





THE HINDU EDITORIAL ANALYSIS





Vocabulary

1. IMPERIAL (Adjective)

Meaning: Relating to an empire or a powerful nation that dominates others by force

Synonyms: Domineering, Authoritative, Sovereign, Commanding, Ruling, Supreme, Majestic

Antonyms: Submissive, Inferior, Subordinate, Weak, Powerless, Dependent

Example: The imperial ambitions of the nation led to the invasion of smaller countries.

2. WAR (Noun)

Meaning: Armed conflict between nations or groups

Synonyms: Conflict, Battle, Combat, Warfare, Struggle, Hostility, Confrontation

Antonyms: Peace, Harmony, Truce, Ceasefire, Reconciliation, Accord

Example: The war between the two nations lasted for more than a decade.

3. THUGGERY (Noun)

Meaning: Violent or brutal behaviour; acting like a thug or criminal

Synonyms: Brutality, Hooliganism, Violence, Lawlessness, Roughness, Savagery, Barbarity

Antonyms: Civility, Gentleness, Decency, Lawfulness, Politeness, Refinement

Example: The international community condemned the thuggery displayed by the invading forces.

4. WARMONGERS (Noun)

Meaning: People who encourage or advocate war and conflict

Synonyms: Aggressors, Hawks, Militants, Belligerents, Provocateurs, Instigators, Jingoists

Antonyms: Peacekeepers, Pacifists, Doves, Diplomats, Mediators, Conciliators

Example: The warmongers in the government pushed for military action despite diplomatic options being available.

5. MERCURIAL (Adjective)

Meaning: Subject to sudden and unpredictable changes in mood or behaviour

Synonyms: Unpredictable, Volatile, Erratic, Impulsive, Capricious, Fickle, Temperamental

Antonyms: Stable, Steady, Calm, Predictable, Composed, Consistent, Reliable

Example: His mercurial temperament made it difficult for diplomats to negotiate with him.

6. EXPANSIONIST (Adjective/Noun)

Meaning: Relating to the policy of expanding a nation's territory or influence by force

Synonyms: Imperialist, Aggressive, Domineering, Colonialist, Annexationist, Conquering, Invasive

Antonyms: Isolationist, Defensive, Withdrawing, Non-interventionist, Pacifist, Retreating

Example: The expansionist policies of the regime led to the annexation of neighbouring territories.

7. ETHNONATIONALIST (Noun/Adjective)

Meaning: A person who believes that a nation should be composed of one particular ethnic group

Synonyms: Ethnic nationalist, Racial supremacist, Chauvinist, Sectarian, Tribalist, Nativist, Separatist

Antonyms: Multiculturalist, Pluralist, Universalist, Inclusivist, Cosmopolitan, Integrationist

Example: The ethnonationalist leader promoted policies that excluded minority communities from political participation.

8. FALLOUT (Noun)

Meaning: The adverse results or consequences of a situation or action

Synonyms: Consequences, Repercussions, Aftermath, Impact, Outcome, Ramifications, Effects

Antonyms: Cause, Origin, Beginning, Source, Trigger, Instigation

Example: The closure of the Strait of Hormuz could cause a massive economic fallout across the world.

9. PRE-EMPTIVE (Adjective)

Meaning: Done as a precaution to prevent something undesirable from happening first

Synonyms: Preventive, Anticipatory, Precautionary, Defensive, Proactive, Forestalling, Deterrent

Antonyms: Reactive, Responsive, Retaliatory, Consequential, Defensive, Passive

Example: The government launched a pre-emptive strike claiming there was an imminent threat.

10. STOCKPILE (Verb/Noun)

Meaning: To accumulate a large supply of goods or materials for future use

Synonyms: Accumulate, Hoard, Reserve, Store, Amass, Gather, Cache

Antonyms: Distribute, Disperse, Deplete, Exhaust, Spend, Release, Scatter

Example: Iran committed not to stockpile nuclear material as part of the proposed agreement.

11. DIPLOMACY (Noun)

Meaning: The art of managing international relations through negotiation rather than force

Synonyms: Negotiation, Tact, Statecraft, Mediation, Foreign policy, Dialogue, Discussion

Antonyms: Aggression, Force, War, Confrontation, Hostility, Coercion, Violence

Example: Diplomacy was the only peaceful option available before the war broke out.

12. OVERTAKEN (Verb)

Meaning: To catch up with and pass; here used as being replaced or superseded by something else

Synonyms: Surpassed, Superseded, Overwhelmed, Replaced, Outstripped, Eclipsed, Bypassed

Antonyms: Fallen behind, Lagged, Followed, Trailed, Surrendered, Retreated

Example: Diplomatic efforts were once again overtaken by military force at the last moment.

13. SABOTAGED (Verb)

Meaning: Deliberately destroyed or damaged something to prevent it from succeeding

Synonyms: Undermined, Destroyed, Wrecked, Disrupted, Derailed, Subverted, Ruined

Antonyms: Supported, Strengthened, Assisted, Promoted, Facilitated, Encouraged, Protected

Example: The peace talks were sabotaged by extremists who did not want a diplomatic solution.

14. REPRESSIVE (Adjective)

Meaning: Using force or authority to control people and suppress their freedom

Synonyms: Oppressive, Authoritarian, Tyrannical, Suppressive, Dictatorial, Brutal, Coercive

Antonyms: Liberal, Democratic, Permissive, Tolerant, Free, Open, Progressive

Example: America maintains close ties with several repressive regimes despite claiming to champion freedom.

15. QUALMS (Noun)

Meaning: Feelings of doubt or hesitation about whether something is right or appropriate

Synonyms: Doubts, Misgivings, Hesitations, Reservations, Scruples, Unease, Reluctance

Antonyms: Confidence, Certainty, Assurance, Willingness, Conviction, Boldness, Resolution

Example: Washington showed no qualms about supporting Israel despite its actions against Palestinians.

16. ADVERSARY (Noun)

Meaning: An opponent or enemy in a conflict or contest

Synonyms: Opponent, Enemy, Foe, Rival, Antagonist, Challenger, Opposition

Antonyms: Ally, Friend, Supporter, Partner, Associate, Collaborator, Comrade

Example: The war was launched to eliminate an adversary and reshape the region to suit their interests.

17. WRECKED (Verb)

Meaning: Completely destroyed or ruined something

Synonyms: Destroyed, Ruined, Devastated, Demolished, Shattered, Obliterated, Ravaged

Antonyms: Built, Constructed, Restored, Repaired, Preserved, Saved, Protected

Example: The war machines of the imperial duo have already wrecked the entire region.

18. REINED IN (Phrasal Verb)

Meaning: To control or restrain someone or something from going too far

Synonyms: Controlled, Restrained, Checked, Curbed, Restricted, Suppressed, Contained

Antonyms: Released, Freed, Encouraged, Unleashed, Liberated, Allowed, Permitted

Example: Israel must be reined in before the conflict spreads further across the region.

19. VESTIGE (Noun)

Meaning: A small remaining trace or sign of something that once existed

Synonyms: Trace, Remnant, Relic, Remains, Shadow, Fragment, Residue

Antonyms: Entirety, Whole, Abundance, Plenty, Fullness, Totality, Completion

Example: Even the last vestige of the rules-based international order is at risk of being destroyed.

20. SHREDDED (Verb)

Meaning: Torn into small pieces; here used figuratively as completely destroyed

Synonyms: Torn, Destroyed, Ripped, Dismantled, Demolished, Obliterated, Annihilated

Antonyms: Preserved, Protected, Maintained, Strengthened, Restored, Upheld, Defended

Example: The rules-based international order will be shredded entirely if such aggression continues unchecked.

Tone:

The tone of the passage is strongly condemnatory and urgent. Unlike the ISRO editorial which was advisory and constructive, this piece makes no attempt to be balanced or measured. The author is openly outraged and does not hide his anger toward Trump and Netanyahu. The language used — words like "thuggery", "reckless warmongers", "mercurial hard nationalist", and "rogue superpower" — reflects deep moral indignation. There is also a sense of urgency running throughout the passage, as the author repeatedly warns that the situation is dangerous and must be stopped before it spirals further out of control.

Theme:

The central theme of the passage is the dangerous and unlawful use of military power by America and Israel against Iran, and the threat it poses to international order. The author argues that this war is not defensive or justified but is a deliberate war of choice aimed at eliminating an adversary and reshaping West Asia to suit American and Israeli interests.

A strong secondary theme is the collapse of diplomacy in the face of military aggression. The author highlights that Iran was actively engaged in negotiations just hours before the attack, making the war even more unjustifiable. Another underlying theme is the hypocrisy of American foreign policy — claiming to fight for freedom while maintaining ties with repressive regimes and ignoring Palestinian suffering. Together these themes build toward one central warning — that if such imperial aggression goes unchecked, the rules-based international order will be completely destroyed.

Imperial war: on the war against Iran

American and Israeli thuggery has no place in the international system

Donald Trump came to the White House promising to end America's endless wars. That promise now lies in ashes in West Asia. The far-right Republican, who, along with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, launched an all-out war against Iran on February 28 and killed its Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, has proved to be one of the most reckless warmongers ever to occupy the Oval Office. Blood is on the hands of these two men — one a mercurial hard nationalist who is turning America into a rogue superpower, and the other, an expansionist ethnonationalist wanted for war crimes by the International Criminal Court. Mr. Trump has bombed at least seven countries in the 13 months that he has been in office. Under Mr. Netanyahu, Israel has operated far outside the boundaries of international law. Iran has responded with missile and drone attacks, targeting Israeli and American bases in the Persian Gulf and Jordan, that risks widening the war. Tehran has also announced the closure of the critical Strait of Hormuz, a move that risks a global economic fallout, especially for major oil importers such as India. To be clear, this is not a “pre-emptive” war, as Israel has claimed. There was no evidence that Iran was preparing to launch an attack. On the contrary, Tehran was involved in serious negotiations with Washington under Omani mediation. On February 27, Oman's Foreign Minister Badr al-Busaidi said that a deal was within reach, based on Iran's commitment not to build a bomb or stockpile nuclear material.

Within hours, American and Israeli missiles struck Iran, killing its head of state and top leaders. This is not the first time that diplomacy has been overtaken by force. In 2018, Mr. Trump single-handedly sabotaged the 2015 nuclear agreement. In June 2025, while Iran was negotiating with the U.S., Israel launched a unilateral attack, triggering the 12-day war. This time, however, the attack is far more dangerous. This war is not about giving Iranians their “freedom” either, as Mr. Trump has claimed. The U.S. maintains close ties with several repressive monarchies and dictatorships, where freedom rarely enters the equation. Nor has Washington shown any qualms about Israel’s crimes against the defenceless, stateless Palestinian people. This is a war of choice, launched to eliminate an adversary and reshape the region to suit American and Israeli interests. Such thuggery cannot be accepted in the international system. The war machines of the imperial duo have already wrecked the region. Before the fire spreads further, this war must end. America should step back and Israel must be reined in. Otherwise, even the last vestige of the rules-based order will be shredded entirely.

Writer's point of view

The writer's point of view is that of a deeply concerned and morally outraged observer who strongly condemns the actions of America and Israel and views this war as a direct threat to international peace and the rules-based global order.

The writer views both Trump and Netanyahu with open contempt — describing them as dangerous aggressors acting outside international law rather than legitimate statesmen making difficult decisions. He holds both men personally responsible for the bloodshed that has followed.

The writer firmly believes this war has no justification whatsoever. He rejects Israel's claim of a pre-emptive strike since Iran was actively negotiating a deal just hours before the attack. To him this is purely a war of choice launched to eliminate an adversary and reshape the region in America and Israel's favour — nothing less than imperial aggression.

The writer is also deeply frustrated by the repeated pattern of diplomacy being sabotaged by force — in 2018, in June 2025, and now again. He strongly rejects Trump's claim that this war is about Iranian freedom, calling out American hypocrisy given its ties with repressive regimes and its silence on Palestinian suffering.

His deepest concern is the survival of the rules-based international order. He believes that if such aggression goes unchallenged, international law itself will be destroyed. His final message is firm — America must step back, Israel must be reined in, and this war must end immediately.

Mcq's

Q1. On which date did America and Israel launch an attack on Iran?

- a) February 27, 2026**
- b) March 1, 2026**
- c) February 28, 2026**
- d) January 29, 2026**
- e) March 2, 2026**

Answer: c

Q2. Who was killed in the American and Israeli attack on Iran?

- a) Hassan Nasrallah**
- b) Ayatollah Ali Khamenei**
- c) Badr al-Busaidi**
- d) Ismail Haniyeh**
- e) Ali Khamenei Jr.**

Answer: b

Q3. Which country mediated the negotiations between Iran and America before the attack?

- a) Qatar**
- b) Turkey**
- c) Saudi Arabia**
- d) Oman**
- e) UAE**

Answer: d

Q4. Read the following sentence from the passage:

"One a mercurial hard nationalist who is turning America into a rogue superpower."

Which of the following gives the correct meaning, one synonym, and one antonym of the word "mercurial"?

- a) Meaning — calm and stable; Synonym — composed; Antonym — unpredictable**
- b) Meaning — slow and deliberate; Synonym — cautious; Antonym — reckless**
- c) Meaning — subject to sudden changes in mood; Synonym — unpredictable; Antonym — steady**
- d) Meaning — extremely intelligent; Synonym — brilliant; Antonym — dull**
- e) Meaning — aggressive and violent; Synonym — hostile; Antonym — peaceful**

Answer: c

Q5. What can be inferred about the timing of the American and Israeli attack on Iran?

- a) The attack was launched after Iran refused all diplomatic negotiations**
- b) The attack was launched to prevent an imminent Iranian nuclear strike**
- c) The attack was launched even as Iran was close to finalising a diplomatic deal**
- d) The attack was launched after Iran closed the Strait of Hormuz**
- e) The attack was launched in response to Iranian drone attacks on American bases**

Answer: c

Q6. Which of the following best describes the tone of the passage?

- a) Neutral and analytical**
- b) Celebratory and optimistic**
- c) Advisory and constructive**
- d) Condemnatory and urgent**
- e) Sarcastic and humorous**

Answer: d

Q7. Which of the following best captures the central theme of the passage?

- a) The nuclear ambitions of Iran and their threat to global peace**
- b) The unlawful use of military power by America and Israel and its threat to international order**
- c) The role of Oman in mediating peace negotiations in West Asia**
- d) The economic impact of the closure of the Strait of Hormuz on India**
- e) The rise of ethnonationalism in Israel and America**

Answer: b

Q8. Which of the following best suits as the title of the passage?

- a) Iran's Nuclear Ambitions and Global Consequences**
- b) Oman's Role in West Asian Peace Process**
- c) Trump's Foreign Policy and its Impact on America**
- d) Imperial Aggression and the Collapse of International Order**
- e) The Strait of Hormuz Crisis and Global Oil Markets**

Answer: d

Q9. The phrase "lies in ashes" as used in the passage means:

- a) Trump's promises were literally burned in a fire**
- b) Trump's promise to end wars has completely failed**
- c) America's foreign policy documents were destroyed**
- d) West Asia has been reduced to rubble by bombings**
- e) Trump's election campaign promises were forgotten**

Answer: b

Q10. According to the author, what must happen to prevent further damage to the international order?

- a) Iran must agree to stop its nuclear programme immediately**
- b) The United Nations must impose sanctions on Iran**
- c) America must step back and Israel must be reined in**
- d) Oman must resume its mediation efforts immediately**
- e) India must take a leadership role in ending the conflict**

Answer: c

Q11. Which of the following best reflects the writer's point of view as expressed in the passage?

- a) America and Israel were justified in launching a pre-emptive strike against Iran**
- b) Iran's closure of the Strait of Hormuz makes it equally responsible for the crisis**
- c) This war is an unjustifiable act of imperial aggression that threatens international law**
- d) Trump's promise to end endless wars has been partially fulfilled through this decisive action**
- e) The international community should wait and watch before passing judgment on the war**

Q12. Read the following statements and choose the correct option:

- 1. Oman's Foreign Minister said a deal with Iran was within reach on February 27**
- 2. Iran had stockpiled nuclear material before the attack according to the passage**
- 3. Trump has bombed at least seven countries in his 13 months in office**
- 4. The passage states that Iran closed the Strait of Hormuz before the American attack**

- a) Only statements 2 and 4 are correct**
- b) Only statements 1 and 3 are correct**
- c) Only statement 1 is correct**
- d) Statements 1, 3 and 4 are correct**
- e) All statements are correct**

Q13. Read the following statements and choose the correct option:

- 1. America's claim that the war is about Iranian freedom is contradicted by its ties with repressive regimes**
- 2. Iran's closure of the Strait of Hormuz poses a serious economic threat to oil importing nations like India**
- 3. The attack on Iran proves that America and Israel were genuinely committed to diplomatic solutions**
- 4. The pattern of sabotaging diplomacy by force has been repeated multiple times by America and Israel**

- a) Only statements 1 and 3 are correct**
- b) Only statement 2 is correct**
- c) Only statements 1, 2 and 4 are correct**
- d) Only statements 3 and 4 are correct**
- e) All statements are correct**

Q14. Read the following conclusions and choose the correct option:

1. The war against Iran is a war of choice aimed at reshaping the region to suit American and Israeli interests

2. The rules-based international order will survive even if such imperial aggression continues unchallenged

3. Diplomacy was a genuine option before the attack as negotiations were close to a breakthrough

4. Trump and Netanyahu acted within the boundaries of international law in launching the attack

a) Only statements 1 and 3 are correct

b) Only statements 2 and 4 are correct

c) Only statement 1 is correct

d) Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct

e) All statements are correct

Q15. According to the passage, the war against Iran is not a pre-emptive strike because _____?

- a) Iran had already launched missiles on American bases before the attack**
- b) Iran had closed the Strait of Hormuz as an act of aggression**
- c) Iran was involved in serious negotiations and had committed not to build a nuclear bomb**
- d) Iran had withdrawn from all international agreements before the attack**
- e) Iran had refused all diplomatic solutions proposed by Oman**



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