Comprehension Test for NIFT

Passage No. 29

Directions: Read the following passage to answer the given questions based on it. Some words/phrases are printed in bold to help you locate them while answering some of the questions.

Urbanisation is a positive phenomenon provided the cities are able to the **harness** its potential. A recently public published UN-Habitat global report on human settlements shows that not many cities in developing countries such as India have managed to do this. Indian cities struggle to manage the **swelling** numbers. They tend to have inadequate infrastructure poor mobility and a lack of affordable housing. The challenge they face is two fold efforts to distribute growth across urban centres have been inadequate and the urban planning practices are outdated.

Much attention is paid to mega cities, leaving the smaller cities largely unattended. Of the 5161, urban centres, as the eleventh five year plan points out, only 1500 have some form of plan to mange their growth. With quality of life suffering and the smaller cities, more people tend to move to the metros, burdening them further. Although, the need for developing small and medium-size towns was highlighted as early as 1988, by the first National Commission on Urbanisation, not much has happened on that front. As for the bigger cities, the additional attention and the presence of a master plan have not necessarily meant improvement, Managing a city through a single unified master plan has failed to **deliver**. The reason for this, aside from poor implementation, is that the plans are conceptually flawed.

Indian cities are complex composites. Alongside the formal city exists a large and an equally important informal city inhabited by the poor. Even the formal city is composed of many parts such as the historical core. The colonial enclave and new areas of post-independence growth. Not withstanding these differences, the master plan tends to paint the city with a single brush, favouring the new formal areas and ignoring the informal. This has fragmented cities further and skewed development in favour of new areas. The recommendations in the UN-Habitat

report do offer a way forward. The suggestion to implement the strategic spatial planning system should be immediately adopted. Unlike the master plan, such innovations recognise the intra-city difference better and help focus on priority aspects or areas. They should help eventually to **mitigate** spatial inequalities, integrate infrastructure and evolve compact city forms that will optimise travelling within the city. Simultaneously, the institutional framework for planning should be strengthened with an emphasis on people's participation and regional networking. Earnest implementation and regular monitoring of the plans are equally **vital** for reaping the benefits of planning.

Questions:

1. **It is implied in the passage that**
   A. Cities India have not been able to reap the real benefits of urbanisation due to lack of proper planning.
   B. Urbanisation is not a desirable phenomenon
   C. Urbanisation offers the solution for all the problems that smaller cities face
   D. None of the above

2. **What, according to the author, are the main components of a 'formal city'?**
   A. The historical core, the colonial enclave and the newly developed areas.
   B. Pre-independence and post-independence areas.
   C. New city and old city
   D. Planned city and the unplanned city

3. **Which one or more of the following factor is/are recommended by the UN-Habitat report as essential for planned urbanisation and growth?**
   i. **The master plan proposed by the first, National Commission on urbanisation.**
   ii. **The strategic spatial planning system.**

      iii. **A strong institutional framework for planning encouraging people's participation.**

Select the correct answer using the codes given below
- B. Only 1
- C. 2 and 3
- D. 1, 2 and 3
- E. 1 and 3

4. **The caption that aptly sums up the contents of this passage is**
- A. challenges of urbanisation-the strategic way forward
- B. the phenomenon of urbanisation-boon or bane
- C. urbanisation – a monster out of control
- D. None of the above

5. **Why has the master plan to manage a city failed?**
    i. **The officers concerned did not respond to the government's directive.**
    ii. **The plans were not acted upon in a proper manner.**
    iii. **The plans did have mistakes in them.**
- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2 & 3
- C. Only 1 & 3
- D. All 1, 2 & 3

6. **Choose the word that is most SIMILAR in meaning.**
   Harness
- A. To fasten
- B. To plough
- C. To control
- D. To utilize
- E. To withdraw

7. **Choose the word that is most SIMILAR in meaning.**
   Swelling
- A. Increasing

B. Getting worse
C. Uncontrollable
D. Decreasing
E. Moving

8. **Choose the word that is most SIMILAR in meaning.**
   Mitigate
   A. to lessen
   B. to excuse
   C. to weaken
   D. to dilute
   E. to tranquilize

9. **Choose the word that is most OPPOSITE in meaning.**
   Deliver
   A. to capture
   B. to outperform
   C. to fail
   D. to retain
   E. to hold

10. **Choose the word that is most OPPOSITE in meaning.**
    Vital
    A. Dull
    B. Sluggish
    C. Unimportant
    D. Additional
    E. Extra

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
A	A	B	A	B	D	A	A	C	C

Explanations:

1. The answer is hidden in the first two lines. The cities of developing countries have not actually made use of the concept of urbanisation.

2. The following line of the passage "Even the formal city is composed many parts such as the historical core, the colonial endivia and new areas of post-independence growth" implies that the option A is correct.

3. It is nowhere mentioned in the passage, that planned urbanisation and growth can be achieved by the master plan proposed by the first national commission on urbanisation.

4. The best suitable caption according to the contents of the passage is option A.

5. The 2nd and 3rd statements can easily be inferred from the last two sentences of the 2nd paragraph.

6. In the context of the passage, the most similar word to 'Harness' is 'to utilize'.

If you harness something such as an emotion or natural source of energy, you bring it under your control and use it.

Ex. India plans to harness the waters of the Ganga and Yamuna rivers for big hydro-electric power projects.

7. In the context of the passage, the most similar word to 'Swelling' is 'Increasing', 'the act of expansion or inflation'.

Though, in general, a swelling is a raised, curved shape on the surface of your body which appears as a result of an injury or an illness.

Ex. His eye was partly closed, and there was a swelling over his lid...

8. In the context of the passage, the most similar word to 'Mitigate' is 'to lessen'.

To mitigate something means to make it less unpleasant, serious, or painful. = alleviate

Ex. ...ways of mitigating the effects of an explosion...

9. In the context of the passage, opposite of 'Deliver' is 'To fail'.

The word 'Deliver' has different meanings in different contexts. One is to produce or achieve what is desired or expected.

Ex. He is a manager who just can't seem to deliver.

10. If you say that something is vital, you mean that it is necessary or very important. = crucial

Ex. The port is vital to supply relief to millions of drought victims...

Ex. After her release she was able to give vital information about her kidnapper.

In the context of the passage, opposite of 'Vital' will be 'Unimportant'.