The Hindu
EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

21st June 2025

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

1. Humility (विनम्रता / नम्रता)

➔ **Meaning:** A modest view of one's importance.

➔ **Synonyms:** Modesty, meekness, unpretentiousness

➔ **Antonyms:** Arrogance, pride, egotism

➔ **Example:** Acts of service cultivate humility and gratitude in the giver.

2. Beset (घिरा होना / परेशान करना)

➜ **Meaning:** To be troubled or surrounded by problems.

➜ **Synonyms:** Plagued, harassed, burdened

➜ **Antonyms:** Freed, relieved, unaffected

➜ **Example:** Quantum projects are beset by delays and bureaucratic hurdles.

3. Trivial (तुच्छ / महत्वहीन)

➔ **Meaning: Of little value or importance.**

➔ **Synonyms: Insignificant, petty, minor**

➔ **Antonyms: Significant, crucial, important**

➔ **Example: Venture capital in India's quantum space remains trivial.**

4. Truncated (कटा हुआ / अधूरा)

➔ **Meaning:** Shortened by cutting off a part; incomplete.

➔ **Synonyms:** Shortened, abridged, reduced

➔ **Antonyms:** Extended, prolonged, lengthened

➔ **Example:** India's quantum budget was truncated from ₹8,000 crore to ₹6,003 crore.

5. Spurious (कृत्रिम / झूठा)

➔ **Meaning:** Not genuine, authentic, or true; false or fake.

➔ **Synonyms:** Bogus, counterfeit, deceptive

➔ **Antonyms:** Genuine, authentic, valid

➔ **Example:** The report was filled with spurious claims that could not be verified.

6. Galvanise (प्रेरित करना / उत्तेजित करना)

➔ **Meaning:** To shock or excite someone into taking action.

➔ **Synonyms:** Inspire, stimulate, provoke

➔ **Antonyms:** Deter, discourage, dissuade

➔ **Example:** The leader's speech galvanized the crowd into protesting peacefully.

7. Fulgent (दीप्तिमान / चमकदार)

➔ **Meaning:** Shining brightly; radiant.

➔ **Synonyms:** Gleaming, dazzling, luminous

➔ **Antonyms:** Dull, dim, lackluster

➔ **Example:** Her fulgent smile lit up the entire room.

8. Lexical (शब्द-संबंधी / शब्दकोशीय)

➔ **Meaning:** Relating to the words or vocabulary of a language.

➔ **Synonyms:** Verbal, linguistic, vocabulary-based

➔ **Antonyms:** Nonverbal, contextual

➔ **Example:** The student's lexical knowledge impressed the language professor.

9. Beatific (धन्य / अत्यंत आनंदित)

➔ **Meaning:** Blissfully happy or peaceful.

➔ **Synonyms:** Serene, joyful, blissful

➔ **Antonyms:** Miserable, troubled, sorrowful

➔ **Example:** The monk had a beatific expression after hours of meditation.

10. Venerate (पूजा करना / श्रद्धा करना)

➜ **Meaning:** To regard with great respect or reverence.

➜ **Synonyms:** Revere, honor, worship

➜ **Antonyms:** Disrespect, despise, condemn

➜ **Example:** People around the world venerate Mahatma Gandhi for his philosophy of nonviolence.

One-word substitute:

1. Aggressively defiant or hostile:
Truculent

2. Looking back on or dealing with past events or situations:
Retrospective

3. To break up or dissolve an organization or group:
Disband

4. To enjoy something deeply, especially taste or experience:
Savour

Phrasal Verbs:

1. Blurt out
Meaning - to say something suddenly, often without thinking.

2. Boil down to
Meaning - to summarize or reduce to the essential details.

3. Bottle up
Meaning - to keep emotions hidden or suppressed.

4. Brush off
Meaning - to dismiss or ignore someone or something.

Idioms & Phrases

1. Scrape the barrel
Meaning: to use the worst people or things because that is all that is available

2. Take a rain check
Meaning: to refuse an offer or invitation politely

3. Play by the ear
Meaning: to act according to the demands of a situation

4. To bell the cat
Meaning: to attempt, or agree to perform, an impossibly difficult task

5. Cut no ice
Meaning: have no influence or effect

Quantum challenge: On IIT-DRDO demonstration of quantum key-distribution scheme

Scientists from IIT-Delhi and the DRDO recently demonstrated a key advance in quantum cybersecurity that stands to revolutionise how the world will communicate in the future. The world's secrets are currently stored and communicated via channels that are protected by difficult mathematical problems. Over the years, an increasing amount of computing power available to certain actors has forced these problems to become difficult and nigh-uncrackable. The imminence of quantum computing requires this paradigm to change because quantum computers can (at least on paper) solve problems currently out of reach of the most powerful conventional supercomputers. Quantum cybersecurity is one prong of this change, promising to protect communication channels irrespective of the computing power available to malicious actors. The IIT-Delhi and DRDO team successfully demonstrated a quantum key-distribution scheme through one kilometre of free space on the institute's campus.

Such a technology allows two individuals (or stations) located a kilometre apart to securely access messages they send each other. If an eavesdropper tries to intercept any message, instantaneous changes in the keys the individuals use to decrypt the messages will reveal the channel has been compromised, and in a way that the eavesdropper cannot prevent. If scaled up to include satellites, the technology could allow stations anywhere in India to exchange information through a quantum network without fear of being compromised. Herein lies the rub. Quantum communications is one of the four themes of the National Quantum Mission, approved in 2023 with an outlay of ₹6,003 crore until 2031. Many of the same problems assailing fundamental research in India have already beset research under the Mission, however. A small fraction of the outlay has been disbursed thus far even as venture capital flow into startups remains trivial.

Scientists have complained that just-in-time funding, absence of single-window clearances, and documentation requirements have increased the duration of projects. There are persistent foreign hardware and software dependencies: materials required for specific use-cases, such as cryostats and sensors, need to be fabricated abroad while most quantum software stacks are currently implemented by multinational companies. Government pay does not match global offers and lack of timely access to resources has forced researchers to accept short-term contracts and rent equipment. In fact, India's commitment, itself down from the ₹8,000 crore announced in 2020, is dwarfed by those of the U.S. and China, which are five- and 20-times higher, respectively. If the demonstration at IIT-Delhi is to scale, the government cannot simply 'clip on' scientific talent and technological and economic opportunity to existing infrastructure. Administrative reform is essential.

Summary

The passage discusses a significant breakthrough in quantum cybersecurity by scientists at IIT-Delhi and DRDO, who successfully demonstrated quantum key distribution (QKD) over one kilometre of free space. This advance is crucial in the face of quantum computing, which threatens current encryption methods. Quantum cybersecurity offers inherently secure communication by making eavesdropping detectable. While India's National Quantum Mission (₹6,003 crore until 2031) includes quantum communications as a key theme, its progress has been slow due to underfunding, administrative hurdles, foreign dependency on hardware/software, and insufficient researcher support. Comparatively, India's investment and infrastructure lag behind countries like China and the U.S. The passage concludes that administrative reform is critical for scaling such scientific achievements.

Tone:

The tone is analytical and cautionary, combining optimism about the technological achievement with concern over systemic and administrative obstacles that could hinder future progress.

Reading Comprehension

Based on the above passage, answer the following questions:

Question 1:
What is the primary vulnerability in current cybersecurity methods that quantum cybersecurity aims to address?

A) The inability of current systems to scale over long distances
B) The overdependence on physical infrastructure and fiber optics
C) The threat posed by quantum computers to mathematical encryption problems
D) The lack of trust in multinational software vendors
E) None of the above

Question 2:
What makes the demonstrated quantum key distribution (QKD) system fundamentally secure against eavesdropping?

A) It uses unbreakable optical fiber channels
B) It relies on rapid key rotation based on random sequences
C) It blocks unauthorized access using advanced AI detection systems
D) It detects interception via changes in quantum key states
E) None of the above

Question 3:
According to the passage, what is a major bottleneck in India's quantum mission progress?

A) Delays due to cybersecurity approval protocols from DRDO
B) Inability to attract foreign scientists to domestic projects
C) Limited and delayed disbursement of allocated funds
D) Lack of institutional recognition for national laboratories
E) None of the above

Creating Impact: Discovering Purpose and Fulfillment through Service

In an age where success is often defined by wealth, status, or influence, we are slowly rediscovering a more timeless and grounding truth: true fulfillment does not come from what we have, but from what we give. It's easy to get caught up in the pursuit of personal milestones—career achievements, material comforts, accolades—but many find that even after reaching these goals, something still feels incomplete. That missing piece is often purpose, and one of the most meaningful ways to uncover it is through service to others. Service, at its heart, is not just about helping—it's about connecting. It's about recognizing that we are part of something larger than ourselves, and that our actions can ripple outward, touching lives in ways we may never fully understand. Whether through volunteering time, sharing knowledge, offering emotional support, or simply being present for someone in need, service creates a bridge between individuals and communities. It transforms isolation into empathy, indifference into responsibility, and passive living into purposeful action.

What makes service so impactful is not its scale, but its sincerity. You don't need to lead a global movement to make a difference. Acts of service can be small but deeply meaningful—mentoring a struggling student, caring for a sick neighbor, donating your skills to a community cause, or simply offering kindness in moments when the world feels harsh. These moments of generosity foster not only change in others but transformation within ourselves. They teach patience, humility, gratitude, and compassion—qualities that can't be learned through achievement alone. Moreover, service becomes a mirror, revealing our deeper values and true character. It invites us to ask powerful questions: What do I stand for? Who do I want to be in the lives of others? What legacy do I wish to leave behind? These reflections push us beyond the superficial chase for success and into the deeper quest for significance. Many people discover their life's true direction not when they finally reach their personal goals, but when they begin to serve others selflessly and wholeheartedly. In difficult times, when life feels chaotic or unsteady, service offers stability.

It provides a reason to keep moving forward and a reminder that our actions, however small, still matter. There is healing in helping. Purpose in giving. Clarity in compassion. And strangely, when we focus less on our own struggles and more on lifting others, we often find the strength to rise ourselves. Service also reshapes how we define leadership. It's not just about power, control, or visibility. True leadership is rooted in the willingness to serve—to uplift, to empower, to listen, and to act not out of obligation, but out of care. History's most respected figures—be it Gandhi, Mother Teresa, or Martin Luther King Jr.—are remembered not for how much they acquired, but for how deeply they served. Ultimately, creating impact through service doesn't just change the world—it changes you. It reveals a version of yourself that is more courageous, more compassionate, and more connected. It aligns your daily actions with your higher values and helps you live not just with success, but with significance. In a world that often encourages us to ask, "What can I get?" service invites us to ask the more powerful question: What can I give? And in that shift, we find not only impact—but lasting fulfillment.

Question 4:
What transformative power does the author primarily attribute to service?

A) Its ability to solve systemic inequality
B) Its capacity to promote national development
C) Its influence on self-growth and deeper self-awareness
D) Its role in gaining influence within the community
E) None of the above

Question 5:
Which of the following best encapsulates the author's view on the scale of acts of service?

A) Large-scale efforts are inherently more meaningful than small acts
B) Only sustained, organised service initiatives can have lasting value
C) Service should be visible and measurable to be considered impactful
D) The sincerity of service is more important than its magnitude
E) None of the above

Today's Descriptive Question

- **Write an essay of 200 words about highlighting the psychology of addiction.**

The psychology of addiction explores the complex interplay between biological, psychological, and social factors that lead to compulsive substance use or behavior despite negative consequences. At its core, addiction is a chronic brain disorder characterized by the dysregulation of the reward system.

Biologically, addiction involves changes in brain chemistry and function. Substances like drugs and alcohol, or behaviors such as gambling, trigger the release of dopamine, a neurotransmitter associated with pleasure and reward. Over time, the brain's reward system becomes hijacked, leading to tolerance (needing more of the substance or behavior to achieve the same effect) and dependence. Psychologically, addiction is influenced by various factors including stress, trauma, and mental health disorders such as depression and anxiety.

Individuals may turn to addictive substances or behaviors as a coping mechanism to alleviate emotional pain or to escape from reality. This self-medication cycle reinforces the addiction, making it difficult to break free. Socially, peer pressure, family dynamics, and socio-economic status play significant roles in the development and maintenance of addiction. Social environments that normalize or encourage substance use can increase the risk of addiction, while supportive social networks can aid in recovery. Understanding the psychology of addiction is crucial for effective treatment. Approaches like cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT), which addresses the underlying psychological factors and changes thought patterns, combined with medical interventions and social support, can help individuals overcome addiction and lead healthier lives.

- **Write a letter to the superintendent of police of your town reporting a theft of a wallet.**

[Your Name]
[Your Address]
[City, State, ZIP Code]
[Email Address]
[Phone Number]
[Date]

[Superintendent's Name]
[Police Department Name]
[Police Department Address]
[City, State, ZIP Code]

Subject: Letter to SI, reporting a theft of a wallet.

Dear Superintendent [Superintendent's Last Name],

I am writing to report the theft of my wallet on [date] at approximately [time]. The incident occurred at [location].

The wallet contained my driver's license, credit and debit cards, a small amount of cash, and other personal identification documents. I have already canceled the cards to prevent unauthorized transactions.
I would appreciate any assistance your department can provide in recovering my wallet and its contents. Please let me know if any additional information is needed from my side. I can be reached at [your phone number] or [your email address].
Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.
Sincerely,
[Your Name]
[Your Contact Information]

Match the column

1. Scrape the barrel   A. to act according to the demands of a situation
2. Take a rain check   B. to agree to perform, an impossibly difficult task
3. Play by the ear   C. to refuse an offer or invitation politely
4. To bell the cat   D. have no influence or effect
5. Cut no ice   E. to use the worst people or things because that
                                       is all that is available

Answer:
1-e
2-c
3-a
4-b
5-d

Vocabulary

1. Humility:
2. Beset:
3. Trivial:
4. Truncated:
5. Spurious:
6. Galvanise:
7. Fulgent:
8. Lexical:
9. Beatific:
10. Venerate:

RC ANSWERS

1.
Ans: C
Explanation:
Reference from the passage:
"The imminence of quantum computing requires this paradigm to change because quantum computers can (at least on paper) solve problems currently out of reach of the most powerful conventional supercomputers."

Incorrect options:
A) Irrelevant: The current vulnerability isn't about distance scaling.
B) Not core issue: Infrastructure isn't identified as the primary concern.
D) Mentioned elsewhere: Foreign vendor dependence is a separate concern, not the core vulnerability.

2.

Ans: D

Explanation:

Reference from the passage:

"...instantaneous changes in the keys the individuals use to decrypt the messages will reveal the channel has been compromised, and in a way that the eavesdropper cannot prevent."

Incorrect options:

A) False detail: The test used free space, not optical fibre.

B) Not stated: Randomness is not cited as the detection mechanism.

C) AI not mentioned: The security is rooted in quantum physics, not artificial intelligence.

3.

Ans: C

Explanation:

Reference from the passage:

"A small fraction of the outlay has been disbursed thus far…"

"Just-in-time funding… has increased the duration of projects."

Incorrect options:

A) DRDO is part of the success story, not an obstacle.

B) Global recruitment issues were not a focus—pay disparity is discussed, but not scientist nationality.

D) Institutional recognition is not discussed at all.

4.

Ans: C

Explanation:

Reference from the passage:

"These moments of generosity foster not only change in others but transformation within ourselves…"

"Service becomes a mirror… revealing our deeper values and true character…"

Incorrect options:

A) Too broad: Systemic inequality isn't a focus here.

B) Not mentioned: National development is not discussed.

D) Misinterpreted: Influence isn't a motivation for service, per the passage.

5.
Ans: D
Explanation:
Reference from the passage:
"What makes service so impactful is not its scale, but its sincerity…"

Incorrect options:
A) Contradicts the text: The passage dismisses scale as a requirement.
B) Too rigid: The passage supports small, spontaneous acts too.
C) Incorrect inference: Visibility/measurability isn't a criterion given.

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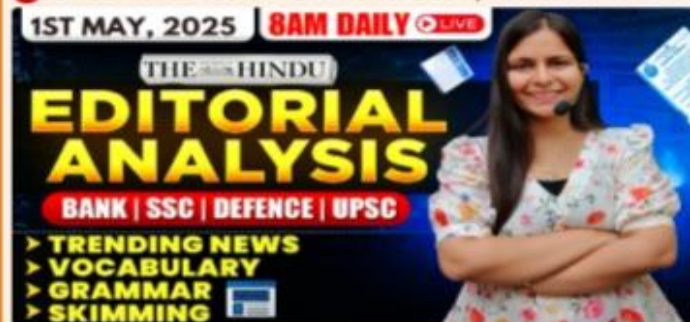**English with Nimisha Bansal**
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