

The Hindu EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

2nd 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. Limbo (अनिश्चितता की स्थिति)

- **Meaning:** A state of uncertainty or suspension.
- **Synonyms:** Uncertainty, suspension, delay
- **Antonyms:** Certainty, resolution, conclusion
- **Example:** The case remains in legal limbo until further judgment.

2. Ramifications (परिणाम / दुष्परिणाम)

- **Meaning:** Unintended consequences or complex results of an action.
- **Synonyms:** Consequences, outcomes, repercussions
- **Antonyms:** Causes, sources, origins
- **Example:** The government failed to consider the long-term ramifications of the policy change.

3. Ridiculed (उपहास उड़ाना)

- **Meaning:** Mocked or made fun of in a cruel or dismissive way.
- **Synonyms:** Mocked, scorned, derided
- **Antonyms:** Praised, admired, respected
- **Example:** Many great thinkers were ridiculed in their time for their unconventional ideas.

4. Colossal (विशाल / बहुत बड़ा)

- **Meaning:** Extremely large or great in size, extent, or degree.
- **Synonyms:** Gigantic, enormous, massive, immense
- **Antonyms:** Tiny, small, insignificant, minute
- **Example:** The colossal amount of food wasted globally each year is a major concern for environmentalists.

5. Tweaking (थोड़ा सुधार करना)

- **Meaning:** Making small adjustments or modifications.
- **Synonyms:** Adjusting, modifying, fine-tuning
- **Antonyms:** Keeping unchanged, maintaining, preserving
- **Example:** The software developers are tweaking the system to improve its performance.

6. Astutely (चतुराई से)

- **Meaning:** Showing an ability to accurately assess situations or people and turn this to one's advantage.
- **Synonyms:** Shrewdly, cleverly, wisely
- **Antonyms:** Foolishly, naively, ineptly
- **Example:** She handled the negotiations astutely, ensuring the best outcome for her company.

7. Snub (अपमान करना, ठुकराना)

- Meaning: To ignore or treat someone with disdain.**
- Synonyms: Rebuff, reject, insult**
- Antonyms: Welcome, accept, acknowledge**
- Example: The actor snubbed the reporters by walking away without answering questions.**

8. Rankled (कष्ट देना)

- **Meaning:** To cause continuous irritation or resentment.
- **Synonyms:** Irritate, annoy, vex
- **Antonyms:** Soothe, comfort, calm
- **Example:** His unfair criticism rankled her for days after the meeting.

9. Indisputable (अविवादित)

- **Meaning:** Unable to be challenged or denied.
- **Synonyms:**
Unquestionable,
undeniable, irrefutable
- **Antonyms:** Debatable,
questionable, disputable
- **Example:** The scientist presented indisputable evidence to support his theory.

10. Malevolence (द्वेष)

- **Meaning:** The state of wishing harm or evil upon others.
- **Synonyms:** Malice, hostility, ill-will
- **Antonyms:** Benevolence, kindness, goodwill
- **Example:** His malevolence towards his rival was evident in his harsh words and actions.

VOCABULARY

One-word substitute:

1. A sentimental longing for the past:

Nostalgia

2. A harsh, discordant mixture of sounds:

Cacophony

3. Open to more than one interpretation; unclear:

Ambiguous

4. A person who pretends to have beliefs or virtues they do not actually possess:

Hypocrite

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

**China's strategic
push — Asia ties
amid tariff tensions**

The President of China, Xi Jinping's three-nation tour of Southeast Asia (April 14-18, 2025) to Vietnam, Malaysia, and Cambodia, had one goal: to pitch Beijing as the only reliable partner of choice. Facing what is at the moment a 145% tariff on Chinese exports imposed by the Trump administration, China is actively recalibrating its external economic engagement, especially in geographies where it enjoys strategic proximity and relatively receptive partners. This Southeast Asia outreach is not just routine diplomacy. It is a considered move by Beijing to mitigate external economic pressure, project stability, and cement its leadership narrative in the Indo-Pacific. The visit also comes in the wake of the "Central Conference on Work Relating to Neighbouring Countries" (April 8-9). This relatively rare workshop was attended by senior party leaders and underscored the importance of fostering a "community with a shared future" with neighbouring states.

China is keen to insulate itself from the ramifications of a deepening trade war with the U.S., which now extends beyond tariffs to export controls, technology bans and financial decoupling. In this context, Southeast Asia serves as a buffer and a bridge. It offers China resilient trade channels, manufacturing alternatives, and diplomatic partners to collectively push back against the narrative of de-risking or containment led by Washington. Under U.S. President Donald Trump, Cambodia could face a combined tariff of up to 59% (including a 10% universal tariff and an additional 49% once a 90-day pause ends), while Vietnam and Malaysia would be hit with tariffs of 46% and 24%, respectively. Conversely, Mr. Xi's message was that China is open for business, supports multilateralism, and opposes unilateral coercion — a direct rebuttal to U.S. policies. In Vietnam, his meeting with key Vietnamese leaders resulted in the signing of 45 cooperation agreements. In Malaysia, discussions focused on enhancing economic cooperation and addressing regional security concerns.

The two countries signed over 30 agreements, encompassing sectors such as the digital economy, artificial intelligence, agriculture and infrastructure development. The Cambodia visit (Mr. Xi's first since 2016), underscored China's role as Cambodia's largest investor and trading partner, with bilateral trade exceeding \$15 billion in 2024. All these agreements, particularly the Funan Techo Canal project in Cambodia, are an effort to show that China continues to offer public goods and economic opportunities, while the U.S. pivots toward protectionism. Beyond economics, the visit was also about ideological and normative competition as Beijing attempts to draw a contrast between its model of non-interference and economic engagement, and what it portrays as U.S. interventionism and ideological rigidity.

Summary

Chinese President Xi Jinping's three-nation tour of Southeast Asia (Vietnam, Malaysia, and Cambodia) from April 14–18, 2025, aimed to present China as a stable and reliable partner amid rising tensions with the U.S., particularly due to high tariffs imposed by the Trump administration. The visit reflects China's strategic effort to counter U.S. economic pressure, strengthen regional partnerships, and promote a narrative of multilateralism and non-interference. Through signing dozens of cooperation agreements and emphasizing economic collaboration, China positioned itself as a provider of public goods in contrast to U.S. protectionism and coercive diplomacy. The trip also carried an ideological dimension, projecting China's governance model as an alternative to what it sees as U.S. interventionism.

Tone:

The tone is analytical and strategic, with an undercurrent of geopolitical seriousness. It reflects a measured and objective assessment of China's diplomatic efforts and their broader economic and ideological implications.

Reading Comprehension

Based on the above passage, answer the following questions:

Question 1:

Which of the following best encapsulates China's strategic intent behind Xi Jinping's April 2025 Southeast Asia tour?

- A. To establish military bases in Vietnam, Malaysia, and Cambodia.**
- B. To promote China's model of non-interference and economic engagement as an alternative to U.S. interventionism.**
- C. To negotiate a trilateral security pact among the three nations.**
- D. To respond to internal political dissent within China.**
- E. None of the above**

Question 2:

What was the significance of the "Central Conference on Work Relating to Neighbouring Countries" held on April 8–9, 2025?

- A. It marked the first time China invited foreign leaders to such a conference.**
- B. It was convened to announce new military alliances in Southeast Asia.**
- C. It underscored the importance of fostering a "community with a shared future" with neighbouring states.**
- D. It focused solely on domestic economic reforms.**
- E. None of the above**

Question 3:

How did China's approach during Xi Jinping's 2025 Southeast Asia tour contrast with U.S. policies at the time?

- A. China emphasized unilateral sanctions, whereas the U.S. promoted free trade.**
- B. China focused on military expansion, while the U.S. advocated for regional disarmament.**
- C. China withdrew from regional partnerships, contrasting U.S. efforts to strengthen alliances.**
- D. China presented itself as open for business and supportive of multilateralism, opposing U.S. unilateral coercion.**
- E. None of the above**

Article for Skimming

**The Power of Living
Authentically Despite
Public Opinion**

In a society that thrives on validation, likes, and public opinions, one of the most liberating truths a person can embrace is this: what others think of you is none of your business. Yet, many people unknowingly allow the opinions of others to shape their self-worth, limit their potential, and even dictate the course of their lives. The fear of judgment—of being misunderstood, criticized, or rejected—can be so powerful that it stops people from speaking their truth, chasing their dreams, or living authentically. But the moment you stop giving weight to others' opinions is the moment you begin to reclaim your freedom. Everyone views the world through their own lens, formed by their personal experiences, insecurities, and beliefs. When someone judges you, it often reflects more about them than it does about you. Their expectations, biases, or standards may have nothing to do with your reality or values. Yet, by constantly trying to please others or avoid criticism, you give away control over your life.

You become a version of yourself edited for someone else's comfort, not your own fulfillment. And in doing so, you risk losing your unique identity and inner peace. Living under the shadow of public opinion is exhausting. You may achieve things, but they won't satisfy you if they were done just to impress others. You may silence your ideas and dreams for fear of being mocked. But history is full of individuals who were once doubted or ridiculed, only to be admired later for their courage to be different—because they stayed true to themselves, even when it was uncomfortable. They understood that authenticity is more valuable than approval. True confidence doesn't come from being liked by everyone; it comes from liking yourself, regardless of who agrees with you. When you stop overthinking how others perceive you, you free up mental and emotional energy to focus on what really matters—your growth, your purpose, your happiness. You learn to measure your worth not by applause or agreement, but by your integrity and self-respect.

Of course, it's not always easy to shut out the noise. Criticism can hurt, and the desire to belong is natural. But there's a difference between being open to constructive feedback and being controlled by fear of disapproval. The former helps you grow; the latter holds you back. The key is to surround yourself with people who uplift you, and to remind yourself daily that no one else walks in your shoes. You know your story, your struggles, and your dreams better than anyone else ever could. So, stop editing your personality to fit into others' narratives. Speak your mind. Wear what you like. Take the path that excites you, even if it's unconventional. People will always have something to say—whether you succeed, fail, speak up, or stay silent. The difference is whether you're living for their approval or your own truth. In the end, it's your life to live—not theirs to judge.

Question 4:

Why does the author mention individuals from history who were “once doubted or ridiculed”?

- A. To argue that public doubt is necessary for growth.**
- B. To illustrate how those who conform often gain long-term praise.**
- C. To show that staying authentic can lead to eventual admiration.**
- D. To prove that all pioneers are universally misunderstood.**
- E. None of the above**

Question 5:

Which of the following best describes the tone of the passage?

- A. Ironic and indifferent**
- B. Cautionary and defensive**
- C. Objective and critical**
- D. Empowering and reflective**
- E. None of the above**

Today's Descriptive Question

Original Text:

The collapse of Silicon Valley Bank (SVB) in March 2023 was one of the largest bank failures in U.S. history, sending shockwaves through financial markets and the tech industry. SVB, a key lender to startups and venture capital firms, suffered a rapid downfall due to poor risk management, rising interest rates, and a bank run by depositors.

SVB's troubles began when it invested heavily in long-term U.S. Treasury bonds, which lost value as the Federal Reserve raised interest rates to combat inflation. To cover losses, the bank attempted to raise funds, triggering panic among depositors—mostly startups and tech firms—who rushed to withdraw their money. The mass withdrawal drained SVB's liquidity, forcing regulators to seize the bank.

The collapse had significant repercussions. Startups faced funding challenges, stock markets reacted negatively, and confidence in the banking sector weakened. The U.S. government and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) stepped in to protect depositors, preventing wider financial contagion.

SVB's failure highlighted the risks of poor asset management, interest rate sensitivity, and over-reliance on a concentrated customer base. It underscored the need for stronger risk controls and diversification in banking operations to prevent similar crises in the future.

Precis

The collapse of Silicon Valley Bank (SVB) in March 2023 resulted from poor risk management, rising interest rates, and a bank run. Heavy investments in long-term bonds lost value as the Federal Reserve raised rates, leading to a liquidity crisis and mass withdrawals.

The failure impacted startups, stock markets, and banking confidence, prompting FDIC intervention. The crisis exposed risks in asset management and deposit concentration, emphasizing the need for stronger risk controls and diversification in banking.

- You have received a job offer but have decided to decline it. Write a formal email to the HR department expressing your decision professionally.

To:@gmail.com

Subject: Declining the Job Offer – [Your Name]

Dear [HR Representative's Name],

I hope you are doing well. I sincerely appreciate the offer for the [Job Title] position at [Company Name] and the time and effort your team has invested in the hiring process. It was a pleasure learning about the company and the exciting opportunities it offers.

After careful consideration, I have decided to decline the offer at this time. This was not an easy decision, as I hold [Company Name] in high regard, but I believe it is the best course of action for me at this stage of my career.

I truly appreciate the opportunity and the support extended to me throughout the process. I hope our paths cross again in the future, and I wish [Company Name] continued success.

Thank you once again for your understanding.

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

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. Limbo:
2. Ramifications:
3. Ridiculed:
4. Colossal:
5. Tweaking:
6. Astutely:
7. Snub:
8. Rankled:
9. Indisputable:
10. Malevolence:

P. Despite his age, Pettit remains eligible for future assignments and has expressed his intention to set new records in the coming years.

Q. America's oldest active astronaut, Don Pettit, returned to Earth on his 70th birthday.

R. The Soyuz MS-26 space capsule, carrying Pettit along with Russian crewmates Alexey Ovchinin and Ivan Vagner, made a parachute-assisted landing on the Kazakh steppe at 06:20 local time (01:20 GMT) on Sunday.

S. After completing their 220-day mission, the crew returned to Earth — marking Pettit's fourth journey into space.

T. According to NASA, the crew spent 220 days aboard the International Space Station (ISS), completing 3,520 orbits around the Earth.

Rc ans

1.

Ans: B

Explanation:

Reference: "Beyond economics, the visit was also about ideological and normative competition as Beijing attempts to draw a contrast between its model of non-interference and economic engagement, and what it portrays as U.S. interventionism and ideological rigidity."

The passage states that beyond economics, the visit was about "ideological and normative competition," with Beijing attempting to contrast its model of non-interference and economic engagement against U.S. interventionism and ideological rigidity.

Incorrect Options:

- A. No mention of establishing military bases is made in the passage.
- C. The passage does not reference any trilateral security pact.
- D. Internal political dissent within China is not discussed.

2.

Ans: C

Explanation:

Reference: "The visit also comes in the wake of the 'Central Conference on Work Relating to Neighbouring Countries' (April 8–9)... underscored the importance of fostering a 'community with a shared future' with neighbouring states."

The passage mentions that the conference emphasized fostering a "community with a shared future" with neighbouring countries, highlighting China's intent to strengthen regional ties amidst global tensions.

Incorrect Options:

- A. The passage does not indicate that foreign leaders were invited.
- B. No military alliances were announced during the conference.
- D. The focus was on foreign relations, not domestic economic reforms.

3.

Ans: D

Explanation:

Reference: "Conversely, Mr. Xi's message was that China is open for business, supports multilateralism, and opposes unilateral coercion — a direct rebuttal to U.S. policies."

The passage notes that Xi's message was that China is open for business, supports multilateralism, and opposes unilateral coercion—a direct rebuttal to U.S. policies.

Incorrect Options:

- A. The roles are reversed; the U.S. imposed unilateral tariffs, while China promoted multilateralism.
- B. China's focus was on economic cooperation, not military expansion.
- C. China was strengthening regional partnerships, not withdrawing from them.

4.

Ans: C

Explanation:

Reference:

“History is full of individuals who were once doubted or ridiculed, only to be admired later for their courage to be different—because they stayed true to themselves.”

This part of the passage is used to reinforce the idea that although authenticity may be initially criticized, it often gains respect over time.

Incorrect options:

A is incorrect because the focus is not on the necessity of doubt but on the reward of authenticity.

B is incorrect as it contradicts the author's core argument about the emptiness of living for approval.

D is too absolute — not all pioneers are “universally misunderstood,” and the author never makes that claim.

5.

Ans: D

Explanation:

The passage urges readers to reclaim their autonomy and self-worth by rejecting the control of public opinion. It also reflects on the psychological roots of people-pleasing and the long-term costs of inauthenticity.

Incorrect options:

A is incorrect because the tone isn't ironic or indifferent—it's serious and purposeful.

B is incorrect because while caution exists, the overall message isn't defensive but liberating.

C is incorrect as the passage is personal, not detached or analytical.

Parajumble Answer:

The correct order of the given sentences in the paragraph is **QRTSP**. **Q begins the paragraph** by introducing the main topic about Don Pettit, who has returned to Earth. **R follows by providing** more details about the mission and naming the crew members involved. **TS is a mandatory pair and comes next, with T stating** that the crew spent 220 days in space and that the mission marks the fourth spaceflight for Pettit, **followed by S adding** relevant supporting information. **P concludes the paragraph** by outlining Don Pettit's future plans.

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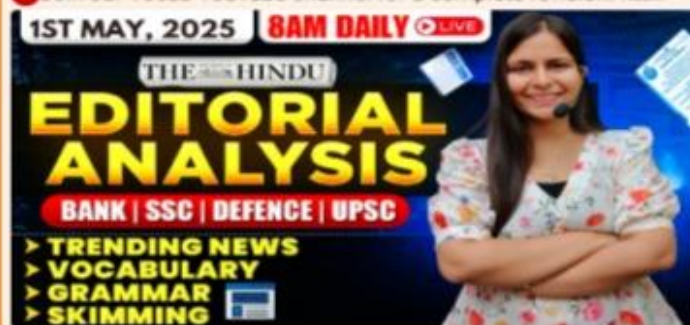


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