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Passage No 141

Direction: Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

It is notable that power major NTPC has joined hands with oil giant IOC to set up a series of electric vehicle (EV) charging stations in cities and along highways. There is much potential for India to emerge as a leader in small and public EVs, given high latent demand. The benefits in reducing demand for imported crude oil can be huge, apart from reducing carbon emissions and other air pollutants.

The most effective way to bring down carbon emissions and pollution from transport is to vastly expand and improve public transport — buses are just 2% of the vehicles on the road. That said, there is much scope to replace India's giant fleet of two-wheelers with electric bikes. India has over 170 million two-wheelers, and sales data from the last six years show that 79% of on-road vehicles here are two-wheelers. It would make perfect sense to boost supply of EVs, especially two-wheelers, e-rickshaws, tempos and small cars, so as to **complement** and supplement public transport going forward.

Estimates suggest that by meeting a rising part of the incremental demand for mobility, EVs can lead to macroeconomic benefits, and sooner rather than later.

Assuming only about half a litre of petrol consumption per two-wheeler daily, or about 200 litres annually, the volumes would add up to over 30 billion litres. And the bill for which, at current prices, would amount to well over Rs 2 lakh crore.

In tandem, we need power reforms to rev up utility realisations and strengthen the grid. India also has an opportunity in supplying on-board electric batteries. Swapping services to provide charged batteries on lease would step-up diffusion of EVs. A power-electronics industry ecosystem would raise production and provide high-efficiency subsystems for EVs. India must not miss the bus on EVs.

1. “There is much potential for India to emerge as a leader in small and public EVs, given high latent demand.” What can be logically deducted from the given sentence?

- I. Electric vehicles are less in developed countries as compared to India.
- II. India has not yet adopted electric vehicles fully.
- III. Indians are already demanding a huge number of electric vehicles.

- A. Only III
- B. Only II
- C. Only I and III
- D. All of I, II and III
- E. Not mentioned in the passage

2. With which of the following is/are true with respect to the two wheelers in India?

- I. India has over 160 million two-wheelers.
- II. 79% of on-road vehicles in India are two-wheelers.
- III. People prefer two wheelers to four wheelers due to ease of use.

- A. Only I B. Only II C. Only I and II D. Only I and III E. All I, II and III

3. What is the tone of the passage?

- A. Sarcastic B. Caustic C. Cynical D. Laudatory E. None of the above

4. What can be a suitable title for the given passage?

- A. Future of electric vehicles B. Charging stations in cities C. Gear up for e-surge in buses and bikes
D. Bring down carbon emissions E. Save fossil fuels

5. Which of the following words is the most similar in meaning to the phrase given in bold?

In tandem

- A. Tantalise B. Triode C. Together D. Trespass E. None of these

6. Which of the following words is the most opposite in meaning to the word given in bold?

Complement

- A. Condemn B. Criticize C. Culminate D. Contrast E. None of these

7. Which of the following is/are incorrect with respect to the passage?

- I. Power reforms have been made to strengthen the grid.
- II. India supplies on-board electric batteries.
- III. A power-electronics industry ecosystem has raised production.

- A. Only I and II B. Only II and III C. Only III D. All of I, II and III E. None of I, II and III

Correct Answers :

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
B	C	D	C	C	D	D

Explanations:

1. **Statement I:** Electric vehicles are less in developed countries as compared to India.

Nothing has been indicated regarding the number of electric vehicles in developed countries. This makes statement I an invalid one.

Statement II: India has not yet adopted electric vehicles fully.

This is correct. Since there is scope for adoption of a huge number of EVs, India has the potential to emerge as a global leader in this sector but it has not yet achieved so. Thus, statement II is valid.

Statement III: Indians are already demanding a huge number of electric vehicles.

The demand for electric vehicles in India is still latent, i.e., existing but not yet developed or manifested. This, hence, makes statement III invalid.

Evidently, option B is the correct answer.

2. **Refer to:**

That said, there is much scope to replace India's giant fleet of two-wheelers with electric bikes. **India has over 170 million two-wheelers, and sales data from the last six years show that 79% of on-road vehicles here are two-wheelers.**

Statement I: India has over 160 million two-wheelers.

If the number is over 170 million, it would also be over 160 million.

Hence, statement I is valid.

Statement II: 79% of on-road vehicles in India are two-wheelers.

This fact is given in the passage. Hence, statement II is valid.

Statement III: People prefer two wheelers to four wheelers due to ease of use.

Nothing regarding the preference of Indians for two wheelers has been mentioned in the passage. This, hence, makes statement III invalid.

Evidently, option C is the correct answer.

3. Sarcastic, caustic and cynical are tones that correspond to negative passages. However, the given passage is not negative in nature. Hence, options A, B and C are eliminated.

The tone of this passage is positive and optimistic. The author supports as well as justifies the subject.

Hence, option D is the correct answer.

4. The given passage talks about the scope and benefits of replacing regular vehicles with electric vehicles especially buses and bikes. Options A and E are too general.

On the other hand, options B and D are too specific. They are specific aspects related to electric vehicles. Only option C captures the overall essence of the passage and can be a suitable title.

Option C is hence the correct answer.

5. If one thing happens or is done 'in tandem' with another thing, the two things happen at the same time. The only other word having a similar meaning is 'together'.

E.g.: A tight fiscal policy working in tandem with a tight foreign exchange policy.

Clearly, option C is the correct answer.

6. 'Complement' means 'be the perfect addition to'. The only other word having an opposite meaning is 'contrast'.

Clearly, option D is the correct answer.

7. **Refer to:**

In tandem, **we need power reforms to rev up utility realisations and strengthen the grid. India also has an opportunity in supplying on-board electric batteries.** Swapping services to provide charged batteries on lease would step-up diffusion of EVs. **A power-electronics industry ecosystem would raise production and provide high-efficiency subsystems for EVs.** India must not miss the bus on EVs.

Statement I: Power reforms have been made to strengthen the grid.

Power reforms are 'needed', implying that they have not yet been made. Hence statement I is incorrect.

Statement II: India supplies on-board electric batteries

According to the passage, India 'has an opportunity' to supply on-board electric batteries. This indicates that it has not yet started supplying. Hence statement II is incorrect.

Statement III: A power-electronics industry ecosystem has raised production

A power-electronics industry ecosystem 'would raise' production of EVs. The future tense indicates that it has not yet been set up. Hence statement III is incorrect.

Clearly, option D is the correct answer.



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