Reading Comprehension Passages (Case Based)

PASSAGE 1 (Solved)

I. Read the passage and answer the questions that follow

(1) The Royal Bengal Tiger is the largest, fiercest, and most powerful member of the Big Cat family in India. Royal Bengal Tigers, also known as Indian Tiger and Bengal Tiger, constitute a large population of the tiger family in the world. It is the National Animal of India and is found mostly in India, China, Bhutan, Bangladesh, and Burma.

(2) The biological name of this Big Cat is Panthera Tigris, which comes under the Felidae family under the Mammalia category.

(3) No two Bengal tigers look alike! Every Bengal Tiger has a unique stripe pattern. Their colour ranges from yellow to light orange, with stripes from dark brown to black. Some of the Bengal Tigers are white in colour. The tail is orange in colour with black rings. Unlike the other white tigers that have blue eyes, Bengal tigers have yellow irises. They live for 10 to 15 years.

(4) Being fierce in nature, Royal Bengal Tigers are not very friendly in nature and live a solitary life, except in the winters when they can be seen in a group of 3 or 4. Bengal tigers are fast runners and good swimmers. Tigers attack their prey in a stealth mode. They are usually spotted in swamps, mangroves, and grasslands.

(5) Royal Bengal Tigers have very sharp memories; they never forget the faces. Their memory is sharper than that of humans and other animals.

(6) We can find the largest population of Royal Bengal Tigers in India. As per the latest tiger census report for 2017, there are 3,786 Royal Bengal tigers in India. India has more than 75% of the total tiger population in the world. Along with India, neighbouring countries to India hold a somewhat decent population of the Royal Bengal Tiger in the world. The latest census of the tigers in India and neighbouring countries is shown in the table.

S.No	Name of Country	Minimum	Maximum
1	Bangladesh	300	460
2	Bhutan	80	460
3	China	30	35
4	India	2500	3800
5	Nepal	150	250

(7) To know about the latest tiger population is always the government's concern, as they want to save this majestic animal from getting extinct. India has lost 97% of its Royal Bengal Tiger population in the last century. The main reasons are hunting, poaching, urbanization, habitat loss and illegal wildlife trade. Poaching means to illegally trade the tiger made products like tiger skins, tiger made jewellery, etc. These skin and jewellery are sold for millions in the international market. Poaching has reduced the number of tigers to just 3,800 from 1,00,000 in the starting of the 20th century. (Bigcatsindia.com)

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the following questions.

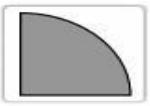
i. The Royal Bengal Tigers called the largest, fiercest, and powerful members of the Big Cat family, because-------- **(1)**

a) they have the largest population among all big cats
b) they have unique stripe patterns
c) of their size, strength, and aggressive nature
d) they are the national animal of India

ii. What distinguishes Bengal Tigers' appearance from other tigers? **(1)**

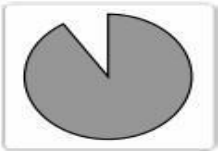
a) their white coloration with blue eyes
b) yellow irises and a unique stripe pattern
c) The black tail with orange rings
d) the smaller body size compared to other tigers

iii. From the given pictorial representation, choose the option that correctly states the approximate percentage of total tigers in the world which are found in India. **(1)**

(A) Option 1 

(B) Option 2 

(C) Option 3 

(D) Option 4 

iv. What are the reasons for reduction in the population of the Tigers? **(2)**

v. In which habitats are Royal Bengal Tigers typically found? **(1)**

vi. Which pair of countries has approximately same number of maximum tigers? **(1)**

(A) Nepal and Bangladesh

(B) Bhutan and Bangladesh

(C) China and Nepal

(D) Bangladesh and India

vii. What is the significance of tiger conservation efforts in India? **(2)**

viii. **State TRUE or FALSE:** **(1)**

The Royal Bengal Tiger population in India has increased significantly over the last century.

PASSAGE 2

II. Read the passage and answer the questions that follow

Rural India faces serious shortages of power, water, health facilities, roads, etc. these are known and recognised. However, the role of technology in solving these and other problems is barely acknowledged and the actual availability of technology in rural areas is marginal. The backbone of the rural economy is agriculture which also provides sustenance to over half the country's population. The green revolution of the 1970s was, in fact, powered by the scientific work in various agricultural research Institutions. While some fault the green revolution for excessive exploitation of water and land resources through the overuse of fertilizers, it did bring about a wheat surplus and prosperity in certain pockets of the country. In rural India today, there is a dire inadequacy of both science (i.e. knowledge) and technology (which derives from science and manifests itself in physical form). The scope to apply technology to both farm and nonfarm activities in rural areas is huge, as are the potential benefits.

In fact, crop yields are far lower than what they are on demonstration farms, where science and technology are more fully applied. Technologies that reduce the power consumption of pumps are vital unfortunately; their use is minimal, since agricultural power is free or largely subsidized. Similarly, there is little incentive to optimize water use through technology or otherwise water use, especially in irrigated areas (a third of total arable land), given the water rates. Post harvest technologies for processing and adding value could greatly enhance rural employment and incomes, but at present the deployment of technology is marginal. Cold storage and cold chains for transportation to market are of great importance for many agricultural products particularly, fruits and vegetables but are non-existent. These are clearly technologies with an immediate return on investment, and benefits for all the farmer, the end consumer and the technology provider. However, regulatory and structural barriers are holding back investments. Power is a key requirement in rural areas, for agricultural as well as domestic uses. Technology can provide reliable power at comparatively low cost. In a decentralized manner. However this needs to be upgraded and scaled in a big way, with emphasis on renewable and non-polluting technologies.

Reliable and low cost means of transporting goods and people are an essential need for rural areas. The bullock cart and the tractor-trailer are present vehicles of choice. Surely, technology can provide a better, cheaper and more efficient solution. Information related to commodity prices, agricultural practices, weather etc. is crucial for the farmer. Technology can provide these through mobile phones, which is a proven technology however the challenge of ensuring connectivity remains. Thus there is a pressing need for technology as current economic growth though skewed and iniquitous has created an economically attractive market in rural India.

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the following questions.

i. How can we infer that regulatory and structural barriers hinder the deployment of technology in rural India?

(2)

ii. Why are technologies that reduce power consumption of pumps not widely used in rural India?

(1)

a) Lack of knowledge about their existence
b) High cost of implementation
c) Limited availability of technology in rural areas
d) Free or subsidized agricultural power

iii. State ONE potential benefits of applying technology to both farm and nonfarm activities in rural areas?

(1)

iv. What is the main challenge in providing information to farmers through mobile phones in rural India?

(1)

a) Lack of mobile phone technology
b) High cost of mobile phones
c) Regulatory and structural barriers
d) Limited access to commodity prices

v. What is one technology that is currently non-existent in rural India but is of great importance for transporting agricultural products? **(1)**

(a) Cold storage and cold chains

(b) Mobile phones for information dissemination

(c) Power-saving pumps for irrigation

(d) Tractor-trailers for transportation

vi. Why is reliable and low-cost power crucial for rural areas in India? (Any two reasons) **(2)**

vii. It is challenging to provide information to farmers through mobile phones in rural India because _____**. (1)**

viii. STATE TRUE OR FALSE: (1)

Postharvest technologies for processing and adding value are currently deployed extensively in rural India, enhancing rural employment and incomes.

PASSAGE 3

III. **Read the passage and answer the questions that follow**

1. The idea that coffee is bad for the heart pops up periodically. It was found that regularly drinking very strong coffee could sharply increase cholesterol levels. Researchers even isolated fatlike chemicals, cafestol and kahweol, responsible for the rise.

2. It turned out that the European brewing method—boiling water sits on the coffee grounds for several minutes before straining – produces high concentrations of cafestol and kahweol. By contrast, the filter and percolation methods remove all but a trace of these chemicals. Moreover, the studies involved large amounts of coffee—five to six cups a day. Moderate coffee drinkers down only two cups. Research has also shown that regular, moderate coffee drinking does not dangerously raise blood pressure. And studies have failed to substantiate fears that coffee might trigger abnormal heart rhythms (arrhythmias) in healthy people.

3. "For heart disease, I think the issue is closed," says Meir Stampfer, an epidemiologist at Harvard who has studied many aspects of coffee and health. "Coffee drinking at reasonable levels is unrelated to heart risk."

4. Evidence suggests that coffee may help fend off Parkinson's disease. A 30-year study of 8000 Japanese- American men found that avid coffee drinkers had one-fifth the risk of those who didn't drink the brew.

5. Scientists at Massachusetts General Hospital, USA, found indirect evidence that Caffeine- the habit forming stimulant in coffee – may actually combat Parkinson's disease. The caffeine seemed to protect mice brain cells from depletion of the nerve chemical dopamine – the problem underlying Parkinson's disease in humans. However, these are preliminary findings; human studies have- not consistently supported caffeine's protective role.

6. The studies on coffee and cancer have focussed on three organs – which is reassuring. You may remember a brief coffee scare in the early 1980s when a single study linked coffee with pancreatic cancer. A false alarm: Many studies since then have shown that the association is either extremely weak or non-existent.

7. If there's a connection between coffee and bladder cancer, it may apply just to coffee junkies. A reanalysis of ten European studies found an increased risk only among people who drank ten or more cups a day. And studies show that coffee seems to have no adverse influence on the risk of colon cancer.

8. Caffeine is such a powerful stimulant that the International Olympic Committee and the National Collegiate Athletic Association set limits on how much can remain in the blood during competition. In addition to boosting physical endurance, caffeine increases alertness and improves mood. The buzz may come at a price, though. People who drink more than they're used to may become restless and unable to sleep. Moreover, it's possible to become physically dependent on caffeine within days.

9. The question now arises: how much to drink? Those with heatburn and anxiety may want to see if cutting back coffee improves their condition. For most people, however, there's virtually no risk in consuming up to three normal cups a day. Harvard's Stampfer tries to keep his coffee drinking irregular enough to avoid habituation: "That way, I can get a buzz when I feel like it."(cbsetuts.com)

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the following questions:

i. What can be inferred from the passage about the relationship between coffee drinking and heart disease risk? **(2)**

ii. According to the passage, which disease did avid coffee drinkers have a lower risk of? **(1)**

a) Parkinson's disease
b) Heart disease
c) Pancreatic cancer
d) Bladder cancer

iii. What is the potential health risks associated with drinking very strong coffee? **(1)**

iv. What do studies suggest about the effect of moderate coffee drinking on blood pressure?

a) It dangerously raises blood pressure. **(1)**
b) It has no effect on blood pressure.
c) It lowers blood pressure.
d) It varies depending on the individual.

v. What does the 30-year study of Japanese-American men suggest about coffee and Parkinson's disease? **(1)**

a) Coffee drinkers have a higher risk of Parkinson's disease.
b) Coffee drinkers have a lower risk of Parkinson's disease.
c) Coffee has no effect on the risk of Parkinson's disease.
d) The study did not provide conclusive results.

vi. How does the European brewing method differ from the filter and percolation methods in terms of cafestol and kahweol content**?** **(2)**

vii. Meir Stampfer, an epidemiologist at Harvard opines that _____**.** **(1)**

viii. STATE TRUE OR FALSE: **(1)**

The International Olympic Committee and the National Collegiate Athletic Association have set limits on caffeine consumption due to its potential performance-enhancing effects.

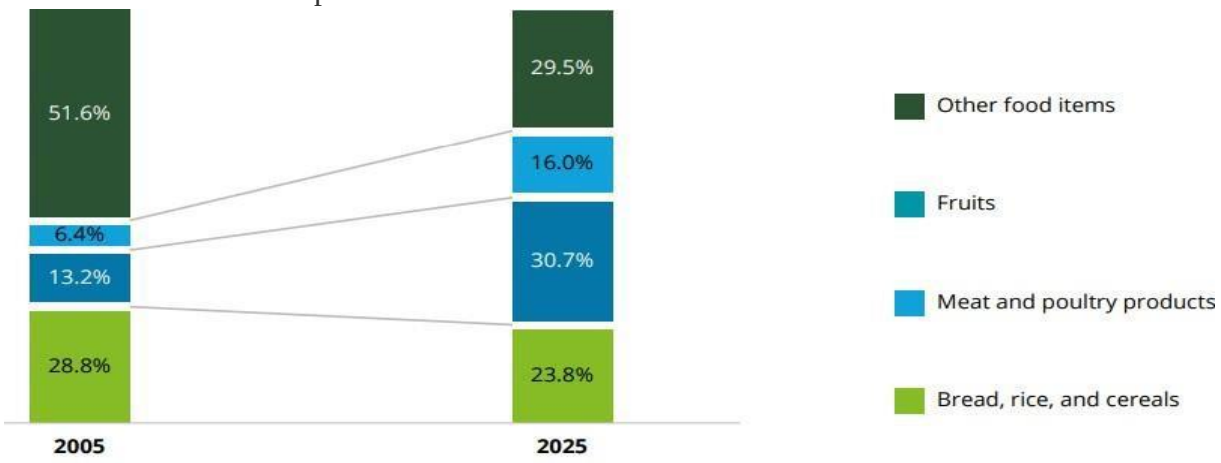
CASE – BASED PASSAGES: (UNSOLVED)

PASSAGE 4

I. Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Over the last decade, there has been a tremendous shift in the way Indians have been purchasing and consuming food. Moreover, these trends are quickly moulding the dietary patterns and food habits of a large number of Indians. This can be attributed to intersecting demographic and socio-economic drivers such as rising population, urbanisation, increasing disposable income, changing lifestyles, cross-cultural influences and heightened exposure to social media platforms.

With an expected population growth of 273 million in the next twenty years, India is poised to be home to 1.64 billion people. Middle class households, which drive close to 75% of consumer spending, are expected to increase from the current 50% to 80% by 2030. The average Indian household spent 33.2% of the total household budget on food in 2005. This is expected to reach 35.3% in 2025.



Changing dietary pattern in India [3]

Growing wages, leading to more disposable income, are enabling Indians to afford more than basic staples. Traditionally a carb-loving country, India has been leaning more towards meat and protein-rich diets. In fact, meat and poultry is projected to account for 30.7% of the total food spending by 2025, with bread, rich and cereals accounting for 23.8% and fruits accounting for 16% by 2025, meat, poultry and fruits will constitute nearly 50% of the total spending on food. This number was at 20% in 2005.

Put in terms of calorie intake, Indian diets are transitioning from staple foods, such as coarse cereals, to vegetable- and animal – based proteins. They are projected to further diversify nutritionally and include healthy fats, fiber, and antioxidants in their diet. This apparent when one looks at India's average per capita daily protein consumption. Though India is still below the world average, the protein intake has increased from the 55.3 grams to 63 grams over the last 15 years.

The adoption of online grocery delivery due to increased focus on health aspects and reliance on in - home cooking has increased, with the growth skewed more towards fresh food items. The Gross Merchandise Value (GMV) of fresh food has grown by 144% during the first half of 2020, while staples and Fast- moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) have shown 85% and 62%

growth, respectively.

Indian consumers are more mindful of what they eat now. Apart from localized palette preferences, Indian consumers are also considering health quotient of what is on their plates, their sourcing, as well as their impact on the environment. (Adapted excerpt from Future of Food:Innovation in managing demand and supply disruptions, by Deloitte and CII)

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the following questions.

i. How has Indian diets transitioned in terms of protein consumption? (2)

ii. How has India's average per capita daily protein consumption changed over the last 15 years? (1)

iii. What kind of diversification in eating habits is expected in the near future? (1)

iv. What factors do the Indian consumers consider when it comes to their food choices? (1)

a) Only localized palette preferences
b) Only health quotient
c) Only sourcing
d) Health quotient, sourcing, and impact on the environment

v. What is one of the main drivers contributing to the shift in food consumption patterns in India? (1)

a) Rising population
b) Decreasing disposable income
c) Decreasing urbanization
d) Decreasing exposure to social media platforms

vi. What percentage of consumer spending in India is driven by middle-class households, and how is it expected to change by 2030? (2)

vii. Cite one reason behind the shift in Indian dietary pattern. (1)

viii. State TRUE or FALSE: (1)

Indian consumers are only considering their localized palette preferences when it comes to their food choices.

PASSAGE 5 (Unsolved)

II. **Read the passage given below.** (10 Marks)

a. The future of food is unequivocally digital, and the future of digital is inevitably AI (Artificial Intelligence), research from IT FOR Change had noted in a 2019 paper discussing new technologies in agriculture.

b. The country, which already accounts for 18% of the global population, has the pressure of feeding that many mouths. According to PMSTIAC, "AI expenditure in India is projected to grow with a CAGR of 39% during 2019-2025 to touch $11.781 million by 2025.

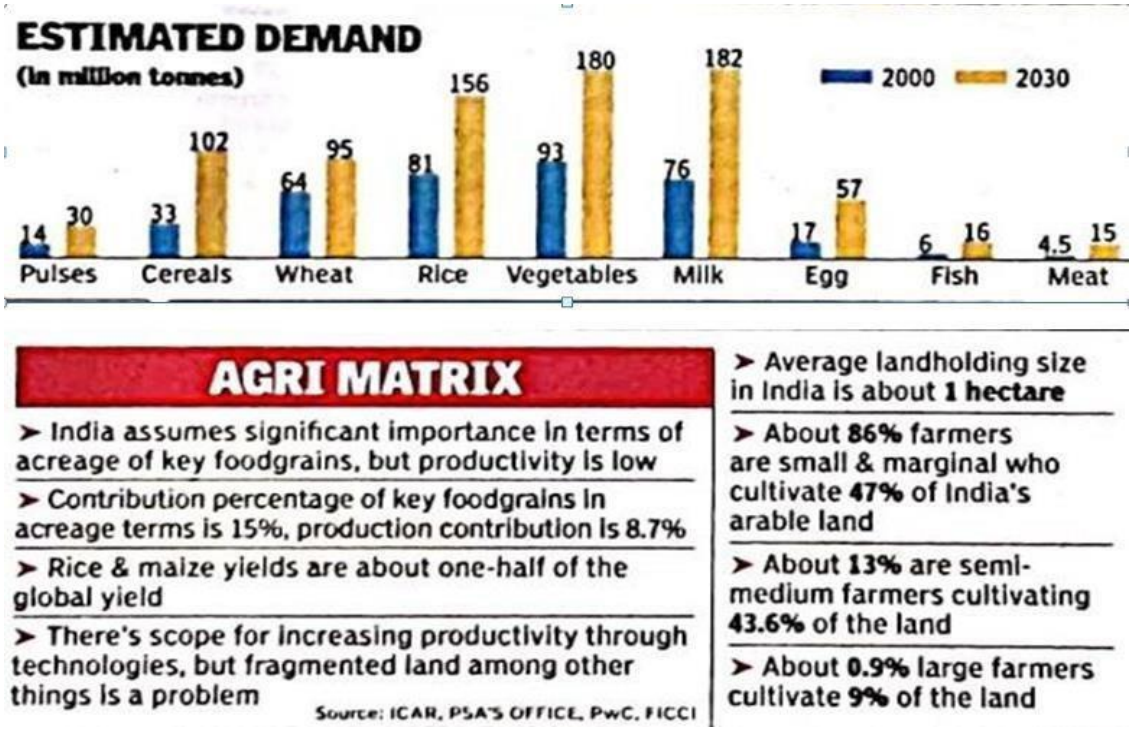
c. The Centre puts the value of the Indian Agri-tech market at an estimated $204 million. Prof. A.K Sood, Principal Advisor to the Government, told TOI: "Private and public institutions must collaborate."

d. Output yield estimates and price forecasts will help farmers obtain maximum profits. AI sensors can detect weed affected areas to precisely spray herbicides preventing their over and under-use.

e. Predictive insights such as timing for sowing for maximum productivity can help farmers reduce impact by weather. Early warnings for droughts in multiple vernacular languages can be done.

f. AI- driven robots can be used to harvest huge volumes faster; be trained on data for specific crop variety; weather conditions & location, taking into consideration by-products to reduce wastage.

g. Pointing out that AI cloud computing, satellite imagery and advanced analytics have created an ecosystem for **smart Agriculture,** Manoranjan Mohanty, Scientist G/advisor to the government said, "Agriculture AI applications can communicate **dates**, fertilization based on soil tests, seed treatment, diagnose pest/soil defects and nutrient deficiency etc."



8. Despite all the merits, Risk-aversion and resistance to change, lack of trust in technology and insufficient support of universities and academics in digital agriculture are some of the challenges of an AI Rollout.

Data rights regime, lack of enforcement of data regulations, transparency too needs upgrade. Language barrier, high illiteracy rates, lack of awareness regarding return on investment in AI systems, lack of formal/ informal education in data engineering and infrastructure, are some of the other challenges.

Poor internet connectivity, limited access to cloud-hosted data, erratic electric supply are some of the connectivity issues hampering this revolution.(www.timesof india.com)

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the following questions.

i. Does the following statement agree with the information given in bar graph? How? **(2)**

Estimates show that by 2030, demand for pulses, cereals, rice, eggs, fruits vegetables and milk will be more than twice of what it was in 2000.

ii. "Agriculture AI applications can communicate dates,…" (para-7) **(1)**
By 'dates', Monaoranjan Mohanty here means the right time of _____.
(A) rains

(B) sowing of seeds

(C) using the Internet

(d) soil-treatment

iii. "India assumes significant importance in terms of acreage of key food-grains…" **(1)**
On the positive side, we can conclude from the above observation that:

A. India has huge potential for production of food grains
B. India's production of food-grains is grossly low
C. India has self-sufficiency in food-grains
D. None of the above

iv. 1. "0.9% of large farmers cultivate 9% of the land." **(1)**
2. 86% of the farmers are small who cultivate 47% of the arable land

On the basis of the above two statistics, it's clear that:
A. Most of the farmers in India are rich and afluent
B. Many farmers are poor with small land holdings
C. Many farmers use AI technology
D. Some farmers exploit other farmers

v. Mention a good use of AI sensors. **(1)**

vi. How can AI can help reduce the wastage of crops? **(2)**

vii. Harvesting of crops can be done faster with the help of: **(1)**
A. Data Engineering
B. High speed internet
C. AI-driven robots
D. Right use of pesticides

viii. "Risk-aversion and resistance to change" (para-8) in the passage means, farmers are: **(1)**
A. Afraid of losing their crops
B. Unwilling to obtain higher crop yields
C. Scared of investing money in new technology
D. Happy earning benefits through traditional methods of farming

PASSAGE 6 (Unsolved)

I. Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

Human Development Index (HDI) is an index that measures the key dimensions of human development in any country, city or state. The HDI was created to emphasise that people and their capabilities should be the ultimate criteria for assessing the development of a country, not economic growth alone. The human Development Index (HDI) is a summary measure of average achievement in key dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life, being knowledgeable and having a decent standard of living.

The health dimension is assessed by life expectancy at birth, the education dimension is measured by mean of years of schooling for adults aged 25 years and more, and expected years of schooling for children of school entering age. The standard of living dimensions is measured by gross national income per capita.

The HDI simplifies and captures only part of what human development entails. It does not reflect on inequalities, poverty, human security, empowerment, etc.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the UN's global development network, which works for change and connects countries to scientific and technical knowledge, experience and resources to help people enjoy a better quality of life. Every year, the UNDP publishes a Human Development Report where it compares the different countries based on the general health, education and per capita income among the citizens.

Let's take a look at the UNDP Human Development Report of 2019 and see how India fared compared to its neighbouring countries.

Country	Gross National Income per capita (2018)	Life Expectancy at Birth (2018	Mean Schooling Years of People Aged 25 and Above (2018)	HDI Rank (2017)
India	6,829	69.4	6.5	129
Pakistan	5,190	67.1	5.2	151
Sri Lanka	11,611	76.8	11.1	72
Bangladesh	4,057	72.3	6.1	136
Nepal	2,748	70.5	4.9	148
Myanmar	5,764	66.9	5.0	146

Data of Human Development, 2019 of South Asian Countries

For a country with so many resources and a well-prospering economy, the level of human development is quite low. In 2013, India's Human Development Index value was 0.552, lying in the medium human development category. Over time, India has demonstrated promising signs of improvement. Between 1980 to 2013, India's HDI value went up from 0.345 to 0.552, an increase of 61% and an average annual increase of 1.5%. This means that the country is taking the right steps to tackle poor human development, but it is a very slow rate.

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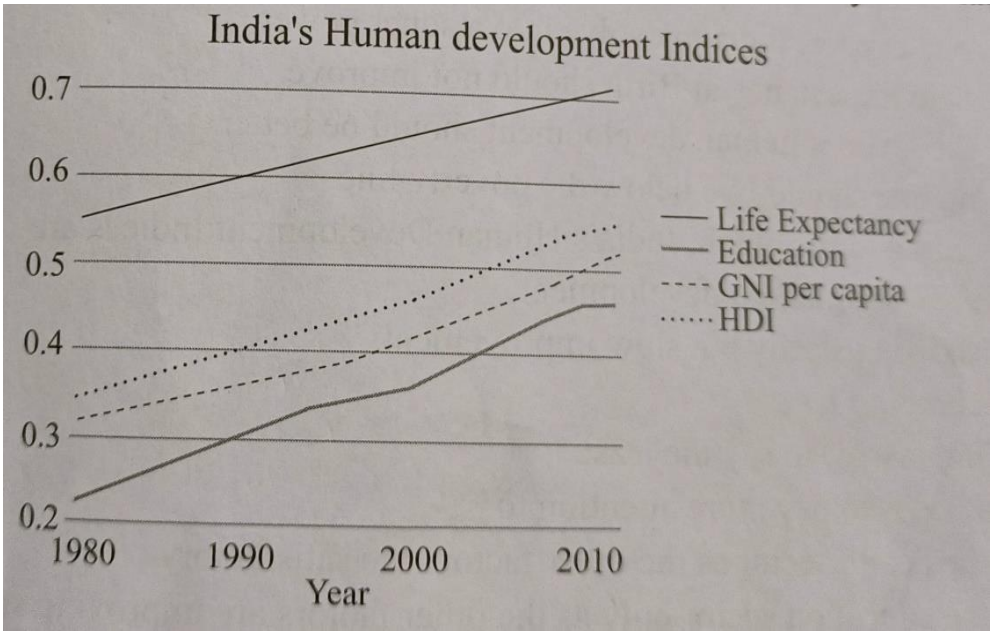
an increase of 61% and an average annual increase of 1.5%. This means that the country is taking the right steps to tackle poor human development, but it is a very slow rate.

India's Human development Indices



This graph shows how India's HDI has improved over time, along with how the individual component indices have as well. It is encouraging to see that India has consistently been improving in all areas of human development. Health by far is India's greatest strength, while levels of education and income are lagging

behind quite largely. This means that the government needs to direct its attention towards improving levels of individuals income and education more profoundly due to their low quantities. (United Nations Human Development Reports: https://hdr.undp.org/data-center/human-development-index#/indicies/HDI)

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the following questions.

(i) What can be inferred of India's increase in HDI from 1980 to 2013? **(2)**

(ii) Which of the following statements is supported by the information provided? **(1)**

a) The HDI only considers economic growth as a measure of human development.
b) India's HDI value in 2013 was higher than the global average.
c) India has shown consistent improvement in its human development over time.
d) The UNDP's Human Development Report focuses solely on education.

(iii) Why the HDI is considered a summary measure of human development and not a comprehensive indicator. **(1)**

(iv) Which aspect is NOT reflected by the HDI? **(1)**

a) Inequalities. b) Poverty. c) Human security. d) Empowerment.

(v) Based on the information provided, which country category did India fall into in 2013? **(1)**

a) Very high human development.

b)High human development.

III. Medium human development.

IV. Low human development.

(vi) Explain the role of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in promoting human

(vii) India's HDI value increased by an average of 1.5% per year during the period 1980 to 2013, indicating that

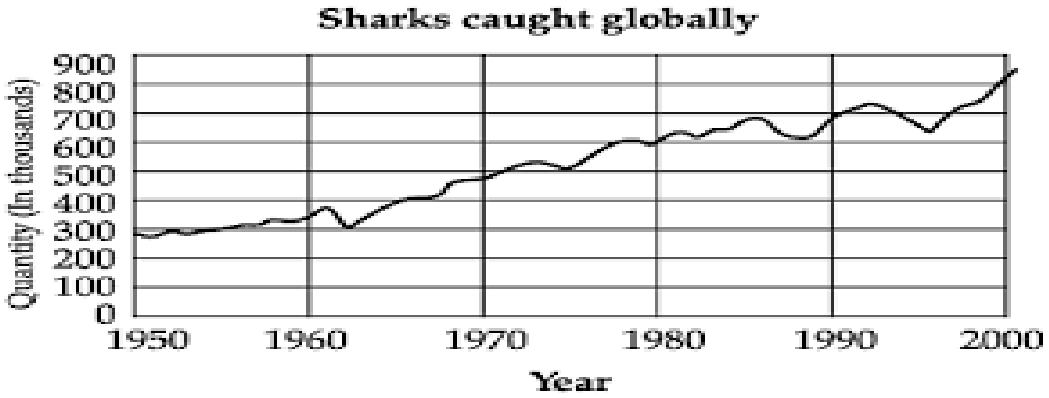
_____. **(1)**

(viii) The HDI reflects inequalities, poverty, human security, and empowerment. **(1)**

PASSAGE-7 (Unsolved)

IV.**Read the passage and answer the questions that follow**

(1) Andy Dehart is a shark expert and TV presenter who lives in the United States of America. He has had a lifelong interest in sharks and is always trying to look for ways to educate the public about them. Many peoplethink that sharks have little or no intelligence, but Andy points out that recent study have shown that many shark species possess powerful problem-solving abilities and social skills. "Sharks do not want to attack humans," he asserts. "There is no shark species that eats humans as part of its regular diet. In most shark attack cases, the shark leaves after realising that it has mistakenly bitten a human and not its intended prey."



(2) In Andy's opinion, all shark fishing should be stopped until the shark populations have had time to grow again. We then need to do a better job of managing the fishing of sharks. However, even if the direct fishing of sharks is stopped, many will still be killed when they are caught up in the nets of boats fishing for other species of fish.

(3) When Andy was a boy, his father worked for a national oceanic organisation, and Andy travelled with him all over the Caribbean. He grew up by the coast and he has been connected with the sea for as long as he can remember. He also lived near one of the best aquariums in America. Andy then went on to build a career working with sharks in an aquarium environment. More recently, he has been involved with television and the making of programmes about the sharks.

4) Andy and his wife had their first child two years ago. They were amused and amazed to see to what extent their work with animals has proved to be useful in bringing up their daughter. They know how to observe her behaviour and teach her how to do things by rewarding her.

(5) Andy loves sharks and is very passionate about their survival and protection. He feels extremely lucky to have had opportunities working at the National Aquarium and the television station which presents the Nature Channel. He never wastes a moment in either place that could be spent educating people about sharks. He does admit that it is probably not possible for everyone to love sharks as he does. However, he does hope to persuade people personally or through the media, to respect sharks and the critical role they play in our environment. His main objective is to keep spreading awareness that sharks are not dangerous man-eaters but essential creatures in our oceans, as they provide ecological balance and help to control other species. (Practiceforeveryone.com)

Based on your understanding of the above passage, answer the questions given below:

i. How can we infer that sharks can be intelligent? (Answer in about 40 words) (2)

ii. How did Andy's work help him and his wife when bringing up their daughter? (1)

(A) They knew how to teach her things by rewarding her.
(B) They taught her by reprimanding her.
(C) They taught her to observe behaviour of others.
(D) Connection of animals to the daughter's keenness

iii. Why does Andy believe that Sharks only attack humans by mistake? (2)

iv. Even after the ascending trend, in which year the number of sharks caught show maximum variation? (1)

(A) 1990-2000 (B) 1970-1980

(C) 1980-1990 (D) 1960-197

v. How does Andy hope to educate people about sharks? (1)

vi. Complete the sentence appropriately**:** (1)

Sharks are indispensable creatures because _____.

vii. Which word in Para 5 means the opposite of 'safe'? (1)

(A)Critical (B) Objective

(C) Balance (D) None of these

viii. How does Andy hope to educate people about sharks? (1)

(A) Through his work at the National Aquarium.
(B) Through the media.
(C) Through the Nature Channel.
(D) All of these.

ANSWERS: Passage 1

i. c) Because of their size, strength, and aggressive nature

ii. b) They have yellow irises and a unique stripe pattern

iii. Option (C) is correct. Explanation: Mentioned in Para 6, more than 75%.

iv. The main reason is hunting, poaching, urbanization, habitat loss and illegal wildlife trade.

v. Royal Bengal Tigers are usually spotted in swamps, mangroves, and grasslands

vi. Option (B) is correct

vii. India has the largest population of Royal Bengal Tigers in the world, and the Indian government is actively involved in tiger conservation to protect the species from extinction.

viii. False

ANSWERS: Passage 2

i. Regulatory and structural barriers can create obstacles for technology investments in rural India, making it difficult to introduce innovations such as cold storage and cold chains, reliable power solutions, and improved transportation systems. These barriers may include complex bureaucratic procedures, lack of supportive policies, and infrastructure limitations.

ii. d) Free or subsidized agricultural power

iii. Some potential benefits include: increased crop yields, enhanced rural employment and incomes, improved postharvest processing and value addition, efficient transportation, and access to crucial information for farmers. (Any one)

iv. c) Regulatory and structural barriers

v. a) Cold storage and cold chains

vi. Reliable and low-cost power is essential for rural areas in India as it supports both agricultural activities and domestic needs. It enables efficient irrigation, mechanization of farm operations, access to modern amenities, and overall development of rural communities.

vii. Network coverage is very limited.

viii. FALSE

ANSWERS: Passage 3

i. The passage states that coffee drinking at reasonable levels is unrelated to heart risk, according to Meir Stampfer, an epidemiologist at Harvard who has studied coffee and health. However, it should be noted that this conclusion is based on the studies involving large amounts of coffee (five to six cups a day), and moderate coffee drinkers (two cups) were not found to have increased heart disease risk.

ii. a) Parkinson's disease

iii. Drinking very strong coffee can sharply increase cholesterol levels due to the presence of cafestol and kahweol, which are fat-like chemicals. It can also lead to restlessness, sleep disturbances, and physical dependence on caffeine.

iv. b) It has no effect on blood pressure.

v. b) Coffee drinkers have a lower risk of Parkinson's disease.

vi. The European brewing method, which involves boiling water sitting on coffee grounds for several minutes before straining, produces high concentrations of cafestol and kahweol. In contrast, the filter and percolation methods remove most of these chemicals, leaving only a trace amount.

vii. Coffee drinking at reasonable levels is unrelated to heart risk.

viii. True