The Hindu
EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

12th April 2025

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

1. Pedagogical (शैक्षणिक)

- ➔ Meaning: Relating to teaching or education.
- ➔ Synonyms: Educational, instructional, academic
- ➔ Example: The school adopted a new pedagogical approach that focused on interactive learning.

2. Colossal (विशालकाय)

- ➔ Meaning: Extremely large or great.
- ➔ Synonyms: Massive, gigantic, enormous
- ➔ Antonyms: Tiny, small, minute
- ➔ Example: The company made a colossal investment in de-extinction research.

3. Foraging (चारा ढूंढना)

- ➔ **Meaning: Searching widely for food or provisions.**
- ➔ **Synonyms: Scavenging, hunting, grazing**
- ➔ **Example: The animals were foraging through the tundra for food.**

4. Incubating (सेना या विकसित करना)

- ➔ Meaning: To develop or produce gradually under controlled conditions.
- ➔ Synonyms: Nurturing, cultivating, fostering
- ➔ Antonyms: Neglecting, abandoning
- ➔ Example: The scientists are incubating a mammoth-elephant hybrid embryo.

5. Fructify (फलित होना)

- ➔ Meaning: To bear fruit or produce results.
- ➔ Synonyms: Materialize, yield, result
- ➔ Antonyms: Fail, wither, abort
- ➔ Example: The benefits of such research may fructify only after centuries.

6. Siloed (अलग-थलग किया हुआ)

- ➔ Meaning: Isolated from others, especially in a way that prevents communication or collaboration.
- ➔ Synonyms: Isolated, compartmentalized, fragmented
- ➔ Antonyms: Integrated, connected, unified
- ➔ Example: The NEP aims to eliminate the siloed structure of higher education institutions.

7. Potent (शक्तिशाली)

- ➔ Meaning: Having great power, influence, or effect.
- ➔ Synonyms: Powerful, strong, effective
- ➔ Antonyms: Weak, ineffective, powerless
- ➔ Example: The mammoth is considered a potent symbol in the climate restoration strategy.

8. Rigorous (कठोर / कड़ा)

- ➔ Meaning: Extremely thorough, exhaustive, or accurate.
- ➔ Synonyms: Strict, stringent, meticulous
- ➔ Antonyms: Lenient, careless, lax
- ➔ Example: The claims made by the scientists must undergo rigorous peer review.

9. Inconsequential (महत्वहीन)

- ➔ **Meaning: Not important or significant.**
- ➔ **Synonyms: Trivial, insignificant, negligible**
- ➔ **Antonyms: Significant, important, substantial**
- ➔ **Example: The mistake was inconsequential to the overall project outcome.**

10. Expedite (शीघ्रता करना)

- ➔ Meaning: To speed up the process of something.
- ➔ Synonyms: Hasten, accelerate, quicken
- ➔ Antonyms: Delay, hinder, obstruct
- ➔ Example: New technology can help expedite data analysis in research.

VOCABULARY

One-word substitute:

1. Able to use both hands with equal skill:
Ambidextrous

2. A fictitious name used by an author:
Pseudonym

3. A person who eats or consumes excessively:
Glutton

4. A person who collects or studies stamps:
Philatelist

VOCABULARY

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.

VOCABULARY

Idioms & Phrases

1. Rome wasn't built in a day

Meaning: achieving something great takes time and effort

2. A penny for your thoughts

Meaning: asking someone to share their thoughts

3. Cat got your tongue?

Meaning: asking why someone is not speaking or suddenly became quiet

VOCABULARY

4. Put the best foot forward

Meaning: start impressively

5. Bear the palm

Meaning: to win or take the prize

Article for Reading

Dire efforts: on de-extinction and conservation

Colossal Biosciences is an American company with an unusual marketing line: combining genomics with conservation — not in its traditional form, but through de-extinction, which is resurrecting species extinct for thousands of years. Leading this project is Harvard geneticist George Church, a prominent promoter of the company, who aims to bring back the woolly mammoth, a distant ancestor of the elephant. The stated logic is to combat global warming. During the Pleistocene Ice Ages, the mammoth roamed lush grasslands across the tundra. Until its extinction around 5,000 years ago, the Arctic tundra also supported large populations of bison, wolves, cave lions, and giant deer. As the climate warmed, these species disappeared, and the grasslands gave way to shrubbery and sheets of snow. As temperatures rise, permafrost begins to disappear, resulting in high emissions of methane, a more potent greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide.

To prevent this, some scientists at a Siberian park have been transporting large animals that are resistant to cold to see if their foraging can restore the grasslands. Grass absorbs less heat than the tall trees in a shrub forest — the dominant species — and therefore decelerates warming, but it cannot stop warming. The woolly mammoth, though extinct, is seen as a potent weapon in this climate plan. Scientists at Colossal have extracted fragments of its DNA from fossils and reconstructed its genome. By comparing it to that of the modern elephant, they have edited specific genes to recreate mammoth-like traits, with the goal of eventually incubating a hybrid embryo in an elephant's womb. Scientists have also experimented with the dire wolf, an extinct relative of the gray wolf, and birthed three snow-white wolves. However, this claim has yet to pass rigorous peer review. Critics point out that only 20 genes were edited, and what has been created is, in essence, a "strange-looking gray wolf".

Despite such criticisms, the technological achievement is a testament to the ability to engineer precision edits to the genome. The work of Chinese scientist He Jiankui, who claimed to have produced gene-edited human babies, remains controversial. Colossal may be credited for its genomics work, but the claim that it is reviving species for conservation is not credible. Thousands of living species are vanishing due to habitat loss and human encroachment. Spending millions of dollars on speculative projects, whose benefits, if there are any, will fructify only over centuries, takes away resources from immediate conservation efforts. The scientific community must lay down strict guidelines on the use of gene-editing technology in applications other than health.

Summary

The passage discusses Colossal Biosciences, an American company working on de-extinction — reviving extinct species like the woolly mammoth — using gene-editing technology. Led by Harvard geneticist George Church, the project aims to combat climate change by restoring Arctic grasslands, which could help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Scientists have reconstructed mammoth DNA and are attempting to create hybrid embryos using elephants. Similar efforts have been made with the extinct dire wolf. However, these claims face skepticism and lack peer-reviewed validation. Critics argue that such expensive ventures divert attention and resources from urgent conservation efforts for existing endangered species. The passage calls for strict regulations on gene-editing for non-health applications.

Tone:

Informative and critical — the passage presents scientific advancements but also highlights skepticism and ethical concerns.

Reading Comprehension

Based on the above passage, answer the following questions:

Question 1:
What environmental rationale is offered to support the resurrection of the woolly mammoth?

A. Mammoths can cool down the Arctic permafrost by shedding body heat.
B. Their movement and foraging may help restore grasslands and slow warming.
C. They can graze shrubs faster than modern animals, halting global deforestation.
D. Their genetic compatibility with elephants provides an ideal conservation model.
E. None of the above

Question 2:
What is implied about the dire wolf gene-editing experiment mentioned in the passage?

A. It has conclusively proven the feasibility of reviving extinct predators.
B. It exemplifies a breakthrough in creating entirely new hybrid species.
C. It faces skepticism due to limited gene edits and unverified results.
D. It has been more successful than the mammoth gene project.
E. None of the above

Question 3:
What broader implication does the author suggest about the use of gene-editing technologies?

A. It should only be used in animal conservation
B. It is most effective when applied in the agricultural sector
C. It must be regulated with clear guidelines for non-health applications
D. It should replace traditional medicine in the long run
E. None of the above

Article for Skimming

Giving shape to the university of the future

The National Education Policy proposes to change India's siloed higher education system by establishing large multidisciplinary educational institutions. The emphasis will be on having a more cross-disciplinary education, a pedagogical shift towards "communication, discussion, debate, research, and opportunities for cross-disciplinary and interdisciplinary thinking", and interdisciplinary research. How do we transform the existing system of universities, colleges, and the research ecosystem in India to achieve these objectives? The answer: a progression from a multidisciplinary campus or university space to a cross-disciplinary collaborative teaching and research practice, interdisciplinary thought and also research based on integrated disciplinary frameworks. Multidisciplinarity is the existence of multiple disciplines in a single project or programme without seeking interaction. Disciplines exist parallel to each other, with each applying their own disciplinary methods and perspectives and maintaining boundaries.

Cross-disciplinary approach expects collaboration between different disciplines without emphasising knowledge integration. It works towards creating connections and fostering dialogue between disciplines. An example would be an educationist and an economist writing this article. An interdisciplinary approach on the other hand, integrates insights, methods, and concepts from different disciplines to address complex real-world problems. It goes beyond collaboration, leading to the synthesis of knowledge across disciplinary boundaries. Phasing out single stream institutes of higher education (IHE) to establish a multidisciplinary campus can work in two ways. First, by adding departments to expand the existing core disciplinary focus — for example, the Indian Institutes of Technology are adding or strengthening their humanities and social sciences, offering integrated masters programmes in economics and allied disciplines. Second, creating university clusters by connecting existing institutions — for example, a commerce college can collaborate with an arts and science college to create a cluster university.

This requires administrative streamlining and not just academic collaboration. Clustering single stream institutions might be a cost effective and time efficient way of creating large multidisciplinary institutions in the short term. However, according to the 2020-21 All India Survey of Higher Education (AISHE), a significant proportion of institutions are undergraduate colleges, 35% of these are single stream, and many of these are only B.Ed colleges, making it difficult to find appropriate disciplinary variety nearby that is suitable for clustering. In addition to repurposing existing IHEs, new multidisciplinary universities will have to be established to reach the goal of having “at least one in or near every district” by 2030. It would be wise to establish a single multidisciplinary campus in a district rather than have one institution with multiple campuses across districts to maximise educational and research efficiency. Research shows that while public universities have a higher educational efficiency, they have lower research efficiency because they need to manage multiple campuses.

Question 4:
What distinguishes an interdisciplinary approach from multidisciplinary and cross-disciplinary ones?

A. It employs only qualitative methods, unlike others.
B. It focuses on independent work within disciplines.
C. It integrates methods and concepts from multiple disciplines into a unified framework.
D. It fosters collaboration but avoids integration of knowledge.
E. None of the above

Question 5:
Why is clustering of single-stream institutions considered challenging, as per the AISHE data?

A. Many single-stream institutions lack funding for upgrades.
B. A significant portion of them are B.Ed colleges, making disciplinary diversity hard to achieve.
C. Most single-stream institutions are in remote districts with poor infrastructure.
D. Faculty resistance to curriculum restructuring prevents smooth implementation.
E. None of the above

Today's Descriptive Question

Precis Writing:

Original Text:

El Niño is a climate phenomenon characterized by the warming of sea surface temperatures in the central and eastern Pacific Ocean. It disrupts global weather patterns, leading to extreme climatic events such as droughts, floods, and hurricanes. Occurring every two to seven years, El Niño is part of the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) cycle, which also includes La Niña (its cooling counterpart) and a neutral phase.

The warming of Pacific waters weakens the trade winds, altering ocean currents and disrupting normal weather systems worldwide. In India and Southeast Asia, El Niño is linked to weak monsoons, causing droughts and agricultural distress. In contrast, North and South America often experience heavy rainfall and flooding.

El Niño also impacts global food production, fisheries, and ecosystems by affecting ocean temperatures and nutrient availability.

The economic consequences of El Niño can be severe, affecting agriculture, water resources, and energy production. Governments and meteorological agencies closely monitor sea surface temperatures and atmospheric conditions to predict El Niño events and mitigate their effects through disaster preparedness, water conservation, and adaptive farming techniques.

As climate change intensifies, the frequency and intensity of El Niño events may increase, making its study crucial for global climate resilience. Understanding El Niño helps countries prepare for its effects and develop strategies to minimize economic and environmental damage.

Precis:

El Niño is a climate phenomenon causing Pacific Ocean warming and disrupting global weather patterns. It leads to droughts in India and Southeast Asia while bringing heavy rains to the Americas. The event impacts agriculture, fisheries, and economies, making early monitoring essential.

With climate change potentially increasing its intensity, El Niño's study is vital for disaster preparedness and global climate resilience, helping nations minimize environmental and economic losses.

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Subject: Request for Assistance – Technical Issues with Official Email Account

Dear IT Support Team,

I hope this email finds you well. I am experiencing technical issues with my official email account ([your email address]). The issue includes [briefly describe the problem, e.g., inability to send or receive emails, login errors, or any other specific issue]. This has been affecting my workflow, and I would appreciate your prompt assistance in resolving it.

Could you please look into this matter at the earliest? If any additional information is required from my end, please let me know.

Looking forward to your support.

Best regards,
[Your Name]
[Your Designation]
[Your Department]

Match the column

1. Rome wasn't built in a day	A. asking someone to share their thoughts
2. A penny for your thoughts	B. asking why someone is not speaking
3. Cat got your tongue?	C. to win or take the prize
4. Put the best foot forward	D. achieving something great takes time
5. Bear the palm	E. start impressively

Answer:

1-d

2-a

3-b

4-e

5-c

Vocabulary

1. Pedagogical:
2. Colossal:
3. Foraging:
4. Incubating:
5. Fructify:
6. Siloed:
7. Potent:
8. Rigorous:
9. Inconsequential:
10. Expedite:

Rc ans

1.

Ans: B

Explanation:

Reference:

"...to see if their foraging can restore the grasslands. Grass absorbs less heat than the tall trees... and therefore decelerates warming..."

Incorrect options:

A. Incorrect. There is no mention of mammoths cooling permafrost by body heat.

C. Incorrect. No reference to global deforestation, only Arctic ecosystem changes.

D. Incorrect. While mammoths share DNA with elephants, that's not the climate rationale.

2.
Ans: C
Explanation:
Reference:

“Critics point out that only 20 genes were edited... what has been created is... a ‘strange-looking gray wolf’... this claim has yet to pass rigorous peer review.”

Incorrect options:
A. Incorrect. The experiment is not conclusively proven, as peer review is pending.
B. Incorrect. No new species was created, just modified wolves.
D. Incorrect. No comparison suggests it was more successful than the mammoth project.

3.
Ans: C
Explanation:
Reference:

“The scientific community must lay down strict guidelines on the use of gene-editing technology in applications other than health.”

Incorrect options:

A. Incorrect. The author does not endorse using it exclusively for conservation.
B. Incorrect. Agriculture is not discussed.
D. Incorrect. No mention of replacing medicine.

4.
Ans: C
Explanation:
Reference:

“An interdisciplinary approach... integrates insights, methods, and concepts from different disciplines to address complex real-world problems.”

Incorrect options:

A. Incorrect. There’s no mention of a method being strictly qualitative.
B. Incorrect. That applies more to multidisciplinarity, where disciplines exist parallelly.
D. Incorrect. This defines cross-disciplinarity, not interdisciplinary.

5.
Ans: B
Explanation:
Reference:

“...many of these are only B.Ed colleges, making it difficult to find appropriate disciplinary variety nearby...”

Incorrect options:

A. Incorrect. Funding is not the primary concern mentioned.
C. Incorrect. No mention of geographical remoteness as a core issue.
D. Incorrect. There’s no reference to faculty resistance.

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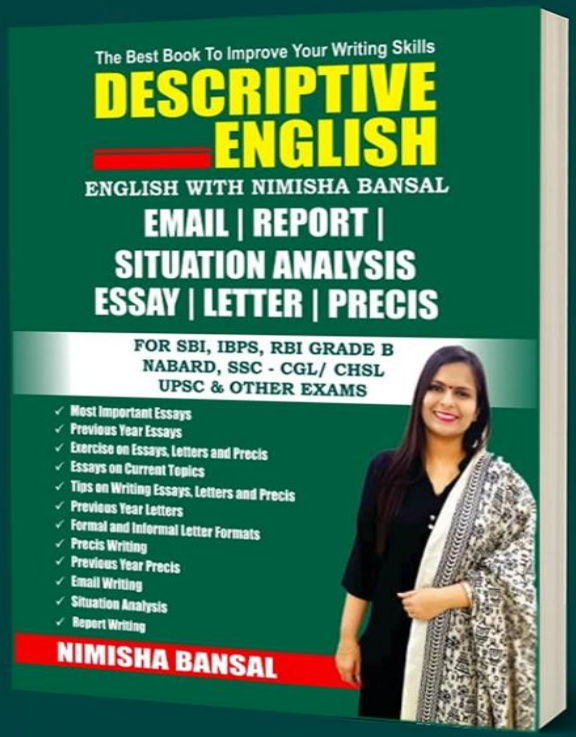

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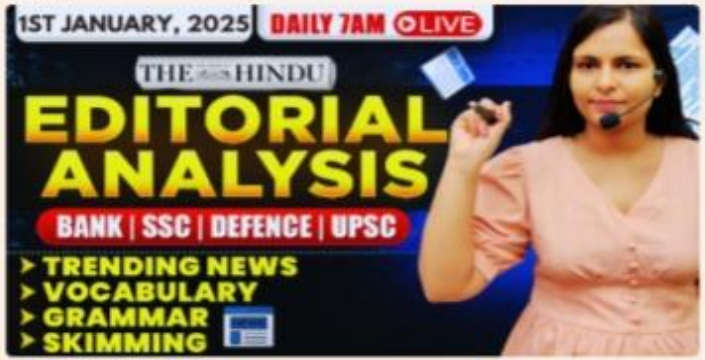

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