

The Hindu EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

15th 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. Anathema (अत्यधिक घृणित वस्तु / घृणा का पात्र)

- **Meaning:** Something or someone that one vehemently dislikes or opposes.
- **Synonyms:** Abomination, outrage, detested thing
- **Antonyms:** Delight, blessing, favorite
- **Example:** For environmental activists, the exemption of pollution norms is anathema to climate justice.

2. **Staunchly** (दृढ़ता से / निष्ठापूर्वक)

- **Meaning:** In a very loyal and committed manner.
- **Synonyms:** Firmly, resolutely, steadfastly
- **Antonyms:** Weakly, hesitantly, uncertainly
- **Example:** The association staunchly defended the pilots against premature blame.

3. Feisty (जुझारू / जोशीला)

- **Meaning:** Lively, determined, and courageous, especially in the face of adversity.
- **Synonyms:** Spirited, energetic, plucky
- **Antonyms:** Timid, passive, meek
- **Example:** The feisty passenger questioned the airline's safety protocols after the incident.

4. Scuffle (हाथापाई / झगड़ा)

- **Meaning:** A short, confused fight or struggle, usually involving a few people and not causing serious harm.
- **Synonyms:** Tussle, brawl, skirmish, fracas
- **Antonyms:** Agreement, peace, harmony
- **Example:** A brief scuffle broke out between protesters and the police during the demonstration.

5. Allure (आकर्षण / मोह)

- **Meaning:** The quality of being attractive or fascinating.
- **Synonyms:** Charm, appeal, fascination
- **Antonyms:** Repulsion, unattractiveness, distaste
- **Example:** Feats on grass courts carry a special allure, especially at Wimbledon.

6. Crippled (असहाय / अपंग बना दिया)

- **Meaning:** Severely damaged or weakened.
- **Synonyms:** Paralyzed, harmed, disabled
- **Antonyms:** Strengthened, empowered, reinforced
- **Example:** India's action crippled Nepal's economy during the border blockade.

7. Fallacious (भ्रामक / मिथ्या)

- **Meaning:** Based on a mistaken belief or unsound reasoning.
- **Synonyms:** Misleading, deceptive, erroneous
- **Antonyms:** Logical, valid, sound
- **Example:** The argument that AI alone can eliminate poverty is fallacious.

8. Wail (विलाप करना / रोना)

- **Meaning:** To make a prolonged high-pitched cry of pain, grief, or anger.
- **Synonyms:** Lament, sob, bawl
- **Antonyms:** Cheer, rejoice, celebrate
- **Example:** Citizens began to wail after hearing about the sudden economic downturn.

9. Ossify (जड़ हो जाना / कठोर बन जाना)

- **Meaning:** To become rigid or fixed in attitude or position; to harden like bone.
- **Synonyms:** Harden, fossilize, stagnate
- **Antonyms:** Soften, adapt, evolve
- **Example:** Without reforms, the education system will ossify and fail future generations.

10. Licit (वैध / कानूनी)

- **Meaning:** Permitted by law; legal.
- **Synonyms:** Legal, lawful, permissible
- **Antonyms:** Illicit, illegal, unlawful
- **Example:** The government has made clear distinctions between licit and illicit data usage

VOCABULARY

One-word substitute:

1. Lacking liveliness, flavor, or interest; dull:

Vapid

2. Not producing the desired effect; ineffective:

Inefficacious

3. Not easily seen or noticed; not attracting attention:

Inconspicuous

4. Out of control with anger or excitement; wildly violent:

Berserk

VOCABULARY

Phrasal Verbs:

1. Run across

Meaning - to find something or someone by chance.

2. Speak up

Meaning - to express one's opinion clearly or loudly.

3. Stick with

Meaning - to continue doing something or staying with something.

4. Turn out

Meaning - to end up being; to attend or participate in something.

VOCABULARY

Idioms & Phrases

1. Over one's head

Meaning: Something that is too difficult to understand.

2. Use your head

Meaning: Think logically or use common sense.

3. In the blink of an eye

Meaning: Very quickly or instantly.

VOCABULARY

4. Turn a blind eye

Meaning: To ignore something intentionally.

5. Music to one's ears

Meaning: Something very pleasing to hear.

Article for Reading

**Too close for
comfort: on
America's tariff and
U.S.-Canada ties**

On July 10, U.S. President Donald Trump announced a 35% tariff on Canadian imports, despite Ottawa rescinding a 3% digital services tax (DST) that was to go into effect on June 30; Mr. Trump had dubbed this as an 'attack on American firms'. Canada expected that it would generate about \$5 billion from DST on revenues from Canadian-source digital services over five years dating it back to January 1, 2022. The 35% tax was imposed despite ongoing trade talks, which Canada was hoping would result in a trade deal by July 21 — as agreed upon between Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney and Mr. Trump on the sidelines of the G-7 summit in mid-June. The new 35% tax, that was conveyed to Mr. Carney through a letter, which Mr. Trump sent to more than 20 U.S. trading partners, is likely to exempt items compliant under the 2018 United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement. Canada and the U.S. are each other's largest trading partners.

In fact, despite Mr. Trump's constant refrain about the flow of fentanyl, the opioid coming through America's northern borders (less than 0.1% of what lands in the U.S.), what has rankled the American President is the trade surplus of about \$63 billion in Canada's favour. This on-again-off again approach to tariffs as a stick against America's trading partners has forced even steadfast allies such as Canada to scramble to diversify. Hours before receiving Mr. Trump's letter, Mr. Carney posted a picture of himself with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer on X, saying, "... the world is turning to reliable economic partners like Canada." America's action against Canada brings to mind a similar episode about a decade ago between close neighbours, India and Nepal. India closed land ports following the enactment of Nepal's new Constitution citing fears about the treatment of the minority Madhesi community that has had close ties to India. This action crippled Nepal's land-locked economy that was entirely reliant on Indian ports such as Kolkata and Visakhapatnam for its trade.

Acute fuel and medicine shortages followed. Nepal's GDP collapsed from 3.3% in FY15 to 0.2% in FY16, and Nepalis began harbouring a deep resentment toward India. New Delhi's move forced Nepal to recalibrate its foreign and economic policy, eventually leading it to join China's Belt and Road Initiative in 2017 and accepting massive infrastructure funds from Beijing, much to New Delhi's dismay. This episode, between two vastly different nations, would serve Washington well to realise that mending a trade imbalance must not come at the expense of losing one of its closest allies with deep running cultural and linguistic ties, as Canada, with an economy that is one-eleventh that of the U.S. albeit with a trade surplus, now attempts to redraw its foreign and economic strategies.

Summary

On July 10, U.S. President Donald Trump imposed a 35% tariff on Canadian imports, even after Canada withdrew a proposed 3% Digital Services Tax (DST) that would have raised \$5 billion over five years. The tariff, which was conveyed to Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney via letter, was imposed despite ongoing trade negotiations expected to conclude by July 21. Though some items compliant with the USMCA (2018) may be exempt, the tariff appears to be driven by Trump's concerns over Canada's \$63 billion trade surplus, rather than legitimate threats like fentanyl trafficking from the north. The situation is reminiscent of India's 2015 blockade of Nepal over constitutional disputes, which drove Nepal closer to China. Similarly, Trump's move risks alienating a key ally, as Canada begins to reorient its foreign and trade partnerships toward more stable partners like the U.K.

Tone:

Critical – toward Trump's tariff policy and its potential to damage long-standing alliances.

Cautionary – drawing parallels with past geopolitical missteps (India-Nepal) to warn the U.S. of similar consequences.

Analytical – provides context on trade dynamics and broader strategic shifts in response to economic coercion.

Reading Comprehension

Based on the above passage, answer the following questions:

Question 1:

Why is the episode between India and Nepal mentioned in the passage?

- A. To demonstrate how opioid trafficking has international political implications**
- B. To warn about the dangers of dependency on land-locked trade systems**
- C. To draw a parallel with the U.S.-Canada situation as a cautionary tale**
- D. To show the strategic benefits of joining the Belt and Road Initiative**
- E. None of the above**

Question 2:

According to the passage, how did Canada respond to the U.S. tariff move?

- A. By reintroducing the DST to strengthen internal revenue**
- B. By reaffirming ties with Britain and projecting reliability**
- C. By reaching out to China to explore alternative markets**
- D. By blocking U.S. imports through new customs rules**
- E. None of the above**

Question 3:

What broader geopolitical risk does the passage imply if the U.S. continues this tariff-based foreign policy with close allies?

- A. Depletion of U.S. energy reserves due to disrupted trade**
- B. Collapse of the USMCA and NAFTA agreements**
- C. Strengthening of Russia-China-Canada trilateral ties**
- D. Alienation of allies and erosion of long-standing partnerships**
- E. None of the above**

Article for Skimming

**Courting grass: On
Wimbledon 2025**

Feats on grass have a special allure. When they come at Wimbledon, the most prestigious grass court on the planet, they acquire a richer tone of lustre. Jannik Sinner and Iga Swiatek, who won their maiden titles at the All England Club over the weekend, stand testament to this. Both were past Major champions, with Sinner having won three and Swiatek five trophies. Yet, by their own admission, very few achievements rank alongside their runs on the pristine lawns of southwest London. The wins also come at a critical juncture in their tennis lives as both players served doping-related bans in recent months and had their sporting ethics questioned. For Sinner, the success against two-time defending and five-time Slam champion Carlos Alcaraz snapped a streak of five straight losses to the Spaniard. This sequence contained the most painful of all defeats, at Roland-Garros last month where the Italian lost despite being three championship points up.

The victory at SW19 showed the 23-year-old's remarkable powers of recovery and mental resilience. For Swiatek, Wimbledon was her first trophy of any kind since the French Open 2024. The Pole, who had spent a combined 125 weeks as No. 1 — seventh best in history — had slid down the rankings and had lost her aura. But by winning on her least-favoured surface, she has resurrected her career emphatically. Sinner's and Swiatek's triumphs will also have wide-ranging effects on their respective Tours. Sinner and Alcaraz have now split the last seven Majors between them, and Wimbledon was the second straight Slam final they were sparring in. In fact, starting from the Rome Masters in early May where Sinner made his comeback from doping suspension, they have clashed in the final in all three competitions they have both been part of, reinforcing the view that theirs is now men's tennis' pre-eminent rivalry. They have met 13 times — 10 of them in semifinal or better — and appear to have fully satiated fans' desire to see a worthy follow-up to the famed Roger Federer-Rafael Nadal duel.

Ranked No. 1 and No. 2, they are also head and shoulders above the rest of the field. The gulf is best explained by Sinner's ATP points-tally of 12,030, which is nearly double that of third-ranked Alexander Zverev. Swiatek, meanwhile, has re-established the triumvirate atop the women's game. The 24-year-old may be the ninth different Wimbledon winner in as many editions, but she, Aryna Sabalenka and Coco Gauff have won 10 of the past 14 Majors. Swiatek's six Slams make her the leading light among active women, a position she seems primed to hold on to.

Question 4:

What makes the rivalry between Sinner and Alcaraz particularly compelling, according to the passage?

- A. It marks the longest-running rivalry in Open Era men's tennis.**
- B. Their matches are often five-set classics with tie-breaks.**
- C. They are ranked No. 1 and No. 2, and consistently meet in finals.**
- D. Both players are unbeaten outside of their encounters with each other.**
- E. None of the above**

Question 5:

Based on the passage, which of the following best describes Iga Swiatek's position in women's tennis following her Wimbledon win?

- A. She remains a dark horse in most Grand Slams.**
- B. She now leads a clear top-three alongside Sabalenka and Gauff.**
- C. She has reclaimed dominance, especially on grass courts.**
- D. She holds the record for most Wimbledon titles in the past decade.**
- E. None of the above**

Today's Descriptive Question:

- **Write an essay of 200 words about the growth of service sector in India.**

The growth of the service sector in India has been one of the most significant aspects of its economic development over the past few decades. This sector, which includes industries like information technology (IT), telecommunications, finance, healthcare, education, and tourism, has seen remarkable expansion, contributing to the country's GDP and providing millions of jobs.

The IT and business process outsourcing (BPO) industries have been at the forefront of this growth, with cities like Bangalore, Hyderabad, and Pune becoming global hubs for software development and customer support services. The liberalization of the economy in the early 1990s, along with advancements in technology and infrastructure, played a crucial role in fostering this expansion. India's young, skilled workforce, fluent in English, has been another driving force behind the success of the service sector.

Furthermore, the service sector's growth has had a multiplier effect on other industries, including real estate, retail, and logistics, creating a positive feedback loop that continues to fuel economic progress. The rise of digital services, e-commerce, and financial technology has further bolstered the sector's expansion, opening up new opportunities for innovation and global connectivity. As a result, the service sector has become a cornerstone of India's economy, contributing significantly to employment and economic growth.

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

Social networking sites have transformed the way people communicate, share information, and maintain relationships in the digital age. Platforms like Facebook, Instagram, X (formerly Twitter), LinkedIn, and Snapchat have not only bridged geographical distances but have also redefined human interaction. What began as a means to stay in touch with friends and family has now become a powerful tool for self-expression, activism, marketing, and information dissemination. One of the most significant advantages of social networking sites is the ease with which people can connect across borders. Whether it is rekindling old friendships, finding communities of shared interests, or engaging with professionals globally, these platforms offer endless opportunities. For businesses, they serve as a cost-effective medium to reach target audiences, promote products, and build brand loyalty.

For individuals, they provide a platform to showcase talent, express opinions, and stay updated on global trends. However, the impact of social media is not entirely positive. The constant need for validation through likes and shares can lead to anxiety, low self-esteem, and a distorted sense of reality. Misinformation spreads rapidly on these platforms, often blurring the lines between fact and opinion. Additionally, the addictive nature of scrolling can lead to decreased productivity and reduced face-to-face interactions. Privacy concerns are another growing issue, as users often share personal information without fully understanding the risks involved. Data breaches and the misuse of user data by third parties have raised serious questions about online safety and digital ethics. In conclusion, while social networking sites offer numerous benefits, their use must be approached with caution and responsibility.

Educating users about digital literacy, encouraging mindful usage, and enforcing stricter regulations can help in harnessing the power of social media while mitigating its downsides. Like any tool, its value depends on how wisely it is used.

Q1. How have social networking sites transformed communication in the modern era?

Ans:

Social networking sites have revolutionized communication by making it instant, global, and interactive. They allow users to connect with others regardless of distance, enabling real-time sharing of messages, photos, videos, and opinions. Unlike traditional communication methods, social media fosters two-way dialogue, community engagement, and instant feedback. It has also given rise to new forms of expression such as memes, reels, and live streams. From personal chats to professional networking and global activism, these platforms have become central to how we interact, build relationships, and access information in today's digitally connected world.

Q2. What are the major drawbacks of excessive social media usage?

Ans:

Excessive use of social media can lead to several negative consequences. It often causes reduced attention spans, poor sleep patterns, and increased anxiety due to constant comparisons and the pressure to gain likes or followers. Mental health issues such as depression and low self-esteem are common, especially among teens. Overuse can also reduce real-life interactions and productivity. Additionally, social media is a breeding ground for misinformation and privacy violations. Without mindful usage and digital literacy, users may fall prey to cyberbullying, scams, or data misuse, making it essential to balance online engagement with offline well-being.

Match the column

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1. Over one's head | A. Think logically or use common sense |
| 2. Use your head | B. Something very pleasing to hear |
| 3. In the blink of an eye | C. To ignore something intentionally |
| 4. Turn a blind eye | D. Something that is too difficult to understand |
| 5. Music to one's ears | E. Very quickly or instantly |

Answer:

1-d

2-a

3-e

4-c

5-b

Vocabulary

1. Anathema:
2. Staunchly:
3. Feisty:
4. Scuffle:
5. Allure:
6. Crippled:
7. Fallacious:
8. Wail:
9. Ossify:
10. Licit:

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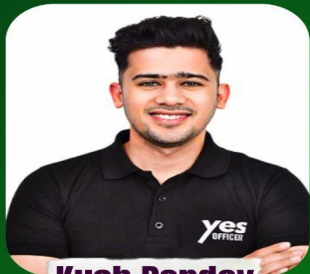
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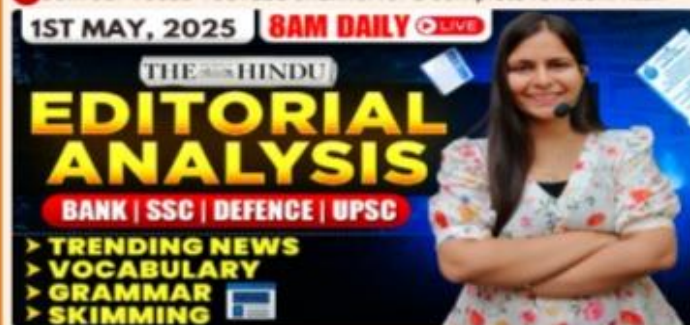


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Rc ans

1.

Ans: C

Explanation:

Reference: “This episode, between two vastly different nations, would serve Washington well to realise...”

The India–Nepal reference is used as a historical analogy to warn the U.S. that harsh economic actions against close allies may backfire.

Incorrect Options:

A: The India–Nepal part does not focus on opioids.

B: While Nepal was landlocked, that’s context, not the lesson.

D: Joining BRI was a consequence, not a suggestion.

2.

Ans: B

Explanation:

Reference: “Mr. Carney posted a picture of himself with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer on X... ‘the world is turning to reliable economic partners like Canada.’”
Canada is shown as pivoting toward trusted allies like the UK.

Incorrect Options:

A: Canada had already rescinded the DST.

C: There is no mention of outreach to China in this context.

D: No such blocking is mentioned.

3.

Ans: D

Explanation:

Reference: "...mending a trade imbalance must not come at the expense of losing one of its closest allies..."

The India–Nepal parallel is a warning about pushing allies toward rival powers.

Incorrect Options:

A: No energy trade or depletion is mentioned.

B: USMCA is not threatened in the passage.

C: No such trilateral is even implied.

4.

Ans: C

Explanation:

Reference: “Ranked No. 1 and No. 2... starting from the Rome Masters... they have clashed in the final in all three competitions... reinforcing the view that theirs is now men’s tennis’ pre-eminent rivalry.”

Incorrect options:

A: No claim about it being the longest-running rivalry.

B: No detail about match formats or tie-breaks.

D: Their records outside of their rivalry aren’t discussed.

5.

Ans: B

Explanation:

Reference: “Swiatek’s six Slams make her the leading light among active women... she, Aryna Sabalenka and Coco Gauff have won 10 of the past 14 Majors.”
This reinforces the triumvirate (top three) dominance in women’s tennis.

Incorrect options:

A: She's a leader, not a dark horse.

C: Grass is her least-favoured surface, not her strength.

D: She is the ninth different Wimbledon winner in as many years — no dominance at Wimbledon.