

The Hindu EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

10th 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. Exaggerate (अतिरेक करना)

- **Meaning:** To describe something as larger or more important than it actually is.
- **Synonyms:** Overstate, inflate, magnify
- **Antonyms:** Understate, downplay, minimize
- **Example:** He tends to exaggerate the difficulty of tasks, making them seem more challenging than they really are.

2. Pusillanimous (कायर)

- **Meaning:** Lacking courage or resolution; cowardly.
- **Synonyms:** Timid, fearful, spineless.
- **Antonyms:** Brave, courageous, valiant.
- **Example:** His pusillanimous response to the crisis disappointed his supporters.

3. Penchant (झुकाव)

- **Meaning:** A strong or habitual liking for something or a tendency to do something.
- **Synonyms:** Liking, preference, inclination
- **Antonyms:** Dislike, aversion, indifference
- **Example:** She has a penchant for vintage clothing, often finding unique pieces at thrift shops.

4. Cajole (बहलाना)

- **Meaning:** To persuade someone to do something by flattery or gentle urging.
- **Synonyms:** Persuade, coax, entice
- **Antonyms:** Discourage, repel, dissuade
- **Example:** She managed to cajole her brother into helping her with the difficult task by promising him a treat.

5. Conscientious (कर्तव्यपरायण)

- **Meaning:** Wishing to do what is right, especially regarding work or duty.
- **Synonyms:** Diligent, careful, meticulous.
- **Antonyms:** Careless, negligent, irresponsible.
- **Example:** A conscientious student always completes assignments on time.

6. Meticulously (सूक्ष्मता से)

- **Meaning:** In a way that shows great attention to detail; very thoroughly and carefully.
- **Synonyms:** Carefully, precisely, thoroughly
- **Antonyms:** Carelessly, recklessly, haphazardly
- **Example:** He meticulously planned every aspect of the project to ensure its success.

7. Skulduggery (धोखाधड़ी)

- **Meaning:** Dishonest or deceitful behavior, especially involving trickery or manipulation.
- **Synonyms:** Trickery, deception, fraud
- **Antonyms:** Honesty, integrity, fairness
- **Example:** The investigation uncovered widespread skulduggery within the company, leading to several arrests.

8. Eulogise (प्रशंसा करना)

- **Meaning:** To praise someone or something highly, often in a speech or writing.
- **Synonyms:** Commend, extol, glorify
- **Antonyms:** Criticize, condemn, denounce
- **Example:** The professor was eulogized for his contributions to the field of science.

9. Falter (हिचकिचाना)

- **Meaning:** To lose strength or momentum; to hesitate or waver in action.
- **Synonyms:** Hesitate, waver, stumble
- **Antonyms:** Steady, persist, continue
- **Example:** Despite initial doubts, he didn't falter in his commitment to the project.

10. Grumpy (चिड़चिड़ा)

- **Meaning:** Easily annoyed or in a bad mood.
- **Synonyms:** Irritable, cranky, grouchy
- **Antonyms:** Cheerful, pleasant, amiable
- **Example:** The old man was always grumpy in the morning before his coffee.

VOCABULARY

One-word substitute:

1. Property inherited from one's father or ancestors; heritage:

Patrimony

2. The study or collection of coins, paper currency, and medals:

Numismatics

3. A lightweight cloth used for making flags, streamers, and festive decorations:

Bunting

4. A speech in a play in which a character speaks their thoughts aloud, usually when alone, revealing inner feelings:

Soliloquy

VOCABULARY

Phrasal Verbs:

1. Hang in

Meaning: stay positive

2. Hang on

Meaning: wait a short time

3. Hang out

Meaning: spend time relaxing

4. Hang up

Meaning: end a phone call

VOCABULARY

Idioms & Phrases

1. Sink or swim

Meaning: fail or succeed

2. To toe the line

Meaning: to accept the authority or policies of a particular group, especially unwillingly

3. A sitting duck

Meaning: a person or thing with no protection against an attack or other source of danger

VOCABULARY

4. For the time being

Meaning: just for the present; not for long

5. To be pushing up daisies

Meaning: be dead and buried

Article for Reading

**Hard to Think, but
Easy to Achieve**

Some of the most rewarding things in life don't require genius-level intellect, years of experience, or extraordinary talent—they simply require action. Yet ironically, we often find ourselves paralyzed before we even begin, caught in a cycle of overthinking and self-doubt. The idea of starting something new—be it a personal project, a fitness journey, a business venture, or even a difficult conversation—can feel overwhelming. We imagine all the ways it could go wrong, all the things we don't know, and all the judgments we might face. But here's the paradox: what feels hard to think about is often much easier to achieve once we take the first step. The mind has a tendency to exaggerate difficulty and create imaginary obstacles. We assume that doing something meaningful must require immense sacrifice, years of struggle, or a perfect plan. But reality often tells a different story. Many achievements that seemed impossible from a distance turn out to be surprisingly manageable with consistent effort and a bit of courage.

The hardest part isn't usually the work itself—it's the decision to start. Once you begin, momentum takes over, and what once felt daunting becomes routine. Think about it: how many times have you dreaded a task—only to find, once you actually did it, that it wasn't nearly as difficult as you had imagined? The gym session you put off for weeks becomes a source of energy and clarity. The book you hesitated to write starts flowing once you write the first paragraph. The skill you thought was too complex begins to make sense after a few days of focused practice. The truth is, our minds often create bigger problems than reality ever does. This doesn't mean success comes without effort. Every worthwhile goal demands discipline, patience, and persistence. But the mental resistance we feel before beginning is often the greatest hurdle. Once that wall is broken, progress feels natural. It's not about removing all fear or doubt—it's about moving forward despite them.

Moreover, many people who achieve extraordinary things are not those with the best resources or the most support. They are often people who simply acted—while others hesitated. They understood that waiting for the perfect time, perfect plan, or perfect confidence only delays growth. They embraced the discomfort of beginning, and in doing so, they made the “hard” look easy. So the next time your mind tells you, “It’s too hard,” ask yourself: is it really hard, or is it just hard to think about? Start small. Start scared. But just start. Because what’s difficult in thought is often simple in action—and you might be just one step away from discovering how capable you really are.

Summary

The passage emphasizes the power of action in overcoming mental barriers that prevent us from pursuing our goals. It discusses how our minds often exaggerate the difficulty of tasks, creating imaginary obstacles and self-doubt. The author suggests that starting, even with fear or uncertainty, is the hardest part of any journey. Once action is taken, momentum builds, and what once seemed daunting becomes manageable. The passage encourages readers to act despite fear or doubt, highlighting that success often comes not from perfection, but from consistent effort and the willingness to begin. It also points out that many achievers succeed not because they have the best resources, but because they took action when others hesitated.

Tone:

The tone of the passage is motivational and encouraging. It aims to inspire readers to take action despite their fears and doubts, with a focus on overcoming mental resistance. The tone is also reflective, as the author invites readers to consider their own experiences with procrastination and self-doubt. It is supportive, urging readers to embrace discomfort and move forward, regardless of uncertainties.

Reading Comprehension

Based on the above passage, answer the following questions:

Question 1:

What central paradox does the author highlight in the passage?

- A. Difficult actions usually require extraordinary talent to execute**
- B. People tend to overestimate their capabilities when starting a new task**
- C. Success is mostly determined by the resources and support available**
- D. What feels overwhelming in thought is often manageable in practice**
- E. None of the above**

Question 2:

The author uses examples like going to the gym or writing a book primarily to:

- A. Show how physical and creative activities are equally demanding**
- B. Emphasise that external rewards come from internal motivation**
- C. Illustrate how imagined difficulty often exceeds real effort**
- D. Argue that only tangible goals provide lasting satisfaction**
- E. None of the above**

Question 3:

Which of the following can be inferred from the line: “They embraced the discomfort of beginning, and in doing so, they made the ‘hard’ look easy”?

- A. Starting is the only hard part, after which tasks require no effort**
- B. Success comes more from attitude than from innate ability**
- C. People who succeed are rarely aware of how hard their journey was**
- D. Simpler tasks are often misjudged as harder due to laziness**
- E. None of the above**

Article for Skimming

**Greater regularity: On
the Nipah virus**

The case of a 42-year-old woman in Kerala testing positive for Nipah virus on May 8 makes it the third such instance being reported from the State's Malappuram district in the last two years. The earlier cases were detected last year, in a 14-year-old boy on July 21 and a 24-year-old adult on September 15. With the latest detection of Nipah in the State, Kerala has recorded two outbreaks, in the years 2018 and 2023, involving human-to-human transmission, and four spillovers in the years 2019 and 2021, and two events in 2024. In the May 8 event, even though only one person tested positive for Nipah and seven close contacts tested negative, it is a bit early to call it a spillover. Unlike an outbreak, Nipah spillovers are restricted to a single case with no human-to-human transmission. One reason for the absence of human spread is the timely detection of the case and isolation of the patient.

The other reason is the clinical presentation. In the case of Nipah virus spillovers, patients who tested positive for the virus had presented with acute encephalitis syndrome (AES), while in the Nipah outbreaks in 2018 and 2023, the index case and at least a few other infected people had presented with acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS). Compared with AES, patients with ARDS present with relatively severe conditions with lung involvement. Besides cough, patients presenting with ARDS have higher viral loads, which serve as a surrogate for disease severity. Immaterial of whether blood, urine or cerebrospinal fluid samples test positive or not, throat swab samples generally test positive if a person is infected by the Nipah virus, which again serve as an indicator of human spread in the case of patients with ARDS. The high viral load, the presence of virus in the throat and the tendency to cough make human spread possible. Greater disease severity in ARDS cases is also the reason for the Nipah deaths in 2018 and 2023.

There were 17 deaths from 18 cases in the 2018 outbreak, and two deaths from six cases in the 2023 outbreak. A study by the ICMR-National Institute of Virology (NIV) Pune found that the 2018 Nipah virus had small genetic variations from the Bangladesh strain and was able to cause multisystemic disease in a Syrian hamster model resembling human infection. The Nipah virus is capable of causing different clinical presentations and is endowed with the ability to cause human spread in some cases. This makes a strong case for a quick and thorough genetic study of the virus in humans and bats. With Nipah cases now a very regular occurrence in Kerala, the compulsion to routinely study fruit bats, which are natural hosts for Nipah, cannot be overemphasised. That even the 2018 virus showed small genetic differences from the Bangladesh strain makes it even more important to know whether the virus causing the spillovers without human spread has evolved further. Such studies can be done by more scientists only when the genetic sequences are shared in public databases without any delay.

Question 4:

Which of the following differences between Nipah outbreaks and spillovers is supported by the passage?

- A. Outbreaks involve genetic recombination, while spillovers result from direct bat-to-human contact**
- B. Outbreaks involve multiple regions, whereas spillovers are restricted to a single village**
- C. Outbreaks feature human-to-human transmission, while spillovers do not**
- D. Spillovers occur in younger populations, while outbreaks affect only adults**
- E. None of the above**

Question 5:

According to the passage, what urgent research action is most recommended due to the recurrence of Nipah in Kerala?

- A. Discontinuation of animal testing and focus on vaccine production**
- B. Immediate sharing of viral genetic sequences in public databases**
- C. Restricting bat habitats near human settlements**
- D. Importing genetic material from Bangladesh for comparison**
- E. None of the above**

Today's Descriptive Question

Precis Writing:

Original Text:

The X-ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat) is India's first dedicated space mission for studying X-ray polarization from celestial sources. Developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in collaboration with the Raman Research Institute (RRI), XPoSat was launched on January 1, 2024, marking a significant milestone in India's space exploration efforts. The mission aims to enhance our understanding of black holes, neutron stars, and other high-energy cosmic sources by analyzing the polarization of X-ray emissions. XPoSat is equipped with two key payloads: the Polarimeter Instrument in X-rays (POLIX) and the X-ray Spectroscopy and Timing (XSPECT) instrument. POLIX, developed by RRI, is designed to measure the degree and angle of X-ray polarization, while XSPECT will study the spectral and temporal properties of cosmic X-ray sources.

By examining how X-rays interact with matter in extreme astrophysical environments, the mission will provide valuable insights into the structure and behavior of some of the universe's most enigmatic objects. The satellite operates in a low Earth orbit (LEO) and is expected to function for about five years. The data collected by XPoSat will help astrophysicists refine existing models of black holes, pulsars, and other high-energy cosmic bodies, complementing global efforts in X-ray astronomy. It places India alongside nations like the USA and Italy, which have previously launched similar missions. With XPoSat, India strengthens its position in space research, expanding its capabilities beyond Earth observation and planetary missions. The mission represents a step forward in understanding the universe's most energetic phenomena and paves the way for future advancements in astrophysics and space exploration.

Precis:

XPoSat, India's first X-ray polarimetry mission, was launched by ISRO on January 1, 2024, to study X-ray polarization from cosmic sources like black holes and neutron stars. It carries two instruments, POLIX for measuring polarization and XSPECT for studying X-ray spectra and timing properties.

Operating in low Earth orbit, XPoSat is expected to function for five years, contributing to global X-ray astronomy research. The mission enhances India's space research capabilities, advancing astrophysical studies and strengthening its position in high-energy space exploration.

- You had earlier lodged a complaint regarding poor internet service. Write an email following up on the status of your complaint.

To:@gmail.com

Subject: Follow-up on Complaint Regarding Poor Internet Service

Dear [Service Provider's Name/Customer Support Team],

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to follow up on the complaint I lodged on [Date of Complaint] regarding the poor internet service I have been experiencing. The reference/complaint number for my issue is [Complaint Number].

Despite raising the concern, I have not noticed any significant improvement in the service, and I have not received any update on the status of my complaint. The persistent connectivity issues have been causing inconvenience, and I would appreciate it if you could provide an update on the resolution timeline.

Please let me know the current status of my complaint and any further steps being taken to resolve the issue. I look forward to your prompt response.

**Best regards,
[Your Full Name]
[Your Contact Number]**

Match the column

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. Sink or swim | A. to accept the authority unwillingly |
| 2. To toe the line | B. just for the present; not for long |
| 3. A sitting duck | C. fail or succeed |
| 4. For the time being | D. be dead and buried |
| 5. To be pushing up daisies | E. a person or thing with no protection |

Answer:

1-c

2-a

3-e

4-b

5-d

Vocabulary

1. Exaggerate:
2. Pusillanimous:
3. Penchant:
4. Cajole:
5. Conscientious:
6. Meticulously:
7. Skulduggery:
8. Eulogise:
9. Falter:
10. Grumpy:

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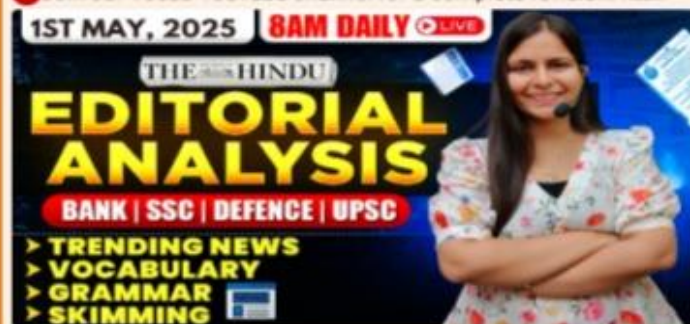


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Rc ans

1.

Ans: D

Explanation:

This idea runs throughout the passage, especially in lines like:

“Here’s the paradox: what feels hard to think about is often much easier to achieve once we take the first step.”

Incorrect options:

- A. Opposite of the author’s argument—he emphasizes that action, not genius, is key.
- B. The passage shows people underestimate their ability due to fear and overthinking.
- C. The author specifically states many succeed despite lacking resources.

2.

Ans: C

Explanation:

Examples like:

“The gym session you put off for weeks... The book you hesitated to write...”

show how easy tasks feel hard only before we start.

Incorrect options:

A. The goal isn't comparison; it's perception of difficulty.

B. Not the primary point of those examples.

D. The examples are meant to break mental barriers, not define value.

3.

Ans: B

Explanation:

The author argues that action despite fear, not genius, leads to success:
“Many people who achieve extraordinary things are not those with the best resources...”

Incorrect options:

- A. The passage says success requires effort, but starting is the hardest.
- C. It's not about ignorance, but about confronting difficulty.
- D. The focus is on mental resistance, not laziness.

4.

Ans: C

Explanation:

Clearly stated:

“Unlike an outbreak, Nipah spillovers are restricted to a single case with no human-to-human transmission.”

Incorrect options:

A. Incorrect – Genetic changes are discussed, but this distinction isn’t made.

B. Incorrect – Geography is not used as a classification criterion.

D. Incorrect – Spillovers and outbreaks have affected both adults and children (e.g., 14-year-old boy, 24-year-old adult).

5.

Ans: B

Explanation:

From the concluding lines:

“Such studies can be done by more scientists only when the genetic sequences are shared in public databases without any delay.”

Incorrect options:

A. Incorrect – Animal testing (e.g., in hamsters) is presented as useful, not discouraged.

C. Incorrect – There's no suggestion of habitat control; focus is on monitoring bats.

D. Incorrect – Comparisons with Bangladesh strain are suggested, but not importing material.