

# The Hindu EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

17th 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. Diabolical (पिशाचवत् )

- **Meaning:** Extremely evil or cruel; wicked and demonic.
- **Synonyms:** Wicked, fiendish, malevolent
- **Antonyms:** Angelic, kind, benevolent
- **Example:** Some strategists fear a diabolical possibility of a joint China-Pakistan military offensive against India.

## **2. Formidable (भयानक )**

- **Meaning:** Inspiring fear or respect through being impressively large, powerful, or capable.
- **Synonyms:** Intimidating, daunting, powerful
- **Antonyms:** Weak, unimpressive, feeble
- **Example:** With Chinese backing, Pakistan could present a more formidable challenge to India.

### 3. Truncate (छाँटना / छोटा करना)

- **Meaning:** To shorten something by cutting off a part.
- **Synonyms:** Shorten, curtail, trim
- **Antonyms:** Extend, elongate, expand
- **Example:** The government must not truncate democratic debate in the name of national security.

## **4. Retaliatory (प्रतिशोधात्मक )**

- Meaning: Done in revenge or as a response to an attack.**
- Synonyms: Vengeful, retributive, responsive**
- Antonyms: Forgiving, conciliatory, peace-making**
- Example: The retaliatory strikes were framed as a message to deter further attacks.**

## 5. Remiss (लापरवाह / उपेक्षापूर्ण )

- **Meaning:** Negligent in performing one's duty or responsibilities.
- **Synonyms:** Neglectful, careless, inattentive
- **Antonyms:** Dutiful, careful, meticulous
- **Example:** It would be remiss not to allocate more resources to ISRO now.

## 6. Humongous (विशालकाय )

- **Meaning:** Extremely large.
- **Synonyms:** Enormous, colossal, gigantic
- **Antonyms:** Tiny, small, miniature
- **Example:** Conducting fire audits in every old city building would be a humongous task.

## 7. Rife (व्याप्त, प्रचलित)

- **Meaning:** Widespread, especially of something undesirable.
- **Synonyms:** Prevalent, rampant, abundant
- **Antonyms:** Rare, scarce, infrequent
- **Example:** Corruption was rife in the government, leading to public outrage.



## 8. Indispensable (अनिवार्य , अत्यावश्यक )

- **Meaning:** Absolutely necessary or essential.
- **Synonyms:** Crucial, vital, essential
- **Antonyms:** Unnecessary, dispensable, optional
- **Example:** Good communication skills are indispensable for a successful career in management.

## 9. Inadvertent (अनजाने में हुआ)

- **Meaning:** Not resulting from deliberate planning or intention.
- **Synonyms:** Unintentional, accidental, careless
- **Antonyms:** Intentional, deliberate, planned
- **Example:** The error in the report was inadvertent, but it caused a lot of confusion.

## 10. Outraged (क्रोधित)

- **Meaning:** Feeling or showing strong anger or indignation.
- **Synonyms:** Incensed, infuriated, furious
- **Antonyms:** Calm, content, pleased
- **Example:** The public was outraged by the government's response to the crisis.

## VOCABULARY

### One-word substitute:

**1. A period of 1,000 years:**

**Millennium**

**2. A significant period in history or a person's life marked by notable events or characteristics:**

**Epoch**

**3. A person or thing that is the center of attention or admiration:**

**Cynosure**

**4. A person or thing that causes a significant change:**

**Catalyst**

# VOCABULARY

## Phrasal Verbs:

### 1. Add up

Meaning - to make sense or seem logical.

### 2. Answer back

Meaning - to reply rudely or defiantly.

### 3. Ask for

Meaning - to request something; to invite trouble.

### 4. Back down

Meaning - to concede or yield in an argument.

# VOCABULARY

## Idioms & Phrases

### 1. Give a hand

Meaning: To help someone.

### 2. Point the finger at someone

Meaning: To blame someone

### 3. Have a finger in every pie

Meaning: To be involved in many activities.

## VOCABULARY

### **4. Cost an arm and a leg**

**Meaning:** Extremely expensive

### **5. Pull someone's leg**

**Meaning:** To tease or joke with someone.

## **Article for Reading**

**Some cheer: On  
India's trade data**



**India's trade data for the first quarter of this financial year (Q1FY26) and for June 2025 are leading to some room for cheer but there is considerable concern as well. The Commerce Ministry's monthly export-import data indicate that June's merchandise trade saw the sharpest uptick in outbound shipments to the U.S. in 14 months, at a growth rate of 23.5% to \$8.3 billion. This was likely aided by importers wishing to stock up before the July 9 "pause" in "reciprocal tariffs", but now extended to August 1. While overall goods exports in June almost stayed flat at \$35.14 billion (\$35.16 billion, last June), likely on account of softer crude oil prices, Q1FY26 registered a marginal year on year growth of 1.92% at \$112.17 billion. Despite the widening year on year merchandise trade deficit to \$67.26 billion (\$62.1 billion, Q1FY25), it is the impressive growth in services exports, by almost 11% to \$98.13 billion (\$88.46 billion, Q1FY25) that has aided in shrinking India's overall trade deficit by 9.4% in Q1FY26.**

**This mirrors years of India's trade trajectory, where services have outperformed goods exports. It is important to note that refined petroleum products have traditionally constituted the largest chunk of India's goods export (at about 15%). While many believe U.S. President Trump is unlikely to stay the course on his threat of a 100% "secondary tariffs" on countries buying Russian crude — to pressure Moscow to end its invasion of Ukraine — it hits an underbelly in India's merchandise trade. India overtook China recently to become the largest importer of Russian crude, forming 36% of its oil imports. This has helped India leverage the cost arbitrage as western European nations maintain a ban on Russian crude imports. But Mr. Trump's threat makes India's need to diversify its fuel and energy imports more urgent, as it focuses on electrifying transport and ramping up renewables.**

**It also highlights the need for India to diversify and grow merchandise trade, by further leveraging its sprawling, labour-intensive micro, small and medium enterprises, which constitutes almost half (46%) its goods exports. Exports in electronic goods (46.93%), tea (32.64%), meat, dairy and poultry (19.7%) and marine products (13.33%), saw steady growth this June when compared with last June. But overall goods exports excluding petroleum and gems and jewellery were almost flat in the same period. With a fortnight to go and three rounds of negotiations to scramble a 'mini deal' before the autumn deadline to reach a Bilateral Trade Agreement, the government has its task cut out to reach a favourable outcome. The stakes could not be higher as the U.S. has constituted the largest share of India's overall exports for some years now, at nearly a fifth (17.7%) of total exports in the last fiscal alone.**

## Summary

**India's trade performance in Q1FY26 presents a mixed picture. While June 2025 saw a strong rise (23.5%) in exports to the U.S., likely due to temporary tariff relaxations, overall goods exports remained flat both in June and the entire quarter. However, services exports grew impressively by 11%, helping reduce the overall trade deficit by 9.4% despite a widening merchandise trade gap. Petroleum products continue to dominate goods exports, but India's heavy reliance on discounted Russian crude—36% of oil imports—could face risk due to U.S. secondary tariff threats under Trump. This underscores the urgent need to diversify energy sources and boost non-petroleum exports, particularly from MSMEs, which contribute nearly half of India's goods exports. Growth was notable in electronics, tea, meat, dairy, and marine products, though overall non-oil, non-gem exports stayed flat. With a U.S.-India mini trade deal still under negotiation before the autumn deadline, the outcome holds high stakes, as the U.S. remains India's top export market (17.7%).**

## **Tone:**

**The tone is analytical and cautiously optimistic, with an underlying note of strategic concern. While there are reasons to be hopeful—such as services growth and sector-specific export gains—the passage also highlights vulnerabilities in energy dependence and trade balance, urging policy action and diversification.**

## Reading Comprehension

**Based on the above passage, answer the following questions:**

**Question 1:**

**Which of the following best reflects the risk posed by President Trump's 100% "secondary tariffs" threat, according to the passage?**

- A. It could weaken India's negotiating position in WTO talks.**
- B. It endangers India's largest services export segment.**
- C. It targets India's rising dependence on Russian crude imports.**
- D. It blocks India's access to U.S. technology exports.**
- E. None of the above**

**Question 2:**

**What was the most likely reason behind the sharp 23.5% rise in India's exports to the U.S. in June 2025?**

- A. A fall in U.S. domestic manufacturing output**
- B. U.S. importers stocking up before “reciprocal tariffs” resumed**
- C. Increase in U.S. demand for Indian marine and dairy products**
- D. India's diversification into the U.S. energy market**
- E. None of the above**



**Question 3:**

**What does the passage imply is critical for India's future merchandise trade growth?**

- A. Subsidising petroleum exports**
- B. Reducing service sector reliance**
- C. Tapping MSMEs' export potential**
- D. Restricting crude imports from Russia**
- E. None of the above**

## **Article for Skimming**

**Rethinking the  
reinforced one-front  
war concept**

**Indian strategists have long worried about the deepening security partnership between China and Pakistan. The bilateral relationship today extends well beyond arms sales to include diplomatic shielding, intelligence sharing, and even elements of tactical integration. Some observers, however, suggest a more diabolical possibility: the threat of a “reinforced one-front war”— a scenario in which India would face Pakistan and China fighting together on a single front. Proponents of this view imagine a deeper military integration, with Pakistan benefiting directly from Chinese technology, intelligence, security assets, and even military personnel. When the balloon goes up, they warn, China would act as a strategic enabler on India’s western front, turning Pakistan’s challenge into a more formidable, integrated threat. The argument seems almost a truism at first glance. China’s support for Pakistan is undoubtedly real, sustained, and strategically motivated.**

**Even so, describing it as a “reinforced one-front war” risks overstating the degree of operational integration in ways that misread Beijing’s intentions and distort India’s own strategic calculus. At the very least, it calls for a dispassionate assessment of the facts. Let us start with the undeniable. China has become Pakistan’s principal arms supplier, providing everything from advanced drones to missile systems, naval vessels, and ISR (intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance) platforms. China’s BeiDou satellite navigation system supports Pakistani missile targeting. During moments of crisis — such as the Balakot strikes and Operation Swift Retort — Beijing has offered diplomatic cover, blocking UN sanctions and tempering the international fallout. China ensures Pakistan remains a capable military adversary, able to field modern platforms and fight on more equal terms with India, despite economic constraints. Chinese weapons lock Pakistan into a client-supplier relationship that deepens Beijing’s political influence in Islamabad.**

**Worrying as these developments are, they do not readily lend themselves to the notion of a single, integrated military front. Arms transfers — even at scale — are not the same as a shared war plan. India itself is a major buyer of Russian, Israeli, American, and French military systems. Nobody claims India is fighting America's or Russia's wars by proxy. India has even begun exporting weapons — such as BrahMos missiles to the Philippines — without any suggestion from Beijing that Manila is fighting an Indian war against China. Likewise, Azerbaijan does not accuse India of forming an integrated front with Armenia, despite significant Indian arms sales in recent years. Similarly, advanced sales — such as China's potential supply of J-35 stealth fighters to Pakistan, or India's exploration of Russia's Su-57 — do not imply joint war planning or a unified front. China may have provided direct military support to Pakistan during Operation Sindoor, even monitoring the performance of its weapons systems in Pakistani use, as Indian military officials recently stated.**

**Question 4:**

**Which of the following BEST describes the strategic implications of China's arms transfers to Pakistan as presented in the passage?**

- A. They signify the formation of an operational military alliance.**
- B. They create a dependency that enhances Beijing's leverage in Islamabad.**
- C. They represent a shared war doctrine between the two countries.**
- D. They formalise a dual-front assault strategy against India.**
- E. None of the above**

**Question 5:**

**According to the author, what is a major flaw in the "reinforced one-front war" argument?**

- A. It misinterprets the diplomatic objectives of China.**
- B. It ignores India's arms exports to other nations.**
- C. It exaggerates the degree of operational integration.**
- D. It underestimates Pakistan's military independence.**
- E. None of the above**

## Today's Descriptive Question:

- **Write an essay of 200 words about the Reusable Launch Vehicle.**



**A Reusable Launch Vehicle (RLV) represents a revolutionary approach to space exploration, aimed at reducing the cost and environmental impact of space missions. Unlike traditional expendable rockets, which are discarded after a single use, RLVs are designed for multiple flights, making them economically viable and resource-efficient.**

**The concept of RLVs gained prominence with advancements in aerospace technology, highlighted by companies like SpaceX and Blue Origin. SpaceX's Falcon 9, with its ability to return and land vertically, has set a benchmark in reusability, significantly lowering the cost per launch. Similarly, India's ISRO is developing its own RLV technology, focusing on a winged-body design capable of autonomous landing.**

**The benefits of RLVs are multifaceted. By reusing key components like boosters and first stages, space agencies can**

**save millions of dollars per mission. Moreover, the reduced production demand decreases the carbon footprint associated with manufacturing new rockets. These innovations pave the way for sustainable satellite launches, interplanetary missions, and commercial space travel.**

**However, challenges remain, including ensuring durability, safety, and efficiency over multiple uses. Despite these hurdles, RLVs are a game-changer, promising to make space exploration more accessible and sustainable, marking a new era in humanity's quest to explore the cosmos.**

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

**The belief that privatization can reduce corruption stems from the idea that private entities, driven by profit motives and accountability to shareholders, are more efficient and less prone to bureaucratic delays and bribe-seeking than public sector institutions. In many cases, this has proven to be partially true—privatized sectors often experience improved service delivery, reduced red tape, and streamlined operations. The competitive environment in private enterprises can discourage corrupt practices due to stricter monitoring and performance-based evaluations. However, privatization is not a guaranteed cure for corruption. Corruption can simply shift form—from petty bribes at the grassroots level to large-scale corporate fraud or crony capitalism, where private players gain unfair advantages through political connections. If regulatory frameworks are weak or enforcement is lax, private companies may engage in unethical practices like price-fixing, overcharging, or delivering substandard services, particularly in essential sectors like healthcare, education, and public utilities.**

**Moreover, the process of privatization itself can be vulnerable to corruption. Without transparency, public assets may be sold at undervalued prices to politically connected businesses, leading to public resentment and loss of trust in governance. The Bofors scam in India and various privatization scandals globally are reminders that oversight, not ownership model alone, determines the level of corruption.**

**In conclusion, while privatization can reduce certain types of corruption, it is not a silver bullet. Effective regulation, transparency, institutional integrity, and a strong judicial framework are essential to ensure that privatization benefits the public and does not become a tool for enriching a few at the cost of many. Without these safeguards, corruption can persist—or even flourish—in privatized systems.**

**Q1. How can privatization help in reducing certain forms of corruption?**

**Ans:**

**Privatization can reduce corruption by minimizing bureaucratic red tape and limiting opportunities for petty bribery often seen in public sector services. Private enterprises are typically more performance-driven, with stricter internal controls, accountability to shareholders, and competition that encourages efficiency and transparency. Services may be delivered faster, and customer satisfaction may improve due to better incentives and oversight mechanisms. Additionally, the profit motive and fear of reputational damage can discourage employees from engaging in corrupt practices. However, these benefits depend on proper implementation and monitoring, as privatization alone cannot ensure an entirely corruption-free system.**

**Q2. Why is privatization not a complete solution to corruption?**

**Ans:**

**Privatization alone cannot eliminate corruption, as it can simply shift its form. Instead of low-level bribery, it may lead to large-scale issues such as corporate fraud, price-fixing, or political favoritism, especially in the absence of strong regulatory oversight. In poorly governed systems, privatization may result in the undervalued sale of public assets to politically connected individuals, deepening inequality and public distrust. Essential services may suffer if profit is prioritized over quality. Therefore, without transparency, accountability, and robust institutions, privatization risks becoming another avenue for corruption rather than a solution to it. Regulation remains key to its success.**

**Match the column**

- |                                |                                      |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Give a hand                 | A. To be involved in many activities |
| 2. Point the finger at someone | B. To tease or joke with someone     |
| 3. Have a finger in every pie  | C. To blame someone                  |
| 4. Cost an arm and a leg       | D. To help someone                   |
| 5. Pull someone's leg          | E. Extremely expensive               |



## **Answer:**

**1-d**

**2-c**

**3-a**

**4-e**

**5-b**

## Vocabulary

1. Diabolical:
2. Formidable:
3. Truncate:
4. Retaliatory:
5. Remiss:
6. Humongous:
7. Rife:
8. Indispensable:
9. Inadvertent:
10. Outraged:

# NIMISHA BANSAL EXCLUSIVE SUBSCRIPTION

## BASIC TO ADVANCE

- ✓ ALL PERFECTION BATCH
- ✓ GRAMMAR GRANTH
- ✓ VOCAB PRODIGY
- ✓ PERFECTION MOCK TEST 1.0, 2.0
- ✓ DESCRIPTIVE WRITING

~~Rs. 2499/-~~ **Rs. 1499/-**

OFFER VALID TILL 19 JULY

Code **NB40**



# **PREMIUM SUBSCRIPTION**

## **ALL EDUCATOR COURSES**

### **ALL BANK EXAM 2025 PRELIMS+MAINS**



## **FOUNDATION + HIGH LEVEL COURSES**

**USE CODE**





**RENEW YOUR SUBSCRIPTION**



**ONE PREMIUM**

**EDUCATOR EXCLUSIVE**

**60% OFF**

**OFFER VALID TILL 19 JULY**

**USE CODE – RENEW**



# JOIN TELEGRAM CHANNEL

ENGLISH WITH NIMISHA BANSAL

@NimishaMam



English with Nimisha Bansal

480 132 subscribers

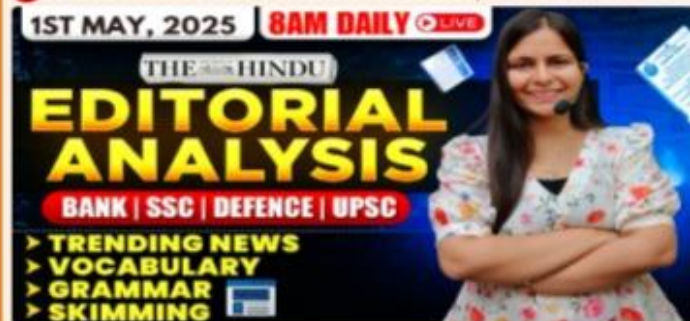


YouTube

Editorial Analysis | 1st May, 2025 | Vocab, Grammar, Reading, Skimming | Nimisha Bansal

Editorial Analysis | 1st May, 2025 | Vocab, Grammar, Reading, Skimming | Nimisha Bansal

Join our Vocab YouTube channel for a complete revision: htt...



24.2K 06:45



Editorial no an...on 01\_05\_25.pdf

762 KB

Editorial no annotation 01\_05\_25

CONTENT - NIMISHA BANSAL

@mamnimisha



Content- Nimisha Bansal

181 423 subscribers



Parajumbles- Prelims Class 1 no annotation 1st May

4.5K 12:30

Forwarded from



English with Nimisha Bansal



EDITORIAL VOCA...AY 2025).pdf

3.6 MB

EDITORIAL VOCAB (1ST MAY 2025.)

2.5K 14:18

Forwarded from



English with Nimisha Bansal



EXTRA WORDS F...MAY 2025.pdf

252 KB

EXTRA WORDS FROM TODAY'S SESSION  
1st MAY 2025

542 15:39

Forwarded from



English with Nimisha Bansal



ENGLISH MAINS...May 2025).pdf

1.6 MB

ENGLISH MAINS VIJETA CHECKLIST-123 (1st May 2025)

542 15:39

## Rc ans

1.

**Ans: C**

**Explanation:**

**The passage states:**

"...it hits an underbelly in India's merchandise trade. India overtook China recently to become the largest importer of Russian crude..."

Trump's tariffs could thus impact this segment significantly.

**Incorrect Options:**

A. WTO talks: No WTO angle is mentioned.

B. Services exports: Services exports are doing well; no mention of risk here.

D. U.S. tech exports: Not discussed in relation to the tariff.

**2.**

**Ans: B**

**Explanation:**

**The passage states:**

"June's merchandise trade saw the sharpest uptick in outbound shipments to the U.S. in 14 months, at a growth rate of 23.5% to \$8.3 billion. This was likely aided by importers wishing to stock up before the July 9 'pause' in 'reciprocal tariffs'"

**Incorrect Options:**

A. Fall in U.S. manufacturing: Not mentioned at all.

C. Increase in demand for marine/dairy products: While these product categories saw growth, their direct linkage to the U.S. spike is not stated.

D. Energy market diversification: This refers to India's need, not a reason for export growth to the U.S.



**3.**

**Ans: C**

**Explanation:**

**The passage highlights:**

"...further leveraging its sprawling, labour-intensive micro, small and medium enterprises, which constitutes almost half (46%) its goods exports."

**Incorrect Options:**

- A. Subsidising petroleum exports: Not mentioned or suggested.
- B. Reducing services reliance: Services are beneficial and narrowing the trade deficit.
- D. Crude restriction: Only diversification is suggested, not restriction.

**4.**

**Ans: B**

**Explanation:**

**The passage states:**

“Chinese weapons lock Pakistan into a client-supplier relationship that deepens Beijing’s political influence in Islamabad.”

This highlights the dependency dynamic, where arms transfers deepen China’s political and strategic influence over Pakistan, rather than forming a unified military strategy.

**Incorrect Options:**

A. Operational military alliance is overstated. The passage explicitly warns:

“Arms transfers — even at scale — are not the same as a shared war plan.”

So, it's a strategic relationship, not an operational alliance.

C. Shared war doctrine is inaccurate. There is no mention of joint war planning, only strategic support.

D. A dual-front assault strategy implies coordinated military aggression. The passage critiques this view as potentially exaggerated:

“Describing it as a ‘reinforced one-front war’ risks overstating the degree of operational integration.”

**5.**

**Ans: C**

**Explanation:**

The author critiques the idea of a “reinforced one-front war” by stating:

“... risks overstating the degree of operational integration in ways that misread Beijing’s intentions...”

**Incorrect Options:**

- A. Diplomatic misinterpretation is secondary; the focus is on military integration, not diplomatic aims.
- B. While India’s arms exports are discussed, they serve as an analogy, not a critique of the core argument.
- D. The passage does not emphasise Pakistan’s independence, but rather its dependence on China.