

Held on  
26.06.2016  
Based On Memory

# UPSC CAPF's ASSISTANT COMMANDANT EXAM

## PAPER-II : GENERAL STUDIES, ESSAY AND COMPREHENSION

1. Write essays on any four of the following about 300 words each : (4×20=80)

- The onus of maintaining healthy relations with Nepal is on India
- Farmers' suicides in India: A sign of impending disaster
- India needs to redefine the relations between the Centre and the States
- Is development possible at the cost of environment?
- Revamping our banking system is the need of the hour
- Urbanisation of India is nothing but blind Westernization

2. Write arguments for and against each of the following statements (2×20=40)

- India needs to focus on imparting quality education instead of merely increasing its Gross Enrolment Ratio.
- The trend of nuclear families will make old age homes in India increase in number.

3. Write reports on the following in about 200 words each: (2×10=20)

- Receding glaciers
- Ban on alcohol in Bihar

4. Attempt a précis of the given passage in one third of its length. Do not suggest a title. Write as far as possible in your own words. Write the précis on the separate sheet provided and fasten them to the answer sheet.

There is no better illustration of human folly than the narrative of Sheikh Chilli. Who in India is not aware of the story of this incorrigible fool who chose to ignore the sane advice of a passer-by of not cutting the same branch on which he himself was sitting. Obviously fools fail to learn from others' experiences and pay a heavy price in the process. They have use neither for their own intelligence nor for that of others. They live in their own world, while apparently they may be in the middle of a group of people.

Fools by nature are enemies of thinking, both reflective and prospective. They never doubt their intelligence, are cocksure of their sense of judgement. They think they are benefactors of society and are anguished that the world fails to recognise their talent. All fools possess a degree of impatience in their desire to make the world realise their worth, wishing to improve its lot by setting a personal example before it. They are sure that the folks around them lack an innate sense of discretion and require to learn from them.

Fools have been immortalized by literature across the world. Like Sheikh Chilli's account in India, the legend of Don Quixote, the fictional Spanish Knight, is equally famous in the West. He is known for thriving in a make-believe world where he is the lone sav-

our of humanity. The good thing is that these self-proclaimed Samaritans often inhabit the world of imagination, limiting their capacity to cause damage to the real world and producing in the process hilarious effects through their irrationality. But there are instances when such fools have come to occupy the centre stage of history. Their actions then had disastrous effects on our welfare, as well as on our existence. We all know how people like Hitler brought the world to the brink of destruction through their disastrous leadership. The condition of the world continues to be precarious and its future insecure due to foolish scientists who have handed over the destructive secrets of nuclear power to vicious politicians. There goes a saying that it is no use crying over spilt milk. Now what we need to become vigilant about is the danger posed by fools to our survival. Academic curricula across the world need to educate learners about the negative potential of fools to challenge the safety and security of planet earth.

5. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow: (5×4=20)

It is an obvious trait of black incomes that they cannot be declared to the fiscal authority for fear of large penalties. As under-declarations multiply, the tax base shrinks and price controls begin to blunt the edge of fiscal policy. One instrument of control gets into the way of the other and makes it ineffective. Tax evasion is large not necessarily because the rate of tax is high, as businessmen often proclaim, but because the income on which tax is to be paid, and the activity from which income is received, cannot be declared. It follows that even if taxes were halved, so long as the income is black taxes will be evaded. However, to the extent taxation fails to catch undeclared incomes emanating from controls, it becomes a bad instrument for balancing aggregate demand and supply and for controlling inflation. In an enthusiastic attempt to make taxation do the balancing trick, tax rates on honest tax-payers become penal. This leads to a second round of tax evasion, this time because tax rates are intolerably high. More and more tax payers at the margin avoid tax payment, become dishonest and in the course of time get used to dishonesty. While black money does so much damage to public policy, it also dries up the sources of real growth in the private sector of the economy. The capital market, the main vehicle of growth, consequently dries up, and capital formation both in the public and private sectors suffers a serious decline.

- How is the circulation of black money detrimental for private entrepreneurs?
- Why isn't reduction of taxes useful for sprucing up taxes?
- How do honest tax payers suffer on account of tax evaders?

- (iv) How does black income impact a nation's economy?  
 (v) 'Large scale evasion of taxes place due to exorbitant taxes'. Argue for or against the statement on the basis of your reading of the passage.

**6. (A) Rewrite the sentences as directed: (10×1)**

- (i) No \_\_\_ no gains.  
 (Fill in the blank to complete the proverb)
- (ii) None of these books \_\_\_\_\_ in circulation today.  
 (Fill in the blank with appropriate form of 'be')
- (iii) Such rumours are commonly heard these days.  
 (Change to active form)
- (iv) He says, "I'm not coming to the function."  
 (Convert into indirect statement)
- (v) None other but Raj has done this mischief.  
 (Correct the sentence)
- (vi) Neither she nor her husband was present for the ceremony  
 (change into interrogative sentence)
- (vii) They come to the park regularly.  
 (Change to past sentence to project it as a routine past activity)
- (viii) They know you, \_\_\_\_ ?  
 (Supply the question tag)
- (ix) We fashioned these artefacts out of waste material.  
 (Change into passive form)

- (x) 'Arch-enemy' means one's old enemy/worst enemy.  
 (Strike out the wrong option)

**(B) Give the plural form of the following words and make sentences using the plural form: (5×2=10)**

- |                |              |
|----------------|--------------|
| (i) alumnus    | (ii) antenna |
| (iii) synopsis | (iv) stratum |
- (v) fungus
- (C) Correct the following sentences without making unnecessary changes: (5×1=5)
- (i) Several defence air crafts have crashed recently.
- (ii) She had come here but did not meet me for reasons best known to her.
- (iii) He is one of the most promising pupil of my class.
- (iv) Cadets must get all items of clothes ironed before packing them for the excursion.
- (v) Uneasy lies the head who wears the crown.

**ANSWERS**

**1. (a) The onus of maintaining healthy relations with Nepal is on India**

Nepal is a landlocked developing country (LLDC). While LLDCs consider their free access to the nearest seaport through a transit country as a natural right, the transit countries often bargain with them from a position of strength. Given that the onus for settling the border disputes with Nepal and Bangladesh is on India, the Indian government has to demonstrate political wisdom in evolving political framework that would satisfy the national interests of India and Nepal as well as win over the domestic opposition to the LBA.

Nepal shares an open border of 1,868 km with five Indian states (Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Sikkim) and 1,415 km with Tibet. Under the 1950 Treaty of Peace and Friendship with India, Nepali citizens enjoy 'national' treatment and Nepali businesses unhindered rights of trade, transit and movement. An estimated six million Nepalese live and work in India and contribute to their inward remittances. Social intercourse along the Gangetic plane is described by people as 'roti-beti ka sambandh' (a relationship based on sharing of hearth and marriage). Transforming the India-Nepal border from an 'open border' to a 'closed border' would severely damage the traditional socio-cultural and economic ties. It would be prudent to keep the border open but manage it more effectively through mutual cooperation.

Nepal claims that the Lipu-Lekh Pass, which was mentioned in the India-China joint statement of May 15, 2015, is a disputed tri-junction in which Nepal has an equal share. India must show magnanimity and revive relations to the height witnessed during Modi's maiden visit to Kathmandu. There is widespread commitment in India for Nepal's reconstruction. India's provision of reconstruction assistance to Nepal must be worked out as a long term strategy.

India must be generous in addressing outstanding bilateral issues in a big brother approach. Apart from the issues identified above, there are other issues like three major water deals - Kosi Agreement, the Gandak Treaty and the Mahakali Treaty - where India needs to look into the Nepalese concerns.

**(No. of words: 332)**

**Words and Meanings**

**Landlocked country:** A landlocked state or country is a sovereign state entirely enclosed by land, or whose only coastlines lie on closed seas. There are currently 48 such countries, including four partially recognised states. Only two, Bolivia and Paraguay in South America, lie outside Afro-Eurasia (the Old World).

**Transit country:** The country through which goods are transported from the originating country to a final destination in a third country. In the past, transport duties were frequently charged by transit countries as a way to control trade routes but this has a negative restraint on international trade and for the most part has been abolished.

**Onus:** something that is one's duty or responsibility. "the onus is on you to show that you have suffered loss"; A difficult or disagreeable responsibility or necessity; a burden or obligation. 2. Responsibility for an error or fault; blame: Each side wants to avoid the onus of having started the disagreement. 3. The burden of proof: The onus was on the defense attorney.

**Remittances:** A remittance is a payment that gets sent somewhere else. If you get a bill in the mail, you will usually have at least a week to send your remittance. To "remit" is to send money or make a payment and what you send is called remittance.

## Words and Meanings

**Magnanimity:** the fact or condition of being magnanimous; generosity, "both sides will have to show magnanimity"; Magnanimity (derived from the Latin roots magna, great, and animus, mind) is the virtue of being great of mind and heart. It encompasses, usually, a refusal to be petty, a willingness to face danger, and actions for noble purposes. Its antithesis is pusillanimity. Magnanimity was identified by Aristotle as "the crowning virtue". Although the word magnanimity has a traditional connection to Aristotelian philosophy, it also has its own tradition in English which now causes some confusion.

**Generous:** showing a readiness to give more of something, especially money, than is strictly necessary or expected. "a generous benefactor to the University"; (of a thing) larger or more plentiful than is usual or necessary. "a generous helping of pasta"

### (b) Farmer's suicides in India: A sign of impending disaster

About every 30 minutes in India, a farmer commits suicide. Since 1995, the first year the government began keeping detailed records, about 300,000 farmers have taken their lives. The 2011 census found that the suicide rate for farmers was 47% higher than the national average.

The suicides are a well-known phenomenon in India, where newspapers regularly carry stories about farmers — almost always men — taking their lives by hanging, drowning or ingesting pesticides. Yet there are few programs to provide farm families with the psychological support that experts say they need to relieve the worries of rural life.

Recently elected Prime Minister Narendra Modi has focused on the "new" India, but far from the country's rising cities, 600 million people still make their living from agriculture, which for most means backbreaking work on ever-shrinking family plots without the aid of irrigation. However, less than 20 percent of farmers in India are insured, exposing a vast majority of the farming community to the vagaries of weather, which lead them to taking desperate steps. Though Modi increased the amount of compensation paid out for devastated crops, the move didn't help cool tempers among farmers who are suspicious of the land bill.

Many people in rural areas say agriculture is no longer profitable.

Farming in India is always a gamble. Even if everything goes well, the rains are good, the crop is excellent, still farmers cannot get a good profit. Recent years have brought a procession of shocks: diminishing groundwater, industrial encroachment, expensive new seed varieties, falling prices of cotton and other key crops, and climatic disasters. Hailstorm in Maharashtra laid waste to more than \$150 million worth of crops spread over 3,000 square miles. It is evident that farmers' suicide in India is a sign of impending disaster. It shows about 52 percent of Indian agricultural households are indebted. There is now a huge population of daily wage workers in India and their number is rising from the ranks of impoverished farmers. Farmers are leaving farming in a large number which could bring about the ruin of Indian farming.

(No. of words: 346)

**Ingesting:** take (food, drink, or another substance) into the body by swallowing or absorbing it. "lead will poison anyone if enough is ingested" absorb (information). "he spent his days ingesting the contents of the library"

**Shrinking:** become or make smaller in size or amount. "the workforce shrank to a thousand" move back or away, especially because of fear or disgust. "she shrank away from him, covering her face"

**Desperate:** feeling or showing a hopeless sense that a situation is so bad as to be impossible to deal with. "a desperate sadness enveloped Ruth"; (of a person) having a great need or desire for something. "I am desperate for a cigarette"

**Vagaries:** 1. An unpredictable development or change of circumstances: the vagaries of mountain weather; the vagaries of business travel. 2. An extravagant or erratic notion or action: could not explain the vagaries of his behavior. [From Latin *vagari*, to wander, from *vagus*, wandering.]

**Gamble:** to play a game in which you can win or lose money or possessions; to bet money or other valuable things; to risk losing (an amount of money) in a game or bet; to risk losing (something valuable or important) in order to do or achieve something.

**Diminishing:** Diminish means to make smaller or lesser. If you cover a lightbulb with a dark lamp shade, the light from the lamp will diminish. It can also mean become less important; to reduce or be reduced in size or importance.

**Encroachment:** Unlawful entering (gradually and without permission) upon the land, property, other possessions, or the rights of another. For example, a building extending beyond the legal boundaries on to neighboring private or public land, or beyond the building-line of a road or street.

**Impending:** usually something unpleasant or unwanted, that is going to happen soon: impending disaster/doom. The player announced his impending retirement from international football. About to happen.

**Indebted:** owing money. "heavily indebted countries" owing gratitude for a service or favour. "I am indebted to her for her help in indexing my book"; When you're indebted to someone, you owe that person something. It could be that you owe money, or it could be you're just grateful for a nice thing the person did. You probably notice a big chunk of the word indebted is made up of the words "in debt."

**Impoverished:** a person who lives on the street is impoverished, and a country may become impoverished after a devastating war. Impoverished comes from the Old French word *povre*, which means "poor," and you can almost see the word poverty inside impoverished.

**Ruin:** the physical destruction or disintegration of something or the state of disintegrating or being destroyed. "a large white house falling into gentle ruin"; reduce (a building or place) to a state of decay, collapse, or disintegration. "a ruined castle"; fall headlong or with a crash. "carriages go ruining over the brink from time to time"

**(C) India needs to redefine the relations between the Centre and the States**

The constitution of India prescribes the rights of centre and states in the seventh schedule (Art. 246) of the constitution. While drafting of constitutional schedule, the constitution makers did not keep this matter in their attention that if the centre and states have governments of separate political parties, in that case how would they interact and associate with one another. Constitution only mentions federal structure of government and their respective duties and power, not their belonging to any political parties.

Many times decision get delayed as states' legislations remain pending before the central government. However, these things happen mostly when there are two different party governments at centre and the particular state. It has been evident in the past when the both centre and state have the same party in power and then centre keeps giving preference to that state.

Over the years, state powers-administrative, legislative and financial were brought into the Concurrent or Union List to which states object. Even the Sarkaria Commission report has now become outdated. So there is every need to redefine Centre-state relations.

The main thing is the devolution of powers and financial resources. For example, the Andhra Pradesh Forest Department wants to sell red-sanders (a forest produce) worth Rs 30 crore for which it has to approach the centre. The question is why states should go to New Delhi for such minor things.

The centre starves non-compliant states of funds. This is the case more often when the governments at the centre and the state belong to two different parties. We must have a strong Centre to deal with defence, internal security, currency and communications. But states should be strong too to carry out developmental activities and plan for themselves. But devolution of finance is only one part of the federalism debate.

We need faster decisions, quick process, smooth implementation, convenient administration and better delivery mechanism over the ground level, which require a clear cut division of power hierarchy. In these circumstances we need a clear cut centre-state relationship dichotomy above the petty party politics. Some issues must be thought and reviewed constitutionally.

(No. of words: 347)

**Words and Meanings**

**Prescribe:** Prescribe is a much commoner word and means either 'issue a medical prescription' or 'recommend with authority', as in the doctor prescribed antibiotics. Proscribe, on the other hand, is a formal word meaning 'condemn or forbid', as in gambling was strictly proscribed by the authorities.

**Drafting:** In composition, drafting is a stage of the writing process during which a writer organizes information and ideas into sentences and paragraphs. A piece of text, a formal suggestion, or a drawing in its original state, often containing the main ideas and intentions but not the developed form: This is only a rough draft - the finished article will have pictures too. She asked me to check the (first) draft of her proposal.

**Federal structure:** A federal government structure is a system that divides up power between a strong national government and smaller local governments.

**Devolution of powers:** Devolution is the statutory delegation of powers from the central government of a sovereign state to govern at a subnational level, such as a regional or local level. It is a strong form of decentralization. Devolved territories have the power to make legislation relevant to the area.

**Non-compliant:** The definition of noncompliant is someone or something that doesn't conform to an accepted model or accepted standards. An example of someone who would be described as noncompliant is a person who doesn't listen to or follow orders.

**Delivery mechanism:** Delivery mechanisms may be considered as the set of processes and procedures which ensure that policy objectives become concrete actions on-the-ground.

**(d) Is development possible at the cost of environment?** We have already wasted and destroyed vast amounts of natural resources, and in so doing have put earth at risk. We must preserve the earth for our children and grandchildren. In any case, poverty and environmental damage are often linked. Destroying the rainforest gives native peoples nowhere to go except urban slums. Polluted water can lead to crop failures. Climate change will turn fertile fields into desert and flood coastal areas where hundreds of millions live. Developing countries have to choose sustainable development if they want a future for their people.

No one wants to stop economic progress that could give millions better lives. But we must insist on sustainable development that combines environmental care, social justice and economic growth. Earth cannot support unrestricted growth. Companies in developed countries already have higher costs of production because of rules to protect the environment. It is unfair if they then see their prices undercut by goods produced cheaply in developing countries at the cost of great pollution.

Unchecked population growth has a negative impact on any nation, as well as on the whole planet. Both the poverty and the environmental problems of sub-Saharan Africa are largely the result of rapid population growth putting pressure on limited resources. At the same time China has become wealthy while following a "one-child" per couple policy. Limiting population growth will result in a higher standard of living and will preserve the environment.

Nations are losing more from pollution than they are gaining from industrialisation. China is a perfect example. Twenty years of uncontrolled economic development have created serious, chronic air and water pollution. This has increased health problems and resulted in annual losses to farmers of crops worth billions of dollars. So uncontrolled growth is not only bad for the environment, it is also makes no economic sense.

The Green Revolution is threatening the biodiversity of the Third World by replacing native seeds with hybrids. Farmers using hybrid seeds in what was the richest part of India went bankrupt. As a result, fertile lands lay idle and unploughed, resulting in droughts and desertification.

(No. of words: 347)

**Words and Meanings**

**Sustainable development:** Sustainable development is a process for meeting human development goals while sustaining the ability of natural systems to continue to provide the natural resources and ecosystem services upon which the economy and society depend. While the modern concept of sustainable development is derived most strongly from the 1987 Brundtland Report, it is rooted in earlier ideas about sustainable forest management and twentieth century environmental concerns. As the concept developed, it has shifted to focus more on economic development, social development and environmental protection.

**Insist:** demand something forcefully, not accepting refusal. "she insisted on carrying her own bag"; demand forcefully to have (something). "he insisted on answers to his allegations" persist in (doing something). "the heavy studded boots she insisted on wearing"

**Unrestricted:** not limited or restricted. "unrestricted access to both military bases"; When something is unrestricted, it means there are no restrictions placed on it. A restriction is a rule about a way that something can be used.

**Undercut:** 1. To diminish or destroy the province or effectiveness of; undermine: "The partnership between the United States and Western Europe is undercut by diverging economic interests" (Scott Sullivan). 2. To sell at a lower price than or to work for lower wages or fees than (a competitor).

**Chronic:** 1. Of long duration; continuing: chronic money problems. 2. Lasting for a long period of time or marked by frequent recurrence, as certain diseases: chronic colitis. 3. Subject to a habit or pattern of behavior for a long time: a chronic liar.

**Biodiversity:** Biological diversity - or biodiversity - is the term given to the variety of life on Earth. It is the variety within and between all species of plants, animals and micro-organisms and the ecosystems within which they live and interact.

**Hybrid:** a plant or animal that has been produced from two different types of plant or animal, especially to get better characteristics: The garden strawberry is a large-fruited hybrid. The animal looks like a hybrid of a zebra and a horse.

**(c) Revamping our banking system is the need of the hour**

Health of financial institutions is a challenge. There should be no political interference in the functioning of the banks and they should be free to make decisions based on commercial considerations.

Slower economic growth in recent years, coupled with a downturn in consumer demand, projects stranded because of delayed approvals and hurdles in land acquisition have hurt the ability of corporate borrowers to repay their debts, leading to a pile-up of bad loans in the banking system.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has predicted that gross non-performing assets (NPAs) in the banking system are likely to increase to 4.8% by end September, from 4.6% in March, before improving to 4.7% by March 2016.

The government has already announced a Rs.70,000 crore capitalization plan for state-run banks, which are battling a surge in bad loans, over the next four years and steps to revive infrastructure projects to free up bank capital and ease pressure on asset quality.

It has also announced measures to revamp the boards of state-run banks like putting in place selection criteria for independent directors and separating the posts of chairman and managing director, and hiring from the private sector for better governance.

As the NPA-related problem not only affects the banks, but also the overall health of the Indian economy, there is an urgent need to redress this issue on a fast-track as well as a top-priority basis. And it would be prudent, if this issue of NPAs can be tackled at the level of prevention rather than cure.

There is an urgent need to implement the governance reform roadmap articulated in the P J Nayak Committee report submitted to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in May 2014. The said committee has suggested reduction of government capital in PSBs and proportionate increase of private capital, merger of nationalized banks, transfer of ownership of PSBs to investment companies, repeal of the bank nationalization act and coverage of banks under the Companies Act. The report also wants the government to refrain from issuing any regulatory instructions to banks.

(No. of words: 341)

**Words and Meanings**

**Challenge:** a questioning or expression of doubt about the truth or purpose of something, or the right of a person to have or do something: [ U ] Because of the way this research was done, its findings are open to challenge. 1 : an objection to something as not being true, genuine, correct, or proper or to a person (as a juror) as not being correct, qualified, or approved. 2 : a call or dare for someone to compete in a contest or sport.

**Downturn:** a reduction in the amount or success of something, such as a country's economic activity: the continuing economic downturn. There is evidence of a downturn in the housing market.

**Stranded:** Anything left behind or stuck can be called stranded, like a stranded fish in a tidal pool, or a stranded child at a fair. Stranded involves being left somewhere unpleasant, remote, or inconvenient — if you're stuck at an amazing restaurant you're really not stranded.

**Hurdles:** 1. one of a series of upright frames over which athletes in a race must jump. "a hurdle race" 2. a problem or difficulty that must be overcome. "many would like to emigrate to the United States, but face formidable hurdles"

**Non-performing assets:** A Non-performing asset (NPA) is defined as a credit facility in respect of which the interest and/or installment of Bond finance principal has remained 'past due' for a specified period of time. NPA is used by financial institutions that refer to loans that are in jeopardy of default.

**Capitalization plan:** At its essence, a capitalization plan serves as a roadmap for ensuring an organization has the cash and other assets it needs to manage risk and pursue opportunity. Strategic plans often lack a rigorous financial foundation. They fail to consider the long-term financial resources needed to support program goals.

**Surge:** a sudden powerful forward or upward movement, especially by a crowd or by a natural force such as the tide. "flooding caused by tidal surges"; to move very quickly and suddenly in a particular direction. : to suddenly increase to an unusually high level.

**Revamp:** give new and improved form, structure, or appearance to. "an attempt to revamp the museum's image"; an act of improving the form, structure, or appearance of something. "the brand was given a \$1 million revamp"

**Redress:** remedy or set right (an undesirable or unfair situation). "the question is how to redress the consequences of racist land policies" 1 a : relief from distress b : means or possibility of seeking a remedy <without redress> 2 : compensation for wrong or loss: reparation. 3 a : an act or instance of redressing b : retribution, correction.

**Prudent:** 1. Careful or wise in handling practical matters; exercising good judgment or common sense: a prudent manager of money. 2. Characterized by or resulting from care or wisdom in practical matters or in planning for the future: a prudent investment. Acting with or showing care and thought for the future. "no prudent money manager would authorize a loan without first knowing its purpose"

**Repeal:** Repeal is almost always used in the context of law: When a government decides to get rid of an ordinance or law, that ordinance or law is repealed. The action of revoking or annulling a law or act of parliament. "the House voted in favour of repeal"

**Refrain:** stop oneself from doing something. "she refrained from comment" To hold oneself back; forbear from doing something; refrained from swearing.

#### (f) Urbanisation of India is nothing but blind Westernization

The World Bank argues in its report that "urbanization leads to concentration of economic activity, improves productivity and spurs job creation, specifically in manufacturing and services." This has the "potential to transform ... economies to join the ranks of

richer nations in both prosperity and liveability," it says. However, in case of India the growth and development of the urban areas have blindly followed westernization.

Being the world's second highly populated country, human resources are a boon by itself. Just as the Gulf is renowned for its natural resource of crude oil, India is proud of the abundance and easy availability of its highly qualified and technically skilled English speaking computer professionals; who are keys to success in the field of IT outsourcing to India.

Young India is interacting with western society through, IT & BPO and through Hollywood Movies; therefore they're more aware of western culture and society. As the western society is very receptive, we're adopting their culture happy kind-heartedly. Traditional thinking has doomed away among new generation. They're more open to experience new thing, new discipline and a fresh way of interaction. Their behaviour is not different at home and in office, but they're coming with new ideas back home and this message is being taken by their parents though, indirectly.

Before the dawn of BPO western culture were coming to India via TV and film and the process of westernization was slow but, after the advent of BPO, westernization process has increased multi fold.

Western countries and India have very different environment therefore, we should not adopt whatever they're doing or practicing but before taking in anything from another strange society we must think and we should only adopt the thing which is beneficial for us and which could help us build our society more stronger. We might have noticed the blind emulation of western culture and we can also see the bad impact of blind imitation. There are many examples in which a husband and wife don't meet for a week. It is a loss to the culture. (No. of words: 343)

#### Words and Meanings

**Spur:** 1. a device with a small spike or a spiked wheel that is worn on a rider's heel and used for urging a horse forward. 2. a thing that prompts or encourages someone; an incentive. "wars act as a spur to practical invention"

**Urbanization:** Urbanization is a population shift from rural to urban areas, "the gradual increase in the proportion of people living in urban areas", and the ways in which each society adapts to the change.

**Westernization:** is a process whereby societies come under or adopt Western culture in areas such as industry, technology, law, politics, economics, lifestyle, diet, clothing, language, alphabet, religion, philosophy, and values. [1] Westernization has been an accelerating influence across the world in the last few centuries, with some thinkers assuming westernization to be the equivalent of modernization

**Boon:** 1. something extremely useful, helpful, or beneficial; a blessing or benefit: the car was a boon to him. 2. (archaic) a favour; request: he asked a boon of the king.

**Receptive:** To be receptive is to be open to new ideas or change. If you're responsive to other people's suggestions and not set in your ways, then you're not only receptive; but flexible. The adjective receptive actually comes from a Latin word that means receive.

**Doomed:** likely to have an unfortunate and inescapable outcome; ill-fated. "the moving story of their doomed love affair"

**Adopt:** 1. legally take (another's child) and bring it up as one's own. "there are many people eager to adopt a baby" 2. choose to take up or follow (an idea, method, or course of action). "this approach has been adopted by many big banks"

**Imitation:** Imitation means copying the words, facial expressions, or actions of another person. Sometimes imitation is flattering, but often it's just annoying — like when your little brother does it to drive you crazy.

2. Arguments for India needs to focus on imparting quality education instead of merely increasing its Gross Enrolment Ratio

- (a) First, there are only 34 million people employed in India's organized sector (2006) which comprises the country's bureaucracy, military, and those formally employed in the private and non-profit sectors (with registered organizations). Despite this small proportion of employment in the organized sector, much of India's economic growth is directly attributed to their contribution (such as those in IT, heavy industry, textile, etc.). It is just a few — less than 2-5% of this 34 million people -- who are highly educated and who can give India the cutting edge superiority to create a comparative advantage over other developing countries that also provide low cost labour. It is the IITs, IIMs, and other good colleges in science, engineering, medicine and research that provide the continuing flow of highly trained young scientists and managers. The same is true of other fields like architecture, law, and environment. Without them, India's workforce will still be digging manholes.

Second, the conventional way of thinking about poverty is to get the masses out of illiteracy and offer them some education to be able to hold jobs beyond being simply unskilled labor. Undoubtedly these are necessary initiatives. But it is not possible for any student to cope with good college studies without the right background all the way through high school. There are no shortcuts. Literacy programs and emphasis on primary education can give a valuable head-start but nothing more.

### Arguments against

Literacy in India is a key for socio-economic progress, and the Indian literacy rate has grown to 74.04% (2011 figure) from 12% at the end of British rule in 1947. Although this was a greater than sixfold improvement, the level is well below the world average literacy rate of 84%, and, of all nations, India currently has the largest illiterate population. Despite government programmes, India's literacy rate increased only "sluggishly", and a 1990 study estimated that it would take until 2060 for India to achieve universal literacy at then-current rate of progress. The 2011 census, however, indicated a 2001-2011 decadal literacy growth of 9.2%, which is slower than the growth seen during the previous decade.

The government has set a target of gross enrolment ratio (GER) in higher education of 30% by 2020 with a current GER of 20% already achieved, this target appears eminently attainable. However, India should aspire for a higher GER considering that this ratio in developed countries is 50-60%.

Arguments for The trend of nuclear families will make old age homes in India increase in number.

- (b) Today, in India quite a number of urban couples are opting for a nuclear family. The general perception is that it's always easier to set up a nuclear family after one's wedding. The primary reason seems to be availability of more space for the members of the family. The concept has many takers as the youth today consider it to be an ideal arrangement to raise a family. According to such couples, nuclear families have several advantages. However, nuclear families have no place for old and disabled parents and therefore the old age homes in India will increase in number. India is today home to 100 million senior citizens. The pity is that today's rapid urbanization has overtaken the traditional value-system of our people and shifted their socio-economic priorities. Sons and daughters and their children find no time for the senior citizens in their family. The elderly, who have provided their services and support to the society, feel unloved and neglected at this phase of their lives. Their deteriorating physical strength and other geriatric illnesses add to their difficulties. Their often poor financial condition, lack of affordable health care and the general neglect by society has propelled NGOs to step in and bring in elder welfare programs and advocate for elder friendly policies but there is an extreme shortage of age old homes in India.

## Arguments Against

Between 2001 and 2011, the Indian economy grew at an average rate of 7.4% a year, bringing in its wake increasing prosperity, jobs, and a surge in migration from villages and towns to cities. The theory was that the demographic shift would create more nuclear families, typically defined as a household with a single married couple, living alone or with their kids, rather than the generational "joint family" households that are more common in rural areas. However, Indian Census data shows that just hasn't been happening. Between 2001 and 2011, the percentage of nuclear families as a percentage of all families actually declined slightly, from 70.34% to 70.11%. The number of nuclear families increased in absolute terms, from 135 million in 2001 to 172 million in 2011, but at a slower pace than the overall population. Of the 35 states and union territories for which comparable data was available for both time periods, 20 showed declines in the share of nuclear families of up to 7.6 percentage points.

In India the family is the most important institution that has survived through the ages. India, like most other less industrialized, traditional, eastern societies is a collectivist society that emphasizes family integrity, family loyalty, and family unity. With the advent of urbanization and modernization, younger generations are turning away from the joint family form. Some scholars specify that the modified extended family has replaced the traditional joint family, in that it does not demand geographical proximity or occupational involvement and does not have a hierarchical authority structure. In spite of the numerous changes and adaptations to a pseudo-Western culture and a move toward the nuclear family among the middle and upper classes, the modified extended family is preferred and continues to prevail in modern India. The family supports the old; takes care of widows, never-married adults, and the disabled; assists during periods of unemployment; and provides security and a sense of support and togetherness.

## 3. (a) Receding glaciers

The world's glaciers are in retreat. The great tongues of ice high in the Himalayas, the Andes, the Alps and the Rockies are going back uphill at ever greater speeds, according to new research.

And this loss of ice is both accelerating and "historically unprecedented", say scientists who report in the Journal of Glaciology.

In the past year or so, researchers have identified rapid rises in meltwater and alarming cases of glacial retreat in Greenland, West Antarctica, the Canadian and Alaskan coastal mountains, in Europe and in the

Himalayan massif. They have also watched glaciers pick up speed downhill. One satellite-based study, confirmed by on-the-ground measurements, of the Jakobshavn glacier in Greenland, confirms that the river of ice is now moving at the rate of 46 metres a day, 17 kilometres a year, which is twice the speed recorded in 2003, which in turn was twice as fast as measured in 1997.

The World Glacier Monitoring Service, based at the University of Zurich in Switzerland and with partners' in 30 countries, has been compiling data on changes in glaciers over the last 120 years. And the evidence is clear: the glaciers are in retreat, worldwide, and the retreat is accelerating. (No. of words: 200)

## Words and Meanings

**Retreat:** the act of withdrawing or going backward (especially to escape something hazardous or unpleasant) withdrawal for prayer and study and meditation. (military) withdrawal of troops to a more favorable position to escape the enemy's superior forces or after a defeat. (In this case, it is withdrawal of glaciers)

**Unprecedented:** Something that is unprecedented is not known, experienced, or done before. If you've never gone on a family beach vacation but you're planning one now, you could refer to it as an unprecedented decision.

**Meltwater:** water formed by the melting of snow and ice, especially from a glacier. "meltwater lies in pools on the frozen ground"

## (b) Ban on alcohol in Bihar

Bihar was on Tuesday, April 06, 2016 declared a dry state with the Nitish Kumar government imposing a total ban on the sale and consumption of alcohol including India Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL) with immediate effect.

The decision, announced by chief minister Nitish Kumar after a Cabinet meeting, which comes into effect from Tuesday makes it clear that no alcohol can be legally consumed in all of Bihar, including bars and restaurants.

The Bihar government had banned sale and consumption of country and spiced liquor in rural areas from April 1 this year, but had allowed sale of IMFL in towns and cities.

Asking Uttar Pradesh to follow his state's footsteps in banning liquor, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar Sunday expressed worry that his efforts in ensuring a complete ban is being diminished by his UP counterpart's approach.

Addressing a convention organised by the women's wing of Kisan Manch in Lucknow, Nitish said people in Bihar are "very happy" with the ban on liquor.

"But the problem is at the districts in UP that border Bihar. Number of liquor shops in these districts has increased since the ban. This means that the shop owner will now sell more liquor," Nitish said.

(No. of words: 202)



**Words and Meanings**

**Impose:** to officially force a rule, tax, punishment, etc. to be obeyed or received: Very high taxes have recently been imposed on cigarettes. Judges are imposing increasingly heavy fines for minor driving offences. The council has imposed a ban on alcohol in the city parks.

**Bar:** a place where drinks, especially alcoholic drinks, are sold and drunk

**Spiced Liquor:** Spiced Liquors can be made from a variety of spices, and can be used as cocktails, as well as for drinking straight. Cinnamon, nutmeg and vanilla are popular choices, and some great spiced liquors (which are excellent neat or mixed) include Kummel and Galliano.

4. (a) **(Note:** The total number of words in the given passage is 402. Therefore, the precls has to be in about 130 to 135 words. Also, the heading is not required in this case as instructed in the question. Some difficult words used in the passage are explained below, although the question does not ask you to explain the meaning of words.)

In India, Shelkh Chilly is the prime example of a fool who ignored the wise advice of not cutting the same branch of tree on which he was sitting. Fools use neither their own intelligence nor of the others and live in a make believe world of their own.

Fools across the world share the characteristics of lack of thinking but absolute confidence in their own intelligence and judgement. They are impatient to make the world believe in their worth and to do well to the world. They live in a make believe world, like the fictitious Don Quixote.

However, the fools can be disastrous to the world like Hitler or the foolish scientists who gave away the nuclear secret. Therefore, the academic curricula must teach the world about the destructive potential of fools.

(No. of words: 134)

**Words and Meanings**

**Human folly:** 1. Lack of good sense, understanding, or foresight: an act of folly 2. a. An act or instance of foolishness: regretted the follies of his youth. b. A costly undertaking having an absurd or ruinous outcome.

**Incorrigible:** Someone incorrigible seems to be beyond correcting, improving, or changing. When you talk about an incorrigible bully, you're saying they're always going to push other people around. Even though incorrigible implies a person is kind of hopeless, it's often used as a light-hearted word.

**Apparently:** as far as one knows or can see. "the child nodded, apparently content with the promise"

**Cocksure:** perfectly sure or certain; completely confident in one's own mind: She was cocksure that she was able to do the job better than anyone else.

**Benefactor:** someone who helps another person, group, etc., by giving money; one that confers a benefit; especially: one that makes a gift or bequest [With the help of a rich benefactor he set up a charity.]

**Anguish:** Severe mental or physical pain or suffering: she shut her eyes in anguish; Philip gave a cry of anguish. I'm glad he no longer has to suffer not only the physical agony but also the mental anguish of rejecting this new world.

**Innate:** An innate quality or ability is one that you were born with, not one you have learned: Cyril's most impressive quality was his innate goodness.

**Discretion:** the quality of behaving or speaking in such a way as to avoid causing offence or revealing confidential information. "she knew she could rely on his discretion"; the freedom to decide what should be done in a particular situation. "local authorities should use their discretion in setting the charges"

**Immortalized:** make someone or something so famous that that person or thing is remembered for a very long time: Marlene Dietrich was immortalized through her roles in films like "The Blue Angel".

**Make believe world:** believing or imagining things that appear to be attractive or exciting, but are not real: The ideal of a perfectly fair society is just make-believe. He lives in a world of make-believe/make-believe world. Unreal things and unreality.

**Saviour:** a person who saves someone or something from danger or difficulty. "politicians of the era usually portray themselves as the nation's saviours"

**Samaritan:** 1. a charitable or helpful person (with reference to Luke 10:33). "suddenly, miraculously, a Good Samaritan leaned over and handed the cashier a dollar bill on my behalf" 2. a member of a people inhabiting Samaria in biblical times, or of the modern community claiming descent from them, adhering to a form of Judaism accepting only its own ancient version of the Pentateuch as Scripture.

**Disastrous:** causing great damage. "a disastrous fire swept through the museum"; highly unsuccessful. "United made a disastrous start to the season"

**Precarious:** 1. dependent on circumstances beyond one's control; uncertain; unstable; insecure: a precarious livelihood. 2. dependent on the will or pleasure of another; liable to be withdrawn or lost at the will of another: He held a precarious tenure under an arbitrary administration. 3. exposed to or involving danger; dangerous; perilous; risky: the precarious life of an undersea diver. 4. having insufficient, little, or no foundation: a precarious assumption.

**Vicious:** Vicious people or actions show an intention or wish to hurt someone or something very badly: a vicious thug; a vicious dog; The police said that this was one of the most vicious attacks they'd ever seen. He gave her a vicious look.

**Crying over split milk:** to be upset about something that has already happened and cannot be changed. To dwell pointlessly on past misfortunes: "I know you wish that you'd handled the project more efficiently, but there's no use crying over split milk."

5. (i) How is the circulation of black money detrimental for private entrepreneurs?

Circulation of black money is detrimental for private entrepreneurs in a number of ways. Circulation of black money dries up the capital market, while the capital market is the main vehicle of growth not only in the private but also in the public sector. Since the capital formation in the private sector suffers a serious decline, the private entrepreneurs are adversely affected.

- (ii) Why isn't reduction of taxes useful for sprucing up taxes?

There is an argument that reduction of tax rates will lead to higher collection of taxes, but this argument is incorrect if there is large scale tax evasion. The owners of black money do not declare their black income because of the fear of high penalty. If their number is high it leads to the shrinkage of tax base. So even if the tax rate is reduced, there are not many people willing to declare their income and therefore reduction of taxes is not useful for sprucing up taxes.

- (iii) How do honest tax payers suffer on account of tax evaders?

Those with the black income evade taxes. Taxation is an instrument for balancing aggregate supply and demand and for controlling inflation. However, taxation fails to catch the black incomes, and therefore taxation becomes a bad instrument for balancing supply and demand and for controlling inflation but at the same time it becomes penal for honest tax payers. In other words, honest tax payers have to face inflation for which they are not responsible. Also, in an attempt to garner more tax when the government raises the tax rate, the honest tax payers suffer because dishonest people evade taxes.

- (iv) How does black income impact a nation's economy?

After reading the passage, it is clear that black income impacts a nation's economy adversely because it leads to less tax collection by the government. However, the flow of black money in the economy brings in inflationary pressures. Secondly, the tax base shrinks and price controls begin to blunt the edge of fiscal policy. One instrument of control gets into the way of the other and makes it ineffective with the consequence that tax becomes a bad instrument for balancing aggregate demand and supply and for controlling inflation. When the taxes are raised there is more evasion and more people become dishonest. Finally, black money not only makes the policy ineffective but also dries sources of real growth in the private sector of the economy and thereby impacts the national economy.

- (v) 'Large scale evasion of taxes takes place due to exorbitant taxes'. Argue for or against the statement on the basis of your reading of the passage.

After reading the given passage, it is clear that tax evasion does not take place due to exorbitant taxes, although businessmen often say that the rates of tax is high. However, the real reason for tax evasion on a large scale is that the income on which tax is to be paid and the activity from which the income is generated cannot be declared. If tax evasion takes place due to high tax rates, then lesser rate should yield more taxes but this is not the actual case because if the income is black, taxes will be evaded. As a consequence of tax evasion, taxation becomes a poor instrument for controlling inflation with the consequence that the tax rates are now increased leading to the second round of tax evasion because of high rates. In other words, tax evasion this time is not due to high rates but as a consequence of black income and subsequent tax evasion making the instrument (taxation) a bad instrument.

**6. (A)**

- (i) No pain, no gain

(It is a proverb. The proverb "no pain, no gain" means that some amount of suffering is necessary to better one's self. The phrase refers to the idea that people need to push themselves until improvement is achieved.)

- (ii) None of these books is in circulation today.

("None" means "not one." Re-word the phrase again, this time using "not one" instead of "none." Not one of them is..../Not one of them are....

The first is correct. We're not talking about "them," we're talking about "not one" of them. It's singular, so "Not one of them is" is the correct phrase.)

- (iii) Such rumours are commonly heard these days.

(Change to active form)

- (iii) (We) commonly hear such rumours these days.

(In order to change passive voice to active voice, you need to recognize what the subject of the sentence is and then rewrite the sentence so the subject is performing the action.

Let's use the following example to understand how to change passive voice to active voice:

Extensive training on the new safety procedures was required to be attended by the maintenance staff.

We can recognize that this sentence is in passive voice because the keyword was is used, and because it is not initially clear who or what this sentence is about. In order to correct the sentence:

**Step One:** Identify the subject of the sentence - who is doing an action? The training is not doing an action, so it can't be the subject. The only person or thing doing an action here is the maintenance staff. They are attending training. So, the maintenance staff is the subject of the sentence.

**Step Two:** Rewrite the sentence so the subject is performing the action. This sentence could be rewritten to active voice as follows: The maintenance staff had to attend extensive training on the new safety procedures.

This rewrite makes it immediately clear to the reader who is doing what. The subject is doing the action. Similarly in the given question "such rumours are commonly heard these days" the subject is people/we because they are the doer or action, which is the action of hearing rumours, so this sentence has been rewritten to show that the subject is performing the action.

(iv) **He says, "I'm not coming to the function."**

**(Convert into indirect statement)**

(iv) He said that he was not coming to the function. (It will be noticed that in Direct Speech, we use inverted commas to mark off the exact words of the speaker. In Indirect Speech we do not use the inverted commas.

It will be further noticed that in changing the above Direct Speech into Indirect speech, certain changes have been made.

**Thus:**

- i. We have used the conjunction 'that' before the Indirect Statement.
- ii. The pronoun "I" is changed to "HE". (The Pronoun is changed in Person)
- iii. The verb "am" is changed to "was".
- iv. The adverb "now" is changed to "then".)

(v) **None other but Raj has done this mischief.**

**(Correct the sentence)**

(v) **None other than Raj has done this mischief**

(The correct form of the idiom is none other than [and not none other but]. What the expression means to convey is 'no other person than so-and-so'. If we substitute the pronoun 'one' for the noun 'person', we have 'no other one than'. Since it is possible for the adjective 'other' to take a following position, and since it is usual to put 'no' and 'one' together, this is naturally replaced by 'no one other than'. This in turn is shortened to 'none other than' for emphasis.)

(vi) **Neither she nor her husband was present for the ceremony**

**(change into interrogative sentence)**

(vi) Was she or her husband present for the ceremony?

(An interrogative sentence is one which asks a question. A question mark [ ? ] is used to close such a sentence. Interrogative sentences are typically marked by inversion of the subject and predicate: that is, the first verb in a verb phrase appears before the subject.)

(vii) **They come to the park regularly.**

**(Change to past sentence to project it a routine past activity)**

(vii) They used to come to the park regularly

(The given sentence is in the present form. The form in the past will be "They came to the park regularly". But the question says to change only in the past sentence but also to project it a routine activity, therefore, we will use "Used to". Used to is used for saying what is true or what happened regularly in the past, especially when you want to emphasize that it is not true or does not happen now)

(viii) **They know you, \_\_\_\_\_ ?**

**(Supply the question)**

(viii) They know you, do they?

(ix) **We fashioned these artefacts out of waste material.**

**(Change into passive form)**

(ix) These artefacts were fashioned out of waste material.

(Active sentences in the simple past tense have the following structure)

Subject + past tense form of the verb + object

Passive sentences in the simple past tense have the following structure:

Object of the active sentence + was/were + participle form of the verb + by + subject (of active sentence)

(x) **'Arch-enemy' means one's old enemy/foe.**

**(Strike out the wrong one)**

(x) Arch-enemy means Worst enemy

(The meaning of arch-enemy is the principal enemy of someone or something. In fiction, it is a character who is the hero/protagonist's worst enemy)

6. (B)

**(B) Give the plural form of the following and make sentences using the plural form**

**(5x2)**

(i) **alumnus**

(i) The plural form is alumni ("Alumni" (a plural is often used as a singular form for both for example, "I am an alumni of the university" as opposed to "I am an alumnus/alumna

university." This usage is considered erroneous and is inconsistent with the way the term was used in Latin.)

(ii) **antenna**

(ii) The plural form is antennae (An antenna is also a device that sends radio and television signals. The singular noun antenna is just one of the feelers on a bug's head — a sensory wand the insect waves around to check out its surroundings. The plural of this antenna is antennae.)

(iii) **synopsis**

(iii) The plural form of synopsis is synopses.

(iv) **stratum**

(iv) The plural form of stratum is strata (In Latin the word stratum is singular and its plural form is strata. In English this distinction is maintained—it is incorrect to use strata as a singular or to create the form stratas as the plural: a series of overlying strata not a series of overlying stratas, and a new stratum was uncovered not a new strata was uncovered.)

(v) **fungus**

(v) The plural form of fungus is fungi

**6. (C) Correct the following sentences without making unnecessary changes:**

(i) **Several defence air crafts have crashed recently.**

(i) Several defence air crafts had crashed recently. (Had is the past tense, while have is present. In this case, we mean to say that in recent years (or recent past) several air crafts met with an accident.)

(ii) **She had come here but did not meet me for reasons best known to her.**

(ii) She came here but did not meet me for reasons best known to her. Or, alternatively, she had come here but had not met me for reasons best known to her.

(We use the verb had and the past participle for the past perfect: I had finished the work. She had gone.)

(iii) **He is one of the most promising pupil of my class.**

(iii) He is one of the most promising pupils of my class. (Think it like this: There are many pupils in my class. He is one of them. Or, He is one among many pupils of my class.)

(iv) **Cadets must get all items of clothes ironed before packing them for the excursion.**

(iv) Cadets must get all clothes ironed before packing them for the excursion.

(Items of clothes is an inappropriate usage. Clothes is a plural form. It has no singular of its own but item of clothing is used as a singular of clothes. In the given sentence, the reference is to many clothes or the plural form, so the word to be used here is 'clothes'.)

(v) **Uneasy lies the head who wears the crown.**

(v) Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown. (This is an expression taken from From Shakespeare's Henry IV, Part II, 1597. Its meaning is that a person with great responsibilities, such as a king, is constantly worried. When a quotation is taken from somewhere it has to be used exactly in the same form without any consideration of grammar etc.)

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