

## READING COMPREHENSIONS\_31

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

Sixty years after independence, India remains one of the unhealthiest places on earth. Millions of people still suffer from disease that no longer exist almost anywhere else on the planet. What makes the picture even **bleaker** is the fact that India's economic boom has so far had, little impact on health standards. Between 2001 and 2006 India's economy grew almost 50%, the country's biggest expansion in decades. Meantime, its child malnutrition rate, dropped just a single percentage point, to 46%. This is worse than in most African countries. The incredible economic growth is having an impact in other ways by driving up rates of rich world diseases such as obesity and encouraging high end health services, some of which offer world class care but remain far beyond the **reach** of the vast majority of Indians. The country brags about the skill of India's world class doctors when its marketers sell India as a medical tourism destination and emerging health service giant. The truth behind the glossy advertising that : India is the sick man of Asia, malnourished and, beset by epidemics of AIDS and diabetes and with spending levels on public health that even its Prime Minister has conceded are seriously lagging behind other developing countries in Asia.

Part of the reason for **sorry** state of India's medical services is the crumbling public health infrastructure not fancy hospitals or equipment but basic services such as clean water, a functioning sewage system, power. The World Health Organisation estimates that more than 900000 Indians die every year from drinking bad water and breathing bad air. Public health experts believe that India's vast population adds to the burden, overloading systems where they do exist and aiding the spread of disease in many places they don't. Moreover, for the past decade or so, funding for preventive public health initiatives such as immunization drives and programmes to control the spread of communicable diseases has been cut. Experts also blame policies that concentrate on the latest scientific techniques and not enough on basics for the fact that millions of people in India are suffering and dying. Especially in rural India, health services are poor to **non-existent**. Current staff often doesn't turn up for work, clinics are badly maintained and people end up seeking help from pharmacists who are not sufficiently trained. India need more than a million more doctors and nurses. The government has also promised more money for rural health through its ambitious

National Rural Health Mission. It will increase public health spending from the current 1% of India's GDP to upto 3% by 2010, but that's still just half the rate at which countries with comparable per capita incomes such as Senegal and Mongolia fund their health sectors. If that is to change, we must realise that the link between wealth and good health isn't clear cut. Poor states that have made efforts in child immunization over the past few years now have better coverage than rich states, where immunization has actually slipped.

India needs to stop being **complacent** and prepare to spend on health but whenever it is mentioned there is always this debate about cost. Why don't we have the same debate when we spend tens of billions on new arms? It's hard to be an economic superpower if you're too sick to work.

1. What can be inferred from the statistics given for 2001-2006?

- a) India has made strides in reducing its malnutrition rate
- b) During this period India managed to achieve a growth rate equivalent to that of developed countries
- c) India managed to achieve high standards both in economic growth and in healthcare
- d) Though India achieved a high economic growth rate this did not positively impact the healthcare sector to a great extent

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

- a) Comparing India and Africa in terms of economic growth
- b) Cautioning India to improve its healthcare system
- c) Exhorting India to have higher growth rate which will benefit the healthcare sector
- d) Criticising medical practitioners for their lack of concern for the health of the weaker sections of society

3. Which of the following cannot be seen as a cause for the state of India's healthcare system?

- a) Vast population
- b) Lack of basic services like water, power etc.

- c) Inadequate waste management facilities
- d) Lack of funding from the World Health Organisation

4. Choose the word /phrase which is most nearly the same in meaning as the word printed in bold as used in the passage.

**Sorry**

- a) Forgiveness
- b) Apology
- c) Repentant
- d) Miserable

5. Choose the word /phrase which is most nearly the same in meaning as the word printed in bold as used in the passage.

**Complacent**

- a) Pleasing
- b) Self satisfied
- c) Conforming
- d) Willing

6. Choose the word /phrase which is most nearly the same in meaning as the word printed in bold as used in the passage.

**Reach**

- a) Extend
- b) Span
- c) Grasp
- d) Distance

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

**Bleaker**

- a) Hopeful

- b) Warm
- c) Cozy
- d) Sheltered

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

**Non-existent**

- a) Hypothetical
- b) Active
- c) Realistic
- d) Available

**Answer:-**

1. Option D
2. Option B
3. Option D
4. Option D
5. Option B
6. Option C
7. Option A
8. Option C