

NOTEMAKING

PASSAGE—1

Read the following passages for note making :

With the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) clearing the proposed Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) recently, the decks are cleared for the launch of a mission-mode exercise to universalise secondary education.

The Union Human Resource Development Ministry will now place the proposal before the Cabinet. Designed along the lines of the ongoing Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan to universalise elementary education, the RMSA seeks to make secondary education “available, accessible and affordable” to all 15 and 16-year-olds by 2017.

Another target of the RMSA is to ensure universal retention by 2020.

The estimated cost of the RMSA has been pegged at Rs. 42,705 crore in the XI Five Year Plan. Of this, Rs. 34,164 crore will be the Centre’s share. With the road map to universal retention being chalked out till 2020, the total spill-over beyond the current Plan will be in the range of Rs. 54,000 crore.

Under consideration for sometime now in the wake of an anticipated demand for secondary education as a result of SSA, the RMSA was conceived on the premise that eight years of schooling is insufficient. During the XI Plan, the proposal is to have a secondary school within five kilometres of every habitation. Through the RMSA, the government also plans to provide necessary infrastructure and resources to create higher capacity in secondary education; fill up the gaps in existing secondary schools; and give extra support for education of girls, rural children, Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, minorities and other weaker sections of society. As in the case with the SSA, the existing programmes for secondary education will be merged into the RMSA—“an umbrella scheme”—to create a holistic convergent framework for implementing various schemes. The additional teacher requirement is over two lakh. At present, there are around 10.82 lakh teachers in secondary schools with a Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) of 1:32. To fill the existing gap at a PTR of 1:30—recommended by the Central Advisory Board of Education—72,000 additional teachers will have to be recruited. This apart, 1.77 lakh more teachers will be needed to cater to the anticipated additional enrolment of 53.10 lakh.

At last count in 2005-06, the gross enrolment ratio for Classes IX and X—the target age-group of the RMSA—was 52.26 percent. With the government’s focus till date being on elementary education, 98.80 percent of high schools are in the private sector. Of

these 31.08 percent are private unaided schools; thereby necessitating governmental intervention to increase capacity to broad-base secondary education.

- (a) On the basis of your reading of the above passage make notes on it using recognizable abbreviations. (minimum 4) wherever necessary. Use a format you consider appropriate. Supply a suitable title. 5
- (b) Write a summary of the passage in about 80 words. 3

PASSAGE—2

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow :

There is within each individual a spark of the divine, call it the atman, the soul, the Bothichitta or by whatever name. It is this spark that energizes human consciousness..... Every individual has a unique value, because he represents a special correlation of forces revolving around a spiritual core of which he may or may not be conscious. Yoga helps us join this inner spiritual core with the all pervading divine.

Four main paths of yoga are identifiable; the yoga of wisdom or jnana yoga, of love or bhakti, of work or karma and of psycho-spiritual disciplines or raja yoga.

Jnana yoga involves intellectual discrimination between the real and the unreal, to access reality that lies behind the manifested universe. It is somewhat like the concept of Plato who said that all we see are shadows of reality thrown on the wall of the cave, while remaining unaware both of the actual figures and the light that shines on them from behind. This yoga is a movement into a new dimension of awareness in which we see the unity behind the diversity of the world around us. This vision of oneness—which the Upanishads call 'Ekatvam'—transforms the ordinary human being into a seer, one who sees the integral unity behind the multifarious and bewildering multiplicity of our daily existence. Sri Ramana Maharishi was a jnana yogi.

If jnana yoga is the way of the refined intellect, bhakti yoga is the way of the heart lit by love and adoration of a personalised aspect of the divine..... The opening of the heart centre is one of the most powerful methodologies for achieving direct contact with the divine.....

Karma yoga's aspects have been expounded in the 'Gita'. Act we must, whether it is the subconscious activities within our bodies, or the conscious acts that we perform in our daily lives. Without such action human civilisation itself would never have developed. But the major question is as to how these actions can be reconciled with the spiritual quest. Karma yoga addresses this concept. Every action that we undertake, big or small,

must be dedicated to one's chosen divinity. Every act becomes worship. Rather than being obsessed with the results we must act from what we consider to be highest level of our consciousness, inwardly dedicate that act of the divine and leave the results to unfold as they may.

Actions flowing from hatred and fanaticism, cruelty and exploitation, can never be considered karma yoga because by definition they are incapable of being offered to the divine. Again good deeds by themselves, while preferable, do not constitute karma yoga unless there is a clear and unequivocal dedication to one's chosen deity. Swami Vivekananda and Mother Teresa were Karma yogis.

Raja yoga is the royal path which involves psycho-spiritual practices including physical and breathing exercises that are known as yoga around the world. But only if they are directed ultimately beyond these to the quickening of spiritual consciousness. The basic theory revolves around the existence of a self-conscious spiritual power that is located at the base of the spine. With discipline and practice, this power can start to move up the spine, energising, as it rises, seven chakras or plexuses, which bring about incremental transmutation of consciousness, until finally the blazing light of this power—the Kundalini, the serpent power—pours into the cortex thus completing the process of spiritual transmutation. These four yogas are not necessarily mutually exclusive.

Excerpted from the writer's 'I Believe'.

- (a) On the basis of your reading of the passage make notes on it using recognizable abbreviations (min. 4) wherever necessary. Use a format you consider appropriate. Supply a suitable title. 5
- (b) Write a summary of the passage in about 80 words. 3

PASSAGE—3

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow :

To take a peek at the pertinent issue of climate change, BBC World News and Synovate, an international market research company, conducted a comprehensive survey across 22 markets on six continents.

The areas covered in the second global opinion “2008-Survey” include levels of concern among the public, what people are doing about climate change and who they believe was responsible for the drastic climate change taking place worldwide. This year’s results show that respondents’ attitude towards climate change has shifted since the survey was conducted last year. This is especially apparent in the US where levels of concern have jumped dramatically from 57 percent in 2007 to 80 percent this year.

Announcing the key findings of the survey, Jeremy Nye, Head of Audience Insight at BBC World News, says “In nearly all markets, citizens believe it is up to ordinary people to change their behaviour; the way in which global issues and personal behaviour are intertwined explains the increasing relevance of international news.”

Pointing out that the survey conducted in 2007 saw high levels of concern about climate change across the globe, Steve Garton, Executive Director, Media at Synovate, says “After a year of unprecedented media attention, it seems that extra focus has had an impact. More people than ever are concerned. And more people than ever are doing something about it. There’s a real ‘it’s up to me’ sense of responsibility.”

The survey finds out that the concern over climate change is translating through many facets of consumer behaviour. Compared with 68 percent in 2007, this year 72 percent of respondents sounds concerned about climate change with the inhabitants of Spain and Brazil at the top of the survey, appearing most worried at 88 per cent and 86 percent respectively. Countries showing an increase in the level of concern about the issue from last year are India, Russia, the US, Denmark, France, Poland and Britain.

Of those who blame one country as responsible for climate change on Earth, the respondents listed the US (down to 61 percent from 66 percent in 2007) and China (up to 18 percent from 14 percent in 2007). Interestingly, the majority of respondents in the US still nominated their own country as the most responsible for climate change.

An overall 47 percent believe that the main factors causing climate change are human causes and pollution, recognising that we are to blame and should accept responsibility.

- (a) On the basis of your reading of the above passage make notes on it using recognizable abbreviation (Min. 4) wherever necessary use a format you consider appropriate. Supply a suitable title. 5
- (b) Write a summary of the passage in about 48 words. 3

PASSAGE—4

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow :

Most of the southern and western States, and even the normally surplus States in the north-east, are now going through a major power crisis. Power generation has suffered because of poor hydel storage, thanks to a truant monsoon. Compounding the problem, States that usually come to the help of large consumers in such a predicament have themselves run into difficulties in thermal generation on account of vagaries in coal supply. As a result, States like Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala have to contend with a major shortage. In Tamil Nadu, there is no power cut, officially, but unscheduled load shedding is freely resorted to. At the national level, the gap between power generation and demand has been widening steadily, and it is due not a little to the persisting slippage in targeted addition to the generation capacity during the last two Plan periods. Power-deficit Andhra Pradesh and Kerala, which have been regularly buying power from the Central undertakings, could not do so this year because their neighbours, who are also in distress, happen to draw their full entitlement from the regional grid. Also, none of the power trading corporations has been able to make up the shortfall. The result : power outages, tripping, power cuts, and unscheduled load shedding for a few hours everyday.

If the supply side of power position is thus beset with severe constraints, the demand side has its own quota of problems for the power managers and administrators. While the overall shortfall in electricity demand for the country is placed at 15-20 percent, the shortfall faced by several States in peak demand now is reported to range from 20 percent to 30 percent. Specifically, following the sharp rise in the price of diesel, there has been a big jump in demand from and consumption by the farm sector. Confronted as they are with heightened difficulties on both supply and demand fronts, the State Electricity Boards are constantly working on contingency plans to tide over the crisis and fondly hoping that the monsoon will revive and fill the hydel reservoirs before long. The authorities would do well to use more purposefully the grid structure and the consultation mechanism that already exist. Some restrictive measures may be inevitable, but the least the consumers expect is transparency. Whether it is staggering of supply, rotational load

shedding or any other, prior intimation to the user-group will surely go some way in mitigating the hardship.

- (a) On the basis of your reading of the above passage, make notes on it using recognizable abbreviations (Min. 4) wherever necessary. Use a format you consider appropriate. Supply a suitable title. 5
- (b) Write a summary of the passage in about 80 words. 3

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PASSAGE—5

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow :

Over the Memorial Day weekend, a nine-year-old Bronx girl named Lauren went grocery shopping with her mom. In an aisle, a man banged into Lauren's left arm with his cart, tearing away part of a big mole. She bled heavily.

After a trip to the emergency room at Our Lady of Mercy Medical Centre, a dermatologist sent the remainder of the mole for biopsy. On June 10, Lauren returned to the hospital with her mother. She had melanoma, a skin cancer rare in children, and very serious at any age.

At the suggestion of the doctor, her mother took Lauren to Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Centre. Surgery would be performed to remove the tissue around the mole. On further examination, a specialist also recommended scans on her lungs and liver, and the removal of lymph nodes from her arm, Lauren's mother said.

Nearly a month later, every syllable of the diagnosis is still electric.

"She doesn't have a cold that is just going to get better," said her mother, Amanda.

Even so, no treatment has started. Two dates for surgery have been scheduled, then postponed; on Tuesday, she had a third date, for Friday. None of the delays has anything to do with the urgency of her condition, which is beyond dispute.

So far, Lauren's care has been stalled by the gnarled bureaucracy that guards the treasure of health care and—possibly—by the charged question of what services the American public should provide to non-citizens, according to her family and the office of U.S. Sen. Charles E. Schumer.

Lauren was born in Ireland. In 2000, when she was just one year old, her parents brought her to the United States. All involved overstayed their visas. They are here as—take your linguistic choice—undocumented immigrants or illegal aliens. But at least in New York state, the government decided long before they came that even foreign-born children without proper papers could receive health care.

In 1991, the state created Children's Health Plus, insurance for kids who did not qualify for ordinary government insurance, either because their families made more than the income limits or because they were in the United States without legal papers. Both the Democrats and the Republicans in Albany agreed that children should not suffer because of decisions made by the adults in their lives.

From age 4, Lauren had regular checkups and childhood shots through Fidelis Care, a managed care company that was set up by the Roman Catholic bishops of New York under contract with the state to provide Child Health Plus insurance. Fidelis says its goal is to provide the “finest quality health care to everyone in New York State who does not have access to health insurance.”

A few days after Lauren’s diagnosis, her mother said, she learned from the insurance company that there was a problem because the child was not a legal resident.

“Around the 14th of June, I got the call that since she did not have any status, her request was being denied,” Amanda said. “I never heard anything about this until she got sick. They said it was a new policy, just out.”

Fidelis said that this was a complete misunderstanding, and that the only issue was getting up-to-date paperwork for Lauren.

—New York Times New Service

- (a) On the basis of your reading of the above passage make notes on it using recognizable abbreviations (Min. 4) wherever necessary. Use a format you consider appropriate. Supply a suitable title. 5
- (b) Write a summary of the passage in about 80 words. 3

PASSAGE—6

Read the passage and answer the questions that follow :

The sharp fall in the Indian stock markets has affected investors in some less obvious ways. As the Sensex fell from its peak of 21,000 in January to 13,000 in a span of six months, it is not just that the investors have lost—in some cases the value of their investments would have gone down by more than a third. An equally significant loss lies in the shrinking of opportunities for investments, including some within the stock market. A key question today is whether one should remain invested hoping for a market revival in the near future, and it cannot be answered unequivocally. Barring some exceptions, even the experienced and professionally qualified mutual fund managers, portfolio managers, and other kinds of investment advisers could not read the markets any more accurately than ordinary investors. Their advice and guidance were eagerly lapped up when the stock prices were on a seemingly inexorable climb. Even if forthcoming, they are much less relied upon nowadays. Mutual funds, the officially

promises. Many of their once-successful schemes are languishing, having fared worse than their benchmark indices. There has understandably been a decline in the quantum of assets they manage. The fact that the decrease is still within manageable proportions has more to do with the lack of other avenues available to their investors.

Certain well known weaknesses of the Indian capital market have come to the fore and are contributing to the uncertainty. The retreat of foreign institutional investors from the equity markets has created a void. Forecasting stock price trends has become more complex as global clues will have to be factored into the calculations to a greater extent. The absence of a vibrant corporate bond market is keenly felt. Deposits with banks have been the traditional investment avenue for those seeking a safe and regular return. With inflation ruling well above 11.5 percent, most bank deposits that carry a maximum interest of 9.5-10 percent are yielding negative returns. That in turn can discourage savings, with its attendant deleterious consequences for capital formation and the economy. Only medium-term reform of the financial sector can help banks cut down on their transaction costs and narrow the spread between their lending and deposit rates. It is no doubt a welcome development that the LIC and the private insurance companies are reaching out to wider sections to mobilise contractual savings. For policymakers, it is imperative to develop safe and attractive short-term investment avenues as well.

- (a) On the basis of your reading of the passage make notes on it using recognizable abbreviation (Min. 4) wherever necessary. Supply a suitable title. 5
- (b) Write a summary of the passage in about 80 words. 3

PASSAGE—7

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow :

The famous grass courts of Wimbledon, the world's pre-eminent tennis championship, give up their mysteries grudgingly, not least when it comes to players brought up on the slow clay courts of continental Europe. In finally unpicking their secrets and stopping the great Roger Federer a solitary match-victory short of surpassing a record he shares with Bjorn Borg—five Wimbledon titles in a row—Rafael Nadal has crashed through a metaphorical wall to cement his status as one of the greatest champions of our times. That the Spaniard triumphed in a match of gladiatorial severity and nerve-jangling compulsion after four hours and forty-eight minutes—the longest Wimbledon men's final in history—is a tribute to his resilience and never-say-die spirit. If Wimbledon, with its mystique and rich history, often brings out the best from the players, Nadal and Federer feeding on each other's genius, conjured up one for the ages. For its sustained drama and artistic ingenuity, the 2008 final should rank with the very best seen in 122 championships at the All England Lawn Tennis Club. Federer may be past his peak but the champion stubbornly refused to yield ground on a court he has owned for over five years. In a match of shifting fortunes, in fading light, the relentless Nadal found his spark of inspiration in the deciding set to edge out the five-time champion.

Before Nadal, the last man to win at Roland Garros and then successfully survive the vagaries of the British summer and the capricious lawns of the All England Lawn Tennis Club was Bjorn Borg. Since 1980, few athletic feats have appeared quite as difficult to emulate as the conquest of the tortuously slow red clay of Paris and the unpredictable grass of Wimbledon back-to-back in a span of six weeks. Few great clay court champions, with the exception of Borg, have managed to tweak their game to suit the demands of grass as quickly as Nadal has managed to do. Over two years, the four-time French champion's game has gathered strength on grass. His serve and footwork have improved remarkably and his forehand has greater variety now; backed by his tactical maturity and extraordinary willpower, these attributes have turned Nadal into a wonderfully versatile all-court player. The transformation that mattered even more was mental. From the time he first set foot on the Wimbledon turf, not for a moment did Nadal think he was on mission impossible. It is this gestalt shift in a typical clay courter's mentality that was the key to his triumph, the first at Wimbledon by a Spanish man since Manuel Santana travelled on the London Underground to the Southfields station, walked to centre court, and beat Dennis Ralston in the 1966 final.

- (a) On the basis of your reading of the passage, make notes on it using recognizable abbreviations wherever necessary. Supply a suitable title. 5
- (b) Write a summary of the passage in 80 words. 3

PASSAGE—8

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

The United Nations Development Programme's latest report on "strategies to create value for all" highlights viable business models that advance overall human progress by including the poor. While the findings reflect the imperative of globalised competition for enterprises, they are of particular relevance to the emerging economies of Asia where, despite the impressive growth of recent years, issues of equity and employment generation have been given the short shrift. That the world's poor—people who live on less than two dollars a day and constitute nearly one-third of the population—can spur growth and spark social change is the burden of the report commissioned under the UNDP's 2006 Growing Inclusive Markets initiative. It argues that the four billion people living at the bottom of the income pyramid—earning less than eight dollars a day and having a combined income of \$5 trillion—bring value as consumers, employees, and even as producers when native entrepreneurship is tapped and nurtured. The 50 case studies documented in the report, including the Sulabh paid-sanitation systems and Narayana Hrudayalaya's telemedicine networks, identify five common constraints that hinder business activity in the developing world and five successful strategies that integrate them into the value chain. Among the latter are pioneering adaptations of technology and business processes that underpin many low-cost telecommunication, financial, healthcare and other services and products for the poor. Their impact on small and medium enterprises has been nothing less than revolutionary : wireless networks reduce dependence on physical infrastructure; smart cards do away with the need for banks and service providers to follow up on payments; and biometrics help overcome inefficient regulation.

Often, these innovative adaptations of technologies and business models offer solutions to the one billion who have no access to clean drinking water and the 1.6 billion who are without electricity. These bottom-up approaches lend hope in the face of traditional impediments—red tape and bureaucratic apathy. India's massive strides in information and communication technologies are not matched by a realisation of its full potential in several domestic sectors. Drawing important lessons from the current report will go a

long way in securing equity and fair distribution of the gains of development and sustaining the current economic momentum.

- (a) On the basis of your reading of the above passage make notes on it using recognizable abbreviations (Min. 4) whenever necessary. Use a format you consider appropriate. Supply a suitable title. 5
- (b) Write a summary of the passage in about 80 words. 3

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PASSAGE—9

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow :

The goal of the G8 countries outlined at the Hokkaido Toyako summit to reduce by half greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 is a woefully inadequate response to a grave environmental crisis. The scientific community has been hoping to see strong action on emissions over the next two decades and its consensus is stated unequivocally in the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The data show that the time for pious statements is long past. To avoid tipping points that could produce sudden shifts in climate, the world now expects the major emitters to engage in concrete action to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, and to fund mitigation and adaptation actions in vulnerable countries. Newly emerging economies including India are responsible for a significant level of current greenhouse gas emissions, but the primary responsibility for carbon dioxide already in the air, which is warming the earth, belongs to the legacy polluters. National carbon emissions travel around the globe in a matter of days, and as the Nobel laureate Kenneth Arrow has pointed out, create an externality that is truly global in scale. If the G8 countries, led by the United States, are indeed serious about mitigating climate change, they must deliver on their promises between now and 2012, when the Kyoto Protocol ends. They need to work with utmost urgency to cut their own emissions from a meaningful baseline.

India is a member of the group of major economies and its emissions, although low per capita, are now globally scrutinised. By credible estimates, the country exceeded absolute annual emissions of Japan, Germany, and the United Kingdom in 2007. Among the top eight emitting nations, it had a significantly high coal fraction in total carbon dioxide. Moreover, automotive emissions are growing steadily. Given the vulnerability of millions of livelihoods, particularly of the poor, to climate change, it would be extremely short-sighted of India to counterpose development and action on reducing GHG emissions. Now that it is part of the Hokkaido Toyako declaration on energy security and climate change, business as usual is not an option and energy intensity of the economy has to be reduced. It is time to kick-start the national action plan on climate change and set quantitative targets for sectors, such as coal-based power plants, that need to be cleaned up. With aid available from the G8 under the UN Nairobi Work Programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, a strong governance structure for adaptation can be set up. But the first priority must be to assess the national and sector-specific options to reduce emissions, and to achieve sustainable

- (a) On the basis of your reading of the passage, make notes on it using recognisable abbreviations wherever necessary (Min 4) use a suitable format. Supply an appropriate title. 5
- (b) Write a summary of the passage in about 80 words. 3



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