

# The Hindu EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

21st 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. Imperative (अनिवार्य / अत्यावश्यक )

- **Meaning:** Something that is of vital importance or absolutely necessary.
- **Synonyms:** Essential, urgent, crucial
- **Antonyms:** Optional, trivial, unnecessary
- **Example:** It is imperative for New Delhi to engage with all political stakeholders in Bangladesh before the elections.

## 2. Consonance (सामंजस्य / मेल)

- **Meaning:** Agreement or compatibility between opinions or actions.
- **Synonyms:** Harmony, agreement, accordance
- **Antonyms:** Dissonance, conflict, discord
- **Example:** India must act in consonance with the international community to ensure democratic stability in Bangladesh.

### 3. Sacrosanct (पवित्र / अत्यंत आवश्यक)

- **Meaning:** Regarded as too important or valuable to be interfered with.
- **Synonyms:** Sacred, inviolable, unassailable
- **Antonyms:** Unimportant, insignificant, profane
- **Example:** The Supreme Court emphasized that prior environmental clearance is a sacrosanct requirement under the law.

## 4. Exacerbate (बढ़ा देना / अधिक खराब करना)

- **Meaning:** To make a problem, situation, or feeling worse or more intense.
- **Synonyms:** Worsen, aggravate, intensify
- **Antonyms:** Alleviate, relieve, improve
- **Example:** Demolishing functioning plants could exacerbate pollution levels instead of solving the problem.

## 5. Deft (चतुर / कुशल)

- **Meaning:** Skillful and quick in movement or in doing something.
- **Synonyms:** Skillful, nimble, adept
- **Antonyms:** Clumsy, awkward, inept
- **Example:** A deft diplomatic strategy is required to manage India-Bangladesh relations during this volatile period.

## 6. Condone (माफ करना / नज़रअंदाज़ करना)

- **Meaning:** To accept or allow behavior that is morally wrong or offensive.
- **Synonyms:** Overlook, excuse, forgive
- **Antonyms:** Condemn, punish, reject
- **Example:** The court's judgment ensures that future governments do not condone environmental violations in the name of development.

## 7. Precarious (अनिश्चित / संकटग्रस्त)

- **Meaning:** Not securely held or in a position that is likely to fall or collapse; uncertain.
- **Synonyms:** Unstable, risky, insecure
- **Antonyms:** Stable, secure, safe
- **Example:** Bangladesh's political situation remains precarious under the interim regime.



## 8. Abridge (संक्षिप्त करना)

- **Meaning:** To shorten a text or speech without losing its essence.
- **Synonyms:** Shorten, condense, curtail
- **Antonyms:** Expand, lengthen, elaborate
- **Example:** The editor decided to abridge the 500-page novel into a 300-page version without losing the central theme.

## 9. Docile (आज्ञाकारी / विनम्र)

- **Meaning:** Ready to accept control or instruction; submissive.
- **Synonyms:** Obedient, submissive, compliant
- **Antonyms:** Rebellious, defiant, stubborn
- **Example:** The docile student followed every instruction given by the teacher without resistance.

## 10. Ambrosial (अमृततुल्य / अत्यंत स्वादिष्ट या मनोहर)

- **Meaning:** Exceptionally pleasing to taste or smell; divine or delicious.
- **Synonyms:** Delectable, heavenly, delightful
- **Antonyms:** Disgusting, unpleasant, revolting
- **Example:** The chef prepared an ambrosial dessert that left everyone asking for more.

## VOCABULARY

### One-word substitute:

**1. An introductory statement or preface, especially one explaining the purpose of a document or speech:**

**Preamble**

**2. Using very few words; concise to the point of seeming rude or mysterious:**

**Laconic**

**3. The use of unnecessarily wordy or indirect language to express an idea:**

**Circumlocution**

**4. A volume containing several items (like books or laws) previously published separately; or something that deals with numerous things at once:**

**Omnibus**

# VOCABULARY

## Phrasal Verbs:

### 1. Top off

**Meaning:** To complete or finish something by adding a final touch

### 2. Run out of

**Meaning:** To have no more of a particular item remaining

### 3. Dive into

**Meaning:** To begin something with enthusiasm and energy

### 4. Leave out

**Meaning:** To omit or exclude something

# VOCABULARY

## Idioms & Phrases

### 1. Be a far cry from

Meaning: to be completely different from something

### 2. Go belly up

Meaning: to fail completely

### 3. Hit the big time

Meaning: to become very successful or famous

## VOCABULARY

### 4. Pull the plug

**Meaning:** prevent something from happening or continuing

### 5. Rags to riches

**Meaning:** a person who rises from poverty to wealth

## **Article for Reading**

**Trade diplomacy: on  
India-Bangladesh  
trade-related  
tensions**



**In an escalation of bilateral trade-related tensions, India recently announced restrictions on readymade garments and other specified commodities from Bangladesh. The Directorate General of Foreign Trade's announcement targeting Bangladesh's vital apparel sector sent an unmistakable signal that deteriorating political relations have now spilled over into economic ties. By specifically denying Bangladeshi goods access to India's northeast market, New Delhi has delivered a pointed message to Mohammed Yunus, Bangladesh's interim leader, who during his visit to China in March 2025 had invited Chinese access to India's northeast through Bangladesh, describing the northeast as landlocked. While India's discomfiture about Bangladesh-China discussions regarding India's northeast is understandable, this trade restriction may hurt Bangladeshi businesses, largely dependent on garment export, but will do little to aid New Delhi's strategic interests.**

**Bangladesh's recent political turmoil stems from protests against its former elected government, and the interim leadership — struggling with resistant bureaucracy and ongoing instability — has blamed New Delhi due to its perceived close ties with the previous administration led by Sheikh Hasina. The Yunus-led administration's warming up to Pakistan, and its ban on the Awami League — actions that go against its promises to the international community — have worsened relations. The imperative for New Delhi must be to come up with a deft outreach to other political parties in Bangladesh as they prepare for elections. While Mr. Yunus had announced that elections will be held later this year, there is still no clarity on the date. New Delhi must, in consonance with the rest of the international community, advise the regime to conduct elections quickly.**

**A political gesture of this nature while engaging with multiple stakeholders in Bangladesh's polity is more appropriate than using restrictive moves related to trade, as this would only heighten the anti-India sentiment being fanned by some elements in Bangladesh after the Awami League government's exit. Such radical elements, many of whom have little investment in the restoration of democratic processes, could also create fresh law and order problems that could lead to security issues in the northeast. India should carefully lay out its response keeping in mind that while it has to communicate its displeasure to the Yunus government, it also has to maintain working relations with this administration till a popularly elected government takes charge in Dhaka.**

## Summary

India has imposed trade restrictions on readymade garments and other items from Bangladesh, signaling a deterioration in bilateral political and economic ties. This move appears to be a reaction to Bangladesh's interim leader Mohammed Yunus inviting China to access India's northeast via Bangladesh, which India sees as a sensitive issue. However, the trade restrictions may harm Bangladesh's export-dependent economy without effectively serving India's strategic interests. The interim Bangladeshi government, facing internal unrest and accused of authoritarian actions such as banning the Awami League, has blamed India due to its past support for the Hasina government. Given the situation, the editorial argues that India should engage diplomatically with all political parties in Bangladesh and push for timely elections, rather than heightening tensions through punitive trade measures. Missteps could inflame anti-India sentiments and lead to regional instability.

## **Tone:**

**The tone is critical, cautious, and advisory. It critiques India's reactive trade policy and urges a more nuanced and strategic diplomatic approach, emphasizing the risks of escalating tensions and the need for political engagement over economic retaliation.**

## Reading Comprehension

Based on the above passage, answer the following questions:

**Question 1:**

**Which of the following best describes the author's main criticism of India's recent trade restrictions on Bangladesh?**

- A. The restrictions will damage India's own apparel industry.**
- B. The trade restriction is a justified strategic move given China's involvement.**
- C. The move will economically hurt Bangladesh but will fail to serve India's strategic objectives.**
- D. Bangladesh has already closed access to Indian products, prompting retaliation.**
- E. None of the above**

**Question 2:**

**What is implied to be the main risk of continuing with trade-based retaliatory tactics against the Yunus administration?**

- A. It could provoke China to militarize its relationship with Bangladesh.**
- B. It will likely strengthen anti-India sentiments and cause regional security instability.**
- C. It may escalate tensions between India and Pakistan over trade.**
- D. It may cause India's northeastern states to reject central policies.**
- E. None of the above**



**Question 3:**

**What does the author imply about India's long-term strategic approach toward Bangladesh's political instability?**

- A. It should be based on consistent trade barriers to exert pressure.**
- B. It should focus on isolating Bangladesh internationally.**
- C. It should discourage elections and support technocratic governance.**
- D. It should involve balancing disapproval with diplomatic engagement.**
- E. None of the above**

## Article for Skimming

**Stitch in time: on  
judiciary and  
Environment Ministry  
notifications**

**Last week, the Supreme Court of India finally struck down as “illegal” two notifications by the Union Environment Ministry that allowed industrial units to set up, expand operations or change their manufacturing practices without following the due process of taking government permission beforehand. Taking ‘prior’ approval is a sacrosanct principle at the heart of the Environment Impact Assessment (Notification) of 2006. On the surface it appeared that the Centre, or the Union Environment Ministry, had instituted a system that made a mockery of this principle, but there was a rationale, even if it was flawed to some extent. In March 2017, the body issued a notification providing a “one-time” six-month window for industries that did not have the right environmental clearances, to apply for one. In 2021, it instituted a ‘standard operating procedure’ that in effect allowed projects in violation of the laws, but which could not avail of the six-month window, to apply — albeit at the cost of heavy fines — for regularisation.**

**Moreover, all these significant changes were being issued through executive orders, rather than any attempt at amending the underlying Environment Protection Act (EIA), 2006, through Parliament. The Centre's reasoning was three-fold. First, the process for regularising projects had already been initiated by the United Progressive Alliance government in 2012 and 2013. These were, however, struck down by the Jharkhand High Court and the National Green Tribunal on procedural grounds, and not that these projects were irredeemably violative. Second, demolishing functioning plants that were contributing to the economy and employment could exacerbate pollution and be disruptive. The Centre cited examples of various disputes involving copper mines to pharmaceutical companies where the courts had agreed that a "balanced" approach was necessary in cases involving violations.**

**Finally, it argued that it had put in place a system whereby the industrial units seeking to be regularised would have to pay fines for the period that they had functioned in violation. The Court in its final verdict has rightly, as previous courts have, emphasised the principle of “prior” clearance, though its action may be a little late as it has clarified that companies that had regularised themselves under the 2017 and 2021 orders would be “unaffected” by the judgment. That thriving industrial units in violation of the laws mushroomed is a testament to the collective failure of regional environmental boards to enforce laws. So it stands to reason that making these illegal units pay, under the purported new procedure, would have been a fruitless exercise. The judgment should ideally nip any “crafty” attempts by future governments to condone violations in the name of the economy though it must also trigger on-ground enforcement.**

**Question 4:**

**What reasoning did the Centre provide to justify allowing functioning industrial units to apply for environmental clearance post-facto?**

- A. They had significantly reduced emissions in the past 5 years**
- B. Demolishing them would cause more disruption and pollution**
- C. They were exempt under the amended EIA Act, 2021**
- D. They were small-scale units not subject to EIA clearance**
- E. None of the above**

**Question 5:**

**According to the passage, what was a key flaw in the Union Environment Ministry's method of regularising illegal industrial units?**

- A. It relied on private environmental audits**
- B. It depended entirely on local panchayats**
- C. It was implemented through executive orders, not law**
- D. It permitted industries to function tax-free**
- E. None of the above**

# Today's Descriptive Question:

## Original text:

**Inclusive growth refers to an economic growth model that ensures equitable opportunities and benefits for all segments of society, particularly the marginalized and underprivileged. Unlike conventional growth, which often leads to widening income gaps and regional disparities, inclusive growth emphasizes participation, sustainability, and equality, ensuring that the advantages of economic expansion are shared broadly. The core principles of inclusive growth include generating employment, reducing poverty, and enhancing access to education, healthcare, and essential services. It also prioritizes empowering women, promoting social inclusion, and fostering entrepreneurship at grassroots levels.**



**Governments and organizations play a pivotal role in creating policies and programs that target underdeveloped regions, bridge skill gaps, and support small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to ensure widespread economic participation. Inclusive growth offers multiple benefits. It creates a robust and sustainable economy by expanding the consumer base, reducing social unrest, and fostering political stability. When individuals from all economic backgrounds contribute to and benefit from growth, productivity increases, and innovation thrives. Moreover, inclusive growth is crucial for meeting global development goals, such as the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which advocate for reduced inequalities and improved living standards for all. However, achieving inclusive growth requires overcoming challenges such as income inequality, gender disparities, and unequal access to opportunities. Policymakers must focus on creating inclusive institutions, ensuring transparency, and addressing structural barriers. By fostering participation across all societal strata, inclusive growth lays the foundation for a just, equitable, and sustainable future.**

## Precis

**Inclusive growth ensures that economic expansion benefits all, especially marginalized groups, by emphasizing equality, employment, and access to essential services. It promotes social inclusion, reduces poverty, and empowers communities through targeted policies and programs. This growth model enhances economic sustainability, expands the consumer base, and supports global goals like the SDGs. While challenges like inequality and structural barriers persist, fostering participation across societal levels can create a just and sustainable future.**

- You recently received an incorrect bill from a company. Write an email to their support team highlighting the issue and requesting a revised bill.

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

**Subject: Request for Correction of Incorrect Bill**

**Dear [Support Team/Recipient's Name],**

**I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to bring to your attention an issue with the bill I recently received from your company (Invoice Number: [Insert Invoice Number]). Upon reviewing the details, I noticed that the amount charged does not match the agreed terms or the services/products availed.**

**Specifically, the discrepancies are as follows:**

**[Mention the incorrect charges or details, e.g., "An extra service charge of \$50 has been included, which was not applicable."]  
[Highlight other discrepancies, if any.]**

**I would appreciate it if you could review this matter and issue a revised bill reflecting the correct amount. Please let me know if you need any additional information or documents to assist with the correction process.**

**Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. I look forward to your response at the earliest convenience.**

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

## Match the column

1. Be a far cry from
2. Go belly up
3. Hit the big time
4. Pull the plug
5. Rags to riches

- A. to fail completely
- B. prevent something from happening
- C. to become very successful or famous
- D. a person who rises from poverty to wealth
- E. to be completely different from something

**Answer:**

**1-e**

**2-a**

**3-c**

**4-b**

**5-d**

## Vocabulary

1. Imperative:
2. Consonance:
3. Sacrosanct:
4. Exacerbate:
5. Deft:
6. Condone:
7. Precarious:
8. Abridge:
9. Docile:
10. Ambrosial:



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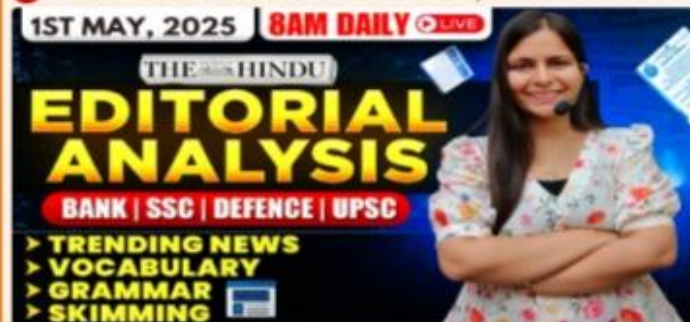


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## **Rc ans**

1.

**Ans: C**

### **Explanation:**

The passage clearly states that “this trade restriction may hurt Bangladeshi businesses... but will do little to aid New Delhi’s strategic interests.”

This shows the author believes India’s move is ineffective strategically, even if it causes economic damage to Bangladesh.

### **Incorrect Options:**

A. “Damage to India’s own apparel industry” is never mentioned. The impact is on Bangladesh’s apparel exports, not India’s industry.

B. The passage does say India’s “discomfiture is understandable,” but the author still critiques the restriction as ineffective. Hence, not justified.

D. There is no mention of Bangladesh blocking Indian products. This is factually unsupported.

**2.**

**Ans: B**

**Explanation:**

The passage states that trade restrictions “would only heighten the anti-India sentiment being fanned by some elements... [which] could create fresh law and order problems... in the northeast.”

This links trade tactics to anti-India sentiments and potential regional instability.

**Incorrect Options:**

A. No mention of China’s military involvement or intention to escalate militarily.

C. While warming ties with Pakistan are mentioned, no mention of an India-Pakistan trade conflict.

D. The northeast’s reaction is only mentioned in terms of security, not policy rejection.

**3.**

**Ans: D**

**Explanation:**

The final paragraph says:

“India should carefully lay out its response... while it has to communicate its displeasure... it also has to maintain working relations...”

This clearly supports a balanced, diplomatic approach.

**Incorrect Options:**

A. Trade barriers are criticized in the passage as ineffective.

B. There is no suggestion of isolating Bangladesh. Rather, the passage promotes cooperation.

C. The passage supports democratic elections, not technocratic rule.

4.

**Ans: B**

**Explanation:**

The passage says, “demolishing functioning plants that were contributing to the economy and employment could exacerbate pollution and be disruptive.” This was one of the Centre’s three main justifications.

**Incorrect Options:**

A. The passage does not mention any environmental improvements by the industries as justification.

C. No amendment to the EIA Act is mentioned. In fact, the passage criticises that “all these significant changes were being issued through executive orders”, not through Parliamentary amendments.

D. The passage includes various types of industries (e.g., “copper mines to pharmaceutical companies”) that are large-scale, and there is no mention of exemption due to scale.

**5.**

**Ans: C**

**Explanation:**

The passage says, “all these significant changes were being issued through executive orders, rather than any attempt at amending the underlying Environment Protection Act (EIA), 2006, through Parliament.” This undermined the legal sanctity of the process.

**Incorrect Options:**

- A. Private audits are not mentioned at all.
- B. No role of panchayats is discussed in the passage.
- D. The issue is about environmental clearance, not taxation.