Antonyms:** Exonerate, absolve, clear
- **Example:** Flawed NRC procedures implicated innocent citizens as foreigners.

3. Ambiguous (अस्पष्ट)

- **Meaning:** Open to more than one interpretation; not clearly defined.
- **Synonyms:** Unclear, vague, equivocal
- **Antonyms:** Clear, explicit, definite
- **Example:** The ambiguous instructions led to confusion among the participants.

4. Obfuscate (धुंधला करना)

- **Meaning:** To deliberately make something unclear or difficult to understand.
- **Synonyms:** Confuse, obscure, cloud
- **Antonyms:** Clarify, elucidate, simplify
- **Example:** The politician's vague answers only served to obfuscate the issue further.

5. Castigate (कड़ी आलोचना करना)

- **Meaning:** To criticize or punish someone severely
- **Synonyms:** Reprimand, scold, rebuke, chastise
- **Antonyms:** Praise, commend, compliment
- **Example:** The editor castigated the journalist for publishing misleading information.

6. Insuperable (अजेय)

- **Meaning:** Impossible to overcome or deal with
- **Synonyms:**
Unconquerable,
insurmountable,
unbeatable
- **Antonyms:** Surmountable,
conquerable, manageable
- **Example:** The company faced insuperable obstacles in its attempt to expand into foreign markets.

7. Ineffable (अवर्णनीय)

- **Meaning:** Too great or extreme to be expressed in words.
- **Synonyms:** Inexpressible, indescribable, beyond words
- **Antonyms:** Expressible, describable, explainable
- **Example:** The joy I felt when I met my childhood friend again was ineffable.

8. Frailty (कमजोरी)

- **Meaning:** A weakness or flaw, especially in character or structure.
- **Synonyms:** Weakness, vulnerability, deficiency
- **Antonyms:** Strength, robustness, resilience
- **Example:** The frailty of their batting order was exposed in the series.

9. Lugubrious (उदासीन)

- **Meaning:** Looking or sounding sad and dismal.
- **Synonyms:** Mournful, gloomy, sorrowful
- **Antonyms:** Cheerful, happy, joyful
- **Example:** His lugubrious expression after hearing the news was hard to bear.

10. Perfidious (विश्वसनीयता)

- **Meaning:** Deceitful and untrustworthy.
- **Synonyms:** Treacherous, disloyal, unfaithful
- **Antonyms:** Loyal, trustworthy, faithful
- **Example:** His perfidious actions eventually led to his downfall.

VOCABULARY

One-word substitute:

1. A person who dislikes and avoids human society:

Misanthrope

2. Full of life, energy, and enthusiasm:

Vivacious

3. An indirect or subtle remark, often suggesting something negative or improper:

Innuendo

4. A person excessively worried about having a serious illness, even without medical evidence:

Hypochondriac

VOCABULARY

Phrasal Verbs:

1. Hand in

Meaning: to give something to someone in a position of authority

2. Cut in

Meaning: interrupt someone while they are speaking

3. Break out

Meaning: to begin, or to begin using or doing something / a violent escape, especially by a group

4. Turn up

Meaning: to arrive; to appear

VOCABULARY

Idioms & Phrases

1. Be in the swim

Meaning: To keep oneself informed and up-to-date

2. Can't cut the mustard

Meaning: Someone who is not adequate enough to compete or participate

3. Variety is the spice of life

Meaning: New and exciting experiences make life more interesting

VOCABULARY

4. Wag the dog

Meaning: To change the topic from something that is more important to something that is not

5. Thumb one's nose

Meaning: A gesture of disrespect

Article for Reading

**Government bans
Indian satellite
internet terminals
from working outside
India**

Even as Elon Musk-owned satellite internet service Starlink awaits clearances to operate in India, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) this week issued further amendments to the Unified License (UL) and the Global Mobile Personal Communications by Satellite (GMPCS) authorisation, the latter of which satellite internet services need to begin offering their services in India. The requirements come in the wake of the Pahalgam attack in Kashmir. Many of the terms, issued through a circular by the DoT, echo existing requirements for all telecom licensees - such as enabling surveillance of users' web traffic, a requirement already in place for telecom operators and home broadband providers. But they come as an additional compliance burden at a crucial time, especially as Starlink faces a prolonged delay in obtaining the GMPCS authorisation, as well as satellite spectrum, which it needs to commence services.

“It is noteworthy that these security conditions have been introduced as an amendment to the Unified Licence itself, rather than as a separate guideline, ensuring that they are uniformly applicable to both existing GMPCS licensees and future applicants,” Mahwash Fatima, a public policy manager at tech policy firm The Quantum Hub told The Hindu. “This provides regulatory consistency at a time when two players have already received GMPCS licences and others are in the pipeline.” While the amendments harmonise many requirements between telecom operators and satellite operators in the future, a key requirement may well be unprecedented anywhere in the world, and undermine Starlink’s allure to some of its customers in India. Namely, while satellite terminals sold abroad must be disabled on Indian soil, the amendments also require that Indian-purchased terminals be disabled in other countries. Another unique requirement is that terminals must eventually be manufactured in India, within a five year span.

“The intent behind mandating geo-fencing is to prevent cross-border signal spillover, especially in sensitive regions, and to ensure that satellite connectivity can be monitored, intercepted, and governed in India,” Ms. Fatima said. This may “create operational challenges for roaming terminals, such as those used in aviation, maritime, etc.,” she added. Starlink offers plans that work internationally, under a global roaming scheme, and this service will be unavailable to Indians traveling abroad, even when they’re in a country where Starlink is expressly permitted, forcing them to potentially buy a second terminal when abroad - which they are prohibited from possessing in India. While Starlink inked deals with Jio Platforms Ltd, and Bharti Airtel Ltd. to distribute its services through the telcos, the firm faces enormous regulatory friction; the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India is yet to publish guidelines on how firms like Starlink can acquire spectrum, and the Department of Telecommunications has not indicated that it is in a hurry to begin that process either.

Summary

Elon Musk-owned Starlink is facing regulatory challenges in India as it awaits clearances to operate. The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has issued amendments to the Unified License (UL) and GMPCS authorisation, introducing stringent security requirements, especially after the Pahalgam attack in Kashmir. These include mandatory surveillance capabilities, geo-fencing of terminals, disabling terminals abroad, and a requirement to manufacture terminals in India within five years. These rules may disrupt Starlink's global roaming model, forcing Indian users to buy separate terminals for use abroad, which are prohibited in India. While two firms already have GMPCS licences, Starlink's progress is delayed due to the lack of spectrum allocation and pending regulatory clarity. Despite partnerships with Jio and Airtel, Starlink faces significant regulatory friction in India.

Tone:

The tone is cautious and analytical, with underlying concern about regulatory hurdles, operational feasibility, and security-driven restrictions potentially undermining the flexibility and appeal of satellite internet services like Starlink.

Reading Comprehension

Based on the above passage, answer the following questions:

Question 1:

According to the passage, why is the amendment to the Unified Licence (UL) particularly significant for satellite internet providers like Starlink?

- A. It removes the need to obtain spectrum from TRAI before launching services.**
- B. It makes satellite internet services exempt from surveillance obligations.**
- C. It uniformly applies surveillance and security mandates to all telecom and satellite licensees.**
- D. It allows existing GMPCS licensees to bypass new compliance requirements.**
- E. None of the above**

Question 2:

What is an unprecedented regulatory demand placed on satellite terminals under the recent DoT amendments?

- A. They must be equipped with facial recognition for user verification.**
- B. Indian-purchased terminals must be deactivated when used abroad.**
- C. They must be sold only by telecom operators in India.**
- D. Foreign terminals must automatically convert to Indian firmware.**
- E. None of the above**

Question 3:

What concern does Ms. Mahwash Fatima raise regarding geo-fencing requirements in the new amendments?

- A. They will make the technology more affordable for rural consumers.**
- B. They could result in potential copyright violations in global markets.**
- C. They would allow Starlink to legally challenge Indian regulators.**
- D. They may create serious operational problems for roaming use cases like aviation and maritime.**
- E. None of the above**

Article for Skimming

**Detaining
non-citizens and the
rule of law**

In India, people who are deemed non-citizens can be detained under the National Security Act, 1980, and the Foreigners Act, 1946. Detained non-citizens can spend years in detention camps, enduring uncertainty and harsh conditions. In Assam, 19 lakh people have been stripped of their citizenship in the compilation of the National Register of Citizens (NRC). Many people stripped of their citizenship through this process have been detained. Most of these 'non-citizens' cannot be removed from India – because they have lived their entire lives in India, with no meaningful or continuing ties to any other nation. They were stripped of their citizenship through unfair procedures. They were required to prove their citizenship through documentary proof of their family's residence in India before 1971, even though these documents are inaccessible to many and may be lost or destroyed in flood-prone Assam. Many of their documents were rejected because of misspellings or different versions of names, even though variations like this are common throughout India.

The arbitrary and indefinite detention of non-citizens in India, including those who have been stripped of citizenship by the NRC, was challenged in the Supreme Court in *Rajubala Das v Union of India* (2020). Similar proceedings in Australia in *NZYQ v Minister For Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs* (2023) led the High Court to prohibit the indefinite detention of non-citizens where there is no realistic prospect of their removal from Australia, upholding important constitutional limits on the deprivation of liberty. Whether there are similar limits on India's ability to detain non-citizens has important implications for the rule of law and the judiciary's independence. In Indian law, the principal basis for depriving a person of their liberty — even if it is not the only basis — is where that person has been found guilty of a criminal offence and sentenced by a court, or where they have been detained pending trial and sentence. That is, they have been detained by, or in connection with, the exercise of judicial power. Being deprived of liberty is hence ordinarily a form of punishment.

There are some reasons why a person may be detained other than as punishment; the most obvious example is preventive detention under Article 22 of the Constitution. But it is an important part of India's common law heritage, as in Australia, that these purposes are limited and constrained, including under Article 22 itself. A person cannot be detained for any reason whatsoever. There are also some circumstances in Indian law where judicial power may be exercised by a body other than the courts, such as by tribunals. But the power to detain is under the control and supervision of the nation's courts. Non-citizen detention in its current form in Assam violates these principles. Those detained have not been convicted of or charged with any crime or sentenced to any term of imprisonment. It cannot seriously be claimed that they are being detained for the purpose of removing them from India.

Question 4:

Based on the text, what is the principal legal basis for depriving a person of liberty under Indian law?

- A. Suspension of constitutional rights under emergency provisions**
- B. Violation of the Foreigners Act or National Security Act**
- C. Conviction for a criminal offence by a court of law**
- D. Recommendation by a tribunal under administrative law**
- E. None of the above**

Question 5:

What was the relevance of the Rajubala Das v Union of India (2020) case mentioned in the passage?

- A. It upheld the constitutionality of the NRC process**
- B. It challenged the legality of preventive detention for citizens**
- C. It expanded the scope of Article 22 detention powers**
- D. It addressed the legality of indefinite detention of non-citizens in Assam**
- E. None of the above**

Today's Descriptive Question:

Original Text:

A social security net refers to a system of government programs and policies designed to provide financial assistance and support to individuals and families, particularly those facing economic hardships. This framework typically includes initiatives such as unemployment benefits, healthcare services, food assistance, pensions for the elderly, disability benefits, and housing support. The primary objective of a social security net is to ensure a basic standard of living and mitigate the adverse effects of poverty, unemployment, or unforeseen crises. In modern societies, social security programs play a vital role in promoting social equity and economic stability. By redistributing resources, they help bridge the gap between the rich and the

poor, thereby reducing income inequality. Furthermore, such systems contribute to economic growth by maintaining consumer demand during periods of recession. For instance, when individuals receive unemployment benefits, they can continue to spend on essential goods and services, preventing a severe economic downturn. However, the effectiveness of a social security net depends on several factors, including the efficiency of implementation, the adequacy of benefits, and the inclusivity of coverage. Critics often argue that overly generous benefits may discourage people from seeking employment, leading to dependency on government aid. On the other hand, insufficient support can leave vulnerable populations exposed to the risks of extreme poverty. Governments face the challenge of balancing fiscal sustainability with the need to provide robust social security programs. As populations age and economic uncertainties grow, reforming and strengthening social security systems becomes imperative. Innovations such as digital technologies and targeted subsidies can enhance efficiency and ensure that aid reaches those who need it the most.

Precis:

A social security net comprises government programs providing financial aid for those in economic distress, including unemployment benefits, healthcare, and pensions. It aims to ensure a basic living standard, promote social equity, and stabilize economies by reducing poverty and income inequality. Effective implementation and adequate benefits are critical for success, though challenges like dependency and fiscal sustainability persist. To address growing demands, governments must reform these systems using innovative technologies to ensure inclusivity and efficiency.

- **Write an email to your manager requesting leave for five days due to a personal emergency. Ensure you specify the dates, the reason for the leave (optional), and any arrangements you have made for your responsibilities during your absence.**

To:@gmail.com

Subject: Request for Leave Due to Personal Emergency

Dear [Manager's Name],

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to request leave from [start date] to [end date] due to a personal emergency that requires my immediate attention. I apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and assure you that I have taken steps to ensure a smooth transition during my absence.

To minimize the impact of my absence:

[Briefly outline arrangements you've made, e.g., "I have briefed [Colleague's Name] about my current tasks and deadlines, and they have kindly agreed to oversee them while I am away."]

**[Optionally mention specific tasks, e.g., "I have completed [Task A] and prepared detailed notes for [Task B] to ensure continuity."]
Please let me know if there are any additional steps I should take before my leave. I am reachable via email or phone in case of urgent matters.**

Thank you for your understanding and support.

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

Match the column

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Be in the swim | A. Someone who is not adequate enough to compete |
| 2. Can't cut the mustard | B. New experiences make life more interesting |
| 3. Variety is the spice of life | C. A gesture of disrespect |
| 4. Wag the dog | D. To keep oneself informed and up-to-date |
| 5. Thumb one's nose | E. To change the topic |

Answer:

1-d

2-a

3-b

4-e

5-c

Vocabulary

1. Allure:
2. Implicate:
3. Ambiguous:
4. Obfuscate:
5. Castigate:
6. Insuperable:
7. Ineffable:
8. Frailty:
9. Lugubrious:
10. Perfidious:

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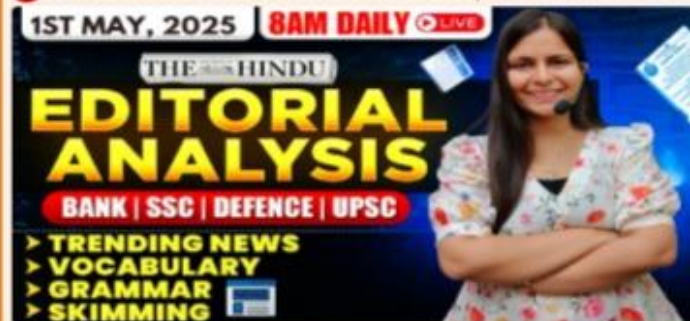


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Rc ans

1.

Ans: C

Explanation:

The passage states:

“It is noteworthy that these security conditions have been introduced as an amendment to the Unified Licence itself... ensuring that they are uniformly applicable to both existing GMPCS licensees and future applicants.”

This shows the amendment’s intent to create regulatory consistency across all operators.

Incorrect Options:

A. Incorrect — The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) is yet to publish guidelines on spectrum, so nothing has been removed.

“TRAI is yet to publish guidelines on how firms like Starlink can acquire spectrum...”

B. Incorrect — The amendment reinforces, not exempts, surveillance:

“such as enabling surveillance of users’ web traffic...”

D. Incorrect — The requirements apply to both existing and future licensees equally.

2.

Ans: B

Explanation:

From the passage:

“...the amendments also require that Indian-purchased terminals be disabled in other countries.”

This geo-fencing requirement is unusual, even globally.

Incorrect Options:

A. Incorrect — Facial recognition is never mentioned.

C. Incorrect — The sale by telecom operators is not mandated by regulation in the passage.

D. Incorrect — No requirement for firmware conversion is mentioned.

3.

Ans: D

Explanation:

The passage says:

“This may ‘create operational challenges for roaming terminals, such as those used in aviation, maritime, etc.,’ she added.”

Incorrect Options:

A. Incorrect — Affordability in rural areas is not discussed.

B. Incorrect — No mention of copyright or global IPR issues.

C. Incorrect — No indication that these rules would allow for legal challenges.

4.

Ans: C

Explanation:

The passage clearly states:

“In Indian law, the principal basis for depriving a person of their liberty [...] is where that person has been found guilty of a criminal offence and sentenced by a court.”

Incorrect Options:

A. Incorrect — Emergency provisions are not mentioned in this context; the passage does not discuss constitutional emergencies.

B. Incorrect — While the Foreigners Act and NSA are used to detain people, the passage criticizes this use precisely because it bypasses the usual legal basis (i.e., criminal conviction).

D. Incorrect — Although tribunals may exercise judicial power, the passage emphasizes that detention should be supervised by courts.

5.

Ans: D

Explanation:

From the passage:

“The arbitrary and indefinite detention of non-citizens in India, including those who have been stripped of citizenship by the NRC, was challenged in the Supreme Court in *Rajubala Das v Union of India* (2020).”

Incorrect Options:

- A. Incorrect — The case challenged, not upheld, aspects of the NRC-related detentions.
- B. Incorrect — The focus was on non-citizens, not citizens under preventive detention.
- C. Incorrect — It did not expand but questioned existing detention powers.