

Discursive Passages

Read the passages given below and answer the questions that follow them:
(12 marks)

PASSAGE 1

Mixed show: Industrial growth slows to 3.4%, retail inflation nears 8%

The country's industrial output growth slowed to 3.4% in June, while retail inflation inched to nearly 8% in July, posing fresh challenges for policymakers, who are battling to revive growth and tame inflation.

Data released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) on Tuesday showed industrial output in June rose 3.4% year-on-year from a decline of 1.8% in June 2013 and slower than the upwardly revised 5% expansion in May 2014.

Separate data showed retail inflation rose 7.96% in July, compared to previous month's 7.46%, largely driven by pressure on fruits, vegetables and beverages prices. Retail inflation is close to the Reserve Bank of India's target of keeping it at 8% by January 2015.

"Inflation uncertainty exists, given that the monsoon outcome, though improving is still below-normal. Under these conditions, inflationary expectations would tend to get embedded till the harvest season sets in," said Madan Sabnavis, chief economist at CARE ratings.

"Depending on the spread of rainfall, a clearer picture would emerge in September-October on the exact impact on output. Therefore, RBI is likely to maintain a cautious stance in the next policy too," Sabnavis said in a note.

Economists said although the factory data for June was disappointing but the overall picture showed some recovery, though not a significant turnaround. The Narendra Modi government has vowed to steer the economy out of two consecutive years of sub 5% growth.

"Industrial growth too disappointed as it slowed to 3.4% in June after growing at 5% in May. However, its overall performance in first quarter of FY-15 is signalling a gradual recovery," ratings agency Crisil said in a note. "Given the first quarter IIP growth and assuming that the construction sector grew at the same rate as in FY-14, industrial GDP is likely to have grown around 3.3% in first quarter of FY15," the agency said.

Electricity and mining posted handsome growth but manufacturing remained sluggish and continued to be a concern. The manufacturing sector rose 1.8% in June compared to a contraction of 1.7% in the same month last year.

The electricity sector grew 15.7% in June compared to zero growth in June 2013, while the mining sector, which borne the brunt of policy delays, grew 4.3% compared to a contraction of 4.6% in June 2013.

The consumer goods sector continued to remain sluggish and declined 10% compared to a contraction of 1.5% in June 2013, while consumer durables fell 23.4% in June compared to a decline of 10.1% in June 2013.

The industrial sector has remained sluggish for a significant period due to a string of factors such as policy and regulatory delays, high input costs, slowing demand, investment and high interest rates. But the approval to a number of stalled projects is expected to steer a recovery in the months ahead and should augur well for the overall growth.

Source: Times News Network

Word-Meaning: **Revive**—bring back, वापिस लाना। **Tame**—control, नियंत्रित करना। **Inflation**—high prices, मुद्रास्फीति। **Output**—production, पैदावार। **Target**—aim, उद्देश्य। **Embedded**—fixed firmly in, अंदर निश्चित हो जाएगा। **Cautious**—careful, सावधानीपूर्ण। **Stance**—(here) attitude, रुख, दृष्टिकोण। **Vowed**—(here) determined, दृढ़ प्रतिज्ञा। **Steer out**—take out, बाहर निकालना। **Consecutive**—continuous, लगातार। **Gradual**—(here) slow, धीमा। **Posted**—showed, दिखाया। **Sluggish**—slow, सुस्त। **Bore the brunt**—to suffer the main force of something, किसी चीज का प्रभाव, झटका सहन करना। **Stalled**—not working, closed, बंद पड़े हुए।

Questions

I. Answer briefly:

(4 × 2 = 8)

1. What fresh challenges are posed for the economic policy makers in India?
2. Why does inflation uncertainty exist even today?
3. Name the sectors that have posted handsome growth. Why does the manufacturing sector remain a cause of concern?
4. Give the main reasons for the sluggish growth of the industrial sector.

II. Vocabulary:

(4 × 1 = 4)

1. The synonym for the 'high prices' is:
 (a) inflation (b) depression
 (c) dearth (d) boom
2. 'Something fixed firmly in something' is:
 (a) embedded (b) included
 (c) inclusive (d) studied
3. The opposite of the word 'fast' in the passage is:
 (a) sluggish (b) slow
 (c) decreased (d) static
4. The noun form of the word 'disappoint' is:
 (a) disappointed (b) disappointing
 (c) disappointment (d) none of these

Answers

- I. 1. Slowing down of the country's industrial output growth to 3.4% and the inching of the retail inflation to almost 8% have recently posed fresh problems for the economic policy makers in India.
2. Monsoon outcome has been quite erratic so far this year. Though improving, it is still below the normal. Only in September-October, a clearer picture will emerge. Till then inflation uncertainty will continue in India.
3. Electricity and mining sectors have posted handsome growth. Electricity sector grew 15.7% while the mining sector grew 4.3% compared to the last year. The manufacturing sector remained sluggish at 1.8% and continues to be a cause of concern.

4. A string of factors were responsible for the sluggish growth of the industrial sector. Policy and regulatory delays, high input costs, slowing demand, investment and high interest rates only slowed down the growth of the industrial sector.
- II.** 1. (a) inflation 2. (a) embedded
3. (a) sluggish 4. (c) disappointment

PASSAGE 2

CONFUSING SIGNALS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's comment during his recent visit to Leh that Pakistan had lost the ability to fight a conventional war and was hence engaging in a proxy war by aiding and abetting terrorists does nothing to move the needle forward on improving India-Pakistan relations. The comment – made to Indian soldiers and officers – fails to take cognisance of the fact that the Nawaz Sharif government in Islamabad isn't the sole or even main actor in determining Pakistan's India policy.

It's hardly a coincidence that hours after Modi's comment Pakistani troops violated the ceasefire along the border. Again predictably, Islamabad's foreign office responded to Modi's charge by stating that Pakistan itself was a victim of terrorism and that New Delhi would do well not to engage in blame games. All of this takes away from the positive momentum that had been generated when Modi invited SAARC leaders to attend his swearing-in ceremony in May. That Sharif had made the trip to New Delhi had given rise to hopes that Modi is capable of thinking out of the box on Pakistan. But putting the screws on Islamabad ahead of the upcoming meeting of foreign secretaries will only strengthen hawks in the Pakistani establishment.

Moreover, the Sharif government is under siege with two separate protest marches to Islamabad – one led by opposition leader Imran Khan and the other by Canada-based religious scholar Tahir-ul Qadri – planned for today, Pakistan's independence day. Both sets of protesters want Sharif to go and are rumoured to be supported by Pakistan's military-intelligence complex. If the latter is true, it would mean that Pakistan's security establishment is using the protests to send out a clear message to the civilian dispensation that it retains a veto on key issues.

Instead of doing the familiar talks-no talks routine with Pakistan, there is an unconventional path the Modi government can adopt to resolve the various irreconcilables it faces. If the Pakistan army is the main actor in determining India policy, a way must be found to engage the Pakistani armed forces themselves, whether through formal or informal channels, and to assuage their anxieties vis-a-vis India. UPA was hardly capable of this since it generally stuck to the tried and tested path. But Modi has shown a capacity to innovate and surprise, as in the case of his invitation to Sharif. More of such innovation will be needed for progress in India-Pakistan ties.

Word-Meaning: **Conventional**—traditional, परम्परागत। **Proxy war**—hidden war, छुप कर लड़ना। **Abetting**—inciting, उकसाते हुए। **Cognizance**—consideration, विचार, नोटिस। **Sole**—only, केवल मात्र। **Coincidence**—by chance, अक्समात। **Violated**—broke, भंग की। **Ceasefire**—a pact not to fight, युद्ध-विराम। **Responded**—replied, जवाब दिया। **Engage**—busy in, व्यस्त। **Momentum**—speed, गति। **Generated**—produced, पैदा की थी। **Hawks**—those who believe in wars, जो युद्ध में विश्वास रखते हैं। **Under seize**—(here) under the control and pressure of, दबाव में घिरी हुई है। **Dispensation**—special permission, विशेषानुमति, विधान। **Retains**—keeps, रखती है। **Veto**—deciding vote, अंतिम निर्णय।

Channels—avenues, ways, रास्ते। **Irreconcilables**—that can't be made to agree, अनमेल, परस्पर विरोधी।
Assuage—to make less severe, नरम करना, हल्का करना। **Innovate**—(here) to make sudden changes, स्थिति के अनुसार अचानक बदल जाना।

Questions

I. Answer briefly:

(4 × 2 = 8)

1. Why is Pakistan indulging in a proxy war?
2. What hope had Sharif's trip to Delhi during Modi's swearing-in-ceremony generated? Did it materialise?
3. How is the Pakistani security establishment using the protests against the Sharif's government?
4. How can Modi deal with Pakistan in the new situation?

II. Vocabulary:

(4 × 1 = 4)

1. The most appropriate synonym for the word '**traditional**' in the passage is:
(a) conventional (b) convention
(c) convent (d) innovative
2. Choose the right option from those given below to give the noun form of the word '**responded**' in the passage:
(a) responsible (b) response
(c) responsive (d) responding
3. Those who believe in wars are called:
(a) fighters (b) jingoes
(c) hawks (d) violents
4. Making sudden changes according to situation is called:
(a) invention (b) innovation
(c) innovate (d) innovated

Answers

- I.**
1. Pakistan has lost the ability to fight a conventional war with India. Hence, it is engaging India in a proxy war by aiding and abetting terrorists.
 2. Sharif's trip to New Delhi to attend Modi's swearing-in-ceremony generated a hope that the relations between India and Pakistan would improve in future. The continued ceasefire violations have belied all such expectations.
 3. The Pakistani security establishment is using the recent protests led by Imran Khan and Qadri to strengthen its position. It wants to give a clear message to the government that it retains a veto on key issues.
 4. Modi has already shown a capacity to innovate and surprise in such complex matters. He can adopt the right strategy to deal with Pakistan in the changed circumstances.
- II.**
1. (a) conventional
 2. (b) response
 3. (c) hawks
 4. (b) innovation

PASSAGE 3

MY NATION, MY PRAYERS

So many religious and ethnic groups, so much cultural diversity... over 350 languages; more than 1600 dialects; nearly 650 different tribes. A different food habit every few kilometers... and yet, one country!

With Independence, we just didn't become free from British rule; we regained the freedom to be what we are, to live the way we want to. And that freedom has been the hallmark of this great region. It's not a coincidence that India has never invaded a country in her long history. It's her unwritten mission statement to be a giver, not a taker. She gave the concept of zero to the world; the game of chess, algebra, trigonometry and calculus; she gave the world its first university, the earliest school of medicine, and she gave four religions to the world. She nurtures hundreds of mosques, churches, temples and gurdwaras, to name a few; she gave asylum to more than 300,000 refugees who fled religious and political persecution. The list is endless and unparalleled. But all this will pale in front of one gift she has given to the world: PRAYER.

Take for example the most popular Gayatri Mantra. It doesn't invoke God for any small individual comfort. Instead, it calls out for inspiration and guidance for our intellect. No polytheism, no segregation, no discrimination. Just a genuine cry for righteousness!

And that has been core of all common and popular prayers of this nation. A longing to move from untruth to truth; from darkness to light and from death to immortality is the spirit of "*Asato ma sad gamaya...*" Where else can we find a more inclusive wish for well-being than the meaning of "*Sarve bhavantu sukhinah...*"? This elementary prayer wishes happiness, goodness, and freedom from misery and pain for all.

There is even a prayer seeking not to hate each other. Add to it such simple but profound prayers like "*Lokah samastah sukhino bhavantu*" (May peace and happiness prevail) and "*Satyam param dhimahi*" (Let truth, divinity and knowledge shine through me). They unite the entire creation into a bond of divine blessing. Another one-liner that is mind boggling for its exclusiveness came to my knowledge when I heard Sri Sri Ravi Shankar inspire a huge gathering to say the prayer "*Annadata shukhbava*" before eating. It was different from the more traditional mealtime prayers like the "*Brahma arpanam...*" But when explained how this wish for happiness covers the entire food chain from the farmer to the miller to the trader to the cook to the waitress... I was awestruck.

It made me wonder why we haven't made such deep prayers a part of our national consciousness. Who can have objections to praying for such divine attributes? They nowhere limit whom you should pray to. Allah, Jesus, Krishna, Ganesh or Shiva don't seem to matter. Then, why are our children not being taught the essence of these prayers? Those who protest such prayers in the name of secularism not only expose their ignorance of their meaning, but also do the biggest disservice to the ideals of secularism. If everybody is blessed with these attributes, the essence of secularism will be a *fait accompli*.

It's time to turn to the last word of the Rig Veda, another gem from the Indic region. This word is the ultimate essence of unity. It's a commitment, a call to move together, not just at the physical level but at the levels of thoughts, feelings and consciousness. Sanghachadwam! Let's progress together!

—M Rajaque Rahman

Word-Meaning: Ethnic groups—people or cultural groups, लोक और सांस्कृतिक समूह। **Dialects**—forms of spoken languages, बोली जाने वाली भाषाओं का रूप। **Hallmark**—a feature/quality, लक्षण। **Invaded**—attacked, आक्रमण किया है। **Asylum**—shelter, शरण। **Persecution**—harassment, प्रताड़ना। **Pale**—fade in colour, मंदा, फीका पड़ना। **Polytheism**—different religions, बहुधर्म। **Segregation**—separation, अलगाव। **Discrimination**—unequal treatment, भेदभाव। **Awestruck**—highly surprised, अचम्भित। **Attributes**—qualities, लक्षण, गुण। **Essence**—the jist, निचोड़। **Fait accompli**—that has been fixed and you can't change, पूर्व निर्धारित जिसे बदला न जा सके।

Questions

I. Answer briefly:

(4 × 2 = 8)

1. Why has India never invaded a country in her long history?
2. What does the Gayatri Mantra invoke?
3. How does the prayer “Annadata Shukhbava” cover the entire food-chain?
4. How is the last word of the Rig Veda the ultimate essence?

II. Vocabulary:

(4 × 1 = 4)

1. Forms of spoken languages are called:
(a) languages (b) dialects
(c) alphabets (d) letters
2. Synonym for the word ‘**harassment**’ in the passage is:
(a) persecute (b) persecution
(c) torture (d) torturing
3. The correct noun form of the word ‘**segregate**’ is:
(a) segregated (b) segregating
(c) segregation (d) segregate
4. The expression ‘**fait accompli**’ means:
(a) as already decided by fate (b) fate
(c) fortune (d) fate will decide

Answers

- I.**
1. India has never invaded any country in her long history as it has her unwritten statement. It has always been a ‘giver’ and not a ‘taker’.
 2. The ‘Gayatri Mantra’ doesn’t invoke God for small individual gains. It is a genuine cry for righteousness and well-being of mankind.
 3. The prayer “Annadata Shukhbava” is a wish for happiness. It covers the entire food chain from the farmer to the miller, from the trader to the cook and the waitress.
 4. The last word of the Rig Veda is the ultimate essence of unity at both the physical as well as the levels of thoughts, feelings and consciousness. It invokes progressing together.

- II.**
1. (b) dialects
 2. (b) persecution
 3. (c) segregation
 4. (a) as already decided by fate

PASSAGE 4

THE PM KNOWS HE IS A SERVANT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s maiden Independence Day speech from the ramparts of Red Fort was a departure from earlier speeches by earlier prime ministers on many counts. However, from a philosophical viewpoint, him saying, ‘*Mein pradhan mantri nahin, pradhan sevak hoon*’ -- ‘I am not prime minister; I am first servant’ could restore to public memory, the true place of elected representatives, as servants of the people who have chosen them to act on their behalf. Gandhiji was the one who first said, ‘President means Chief Servant’. And in the 1970s, Robert Greenleaf, with his book on servant leadership, brought the issue of good leadership back into public discourse.

Clearly, those in governance are not meant to ride roughshod over people and exploit them for their own personal beliefs and ends or exult in the power that such positions bring, or see it as one more accomplishment to include in a CV, memoir or biography. Leaders are meant to take their responsibilities seriously, whether the position has come through popular mandate or nomination. In a democracy, the keyword is 'service' just as seva or service is an integral part of any spiritual seeker's path to salvation.

"I'm not here to rule; I'm here to serve," said Modi, implying that he is different. If you have doubts, he would articulate that fact, to convince you. "I came here all prepared to criticise Modi's speech," confessed M K Gandhi's grandson Tushar Gandhi to the moderator on a TV show that was analysing the I-Day speech. "But I can't find fault with the speech!" Most Modi bashers – and those who Modi refers to as the 'elite who hate me' – might be upset that Modi's speech presented him as a Mr Goody Two-Shoes, with a fabulous Humility Quotient full of good intentions.

Sages have advised seekers that when you lack a certain virtue, try, try and succeed. In the beginning, if you don't feel humble but wish to become humble, then try faking humility. Sri Sri Ravi Shankar says, "If you can't make it, fake it!" The idea is that with repeated auto-suggestion, you begin to acquire the virtue over time, and lo and behold, one day you are that humble person you have been trying to be. Humility is perhaps among the most difficult virtues to cultivate or acquire at a time when everything is so focused on satiation of the individual's wants or wishes. And hence the aggressive attitude we see all around us. If you think it is aggression at work, relationships and markets, that makes things work, it is a skewed view. You could be soft-spoken and open and yet achieve results without getting trodden all over, if only you allow the spirit of service to stay topmost in whatever you do. As Krishna points out in the Gita, Do your duty without an eye on the fruits of your action. Good thoughts and work are bound to produce good results.

Even business models are now being constructed with humility included as a parameter for good leadership; it is no longer considered a sign of low self-esteem or poor confidence. Dada J P Vaswani points out that humility is an attitude which allows for others' greatness, and thus helps the manager create the right perspective which enables him – not just to manage, direct and order people – but to help them discover their best potential, by helping them to transform themselves.

—Narayani Ganesh

Word-Meaning: Maiden—opening, first, पहली। **Ramparts**—wide and protective walls, परकोटे। **Departure**—(here) different, अलग। **Discourse**—a long and serious discussion, गम्भीर बहस। **Ride rough shod**—treat badly, दुर्व्यवहार करना। **Mandate**—verdict, निर्णय (लोगों का)। **Integral**—essential, अखंड। **Salvation**—liberation, मुक्ति। **Elite**—(here) a privileged group, एक विशिष्ट समूह। **Fabulous**—extremely good, बहुत अच्छा। **Humility**—modesty, विनम्रता। **Quotient**—number, संख्या। **Sages**—saints and wise men, पहुँचे हुए संत लोग। **Fake**—copy, नकल करना। **Cultivate**—acquire, पैदा करना। **Aggression**—aggressive behaviour, उग्र व्यवहार। **Spewed**—distorted, गलत, भ्रमित। **Potential**—hidden ability, छिपी हुई योग्यता। **Transform**—change (from within), बदलना (अन्दर से)।

Questions

I. Answer briefly:

(4 × 2 = 8)

1. How does Modi echo Gandhiji in his maiden Independence Day speech?
2. What is the keyword in democracy and how?
3. Why is humility perhaps the most difficult virtue to be cultivated or acquired?
4. How does Dada J P Vaswani define humility?

II. Vocabulary:

(4 × 1 = 4)

1. Wide and protective walls of a fort are called:
(a) moat (b) ramparts
(c) fortifications (d) shelters
2. A long and serious discussion is called:
(a) speech (b) debate
(c) discourse (d) sermon
3. The opposite of the word '**common**' is:
(a) great (b) grand
(c) privilege (d) elite
4. Synonym for '**saints and wisemen**' is:
(a) sages (b) holymen
(c) priests (d) clergy

Answers

- I. 1. Modi's maiden speech delivered on the Independence Day echoes the spirit of Mahatma Gandhi. Modi declares that he is not the Prime Minister but the first servant of the people. Gandhiji was the one who said, "President means Chief Servant".
 2. The keyword in democracy is the 'service' of the people. 'Seva' or 'Service' of the people is an integral part of a democratic system. Leaders are there not to rule over the people but to serve them.
 3. Humility is perhaps among the most difficult virtues to be cultivated or acquired by human beings. They are always busy in the satiation of their individual wants and desires.
 4. Dada J P Vaswani defines humility as an attitude which allows for others' greatness. It helps people to discover their best potential by helping them to transform themselves.
- II. 1. (b) ramparts 2. (c) discourse
 3. (d) elite 4. (a) sages

PASSAGE 5

IN SCHOOL, BUT ARE THEY

Across the country, there is a simmering unease with the education that our 315 million students are getting. Everybody wants education, but most are dissatisfied with it. The biggest issue is this: will it help make a better life? But there is also the feeling, often confirmed, that students are not really learning much.

Several surveys of how well students are learning have shown dismal results. According to the ASER 2013 survey report, 60% of Class 3 students surveyed couldn't read a Class 1 text. This is up from 53% in 2009. This doesn't improve in higher classes – 53% of Class 5 students couldn't read a Class 2 text, up from 47% in 2009. A higher proportion is unable to deal with subtraction and division.

Although she doesn't give much credence to these surveys, Anita Rampal, professor of elementary and social education at Delhi University's Central Institute of Education, agrees that the schooling system is not delivering. There are three key factors behind a successful schooling system, according to her: building of knowledge and critical faculties,

good facilities and environment in school, and an equitable system where all kinds of children learn together.

“In India, we’re lagging in all three and that is why students are not learning to their full potential,” rues Rampal.

Lessons in schools are often information driven, with the teacher giving information that students are expected to soak up and reproduce in the poorly designed examinations, she explains. Classrooms are dull, teachers just stuff information into students and the exam-centric approach finishes off any possibility of ‘learning’.

Contrary to popular perception, children drop out of school most often because they are not getting anything from it, says Meena Shrinivasan, an award winning children’s books author and educational consultant.

“Either the language used in school is too foreign to them and they are treated like inferior species, or the matter being taught is irrelevant, or the absence of toilets for girls makes it impossible to continue, or the teacher is harsh and beats children for not understanding or performing, or it is all just so boring and burdensome that it is just more fun to drop out,” she says. The most vulnerable students, dalits, tribals and girls quit school the first.

A recent survey of nearly 1.52 million schools by NUEPA reveals a startling picture of facilities in schools. Over 41% schools do not have a playground, 43% don’t have electricity connection, 76% don’t have computers. Although more than three quarters of the schools had a library, 82% did not have a librarian to look after the books and guide the children.

Worldwide, research shows that one of the most reliable predictors of success in later grades is good reading ability in early grades, which comes from good teaching and from a print-rich environment, says Shrinivasan. “Most children in this country come from homes where recreational reading is not a priority or even a possibility, and so they depend on school for their books. Most schools tend to choose some preachy morally uplifting books that no one wants to read, and these too are not easily accessible to children,” she stresses. Teachers who enjoy books and can share this passion with children, and know how to teach reading, and a plentiful supply of age-appropriate interesting fiction and non-fiction are what children need more than any other educational input, Shrinivasan says.

But the condition of teachers is such that 28% teachers in primary schools are not even professionally qualified according to official statistics. In some states the situation is even worse. In the eight north-eastern states, just 36% teachers are qualified on an average. In Bihar, Bengal and J&K about 3 out of 5 teachers are not duly qualified to teach primary students.

Whole generations of children—India’s future - are going through this broken education system, somehow managing to get past exams, or dropping out by the wayside. It is not difficult to imagine what their, and the country’s future is likely to be if things are not improved drastically.

Word-Meaning: **Simmering**—seething, सुलगती हुई। **Unease**—restlessness, बेचैनी। **Not delivering**—not giving the required results, चाहने वाले परिणाम नहीं दे रहा। **Facilities**—comforts, सुविधाएँ। **Lagging**—behind, पीछे। **Potential**—(here) future ability, सम्भावित योग्यता। **Perception**—belief, धारणा। **Species**—(here) kinds (of persons), प्रजातियों। **Startling**—highly surprising, चौंकाने वाला। **Predictors**—those who can predict, पहले से ही बताने वाले। **Drastically**—sudden and extreme, अचानक/अतिवादी।

Questions

I. Answer briefly:

(4 × 2 = 8)

1. Why is there a simmering unease with the education that 315 million students are getting today?

2. What are the possible three key factors behind a successful schooling?
3. What are the factors that let a large number of students drop out of school in the middle?
4. What is the general condition of teachers in most of our primary schools?

II. Vocabulary:

(4 × 1 = 4)

1. The most appropriate option for the word '**seething**' is:

(a) simmering	(b) restless
(c) violent	(d) anger
2. Synonym for the word '**kinds**' of persons is:

(a) variety	(b) disparities
(c) species	(d) races
3. The opposite of the word '**relevant**' is:

(a) irrelevant	(b) irrelevance
(c) relevance	(d) irreverent
4. The noun form of '**recreational**' is:

(a) recreating	(b) recreating
(c) recreation	(d) recreationing

Answers

- I.
 1. Students want good education but most of them are dissatisfied with it. There is a simmering unease among them that they are not really learning much in such a set up.
 2. There are three possible key factors behind a successful schooling system. They are:
 - (i) building of knowledge and critical faculties
 - (ii) good facilities and environment
 - (iii) an equitable system for all students
 3. Language problem, ill treatment, irrelevant subject matter, absence of toilets for girls are some of the factors that let students drop out of their schools in the middle.
 4. About 28% of teachers in primary schools are not even professionally qualified. In the North-eastern states and in Bihar, Bengal and J&K, 3 out of 5 teachers are not duly qualified to teach primary students.
- II.

1. (a) simmering	2. (c) species
3. (a) irrelevant	4. (c) recreation

PASSAGE 6

REVISION OF GREEN LAWS MAY HIT DELHI

The ministry of environment and forests has asked for the public's comments on reviewing five crucial environmental laws, including the Air and Water (prevention and control of pollution) Acts—any amendment to which will impact the city massively.

Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC), the pollution watchdog that implements these acts in Delhi, will not comment. DPCC officials claimed MoEF hasn't asked them to. "We are not sure if we are supposed to express our views. We may comment once the draft new law is ready. The state governments can't do much when a committee to review the laws has already been set up," said a senior official.

Sanjiv Kumar, environment secretary, Delhi, also said he has no idea if state governments are to make suggestions. The committee, however, said on MoEF's website that it "desires" to engage in consultation with state governments.

Meanwhile, environmentalists are concerned they may not be able to articulate how these Acts can be strengthened given the ministry's 1,000 character (a little over six text messages) limit. Many are worried the review has been commissioned to dilute environmental laws and penalties on polluters, especially industries.

Rahul Choudhury, advocate and NGT Bar Association member said, "There is no scope to dilute these laws because they are already very weak." He cited the example of state pollution control boards that continue to renew no objection certificates to industries not conforming to norms. "There is no provision in the acts to review past conduct by pollution boards and revoke NOCs. The head of the board is usually a political appointee, often with no knowledge of environmental issues. Such loopholes make things easy for industries," he said.

Comparing the country's pollution control boards with the US Environmental Protection Agency, Choudhury said, "They have far more stringent parameters. In the last few years, more than 80% industries in Ghaziabad and Noida have not been complying with the Air Act".

C R Babu, DU professor emeritus and chairman of the state-level expert appraisal committee, and Anumita Roychowdhury, head of Centre for Science and Environment's clean air programme, said emissions from automobiles need to be brought under the Air Act from the motor vehicle (MV) Act. As of now, vehicular emissions are under MV Act.

"I am quite certain that this process has been started to weaken the acts but this will not help business in the long run. We will lose out tremendously on natural capital and ecological services. Can you imagine what's going to happen if air and water pollution control laws are relaxed further in Delhi? People can't survive in the city if that happens," said Babu.

Word-Meaning: Amendment—change in the law, कानून में बदलाव करना। **Impact**—influence, प्रभाव। **Massively**—in a big way, बहुत अधिक। **Concerned**—worried, चिंतित। **Articulate**—expressing clearly, स्पष्ट रूप से व्याख्या करना। **Dilute**—to lessen the effect, प्रभाव कम करना। **Stringent**—harsh, कठोर। **Emissions**—leaving out in the air, हवा में छोड़ना।

Questions

I. Answer briefly:

(4 × 2 = 8)

1. Why has the ministry of environment and forests asked for public comments on environmental laws?
2. Why are environmentalists worried?
3. How do India's pollution control boards compare with their counterparts in the US?
4. What will happen if air and water pollution control laws are relaxed in Delhi?

II. Vocabulary:

(4 × 1 = 4)

1. The word '**articulate**' means
 - (a) speaking
 - (b) writing clearly
 - (c) meditating
 - (d) expressing clearly
2. Synonym for the word '**harsh**' in the passage is:
 - (a) hard
 - (b) difficult
 - (c) stringent
 - (d) tough

3. The noun form of the word '**pollute**' is:
 - (a) polluting
 - (b) pollution
 - (c) polluted
 - (d) none of these
4. The opposite of '**strengthening**' in the passage is:
 - (a) weakening
 - (b) diluting
 - (c) removing
 - (d) eliminating

Answers

- I.
 1. The ministry of environment and forests has asked for public comments on environmental laws to review them rationally and amending Air and Water Acts, if needed, in the changing circumstances.
 2. Environmentalists don't have genuine faith in the intention of the ministry of environment and forests. They are worried that the review has been commissioned only to dilute the laws regarding the prevention of pollution.
 3. In the US, the US Environmental Agency has far more stringent parametres when compared to their counterparts in India. In the last few years, 80% of industries in Ghaziabad and Noida have not been complying with their Act.
 4. It will have a disastrous effect on the environment if air and water pollution control laws are relaxed in Delhi. People can't survive in the city if that happens.
- II.
 1. (d) expressing clearly
 2. (c) stringent
 3. (b) pollution
 4. (b) diluting

PASSAGE 7

PROPERTY RIGHTS BOOST FOR CHRISTIAN MOMS

The Narendra Modi government is readying an amendment in the Indian Succession Act of 1925 that will allow Christian women to get rights in the property of their deceased children. As per Sections 41 to 48 of Indian Succession Act, 1925, governing Christians, it gives mothers no right to inherit property of deceased children who have not left behind any will. All such properties are to be inherited by the father. If the father is not alive, the properties go to the siblings.

Section 41 of the Act provides that rules of distribution where the intestate has left no lineal descendants shall be contained in Sections 42 to 48, "after deducting the widow's share if he has left a widow".

The law ministry had asked the Law Commission to give its recommendations on removing this inequality against women in the Succession Act that continued since the British era, though Britain itself removed this gender-based discrimination in the 1950s.

The Law Commission on Friday gave its report to the government proposing changes in Sections 41 to 48 of the Act. The Indian Succession Act, 1925 is "archaic in nature and fosters an approach that solidifies distinctions based on gender and thus prejudicial and unfair to status of women and Christian mother of deceased intestate", the law panel said, recommending repeal of these provisions.

Christians are the third largest religious community in India, after Hindus and Muslims. The government has been receiving representations from community leaders seeking removal of this anomaly which deprived a mother of her rightful share in her children's wealth.

The government will soon bring an amendment in Parliament based on the recommendations of the Law Commission, sources said.

“A plain reading of provisions built in Sections 42 to 46 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 reveals how the scheme envisioned therein incorporates a preferential approach towards men and is unfair and unjust towards Christian women,” Law Commission chairman Justice A P Shah said.

Provisions in Sections 42 to 46 reveal how the scheme envisioned is unfair and unjust. According to Section 42, where the deceased’s father is living and there are no lineal descendants, father succeeds to property and mother gets no share. Preferential approach is writ large, the law panel said.

Further, even in case where the deceased’s father does not survive, provisions of Section 43 require the mother to equally share with brothers or sisters of the deceased, rather being entitled to what her husband was entitled to.

“Unfairness runs through provisions of Sections 44 and 45 as well, and it is only when neither father, brother, sister or the children of the deceased intestate are living that the property goes to the mother under Section 46 — a situation to a great extent created by forces of divine circumstances,” the commission said, strongly recommending repeal of all such provisions and giving mother first and equal rights as father.

Word-Meaning: **Deceased**—dead, मरे हुए। **Inherit**—(here) to receive by law a left property, मरे हुए लोगों की सम्पत्ति मिलना। **Siblings**—brothers and sisters, भाई और बहन। **Lineal descendants**—legal successors of the family, परिवार के कानूनी वंशज। **Deducting**—cutting, काट कर। **Discrimination**—partial treatment, भेद-भाव का व्यवहार। **Fosters**—produces, पैदा करता है। **Solidifies**—strengthens, मजबूत करना। **Status**—position, अवस्था। **Repeal**—remove, हटाना। **Provisions**—measures, प्रावधान। **Envisioned**—seen, देखी गयी। **Incorporates**—includes, शामिल करता है। **Preferential approach**—a way of favouring one against the other, एक को दूसरे से अधिक फायदा पहुँचाने का दृष्टिकोण। **Writ large**—(here) quite clear, स्पष्ट है।

Questions

I. Answer briefly:

(4 × 2 = 8)

1. Why is the Indian Succession Act 1925 governing Christians being amended?
2. What has the Law Ministry asked the Law Commission to do in this regard?
3. Why and what have the Christians of India been representing to the government of India?
4. How will the proposed amendments affect the rights of mothers?

II. Vocabulary:

(4 × 1 = 4)

1. The opposite of the word ‘**alive**’ in the passage is:
(a) deceased (b) died
(c) dead (d) death
2. Synonym for ‘**brothers and sisters**’ is:
(a) siblings (b) children
(c) wards (d) descendants
3. The most appropriate option for the word ‘**remove**’ in the passage is:
(a) eliminate (b) extract
(c) option (d) repeal
4. Choose the right verb of the word ‘**discrimination**’:
(a) discriminate (b) discriminating
(c) discriminated (d) none of these

Answers

- I.**
1. The Indian Succession Act 1925 is being amended because it doesn't allow Christian women to have rights in the property of their deceased children.
 2. The Law Ministry has asked the Law Commission to give its recommendations on removing this inequality against women in the Succession Act that has continued since the British era.
 3. The government has been receiving representation from the Christians of India to remove this anomaly which deprives a mother of her rightful share in the property.
 4. The repeal of such discriminating provisions will give mother their first and equal rights in the property of their deceased children.
- II.**
1. (a) deceased
 2. (a) siblings
 3. (a) repeal
 4. (a) discriminate

PASSAGE 8

REALITY CHECK BY TOI REVEALS OVERFLOWING GARBAGE DUMPS AND DEBRIS

Will the city be free from garbage and dirt by August 15? A week-long sanitation and cleanliness drive was launched with much fanfare by the administration a few days back, but a reality check reveals that it has remained sporadic. While the civic agencies are making tall claims publicly, the enormity of the task rules out making any significant difference by the end of the exercise.

TOI took a round of the city. Overflowing garbage dumps and waste and debris along the roads were a common sight though the corporations claim to be removing 30% more of garbage daily as part of the drive.

Hardly 500m away from the north and south corporations' headquarters, Civic Centre, on Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, at Turkman Gate, one found a huge garbage dump with the waste spilling on to the road. "It is a shame that the corporation has failed to clean the area visible from its own office. In the past one month, hardly anyone has been seen cleaning the area," said Ramesh Babbar, a local trader.

Across the city, on CV Raman Road, outside New Friends Colony, there is a huge garbage pile. The residents have complained to the corporation several times since during peak traffic hours, this stretch becomes a bottleneck. "Never are the bins placed on the road clean. From the dhalao, garbage spills on to the road," complained Madhu Arora, a resident living just across the road.

Similarly, in Lajpat Nagar-I's B-block, just outside a government school, garbage has remained dumped for days. Several complaints have been made but to no avail. "From the school principal to parents, everyone has complained about the heap of garbage outside the school. It is very difficult for the girls to pass through this stretch. The stench is overpowering, especially during monsoon, and diseases are rampant in the area. The lane is narrow and the parked cars and garbage ensure that it remains blocked," said area councillor Abhishek Dutt.

Across the river, near Laxmi Nagar's V3S mall, the story is no different. There is a dhalao virtually in the middle of the road and the garbage spills out, making the space even narrower. With massive gridlocks during peak traffic hours, it is a nightmare for commuters. "With shops and a mall nearby, there are cars parked on the road, and the dhalao only adds to the chaos. It's a breeding ground for mosquitoes, and for pedestrians, it's a nightmare. But the corporation isn't doing anything despite several complaints," said BS Vohra of East Delhi RWA's Federation.

But corporation officials are patting themselves on the back. A rally of school children was organized by North Delhi Municipal Corporation for City Zone on Tuesday to create awareness about sanitation, health and hygiene. "From every zone we are removing around 150 metric tonnes more than usual. On an average, Delhi produces 7000 metric tonnes of waste everyday, but for the past one week, we are removing more than 9000 metric tonnes," said Mukesh Yadav, south corporation's spokesperson.

Word-Meaning: **Garbage**—rubbish, कूड़ा। **Reveals**—shows, दिखाता है। **Sporadic**—happening only occasionally, intermittent, जो कभी-कभी या रूक के हो। **Enormity**—vastness, विशालता। **Spilling**—littered here and there, इधर-उधर पड़ा हुआ। **Stretch**—part, हिस्सा। **Bottleneck**—obstacle, बाधा। **Stench**—bad smell, बदबू। **Rampant**—widespread, विस्तृत। **Blocked**—not cleared, अवरुद्ध। **Nightmare**—a bad dream, दुःस्वप्न। **Breeding ground**—ground for the growth, बढ़ने की जगह।

Questions

I. Answer briefly:

(4 × 2 = 8)

1. What has been the outcome of a week-long sanitation and cleanliness drive that was launched by the administration with so much fanfare?
2. What does the reality check by TOI reveal?
3. What is the situation just outside a government school in Lajpat Nagar-I's B-Block?
4. Why are corporation officials patting themselves on the back?

II. Vocabulary:

(4 × 1 = 4)

1. The word used in the passage for '**rubbish**' is:

(a) garbage	(b) dirt
(c) dust	(d) litters
2. Choose the appropriate noun form of the word '**enormous**' in the passage:

(a) enorm	(b) enormity
(c) anomaly	(d) none of these
3. A '**bad smell**' is called:

(a) odour	(b) stench
(c) gas	(d) scent
4. The correct synonym for the word '**widespread**' in the passage is:

(a) rampant	(b) enormous
(c) universal	(d) common

Answers

- I. 1. The campaign of freeing the city from garbage and dirt by August 15, started by the administration has been a great flop. The campaign failed to make any significant improvement in the prevailing situation.
2. The reality check by TOI reveals that overflowing garbage dumps, waste and debris lying along the roads are still a common sight in the city. The tall claims of the administration have been proved totally false.
3. Garbage remains dumped for days outside a government school in Lajpat Nagar-I's B-Block. It gives a foul stench. Diseases are rampant in the area.
4. The Corporation officials are patting themselves on their back just for nothing. Their campaign of creating awareness about sanitation, health and hygiene has not achieved its desired aims. Dirt and garbage still stink the city.

- II. 1. (a) garbage 2. (b) enormity
3. (b) stench 4. (a) rampant

PASSAGE 9

MAN VS NATURE

In 1999, sitting in the Srinagar Development Authority office with a team of planners to prepare the city's 2000-21 master plan, I had not thought that it would stand gravely defied within its lifetime. Did the planners foresee Jhelum swelling up to breach the embankments, and water engulfing the whole city? Probably not.

Perhaps we were not so far-sighted, and driven only by the history of disasters in the city rather than their future possibilities. This is not a handicap exclusive to those of us who drew up what we thought was a forward-looking master plan for Srinagar.

Veteran planner G M Pampori was leading the team based on his experience of preparing the first master plan of the city (1971-91). At 78 years, he appeared impatient and twitchy, as the exercise had started late – almost a decade late. The last master plan had lapsed in 1991. For almost 10 years we lived without a master plan in one of the most rapidly urbanising cities, and Srinagar in all probability was not an exception. The city grew at a fast rate, water bodies shrank, unauthorised colonies came up. Residents certainly took their land, nature, vegetation and water bodies for granted.

Stand on top of Shankaracharya hill in Srinagar overlooking the city, and you can tell that the centre of Srinagar city is Dal Lake. The city shares a unique relationship with water. Water bodies have played a huge role in its expansion and development. Geological evidence proves that Kashmir was once a vast lake, and this is also part of the many narratives on Kashmir, most famously *Rajatarangini* by Kalhana.

Meandering Vitasta — ancient name of river Jhelum — was the genesis of Srinagar city, which served as the main artery of transportation and as the nerve centre of its social and cultural life. People's daily life revolved around the river and the numerous water channels linked to it. Today, old-age monuments situated on its banks are clustered with buildings of the modern city.

Dal, Nagin, Anchar lakes, river Jhelum, wetlands like Khushalsar, Hokarsar and many other water bodies make the city a picturesque sight, besides continuing to provide it vital means of sustenance. They have borne silent witness to ruthless modernisation, villages turning into towns, towns turning into cities. Modern concrete structures squeezed out natural bodies, and master plans were repeatedly violated.

The city grew oblivious to its surroundings and expanded without showing any mercy to its water bodies and natural habitat. Encroachment on Dal Lake reduced its size to 15% of the original, shrinking it from 75 sq km to around 12 sq km.

The natural hydrology of this region connects its water bodies through small channels, to provide natural flow and even outflow of water within them. Rapid urbanisation and growth have cut off these connections between the water bodies and increased pollution in them. This has led to choking of several lakes — including Dal Lake — which earlier formed a natural flood lung of Jhelum, and took in reverse flows when it flooded. A flood spill channel was also constructed in the early 20th century to take the strain of water in Jhelum when it passed through the city, but it hardly worked.

The early 20th century also witnessed the beginning of a continuous, ongoing process of migration from the inner, older core to city suburbs. New residential colonies came up and

Srinagar got its first motorable roads, leading to a decline of its traditional system of canal transportation. As a result, in the 1970s the famous Nallah Mar Canal (built in the 15th century) was filled in and a road-widening scheme was launched along its bank, cutting through much of the historical fibre of the city. This scheme also spelled ecological doom for the Brarinambal and Khushalsar water lagoons.

In the 15th century, when Sultan Zain ul Abidin (commonly known as Bud Shah) was building the Nallah Mar Canal as a main artery of communication between the old city in Srinagar and the villages near Dal Lake, was he ahead of his time in understanding and sensitively promoting the natural linkages of water bodies?

Word-Meaning: **Defied**—violated, भंग किया गया। **Embankments**—raised banks, उठे हुए किनारे। **Engulfing**—swallowing, निगल जाना। **Far sighted**—seeing the coming things, दूरदर्शी। **Disasters**—destructions, बर्बादी। **Twitchy**—restless, बेचैन। **Took for granted**—took things without much thinking, बिना सोचे धारणा बना लेना। **Geological evidence**—evidences or proofs gathered from the study of earth, भूविज्ञान का प्रमाण। **Meandering**—flowing in a winding course, बलखाती हुई। **Artery**—(here) hub, केन्द्र। **Clustered with**—surrounded dusters, झुंडों से घिरा हुआ। **Means of sustenance**—means of sustaining life, जीवन निर्वाह के साधन। **Oblivious**—not noticing or realising, अनभिज्ञ, बेखबर। **Hydrology**—natural water bodies, प्राकृतिक पानी के साधन।

Questions

I. Answer briefly:

(4 × 2 = 8)

- How and why were the city planners of Srinagar Development Authority caught unprepared by the unprecedented disaster that struck it recently?
- Name some of the causes that led to such a sorry state of affairs in Srinagar.
- How have rapid urbanisation and growth affected the natural hydrology of the region?
- How was Sultan Zain ul Abidin ahead of his time?

II. Vocabulary:

(4 × 1 = 4)

- Raised banks of a river are called:

(a) bunds	(b) dams
(c) embankments	(d) banks
- The word related to the '**earth**' in the passage means:

(a) earthly	(b) worldly
(c) geological	(d) geology
- Synonym for the word '**hub**' in the passage is:

(a) artery	(b) centre
(c) main	(d) central
- Choose the most appropriate word for '**natural water bodies and water**' in the passage is:

(a) water	(b) hydrology
(c) precipitation	(d) none of these

Answers

- The city planners of Srinagar were caught unaware by the unprecedented floods in September 2014. They were not foresighted and were driven only by the history of disasters in the past rather than their future possibilities.

2. Unplanned urbanisation, shrinkage of water bodies, unauthorised colonies, encroachments on Dal Lake were the reasons that led to such a sorry state of affairs in the state. The Dal Lake shrank from 75 sq km to around 12 sq km.
 3. Srinagar continued expanding without showing any mercy to its water bodies and natural habitat. Encroachments, unplanned constructions and unauthorised colonies only worsened the situation and destroyed the hydrology of the region.
 4. Sultan Zain ul Abidin built the Nallah Mar Canal as the main artery of communication between the city of Srinagar and the villages near Dal Lake. He understood the sensitivity of promoting the linkages of water bodies and so was far ahead of his time.
- II.**
1. (c) embankments
 2. (c) geological
 3. (a) artery
 4. (b) hydrology

PASSAGE 10

JOURNEY WITH CONFIDENCE AND VIVEKA

The journey looks difficult and lonesome, the goal very far away; what do we do? Anything and everything may look difficult at times, but you should never lose confidence in yourself and feel that you have no motivation and drive. As long as you are confident of your own abilities to achieve what you wish in life, I do not think that you will ever feel lonely.

We are constantly under the sway of our mind, performing and desiring according to our likes and dislikes, but we should realise that our likes and dislikes are not the final destination. Sometimes we may have to go against our likes and dislikes as part of viveka, the ability to discriminate between what is just, proper and correct and what is wrong. With viveka and confidence, that tiny spark will eventually become a torch.

There is a song: 'When the day is dark and dreary and the way is hard to find, don't let your heart be weary, just keep this thought in mind: It is better to light one little candle than to stumble in the dark; it is better to light one little candle, all you need is a tiny spark.'

When we are confronted by darkness, we get nervous and tense, not realising that the spark can be produced by many methods. We can use a lighter, match, flint, wood, anything, because everything which surrounds us in this universe has the power to assist us in our evolution. Every circumstance, even if difficult, helps you grow. Have confidence.

Can yoga change our destiny? Yes, it can. First, know what our destiny is and what we mean by destiny. If we know ourselves, our mind, personality, behaviour, actions and reactions; if we direct our actions and transform our negative tendencies into positive ones with a clear mind, inner tranquillity and inner vitality; if we go beyond the normal frame of mind, emotions and behaviour and develop a better perspective, then we can definitely direct our own lives and thus change our destiny.

There are two paths: one is the path of ignorance; the other is of knowledge. Usually human beings live in the area of ignorance, a lack of total knowledge. We may be sharp intellectually, we may be brilliant in our career, but we do not know our mind or personality; we do not really know anything about ourselves. One can be a scientist, great mathematician or philosopher, but when it comes to the human personality there is lack of understanding. We do not know what we think, what we believe, what we experience or how to understand these experiences, and we do not know what to rationalise and what not to rationalise. There are so many things which we can and cannot understand.

When we walk the path of knowledge, our awareness and consciousness bloom. We see everything clearly with a new perspective. It is like sitting in a room in total darkness and

looking around, and then sitting in a room filled with bright light and looking around. There are two viewpoints here. When we are in the bright room we can see every detail; when we are in the dark room we cannot see much.

Through the growth of awareness, development of consciousness and awakening of our inner faculties, we can reconstruct our life and personality.

—Swami Niranjananand

Word-Meaning: **Motivation**—inspiration, प्रेरणा। **Drive**—energy, ऊर्जा। **Sway**—(here) control, नियंत्रण। **Eventually**—(here) gradually, धीरे-धीरे। **Stumble**—walk unsteadily or fall, डगमगाते चलना। **Confronted**—faced, सामना होना। **Destiny**—fate, भाग्य। **Transform**—change, परिवर्तित करना। **Tranquillity**—peace, शांति। **Vitality**—(here) energy, ऊर्जा। **Perspective**—attitude, दृष्टिकोण। **Bloom**—flowering, खिलना। **Rationalise**—finding a logical reason, तर्कपूर्ण हल ढूँढना। **Faculty**—a particular ability of doing, करने की विशेष निपुणता।

Questions

I. Answer briefly:

(4 × 2 = 8)

1. How are we constantly under the sway of our mind?
2. What should we do when we are confronted by darkness?
3. Define the two paths of life.
4. How can we reconstruct our life and personality?

II. Vocabulary:

(4 × 1 = 4)

1. Choose the opposite of the word ‘**fade**’ from those given below:

(a) bloom	(b) open
(c) blow	(d) shine
2. Synonym for the word ‘**inspiration**’ in the passage is:

(a) discouragement	(b) motivation
(c) encouragement	(d) support
3. The noun form of ‘**transform**’ is:

(a) transformed	(b) transforming
(c) transformation	(d) none of these
4. The adjective form of the word ‘**negation**’ is:

(a) negating	(b) negated
(c) negative	(d) none of these

Answers

- I. 1. We are always under the sway of our mind. We are always performing and desiring according to our likes and dislikes.
2. When we are confronted by darkness, we should not get nervous and tense. It is better to light one little candle than to stumble in the dark.
3. There are two paths of life. The first is the path of ignorance. The other is the path of knowledge. When our minds are in the grip of ignorance, we lack knowledge. When our minds, ideas and actions are illuminated, we are on the noble path of life.
4. We can certainly reconstruct our life and personalities. We can do so through the growth of awareness, development of consciousness and awakening of our inner faculties.

- II. 1. (a) bloom 2. (b) motivation
3. (c) transformation 4. (c) negative

TEST YOUR SKILLS

Read the passages given below and answer the questions that follow them:

(12 marks)

1. Sometimes kids will need a small push in the right direction. Victoria encouraged her seven-year-old son, Philip, to take part in their local library's summer reading club. For every book report a child wrote, he received a raffle ticket. At the end of the summer, sports prizes were raffled off. Philip, who'd painstakingly produced seven book reports, won an autographed picture of a hockey star and had his name and one of his reports printed in the local newspaper. (If that's not possible, encourage children to write letters to editors on current affairs, or about school-related issues.) "Philip moaned and groaned about writing the reports, but in the end, he was happy he put the effort in," notes his mother. "And his ability to express himself really improved."

"It's the daily doses of stimulation—intellectual, creative, esteem-building—that parents can give their children that have the greatest impact," says an eminent researcher. In an informal study conducted in 1998 other researches surveyed successful college students about how they spent their free time from ages five to 12, then compared their activities with those of troubled youngsters. They found that the successful ones were more likely to play spontaneous games, more involved in household chores and more likely to engage in playful activities with their parents.

Questions

I. Answer briefly:

(4 × 2 = 8)

1. What do kids need sometimes?
2. Why did Victoria encourage her son Philip?
3. What did a child get after writing a book report?
4. When were sports prized raffled off?

II. Vocabulary:

(4 × 1 = 4)

1. Another word for '**lottery**' in the passage is:
(a) gambling (b) raffle
(c) gaming (d) puzzle
2. Giving encouragement amounts to:
(a) incitement (b) stimulation
(c) patronizing (d) support
3. Synonym for '**famous and important**' in the passage is:
(a) popular (b) well-known
(c) eminent (d) legend
4. Choose the right option for '**happening naturally**' from the following:
(a) automotive (b) effortlessly
(c) spontaneously (d) automatically

2. If your credit card is more of a functional accessory while you shop or entertain in your own town, you will want a higher credit limit. Here, foreign and private banks will give you a higher limit. But if you are a value-for-money person who likes the convenience offered by a card, but will alternate between paying by cash and card, you could consider credit cards offered by the public sector banks. Their entry fees are typically lower. Moreover, if you need them, you get longer credit periods and lower credit charges. But you may not get a very high credit limit.

Many of us nowadays carry more than one card, and under the circumstances, you could use them to segregate your expenses. For example, if your employer reimburses you for certain travel and entertainment expenses, it would be a good idea to charge all official expenses to one card and all personal expenses to the other card. This will help you account for your official expenses easily.

It's all very well to be a member of the plastic age. Like all good things in life, a credit card privilege has to be enjoyed.

Questions

I. Answer briefly:

(4 × 2 = 8)

1. When will you need a higher credit limit?
2. How will we get a higher limit from?
3. How does a value-for-money person pay?
4. What is best for a value-for-money person?

II. Vocabulary:

(4 × 1 = 4)

1. Anything that is **'extra or subordinate'** to the main is called:
(a) linkage (b) accessory
(c) trolley (d) minor
2. Keeping an account **'separate'** means to:
(a) segregate (c) keep extra
(c) divide (d) break
3. Compensating or paying back means:
(a) reimbursement (b) repayment
(c) arrears (d) increment
4. Find the antonym of 'bad' in the passage:
(a) privilege (b) good
(c) credit (d) convenient

3. Getting a good night's sleep can help you cope with stress more effectively. But not getting enough sleep can cause more stress. Insomniacs have higher concentrations of stress hormones than others.

Women are prone to sleep disturbances. Their sleep problems frequently interfere with their daily activities.

Experts believe that sleep, especially deep sleep, enables our nervous system to function well. Without it, we lose our ability to concentrate, remember or analyse. Some experts speculate that during deep sleep, cells manufacture more proteins, which are essential for cell growth and repair of damage from things like stress and ultraviolet rays.

Scientists believe that activity in the area of the brain that controls emotions and social interactions lessens during sleep and that deep sleep may help people be emotionally and socially adept when awake.

Sleep may also help our brain to store a newly learned activity in its memory bank. In a study in Canada, students deprived of sleep after learning a complex logic game showed a 30 per cent learning deficit when tested a week later compared with students not deprived of sleep.

Questions

I. Answer briefly:

(4 × 2 = 8)

1. How does a good sleep help us?
2. What can getting not enough sleep cause?
3. What do insomniacs have more than others?
4. What are women prone to?

II. Vocabulary:

(4 × 1 = 4)

1. The word which means **'face'** in the passage is:
(a) encounter (b) cope
(c) damage (d) adept
 2. **'Emotional pressure'** is called:
(a) stress (b) tension
(c) insomnia (d) strain
 3. Antonym of the word **'enhances'** in the passage is:
(a) decrease (b) lessens
(c) slows (d) quickens
 4. **'Denied'** means:
(a) refused (b) stopped
(c) deprived (d) disallowed
4. As a young man, he was greatly impressed by Mahatma Gandhi's success in the political field and the power of ahimsa. King decided to follow the path of non-violence and get millions of Blacks their due. He felt that the Blacks had immensely contributed towards the building of America, and there was no reason why they should not be treated with respect.

King drew national attention in 1956. Since the Blacks were not permitted to sit in the same buses as the Whites, he led a boycott of public buses in Montgomery. A year later, after many arrests and threats, the US Supreme Court gave a ruling that racial segregation of public transport was unlawful. This victory taught the Blacks the power of non-violence. After 1957, King began visiting various places to deliver lectures. Soon he became a powerful orator, drawing the attention of people the world over.

King continued the fight, a peaceful fight, demanding the rights of the Blacks. In 1964, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. In 1967, King led many peaceful demonstrations against the Vietnam War and in 1968 he declared a Poor People's campaign. On April 4, of that very year, while planning a demonstration of striking sanitation workers, he was shot dead by an assassin.

Questions

I. Answer briefly:

(4 × 2 = 8)

1. Who is the young man being referred to in the first line?
2. Who was he impressed with?
3. What did king decide to do?
4. Why did king feel that the Blacks be treated with respect?

II. Vocabulary:

(4 × 1 = 4)

1. The synonym for '**rightful share**' in the passage is:
(a) right (b) share
(c) due (d) justice
2. The right word for '**separation**' in the passage is:
(a) different (b) exclusive
(c) segregation (d) division
3. The noun form of '**assassinate**' is:
(a) assassin (b) assassination
(c) assassinate (d) assassinating
4. '**A public march**' is called a:
(a) campaign (b) demonstration
(c) strike (d) dharna
5. If we would see our dream of Panchayat Raj, i.e., true democracy realized, we would regard the humblest and lowest Indian as being the ruler of India with the tallest in the land. This presupposes that all are pure, or will become pure if they are not. And purity must go hand-in-hand with wisdom. No one would then harbour any distinction between community and community, caste and out-caste. Everybody would regard all as equal with oneself and hold them together in the silken net of love. No one would regard another as untouchable. We would hold as equal the toiling labourer and the rich capitalist. Everybody would know how to earn an honest living by the sweat of one's brow, and make no distinction between intellectual and physical labour. To hasten this consummation, we would voluntarily turn ourselves into scavengers. No one who has wisdom will ever touch opium, liquor or any intoxicants. Everybody would observe Swadeshi as the rule of life and regard every woman, not being his wife, as his mother, sister or daughter according to her age, never lust after her in his heart. He would be ready to lay down his life when occasion demands it, never want to take another's life. If he is a Sikh in terms of the commandment of the Gurus, he would have the heroic courage to stand single-handed and alone—without yielding an inch of ground—against the "one lakh and a quarter" enjoined by them. Needless to say, such a son of India will not want to be told what his duty in the present hour is.

Questions

I. Answer briefly:

(4 × 2 = 8)

1. What is the main aim of Panchayati Raj?
2. When will our dream of Panchayati Raj be really realised?
3. What does it presuppose?
4. What should go hand in hand with wisdom?

II. Vocabulary:

(4 × 1 = 4)

1. Choose the most appropriate synonym of the word **'fulfilled'**.
(a) Realised (b) Fulfilment
(c) Consummated (d) Attained
2. The phrase used in the passage meaning by working hard is:
(a) toiling labour (b) sweat of one's brow
(c) concave to stand (d) without yielding
3. The synonym for the word **'quicken'** in the passage is:
(a) hasten (b) shorten
(c) enhance (d) accelerate
4. Those who sweep and clean are called:
(a) cleanness (b) dusters
(c) scavengers (d) sweepers