

The Hindu EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

3rd March 2025

**PREPARE FOR BANK (PO/ CLERK), SSC, UPSC,
State PSC, CAT, CTET, RAILWAY EXAMS, CDS,
TET, NDA/AIRFORCE, NET and all Govt.
Exams**

1. Quagmire (दलदल/मुश्किल स्थिति)

- **Meaning:** A difficult or precarious situation.
- **Synonyms:** Predicament, dilemma, entanglement
- **Antonyms:** Solution, ease, relief
- **Example:** The government found itself in a political quagmire after implementing controversial reforms.

2. Surreptitious (गुप्त/छिपा हुआ)

- Meaning: Done secretly, without being noticed.**
- Synonyms: Clandestine, covert, stealthy**
- Antonyms: Open, overt, transparent**
- Example: The journalist made surreptitious attempts to gather information on the scandal.**

3. Ubiquitous (सर्वव्यापी /हर जगह मौजूद)

- **Meaning:** Present, appearing, or found everywhere.
- **Synonyms:** Omnipresent, pervasive, universal
- **Antonyms:** Rare, scarce, uncommon
- **Example:** AI-powered chatbots have become ubiquitous in customer service industries.

4. Entrenched (मज़बूती से जड़ा हुआ)

- **Meaning:** Firmly established and difficult to change.
- **Synonyms:** Deep-rooted, ingrained, fixed
- **Antonyms:** Unstable, temporary, weak
- **Example:** The entrenched social norms in many societies continue to assign care responsibilities primarily to women.

5. Exuberant (उत्साही)

- **Meaning:** Filled with or characterized by a lively energy and excitement.
- **Synonyms:** Enthusiastic, energetic, lively
- **Antonyms:** Gloomy, apathetic, subdued
- **Example:** The fans showed exuberant support for their team throughout the match.

6. Malfeasance (दुराचार)

- **Meaning: Wrongdoing, especially by a public official.**
- **Synonyms: Misconduct, wrongdoing, corruption**
- **Antonyms: Integrity, honesty, righteousness**
- **Example: The mayor was accused of malfeasance after evidence of bribery came to light.**

7. Rebuttal (खंडन)

- **Meaning:** A refutation or contradiction.
- **Synonyms:** Refutation, counter-argument, denial
- **Antonyms:** Confirmation, endorsement, agreement
- **Example:** The lawyer's rebuttal effectively dismantled the opposing counsel's argument.

8. Reprieve (राहत)

- **Meaning:** A temporary relief or delay from something unpleasant.
- **Synonyms:** Relief, postponement, suspension
- **Antonyms:** Continuation, aggravation, intensification
- **Example:** The monsoon rains might bring some reprieve to the farmers struggling with drought.

9. Mundane (साधारण)

- **Meaning:** Lacking interest or excitement; dull.
- **Synonyms:** Ordinary, routine, monotonous
- **Antonyms:** Exciting, extraordinary, thrilling
- **Example:** The astronauts' daily chores in space, like cleaning, are mundane but necessary for survival.

10. Laudable (प्रशंसनीय)

- **Meaning:** Deserving praise and commendation.
- **Synonyms:** Praiseworthy, commendable, admirable
- **Antonyms:** Blameworthy, condemnable, disreputable
- **Example:** The team's efforts to help the underprivileged were truly laudable.

VOCABULARY

One-word substitute:

1. A volume containing several works; covering many things at once:

Omnibus

2. Used in informal or everyday conversation; not formal or literary:

Colloquial

3. Using high-flown or pompous language:

Magniloquent

4. An introductory statement or preface, especially to a document or speech:

Preamble

VOCABULARY

Phrasal Verbs:

1. Chip in:

Meaning – Contribute money or effort to something.

2. Choke off:

Meaning – Stop or restrict something forcefully.

3. Chuck away:

Meaning – Dispose of or waste something carelessly.

4. Churn out:

Meaning – Produce large quantities of something quickly, often of low quality.

VOCABULARY

Idioms & Phrases

1. Let bygones be bygones

Meaning: to decide to forget disagreements or arguments that happened in the past

2. A blessing in disguise

Meaning - Something seemingly unlucky or bad at first results in good

3. Cast in the same mold

Meaning - to be very similar in character to someone else

VOCABULARY

4. Spill the beans

Meaning - to reveal a secret

5. Take with a grain of salt

Meaning - to not completely believe something that you are told

Article for Reading

**The case for
curiosity-driven
science**

National Science Day is observed on February 28 every year to commemorate the discovery of the Raman Effect by C.V. Raman. The Raman Effect describes the scattering of light by molecules, leading to a shift in wavelength. It was a major breakthrough in understanding the interaction between light and matter. This discovery earned Raman the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1930, marking a significant milestone in Indian scientific achievements. However, what was Raman's original goal? Was he motivated by the prospect of solving immediate societal problems, or was his pursuit of science driven by something deeper? His discovery was not driven by commercial interests or immediate application; it was born out of an innate human curiosity and imagination. Yet today, the very nature of scientific inquiry is being reshaped by economic and market considerations. Scientific enterprise is often viewed through the lens of market value, economic return, and immediate technological application.

Funding agencies worldwide, including in India, are prioritising solution-oriented and commercially driven research. As a result, research outcomes are increasingly evaluated based on patents, entrepreneurship, and possibility of launching start-ups, commercial ventures, and consultancy and industry partnerships. Applied research has become the dominant paradigm, with scientists expected to deliver tangible products or solutions. While the practical application of science is undeniably important, this utilitarian approach risks eroding the true essence of scientific enquiry. If scientific research becomes entirely dictated by market forces, we risk constraining free exploration and diminishing the potential for paradigm-shifting discoveries. The true spirit of scientific enquiry must be nurtured not by external pressures but by an environment that values curiosity, imagination, and intellectual freedom. There is an increasing tendency to equate scientific progress solely with technological innovation, often overlooking the deeper intellectual and exploratory aspects of science.

Over the past two decades, science and technology have witnessed unprecedented breakthroughs, with the artificial intelligence revolution now unfolding at an extraordinary pace. Science has played a vital role in addressing many challenges, from healthcare advancements to renewable energy solutions. While these innovations undoubtedly hold practical value, they should not become ends in themselves. This also brings us to a crucial question: is science being steered towards genuine problem-solving and sustainable development, or is it merely reinforcing a culture of excess and fuelling endless cycles of consumption? Scientific pursuit is driven by more than just technological advancement and short-term gains. Curiosity, the quest for a deeper understanding, and the desire to address fundamental questions about nature and existence are equally important. When innovation is pursued for its own sake, it risks becoming a hollow exercise, detached from the broader intellectual and societal aspirations that make scientific enterprise truly meaningful.

Summary

The passage discusses the evolving nature of scientific inquiry, contrasting the innate curiosity-driven approach of C.V. Raman with the current trend of commercially driven research. Raman's discovery of the Raman Effect was motivated by intellectual curiosity rather than economic gains. However, modern scientific research is increasingly shaped by market forces, with an emphasis on patents, entrepreneurship, and technological applications. While applied research is valuable, the passage warns against letting economic considerations dictate scientific exploration entirely. It argues that the true essence of scientific pursuit lies in intellectual freedom, curiosity, and the quest for deeper understanding. The passage also raises concerns about whether science is genuinely addressing societal challenges or merely contributing to unchecked technological expansion and consumerism.

Tone:

The tone is analytical, concerned, and reflective. The passage critically examines the shift in scientific priorities and expresses concern over the dominance of market-driven research, advocating for a balanced approach that preserves the intrinsic value of scientific exploration.

Reading Comprehension

Based on the above passage, answer the following questions:

Question 1:

According to the passage, what is the risk of prioritizing market-driven scientific research?

- A) It might reduce the number of patents and innovations**
- B) It could lead to a decline in global scientific collaboration**
- C) It may discourage curiosity-driven fundamental discoveries**
- D) It would limit technological advancements in key industries**
- E) None of the above**

Question 2:

According to the passage, what is a possible negative outcome of focusing scientific progress solely on technological innovation?

- A) It may lead to a decline in global investment in scientific research**
- B) It could cause the neglect of deeper intellectual and exploratory aspects of science**
- C) It might limit job opportunities for researchers in industrial sectors**
- D) It will slow down the adoption of AI-driven research solutions**
- E) None of the above**

Question 3:

What was the primary motivation behind C.V. Raman's discovery of the Raman Effect?

- A) To develop a commercial application for his research**
- B) To secure government funding for scientific experiments**
- C) To solve immediate societal problems through applied research**
- D) To satisfy his curiosity and explore fundamental scientific principles**
- E) None of the above**

Article for Skimming

**Centring care in
India's economic
policy**

The Union Budget for 2025 allocated a record ₹4,49,028.68 crore to the Gender Budget (GB), marking a 37.3% increase from FY24 and accounting for 8.86% of the total Budget. This rise is primarily due to the inclusion of the PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, which accounts for 24% of the GB, rather than being driven by substantial investments in care infrastructure or new gender-responsive schemes. Despite this increase, critical investments in care infrastructure remain absent, reinforcing the persistent invisibilisation of care work in India's economic planning. While the Economic Surveys of 2023-24 and 2024-25 highlight care infrastructure as central to women's empowerment, the current Budget misses the opportunity to make tangible investments to strengthen India's care economy in line with its socio-economic realities. Globally, women spend an average of 17.8% of their time on unpaid care and domestic work (UCDW), with women in the Global South bearing higher burdens. India is especially concerning, as Indian women shoulder 40% more of this burden than their counterparts in South Africa and China.

The International Labour Organization reports that 53% of Indian women remain outside the labour force due to care responsibilities, compared to just 1.1% of men, underscoring entrenched inequities. For poor and marginalised women, this burden is severe as women in low-income families often juggle 17–19 hours of daily tasks, balancing paid work with domestic duties, intensifying ‘time poverty’, and eroding their well-being. Feminist economists from the Global South emphasise that unpaid work in these regions encompasses a broader range of tasks compared to the Global North, extending beyond household care giving to include work on family farms, water and fuel collection, cleaning, and cooking. Limited access to essential infrastructure — such as water, clean energy, and sanitation — means women spend up to 73% of their time on these unpaid activities. For example, women spend nearly five hours daily collecting water, compared to 1.5 hours for men. Climate change exacerbates this burden, with water-related unpaid labour in India projected to reach \$1.4 billion by 2050 under a high-emissions scenario.

This stems from low public investment in care infrastructure and entrenched social norms that assign care work to women. The Economic Survey 2023-24 highlights that direct public investment equivalent to 2% of GDP could generate 11 million jobs while easing the care burden. Applying the expanded ‘Three R framework’—Recognise, Reduce, Redistribute, and Represent — can ensure policies are both contextually relevant and transformative. The first step is recognising the full spectrum of UCDW women perform. India’s 2019 Time Use Survey marked a milestone in acknowledging this issue, revealing that women spend an average of seven hours daily on UCDW. Despite the policy benefits that these surveys carry, their costs can make implementation challenging. One solution is to integrate Time-use modules into existing household surveys.

Question 4:

Which economic intervention, according to the passage, could create 11 million jobs while addressing the care work crisis in India?

- A) Increasing the Gender Budget allocation to at least 10% of the total Budget.**
- B) Direct public investment equivalent to 2% of GDP.**
- C) Implementing cash transfer schemes to compensate women for unpaid care work.**
- D) Expanding free childcare services to all urban and rural areas.**
- E) None of the above**

Question 5

According to the passage, what is one proposed solution to improve data collection on unpaid care and domestic work (UCDW) in India?

- A) Conducting annual large-scale surveys dedicated solely to unpaid work**
- B) Integrating Time-Use modules into existing household surveys**
- C) Establishing government-mandated reporting of unpaid work hours**
- D) Expanding the Economic Survey to include unpaid labor metrics**
- E) None of the above**

Today's Descriptive Question

Precis Writing:

Original Text:

The Go First crisis marks one of the most significant setbacks in India's aviation sector. Formerly known as GoAir, the airline faced severe financial distress, leading it to suspend operations and file for voluntary insolvency in May 2023. The crisis was attributed to operational inefficiencies, financial mismanagement, rising fuel costs, and supply chain disruptions. However, the primary reason cited by the airline was the non-availability of engines from Pratt & Whitney, which grounded nearly half of its fleet, leading to revenue losses. The impact of Go First's financial collapse has been far-reaching. Thousands of passengers were left stranded due to sudden flight cancellations, and employees faced job insecurity. The crisis also intensified concerns over the financial viability of low-cost carriers (LCCs) in India, as rising operational costs and high competition make profitability challenging. Suppliers, creditors, and airport operators also suffered financial losses due to unpaid dues.

The Go First debacle has also raised questions about airline regulations, aircraft leasing policies, and the dependency of Indian airlines on foreign engine manufacturers. The crisis underscores the need for better financial planning, supply chain resilience, and regulatory intervention to ensure the stability of India's aviation industry.

Precis:

The Go First crisis resulted in the airline's suspension of operations and insolvency filing in May 2023, mainly due to engine shortages, financial mismanagement, and rising operational costs. It disrupted passenger travel, caused job losses, and raised concerns over the financial health of low-cost airlines. The crisis highlights the need for stronger airline regulations, supply chain resilience, and financial sustainability to prevent similar setbacks in India's aviation sector.

- You are a customer support executive, and a customer has complained about poor service. Write an email apologizing and assuring them of improved service.

To:@gmail.com

Subject: Sincere Apologies for Your Experience – Commitment to Improved Service

Dear [Customer's Name],

I sincerely apologize for the inconvenience you faced due to our service. We truly value your feedback and regret that we did not meet your expectations on this occasion.

At [Company Name], customer satisfaction is our top priority, and we are taking immediate steps to address the issue. We have reviewed your concern and are working diligently to ensure a smoother experience for you in the future.

Please be assured that we are committed to providing the highest level of service. If there is anything specific we can do to resolve your concern, please feel free to reach out to us at [contact details].

Once again, we appreciate your patience and the opportunity to improve. We look forward to serving you better.

**Best regards,
[Your Name]
[Your Position]
[Company Name]**

Match the column

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Let bygones be bygones | A. Something seemingly bad at first results in good |
| 2. A blessing in disguise | B. to be very similar in character to someone else |
| 3. Cast in the same mold | C. to not completely believe something that you are told |
| 4. Spill the beans | D. to decide to forget disagreements |
| 5. Take with a grain of salt | E. to reveal a secret |

Answer:

1-d

2-a

3-b

4-e

5-c

Vocabulary

1. Quagmire:
2. Surreptitious:
3. Ubiquitous:
4. Entrenched:
5. Exuberant:
6. Malfeasance:
7. Rebuttal:
8. Reprieve:
9. Mundane:
10. Laudable:

Rc ans

1.

Ans: C

Explanation:

Reference from the Passage:

"If scientific research becomes entirely dictated by market forces, we risk constraining free exploration and diminishing the potential for paradigm-shifting discoveries."

The passage argues that when scientific inquiry is dictated by market forces, it constrains free exploration and limits paradigm-shifting discoveries. The true spirit of scientific inquiry should be nurtured by curiosity and intellectual freedom, not external economic pressures.

Why Other Options Are Incorrect:

A) It might reduce the number of patents and innovations – The passage actually suggests that today's research is increasingly focused on patents and commercial viability.

B) It could lead to a decline in global scientific collaboration – The passage does not discuss collaboration issues.

D) It would limit technological advancements in key industries – The passage suggests applied research is thriving, but at the cost of fundamental exploration.

2.

Ans: B

Explanation:

Reference from the Passage:

"There is an increasing tendency to equate scientific progress solely with technological innovation, often overlooking the deeper intellectual and exploratory aspects of science."

The passage states that science is increasingly equated with technological progress, overlooking its intellectual and exploratory dimensions. It warns that if innovation is pursued purely for commercial value, it may become a hollow exercise lacking deeper scientific meaning.

Why Other Options Are Incorrect:

A) It may lead to a decline in global investment in scientific research – The concern is not about investment levels but about the shift in research priorities.

C) It might limit job opportunities for researchers in industrial sectors – The passage suggests the opposite, that industry-driven research is increasing.

D) It will slow down the adoption of AI-driven research solutions – AI advancements are mentioned, but not in relation to slowing research adoption.

3.

Ans: D

Explanation:

Reference from the Passage:

"His discovery was not driven by commercial interests or immediate application; it was born out of an innate human curiosity and imagination."

The passage emphasizes that Raman's discovery was not driven by commercial interests or immediate application but by an innate human curiosity and imagination. His research was purely exploratory rather than solution-oriented.

Why Other Options Are Incorrect:

A) To develop a commercial application for his research – The passage states that his research was not driven by commercial interests.

B) To secure government funding for scientific experiments – There is no mention of Raman seeking funding as a motivation.

C) To solve immediate societal problems through applied research – The passage contrasts Raman's curiosity-driven research with today's applied, solution-oriented research.

4.

Ans: B

Explanation:

Reference from the Passage:

"The Economic Survey 2023-24 highlights that direct public investment equivalent to 2% of GDP could generate 11 million jobs while easing the care burden."

The passage states that a 2% GDP investment in care infrastructure could generate 11 million jobs, directly addressing unpaid care work burdens.

Why Other Options Are Incorrect:

A is incorrect as there is no mention that increasing the Gender Budget to 10% would create jobs.

C is incorrect because the passage does not suggest cash transfers as a primary solution.

D is incorrect since the passage discusses care infrastructure broadly rather than just childcare services.

5.

Ans: B

Explanation:

Reference from the passage:

"Despite the policy benefits that these surveys carry, their costs can make implementation challenging. One solution is to integrate Time-use modules into existing household surveys." The passage suggests that while time-use surveys provide valuable policy insights, their implementation can be costly. To address this challenge, one proposed solution is integrating Time-Use modules into existing household surveys, making data collection more feasible and cost-effective.

Why the other options are incorrect:

- A) Conducting annual large-scale surveys dedicated solely to unpaid work → The passage acknowledges the cost challenges of dedicated surveys, so this is not the proposed solution.
- C) Establishing government-mandated reporting of unpaid work hours → No mention is made of legally requiring individuals to report their unpaid work hours.
- D) Expanding the Economic Survey to include unpaid labor metrics → While the Economic Survey discusses care infrastructure, it does not include a recommendation for incorporating unpaid labor metrics.

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