

Reading Comprehension _37

Directions (1-9): Read the following passage and answer the following questions. Some words are highlighted to help you answer some of the questions.

Dhonanjoy Pal's daughter was trapped inside the burning hospital, screaming for help, but a guard allegedly prevented her from getting out. "Who will clear your dues?" they asked. The 14-year-old died on the fateful dawn of December 9, 2011, one of the 94 who suffocated when fumes from a fire in the basement of the Advanced Medical Research Institute Hospital (AMRI) in Calcutta's Dhakuria spread to the upper floors through air conditioning ducts. For the last seven years, Pal, a resident of Bankura district, has made the grueling 172-km journey to Calcutta and back every single time the courts announced a hearing in the case of criminal negligence which was filed against the hospital. Seven years on, he's exhausted and drained of resources. "We are middle-class people, without the finances required to pay for lengthy trials. We **reposed faith** in the legal system. But why does it take so long to get justice?" Pal breaks down, recalling his daughter's premature death. "She was just a child," he says, his voice quivering with emotion. "If she had lived she would have been _____(3)." Most relatives of the AMRI fire victims ask the same question. "Why is there no deadline?" Paromita GuhaThakurta, who lost her mother, 64-year-old Mridula Devi in the fire, demands.

Immediately after the tragedy, the West Bengal government had swung into action, with chief minister Mamata Banerjee getting the entire top management of AMRI, including its owners and board of directors, arrested. In what was considered an exemplary administrative act, on her instructions, the police filed a charge sheet in just 84 days. They were also booked under Sections 11C and 11J of the West Bengal Fire Services Act, which pertained to flouting fire safety regulations. "The proactive role of the state government had reassured victims' families," GuhaThakurta says. "But we cannot **fathom** what transpired subsequently to slow things down." When, a year later in 2012, the arrested people started to get bail, it disheartened the families.

The aggrieved, exasperated relatives formed the AMRI Fire Victims' Families Association. Its role was to monitor progress in the case and motivate each other to keep the fight going for justice". That role it performed **doggedly**. Raja Ganguly, who lost his 64-year-old father in the fire, flies in from Mumbai, where he works for a pharmaceutical company, to attend hearings. Others came from Assam, other states and from distant corners of Bengal. "The travel has been taking its toll on us physically and financially," says one. "**But there doesn't seem to be light at the end of the tunnel of uncertainty**. Justice must be served now, not in the distant future." The total cost of travel and legal fees has crossed Rs 20-25 lakhs thus far, Victims' families say that though they were provided prosecuting lawyers free of cost by the state, most decided to hire the services of legal experts individually. "We don't doubt their (state prosecutors) efficiency, but in our experience, it is only when we pay that they are really interested." Explains GuhaThakurta, the president of the association, "The accused have hired top legal experts, so we need to ensure that our lawyers are at least equally good." GuhaThakurta's mother was admitted for pretreatment diagnostic tests and was to be released on the night before the fire. "Now we live with the regret of not taking her out that very evening."

Seen through the cold logic of reason, removed from the pain of loss, legal experts explain the delay as inevitable. Calcutta advocate GitanathGanguly says, "In legal cases, especially criminal cases, procedural delays cannot be avoided. It is, unfortunately, intrinsic to the system. For one, dates have to be decided according to the availability of both prosecuting and defence lawyers. Also, our legal system offers legal recourses to petitioners and there are appeals and counter appeals. Moreover, police investigation and witness interrogation etc. are time-consuming processes. These cannot be rushed."

1. Which is the following can fill the blank (3) as given in the passage (inference based question)

- a) 19
- b) 20
- c) 22
- d) 25
- e) None of the above

2. what makes the author think lawyers of the accused are more efficient than state provided prosecutor or victim's families ?

- a) The victims' families are fed up with the attitude of prosecutors.
- b) The prosecutors will get paid regardless of they win or not , so they are not sincere.
- c) The government provided prosecutors are less efficient than all private lawyers put together.
- d) Top experts are hired so there is less chance of winning by the accused
- e) All are correct.

3. what does the author mean by "**But there doesn't seem to be light at the end of the tunnel of uncertainty**"

- a) The congress ruled west Bengal's procedure towards tackling a issue is worse than BJP ruled states.
- b) The victims' families are not finding an end to the long periods of difficulties.
- c) Prosecutors are deliberately extending the case.
- d) The government doesn't want the case to be finished in a jiffy.
- e) None of the above

4. what according to the author could be more valid reason for the delay in the execution of the case.?

- a) The delay can lead to making more money

- b) Some of the accused are closely related to the top brass of the government.
- c) Criminal procedural cases take time.
- d) The top expert lawyers are in the process of finding a solution to bail them out.
- e) None of the above

5. Which of the following words is most similar in meaning as **fathom**, highlighted in the given passage?

- A. Harrowing
- B. sundry
- C. comprehend
- D. colliery
- E. gnawing

- a) only d
- b) only c
- c) both b and c
- d) both d and e
- e) both a and e

6. What is the suitable title of the passage ?

- a) Failure of hospitals in India
- b) An inferno singes still
- c) Government's advantage in moments of disparity.
- d) Culpable homicide of the government
- e) None of the above.

7. Which of the following words is most opposite in meaning with **doggedly**, highlighted in the given passage?

- A. Apathy
- B. Determination
- C. Deadpan
- D. Dubiety
- E. Karoshi

- a) Only a
- b) Only b
- c) Both a and d

d) Both b and e

e) Both b and d

8. What could be the possible reason for GuhaThakurta's regret in her mother's death ?

a) She was forced to stay in the hospital because they didn't pay the bills.

b) She could have rescued her by jumping out of the window.

c) Her mother was discharged on the night before the fire, GuhaThakurta did not take her.

d) GuhaThakurta was in expectation of compensation money, which she didn't receive

e) None of the above

9. What does the author mean by 'reposed faith' in the legal system from the first paragraph ?

a) He believes in the judiciary system

b) He lost his trust on the legal proceedings

c) He wants to take things on his own hand

d) The judges are in a prejudiced mind of what to do.

e) None of the above

Directions (10-17): Read the following passage and answer the following questions. Some words are highlighted to help you answer some of the questions.

There are two kinds of Bengalis—the ones who always escape Kolkata during Durga Puja and the ones who never leave. The maddening crowd and snail-paced traffic are usually valid reasons to head out of the city. But for the ones who never leave, Durga Puja is an addiction. It is the time of the year that brings joy—a time to break away from one's routine life and celebrate the homecoming of Maa Durga. It is the growing anticipation which makes one count down to Mahalaya, the day it all becomes real. Having witnessed all of three or four Durga Puja celebrations, I went to Kolkata with minimal expectations.

The carnival in Rio de Janeiro is glamorous while Mardi Gras definitely has a religious tinge; Durga Puja is unique. While it does have a religious aspect (the Pujo bit which involves mantras and offerings), yet for centuries, it has been associated with celebration. It is about spending time with near and dear ones, wearing new clothes, street food indulgence, dancing to the beat of the dhaakis, taking part in rituals... it is a feeling difficult to express in words. For five days, Kolkata turns into a mythical kingdom one reads about in fairytales.

The city is unrecognisable as billboards are everywhere with film stars smiling through and greeting revelers with typical Pujo messages like Sharodiya Shubhecha. The smell of white Chhatim (*Alstonia scholaris*) flowers hangs heavy all over the city during the Pujo. Tuni (small, colourful) bulbs and intricate light installations turn the streets into stunning works of art. The population quadruples as

visitors pour in from neighbouring states to experience the festival take hours since you can't make reservations in advance. Waiting in line at a popular restaurant can take hours since you can't make reservations in advance. In fact, people love to eat out so often that standing outside an established eatery on Park Street on Mahapanchami, I heard a hungry and **bemused** foreigner asking his local hosts, "Does no one eat at home during Pujo?"

Bamboo **barricades** leading to the big pandals line the streets so **crowds don't spill onto the traffic-ridden roads**. Dressed in all their fineries, **revelers** look forward to the all night affair of pandal-hopping. At the break of daylight, exhausted festival-goers devour roadside radhaballabis before heading home. But there's no break for the policemen and fire department. "We have been working for almost a fortnight, 13-16 hours daily," say a group of policemen on duty near the immersion ghat on Strand Road. They say they don't mind because " _____(2)".

10. Why does the author think it is a better idea to head out of the city during the festival?

- a) Because there are chances of stealing our belongings furtively.
- b) The author is an introvert.
- c) There are chances of getting stomped in the festival
- d) Because of dense traffic and crowd.
- e) None of the above

11. Which of the following can fill the blank (2) as given in the passage, to make the sentence grammatically and contextually correct?

- a) The festival makes them go bonkers
- b) They don't get time to be with family
- c) It's the celebration that matters
- d) They want to get transferred to other state
- e) None of the above

12. The policemen have been working for 13-16 hours daily for how many days?

- a) 10
- b) 13
- c) 14
- d) 15
- e) 16

13..Which of the following words is most similar in meaning as **REVELERS**, highlighted in the given passage?

- a) Inveterate
- b) Indignant
- c) Sleazy
- d) Lament
- e) Enjoy

14.Which of the following words is most similar in meaning as **BARRICADES**, highlighted in the given passage?

- a) obstruction
- b) Menage
- c) Sprawl
- d) Disburden
- e) None of the above.

15.What is the tone of the author in the passage ?

- a) Sardonic
- b) Cheerful
- c) Reflective
- d) Indignant
- e) None of the above.

16.Which of the following words is most opposite in meaning with **BEMUSED**, highlighted in the given passage?

- a) Unambiguous
- b) Lucid
- c) Unequivocal
- d) None of the above
- e) A,B,C

17.what does the author mean by '**crowds don't spill onto the traffic-ridden roads**' ?

- a) The usage of barricade will prevent the people from coming in contact with roads dominated by traffic.
- b) The author doesn't want the roads to get dirty during the festival.
- c) The author cares about the people's lives much more than the festival.
- d) The roads during the festival are empty because people are enjoying.
- e) None of the above.

Directions (18-24): Read the following passage and answer the following questions. Some words are highlighted to help you answer some of the questions.

India's leading weather forecaster and agriculture risk monitoring company, Skymet, recently predicted a **sluggish** start to the monsoon and below normal rains to the tune of 93 per cent. Given the signals of rural distress in the recent past, especially the back-to-back droughts from 2014 to 2016, monsoon delay and deficit will only deepen the farm crisis. Instead of panicking, the new government should plan for such an eventuality. Agriculture being a state subject, the central government should work with state governments to prepare a long-term plan to transform agriculture and make it remunerative for the farmer. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had already outlined a vision for doubling farm incomes rather than just enhancing agricultural production. The new government should implement this vision.

Water for irrigation should be another top priority for the new government. Almost 78 per cent of fresh water available in India is diverted towards agriculture, yet only 48 per cent of the gross cropped area has been brought under irrigation. Paddy and sugarcane, occupying a fourth of the gross cropped area, consume over 60 per cent of the irrigation water supplied. Given that Indian agriculture is prone to droughts, the frequency and intensity of which are likely to increase with climate change, utilising scarce water resources efficiently is a must. The NDA government made an effort with schemes such as 'Harkhetkopani' (water for every field) and "per drop more crop". The objective of agricultural development should not be to raise productivity simply per unit of land but per unit of irrigation water.

Also needed is a climate risk mitigation strategy for effective water management, adapting to rising temperatures and facing drought situations. Early warning systems can also play a vital role in estimating and minimising risk due to erratic climate change events. Considering the water scarcity, end-users need to work towards conserving water. Farmers should be **incentivised**, for example, by rewarding those who use water judiciously. Government agencies, too, have to be empowered to monitor water usage in agriculture. The state-owned fertiliser plants, which end up eating up all the state subsidies on fertilisers meant for the farmers, mostly work under capacity and need to be either eliminated or simply privatised. Creating agricultural markets should be another top priority, as should connecting farmer to the consumer directly via the market instead of storing in the Food Corporation of India godowns, where grains end up rotting. The Modi government has given an impetus to unified agricultural markets through eNAM and eGRAMS. But small and marginal farmers, who constitute 80 per cent of the agricultural community, can benefit from an efficient marketing system only if they have withholding capacity. "This can be achieved through offering them a post-harvest loan against produce as collateral and orienting financial institutions

to participate in the pledge loan system. Storage godowns, including cold storages, should be upgraded as per the standards _____ (1) by the Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority so that they can issue Negotiable Warehouse Receipts,” says Dr Ashok Dalwai, CEO of the National Rainfed Area Authority.

18. What is the tone of the passage ?

- a) Remunerative
- b) Reflective
- c) Suggestive
- d) Agonizing
- e) Outraged

19. Which of the following is true as per the passage ?

- A. Micro irrigation is another alternative, especially drip and sprinkler irrigation, both of which raise water use efficiency by 30-40 per cent.
- B. Agriculture is a central government subject only.
- C. Indian agriculture is prone to droughts coupled with climate change.
- D. Small and marginal farmers constitute 80 percent of agricultural community.

- a) Only a
- b) Both b and c
- c) Both c and d
- d) Both b and d
- e) None of the above

20. Which of the following can fill the blank (1) as given in the passage ?

- a) Laid down
- b) Laid in
- c) Laid over
- d) Laid under
- e) None of the above.

21. Which of the following words is most similar in meaning as **SLUGGISH**, highlighted in the given passage?

- A. inactive B. spooked
- C. rectitude D. juggling
- E. stoop

- a) Only A
- b) Both A and F
- c) Both A and E
- d) Both A and B
- e) A,C,D

22. What is the way the author found out to maximize water saving ?

- A. New schemes will be introduced by the government in the next budget.
- B. The author talks about introduction and awareness of micro irrigation systems in rural areas.
- C. Giving additional benefits to farmer, who uses water wisely.

- a) Only a
- b) Only b
- c) Only c
- d) Both b and c
- e) All A,B,C

23. what are some of the few methods suggested in the passage by the author for dealing with Indian agriculture for the betterment and easing the farmers' woes ?

- A. Water for irrigation
- B. climate risk mitigation strategy
- C. Creating agricultural markets
- D. doubling farm incomes
- E. Early warning systems

- a) Only a
- b) Both d and e
- c) A,B,C

d) B,D,E

e) All A,B,C,D,E

24. Which of the following words is most similar in meaning as **Incentivised**, highlighted in the given passage?

a) Lollop

b) Patois

c) Winsome

d) Incertitude

e) None of the above.

1. Answer → e

2. Answer → b

3. Answer → b

4. Answer → c

5. Answer → b

6. Answer → b

7. Answer → a

8. Answer → c

9. Answer → a

10. Answer → d

11. Answer → c

12. Answer → c

13. Answer → e

14. Answer → a

15. Answer → b

16. Answer → e

17. Answer → a

18. Answer → c

19. Answer → c

20. Answer → a

21. Answer → a

22. Answer → c

23. Answer → e

24. Answer → e

25. Answer → b