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BEGLA-138

**B. A. (GENERAL) (CBCS)
(BAG)**

**Term-End Examination
June, 2022**

BEGLA-138 : READING AND SPEAKING SKILLS

Time : 3 Hours

Maximum Marks : 100

Note : Answer all questions.

Section—A

1. Read the following passage and answer the questions :

The environment is a national issue

Jayanthi Natarajan, SEPTEMBER 01, 2020

00 : 02 IST

To view environment protection through an ideological or political lens will only spell its doom. Environment issues are currently at the centre of a heated debate.

P. T. O.

It may be politically convenient – but not presenting the complete picture — to express shock at India being ranked at “177 out of 180 countries” in the Environmental Performance Index Report. Besides, in the June 2020 EPI, India’s rank stands improved at 168, not 177 which is the 2018 rank.

The Environmental Performance Index has been developed by two U.S. universities (Yale and Columbia) in collaboration with the World Economic Forum and European Commission and available ranking shows India at 118 in 2006, 123 in 2010, 155 in 2014 and 177 in 2018, thereby giving a message opposite to that sought to be conveyed, regarding our standing at 177 in 2018.

Also, the experts in the two universities conclude : “..... the 2008 ranking suggests that wealth is a major determinant of environmental success.” Any balance between the environment and development needs to be struck within India and based on our priorities, and not some international index.

Deforestation ought to be a primary concern of any right-thinking government. Forest clearances for mining and industries, while major, are not the only causes of deforestation. Population pressure due to which the slash-and-burn (or jhoom cycle) has reduced in forest areas from 17-20 years to two-three years giving no time for forest regeneration, and creeping conversion of forest to cultivated land are both major drivers of deforestation; there is also the increasing use of timber for household

and industry purposes. However, while diversion of forests for mining and industry is regulated by law and challenged in courts, the other major drivers are not even discussed.

‘Nirmal Ganga’ can be achieved by zero discharge of effluents and domestic sewerage, but ‘Aviral Ganga’ can only be achieved by constant balancing between irrigation needs of agriculture and potable water for cities on the one hand and the environmental flow of the river on the other.

The balance of imperatives between the environment and poverty eradication, and the critical need to harmonise the working of the central, state and local governments, as also intelligence, monitoring and compliance with law are vital dimensions of environment preservation.

To address environment protection from the standpoint of ideological or political mooring is to sound the death knell of our environment. The environment is a national issue which requires the unwavering participation of all governments, and all citizens, regardless of political affiliation.

(Source : <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/the-environment-is-a-national-issue/article32491199.ece>)

Questions :

- (a) How do you categorize this article by Jayanthi Natarajan on the basis of the knowledge of different types of texts ? Provide sound reasons to justify your response. 3
- (b) What strategy or technique do you think the author is using in this article and to what effect, to achieve the intended goals of getting her message across ? 3

- (c) What, according to you, is the author's objective or purpose in structuring her article in this particular manner ? 3
- (d) What are the major environmental concerns for the Indian government globally as well as domestically ? 3
- (e) What according to you might be the reason for India's dismal performance on the Environmental Performance Index (EPI) and the factors contributing to it ? 4
- (f) How does ideology or political affiliation create an effect on one's understanding of the environment ? 4
- (g) Suggest an alternative title along with its proper justification. 2

Section—B

2. Divide the following words syllable-wise using a hyphen to mark syllable boundaries and primary stresses : 8

(a) absurd

- (b) adjoin
 - (c) agency
 - (d) allopathy
 - (e) alternative
 - (f) aluminium
 - (g) amateur
 - (h) anonymous
3. Write an informal dialogue between two friends on the topic “Air Pollution in the Country.” 10

Section—C

4. What are the *five* main strategies that should be adhered to for enhancing the skill of reading and understanding a literary passage ? 10
5. Explain the *five* categories of reading comprehension with examples. 10

Or

Explain the Communication cycle in detail.

6. Differentiate between “attention span” and “memory span” in reading comprehension. 10

7. What are the 7 C's of communication ? Explain in detail. 10
8. What is critical reading and what are the questions one can ask oneself to read critically ? 10
9. Briefly discuss the *three* main stages of reading along with the difference between 'analysis' and 'synthesis' w.r.t. the "Cognitive Outcomes of Reading". 10