READING COMPREHENSIONS_29

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below it. Certain words are given in bold to help you locate them while answering some of the questions.

Nobel Prize winner Joseph E. Stiglitz, described "globalisation as a double edged sword. For those willing to seize the opportunities and manage globalisation on their own terms, it has provided the basis of unprecedented growth." Taking full advantage of globalisation India has managed a historically unprecedented growth rate for more than a decade and half. Following the Washington consensus in the last quarter of 20th century, international institutions including the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund **mounted** a sustained campaign to push liberalisation of national economies and privatisation of their public sector. Empirical studies have **amply** demonstrated that the benefits of the globalisation have not been shared by all the countries. Even in the same country, the benefits arising out of globalisation have not filtered to the various strate of the population and disparities have widened. Thus, there are transparent inequalities amongst the countries as also within the same country. India is no exception to the latter. In most of the poorer countries in Africa growth rates have not registered any improvements and the number of people below poverty line has in some cases doubled. Moreover there is reluctance of developed countries in removing the trade distorting subsidies in agriculture and giving duty-free market access to the least developed countries with very limited exportable products.

The issue is how has India reaped benefits of globalisation? To assume that economic, fiscal, trade and allied policies initiated by the government created an environment which facilitated economic advancement on these fronts will amount to **manipulation** of ground realities. The foremost factor which engineered the growth in India was emergence of a self-reliant middle class equipped with strong knowledge base with technical qualifications. They pursued innovative businesses requiring managerial and technical skills in the upcoming sectors like information technology and other allied fields. Instead of the traditional industry led growth path followed by the west and other developing countries India opted for services-led growth which had visible, **tangible** results. In the manufacturing sector, technological innovation, low-cost production, ability to quickly adapt to changes, establishing word class R and D facilities etc., greatly helped in successfully meeting global competition. The automobile industry is a classic example, Strong presence of non-resident Indians in the developed countries

occupying senior management positions in several multinational corporations built confidence in Indian managerial competence and leadership. This promoted MNCs' networking with India (as also in China) with its expanding domestic market which in the present circumstances remained the only **viable** option for their sustained growth in future. The success stories of businesses controlled by NRIs in the western markets established India's reputation as dependable and disciplined businessmen. Well established democratic political framework, large young population ingrained with absorption capaicty of new technologies have all created a responsive realisation that India is marching ahead. The initiative largely of its private sector in expanding connectivity by improved telecommunications, low-cost air transportation and vastpress, TV and other media penetration ignited awareness amongst all sections of its people of a bright future and thus radically changed their perception, thinking and actions. Furthermore the entire world took note of unexploited potentials of India in becoming a competitive centre of excellence and cost efficiency.

1. According to the author, which of the following was primarilyresponsible for India's growth?

a) Well developed and implemented economic, fiscal and trade policies

b) Detailed microlevel analysis of the economy

c) A workforce with managerial rather than technical qualification

d) None of these

2. What was the fallout of improvement in connectivity?

a) Decline in travel by traditional modes like road and rail

b) Optimism was created among the Indian public about the future of theIndian economy

c) Youth in urban areas m ainly benefited from the exposure to westernstyles of management and business.

d) It made Indian entrepreneurs realise that they should concentrate ondomestic not global markets.

3. What does the example of the auto industry indicate?

a) Indian cars were too expensive for the Indian market but werecompetitively priced for global markets.

b) Investment by multinationals in Indian firms boosted the Indian autoindustry.

c) Collaboration with foreign scientists reduced time needed for researchand development

d) NRIs were responsible for the success of the automobile industry

4. Choose the word which is most nearly the same in meaning as theword given in bold as used in the passage.

Mounted

a) Increased

b) Grew

c) Organized

d) Climbed

5. Choose the word which is most nearly the same in meaning as theword given in bold as used in the passage.

Tangible

a) Valuable

b) Complex

c) Touch

d) Concrete

6. Choose the word which is most nearly the same in meaning as theword given in bold as used in the passage.

Manipulation

a) Distortion

b) Calculation

c) Utilisation

d) Indication

7. Choose the word which is most opposite in meaning of the wordgiven in bold as used in the passage.

Viable

a) Indirect

b) Impractical

c) Unsatisfied

d) Unpleasant

8. Choose the word which is most opposite in meaning of the wordgiven in bold as used in the passage.

Amply

a) Slowly

b) Intensively

c) Least

d) Hardly

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questins given below it. Certain words/phrases have been printed in bold to help you to locate them while answering some of the questions.

Rural India faces serious shortages – power, water, health facilities, roads, etc. these are known and recognized. However, the role of technology in solving these and other problems is barely acknowledged and the actual availability of technology in rural areas is marginal. The backbone of the rural economy is agriculture, which also provides sustenance to over half the country's population. The 'green revolution' of the 1970s was, in fact, powered by the scientific work in various agricultural research institutions. While some fault the green revolution for excessive exploitation of water and land resources through overuse of fertilizers, it did bring about a wheat surplus and prosperity in certain pockets of the country.

In rural India today, there is a dire inadequacy of both science (i.e. knowledge) and technology (which derives from science and manifsts itself in physical form). The scope to apply technology to both farm and non-farm activities in rural areas is huge, as are the potential benefits. In fact, crop yields are far lower than what they are in demonstration farms, where science and technology are more fully applied. Technologies that redmuce power consumption of pumps are vital, unfortunately, their use is minimal, since agricultural power is free or largely subsidized. Similarly, there is

little incentive to optimise through technology or otherwise water use, especially in irrigated areas (a third of total arable land), given the water rates, post harvest technologies for processing and adding value could greatly enhance rural employment and incomes but at present deployment of technology is marginal. Cold storage and cold chains for transportation to market is of great importance for many agricultural products particularly, fruits and vegetables, but are non-existent. These are clearly technologies with an immediate return on investment, and benefits for all, the farmer, the end consumer, the technology provider.

However, regulatory and structural barriers are holding back investments. Power is a key requirement in rural areas, for agricultural as well as domestic uses. Technology can provide reliable power at comparatively low cost ina decentralized manner. However, this needs to be upgraded and scaled in a big way, with emphasis on renewable and non-polluting technologies, Reliable and low cost means of transporting goods and people is an essential need for rural areas. The bullock-cart and the tractor-trailer are present vehicles of choice. Surely, technology can provide a better, cheaper and more efficient solution? Information related to commodity prices, agricultural practices, weather etc. are crucial for the farmer. Technology can provide these through mobile phones, which is a proven technology however the challenge to ensure connectivity remains. Thus, there is a pressing need for technology as currently economic growth though skewed and **iniquitous** has created an economically attractive market in rural India.

9. Which of the following is not an impact of the green revolution?

a) Over utilization of water resources

b) Application of scientific research only in demonstration farms

c) Wealth creation restricted to creation areas

d) Damage caused to land by inordinate use of fertilizers

10. Why is there no motivation to reduce power consumption?

a) Freely available sources of energy

b) Government will have to subsidise the cost of technology required toreduce power consumption

c) Power distribution has been decentralized

d) None of these

11. What effect will the implementation of post harvest technologiessuch as cold storages have?

a) Regulatory procedures will have to be more stringent.

b) Prices of commodities like fruits and vegetables will fall since there is nowastage from spoilage

c) Incomes of rural population will fall

d) Pollution of the environment

12. The author's main objective in writing the passage is to

a) Censure scientists for not undertaking research

b) Criticise farmers for not utilising experimental low cost post h arvestingtechnology

c) Exhort the government subsidise the cost of utilising technology

d) Advocate broadening the scope of research and use of technology inagriculture

13. Choose the word which is most nearly the same in meaning as theword printed in bold as used in the passage.

Marginal

a) Austere

b) Severe

c) Detrimental

d) Insignificant

14. Choose the word which is most nearly the same in meaning as theword printed in bold as used in the passage.

Fault

a) Defect

b) Offend

c) Imperfect

d) Blame

15. Choose the word which is most nearly the same in meaning as theword printed in bold as used in the passage.

Dire

a) Pessimistic

b) Alarming

c) Futile

d) Frightened

16. Choose the word which is most opposite in meaning of the wordprinted in bold as used in the passage.

Potential

a) Unlikely

b) Incapable

c) Unable

d) Ineffective

17. Choose the word which is most opposite in meaning of the wordprinted in bold as used in the passage.

Iniquitous

a) Immoral

b) Godly

c) Victatious

d) Just

Answer:-

1. Option D
2. Option B
3. Option D
4. Option C
5. Option D
6. Option A
7. Option B
8. Option C
9. Option B
10. Option D
11. Option B
12. Option D
13. Option D
14. Option D
15. Option B
16. Option A
17. Option D