

The Hindu EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

26th 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. Diffident (संकोची)

- **Meaning:** Modest or shy because of a lack of self-confidence.
- **Synonyms:** Shy, timid, reserved
- **Antonyms:** Confident, assertive, bold
- **Example:** From a rather diffident power after Independence, India has become increasingly assertive in global affairs.

2. Inviolable (अखंडनीय)

- Meaning: Never to be broken, infringed, or dishonored.**
- Synonyms: Sacred, unbreakable, absolute**
- Antonyms: Violable, breakable, destructible**
- Example: Responsibility and restraint must remain the inviolable pillars of India's national security policy.**

3. Attrition (क्षय)

- **Meaning:** The process of gradually reducing the strength or effectiveness of someone or something through sustained attack or pressure.
- **Synonyms:** Wearing down, erosion, weakening
- **Antonyms:** Strengthening, buildup, reinforcement
- **Example:** India's earlier focus on attrition warfare shaped a continental approach to national security.

4. Incitement (उकसाना)

- **Meaning:** The action of provoking unlawful behavior or urging someone to behave unlawfully.
- **Synonyms:** Provocation, instigation, agitation
- **Antonyms:** Deterrence, discouragement, prevention
- **Example:** Netanyahu blamed the attack on anti-Israeli incitement by international leaders.

5. Waded into (में उलझना / प्रवेश करना)

- **Meaning:** To get involved in something forcefully or without thinking.
- **Synonyms:** Intervened, plunged into, interfered
- **Antonyms:** Withdrew, avoided, refrained
- **Example:** The Trump administration waded into the Israel-Palestine issue with controversial policies.

6. Deciphering (व्याख्या करना)

- **Meaning:** Converting a text or code into normal language; understanding something complex.
- **Synonyms:** Interpreting, decoding, solving
- **Antonyms:** Obscuring, encrypting, complicating
- **Example:** The team is working on deciphering the ancient script discovered in the ruins.

7. Plausible (संभाव्य)

- **Meaning:** Seeming reasonable or probable; capable of being believed or accepted.
- **Synonyms:** Believable, credible, reasonable, likely
- **Antonyms:** Implausible, unbelievable, improbable, unrealistic
- **Example:** The detective presented a plausible explanation for the missing evidence, convincing the jury of the suspect's innocence.

8. Benign (सौम्य / हानिरहित)

- **Meaning:** Gentle and kind in nature; not harmful in effect.
- **Synonyms:** Kind, gentle, harmless, benevolent
- **Antonyms:** Malignant, harmful, hostile, severe
- **Example:** Despite his stern appearance, the professor had a benign attitude towards his students.

9. Commensurate (अनुरूप / तुलनीय)

- **Meaning:** Corresponding in size, extent, amount, or degree; proportionate.
- **Synonyms:** Proportionate, corresponding, equivalent, equal
- **Antonyms:** Disproportionate, unequal, mismatched, inconsistent
- **Example:** The salary should be commensurate with the amount of experience required for the job.

10. Munificence (उदारता / दानशीलता)

- **Meaning:** The quality or action of being extremely generous.
- **Synonyms:** Generosity, largesse, bounty, philanthropy
- **Antonyms:** Stinginess, meanness, miserliness, parsimony
- **Example:** The philanthropist's munificence transformed the lives of thousands of underprivileged children.

VOCABULARY

One-word substitute:

1. Calmness and composure, especially in stressful situations:

Sangfroid

2. The ability to make good judgments and quick decisions:

Acumen

3. Skill and ease in using the hands or body; mental sharpness:

Dexterity

4. Conforming to traditional or established beliefs, especially in religion:

Orthodox

VOCABULARY

Phrasal Verbs:

1. Border on

Meaning: To be very close to or nearly something (e.g., an emotion, condition, or state).

2. Chew over

Meaning: To think about something carefully or discuss it thoroughly.

3. Fall behind

Meaning: To fail to keep up with others or a set schedule.

4. Freak out

Meaning: To become very anxious, upset, or excited.

VOCABULARY

Idioms & Phrases

1. Whale of a time

Meaning: to have a great time or to enjoy yourself very much

2. A mile a minute

Meaning: very quickly

3. Have a foot in the door

Meaning: have or gain a first introduction to a profession or organization

VOCABULARY

4. No time to lose

Meaning: there is no time to waste

5. Head in the clouds

Meaning: having unrealistic or impractical ideas

Article for Reading

**The air power use
discourse and
Operation Sindoor**

Whenever nations embark on reconfiguring their security strategies, they must invariably review the use of the various instruments of force that are available for exploitation. India's journey down that road has been evolutionary rather than transformational. From a rather diffident power soon after Independence, that perceived the instrument of force as an 'avoidable necessity', to more assertive expressions of national power over the last five decades, that commenced with the 1971 war with Pakistan, Indian statecraft stands at the crossroads of a new era. Operation Sindoor (May 7-10) may well have redrawn the contours of India's unwritten national security strategy. Here, at its centre, is a more assertive and proactive strategy that is now willing to explore 'prevention, pre-emption and punishment' as the new normal against Pakistan, should it continue to support terrorism against India as an instrument of the Pakistani state.

However, what will hopefully remain as the inviolable edifice of this strategy will be the continuation of ‘responsibility and restraint’ (the hallmark of any response that the Indian state has offered whenever faced with a national security crisis). In the past, an excessively continental mindset, a preoccupation with attrition warfare along long and contested borders, and the linkages between conventional operations and territory as a currency of military effectiveness, ensured that land forces, both military and paramilitary, occupied pole position in India’s national security calculus. The widespread prevalence of internal armed conflict added to the inescapable necessity for this orientation. The reemergence of the maritime domain and its attractiveness to double-bank as an instrument of force and diplomacy lifted the blinkers off centuries of sea-blindness and offered options other than a continental mindset to India’s national security planners.

However, all was not well when it came to understanding the competitive advantage that air power offered apex policymakers when confronting the dilemmas of climbing the escalation ladder vis-à-vis unpredictable adversaries such as Pakistan and matching the capabilities of China (which now appears to have significantly widened the conventional gap with India in all realms of military power, especially air power). It is in this context that the recent offensive-defensive employment of air power in Operation Sindoor paves the way for a more nuanced understanding of the importance of military air power in the national security calculus. For over a decade now, the non-kinetic capability of the Indian Air Force (IAF) has matched the best in the world in areas such as tactical and strategic airlift, and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations.

Summary

The passage examines the evolution of India's national security strategy, highlighting a shift from a cautious, land-focused defense posture to a more assertive and multidimensional approach. Historically preoccupied with continental warfare, India is now broadening its strategic toolkit to include maritime and aerial dimensions. Operation Sindoor (May 7–10) marks a possible turning point, reflecting a willingness to adopt a proactive doctrine based on prevention, pre-emption, and punishment, especially in response to Pakistan's continued use of terrorism as state policy. While this shift reflects assertiveness, the passage emphasizes that "responsibility and restraint" must remain central to India's responses. It also underscores the increasing importance of air power, which had previously been underutilized in strategic thinking, despite the Indian Air Force's strong capabilities in both combat and humanitarian operations.

Tone:

The tone is analytical and reflective, with elements of strategic urgency. It is also optimistic yet cautionary, urging for balanced assertiveness while upholding responsible state conduct.

Reading Comprehension

Based on the above passage, answer the following questions:

Question 1:

What role does the author assign to Operation Sindoor in India's evolving security doctrine?

- A. A symbolic tribute to maritime dominance.**
- B. A defining moment showcasing offensive-defensive air power strategy.**
- C. A failure that reinforced India's dependency on attrition warfare.**
- D. A diplomatic gesture toward Pakistan's cooperation.**
- E. None of the above**

Question 2:

What does the passage suggest about the Indian Air Force's (IAF) non-kinetic capabilities?

- A. They are currently unmatched by any global force.**
- B. They remain underdeveloped due to budget constraints.**
- C. They are comparable to top global standards in certain areas.**
- D. They are limited to ceremonial and peacekeeping roles.**
- E. None of the above**

Question 3:

What does the phrase “double-bank as an instrument of force and diplomacy” imply about India’s maritime domain?

- A. It replaces land warfare as India’s chief military strategy.**
- B. It allows simultaneous use for military and diplomatic influence.**
- C. It signals India’s reliance on allies for naval operations.**
- D. It reflects India’s past indifference toward maritime affairs.**
- E. None of the above**

Article for Skimming

**Violent act: on the
Washington
shooting, the
Palestine cause**

The U.S. capital was rocked by the murder of a young couple who served there as Israeli embassy staff. The assailant, who raised slogans to “Free Palestine” following his arrest shortly after the violent act, was named by authorities as Elias Rodriguez. He has been charged with two counts of first-degree murder, the murder of foreign officials, causing death with a firearm, and discharging a firearm in a crime of violence. According to reports, his social media accounts have indicated his close involvement with the pro-Palestinian protest movement. The victims, Yaron Lischinsky (30) and Sarah Lynn Milgrim (26), had plans to get married and had warm personal and professional ties with Israel and Palestine, reports noted. U.S. President Donald Trump’s post on the social media platform, Truth Social, said, “These horrible D.C. killings, based obviously on antisemitism, must end, now!” Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he was “outraged by the horrifying antisemitic murder”, adding that the deaths were caused by “anti-Israeli incitement”.

He also linked the attack to actions by the leaders of the U.K., France and Canada, who had signed a candid joint letter recently, condemning Israel's actions in Gaza. Mr. Netanyahu has accused them of "emboldening Hamas to continue fighting forever" by calling on Israel to end the war there. If one thing is clear, it is that the Israel-Gaza conflict has firmly entrenched itself in the public discourse in the U.S., with policy implications as well. Soon after kicking off its second term in office, the Trump administration waded into the issue, controversially and unapologetically, when it began conducting immigration raids across U.S. universities, targeting any foreign student who had participated in protests for human rights in Gaza with detention and deportation. Similarly, Mr. Trump made it clear that he was not pulling his punches when the White House announced recently that it would follow up its drastic funding cuts and other restrictions on top-tier universities — it has accused them of not doing enough to prevent anti-Semitism on their campuses — with a ban on the enrolment of international students at Harvard.

Although Harvard has received temporary respite — a block has been issued by a U.S. District Court in its favour — the risk of institutions of graduate learning facing “immediate and irreparable injury” remains high at this time. It is important for the international community to be able to criticise Israel’s brutal war in Gaza and rein in Mr. Netanyahu without being seen as anti-Semitic or supportive of Hamas. But violence against Israelis has no place in the efforts to highlight the plight of the Palestinians.

Question 4:

What broader implication does the passage suggest regarding the U.S. response to pro-Palestinian activism within its academic institutions?

- A) It emphasizes enhancing academic freedom while maintaining neutrality on international issues.**
- B) It equates pro-Palestinian activism with anti-American sentiments and bans specific courses.**
- C) It interprets participation in Gaza-related protests as grounds for legal action, including deportation.**
- D) It focuses primarily on diplomatic outreach to reconcile student protesters with Israeli representatives.**
- E) None of the above**

Question 5:

What does Prime Minister Netanyahu claim contributed to the climate that led to the murder of the Israeli couple?

- A) Lack of international support for Israel's right to self-defense.**
- B) Anti-Israeli incitement and actions by Western leaders criticizing Israel.**
- C) Coordinated anti-Semitic campaigns by student groups in the U.S.**
- D) Surveillance failures by the U.S. intelligence community.**
- E) None of the above**

Today's Descriptive Question:

Original Text:

Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) is a fuel mixture comprising ethanol, a biofuel derived from renewable sources like sugarcane, maize, or other agricultural produce, blended with conventional petrol. This blend is gaining global attention as a sustainable alternative to reduce dependency on fossil fuels, cut greenhouse gas emissions, and enhance energy security. Most commonly, ethanol is blended with petrol in proportions ranging from 5% (E5) to 20% (E20), with some countries experimenting with higher blends like E85 for specialized vehicles. The advantages of ethanol blended petrol are multifold. As a renewable resource, ethanol contributes to reducing carbon emissions, as it burns cleaner than pure petrol. Its use can also provide a

significant boost to the agricultural sector, offering farmers additional revenue streams by utilizing surplus crops or agricultural residues. Furthermore, blending ethanol reduces the import of crude oil, saving valuable foreign exchange and supporting energy independence. However, there are challenges associated with ethanol blended petrol. Ethanol is hydrophilic, meaning it absorbs moisture, which can lead to engine corrosion or fuel system issues in vehicles not designed for higher ethanol blends. Additionally, large-scale ethanol production may lead to food security concerns if arable land is diverted from food crops to biofuel production. The transportation and storage of ethanol require specialized infrastructure, adding to initial costs. Governments worldwide are promoting ethanol blending programs to mitigate these challenges, with policies that incentivize production, ensure vehicle compatibility, and balance food and fuel priorities. Ethanol blended petrol thus represents a crucial step toward sustainable energy solutions.

Precis

Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP), a mix of ethanol and petrol, is a renewable fuel alternative aimed at reducing fossil fuel dependency, lowering carbon emissions, and enhancing energy security. It benefits the environment, supports agriculture, and reduces crude oil imports.

Despite advantages, challenges like engine compatibility, moisture absorption, food security concerns, and infrastructure requirements persist. Governments are addressing these issues through incentives, policies, and technological advancements, making EBP a key element in sustainable energy strategies.

- You had scheduled a meeting with the manager of a reputed company. Due to unforeseen circumstances, you need to cancel the appointment. Write an email to inform the manager about the cancellation and request to reschedule at a convenient time.

To:@gmail.com

Subject: Request to Reschedule Our Meeting

Dear [Manager's Name],

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to inform you that, unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, I will not be able to attend our scheduled meeting on [original date and time]. I sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and greatly appreciate your understanding.

I highly value the opportunity to connect with you and discuss [specific purpose of the meeting, e.g., "our potential collaboration" or "the ongoing project"]. I would be grateful if we could reschedule our meeting at a time that is convenient for you.

Please let me know your availability, and I will do my best to accommodate your schedule.

Thank you for your patience and flexibility. I look forward to your response.

Warm regards,

[Your Full Name]

[Your Position]

[Your Contact Information]

Match the column

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| 1. Whale of a time | A. there is no time to waste |
| 2. A mile a minute | B. have or gain a first introduction to a profession |
| 3. Have a foot in the door | C. having unrealistic or impractical ideas |
| 4. No time to lose | D. to have a great time or to enjoy yourself |
| 5. Head in the clouds | E. very quickly |

Answer:

1-d

2-e

3-b

4-a

5-c

Vocabulary

1. Diffident:
2. Inviolable:
3. Attrition:
4. Incitement:
5. Waded into:
6. Deciphering:
7. Plausible:
8. Benign:
9. Commensurate:
10. Munificence:

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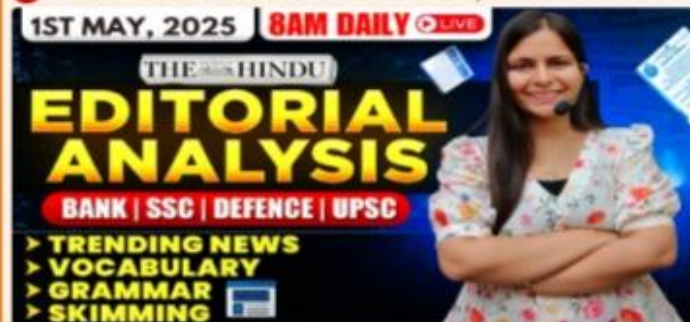


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Rc ans

1.

Ans: B

Explanation:

The passage notes: “the recent offensive-defensive employment of air power in Operation Sindoor paves the way for a more nuanced understanding of the importance of military air power.” This indicates that the operation marks a key development in doctrine.

Incorrect Options:

- A. Incorrect – While maritime strategy is discussed, Sindoor relates specifically to air power, not naval power.
- C. Incorrect – The operation is portrayed positively, not as a failure.
- D. Incorrect – The operation represents assertiveness, not diplomacy. It is part of “prevention, pre-emption and punishment.”

2.

Ans: C

Explanation:

The passage states: “the non-kinetic capability of the Indian Air Force (IAF) has matched the best in the world in areas such as tactical and strategic airlift, and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations.”

Incorrect Options:

A. Incorrect – It says “matched the best”, not “unmatched”.

B. Incorrect – Budget constraints are not mentioned; capabilities are praised.

D. Incorrect – The passage highlights tactical and strategic airlift and HADR, which are not merely ceremonial.

3.

Ans: B

Explanation:

The phrase suggests dual utility. The passage says: “reemergence of the maritime domain and its attractiveness to double-bank as an instrument of force and diplomacy...”, implying it serves both hard and soft power roles.

Incorrect Options:

A. Incorrect – It does not replace land warfare, it offers an alternative to continental thinking.

C. Incorrect – No mention of dependence on allies.

D. Incorrect – The sea-blindness is acknowledged, but the phrase refers to current utility, not past indifference.

4.

Ans: C

Explanation:

Reference:

"Trump administration waded into the issue... began conducting immigration raids across U.S. universities, targeting any foreign student who had participated in protests for human rights in Gaza with detention and deportation."

This indicates that foreign students participating in Gaza protests were specifically targeted, facing detention and deportation, showing a legal and punitive response.

Incorrect Options:

A) Incorrect: Nowhere in the passage is academic freedom or neutrality mentioned as being promoted; instead, restrictions and crackdowns are discussed.

B) Incorrect: There's no mention of activism being labeled as anti-American or any banning of specific courses. The focus is on detentions and deportations, not ideological censorship of content.

D) Incorrect: There is no mention of reconciliation efforts between students and Israeli officials. The tone is punitive, not diplomatic.

5.

Ans: B

Explanation:

Reference:

“The deaths were caused by ‘anti-Israeli incitement’. He also linked the attack to actions by the leaders of the U.K., France and Canada... condemning Israel’s actions in Gaza.”

Netanyahu directly connects the attack with anti-Israel rhetoric and Western diplomatic criticism, calling it "anti-Israeli incitement."

Incorrect Options:

A) Incorrect: While implied, the direct cause mentioned is incitement, not just the absence of support.

C) Incorrect: Student protests are mentioned elsewhere, but not by Netanyahu in direct relation to the murder.

D) Incorrect: No mention is made about intelligence or surveillance errors.