

SET 1 READING

Q1. Read the given passage carefully and answer the following question.

It was all about individual brilliance then; now it is just teamwork. Inflated egos ruled the dressing room then; now, it is genuine camaraderie. It was exuberant emotionalism then; now, it is refined professionalism. The Indian Hockey Team that won the gold in the 1998 Bangkok Asian Games and the one that won gold in the Indian games on October 2 are poles apart.

The 1990s was a team of mega stars-Dhanraj Pillay, Mukesh Kumar, Ashish Ballal, Baljit Singh Dhillon. Their fight often went beyond the field among themselves, with the federation. It is not that the current team does not have stars. Captain Sardar Singh is among the most capped players in the world. Then there are veterans like Gurbaj Singh, Danish Mujtaba and SV Sunil. But the rockstar among them is goalkeeper PR Sreejesh, who saved two penalty shots in the final against Pakistan. The team celebrated the victory with a quiet dinner at a local restaurant. Then they went back to the athletes' village and retired to their rooms.

For all of them it was the first 'real gold medal'. In fact, India had not won any big events since the Bangkok games. One man who was present then and now is the coach, Maharaj Krishan Kaushik. The current coaching team is led by high performance director Roelant Oltmans, chief coach Terry Walsh and coaches Kaushik and Jude Felix.

QUESTIONS

1. The 1990s was a team of mega stars in Indian Hockey team. Who are they?

2. Which two victories are poles apart for the Indian Hockey Team?

3. Who leads the current coaching team?

4. Who is PR Sreejesh?

5. Give another word for the following words from the passage:

a. cheerful : _____

b. sociability: _____

c. enlarge : _____

Q2. Read the following passage carefully to answer the following question.

The tiny village of Ulapur was the postman's first posting. There was an indigo plantation nearby. The manager of the plantation, an Englishman, had after a deed of effort, managed to get a post office started there.

Our postmaster was from Kolkata. He felt like a fish out of water in his far-flung village. His office consisted of a tumbledown shack beside an algae-covered pond with tangled overgrowth on all sides. The plantation workers were busy all day.

Our postmaster, being city-bred, did not find it easy to mix the village folk. He had found a lot of time on his hands as there wasn't much work. He tried to spend some of it writing poems which said how happy he would be if he could spend the rest of his day gazing at the tumbling leaves and the passing clouds. But the truth was that, if a genie from the Arabian Nights were suddenly to descend there, remove all the trees in a single night, and set the place up with rows of houses that blocked out from view the clouds in the sky, it would have given our hero a new lease of life.

QUESTIONS

1. The postmaster was first posted in which village?

2. What was planted in the nearby area?

3. What does the phrase 'like a fish out of water in his far flung village' means?

4. Why was it difficult for the postmaster to mix up with the village folks?

5. How did the postmaster wish to spend his time but what did he wish of the place to become?

6. Give another word for the following.

a. come down: _____

b. damaged : _____

c. a dwelling place : _____

d. twist together : _____

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