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MANIPAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

MANIPAL

A Constituent Institution of Manipal University

I SEM. B.TECH. DEGREE END SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS – NOVEMBER 2017

SUBJECT: COMMUNICATION SKILLS IN ENGLISH (HUM 1001)

Time: 3 Hours.

Max. marks: 50

IA. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow: (1x8 +2= 10)

Are all our development projects truly about development? If they are, who are the people that reap the benefit of these developments? It is in this backdrop that we need to understand the heightened sensitivities and **palpable** anger over forcible land acquisition in India in the name of developmental projects. Given that 90 per cent of our coal, more than 50 per cent of most minerals, and prospective dam sites are mainly in Adivasi regions, there has been, and is likely to be, continuing tension over issues of land acquisition.

Through these tensions, not only has a question mark been placed over our development strategy, the delicate **fabric of Indian democracy has become terribly frayed at the edges**. In the remote Adivasi heartlands of India, people feel such a deep and abiding sense of hurt, **alienation** and cynicism that they have allowed themselves to be helplessly drawn into a terrible vortex of violence and counter-violence, even when they know in their heart of hearts that it will lead to their own destruction. The 2013 land law tried to reach out to these people, by undoing a draconian colonial Act more suited to a 19th century empire than to a 21st century vibrant democracy. At the heart of the 2013 law was the provision of seeking the consent of those whose lands were to be acquired and of caring for those whose livelihoods would be destroyed in the process. Undoing these provisions is a virtual resurrection of undiluted powers of **"eminent domain"**, which the 1894 law conferred on the state.

Certainly, there can be many situations where land is needed for a development project that could actually benefit those whose lands are being acquired. What could be the possible harm in seeking the prior, informed consent of these people, after making the effort of explaining to them how they would stand to benefit? There are those who argue that farmers would be better off giving up farming. Indeed, they say farmers do not want to farm any more. Why would these farmers conceivably say no if we were to propose more attractive and tangible alternative options to them in return for their land? Is it not for farmers to assess whether the project will actually be of benefit to them and whether the recompense offered to them is a fair bargain? And allow them to be parties in working out what could be regarded as a fair deal for all? But all this will happen only if we are willing to talk to farmers and listen to them.

This is the essence of Social Impact Assessment (SIA), which was again at the heart of the 2013 law. SIA is an instrument meant to assess the positive and negative impacts of the

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project and also to assess whether the objectives of the proposed project could not be achieved in some other manner, especially by acquiring significantly less fertile, multi-cropped land, a crucial requirement of national food security. When we look back at the history of land acquisition in India, we find it riddled with instances of far too much land being acquired and not being put to use. Just one look at the huge amounts of unused land in possession of many of our universities today would make you see the point. And as a recent study by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) reveals, of the over 60,000 hectares of land acquired for Special Economic Zones (SEZs), from 2006 to 2013, around 53 per cent has not been put to any use. Just because it was possible to bully uninformed village people, we continued to do so. SIA is an attempt to check these kinds of malpractices. It is also a way of making sure that land acquisition is not an easy way for the real estate mafia to make a quick buck in the name of development. The CAG study found many instances of land acquired at rates much below the market value being diverted to private builders in urban areas for commercial exploitation after denotification. The 2013 Act provided for the return of unused land to the original owner in cases where the land has not been used for the purposes for which it was acquired within five years. This is a key provision that should be retained.

SIA is an attempt to restore the declining faith in the democratic process, by reaching out to those who believe all decisions affecting their lives are made in distant, uncaring corridors of power, leaving them without any say. Incidentally, SIA is also best practice in development projects across the world. Doing away with SIA would destroy a very powerful means of what is globally termed "conflict prevention", a variety of activities aimed at anticipating and averting the outbreak of conflict.

Source : **The Hindu, Delhi Edition, 25th April 2015.**

Question:

1. What is the intention of the author in this passage?
 - a. To create awareness about aspects of land acquisition policy and challenges
 - b. To protest against the government for misusing Land Acquisition Bill
 - c. To support the farmers in their protest against land acquisition
 - d. To criticize the idea of Special Economic Zone (SEZ)
2. The phrase 'fabric of Indian democracy has become terribly frayed at the edges' refers to
 - a. The unjust treatment of adivasis
 - b. Failure of the development projects
 - c. Misuse of land acquisition scheme
 - d. Unrest among the adivasis against the authority
3. Which of the following is true according to the passage?
 - a. About 65 percent of the land acquired from farmers has not been put to any use
 - b. SIA found certain land acquired in urban areas was given to private builders for commercial exploitation
 - c. The Adivasi region is not affected by the Land Acquisition bill
 - d. The 2013 land law tried to address the concerns of the people who are affected by land acquisition process

4. What is the meaning of the phrase “undiluted powers of eminent domain”?
 - a. Taking the land from poor and delivering it to the rich
 - b. Giving the power to the poor in decision making
 - c. Strengthening the power of the high class
 - d. Weakening the powers of the high class
5. Which of the following is not an objective of Social Impact Assessment (SIA)?
 - a. to assess the possible damaging effect of the proposed project
 - b. to assess the possible benefits of the proposed project
 - c. to assess the possible alternatives to achieve the objectives of the proposed project
 - d. to assess the possible changes in the focus of the proposed project
6. Which of the following is termed as a malpractice in the process of land acquisition?
 - a. acquiring less fertile, multi-cropped land for development projects
 - b. proposing attractive and tangible alternative options to farmers
 - c. retaining unused land in the possession of Universities
 - d. returning of unused land to the original owner
7. What is the synonym of the word “**palpable**” according to the passage?
 - a. obvious
 - b. terrible
 - c. erroneous
 - d. ambiguous
8. The author uses the word to show how the Adivasi people feel that they are not a part of the society.
 - a. abiding
 - b. alienation
 - c. cynicism
 - d. frayed
9. How, according to the passage, SIA would help to uphold the democratic practice?
(Answer in your **own words** in a maximum of **ONE** sentence)

IB. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

1x5= 05

After a five-year-long process, the European Commission has announced a formal investigation into claims of unfair practices resorted to by Google. The allegation is that the company has abused its dominant position in the ‘market for internet search services’ in Europe.

One of the chief accusations relates to the working of comparison shopping in Google. ‘Comparison shopping products’ allow consumers to search online shopping websites and compare prices among vendors. The EC’s preliminary investigations found systematic favourable treatment being given to Google Shopping, its own comparison shopping product, by presenting the service more prominently than rival services. This artificially moves traffic among websites in a manner that is potentially detrimental to consumers and **stifles** innovation. Google is also being accused of anti-competitive behaviour in relation to its Android operating system, hindering developers from freely

working on Android, meant to be an open-source system. The potential for “abuse of [the] dominant position” is high in Europe as Google has an over 90 per cent share in the online search business here. If the Commission is able to take its move to fruition, the fine could potentially be up to 10 per cent of Google’s annual revenue, or about €6 billion.

The U.S. Federal Trade Commission had also conducted antitrust investigations concerning Google, but the company agreed to make certain changes in its manner of operation and the investigation was ultimately settled with no formal complaint being made. The Competition Commission of India has found Google to be in a “dominant position” in the market for online search advertising. The CCI is investigating whether Google is abusing this position.

In India, complaints have been filed over alleged discriminatory practices in its search advertising services. These involve the manipulation of search algorithms in such a manner that Google promotes its own search partners by mixing the results of its vertical partners with its generic, horizontal web search results. For instance, Google’s vertical search partners such as YouTube, Google News and Google Maps will appear predominantly, irrespective of whether it is a generic horizontal search or it is the most popular or relevant result. Another complaint was that Google’s User Safety and AdWords Policy was arbitrary, vague and one-sided, letting it terminate advertisement campaigns. Google undoubtedly has come to have a major influence on a large section of the global population. There is a clear case today to argue that Google should make its policies more transparent. But given **the confidentiality issues at stake**, this is unlikely to happen in the near future.

●Source: The Hindu, Delhi Edition, 22nd April

1. Which of the following is the synonym of the word “stifles”?
 - a) Impedes
 - b) Encourages
 - c) Slanders
 - d) idiosyncratic
2. Which of the following **is true** according to the passage?
 - a) Google has a major influence on the large chunk of population.
 - b) Google is found to have a dominant position in the market for online search advertising
 - c) Google is found guilty of anti-competitive behaviour in relation to its Android operating systems
 - d) All of the above
3. Which of the following is **not true** according to the passage?
 - a) Whenever one searches in Google, he or she gets the results mainly from YouTube, maps etc.
 - b) Accusations have been made on Google for anti competitive behavior.
 - c) U.S. Federal Trade Commission took a strict action against Google.
 - d) Allegations have been made on Google for misusing its dominance in the market.
4. Which of the following can be inferred from “**confidentiality issues at stake**”?
 - a) An issue related to Google and other search providers
 - b) Confidential Issues related national security threat
 - c) Google Servers all over world are at stake
 - d) Policies practiced by Google will be at threat.

5. Google is being accused of which of the following ?

- a) anti-competitive behaviour
- b) Biased behaviour
- c) Misusing its position in market
- d) All of the above

II. Fill in the blanks by choosing the right word from the brackets: (½ x10 = 05)

1. _____ on the part of a powerful nation has often been the primary cause for a major war. (dissolution/ intransigence/ abeyance)
2. The new teacher thought that teaching teenagers would be child's play, but their unruly and rebellious behaviour quickly _____ her of that notion. (condoned/ castigated/ disabused)
3. Though he had chosen a/an _____ lifestyle for himself, he was never critical of those who chose a flamboyant way of living. (austere/dormant/ banal)
4. A truly _____ speaker, by means of his sheer scholarship, easily overshadows a pedantic one. (erudite/ iconoclastic/ ingenuous)
5. Romantic proposals from two handsome and eligible admirers left the gullible young lady bewildered and _____. (obdurate/ pervasive/ irresolute)
6. A good debater never _____ when it comes to his stand regarding the topic of discussion. (implodes/ vacillates/ plummets)
7. When we speak about the possibility of India emerging as a superpower in 2025, we must also find a way to ameliorate the state of _____ in our country today. (equanimity/ indigence/ propensity)
8. Invalids are generally prescribed a stay at the seaside, as the fresh sea breeze is considered to be quite _____. (recalcitrant/ ebullient/ salubrious)
9. Excessively strict parenting generally _____ resentful and rebellious behaviour in young children. (proliferates/ engenders/ precipitates)
10. With encyclopedias in every classroom, teachers will be able to _____ information to all the students. (apprise/disseminate/elicit)

III. Identify the grammatically correct sentence among the following: (½ x10 = 05)

1. A) My colleague and friend has gone abroad for a convention.
B) My colleague and friend have gone abroad for a convention.
C) My colleague and friend are going abroad for a convention.
2. A) Let's all applaud because everyone present here are unique.
B) Let's all applaud because everyone being present here is unique.
C) Let's all applaud because everyone present here is unique.
3. A) For a lively atmosphere, either the teacher or the classmates needs to be interesting.
B) For a lively atmosphere, either the teacher or the classmates need to be interesting.
C) For a lively atmosphere, either the classmates or the teacher need to be interesting.

4. A) The jury have decided to ask for an adjournment of the case.
B) The jury has decided to ask for an adjournment of the case.
C) The juries has decided to ask for an adjournment of the case.
5. A) The brigadier as well as the soldiers is responsible for this.
B) The brigadier as well as the soldiers are responsible for this.
C) The brigadier as well as the soldiers take responsibility for this.
6. A) The opponent told me that he forgot the rules of the game.
B) The opponent told me that he was forgetting the rules of the game.
C) The opponent told me that he had forgotten the rules of the game.
7. A) The procedure to make travel bookings has been changed.
B) The procedure to make travel bookings have been changed.
C) The procedures to make travel bookings has been changed.
8. A) I have studied for six hours in the library yesterday.
B) I had studied for six hours in the library yesterday.
C) I studied for six hours in the library yesterday.
9. A) To maintain good health I am always eating rice and curds.
B) To maintain good health I am eating only rice and curds every day.
C) To maintain good health I always eat rice and curds.
10. A) He should be felicitated as he is working in this office since 1990.
B) He should be felicitated as he worked in this office since 1990.
C) He should be felicitated as he has been working in this office since 1990.

IV. Answer any TWO of the following questions in about 200-300 words: (05x2=10)

1. Is there a disparity between objectives and achievement in the schooling system? Explain in the context of 'Education on Education'
2. 'A people that values its privileges above its principles soon loses both'. Do you agree with this comment in the context of the views expressed by Mr. Narayana Murthy? Elaborate.
3. Is science the sole answer to the future of human beings? Analyze in the context of the text extracts 'Value-added Life' and 'New Frontiers and New Challenges'.
4. 'It is necessary to see beyond what meets the eye'. Your views on this comment in the context of two Poems 'A Poem for Everyman' and 'Writing a Curriculum Vitae'.

V. Read the following extract from the speech given by Dr. Shashi Tharoor, an Indian politician and a former diplomat, on 'A Well Educated Mind Vs a Well Formed Mind' at TEDxGateway 2013 and write a response (your views) in about 150-200 words. (5)

I'm here to talk to you about Indian education, higher education in particular. But I'm actually going to start with demography.

We are an amazingly young country. In fact, if you just take the age group from 10 to 19, there are 226 million Indians, poised, in other words, to enter higher education, going through school and ready for higher education. Now this is amazing because it's happening at the time when the rest of the world is aging. Right? If you look at the average age in India today, it's 28. By 2020, the average age in Japan is going to be 47, in China it's going to be heading well past 40, Europe, 46, the United States, youthful US, also 40, and India's average age is going to be 29.

So we are potentially the people who are the youthful, productive, dynamic, young population, ready to work, and transform the world, the kinds of role that, say, China played in the last generation could be ours in the next. In fact, International Labor Organization has worked out that by 2020, we'll have 160 million people in the age group of starting work — 20 to 24 is what they calculate — and China will only have 94 million, at the same time. So we really are poised to do that. But do we have the ability to equip the people to take advantage of this, to be the workforce of the work engine for the world? See, if we get it right, we educate and train them, we really transform not just our own economy and our society, but the world.

If we get it wrong, the demographic dividend that I'm talking about becomes a demographic disaster. Because, we've already seen in 165 of our 625 districts what happens when unemployed, frustrated, undereducated young men become prey to the blandishments of the Maoists and prey to the gun and the bullet. So education in our country is not just a social or economic issue, it's even a national security issue. We've got to equip our people to take advantage of what the 21st century offers them.

Now this is the story in a nutshell: 4 E's, Expansion with our first priority in education. Why? Because the British left us in 1947, with a 16% literacy rate. We had 26 universities, fewer than 700 colleges. So obviously, expansion was essential; we've gone right from that 16% to 74% literacy today, we've gone from 26 universities to 650 universities. We've also had to fight for the second E of Equity. That is, including the excluded from the education, trying to reach out to the unreached, the people who didn't get a fair share in education for reasons they couldn't help: gender, caste, region, religion, all sorts people got left out of system. We had to bring them in. And that became a big challenge and a priority for education. The third E is the E of Excellence. Obviously, you need quality. But, for the IITs, the IIMs, a few good institutions, I'm sure you could all pick your few around the country, these have tended to be islands of excellence floating on the sea of mediocrity. The average Indian higher education institution is simply not of the quality that you and I, all of us, would like to see. And that ties into the fourth E: Employability. Talk to employers, talk to CEOs, what would they tell you? That they're simply not satisfied with the quality of the graduates they're getting. Half a million engineering graduates a year, but if you talk, for example, to the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, they did a survey, 64% of employers are not satisfied with the quality of graduates they're getting.

Now, that's the scale of the challenge that we face. What are we doing about it? A great deal needs to be done. Our expansion hasn't gone enough. We haven't managed to get everyone to stay in the system. Some of them actually need vocational training. They're not all going to become white collar clerks, or officials, or IAS officers, right? So we need to try and catch them, and get them into vocational training.

But how do you do that in a culture where, for 3,000 years, if you wanted to become a cobbler or a carpenter, you'd better have an uncle or father who's a cobbler or a carpenter, because nobody else is going to teach you. The transmission of knowledge, of trade craft in our country, has always been through the gene pool, the one reason why the sons of politicians tend to be politicians also, you know. And with the Bollywood movies stars, same story.

So we need to get master craftsmen. Why is it with a country of 1.2 billion people that we should have a nationwide shortage of masons, of plumbers, of certified electricians? But this is a task that the government alone can't achieve. You know, innovation requires new ways of thinking. New ways of thinking means learning to think out of the box, learning to create, I know we're famous for "jugaad", right? If you Google the word 'frugal innovation', and top 20 hits will all relate to Indian inventions. We invented the world's cheapest electrocardiogram, the simplest and cheapest EKG, the cheapest insulin injection, the world's cheapest small car, the TATA Nano, but all these have been things invented elsewhere that we have stripped down, made more affordable, more replicable, more relevant to our conditions.

We need to do things that others haven't done before, which we used to do in our culture, we're the land that invented the zero. Remember how the Romans used to write their numerals in long strings of letters, until an Indian thought of the idea of zero emerging from the notion of "śūnyatā". The concept zero or "śūnya" transformed global mathematics. We need to think like that again; we need to come up with ideas. With 17% of the world's brains, why do we only have 2.8% of the world's research output coming out of our country?

Well, perhaps we need to start in the classroom. Get our kids, not just to have their heads filled full of facts, and textbook materials, and teachers' lectures. Because frankly, that gives you a well-filled mind, but in the era of the Internet, you don't need a well-filled mind, you've got Google, right? Find out everything you want with 2 clicks of the mouse.

What you need is a well-formed mind. A mind that reacts to unfamiliar facts and details that can actually synthesize information that it hasn't studied before. A mind, in other words, that can react to the bigger examination called 'life', which doesn't actually only give you the things you're prepared for. And for that you need a mind that's shaped by original thinking, a mind that doesn't just ask the teacher, "Why?", but "Why not?"

VI. Write an Essay (500-600 words) on any ONE of the following:

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1. National Language for India
2. Gender Discrimination in Today's World
3. Digital Lives- is it empowering or an escape from reality?