

# The Hindu EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

22nd 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. Chasm (खाई / दरार)

- **Meaning:** A profound gap or division, especially between people, viewpoints, or values.
- **Synonyms:** Gulf, rift, divide, breach
- **Antonyms:** Bridge, connection, union
- **Example:** There is a growing chasm between democratic ideals and their real-world application.

## 2. Valorise (मूल्य बढ़ाना / महत्त्व देना)

- **Meaning:** To assign value or merit to something, often idealistically or politically.
- **Synonyms:** Glorify, elevate, validate
- **Antonyms:** Devalue, discredit, belittle
- **Example:** Societies that have historically valorised free expression are now censoring dissent.

### 3. Banality (सामान्यता / सामान्य बात)

- **Meaning:** The condition of being unoriginal, trivial, or lacking in freshness.
- **Synonyms:** Triviality, platitude, cliché
- **Antonyms:** Originality, novelty, uniqueness
- **Example:** Hannah Arendt warned against the banality of evil in authoritarian regimes.

## 4. Reprimand (फटकार / डांटना)

- **Meaning:** A formal expression of disapproval.
- **Synonyms:** Scolding, rebuke, admonition
- **Antonyms:** Praise, commendation, encouragement
- **Example:** Professors now face reprimand for expressing independent views.

## 5. Fathoming (समझना / मापन करना)

- **Meaning:** Understanding or comprehending deeply.
- **Synonyms:** Grasping, discerning, comprehending
- **Antonyms:** Misunderstanding, overlooking, ignoring
- **Example:** There is no fathoming the extent of the cockpit voice data yet unreleased.

## 6. Impediment (बाधा)

- **Meaning:** A hindrance or obstruction in doing something.
- **Synonyms:** Obstacle, barrier, hurdle
- **Antonyms:** Aid, assistance, support
- **Example:** The term 'socialist' has not been an impediment to economic reforms in India.

## 7. Pseudo (छद्म/झूठा)

- **Meaning:** Not genuine; fake or counterfeit.
- **Synonyms:** False, sham, spurious
- **Antonyms:** Genuine, authentic, real
- **Example:** The politician's promises were dismissed as pseudo-commitments by the public.



## 8. Perplexed (हैरान)

- **Meaning:** Completely baffled or puzzled, uncertain about something.
- **Synonyms:** Confused, bewildered, puzzled
- **Antonyms:** Clear, certain, understanding
- **Example:** She was perplexed by the complexity of the situation and didn't know how to proceed.

## 9. Acrimony (कड़वाहट )

- **Meaning:** Bitterness or ill feeling.
- **Synonyms:** Bitterness, animosity, hostility
- **Antonyms:** Goodwill, harmony, friendship
- **Example:** The debate was filled with acrimony, leaving both sides more divided than ever.

## 10. Resumption (पुनरारंभ )

- **Meaning:** The action of starting something again after a pause.
- **Synonyms:** Restart, continuation, renewal
- **Antonyms:** Cessation, halt, suspension
- **Example:** The resumption of diplomatic ties brought hope for peace.

# VOCABULARY

## One-word substitute:

**1. A person who is stubbornly resistant to change or new ideas:**

**Diehard**

**2. Something that is rich, luxurious, and lavish in appearance:**

**Opulent**

**3. A place that is extremely dirty and unpleasant, often due to poverty or neglect:**

**Squalid**

**4. Someone who is extremely eager or excited to see or hear something:**

**Agog**

## VOCABULARY

### Phrasal Verbs:

#### 1. Get by

**Meaning:** To manage or survive, especially with limited resources.

#### 2. Look forward to

**Meaning:** To anticipate something with excitement or pleasure.

#### 3. Show up

**Meaning:** To arrive or appear, often unexpectedly or late.

#### 4. Give in

**Meaning:** To stop resisting; to surrender or yield to something.

# VOCABULARY

## Idioms & Phrases

### 1. A picture paints a thousand words

**Meaning:** an image of a subject conveys its meaning or essence more effectively than a description does.

### 2. Bed of roses

**Meaning:** an easy, comfortable situation.

### 3. Be hand and foot

**Meaning:** in all possible ways; by all means

## VOCABULARY

### **4. Cast in the same mold**

**Meaning - to be very similar in character to someone else**

### **5. Vote with one's feet**

**Meaning: to show disapproval**

## **Article for Reading**

**Unvarnished facts:  
On the Ahmedabad  
air crash, AAIB  
investigation**



**The pushback by pilot bodies and the agencies that are investigating the Ahmedabad air crash, to the damaging leaks by sections of the media could well turn out to be a tepid attempt to staunch the flow. While these leaks have been dismissed as “selective, unverified, irresponsible and baseless reporting” and triggered legal responses, they have, in a way, set a narrative going. There is no fathoming of what more the cockpit voice recorder could contain — especially relating to the troubling possibility of ‘human intervention’ in the crash of Air India flight AI171 on June 12. In this the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) has to turn the spotlight on itself for its presentation of the key findings in its preliminary report. Its sparse detailing of an unusual “transitioning” of the two separate fuel control switches, from “run to cutoff” and back, a standalone snatch of conversation, reflecting unease and denial, between the crew in the unfolding disaster — that has been left open to endless interpretation.**

**And, finally, a near blanket signing-off of no recommended actions concerning the aircraft type, the engine, and the manufacturers, only point to one direction — of the need for the release of a full and raw cockpit voice recorder transcript. In a legal analysis, if credible evidence of ‘human intervention’ does emerge, the investigation could shift, with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Annex 13 inquiry, that is focused on safety, moving alongside a parallel criminal probe under domestic law. It must be noted that in 2015, following the Germanwings flight 9525 accident — a case of definite ‘human intervention’ — the Government of India was mulling “mid-term” psychometric tests. Then Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation Mahesh Sharma had said that psychometric tests should be carried out on pilots in India from time to time. He added that the Ministry would hold consultations with the regulator, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, to facilitate the preparation of fresh rules keeping in mind the crash of the German plane.**

**A senior counsellor at the Kolkata-based Indian Institute of Psychometry (founded in 1978) had also favoured having a repeat of psychometric tests “if a person, especially a pilot or cabin crew, was undergoing mental stress or had had a tragedy on the personal front”. On July 17, in a letter of appeal, the AAIB had said that it would publish updates, as and when required, which would have content of technical and public interest. While it is understood that an air accident investigation would be meticulous, at the same time, the hope is that the AAIB clears the fog in the AI171 accident and presents the unvarnished facts — as promised in Parliament on Monday.**

## Summary

**The passage discusses the controversy and criticism surrounding the investigation into the crash of Air India flight AI171 in Ahmedabad on June 12. Leaks in the media, described as unverified and irresponsible, have stirred public speculation about potential human intervention in the incident. The Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau's (AAIB) preliminary report has been criticized for lacking detail and avoiding clear conclusions, especially concerning unusual fuel switch movements and ambiguous cockpit conversations. The passage calls for the release of the full cockpit voice recorder transcript and raises the possibility of a criminal investigation if credible evidence of human fault emerges. It also recalls India's earlier deliberation on psychometric testing for pilots after the 2015 Germanwings crash and urges the AAIB to uphold transparency, as assured in Parliament.**

## **Tone of the Passage:**

**Critical:** The passage scrutinizes both the media for its speculative leaks and the AAIB for its vague and insufficient preliminary findings.

**Demanding accountability:** It emphasizes the need for transparency and a full release of facts.

**Cautious and concerned:** Especially about the potential human error and mental health of pilots, drawing parallels to past tragedies.

**Urgent:** There is an underlying urgency for clarity, responsibility, and regulatory reform.

## Reading Comprehension

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

**Question 1:**

**According to the passage, what was the government's response after the 2015 Germanwings crash?**

- A. Introduction of biometric screening at all airports**
- B. Mandatory retirement age for pilots was reduced**
- C. Consideration of mid-term psychometric tests for pilots**
- D. Enactment of a federal aviation oversight act**
- E. None of the above**

**Question 2:**

**What triggered legal responses in the aftermath of the crash according to the passage?**

- A. Leaks from the aircraft manufacturer**
- B. Lawsuits by the victims' families**
- C. Disclosure of classified military involvement**
- D. Leaks by the media, deemed selective and irresponsible**
- E. None of the above**



**Question 3:**

**What aspect of the AAIB's preliminary report has primarily fueled ongoing speculation about the AI171 crash?**

- A. The recommendation of new aircraft safety protocols**
- B. The absence of technical flaws in the aircraft and engine**
- C. The detailed assessment of fuel management systems**
- D. The complete release of cockpit voice recorder transcripts**
- E. None of the above**

## **Article for Skimming**

**Ideas on trial, critical  
thinking in retreat**

**“Freedom only for the supporters of the government, only for the supporters of one party — however numerous they may be — is no freedom at all. Freedom is always and exclusively the freedom of the one who thinks differently.” — Rosa Luxemburg.**

**In an era marked by heightened geopolitical tensions and global scrutiny, nations are compelled to not only safeguard their territorial integrity but also uphold their moral foundations. For countries, characterised by their profound diversity of languages, cultures, and faiths, such moments present an opportunity to reaffirm their commitment to democratic principles and pluralistic values. The projection of national strength tempered by restraint and public reassurances, stands out as indispensable components of this endeavour. However, the alignment of democratic values at home with the image projected abroad is equally crucial, necessitating the nurturing of freedom and open discourse domestically. Regrettably, a growing chasm exists between this ideal and the prevailing realities on the ground across the world.**

**The sanctity of intellectual freedom is being steadily eroded across institutions, particularly universities and academic spaces, due to pressures of conformity and control. The consequences of this trend are far-reaching, with professors facing reprimand or dismissal over minor comments, and students being subjected to punitive action for raising critical questions. This phenomenon constitutes a pressing global concern, albeit one whose repercussions are particularly pronounced in nations that have historically valorised open discourse and intellectual freedom. The United States, during Donald Trump's presidency, exemplifies this trend. Philosophers such as Hannah Arendt have warned against these dangers of banality in oppressive regimes and the slow numbing of thought, where citizens retreat into private lives and abandon the public realm. Understandably, the assault on freedom is not only about censorship but also about inducing this kind of silence, where fear replaces inquiry, and conformity takes the place of imagination.**

**In such a climate, society's capacity for critical self-reflection and growth is severely impaired, leading to stagnation and intellectual rigidity. For instance, when curricula are rewritten to reflect ideological imperatives rather than pedagogical or historical rigour, when scholarly work is attacked for political reasons, and when free speech on campus is framed as sedition, we are witnessing the slow erosion of academic advancement. We have witnessed this phenomenon on campuses across the U.S., particularly in the context of pro-Palestinian demonstrations. Democratic backsliding is visibly accompanied here by an assault on intellectuals and independent media. In such times, it becomes easy to imagine that freedom of speech is a luxury or a liability, something to be curtailed for the sake of national unity or cultural pride. But, this is a false choice. At the heart of this crisis lies a growing intolerance with voices that challenge prevailing narratives, offer nuanced historical perspective, or simply ask inconvenient questions often painted as suspect.**

**Question 4:**

**The author cites Hannah Arendt to illustrate what concept?**

- A. The importance of ideological diversity**
- B. The gradual suppression of critical thinking in society**
- C. The threat of authoritarian government**
- D. The need for privacy in public life**
- E. None of the above**

**Question 5:**

**According to the passage, how have pro-Palestinian demonstrations in the U.S. affected academic freedom?**

- A. They have spurred productive debates in universities**
- B. They haven't been mentioned in the context of freedom**
- C. They illustrate instances of university-imposed silencing**
- D. They led to the nationalization of curricula**
- E. None of the above**

## Today's Descriptive Question

- Write an essay of 200 words about highlighting the influence of Pop Culture on Youth.



**Pop culture exerts a profound influence on youth, shaping their identities, values, and behaviors in significant ways. From music and movies to fashion and social media, pop culture provides a lens through which young people view the world and themselves.**

**One of the most noticeable impacts of pop culture is on fashion and self-expression. Trends set by celebrities and influencers often become the standard for what is considered stylish, encouraging youth to adopt similar clothing, hairstyles, and accessories. This emulation helps them to feel a sense of belonging and identity within their peer groups. Music and movies also play a crucial role in shaping attitudes and beliefs. Songs with powerful messages about love, rebellion, and social issues resonate deeply with young listeners, often influencing their views and emotional responses.**

**Similarly, movies and TV shows offer narratives and characters that young people can relate to, providing them with role models and shaping their understanding of various life situations.**

**Social media amplifies the reach of pop culture, allowing trends and ideas to spread rapidly. Platforms like Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube enable influencers to impact youth culture on a global scale, promoting everything from beauty standards to lifestyle choices.**

**In conclusion, pop culture significantly molds the perceptions and behaviors of youth. While it offers avenues for self-expression and connection, it also requires critical engagement to ensure that the influence is positive and empowering.**

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

**The rapid advancement of technology has transformed industries, improved efficiency, and reshaped the way we work. From automation and artificial intelligence to robotics and machine learning, modern technology is increasingly being integrated into business operations and public services. However, this progress has raised a critical question: Is technology responsible for rising unemployment rates? On one hand, technology does replace certain types of jobs—especially those involving repetitive, manual, or routine tasks. Automated machines in manufacturing, AI-powered customer service bots, and self-checkout systems in retail have reduced the need for human labor in many sectors. As a result, workers without the skills to adapt to new technologies often find themselves displaced and struggling to find alternative employment. Yet, the relationship between technology and employment is more nuanced. While some jobs are lost, new types of employment are also created. The rise of the digital economy has generated demand for skilled professionals in fields such as data analysis, cybersecurity, software development, and digital marketing.**

**Gig economy platforms like Uber and Swiggy have opened up flexible work opportunities for millions. In fact, technological innovation often leads to the creation of entirely new industries, driving economic growth and job creation in the long run. The key challenge lies in the transition. Workers need to be reskilled and upskilled to remain relevant in the changing job market. Governments, educational institutions, and private companies must collaborate to provide vocational training, digital literacy programs, and career guidance to bridge the skill gap. In conclusion, while technology can displace certain jobs, it is not inherently responsible for long-term unemployment. Instead, it transforms the nature of work. With proper investment in human capital and adaptive policies, technology can become a powerful enabler of employment rather than a threat to it.**

**Q1. How is technology contributing to job losses in certain sectors?**

**Ans:**

**Technology contributes to job losses primarily by automating repetitive, manual, and routine tasks. In industries such as manufacturing, retail, and customer service, machines, AI chatbots, and self-service kiosks have replaced many traditional roles. Workers who lack the skills to operate or work alongside new technologies often find themselves displaced. This transition creates a mismatch between the skills workers possess and the skills demanded by employers, leading to short-term unemployment. However, this displacement is not permanent if proper reskilling initiatives are implemented to help workers adapt to new roles created by technological advancement.**

**Q2. Can technology also create new employment opportunities? How?**

**Ans:**

**Yes, technology can create numerous new employment opportunities. As industries evolve, the demand for skilled professionals in areas like artificial intelligence, data science, cybersecurity, robotics, and digital marketing continues to grow. The expansion of the digital economy and gig platforms like Uber, Zomato, and freelancing sites has also introduced flexible, tech-driven jobs. Moreover, technological innovation spurs the creation of entirely new industries—such as renewable energy or fintech—leading to fresh career paths. The key is preparing the workforce through reskilling, digital literacy, and vocational training to ensure they are equipped to seize these emerging opportunities in the modern economy.**

## **Match the column**

- 1. A picture paints a thousand words**
- 2. Bed of roses**
- 3. Be hand and foot**
- 4. Cast in the same mold**
- 5. Vote with one's feet**

- A. in all possible ways**
- B. to be very similar in character to someone else**
- C. an easy, comfortable situation**
- D. to show disapproval**
- E. it is often easier to show something in a picture than to describe it with words**



## **Answer:**

**1-e**

**2-c**

**3-a**

**4-b**

**5-d**

## Vocabulary

1. Chasm:
2. Valorise:
3. Banality:
4. Reprimand:
5. Fathoming:
6. Impediment:
7. Pseudo:
8. Perplexed:
9. Acrimony:
10. Resumption:

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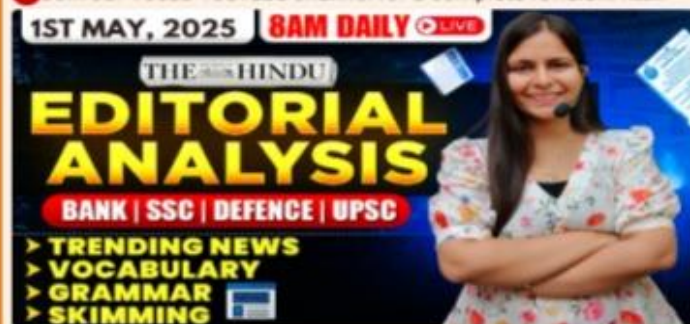


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**Rc ans**

**1.**

**Ans: C**

**Explanation:**

**Reference:** "...the Government of India was mulling 'mid-term' psychometric tests."

After the Germanwings crash, the Indian government considered mid-term psychometric testing for pilots. The Minister mentioned this in direct response to the accident.

**Incorrect Options:**

A. Biometric screening at airports – Not mentioned in the context.

B. Mandatory retirement age reduced – No such change is stated.

D. Federal aviation oversight act – The passage refers to regulatory consultations, not legislation.

2.

**Ans: D**

**Explanation:**

**Reference:** “...leaks have been dismissed as ‘selective, unverified, irresponsible and baseless reporting’ and triggered legal responses...”

The passage states that media leaks were dismissed as “selective, unverified, irresponsible and baseless reporting” and triggered legal responses.

**Incorrect Options:**

- A. Leaks from the aircraft manufacturer – The report says nothing about this.
- B. Lawsuits by the victims’ families – Not discussed in the passage.
- C. Disclosure of classified military involvement – Not mentioned.

3.

**Ans: B**

**Explanation:**

**Reference:** "...a near blanket signing-off of no recommended actions concerning the aircraft type, the engine, and the manufacturers..."

The passage notes that AAIB's "near blanket signing-off of no recommended actions concerning the aircraft type, the engine, and the manufacturers" has left much to interpretation and fueled the demand for the release of the full cockpit voice transcript, contributing to speculation.

**Incorrect Options:**

A. The report made no such recommendations; instead, it omitted them, which is part of the criticism.

C. The report included only a "sparse detailing" of fuel control transitions, not a comprehensive analysis.

D. The transcripts were not released, and the editorial argues for their necessity, not their inclusion.



**4.**

**Ans: B**

**Explanation:**

The text references Arendt regarding “the slow numbing of thought, where citizens retreat into private lives and abandon the public realm,” highlighting intellectual suppression through complacency.

**Incorrect Options:**

- A. While relevant, Arendt’s mention emphasizes internal numbing, not just diversity.
- C. It's more about a subtle societal shift, not explicit gubernatorial threat.
- D. Privacy is mentioned as a retreat, but the focus is on lost public discourse.

**5.**

**Ans: C**

**Explanation:**

The passage highlights “pro-Palestinian demonstrations” as a point where academic dissidents and independent media have faced institutional backlash, marking visible democratic erosion.

**Incorrect Options:**

- A. The text presents these as evidence of suppression, not constructive discourse.
- B. They are explicitly referenced.
- D. There’s no mention of curriculum nationalization tied to these protests.