

# The Hindu EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

14th 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. Inextricably (अलग न किया जा सकने वाला)**

- Meaning: In a way that is impossible to separate**
- Synonyms: Indivisibly, inseparably, tightly**
- Antonyms: Separably, loosely, optionally**
- Example: Human prosperity is inextricably linked to ecological health.**

## **2. Ratcheted up (बढ़ाया गया)**

- Meaning: Increased something steadily and often irreversibly**
- Synonyms: Escalated, intensified, heightened**
- Antonyms: Decreased, lowered, reduced**
- Example: Tariffs were ratcheted up by both the U.S. and China.**

### 3. Sheen (चमक / आकर्षण)

- **Meaning:** A soft glow or shine; attractive quality
- **Synonyms:** Luster, gloss, polish
- **Antonyms:** Dullness, roughness, plainness
- **Example:** The China+1 strategy is losing its sheen amid renewed trade ties.

## 4. Besieged (घेर लिया गया)

- **Meaning:** Surrounded by armed forces or overwhelmed with demands.
- **Synonyms:** Surrounded, encircled, overwhelmed.
- **Antonyms:** Liberated, freed, released.
- **Example:** The customer service team was besieged with complaints after the product malfunctioned.

## 5. Fillip (प्रोत्साहन )

- **Meaning:** Something that acts as a stimulus or boost to activity.
- **Synonyms:** Boost, encouragement, impetus.
- **Antonyms:** Discouragement, hindrance, deterrent.
- **Example:** The new policy is expected to provide a fillip to the country's economy.

## 6. Byzantine (जटिल और भ्रामक)

- **Meaning:** Excessively complicated, typically involving a great deal of administrative detail or intricacy
- **Synonyms:** Complex, convoluted, labyrinthine
- **Antonyms:** Simple, straightforward, clear
- **Example:** The environmental policies were so byzantine that even experts struggled to understand them.

## **7. Pejorative (अपमानजनक )**

- **Meaning: Expressing contempt or disapproval.**
- **Synonyms: Derogatory, disparaging, insulting.**
- **Antonyms: Complimentary, laudatory, flattering.**
- **Example: The manager's pejorative remarks demotivated the entire team.**



## 8. Enticement (लुभावन / प्रलोभन)

- **Meaning:** Something used to attract or tempt someone; a lure
- **Synonyms:** Temptation, lure, attraction
- **Antonyms:** Deterrent, repulsion, discouragement
- **Example:** The enticement of cheap manufacturing is what keeps companies tied to China.

## 9. Scrupulous (ईमानदार )

- **Meaning:** Very careful and thorough; having moral integrity.
- **Synonyms:** Meticulous, conscientious, honest.
- **Antonyms:** Careless, negligent, unscrupulous.
- **Example:** The accountant was scrupulous in ensuring the financial records were accurate.

## 10. Polemic (विवादास्पद लेख / प्रबल आलोचना)

- **Meaning:** A strong verbal or written attack on someone or something
- **Synonyms:** Criticism, diatribe, tirade
- **Antonyms:** Praise, endorsement, compliment
- **Example:** The activist wrote a polemic against unsustainable economic practices that harm the environment.

# VOCABULARY

## One-word substitute:

**1. The act of killing a human being:**

**Homicide**

**2. The deliberate killing of a large number of people from a particular nation, ethnic group, or community:**

**Genocide**

**3. The act of killing a king or monarch:**

**Regicide**

**4. The act of killing one's sister:**

**Sororicide**

# VOCABULARY

## Phrasal Verbs:

### 1. Back away

Meaning: to move backwards away from something or someone, usually because you are frightened

### 2. Cut out

Meaning: to delete or remove

### 3. Nod off

Meaning: to begin sleeping, especially not intentionally

### 4. Turn down

Meaning: reject something offered or proposed.

# VOCABULARY

## Idioms & Phrases

### 1. Wrap your head around something

Meaning: to succeed in understanding something difficult

### 2. He's a chip off the old block

Meaning: the son is like the father/mother

### 3. Back against the wall

Meaning: stuck in a difficult circumstance with no escape

## VOCABULARY

### **4. Up in arms**

**Meaning:** being grumpy or angry about something

### **5. There's no such thing as a free lunch**

**Meaning:** nothing is truly free

## **Article for Reading**

**Big deal: On the  
U.S.-China trade deal**



**The trade agreement between the U.S. and China, the two biggest economies in the world, serves as a breather in an otherwise tense global trade environment. The U.S. has agreed to temporarily lower, for 90 days, its overall tariffs on Chinese goods from 145% to 30%, while China will cut its tariffs on American imports from 125% to 10%. Markets across the world cheered the announcement, jumping between 2%-3.8% following the news. The thaw comes on the back of tensions and tariffs being ratcheted up by both sides, starting with U.S. President Donald Trump's February 1 announcement of a varying tariff on imports from China, Mexico and Canada. Notably, he excluded China from the 90-day pause on 'reciprocal' tariffs announced in early April. One way to look at this latest development is that it shows Mr. Trump is backing down from his tariff war-footing, acknowledging the importance of China to the U.S. economy.**

**Indeed, the joint statement by both countries begins by mentioning “the importance of their bilateral economic and trade relationship”. However, another view is that his heavy-handed approach has succeeded in convincing China to come to the negotiation table. Tariffs of 145% were unsustainable but served their purpose. The fact also is that Mr. Trump’s main grievance, of a ballooning trade deficit with China, remains unaddressed. The two sides have agreed to continue talks, which will be key in determining whether this seemingly intractable problem can be worked around or result in tensions again. For India, this brings both uncertainties and certainties. If further talks between the U.S. and China are successful, investors who have moved to other countries will likely start viewing China favourably again. The advantages of manufacturing there — scale and costs — are still significant.**

**The China+1 model, which India in any case has not been able to leverage adequately, might start to lose its sheen. The other uncertainty is around India's own trade talks with the U.S. It has now informed the World Trade Organisation of potential reciprocal measures to the U.S.'s increased duties on steel and aluminium imports. Even though talks on a U.S.-India trade deal are ongoing, this latest statement shows that tensions remain high. The certainties are two-fold. The first is that India's trade deficit with China remains vast and rising, and the U.S.-China agreement will not reduce this. 'Make in India' is currently inextricably linked to 'Import from China'. The second certainty carries over from the first. The Centre must lean heavily on States to adopt labour and land reforms that can allow scalable manufacturing to become cost-effective here. Without this, India will remain dependent on Chinese imports, regardless of its dealings with the rest of the world.**

## Summary

**The passage discusses a temporary trade agreement between the U.S. and China, in which both countries have agreed to reduce tariffs on each other's imports for 90 days, bringing relief to global markets. This move is seen either as a sign of the U.S. softening its stance or as evidence that its aggressive tactics forced China to negotiate. However, the core issue of the U.S.'s trade deficit with China remains unresolved. For India, the development brings both opportunities and challenges. If U.S.-China relations improve, China could regain investor confidence, weakening India's position in the "China+1" strategy. India also faces its own trade tensions with the U.S. Meanwhile, two things remain certain: India's trade deficit with China continues to grow, and structural reforms at the State level are essential for India to boost domestic manufacturing and reduce reliance on Chinese imports.**

## Tone:

**The tone is analytical and cautionary. The author objectively evaluates the implications of the U.S.-China trade agreement, highlighting uncertainties and potential impacts for India, while warning of the urgent need for internal reforms.**

## Reading Comprehension

Based on the above passage, answer the following questions:

**Question 1:**

**According to the passage, what most significantly undermines India's attempt to replace China in global manufacturing?**

- A. Its lack of natural resources compared to China**
- B. The global preference for free trade policies**
- C. Inadequate labour and land reforms to enable scalable manufacturing**
- D. Diplomatic isolation from the U.S.**
- E. None of the above**

**Question 2:**

**What is the central irony regarding India's 'Make in India' initiative as described in the passage?**

- A. It has led to India importing more from the U.S.**
- B. It depends heavily on imports from China.**
- C. It is mostly implemented in the services sector, not manufacturing.**
- D. It has caused India's trade deficit with China to decline.**
- E. None of the above**



**Question 3:**

**What is the most accurate inference regarding Mr. Trump's shifting approach to tariffs?**

- A. He views tariffs as a long-term solution to the trade deficit.**
- B. He now sees China as an irrelevant economic partner.**
- C. He intends to impose tariffs equally across all major trading partners.**
- D. He is either retreating from or tactically leveraging tariffs for negotiation.**
- E. None of the above**

## Article for Skimming

**Ecology is the  
world's permanent  
economy**

**The phrase, “Ecology is the permanent economy”, made popular by environmentalist Sunderlal Bahuguna, is much more than a slogan. It is a profound reminder of the foundational truth that human prosperity is inextricably linked to ecological health. It is true that economic development without exploiting natural resources and economic stability without conserving them are impossible. As we face serious challenges such as climate change and the rapid loss of biodiversity, we must ask ourselves whether we have truly understood and embraced this idea. Understanding nature’s complexity is at the heart of science. In this pursuit, humans have made tremendous efforts through observation, experimentation, and modelling, as this understanding is crucial for addressing environmental challenges such as climate change and for informing sustainable practices. While these scientific discussions are valuable, there is an even more urgent and fundamental truth we need to focus on: ecology is the real economy — our survival, security and progress depend on it.**

**In simple terms, this might be the clearest way to define sustainability — finding the right balance between protecting the environment and supporting economic development. Without this balance, neither the environment nor the economy can thrive in the long run. Despite being part of the animal kingdom, human evolution, through the course of civilisation, has led to a growing disconnection from nature. This disconnection with nature has been identified as a reason for the ongoing biodiversity loss (the recent Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services or IPBES Transformative Change report). In the early stages of human history, a nomadic lifestyle compelled individuals to rely on and exploit natural resources solely for their basic, day-to-day survival needs. Over time, this individual-centric resource use evolved into collective consumption aimed at meeting the needs of growing communities. As human societies expanded and organised themselves into nations, this demand scaled further to cater to the needs of entire countries.**

**Eventually, this progression gave rise to global competition, where nations began to exploit nature not only to satisfy present demands but also to secure resources for future development. Unlike humans, no other species in the animal kingdom exhibits this pattern of large-scale, anticipatory exploitation of natural resources. Other animals live in harmony with their environments, taking only what they need for immediate survival, without disturbing the long-term balance of the ecosystems they inhabit. The ever-intensifying cycle of human consumption and global competition has placed an unprecedented strain on the planet's ecosystems and significantly accelerated the pace of climate change — a natural phenomenon now dangerously amplified by human activities. In response to these growing environmental challenges, nature-based solutions have been widely advocated in global conservation efforts. These approaches aim to leverage the inherent resilience of ecosystems to mitigate climate impacts, restore biodiversity, and support sustainable development.**

**Question 4:**

**Which of the following evolutionary patterns in human behavior is most directly blamed for today's environmental degradation?**

- A. Humans' reluctance to use renewable resources**
- B. Expansion of collective consumption from individual to global scales**
- C. The rise of agricultural societies over nomadic ones**
- D. Increased interaction with other animal species**
- E. None of the above**

**Question 5:**

**How does the passage contrast human behavior with that of other animal species?**

- A. Animals exploit more resources than necessary for survival.**
- B. Humans are biologically superior due to anticipatory planning.**
- C. Animals live within ecological limits, while humans exceed them.**
- D. Human behavior is instinctive, whereas animal behavior is learned.**
- E. None of the above**

# **Today's Descriptive Question:**

## **Precis Writing.**

### **Original Text**

**The term "Silver Economy" refers to the economic opportunities associated with the aging population. As life expectancy increases and birth rates decline, many countries face a demographic shift toward an older population. This trend presents both challenges and opportunities for governments, businesses, and society at large. The silver economy is fueled by the purchasing power and specific needs of older adults, including healthcare, assistive technologies, housing, travel, and financial services. Globally, the spending power of the elderly is expected to grow, driving innovation in products and services tailored to their requirements.**



**For instance, advancements in telemedicine, age-friendly smart homes, and recreational activities are increasingly becoming popular among senior citizens. From a policy perspective, nations are focusing on creating inclusive environments that enable older individuals to remain active participants in society. Initiatives such as lifelong learning programs, senior employment policies, and social engagement activities aim to harness the potential of this demographic while improving their quality of life. Additionally, intergenerational collaboration—where younger and older generations share skills and resources—can foster a more harmonious society. However, challenges such as increased healthcare costs, pension sustainability, and social isolation among the elderly persist. Governments must strike a balance between leveraging the silver economy and addressing these issues to ensure equitable and inclusive growth. As the silver economy continues to expand, it highlights the importance of treating aging not as a burden but as an opportunity to build a more inclusive, innovative, and sustainable global economy.**

## Precis:

**The "Silver Economy" taps into the economic opportunities arising from an aging population. With growing life expectancy and declining birth rates, older adults significantly influence markets like healthcare, housing, and technology. Policies focusing on lifelong learning, senior employment, and social inclusion aim to harness their potential. However, challenges like rising healthcare costs and social isolation must be addressed. Viewing aging as an opportunity, the silver economy emphasizes innovation and inclusivity, transforming aging populations into valuable contributors to global growth.**

- You are the HR Manager of XYZ Pvt. Ltd. Write an email to a candidate, John Doe, informing him about his selection for the role of Marketing Executive and providing details of the joining process.

**To: .....@gmail.com**

**Subject: Congratulations on Your Selection as Marketing Executive**

**Dear John Doe,**

**I hope this email finds you well. I am delighted to inform you that you have been selected for the role of Marketing Executive at XYZ Pvt. Ltd. after an impressive performance during the interview process. Congratulations on this achievement!**

**We are excited to have you join our team and contribute to our organization's success. Below are the details of the joining process:**

- 1. Joining Date: [Insert date, e.g., Monday, February 5, 2025]**
- 2. Reporting Time: [Insert time, e.g., 10:00 AM]**

**3. Reporting Location: [Insert office address, e.g., XYZ Pvt. Ltd., 123 Business Avenue, City, State, ZIP]**

**4. Documents to Carry:**

**A copy of this email for reference**

**Valid government-issued ID proof (original and photocopy)**

**Academic and professional certificates (originals and photocopies)**

**Two passport-sized photographs**

**Bank account details for salary processing**

**5. Contact Person: [Insert name and contact information of HR representative]**

**On your first day, you will undergo an induction session to familiarize yourself with our company policies, team structure, and work culture.**

**Please confirm your acceptance of this offer and your availability to join on the specified date by replying to this email at your earliest convenience. If you have any questions or require further assistance, feel free to reach out to us.**

**We are thrilled to welcome you to the XYZ Pvt. Ltd. family and look forward to a successful journey together!**

**Best regards,  
[Your Full Name]  
HR Manager  
XYZ Pvt. Ltd.**

**Match the column**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Wrap your head around something       | A. stuck in a difficult circumstance               |
| 2. He's a chip off the old block         | B. being angry about something                     |
| 3. Back against the wall                 | C. to succeed in understanding something difficult |
| 4. Up in arms                            | D. nothing is truly free                           |
| 5. There's no such thing as a free lunch | E. the son is like the father/mother               |

**Answer:**

**1-c**

**2-e**

**3-a**

**4-b**

**5-d**



## Vocabulary

1. Inextricably:
2. Ratcheted up:
3. Sheen:
4. Besieged:
5. Fillip:
6. Byzantine:
7. Pejorative:
8. Enticement:
9. Scrupulous:
10. Polemic:



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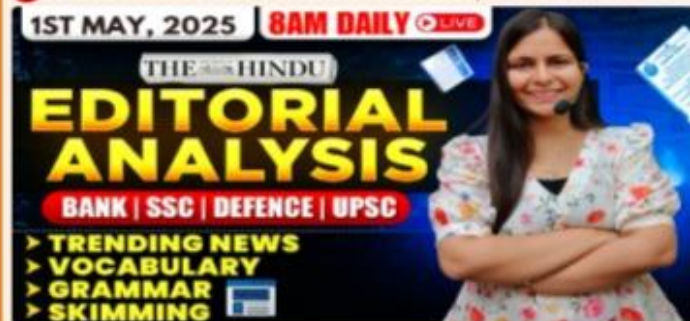


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## **RC ANS**

1.

**Ans: C**

**Explanation:**

**The passage explicitly states:**

“The Centre must lean heavily on States to adopt labour and land reforms that can allow scalable manufacturing to become cost-effective here.”

This is presented as a necessary condition for India to reduce its dependence on Chinese imports.

**Incorrect options:**

A. No mention of resource constraints.

B. Not a major focus of the passage.

D. India is in ongoing talks with the U.S., not isolated.

**2.**

**Ans: B**

**Explanation:**

**The line:**

“‘Make in India’ is currently inextricably linked to ‘Import from China’”  
reveals the irony — a programme meant to boost self-reliance is ironically dependent on a foreign power.

**Incorrect options:**

A, C, D: None of these ideas appear in or are supported by the passage.

**3.**

**Ans: D**

**Explanation:**

The passage presents two interpretations of Trump's decision: (1) he's backing down and acknowledging China's importance, or (2) his heavy-handed approach forced China to negotiate. Both imply a strategic shift in his use of tariffs.

**Incorrect options:**

- A. The tariffs were described as "unsustainable," not a long-term solution.
- B. He acknowledges China's importance.
- C. He excluded China from the earlier 90-day pause, showing uneven treatment.

4.

**Ans: B**

**Explanation:**

The passage traces human evolution from individual survival needs to global competition over resources:

“Eventually, this progression gave rise to global competition... to secure resources for future development.”

**Incorrect options:**

A. The issue is scale, not renewable preference.

C. Agriculture is not discussed explicitly.

D. No mention of interaction with animals as a cause.



**5.**

**Ans: C**

**Explanation:**

**The passage says:**

“Other animals live in harmony... taking only what they need... without disturbing the long-term balance...”

vs.

“Humans... exploit nature... to secure resources for future development.”

**Incorrect options:**

A. The passage says animals take only what they need.

B. No claim of superiority is made.

D. Instinct vs. learning is not discussed.