

ASP – 1/14

General English

Time : 2½ hours

Full Marks : 150

The figures in the right-hand margin indicate marks.

Answer all questions.

1. Translate the following passage into Odia : 25

When ecologists talk about ecosystems or native ecosystems, they are talking about a big topic. The topic addresses the essence of the natural world and figuring out how it works. Native ecosystems are ecosystems that function with their original parts intact.

The natural biological, chemical, and physical processes that resulted in Earth's rich biodiversity are, however, under threat from myriad environmental problems such as habitat fragmentation, ozone depletion, development, pollution, non-native species, and damming of rivers (just to name a few!). Altering the processes that resulted in the vast and magical diversity of life has had

direct negative impacts on the plants, animals and microorganisms that depend on these processes. The links between all of these biological and physical parts are, therefore, being severed one by one and eventually the system as a whole (ecosystem) begins to suffer. Placement of a Dam on a river might not seem like a big event in the geological history of the Earth, but it can fundamentally change the entire riverine ecosystem and negatively impact the aquatic organisms both upstream and downstream of where it is located. Small and large changes to the native ecosystem add up and sometimes result in the decline or extinction of certain species.

2. Translate the following into **English** : 25

୧୭୫୭ ରେ ସଂଗଠିତ ହେଲା ବିଖ୍ୟାତ ପଲାସୀ ଯୁଦ୍ଧ । ନବାବୀ ଶାସନର ଅନ୍ତ ହେଲା । ଯେଉଁ ଦୁଆ ଉପନିବେଶର ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠାତାରୁପେ ଲର୍ଡ଼ କ୍ଲାଉଡ୍‌ଙ୍କର ଅଭ୍ୟୁଦୟ ହେଲା, ତାହା ପୃଥିବୀର ଇତିହାସରେ ବୃହତ୍ତମ ଉପନିବେଶରେ ପରିଣତ ହେବାର ଥିଲା । ଆଉ ସେ ଉପନିବେଶର ପ୍ରଥମ ରାଜଧାନୀ ହେଲା ନୁତନ ସହର କଲିକତା । ଉପନିବେଶ ସେତେବେଳେ ଗୋଟାଏ ବଣିକ ଦଳର କମିଦାରୀ । ସେ କମିଦାରୀ ଉପରେ ପ୍ରଥମ ଗଭର୍ଣ୍ଣର ଜେନେରାଲ ରୂପେ ଇଷ୍ଟଇଣ୍ଡିଆ କମ୍ପାନୀ ଦ୍ଵାରା ନିଯୁକ୍ତ ହେଲେ ଷ୍ଟାରେନ୍ ହେଷ୍ଟିଂସ ।

ମାନବ ଜୀବନରେ ସମୟର ଅନୁଭୂତି କେତେ ଆପେକ୍ଷିକ ! ସେତେବେଳେ ସମୟ ଆଜିଭଳି ଆଲୋକର ଗତି ଅତିକ୍ରମ କରି ଦୌଡ଼ୁନଥିଲା । ନବାଗତ ଇଂରେଜମାନଙ୍କ ଭିତରୁ କେତେଜଣଙ୍କୁ ଛାଡ଼ିଦେଲେ ଆଉ ସମସ୍ତେ ସାମାନ୍ୟ ପରିଶ୍ରମରୁ ବିପୁଳ ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଉତ୍ପାଦ ପାରୁଥିଲେ । ସକାଳଓଳି ବେପାରବଣିଜ ଦେଖାଶୁଣା କରିସାରିବା ପରେ ଆହାର ଓ ଦିବାନିଦ୍ରା ; ଶେଷ ଅପରାହ୍ନରେ ପାଲିକି ଚଢ଼ି ଉଦ୍ୟାନ ବା ମୈଦାନ ଭ୍ରମଣ, ନୌକାବିହାର ଅବସରରେ ମାଛଧରା ଅଥବା ପକ୍ଷୀ-ଶିକାର, ସନ୍ଧ୍ୟାରେ ଆଡ଼ା ; ଏହା ହିଁ ଥିଲା ମୋଟାମୋଟି ଦୈନନ୍ଦିନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ । ପାଲିକି ପଛେ ପଛେ ବା ନଈ କୁଳେ କୁଳେ ଦଳ ଦଳ ଭୃତ୍ୟ ଦୌଡ଼ିବା ଥିଲା ବିଧି । ଭୃତ୍ୟଙ୍କ ସଂଖ୍ୟା ଥିଲା ବିପୁଳ । କଳିକତାରେ ସଦ୍ୟ ପହଞ୍ଚିଥିବା ଜଣେ ସାହେବ ପ୍ରଥମ ରାତିରେ ତାଙ୍କ ଶୋଇବା ଘରେ ପଶିବାବେଳେ ବାରଜଣ ସରିକି ଭୃତ୍ୟ ତାଙ୍କୁ ଅନୁସରଣ କରି, କାଳେ ରାତି ଅଧରେ ମାଲିକ ଡାକାହକା କରିବେ, ସେଥିପାଇଁ ତାଙ୍କ ଶେଯକୁ ବେଷ୍ଟନ କରି ଶୋଇବାକୁ ପ୍ରସ୍ତୁତ ହେବା ଦେଖି ଶକି ଯାଇଥିଲେ ।

3. Write an essay in about 1500 words on any one of the following : 50

- (a) Electoral Reforms
- (b) Women's Empowerment
- (c) Preserving Monuments
- (d) Begging – A Public Nuisance
- (e) An Unforgettable Train Journey

4. Make a precis of the following passage and give a suitable title : 25

In small suburban towns, experiences are more uniform and in most cases, more dull. Everyone in shopping at the same shops, seeing the same people and visiting the same businesses — often for years on end. Little changes and, if you want it, you can have similar experiences and lives as your parents and grandparents. But in a city or a neighbourhood that is growing, changing and developing, there is a spectrum of experiences. And these are the very places that attract travellers and wanderers and therefore allow and force the place to grow and expand and make room for more. Someone who spends a Summer in New York City can be touched and transformed by it as much as the lifelong New Yorker. With certain experiences, for better or for worse, 24 hours spent in Mumbai can stay with you as much as 24 years in the city.

There are the places that you long to visit and revisit. There are the places that inspire you. The places where time rushes past while also staying still. The places, like Bandra, where there is a

street by the sea on which undertakers continue to make and sell their coffins. A neighbourhood where you can stop to admire the old bungalows that family feuds have prevented from demolition and step into the ones that have been repurposed into trendy cafes or music studios with polished interiors and good lighting. The places that are constantly in flux but where you have the options to pick your own form of nostalgia. Mumbai shares many of these qualities. Mumbai welcomes (almost) everyone. There is space for many lives and many experiences and that is what makes the city pulse with energy. And, if you are a writer, there are so many impressions to choose from, to explore and expand.

5. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow : 5×5 = 25

Mass protests have, historically, been used by the truly powerless. But beginning with the Jessica Lall verdict, there's a change in the profile of the protestor and in the nature of the protest itself. Aided by media, it is now the middle class that is leading the charge. It is spring again for protests

laced with the spirit of civil disobedience, or so it would seem. The recent success of the Anna Hazare-led movement has given rise to many hopes that the citizen does not have to wait outside the doorstep of a moribund political system, hoping for a few scraps of responsible governance to fall its way. Direct action is possible and can force the political machinery to move even if it does so with an air of creaky reluctance. The combination of a leader who appears to stand outside the usual categories of politics and ideology, and a middle class hungry to find anyone they can trust with the responsibility of leading the charge on the issue of corruption, has found vociferous support in an activist media, eager to find causes dear to its constituency. Together, this unlikely coalition of disaffection has delivered what looks like a major victory for the citizen.

The desire to directly influence the state into taking specific action is a growing strand of behaviour among the educated middle class. Usually this has taken the form of taking up specific causes that directly involve the middle classes — issues like the Jessica Lall murder and

the Ruchika verdict. Following the 26/11 carnage, the desire intensified and took the form of organised protests and attempts to petition the government directly and aggressively. Aided by media that sees every cause as a marketing opportunity, the movement has got bigger, more focussed and louder. The leadership of Anna Hazare gives it an added depth of legitimacy by giving it a touch of Gandhian authenticity.

The alienation of the middle class today and its perception of itself as the victim is a product of many variables. The rise of consumerism has created the citizen-consumer, a class that sees the taxes it pays as a down-payment on reciprocal services to be provided by the state in the form of governance that is of specific use to the payer. The sense of entitlement is more pronounced, and the rise of the corporate sector in the public consciousness has created a new vocabulary of accountability mirroring what is seen in the world of business. The central role that money plays in all the sectors of our life, combined with its ability to place a material value on everything, helps corruption from both the sides. At one level, it

translates all power into assets that can be leveraged and makes its use in extracting rent seem almost legitimate. The secular language of business makes it easier to see corruption in terms of demand and supply and look upon it as a transaction where both sides win. It accelerates access to services in a transparently predictable way ; a bribe becomes the price of entry. This is true in the world of politics and business, where corruption gets treated matter-of-factly, indistinguishable from other normal transactions.

- (a) What is the change that has happened in the nature of mass protests ?
- (b) In what way has the Anna Hazare-led movement channelized the disaffection of the middle class ?
- (c) What is the role of the media in the organization of mass protests ?
- (d) How has the rise of consumerism moulded the behavior of the middle class ?
- (e) What is the writer's view on corruption ?

