

Once again, a vigorous monsoon so vital to India's economic fortunes has left some States in a **shambles**. From Assam to Karnataka, heavy rainfall in a short span of time has created paralysing floods that have taken a heavy toll of life, wiped out crops and destroyed hard-earned assets. When the waters recede, a familiar cycle of assessment of damage by Central teams, preparation of loss estimates and expensive restoration work such as repairs to river embankments, will follow. In Assam, where 31 deaths have been recorded already, there are projects to strengthen the embankments of the heavily silted Brahmaputra; the Flood Control Department as well as the disaster relief force have well-funded budgets. Yet, the hundreds of crores of rupees periodically spent on flood preparation, relief and mitigation research in the State have not yielded a protocol that reduces the impact of heavy rain. The **swollen** river invariably dissolves the weak earthen embankments overnight. Now that another furious season is providing fresh insight into the causes, effects and impact of rain and floods in northeastern India and elsewhere, it is time the Centre took a coordinated view in tackling the crisis. To begin with, it has to review the efficacy of the flood forecasts issued by nearly 180 specialised stations now in operation, and the pattern of responses of the 19 States and Union Territories that receive these alerts.

Urban India is no less traumatised by floods, but city governments have not learnt too many lessons from devastation and losses. The scenes of gridlock and frustration in Gurgaon, Bengaluru and Delhi last week travelled around the world, just months after the disaster in Chennai. Can there be a surgical solution to **sclerotic** urban planning? Bengaluru is the epitome of governmental indifference to wetlands, most of which have been severely encroached upon or polluted. Being able to live with floods in today's dense cities requires that these lakes be desilted and restored on a war footing. New artificial wetlands may have to be created to compensate for those that have already been built over. The **spectacle** of flooding and destruction should convince the Environment Ministry that it is retrograde to sanction large real estate projects without an environmental impact assessment. Some real estate companies have been slapped with penalties by the National Green Tribunal for encroaching upon lakes, but urban planning agencies are equally responsible and must also be

called to account for tacitly sanctioning the violations. Provision of relief to those affected by the latest floods has to go beyond **patronage** politics, and meet the actual needs of the people, particularly those who have suffered extreme losses.

1. What according to the passage are well-funded budgets?
 - 1) state governments
 - 2) the Flood Control Department as well as the disaster relief force
 - 3) the urban planning agencies as well as rural planning agencies
 - 4) the National Green Tribunal
 - 5) None of the above

Answer & Explanation

2. Which among the following is **TRUE** according to the passage given above?
 - 1) it has to review the efficacy of the flood forecasts issued by nearly 170 specialised stations now in operation, and the pattern of responses of the 29 States and Union Territories that receive these alerts
 - 2) the two hundred crores of rupees periodically spent on flood preparation, relief and mitigation research in the State have not yielded a protocol that reduces the impact of heavy rain
 - 3) Bengaluru is the epitome of governmental indifference to wetlands, most of which have been severely encroached upon or polluted
 - 4) Both A and B
 - 5) None of the above

Answer & Explanation

3. Which among the following is **FALSE** according to the passage given above??

- 1) New artificial wetlands may have to be created to compensate for those that have already been built over
- 2) Being able to live with floods in today's dense cities requires that these lakes be desilted and restored on a war footing
- 3) the Flood Control Department as well as the disaster relief force have well-funded budgets
- 4) None of above
- 5) All of the above

Answer & Explanation

4. Which of the following is/are the companies have been slapped with penalties by the National Green Tribunal for encroaching upon lakes?

- 1) some textile companies
- 2) urban planning agencies
- 3) some real states
- 4) both A and C
- 5) All of the above

Answer & Explanation

5. Which of the following would be a suitable title of the passage?

- 1) urban planning
- 2) urban infrastructure
- 3) Return of the great deluge
- 4) Bengaluru waterlogging
- 5) civic infrastructure

Answer & Explanation

6. Which among the following is MOST SIMILAR in meaning to the word "**patronage**"?
- 1) advocacy
 - 2) submission
 - 3) detraction
 - 4) opposition
 - 5) antagonism

Answer & Explanation

7. Which among the following is MOST OPPOSITE in meaning to the word "**spectacle**"?
- 1) exposition
 - 2) ordinariness
 - 3) marvel
 - 4) combined
 - 5) production

Answer & Explanation

8. Which among the following is MOST SIMILAR in meaning to the word "**sclerotic**"?
- 1) healthy
 - 2) detest
 - 3) steady

- 4) diligent
- 5) arthritic

Answer & Explanation

9. Which among the following is MOST OPPOSITE in meaning to the word "**swollen**"?
- 1) amplify
 - 2) alighted
 - 3) dazzled
 - 4) compress
 - 5) accumulate

Answer & Explanation

10. Which among the following is MOST SIMILAR in meaning to the word "**shambles**"?
- 1) disarray
 - 2) scramble
 - 3) precipitation
 - 4) precipitance
 - 5) surge

Answer & Explanation

Directions (Q.1–6): Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below it.

A state of emergency can be directly imposed or it can creep up on you in unexpected ways. Following the Narendra Modi government's decision to ban

the Hindi news channel NDTV India for an entire day (now put on hold) as punishment for its coverage of the terror attack on the Pathankot military base, the question being asked is whether the cumulative actions of this government reflect the same mentality that led Indira Gandhi to impose a state of emergency in 1975—an inability to tolerate opposition or dissent.

The government justifies its action against NDTV India on the grounds that its coverage of the Pathankot anti-terror operation gave away vital information that could have been used by those directing the attack on the military base. It claims the channel contravened rule 6(1)(p) of the programme code under the Cable Television Networks (Amendment) Rules, 2015. But the rule itself is problematic as is the mechanism for enforcing it. The body tasked with deciding whether a channel has transgressed the rule is the Inter-Ministerial Committee. No one with a journalistic background or knowledge of how 24-hour news networks function is on the committee. Yet, the committee judges and pronounces punishment without any judicial oversight.

The provision under which NDTV India has been hauled up is the end result of a process that began after the 26 November 2008 terror attack on Mumbai. Leading television channels, including NDTV, were criticised by the government for helping the minders of the terrorists by giving away precise information even as the attack was on. No action was taken against these channels but discussions began about bringing in a provision prohibiting live coverage of such operations. A committee headed by former Chief Justice J S Verma formed by the News Broadcasters Association, a self-regulatory body, formulated guidelines on coverage of such attacks. However, the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government at the time was not convinced that this would suffice and instead came up with amendments to the Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994 that would have given the police and government officials arbitrary powers to block live transmission and confiscate equipment if they concluded that the network was going against "national interest." Fortunately, the government heeded the strong objections of the networks and backed down. In 2009, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh assured heads of news channels that no

changes would be made without consultations. Yet, within a year of the Modi government assuming power, rule 6(1)(p) was added to the program code under the Cable Television Networks Rules.

The Modi government appears to have temporarily backed down in the face of strong protests from many journalistic associations and bodies and possibly also because NDTV has moved the Supreme Court. **Yet, the threat remains.** By picking on NDTV India, known for its critical coverage of the ruling party and government compared to other channels, the government is clearly seeking to send out a message. It is smarting from the media questioning of its recent actions such as the "surgical strikes" across the Line of Control in Kashmir. So, perhaps, it has decided that a dose of indirect censorship will have the "chilling effect on the freedom of speech and expression". The arbitrary use of power against NDTV India ought to be a wake-up call for the Indian media. Governments that invoke freedom of the press and national security in the same breath cannot be trusted.

1. **Yet, the threat remains what threat does the author talk of here?**

- 1.The threat of adding 6 (1) (p) to the program code under Cable Television Rules
- 2.The threat of banning NDTV for an entire day
- 3.The threat of arbitrary powers being used by Modi govt.
- 4.The threat from terrorists attacking India again
- 5.The threat from media covering other terrorist attacks and showing sensitive information on TV

Answer & Explanation

2. **What problems are cited with using of the rule 6 (1) (p)?**

- 1.It has to be added to the program code under Cable Television Rules
- 2.The Committee enforcing it does not have any journalist on the panel
- 3.The Committee members use it without any judicial supervision
- 4.Both 2 & 3
- 5.All 1, 2 & 3

Answer & Explanation

3. **Which of the following is incorrect according to the passage?**

1. NDTV was being punished for its coverage of Pathankot attack
2. UPA govt was contended with the formation of rules under by JS Verma Committee
3. Author has been very critical of the working of Modi govt
4. Modi govt does not like being asked questions by media for its actions
5. None of the above

Answer & Explanation

4. **Why has 'Mumbai terror attacks' been indicated in the passage?**

1. To show that NDTV is habitual of breaking the law as it was responsible in the past also for covering the Mumbai attacks in a wrongful manner
2. Discussion regarding formation of stringent rules against coverage of live attacks were initiated after this attack

- 3.It was the first major attack on an Indian base before Pathankot
- 4.Both 1 and 2
- 5.All 1, 2 and 3

Answer & Explanation

5. What type of govt cannot be trusted?

- 1.One who curbs the freedom of speech
- 2.One who invokes freedom of the press and national security in the same breath
- 3.One who uses arbitrary powers to curb media
- 4.Both 1 and 2
- 5.Both 1 and 3

Answer & Explanation

6. Why the ban on NDTV could not be carried out?

- 1.Due to public protests against the govt
- 2.The committee does not have any journalist member and hence did not make sound decision
- 3.NDTV exercised judicial rights and the ban was lifted
- 4.Other channels showed solidarity with NDTV and threatened to stop their coverage also for a day
- 5.None of the above

Answer & Explanation

Directions (Q.7–11): Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below it.

Among the initiatives launched with much fanfare by the NDA government is the one titled "Digital India", which is slated to use high speed internet as a core utility and provide citizens entitlements, documents and a host of services on the cloud. While digital literacy is crucial for the success of such an initiative, a more fundamental requirement is access to and use of the Internet. How far does the government have to go to ensure access and use to be successful with this digital mission?

According to recently released survey results from India's official National Sample Survey (NSS) Organisation, the proportion of Indian households in which at least one member had access to the Internet was 16.1 per cent in rural areas, 48.7 per cent in urban areas and 26.7 per cent in rural and urban areas combined. Needless to say, this is far short of the near universal connectivity envisaged by the Digital India mission. If yet there is an unstated belief in certain circles that the foundations for a Digital India already exist, it is partly attributable to India's success as an Information Technology (IT) and IT-enabled services provider to the rest of the world. The oft-quoted website (www.internetworldstats.com) reports that the number of Internet users in India rose from around 5 million in 2000 to 243 million in June 2014, which makes the 300-million December 2014 figure quite plausible.

However, before launching celebrations based on these figures, a degree of caution is called for. These high and rising figures conceal the fact that in relation to India's population, Internet penetration is still low. If we go by the figures from Internet World Stats, Internet penetration within the population in India amounted to 19.7 per cent at the end of June 2014, as compared with

86.9 per cent in the U. S., 86.2 per cent in Japan, and 47.4 per cent in China. One problem is, of course, that of providing access to the hardware through which individuals get access to the Internet. Options here have increased hugely in recent years, but few seem to be willing to pay for access. Thus, the ITU estimates that only 3.1 per cent of Indian households had access to the Internet at home in 2011, whereas that figure for China in 2012 was 23.7 per cent. Thus, Indian internet users would have to rely on connections of friends and acquaintances, or at the work place or in cyber cafes to access the internet.

Even here the government has made an effort. Almost a decade back it announced a policy initiative to bridge India's widening digital divide by increasing physical access to computers connected to the Internet. As part of that initiative it had promised to put in place in rural India a hundred thousand Common Service Centres (CSCs) – broadband-enabled computer kiosks that will offer a range of government-to-citizen and business-to-customer services, besides providing sheer access to the Internet. The CSCs were expected to begin servicing all of India's 600,000 villages by mid-2008. However successful the government has been, it does not seem to have helped universalise access.

The challenge here seems enormous. The NSS survey quoted earlier suggests that there is an unusual relationship between internet access, computer access and literacy. As is to be expected the extent of literacy across the states of India is higher than the extent of access to the Internet through at least a single member of the household. That suggests there is still some slack in terms of getting literate people to take to the Internet. However, there is a strong association between household access to computers (or proportion of households with access) and household access to the Internet. While one survey may be inadequate to arrival at any causal suggestions let alone conclusions, if this relationship proves robust it could imply that increasing internet access is predicated on increasing hardware access to a far greater degree than the CSC programme envisaged. That makes the Digital India challenge not just more difficult, but more expensive.

7. Why only a very small percentage of Indian households have Internet?

- 1.Rural areas have no access to Internet
- 2.Internet is costly and only few rich people can afford it
- 3.Few people are willing to pay for access to the Internet
- 4.It is cheaper to use Internet at cafes
- 5.Both 1 & 2

Answer & Explanation

8. Why does the author of the passage infer that Digital India challenge will be expensive?

- 1.Govt has to spend a lot of money on increasing hardware access
- 2.Broadband-enabled computer kiosks or CSCs require huge expenditure
- 3.Govt will incur lot of expenditure on spreading computer literacy
- 4.Increasing internet penetration has always been expensive
- 5.Both 2 & 3

Answer & Explanation

9. Why do people believe that foundations for a Digital India already exist?

- 1.Previous govts. have already popularized internet to citizens
- 2.Internet penetration is increasing in India at a rapid pace
- 3.Computers as a subject has been taught in every school
- 4.India's success as an Information Technology services provider to the

rest of the world

5. Not mentioned in the passage

Answer & Explanation

10. **How does the author view the '300-million December 2014' figure?**

1. It is too low considering Indian population
2. Author is completely pessimistic about the future of Internet penetration
3. Author is optimistic but also cautionary
4. Author is optimistic because of such a rapid increase in number
5. Figure is deceiving and author does not pay any attention to it

Answer & Explanation

11. **Which of the following is true about 'Digital India' initiative?**

1. High speed internet will be used as a core utility
2. It will provide many a service to the citizens online
3. More broadband-enabled computer kiosks need to be installed
4. Both A & B
5. Both B & C

Answer & Explanation

The impact of technical advancement in armaments on man, needs to be analyzed with a rational mind, and heart free from prejudices of any kind towards modernisation. The most noticeable impact of this development

certainly has been the loss of immunity from violence for successive generations ever since the invention of gunpowder. In modern times, the presence of technically advanced arms, not only at the fronts but also among the civilian population, has vastly undermined the value of human life, and endangered the very entity of those virtues of self-restraint and discretion, on which, a peaceful and amiable society rests. However, an unbiased view of the present scenario, would refrain one from attributing the rising trends of violence to the availability of technically superior weapons, for one must not overlook the fact that Necessity is the mother of invention. Every stage in the development of armaments has been marked by its distinct impact on society. When man fought with stones and his bare hands, the society was not yet compact. The discovery of metal and the use of spears, knives and arrows indicate the stage of the formation of small kingdoms. Fire continued to be an effective weapon of destruction. When man introduced the cavalry into the army and improved the strategies of making war, some small kingdoms gave away to form empires, but with no revolutionary advances in armaments forthcoming, the political structure of society remained more or less stagnant for the many coming centuries. The next significant development was the use of gunpowder, which could be used to perform acts which were then thought to be impossible. Gunpowder was used to form the ammunition of several guns and canons. This sudden advances in weaponry not only facilitated the control of a large mass of people by relatively few armed men that helping to form strong empires, but the availability of the new technology to a select few nations enabled the formation of colonies in continents which did not have access to the modernized technologies of warfare. Modern technological advances in armaments aided the formation of nation states in Europe. The extensive use of the fire-power lent a lethal edge to the naval power which proved to be the greatest asset to any nation in the 19th century. Small United Nations States of Europe with strong navies, modern arms and disciplined men gained control of lands in foreign continents far greater in areas than the parent countries.

1. Necessity is the mother of invention means

- 1) where there is mother there IS invention

- 2) when necessity arises invention IS done
- 3) most of the invention are preplanned
- 4) nothing happens without creating congenial environment

Answer & Explanation

2. The invention of modern weapons have resulted into

- 1) loss of immunity from war in the society
- 2) successive wars for the last two centuries.
- 3) arms race among the nations
- 4) loss of life and property every now and then

Answer & Explanation

3. Small kingdoms turned into big empires, after

- 1) the invention of cavalry and canons and its introduction into the army
- 2) the introduction of nuclear arms into the army
- 3) the end of the use of knives, arrows and swords
- 4) the end of the 19th century

Answer & Explanation

4. The style of the passage is

- 1) informative
- 2) analytical
- 3) retrospective
- 4) provocative

Answer & Explanation

Some religious teachers have taught that Man is made up of a body and a soul: But they have been silent about the Intellect. Their followers try to feed the body on earth and to save soul from perdition after death: But they neglected the claims of the mind. Bread for the body and Virtue for the soul: These are regarded as the indispensable

requisites of human welfare here and hereafter. Nothing is said about knowledge and education. Thus Jesus Christ spoke much of feeding the hungry, healing the sick, and converting the sinners: But he never taught the duty of teaching the ignorant and increasing scientific knowledge. He himself was not a well-educated man, and intellectual pursuits were beyond his horizon. Gautam Buddha also laid stress on morality, meditation and asceticism, but he did not attach great importance to history, science, art or literature. St. Ambrose deprecated scientific studies and wrote, 'To discuss the nature and position of the earth does not help us in our hope for life to come.' St. Basil said very frankly and foolishly, 'It is not a matter of interest for us whether the earth is a sphere or a cylinder or disc.' Thomas Carlyle also followed the Christian traditions when he declared that he honoured only two men and no third: The manual labourer and the religious teacher. He forgot the scientist, the scholar and the artist. The cynics of Greece despised education at last?

5. What have the religious teachers taught in the past?

- 1) That man is made up of body only
- 2) That man is made up of soul only.
- 3) That man is made up of bubbles
- 4) That man is made up of body and soul together

Answer & Explanation

6. What is food for the soul?

- 1) Bread
- 2) Virtue
- 3) Vice
- 4) Education

Answer & Explanation

7. **The following philosophers occur in the passage. But they are not in correct order. Correct the order (I). Jesus Christ (II). Gautam Buddha (III) St. Ambrose (IV). Thomas Carlyle M St. Basil**

- 1) I, II, III, IV, V
- 2) I, III, IV, V, II
- 3) I, II, III, V, IV
- 4) II, I, III, IV, V

Answer & Explanation

8. **Intellectual pursuits have been neglected because: (I) they are unnecessary and superfluous (II) they make people dwarf (III) they lead people to hell**

- 1) Only I is correct
- 2) Only II is correct
- 3) Only III is correct
- 4) Only I and II are correct

Answer & Explanation

9. **The style of the passage is**

- 1) narrative
- 2) expository
- 3) critical
- 4) Analytical

Answer & Explanation

Ethics concern an individual's moral judgements about right and wrong. Decisions taken within an organization may be made by individuals or groups, but whoever makes them will be influenced by the culture of the company. The decision to behave ethically is a moral one; employees must decide what they think is the right course of action. This may involve rejecting the route that would lead to the biggest short-term profit. Ethical issues include the rights and

duties between a company and its employees, suppliers, customers and neighbours, its **fiduciary** responsibility to its shareholders. Issues concerning relations between different companies include hostile take-over and industrial **espionage**. Related issues include governance; corporate; political contributions; legal issues such as the ethical debate over introducing a crime of corporate **manslaughter**; and the marketing of corporations' ethics policies. Business ethics reflects the philosophy of business, one of whose aims is to determine the fundamental purposes of a company. If a company's purpose is to maximize shareholder returns, then sacrificing profits to other concerns is a violation of its fiduciary responsibility. Business ethics is also known as corporate ethics, a form of applied ethics or professional ethics that examines ethical principles and moral or ethical problems that arise in a business environment. It applies to all aspects of business conduct and is relevant to the conduct of individuals and entire organizations. Business ethics has both normative and descriptive dimensions. As a corporate practice and a career specialization, the field is primarily normative. Academics attempting to understand business behaviour employ descriptive methods. The range and quantity of business ethical issues reflects the interaction of profit-maximizing behaviour with non-economic concerns. Ethical behaviour and corporate social responsibility can bring significant benefits to a business. For example, they may: attract customers to the firm's products, thereby boosting sales and profits. It makes employees want to stay with the business, reduce labour turnover and therefore increase productivity. It attracts more employees wanting to work for the business, reduce recruitment costs and enable the company to get the most talented employees and also attract investors and keep the company's share price high, thereby protecting the business from takeover. While unethical behaviour or a lack of corporate social responsibility, by comparison, may damage a firm's reputation and make it less appealing to stakeholders. Unethical behaviour can also result in bad publicity, resulting in a bad name that will always be associated with the company even if they attempt to utilize a more ethical code of conduct. If a company has unethical behaviour and is charged by the courts, they can **wind up** paying fines, court fees and may even receive some jail time, many companies eventually go **bankrupt** and

close their doors due to the high cost of unethical behaviours. Unethical behaviour also decreases productivity of a company. If you are working in a company with bad ethical behaviours, it is difficult for the employees to trust each other, or their supervisors. When people work in an environment where they do not trust anyone, they are not going to do their best work, if they continue to work there at all. Unethical behaviour can cause employees to lose the faith in the company and become more likely to call in sick more often or not even show up at all. Once a company is known for having unethical behaviours, the effects can be permanent. All of the years spent building a good reputation can be quickly **turned down** with only one unethical incident, destroying the company's reputation possibly forever.

1. What is meant by Manslaughter ?

- 1) A kind of heinous crime
- 2) It's all about foul play.
- 3) Legally killing of one human being by another.
- 4) Killing without malicious forethought
- 5) None of these

Answer & Explanation

2. What is/are the dimensions of Business ethics ?

- 1) Corporate ethics
- 2) Applied ethics or professional ethics
- 3) Normative and descriptive
- 4) a) and b)
- 5) None of these

Answer & Explanation

3. What can be the worst impact of unethical behaviour in corporate world ?

- 1) It can reduce the loyalty of customer towards the product.
- 2) It will reduce productivity.
- 3) It may damage firm's reputation and make it less appealing to stake holders.
- 4) A company can be charged by the counts and order to close down it with a fine or jail or both. Thus, company becomes insolvent.
- 5) Both 1 and 3

Answer & Explanation

4. Once a company is known for having unethical behaviours, the effect can be-

- 1) Permanent
- 2) Negligible
- 3) Determined
- 4) Partial
- 5) None of these

Answer & Explanation

5. Which of the following is definitely true in the context of the passage ?

- 1) Profit maximization directly proportional to ethical behaviour.
- 2) People having ethical behaviour always in loss at their working place.
- 3) Corporate culture does not understand business behaviour.
- 4) Both b) and c)
- 5) None of these

Answer & Explanation

Direction (Q. 6-8) : Choose the word which is most nearly the SAME in meaning as the word printed in bold as used in the passage.

6. FIDUCIARY

- 1) Employee
- 2) Depositary
- 3) Guardian
- 4) Collector
- 5) Store keeper

Answer & Explanation

7. ESPIONAGE

- 1) Spying
- 2) Information
- 3) Reforms
- 4) Norms
- 5) Requirement

Answer & Explanation

8. TORN DOWN

- 1) Restored
- 2) Solvent
- 3) Bulldoze
- 4) End
- 5) Demolish

Answer & Explanation

Direction (Q. 9-10) : Choose the word which is most OPPOSITE in meaning of the word printed in bold as used in the passage.

9. WIND-UP

- 1) Start
- 2) Neglect
- 3) Conclude
- 4) Unsettled
- 5) Normalized

Answer & Explanation

10. BANKRUPT

- 1) Successful
- 2) Saved
- 3) Rich
- 4) Solvent
- 5) Complete

Answer & Explanation

The great recession hasn't been great for free trade. As unemployment has risen throughout the world, governments have become more focused on protecting their own industries than on promoting international commerce. The US, though typically an enthusiastic supporter of open markets, included flailing "buy American" clauses in its stimulus package and propped up its failing auto industry with handouts.

But according to the Asian Development Bank (ADB), in the part of the world that was hit hardest by the trade crash – Asia – the number of Free-Trade Agreements (FTAs) signed by Asian countries has grown from just three in 2000 to 56 by the end of August 2009. Nineteen of those FTAs are among 16 Asian economies, a trend that could help the region become a powerful trading bloc. The drive to lower trade barriers has taken on **fresh** urgency amid the recession. As Asian manufacturing networks become more intertwined — and as Asian consumers become wealthier — regional commerce is becoming **critical** to future economic expansion. Intraregional trade last year

made up 57% of total Asian trade, up from 37% in 1980. In the past Asia produced for America and Europe, now Asia is producing for Asia. Of course, Asia is still dependent on sales to the West. But FTAs could reduce the region's exposure to the United States by giving Asian companies preferential treatment in selling to Asian companies and consumers. These benefits could come with downsides,

however. According to experts, FTAs create a "non-level playing field with advantages for Asian countries". If the most dynamically growing part of the global economy gives the US restricted access it will impact global balance. Companies in countries like the United States left out of the trade pacts could face disadvantages when trying to tap fast-growing Asian markets. This, in turn, could have a negative impact on efforts to rebalance excessive debt in the US and excessive savings in Asia. Still, the benefits of greater regional integration could prove powerful enough to overcome the roadblocks. In Asia, the only thing everyone agrees upon is business. If it does, the world economy may never be the same.

1. What do the Asian Development Bank statistics indicate?

- 1) Asian economies are financially more sound than those of the developed world.
- 2) The financial crisis impacted the West far more than it did Asia.
- 3) Asian countries have aligned themselves on lines similar to the European Union.
- 4) Western countries are sceptical about trading with developing countries.
- 5) Asian countries have been actively opening their markets to one another.

Answer & Explanation

2. What has given rise to the large number of trade agreements between Asian countries?

- 1) The need to insulate Asian economies from over- exposure to the American economy
- 2) Angry reaction among Asian countries owing to America's protectionist policy
- 3) The aim of empowering the poorer Asian economies and bring them on par

with Western economies

- 4) The desire to achieve conditions conducive to global consensus on trade regulations and tariffs
- 5) Widespread panic in Europe and Asia as Asian economies are yet to recover from the recession

Answer & Explanation

3. Which of the following is/are NOT TRUE in the context of the passage?

- (A) Political and economic rivalries between Asian countries are non-existent today.
 - (B) Asian countries hold America responsible for the recession and have imposed economic sanctions against the US.
 - (C) America has adopted a protectionist strategy after the recession.
- 1) Only (A)
 - 2) Only (B) and (C)
 - 3) Only (A) and (B)
 - 4) Only (C)
 - 5) None of these

Answer & Explanation

4. Which of the following describes expert predictions about trade pacts between Asian countries?

- 1) These will be beneficial and are likely to give rise to a common Asian currency.
- 2) Tariffs will be lowered and bureaucratic regulations, will become transparent.
- 3) Widening of differences between participant and non- participant countries will hamper global stability.
- 4) Regional conflicts will increase as competition and inequities between Asian nations will intensify.
- 5) They are likely to be shortlived as it will be difficult to get participating nations to arrive at a consensus.

Answer & Explanation

5. Which of the following has/have not been (an) impact(s) of the recession ?

(A) Various trade agreements signed between developed and Asian countries have not been honoured.

(B) The US government has restructured the automobile industry.

(C) Regional conflicts in Asia have substantially reduced.

1) Only (C)

2) Only (A)

3) Only (A) and (B)

4) All (A), (B) and (C)

5) None of these

Answer & Explanation

6. According to the author, what danger does creating an Asian trading bloc pose?

1) Political instability in Asia will rise as some countries are wealthier than others.

2) American consumers have ceased their demands for Asian goods.

3) Unemployment in Asian countries will rise as many plants will be forced to close down.

4) It will alter the balance of power in the world with small Asian countries becoming most dominant.

5) None of these

Answer & Explanation

7. What is the author trying to convey through the phrase "In the past Asia produced for America and Europe, now Asia is producing for Asia" ?

1) The number of wealthy consumers in Asia outnumber those in America and Europe together.

2) Asian countries do not support free trade and continue to trade among

themselves despite the recession.

3) Goods manufactured in Asian countries often fail to meet the standards set by developed countries.

4) Asian countries no longer export to Western markets alone and now cater to Asian markets as well.

5) Interregional trade barriers between Europe and Asia have weakened considerably.

Answer & Explanation

8. Which of the following is most opposite in meaning to the word "CRITICAL" as used in the passage ?

- 1) Unimportant
- 2) Complimentary
- 3) Approval
- 4) Sale
- 5) Steady

Answer & Explanation

9. Which of the following is most similar in meaning to the word "FRESH" as used in the passage?

- 1) Additional
- 2) Renewed
- 3) Original
- 4) Healthy
- 5) Modern

Answer & Explanation

10. Which of the following can be said about the American economy in the context of the passage?

- (A) Most American companies have opted to withdraw from Asia.
- (B) America's stand on free trade has altered because of the recession.
- (C) The American economy is far too dependent on Asia for trade.

- 1) Only (A)
- 2) Only (B)
- 3) Only (C)
- 4) All (A), (B) and (C)
- 5) None of these

Answer & Explanation

The new economy has ushered in great business opportunities-and great turmoil. Most traditional organisations have accepted, in theory at least, that they must either change or die. Even giants such as eBay, Amazon.com, and America Online recognise that they need to manage the changes associated with rapid entrepreneurial growth. Despite some individual successes, however, change remains difficult to pull off, and few companies manage the process as well as they would like. Most of their initiatives-installing new technology, downsizing, restructuring, or trying to change corporate culture—have had low success rates. The brutal fact is that about 70% of all change initiatives fail. In our experience, the reason for most of those failures is that in their rush to change their organisations, managers end up **immersing** themselves in an alphabet soup of initiatives. They lose focus and become mesmerised by all the advice available in print and online about why companies should change, what they should try to accomplish, and how they should do it. This proliferation of recommendations often leads to muddle when change is attempted. The result is that most change efforts exert a heavy toll, both human and economic. To improve the odds of success, and to reduce the human carnage, it is **imperative** that executives understand the nature and process of corporate change much better. But even that is not enough. Leaders need to crack the code of change.

For more than 40 years now, we have been studying the nature of corporate change. And although every business's change initiative is unique, our research suggests there are two archetypes, or theories, of change. These archetypes are based on very different and often **unconscious** assumptions by senior executives-and the consultants and academics who advise them-about why and how changes should be made. Theory E is change based on economic value.

Theory O is change based on organisational capability. Both are valid models; each theory of change achieves some of management's goals, either explicitly or implicitly. But each theory also has its costs often unexpected ones.

Theory E change strategies are the ones that make all the headlines. In this "hard" approach to change, shareholder value is the only **legitimate** measure of corporate success. Change usually involves heavy use of economic incentives, drastic layoffs, downsizing, and restructuring. E change strategies are more common than O change strategies among companies in the United States, where financial markets push corporate boards for rapid turnarounds. For instance, when William Anders was brought in as CEO of General Dynamics in 1991, his goal was to maximise economic value-however painful the remedies might be. Over the next three years, Anders reduced the workforce by 71,000 people 44,000 through the divestiture of seven businesses and 27,000 through layoffs and attrition. Anders employed common E strategies. Managers who subscribe to Theory O believe that if they were to focus exclusively on the price of their stock, they might harm their organisations. In this "soft" approach to change, the goal is to develop corporate culture and human capability through individual and organisational learning-the process of changing, obtaining feedback, reflecting, and making further changes. US companies that adopt O strategies, as Hewlett-Packard did when its performance flagged in the

1980s, typically have strong, long-held, commitment-based psychological contracts with their employees. Managers at these companies are likely to see the risks in breaking those contracts. Because they place a high value on employee commitment, Asian and European businesses are also more likely to adopt an O strategy to change.

Few companies subscribe to just one theory. Most companies we have studied have used a mix of both. But all too often, managers try to apply theories E and O in tandem without resolving the inherent tensions between them. This impulse to combine the strategies is directionally correct, but theories E and O are so different that it's hard to manage them simultaneously-employees distrust leaders who alternate between nurturing and cutthroat corporate behavior. Our research suggests, however, that there is a way to resolve the

tension so that businesses can satisfy their shareholders while building viable institutions. Companies that effectively combine hard and soft approaches to change can reap big payoffs in profitability and productivity.

1. Which of the following is most nearly the OPPOSITE in meaning as the word LEGITIMATE as used in the passage?

- (1) legal
- (2) criminal
- (3) sensitive
- (4) invalid
- (5) regular

Answer & Explanation

2. Which of the following statements is TRUE in the context of the passage?

- (1) Theory E strategies are more likely to be popular among organisations of Asian countries.
- (2) Quite often, organisations opt for either of the two theories of organisational change suggested by the author.
- (3) Theory E change strategies focus more on maximising economic worth of an organisation.
- (4) The theories of change mentioned by the author are based on tested methods.
- (5) None of the given statements is true.

Answer & Explanation

3. The author in the given passage focuses on the following EXCEPT

- (1) change not as easy as it appears
- (2) how to increase profitability through organisational change
- (3) bringing about successful organisational change
- (4) hindrances in the process of organisational change
- (5) theories explaining the dynamics of organisational change

Answer & Explanation

4. In the context of the passage, which of the following could possibly be an effect(s) of adopting Theory E, on employees for bringing about organisational change?

- (1) Employees become more attached with the organisation
- (2) Insecurity among employees
- (3) Improved morale of employees
- (4) Employees resorting to malicious methods to get faster promotions
- (5) All those given as options

Answer & Explanation

5. According to the author, for organisational change to be successful

- (1) executives must focus on understanding the process of change.
- (2) organisations must be willing to excuse those involved in the change process, in case it is unsuccessful. (3) organisations must be willing to spend generously during the process.
- (4) those involved in the change process must be given specialised training.
- (5) None of the given options

Answer & Explanation

6. As mentioned in the passage, despite best efforts, many organisations fail to bring about a change because

- (A) they lose track of important information between the huge amount of information available to them.
 - (B) they rarely change the roles assigned to employees throughout the change process.
 - (C) they tend to depend on a consultant, an outsider, who barely knows the culture of the organisation.
- (1) Only (A)
 - (2) Only (B)
 - (3) Only (C)

(4) Both (A) and (B)

(5) Both (B) and (C)

Answer & Explanation

7. Which of the following is most nearly the SAME in meaning as the word 'IMMERSING' as used in the passage?

(1) engrossing

(2) fascinating

(3) ignoring

(4) saving

(5) holding

Answer & Explanation

8. Which of the following is most nearly the OPPOSITE in meaning as the word 'IMPERATIVE' as used in the passage?

(1) optional

(2) mandatory

(3) significant

(4) slight

(5) binding

Answer & Explanation

9. In the author's view the best way to bring about organisational change is a blend of Theory E and O and this can be achieved through

(1) educating employees on the benefits of employing these theories.

(2) creating a specialised team of employees, thorough with these theories, for bringing about change

(3) motivating employees

(4) modelling successful change process of organisations that employed one of these theories.

(5) Other than those given as options

Answer & Explanation

10. Which of the following is most nearly the SAME in meaning as the word UNCONSCIOUS as used in the passage?

- (1) comatose
- (2) automatic
- (3) distracted
- (4) false
- (5) international

Answer & Explanation

Today, emerging markets account for more than half of world GDP on the basis of purchasing power, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF). In the 1990s, it was about a third. In the late 1990s, 30% of countries in the developing world managed to increase their output per person faster than America did, thus achieving what is called "catch-up growth". That catching up was somewhat lackadaisical: the gap closed at just 1.5% a year. Some of this was due to slower growth in America; most was not. The most impressive growth was in four of the biggest emerging economies: Brazil, Russia, India and China (BRICs). These economies have grown in different ways and for different reasons. The remarkable growth of emerging markets in general and BRICs in particular transformed the global economy in many ways, some wrenching. Commodity prices particularly soared and the cost of manufacture and labour sank. A growing and vastly more accessible pool of labour in emerging economies played a part in both wage stagnation and rising income inequality in rich ones. Global poverty rates tumbled. Gaping economic imbalances fuelled an era of financial vulnerability and laid the groundwork for global crisis. The shift towards the emerging economies will continue. But its most tumultuous phase seems to have more or less reached its end. Growth rates have dropped. The nature of their growth is in the process of changing, too and its new mode will have fewer direct effects on the rest of the world. The likelihood of growth in other emerging economies having an effect in the near future comparable to

that of BRICs in the recent past is low. The emerging giants will grow larger, and their ranks will swell but their tread will no longer shake the Earth as once it did.

After the 1990s there followed 'convergence with a vengeance'. China's pivot towards liberalisation and global markets came at a propitious time in terms of politics, business and technology. Rich economies were feeling relaxed about globalisation and current account deficits. America, booming and confident, was not troubled by the growth of Chinese industry or by off-shoring jobs to India. And the technology etc necessary to assemble and maintain complex supply chains were coming into their own, allowing firms to spread their operations between countries and across oceans. The **tumbling** costs of shipping and communication sparked globalisation's "second unbundling" (the first was the simple ability to provide consumers in one place with goods from another). As longer supply chains infiltrated and connected places with large and fast-growing working-age populations, enormous quantities of cheap new labour became accessible. Advanced economies added about 160m non-farm jobs between 1980 and 2010. In 2007 China's economy **expanded** by an eye-popping 14.2%. India managed 10.1 % growth, Russia 8.5% and Brazil 6.1 %. The IMF now reckons there will be slowdown in growth. China will grow by just 7.8% in 2013, India by 5.6% and Russia and Brazil by 2.5%.

Other countries have impressive growth potential. The "Next 11" (N11) includes Bangladesh,

Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria and Turkey. But there are various reasons to think that this N11

cannot have an impact on the same scale as that of the BRICs. The first is that these economies are smaller. The N11 has a population of just over 1.3 billion - less than half that of the BRICs. The second is that the Nil is richer now than the BRICs were back in the day. The third reason that the performance of the BRICs cannot be repeated is the very success of that performance. The world economy is much larger than it used to be - twice as big in real terms as it was in 1992, according to IMF figures. But whether or not the world can build on a remarkable era of growth will depend in large part on whether the new giants

tread a path towards greater global co-operation – or stumble, fall and, in times of tumult and in the worst case, fight.

1. According to the passage, which of the following is a reason for the author's prediction regarding N11 countries?

- (1) N11 countries are poorer, have less resources than BRIC countries and do not have much scope to grow.
- (2) The size of these countries is too great to fuel a high rate of growth as expected by BRICs countries.
- (3) The world economy is so large that the magnitude of growth from these countries will have to be huge to equal the growth of BRICs.
- (4) These economies are agricultural and have not opened up their economies yet so their scope of growth is greater than that of BRICs.
- (5) Other than those given as options

Answer & Explanation

2. What is the author's view of globalisation's "second unbundling"?

- (1) It proved beneficial since it created a large number of jobs and tremendous growth in crossborder trade.
- (2) It disturbed the fragile balance of power among BRIC nations and caused internal strife.
- (3) It caused untold damage to America's economy since it restricted the spread of American farms off-shore.
- (4) It proved most beneficial for the agricultural sector, creating huge employment opportunities.
- (5) Citizens in advanced countries became much better off than those in emerging economies.

Answer & Explanation

3. Choose the word which is most nearly the SAME in meaning as the word TUMBLING given in bold as used in the passage.

- (1) jumbling
- (2) confusing
- (3) reducing
- (4) dilapidated
- (5) hurrying

Answer & Explanation

4. What do the comparative statistics of 2007 and 2013 for BRICs countries published by, the IMF as cited in the passage indicate?

- (1) BRIC economies will contribute less to global growth.
- (2) As the population of these countries grows, its growth rate is falling.
- (3) The financial practices followed by these countries will continue to pay rich dividends.
- (4) These countries are creating global financial imbalances to the detriment of smaller developing economies like Africa.
- (5) IMF forecasts of growth rate for these countries have not been fulfilled.

Answer & Explanation

5. What effect did rising economies of BRICs have on the global economy?

- (1) It helped stabilise the global economy and insulate it from the fallout of the global financial crisis.
- (2) Labour became more highly skilled and wages were alarmingly increased, reducing the offshoring of jobs to developing countries.
- (3) Though worldwide poverty rates tumbled, the gap between the rich and the poor in rich economies increased.
- (4) The cost of living and level of inflation in these countries were maintained at

low levels.

(5) All the given options are effects of the rise in BRIC economies.

Answer & Explanation

6. What does the phrase "Their ranks will swell but their tread will no longer shake the

Earth as it once did" convey in the context of the passage?

(1) While many countries will try and achieve the same rate of growth as BRICs they will not succeed.

(2) The growth of BRIC countries has changed the world's economy in ways that any further growth will not have such a disruptive effect on the world economy.

(3) Developing countries have strengthened their fiscal systems in such a way that they will not be shaken to such a great extent again

(4) Poverty may increase as the gap between the rich and the poor increase but it will never reach the same level as prior to the crisis.

(5) Citizens in advanced countries became much better off than those in emerging economies.

Answer & Explanation

7. Which of the following best describes 'catch-up growth'?

(1) Emerging economies tried but failed to catch up with America, which always grew at a higher growth rate.

(2) The size of emerging economies and their purchasing power has caught up with and now exceeds the rich countries together.

(3) The growth of the American economy determines the growth of emerging economies.

(4) From the later half of 1990s onwards emerging economies outdid America in

terms of output per person.

(5) None of the given statements describes 'catch up growth.'

Answer & Explanation

8. Which of the following can be said about 'convergence with a vengeance'?

(A) After the 1990s advanced economies like America were open to the idea of free trade and globalisation.

(B) There were huge technology advances which were conducive to allowing businesses to spread their area of operations.

(C) Rich economies felt threatened by the competition from China.

(1) Only (A)

(2) Only (B)

(3) Only (C)

(4) Only (A) and (B)

(5) Only (B) and (C)

Answer & Explanation

9. Choose the word which is OPPOSITE in meaning to the word EXPANDED given in bold as used in the passage.

(1) widened

(2) pressured

(3) delayed

(4) shrunk

(5) frightened

Answer & Explanation

10. What is the author's main objective in writing the passage?

(A) To urge emerging economies to deal with growth, which can be disruptive, maturely and without conflict

(B) To point out that while the period of growth of BRICs was disruptive this disruption has almost come to a close.

(C) To criticise advanced economies for their handling of growth and promoting competition and conflict in certain regions

(1) Only (A) and (B)

(2) Only (A)

(3) Only (C)

(4) All (A), (B) and (C)

(5) Only (B) and (C)

Answer & Explanation

Removing regulatory barriers to employ more people in various areas of economic activity is a national priority, and the Centre's Model Shops and Establishments (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Bill, 2016 to enable operation of such services all 365 days of the year, and round-the-clock, is a significant step forward. As the Economic Survey for 2015-16 notes, there is a **robust** annual growth in services such as trade, hotels, transport and communications. Creating a healthy environment for the growth of consumer-focussed services will catalyse it further. The model law, which is available to the States to either adopt fully or in a modified form, is to be welcomed for specifying labour issues such as working hours, overtime, casual and earned leave, protection for women including transport access for those opting to work night shifts, and workplace facilities. It is all too **evident** that in the existing regulatory regime, many of these aspects are impressively inked on paper, but with poor outcomes in practice. Workers are left without effective mechanisms of redress. In the model law, protections are to be enforced by a cadre of Chief Facilitators and Facilitators. This is a moment to strike a blow for the rights of workers, and State governments must show as much concern for labour welfare as the facilitation of business. The Labour Ministry can achieve this by welcoming online registration of complaints, and the process can be aided by trade unions.

There is much to welcome in the model law; its major innovation is the

elimination of the licensing bureaucracy, and therefore a lot of corruption. A simplified, online common registration procedure for the businesses covered by the Act should definitely be part of State law; this would be a big leap in ease of doing business. State governments looking to **accelerate** economic activity and generate higher revenues should adopt the law immediately. Two areas that need urgent reform in all States are **provision** of reliable public transport and strong law enforcement. Even in big cities with organised bus, rail and **feeder** networks, these systems are not reliable at night. The new sharing economy has been filling the gap with app-based commercial taxi services operating 24x7, but a decision to promote retail services round-the-clock requires a good, affordable public transport backbone with security arrangements to ensure safe travel. One other aspect of reform to support employees of shops and establishments is health care. It should be mandatory for employers to cover their medical expenses through standalone or group insurance policies, since private health insurance is generally unaffordable to such workers.

1. What should be mandatory for employers?

- (1) online common registration procedure for the businesses
- (2) cover their medical expenses through standalone or group insurance policies
- (3) effective mechanisms of redress
- (4) Both A and B
- (5) None of the above

Answer & Explanation

2. Which among the following is TRUE according to the passage given above?

- (1) Removing regulatory barriers to employ more people in various areas of economic activity is a national priority
- (2) In the model law, protections are to be enforced by a cadre of Chief Facilitators and Facilitators
- (3) Both A and B

- (4) Either A or B
- (5) None of the above

Answer & Explanation

3. Which of the following are the two areas that need urgent reform in all States?

- (1) Provision of trade and hotels
- (2) provision of reliable public transport and strong law enforcement
- (3) provision of transport and communications
- (4) Both A and C
- (5) All of the above

Answer & Explanation

4. According to the passage State governments must show as much concern for?

- (1) for labour welfare as the facilitation of business
- (2) for services all 365 days of the year, and round-the-clock
- (3) for the rights of workers
- (4) both A and C
- (5) All of the above

Answer & Explanation

5. Which of the following would be a suitable title of the passage?

- (1) The Economic Survey for 2015-16
- (2) ease of doing business
- (3) The model law
- (4) Heeding the 24x7 potential
- (5) None of the above

Answer & Explanation

6. Which among the following is MOST SIMILAR In meaning to the word "evident"?

- (1) obscure
- (2) unclear
- (3) retard
- (4) uncertain
- (5) distinct

Answer & Explanation

7. Which among the following is MOST OPPOSITE in meaning to the word "accelerate"?

- (1) quicken
- (2) railroad
- (3) nail it
- (4) forward
- (5) impede

Answer & Explanation

8. Which among the following is MOST SIMILAR in meaning to the word "provision"?

- (1) abiding
- (2) descending
- (3) taking
- (4) precaution
- (5) removal

Answer & Explanation

9. Which among the following is MOST OPPOSITE in meaning to the word "Robust"?

- (1) concentrated
- (2) thriving
- (3) sinewy
- (4) husky
- (5) flabby

Answer & Explanation

10. Which among the following is MOST SIMILAR in meaning to the word "feeder"?

- (1) rancher
- (2) allotment
- (3) assigning
- (4) circulation
- (5) handing out

Answer & Explanation

Welcome to **Online English Section** with explanation in **AffairsCloud.com**. Here we are creating question sample in **Reading comprehension**, which is BASED ON IBPS PO/CLERK/LIC AAO/RRB & SSC CGL EXAM and other competitive exams.

Recent events in the news suggest that the world is growing more insular and polarised. The tragic shooting at Orlando, and Brexit exemplify how intolerance and divisiveness are spreading their tentacles across either side of the Atlantic. Closer home, the racial attacks against Africans in Delhi suggest that India, despite its rich diversity and famed hospitality, also harbours deep **prejudices**. Ironically, as globalisation and the Internet have in some sense erased geographic boundaries, xenophobic tendencies are only growing more pronounced in various pockets all around the world. Even as we connect with anyone from anywhere, we are more wary of the 'other.' But diversity, in all its myriad hues, actually benefits both individuals and societies. So, we must fight the narrow forces that push for homogeneity.

In an article published in The New York Times, in December 2015, researchers Sheen Levine and David Stark describe a set of experiments that suggest that ethnic and racial diversity enhances the decision-making abilities of people. By simulating a stock market in diverse versus homogenous groups, the researchers were able to study the impact of diversity. When participants were in a diverse group, they were 58% per cent more accurate in determining the

true value of stocks. According to the authors, ethnic diversity, be it in Texas or Singapore where the study was conducted, allowed people to make better decisions. When participants were in an ethnically homogenous group, they tended to mimic the behaviour of other participants, often copying their mistakes as well. On the other hand, in a diverse group, people tended to be more **discerning** and less likely to follow the crowd.

In a 2012 issue of Observer, scholars Douglas Medin and Carol Lee argue that apart from concerns over social equality, diversity has an elemental role to play in the sciences. Multiple perspectives at all stages of the scientific enterprise, from choosing what to study, methods one adopts, to interpreting results, can provide new insights. For example, they cite the work of Sarah Hrdy who makes the point that when female primatologists entered the field, fresh insights regarding primate behaviour emerged.

Another example of the merits of a different viewpoint is the work of Temple Grandin who came up with an ingenious and humane method for livestock handling and **slaughter**. Grandin, who has autism, has extraordinary visualization skills. She attributes the success of her unconventional design that transformed the livestock industry to her ability to see the process from the perspective of cattle. In an interview, published in the Daily Mail in 2011, Grandin says, "It was important to see what the cattle see, so I could address what made them anxious."

In an article published in Scientific American in 2014, Professor Katherine Phillips, who teaches at Columbia Business School, argues that diversity **entails** more than just bringing to the table, different perspectives. In fact, knowing that others in a group may not share beliefs or viewpoints, compels individuals to change their behaviour. She cites a 2006 study conducted by social psychologist Samuel Sommers that involved mock jury trials. When the juries had mixed races, jurors were more deliberate in their discussion and more open to considering the role of race in the case. In addition, they were more accurate in recalling facts of the case.

Thus, Phillips argues that diversity compels us to work harder. Just by being in a diverse group, we expect others to think differently from us, and are more prepared to address alternative viewpoints. As Phillips writes, "People work

harder in diverse environments," which can "lead to better outcomes."

To be a truly open society, we need to embrace diversity in all forms. Language, religion, race, gender and sexual orientation are only some of the dimensions on which human beings differ. Being gay, author Andrew Solomon always thought that he belonged to "a fairly slim minority." In his book, *Far from the Tree*, he says that as he encountered people from other marginalised groups, from the deaf to dwarfs and child prodigies, he had an epiphany and realised that "Difference unites us." In fact, if we take all types of differences into account, we realise that the "exceptional is **ubiquitous**."

1. **Which of the following is TRUE according to the passage?**

- 1) Solomon writes, People work harder in diverse environments, which can lead to better outcomes
- 2) Phillips always thought that he belonged to "a fairly slim minority"
- 3) Grandin says, It was important to see what the cattle see, so I could address what made them anxious
- 4) Only 2 and 3
- 5) Only 1 and 2

Answer & Explanation

2. Choose the word which is MOST SIMILAR in meaning to the word **prejudices** as used in the passage.

- 1) fairness
- 2) tolerance
- 3) detriment
- 4) respect
- 5) regard

Answer & Explanation

3. **According to the author, enhances the decision-making abilities of people?**

- 1) ethnic and racial diversity
- 2) rich diversity and famed hospitality
- 3) diversity entails more than just bringing to the table, different perspectives
- 4)
- 5) Not mentioned in the passage

Answer & Explanation

4. Choose the word which is MOST SIMILAR in meaning to the word **discerning** as used in the passage.

- 1) percipient
- 2) overlooking
- 3) entrailing
- 4) indiscriminating
- 5) undiscerning

Answer & Explanation

5. **Which of the following is FALSE according to the passage?**

- 1) To be a truly open society, we need to embrace diversity in all forms
- 2) Even as we connect with anyone from anywhere, we are more wary of the 'other.'
- 3) Just by being in a diverse group, we expect others to think differently from us, and are more prepared to address alternative viewpoints
- 4) When the juries had mixed races, jurors were more deliberate in their discussion and more open to considering the role of race in the case
- 5) None of these

Answer & Explanation

6. Choose the word which is most opposite in meaning of the word **slaughter** as used in the passage.

- 1) annihilation
- 2) butchery
- 3) birthing
- 4) bloodbath
- 5) None of these

Answer & Explanation

7. **According to the passage We must fight for?**

- 1) the ethnically homogenous group
- 2) Language, religion, race, gender ETC
- 3) narrow forces that push for homogeneity
- 4) all types of differences into account, we realise that the "exceptional is ubiquitous
- 5) All of above

Answer & Explanation

8. Choose the word which is MOST OPPOSITE in meaning of the word **entails** as used in the passage.

- 1) explicate
- 2) demand
- 3) encompass

4) entangle

5) evoke

Answer & Explanation

9. Choose the word which is MOST SIMILAR in meaning to the word **entails** as used in the passage.

1) define

2) encompass

3) explicate

4) express

5) state

Answer & Explanation

10. **What is the central theme of the passage?**

1) diversity, in all its myriad hues

2) diversity in all forms

3) Do differences unite us

4) globalisation and Internet geographic boundaries

5) None of these

Answer & Explanation

Vice-President Hamid Ansari has highlighted the dearth of scientific temper in the country. His comments come just as the 2016 Indian Science Congress has drawn many laments on the state of Indian science. In fact, for the last two years presentations on topics such as the invention of airships in ancient India have created a disappointing, disturbing image. In a damning **indictment**, Nobel laureate Venkatraman Ramakrishnan has described

the congress as a circus where very little science is discussed.

While it can be argued that the congress should be open to **diverse** streams, such openness can't come at the cost of a genuine scientific ethos. As Ansari has observed, intolerance towards attempts to separate belief from scientifically verified facts leads to the occult being **dubbed** as scientific. Plus, there's **empirical** evidence to suggest that the roots of Indian science are worryingly weak. The country is yet to achieve its goal of spending at least 2% of GDP on scientific research. Around 59% of secondary schools don't have an integrated science laboratory. And according to 2013 figures Indians filed only 17 patents per million population compared to 4,451 in tiny South Korea. These metrics stand at odds with government policies like Make in India. As pointed out by Nobel winning physicist David Gross, attempts at manufacturing high-end products in India won't yield the desired benefits unless backed by sustained investment in basic science – right from school level to higher education. That not a single Indian institute of higher learning figures in the top 100 ranking of world universities is a poor comment on the quality of education and research in the country. An even greater tragedy is that most Indian students today consider the sciences only as academic streams to high-paying corporate careers. Overall, the science pedagogy is poor and the scientific temper diluted.

The state of Indian science is actually a direct reflection of India's general education woes. Lack of meritocracy in educational institutions shows up in poor research. Focus on producing degree holders kills innovation. Against this **backdrop** a framework for audit of scientific departments as suggested by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is just the first step. What's required next is an overhaul of science education to create an environment that encourages research and innovation. Only then can Indian scientists meaningfully contribute towards the development goals of the country.

1. Which of the following is 'true' in the context of the passage?

- 1) The country has achieved 2% of GDP on science research.
- 2) Indian institutions are performing very well in higher education on international level.

- 3) Approx 59% of secondary schools doesn't have an integrated science laboratory.
- 4) The science pedagogy is very strong.
- 5) None of these

Answer & Explanation

2. According to passage, why Indian students considering the science only for academic stream ?

- 1) Indian Students are good in research.
- 2) Science proves great opportunities for careers rather than other streams.
- 3) Most of Indians are intelligent in science.
- 4) Just because of high-paying corporate careers.
- 5) None of these

Answer & Explanation

3. Which of the following is the central theme of the passage?

- 1) Mythology vs science: Creating a better climate for research and innovation is a must for India's development.
- 2) Indian Education system.
- 3) Importance of science in Education.
- 4) Overview of Indian institutions.
- 5). None of these

Answer & Explanation

4. Which of the following statement is false in the context of the given passage?

- 1) Most of Indian students consider the sciences as academic streams.
- 2) Not a single Indian institute in the list of top 100 ranking of world

universities.

- 3) Last two years presentations on invention of airships in ancient India have created a disappointing.
- 4) Lack of meritocracy in educational institutions shows up in poor research.
- 5) All are true

Answer & Explanation

5. According to the passage, what kills innovation ?

- 1) Indian scientists meaningfully not contributing towards the development goals of the country.
- 2) Poor performance of Indian institutions in Research.
- 3) More Focus on producing degree holders.
- 4) More focus in other streams rather than Science.
- 5) None of these

Answer & Explanation

Directions (Q. 6- 8) : Choose the word which is MOST SIMILAR in meaning of the word printed in bold as used in the passage.

6. Dubbed

- 1) Entitle
- 2) Denominate
- 3) Knight
- 4) Designate
- 5) Denominate

Answer & Explanation

7. Indictment

- 1) Clear
- 2) Discharged
- 3) Under suspicion
- 4) Visionary
- 5) Acquitted

Answer & Explanation

8. Diverse

- 1) Conforming
- 2) Identical
- 3) Like
- 4) Parallel
- 5) Contrary

Answer & Explanation

Directions (Q. 9-10) : Choose the word which is MOST OPPOSITE in meaning of the word printed in bold as used in the passage.

9. Backdrop

- 1) Specific
- 2) Query
- 3) Foreground
- 4) Scrim
- 5) Scenery

Answer & Explanation

10. Empirical

- 1) Suspect
- 2) Complicated
- 3) Practical
- 4) Conformed
- 5) Speculative

Answer & Explanation

The recent change to all-volunteer armed forces in the United States will eventually produce a gradual increase in the proportion of women in the armed forces and in the variety of women's assignments, but probably not the dramatic gains for women that might have been expected. This is so even though the armed forces operate in an ethos of institutional change oriented toward occupational equality and under the federal sanction of equal pay for work. The difficulty is that women are unlikely to be trained for any direct combat operations.

A significant portion of the larger society remains uncomfortable as yet with extending equality in this direction. Therefore, for women in the military, the search for equality will still be based on functional equivalence, not identity or even similarity of task. **Opportunities** seem certain to arise. The growing emphasis on deterrence is bound to offer increasing scope for women to become involved in **novel** types of noncombat military assignments.

1. Which sentence is an incorrect one?

- 1) The recent change to all voluntary armed forces in US will produce a gradual increase in the proportion of women.
- 2) The difficulty is that women are likely to be trained for any direct combat operation.
- 3) Opportunities seem certain to arise
- 4) The difficulty is that women are unlikely to be trained for any direct combat operation

Answer & Explanation

2. A suitable title for the passage might be ?

- 1) Current status of women in US military.
- 2) Current status of women in US navy
- 3) Current status of women in US air force
- 4) Current status of women in US teaching service,

Answer & Explanation

3. According to the passage, despite the United States armed forces commitment to occupational equality for women in the military, certain other factors preclude women__

- 1) Being assigned all of the military tasks that are assigned to men.
- 2) Drawing assignments from a wider range of assignments than before
- 3) Having access to positions of responsibility
- 4) Receiving equal pay for equal work

Answer & Explanation

4. The passage implies which of the following is a factor conducive to a more equitable representation of women in the United States armed forces than has existed in the past?

- 1) The all-volunteer character of the present armed forces.
- 2) The past service records of women who had assignments functionally equivalent to men's assignments.
- 3) The level of awareness on the part of the larger society of military issues
- 4) An increased decline in the proportion of deterrence oriented non combat assignments.

Answer & Explanation

5. The primary purpose of the passage is to

- 1) Present an overview of the different types of assignments available to women
- 2) Analyze reforms in the new United States all-volunteer armed forces necessitated by the increasing number of women in the military.
- 3) Present the new United States all-volunteer armed forces as a model case of equal employment policies in action
- 4) Present a reasoned prognosis of the status of women in the new United States all-volunteer armed forces.

Answer & Explanation

6. Which of the following is closest in sense to the word "novel" used in the passage?

- 1) new
- 2) prosaic
- 3) dull
- 4) boring

Answer & Explanation

7. It can be inferred from the passage that after the recent change

- 1) Some join willingly, some are forced
- 2) Everyone joins the military under compulsion
- 3) Men are forced, women join willingly
- 4) Everyone joins the military willingly

Answer & Explanation

8. The word 'opportunities' used in the passage may be replaced by all expect

- 1) openings
- 2) failure
- 3) scope
- 4) prospects

Answer & Explanation

9. It can be inferred from the passage that

- 1) The change to all-volunteer armed forces took place many years ago
- 2) Opportunities for women in military are certain to decline
- 3) The Government sanctions equal pay for equal work
- 4) The society encourages increased participation of women in direct combat

Answer & Explanation

10. The 'dramatic giants for women' and change in the attitude of a 'significant portion of the larger society' are logically related to each other in as much as the author puts forward the latter as

- 1) The major reason for absence of the former
- 2) A public response to achievement of the former
- 3) A reason for some of the former being lost again
- 4) A pre condition for any prospect of achieving the former.

Answer & Explanation

India's Intended Nationally Determined Contribution has been widely hailed as a significant next step for not only meeting the country's domestic development goals but its international commitments to **combating** climate crises as well. Submitted to the UN for the period 2021 to 2030, it promises to reduce the emissions intensity of its GDP by 33 to 35 per cent by 2030, from its 2005 level.

This is half of what China has declared (60-65 per cent) and a few notches higher than the target set by the US (26-28 per cent).

Why has India, which is low in terms of its cumulative global emissions and per capita emission in comparison to both China and the US, set such high targets? Is it an exercise in global climate diplomacy or an **astute** move to **garner** global funds for technology transfer and capacity building support to achieve the targets? For it to deliver on the promised commitments, the country would need no less than \$2.5 trillion over the next decade or so.

At 2.44 tonnes per capita, India may be at the bottom of the current list of leading emitters, but the promised emission targets will bequeath it with per capita emission of 8.98 tonnes in 2030, far below the projected per capita emissions of 12 tonnes by China and the US, but some three times more than the present. No wonder these targets by the top polluters — including India — aren't significant enough to deal with the climate crisis, as they are more than what is required in order to limit global temperature rise by 2°C.

In reality, there has been a need to cut emissions to the tune of 70 per cent below the 2010 levels by 2050, if the world is to be on the path to restrict the increase in temperature. However, the emissions sum-game played by the leading emitters has polarised the global climate negotiations. By entering into an agreement whereby China would match its emissions with that of the US in 2030, carbon space has been conveniently appropriated. This leaves a lot to speculate about the role of corporations in the deal.

No wonder, to satisfy their energy demands in the face of **lopsided** economic growth, the developing countries have promised emission targets that seem carbon-friendly on paper but not on the ground. India's intention to achieve 40 per cent cumulative electric power installed capacity from renewable sources alongside creating an additional carbon dioxide sink of 2.5-3 billion tonnes through additional tree cover by 2030, can be read in that light. It will only fuel per capita emission some three times by 2030.

With India considering both hydro and nuclear power to be environmentally **benign**, good intentions may get lost in smoke. Since coal continues to find favour as the dominant source of energy followed by hydro and nuclear power, the proposed green energy alternatives will hardly get the

desired push.

Thermal power contribution to India's installed capacity is unlikely to change from the present 60 per cent; energy contribution from hydro power is projected to double and nuclear power some six times from the present installed capacities. This can only trigger three times more per capita emissions. Globally, coal-based power provides 40 per cent electricity, and China emits one-third of the global carbon dioxide on account of its coal consumption. India is the second largest coal consumer after China, which is responsible for 1.5 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions per person per year. The question is whether clean coal technologies will deliver on the promise to cut down on carbon dioxide emissions. Even if it does, the destruction of forests and habitats will release carbon dioxide.

With INDC focused predominantly on emissions reduction, social and environmental issues get pushed to the periphery. That thermal, hydro and nuclear projects cause environmental destruction, deforestation and large-scale displacement doesn't get counted in the emissions scenario. The premise of 'coal-cess' and 'compensatory afforestation' offer a trade-off: first sacrifice environmental concerns for development projects, and then invest funds thus generated in creating carbon sinks.

1. According to the passage, which of the following countries are top polluters?

- 1) China and UK
- 2) China and India
- 3) China and US
- 4) India and US
- 5) None of these

Answer & Explanation