

The Hindu EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

14th 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. Subservient (आज्ञाकारी / अधीनस्थ)

- **Meaning:** Prepared to obey others unquestioningly; less important or subordinate.
- **Synonyms:** Obedient, compliant, subordinate
- **Antonyms:** Dominant, independent, superior
- **Example:** AI should remain subservient to natural intelligence in making ethical medical decisions.

2. Robustness (मजबूती / स्थायित्व)

- **Meaning:** The quality of being strong and effective in all conditions.
- **Synonyms:** Strength, resilience, durability
- **Antonyms:** Fragility, weakness, instability
- **Example:** Ethical AI requires technical robustness to function safely in critical scenarios.

3. Resilient (लचीला / कठिनाइयों को सहन करने वाला)

- **Meaning:** Able to recover quickly from difficult conditions.
- **Synonyms:** Tough, adaptable, strong
- **Antonyms:** Vulnerable, fragile, weak
- **Example:** Traditional seed varieties are more resilient to climate shocks like droughts and floods.

4. Inadvertently (अनजाने में / अनिच्छा से)

- **Meaning:** Without intention; accidentally.
- **Synonyms:** Unintentionally, unknowingly, accidentally
- **Antonyms:** Deliberately, intentionally, purposely
- **Example:** Policies promoting hybrid crops have inadvertently led to the decline of traditional seed diversity.

5. Replenish (पूरण करना / फिर से भरना)

- **Meaning:** To fill something again; restore a previous level or condition.
- **Synonyms:** Restore, refill, regenerate
- **Antonyms:** Deplete, drain, exhaust
- **Example:** Traditional seed varieties have the ability to replenish soil nutrients, improving long-term soil health.

6. Incessant (निरंतर / बिना रुके)

- **Meaning:** Continuing without interruption; nonstop.
- **Synonyms:** Unceasing, constant, perpetual
- **Antonyms:** Intermittent, occasional, sporadic
- **Example:** The incessant demand for high-yield crops is contributing to the decline of indigenous varieties.

7. Intricate (जटिल / पेचीदा)

- **Meaning:** Very detailed, complex, and difficult to understand or solve.
- **Synonyms:** Complex, complicated, detailed
- **Antonyms:** Simple, straightforward, easy
- **Example:** The intricate web of policies and market forces has made it difficult to conserve traditional crops.

8. Tamper (हस्तक्षेप करना)

- **Meaning:** To interfere with something, especially to cause damage or make unauthorized changes.
- **Synonyms:** Meddle, interfere, manipulate
- **Antonyms:** Preserve, protect, respect
- **Example:** He was accused of trying to tamper with the election results by pressuring officials.

9. Whipping up (भड़काना)

- **Meaning:** To incite or provoke a strong reaction or emotion in others.
- **Synonyms:** Stirring up, provoking, agitating
- **Antonyms:** Calming, pacifying, soothing
- **Example:** The politician's speeches often aim at whipping up nationalist sentiments among the crowd.

10. Irrefutable (अखंडनीय)

- **Meaning:** Impossible to deny or disprove; undeniable.
- **Synonyms:** Undeniable, incontrovertible, unquestionable
- **Antonyms:** Disputable, questionable, refutable
- **Example:** The prosecutor presented irrefutable evidence that convinced the jury.

VOCABULARY

One-word substitute:

1. A person who copies someone else's work or ideas and presents them as their own:

Plagiarist

2. A person who compiles dictionaries:

Lexicographer

3. Persisting tirelessly; never giving up:

Indefatigable

4. Very attentive to detail; hard to please:

Fastidious

VOCABULARY

Phrasal Verbs:

1. Chicken out

Meaning - to decide not to do something because of fear.

2. Clamp down on

Meaning - to enforce strict restrictions on something.

3. Come around

Meaning - to change one's opinion or decision.

4. Draw up

Meaning - to prepare a document or plan.

VOCABULARY

Idioms & Phrases

1. Jump the gun

Meaning: To start something too soon or act prematurely.

2. Burn the candle at both ends

Meaning: To overwork yourself by doing too much, often leading to exhaustion.

3. The elephant in the room

Meaning: A major issue or problem that everyone is avoiding or ignoring.

VOCABULARY

4. Bite the hand that feeds you

Meaning: To harm or criticize someone who has helped or supported you.

5. Under one's belt

Meaning: To have achieved or experienced something that adds to one's knowledge or skills.

Article for Reading

**Saving traditional
varieties of seeds**

Imagine an India where every farmer grows the same handful of crops — wheat, rice, and a few vegetables — while thousands of traditional seed varieties disappear. This is not a distant future; it is happening now. For centuries, India's seeds of traditional varieties have been the backbone for food security and a key component of the country's rich cultural heritage. While new hybrid varieties have held the promise of high yields, they have come with a cost — greater dependence on chemical fertilisers, water-dependant farming, increased vulnerability to climate shocks, and altered food quality and nutrient content. The irony? At a time when extreme weather events are threatening food production, we are sidelining the very varieties that can withstand droughts, floods, and replenish depleted soils. Even when we know their benefits, why are traditional varieties disappearing? The truth is: the problem is not just about seeds of traditional varieties; it is about how the entire food system is structured, creating issues that make it hard, if not impossible, for traditional seeds to survive.

The first issue is of market demand and consumer preferences. Most Indian consumers unknowingly contribute to the loss of traditional seeds. Supermarkets, government food programmes, and households favour high-yielding rice and wheat, sidelining traditional, climate-resilient grains of millets, pulses and indigenous rice varieties. As there is no demand, farmers hesitate to grow these varieties. The second issue is that unlike hybrid seeds that are mass-produced and sold commercially, traditional seeds rely on community exchange and local conservation. However, India lacks enough well-funded community seed banks to store and conserve these varieties. Third, India's agricultural policies have historically promoted high-yielding varieties, in a well-meaning attempt to prioritise food production and boost food security. However, this has inadvertently caused a trade-off in terms of biodiversity and nutritional quality. While initiatives such as the Odisha Millet Mission have attempted to change this, most government subsidies and procurement programmes are slow to catch up.

Even agricultural research and development has focused more on increasing productivity of a few crops, rather than focusing on conserving and improving genetic diversity and enhancing climate resilience. While challenges persist, the fight to save India's traditional seed varieties is not lost. Many organisations have been leading the way in conserving and reviving indigenous varieties and neglected crops for over 30 years. For instance, MSSRF's Tribal Agrobiodiversity Centre in Jeypore, Odisha, recently held a national consultation, which brought together different stakeholders and fostered discussion on how to build climate resilient, sustainable, and inclusive seed systems. From this consultation, a road map started to emerge on the way forward. No single solution will work to save India's seeds of traditional varieties and crops — recognising farmers' knowledge and rights, strengthening community seed bank networks, initiating alternative seed systems to support local crops and varieties, providing market incentives, and promoting policy changes are all actions that must go hand in hand.

Summary

The passage highlights the alarming decline of traditional seed varieties in India, which are being replaced by a few high-yielding crops like wheat and rice. Despite their ability to withstand climate shocks and improve soil health, traditional seeds are vanishing due to low market demand, limited conservation infrastructure, and policies favoring hybrid varieties. The lack of consumer awareness, insufficient community seed banks, and a focus on high productivity over biodiversity have worsened the situation. However, efforts by organizations like MSSRF and initiatives like the Odisha Millet Mission show hope. The passage emphasizes that a multi-pronged approach — including recognizing farmers' knowledge, building seed bank networks, offering market incentives, and reforming policies — is essential to preserve India's traditional seed heritage.

Tone:

Concerned – The author is deeply worried about the decline of traditional seeds and its long-term implications.

Urgent – There is a call for immediate and coordinated action to reverse the damage.

Hopeful – Despite the challenges, the passage ends on a positive note, highlighting grassroots efforts and emerging roadmaps for change.

Informative – It educates the reader about the interconnected challenges in agriculture and seed conservation.

Reading Comprehension

Based on the above passage, answer the following questions:

Question 1:

What is the irony mentioned by the author regarding food production and climate change?

- A. Hybrid seeds are affordable but not nutritious**
- B. Modern agriculture ignores animal welfare despite high output**
- C. Traditional seeds that can combat climate shocks are being neglected**
- D. Farmers are forced to grow traditional seeds in modern conditions**
- E. None of the above**

Question 2:

Which of the following best describes the central message of the passage?

- A. India should stop growing hybrid crops to preserve biodiversity**
- B. Traditional seed varieties are nutritionally inferior to modern ones**
- C. Community-led efforts are the only effective solution**
- D. A holistic approach is needed to protect traditional seed systems**
- E. None of the above**

Question 3:

What role does the Tribal Agrobiodiversity Centre in Jeypore play according to the passage?

- A. It mass-produces hybrid seeds for commercial farming**
- B. It conducts climate modeling for modern agriculture**
- C. It leads national efforts to privatize seed conservation**
- D. It fosters discussion on sustainable seed systems**
- E. None of the above**

Article for Skimming

AI in healthcare

Artificial intelligence (AI) will eventually become part of healthcare. Though the A in AI stands for artificial, it can be augmenting, amplifying, accelerating, assisting and analysing in an ambient milieu. AI techniques are unlocking clinical information, hidden in massive data. AI is pole vaulting not leapfrogging. As much as 80% of 41 zettabytes (410 trillion gigabytes) of digital information is unstructured. AI will detect patterns and trends, which human grey matter is unable to decipher. A neurosurgeon trained five decades ago, I am concerned that in our enthusiasm to be future-ready, we may not look at the other side. Good and evil are two sides of a coin. Queries will, no doubt, be addressed. Transitions offer great opportunities. We should never forget that it is NI (natural, native) Intelligence which led to AI. In a world where algorithms make diagnoses, wearables track vital signs and remotely controlled robots operate on people, AI should be subservient to NI.

AI enthusiasts argue that specialists will not spend valuable time extracting information from voluminous data, clinical findings and reports. Specialists will manage information extracted by AI, enabling more time with the patient. AI will assist clinicians, providing current information from journals, textbooks and clinical practices to better individual care. AI extracts information from a much larger identical patient population, assisting in real-time inferences. When AI recommends CAR T cell therapy, does it realise that the patient cannot raise ₹40 lakh for it. Nothing is more devastating than being advised a treatment beyond one's reach. Using NI, I will not discuss this management. We factor in what the patient and family wants before recommending treatment. Lars Leksell, inventor of the Gamma Knife, had remarked, "A fool with a tool, is still a fool." When one has a hammer, everything round looks like a nail — an expensive hammer more so! Technology is a means to an end, not an end. AI is an enabler.

Future doctors schooled in an AI milieu may not be taught that every clinician needs to get into the beneficiary's mind. Will empathising with the patient and family be part of the standard operating protocol prescribed by AI. All are equal, but some are more equal than others. Socioeconomic status plays a part in implementing management plans. AI development includes ethics enforcement. These include constant human oversight, technical robustness, real-time continuous retraining using unbiased data, safety, privacy, data governance, transparency, diversity, non-discrimination, societal and environmental well-being and accountability. To be accountable and trustworthy, machine learning algorithms must include ethics and humane values. Trust is the key word for doctors. AI systems are becoming autonomous, resulting in greater direct-to-patient advice, bypassing human intervention. Decision to rely on AI is an NI judgment. Culture-sensitive AI systems must have moral and ethical behaviour patterns aligned with human interests.

Question 4:

According to the author, what is a key risk in allowing AI to dominate medical decision-making?

- A. AI lacks access to clinical journals and population data**
- B. AI discourages clinicians from spending time with patients**
- C. AI may recommend treatments without considering patient affordability or context**
- D. AI will soon replace the need for any human oversight in hospitals**
- E. None of the above**

Question 5:

What is one key recommendation the author gives regarding the development and implementation of AI in healthcare?

- A. AI systems must operate autonomously to eliminate human error.**
- B. AI must integrate ethical and humane values, with constant human oversight.**
- C. All clinical decisions should be solely based on AI analysis to standardise treatment.**
- D. AI should replace current medical textbooks and research journals entirely.**
- E. None of the above**

Today's Descriptive Question

Precis Writing:

Original Text:

The future of work is undergoing rapid transformation, driven by technological advancements, automation, artificial intelligence (AI), and evolving workplace dynamics. The rise of remote work, the gig economy, and AI-driven automation is reshaping traditional job roles, requiring workers to adapt to new skills and digital competencies. Organizations are shifting towards hybrid work models, combining in-office and remote setups, promoting flexibility, productivity, and work-life balance. Automation and AI are replacing routine and repetitive tasks, leading to the displacement of certain jobs while creating demand for roles in data science, cybersecurity, digital marketing, and AI development. Upskilling and reskilling will be crucial for the workforce to remain relevant in this evolving job market. Additionally, soft skills like critical thinking, adaptability, and creativity will be highly valued alongside technical expertise.

The future workplace will also see a greater emphasis on employee well-being, diversity, and sustainable work environments. Companies will leverage cloud computing, virtual collaboration tools, and blockchain technology to streamline operations. However, challenges such as job security, digital divide, and ethical concerns around AI must be addressed to ensure an inclusive and sustainable workforce. Governments, businesses, and educational institutions must collaborate to prepare the workforce for the digital future, ensuring equitable access to opportunities.

Precis:

The future of work is being reshaped by AI, automation, remote work, and the gig economy, requiring workers to adapt to new skills. Hybrid work models enhance flexibility and productivity, while AI creates job shifts, emphasizing digital skills. The focus on employee well-being, sustainability, and diversity will increase, along with the use of cloud and blockchain technologies. Challenges like job security and the digital divide need solutions through upskilling and policy support to ensure an inclusive and future-ready workforce.

- You are a sales executive at an e-commerce company. Write an email to a customer confirming that their order has been shipped and providing tracking details.

To:@gmail.com

Subject: Your Order Has Been Shipped – Tracking Details Inside!

Dear [Customer's Name],

**We are pleased to inform you that your order #[Order Number]
has been shipped and is on its way to you!**

Here are your tracking details:

Courier Service: [Courier Name]

Tracking Number: [Tracking Number]

Estimated Delivery Date: [Delivery Date]

**You can track your shipment using the following link: [Tracking
URL]**

If you have any questions or need further assistance, feel free to reach out to us at [Customer Support Email] or [Customer Support Phone Number].

Thank you for shopping with [Company Name]! We appreciate your business and look forward to serving you again.

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

Match the column

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 1. Jump the gun | A. A major issue that everyone is avoiding |
| 2. Burn the candle at both ends | B. To harm someone who has helped you |
| 3. The elephant in the room | C. To start something too soon |
| 4. Bite the hand that feeds you | D. To have achieved something that adds to one's knowledge. |
| 5. Under one's belt | E. To overwork yourself by doing too much |

Answer:

1-c

2-e

3-a

4-b

5-d

Vocabulary

1. Subservient:
2. Robustness:
3. Resilient:
4. Inadvertently:
5. Replenish:
6. Incessant:
7. Intricate:
8. Tamper:
9. Whipping up:
10. Irrefutable:

Rc ans

1.

Ans: C

Explanation:

Reference:

“The irony? At a time when extreme weather events are threatening food production, we are sidelining the very varieties that can withstand droughts, floods...”

Why the other options are incorrect:

A. Incorrect — Affordability isn't mentioned as the ironic point.

B. Incorrect — The passage does not discuss animal welfare.

D. Incorrect — No mention of forced use of traditional seeds.

2.

Ans: D

Explanation:

Reference:

“...recognising farmers’ knowledge and rights, strengthening community seed bank networks, initiating alternative seed systems... all actions that must go hand in hand.”

Why the other options are incorrect:

- A. Incorrect — The passage doesn’t advocate completely stopping hybrid cultivation.
- B. Incorrect — Traditional seeds are portrayed as nutritionally valuable.
- C. Incorrect — Community-led efforts are important, but not the only solution.

3.

Ans: D

Explanation:

Reference:

“...recently held a national consultation, which brought together different stakeholders and fostered discussion on how to build climate resilient, sustainable, and inclusive seed systems.”

Why the other options are incorrect:

A. Incorrect — The Centre works with traditional, not hybrid seeds.

B. Incorrect — No mention of climate modeling.

C. Incorrect — There's no reference to privatization of seed conservation.

4.

Ans: C

Explanation:

Reference:

“When AI recommends CAR T cell therapy, does it realise that the patient cannot raise ₹40 lakh for it... We factor in what the patient and family wants before recommending treatment.”

Why the other options are incorrect:

- A. Incorrect — AI does extract information from journals and patient populations.
- B. Incorrect — AI is actually seen as freeing up time for patient interaction.
- D. Incorrect — The author warns against autonomy without oversight.

5.

Ans: B

Explanation:

The passage states:

“To be accountable and trustworthy, machine learning algorithms must include ethics and humane values. Trust is the key word for doctors.”

It also mentions that constant human oversight, technical robustness, and real-time continuous retraining are important. This is central to the message that AI should be an enabler, governed by natural intelligence (NI).

Why the other options are incorrect:

A. Incorrect; the passage insists on human oversight rather than full autonomy.

C. Incorrect; clinical decisions must not be solely based on AI.

D. Incorrect; AI is complementary, not a total replacement for traditional medical literature.

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