

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions following it.

Unit-6: Lesson-5(A)

Bhutan is called the Jewel of the Eastern Himalayas. This small, landlocked country is located along the southern slopes of the Himalayan range, bounded by Tibet in the North and India from the other sides. The official name of Bhutan is *Druk-yul* which means 'land of the thunder dragon'. It earned this name because of the fierce storms that often roll in from the Himalayas. The country has an area of 38,394 and a population of 716,896. Since it is cut off from the rest of the world by the Great Himalayas, a unique culture and tradition based on gentle Buddhist beliefs have evolved over time.

Bhutanese men wear *Gho* - a knee length robe - and women wear *Kira* - a sheet like cloth piece. Bhutanese houses are built from mud and stone, with wooden shingle roof. The Bhutanese never use iron nails in their buildings. Usually, the Bhutanese build each other's houses by exchanging labour within the community. Different Festivals are celebrated all year round in Bhutan. The festivals reflect colourful masks and the rich Bhutanese culture. Dances are performed by the Buddhist monks to protect the valleys and ward off evil spirits. The main religious festival is called *Tshechus*. The teachings of Lord Buddha are enacted through mask dances for three-five days in the courtyard of the monasteries. People attend these events in their best clothes, with picnic baskets. Another major festival is called *Losar*. It is celebrated on Lunar New Year. People cook special dishes and wear new clothes. It is a time for family get together. Men play archery or darts while women sing and dance.

Pure mountain air, crystal blue skies and pristine vegetation cover have made this small country an ideal destination for the environment lovers. The ecosystem of this small nation supports the existence of rich flora and fauna which are protected by strict laws. Even, anyone found guilty of killing a black-necked crane could be sentenced to life in prison.

The government of Bhutan has taken a number of steps to protect its bio-diversity. Bhutan is the first country in the world with specific constitutional obligations on its people to protect the environment. As per the constitution, at least 60 percent of the country must remain under forest cover at all times. Efforts are also taken to protect the nation against the intrusion of foreign cultures and values. The first foreign tourists were allowed into Bhutan in 1974. Now, tourism is encouraged but is controlled and limited to about 6,000 visitors a year. Bhutan is one of the last countries in the world to introduce television and the Internet to its people. The government lifted a ban on TV and the Internet only in 1999. The Bhutanese government has made it mandatory for all Bhutanese to wear only their national dress in public.

Finally, the most interesting fact about Bhutan is that they are the only country that measures success in Gross National Happiness rather than Gross National Product! In 2006, Business Week rated Bhutan as the happiest country in Asia and the eighth happiest country in the world.

1. Choose the best answer from the alternatives.

1×7=7

a. People celebrate Losar by —.

- (i) cooking special dishes and wearing new clothes
 (ii) having chess and badminton
 (iii) having a trip to the neighbouring households
 (iv) harvesting crops
- b. The first foreign tourists were permitted to Bhutan in —.**
 (i) 1947 (ii) 1974 (iii) 1927 (iv) 1972
- c. In Bhutan — of the country must remain under forest cover.**
 (i) 50% (ii) 55% (iii) 60% (iv) 65%
- d. Bhutanese houses are — mud and stone with wooden roof.**
 (i) building (ii) built by (iii) build by (iv) built from
- e. The progress of Bhutan as a nation is measured by —.**
 (i) GNP (ii) Gross National Happiness
 (iii) Gross National Income (iv) Per Capita Income
- f. Bhutan has an area of — Sq kms.**
 (i) 18394 (ii) 28394 (iii) 38394 (iv) 38384
- g. The population of Bhutan is —.**
 (i) 716896 (ii) 715896 (iii) 716869 (iv) 176986

Extra Practices

- h. The Bhutanese never use — in their buildings.**
 (i) iron (ii) iron nails (iii) wood (iv) wooden nails
- i. The Bhutanese build each other people's houses by exchanging _ the community.**
 (i) labour outside (ii) labour within (iii) money within (iv) money outside
- j. The govt lifted a ban on — only in 1999.**
 (i) Television (ii) The Internet
 (iii) The television and the Internet (iv) Internet and Computer
- k. The progress of Bhutan as a nation is measured by —.**
 (i) Gross National Income (ii) Gross National Product
 (iii) Per Capita (iv) Gross National Happiness

l. Bhutanese houses are built from——.

- (i) mud, stone, woods with iron nails (ii) a sheet of cloth and wooden roof
 (iii) mud and stone with wooden roof (iv) bamboo and wood

m. As per the constitutional obligation imposed by the Bhutanese government ——.

- (i) 60% of the country must remain under forest cover.
 (ii) foreign nationals are not allowed to visit Bhutan still now.
 (iii) no citizen can use the Internet in their houses.
 (iv) people must always wear traditional Bhutanese clothes.

n. The first foreign tourists were permitted into Bhutan in ——.

- (i) 1947 (ii) 1974 (iii) 1927 (iv) 1972

o. People celebrate Losar by ——.

- (i) cooking special dishes and wearing new clothes
 (ii) having chess and badminton
 (iii) having a trip to the neighbouring households
 (iv) harvesting crops

p. What is called the Jewel of the Eastern Himalayas?

- (i) Bhutan (ii) Nepal (iii) India (iv) Bangladesh

q. It is bounded by Tibet -----.

- (i) in the East (ii) in the South (iii) in the North (iv) in the West

(r) What geographical feature creates a natural barrier that isolates Bhutan from the rest of the world?

- (i) Ganges River (ii) Sahara Desert (iii) Great Himalayas (iv) Yangtze River

(S) Which festival involves dances performed by Buddhist monks to protect the valleys and ward off evil spirits?

- (i) Diwali (ii) Tshechus (iii) Navratri (iv) Eid al-Fitr

(t) Bhutan is unique in measuring its success using which of the following concepts?

- (i) Gross Domestic Product (ii) Gross National Happiness
 (iii) Economic Growth Rate (iv) Foreign Investment Index

(u) Bhutanese architecture strictly prohibits the use of which material in building construction?

- (i) Wood (ii) Concrete (iii) Stone (iv) Iron nails

(v) The word 'Fierce' is similar to –

- (i) Fire (ii) Wild (iii) Calm (iv) Numerous

- (w) What factor led to Bhutan's nickname "Land of the Thunder Dragon"?
- (i) Frequent thunderstorms (ii) Dragon-shaped mountains
(iii) Mythical dragon sightings (iv) Fierce storms from the Himalayas
- (x) Which festival is celebrated during the Lunar New Year in Bhutan and involves special dishes and family gatherings?
- (i) Losar (ii) Tshechus (iii) Diwali (iv) Navratri

2. Answer the following questions.

2×5 = 10

- a. How is the progress of Bhutan measured?
- b. How is Loser celebrated?
- c. When did the govt lift a ban on TV and the Internet?
- d. What is mandatory for all Bhutanese?
- e. Which materials are Bhutanese houses built from?

Extra Practices

- f. What do the festivals reflect?
 - g. How do the Bhutanese build each other houses?
 - h. What do you think the Buddhist monks perform dances?
 - i. What is the main religious festival of the Bhutanese?
 - j. What is Bhutan called?
 - k. How is the progress of Bhutan as a nation measured?
- (l) What geographical feature has contributed to Bhutan's isolation from the rest of the world, leading to the development of its unique culture?
- (m) How does Bhutan measure success differently from most other countries, and why is this approach significant?
- (n) Describe the traditional clothing worn by Bhutanese men and women and explain its cultural significance.
- (o) What are some specific measures taken by the Bhutanese government to protect its environment and biodiversity?
- (p) Discuss the unique approach Bhutan took in introducing television and the Internet to its population. Why was this approach taken?

3. Fill in each gap with a suitable word of your own based on the information in the text. 0.5×10=5

- i. The Bhutanese govt has (a)___ a number of (b)___ to protect its bio (c)__. Bhutan is the first country in the world (d)___ specific constitutional (e)___ on its people .

Extra Practices

- ii. Bhutan is the (a) ----- country in the world with specific constitutional (b) ----- on its

people to (c) ----- the environment. (d) ----- are also taken to protect the nation (e) ----- the intrusion of foreign cultures and values.

- iii. Bhutanese dwellings are (a)_____ using mud and stone, topped with wooden shingle roofs. Iron nails are not employed in their architectural endeavors, and (b)_____, they rely on communal labor exchange for building homes. Bhutan revels in a multitude of annual (c)_____, distinguished by vibrant masks that embody the nation's cultural opulence. (d) _____ monks partake in dances to safeguard valleys and repel malevolent entities. The principal (e) _____ celebration is referred to as Tshechu.

বঙ্গানুবাদঃ

ভূটানকে পূর্ব হিমালয়ের রত্ন বলা হয়। চারদিকে স্থল দ্বারা আবৃত ছোট এই দেশটি হিমালয়ের দক্ষিণ ঢাল বরাবর অবস্থিত যার উত্তরে তিব্বত এবং অন্যান্য পাশে রয়েছে ভারত। ভূটানের সরকারি নাম ড্রুক ইউলয়ার মানে হলো ‘বজ্র ড্রাগনের দেশ’। দেশটি এই নাম অর্জন করেছে ভয়ানক ঝড়ের কারণে যা প্রায়শই হিমালয় থেকে প্রবাহিত হয়। দেশটির আয়তন ৩৮,৩৯৪ এবং জনসংখ্যা ৭১৬,৮৯৬। যেহেতু এই দেশটি বিশাল হিমালয় দ্বারা বাকি পৃথিবী থেকে চিহ্নিত, এর অনন্য সংস্কৃতি এবং ঐতিহ্য শান্ত বৌদ্ধধর্মের বিশ্বাসের ওপর ভিত্তি করে কালক্রমে বিকশিত হয়েছে।

ভূটানের পুরুষেরা পরিধান করে ঘো-একটি কনুই পর্যন্ত লম্বা ডিলে জামা- এবং মহিলারা পরিধান করে কিরা- একটি চাদরের ন্যায় কাপড়। ভূটানের বাড়িগুলো কাদামাটি আর পাথর থেকে তৈরি করা হয় যার ছাদ হয় আয়তাকার কাঠের। ভূটানিরা কখনও তাদের দালানে লোহার পেরেক ব্যবহার করে না। সাধারণত ভূটানিরা একে অন্যের বাড়ি তৈরি করে তাদের সম্প্রদায়ের ভেতরে শ্রম

আদান প্রদানের মাধ্যমে। ভূটানে সারা বছর বিভিন্ন উৎসব পালন করা হয়। উৎসবগুলো রঙিন মুখোশ এবং ভূটানের সমৃদ্ধ সংস্কৃতিকে প্রকাশ করে। অশুভ শক্তির হাত হতে উপত্যকাগুলো এবং এতে বসবাসকারীদের রক্ষা করার জন্য বৌদ্ধ সন্ন্যাসীরা নৃত্য করে থাকে। প্রধান ধর্মীয় অনুষ্ঠানের নাম শিছুস। বৌদ্ধ মঠের প্রাঙ্গণে তিন থেকে পাঁচ দিন ধরে মুখোশ নৃত্যের মাধ্যমে প্রভু বুদ্ধের শিক্ষাসমূহ মঞ্চস্থ করা হয়। মানুষেরা সর্বোত্তম পোশাক পরিধান করে বনভোজনের বাস্কে নিয়ে অনুষ্ঠানগুলোতে অংশগ্রহণ করে। আর একটি প্রধান উৎসব লোসার। এটি উদযাপিত হয় নতুন চান্দ্র বৎসরে। মানুষ বিশেষ খাবার প্রস্তুত করে এবং নতুন কাপড় পরিধান করে। পরিবারের একত্র হবার সময় এটি। পুরুষেরা ধনুর্বিদ্যা অথবা বান খেলে যখন মহিলারা গান করে এবং নাচে।

বিশুদ্ধ পর্বত বায়ু, স্বচ্ছ নীল আকাশ এবং আদিম গাছপালায় ঢাকা ছোট এই দেশটিকে পরিবেশ প্রেমীদের নিকট একটি আদর্শ গন্তব্যস্থলে পরিণত করেছে। ক্ষুদ্র এই দেশটির পরিবেশ (বাস্তু সংস্থান) সমৃদ্ধ উদ্ভিদকুল এবং প্রাণীকুলের অস্তিত্বের জন্য অনুকূল যা কঠোর আইনের দ্বারা রক্ষা করা হয়। এমনকী, যদি পাওয়া যায় যে কেউ একজন একটি কালো গলাবিশিষ্ট সারস হত্যা করেছে তবে তাকে সারাজীবন কারাবাসের শাস্তি দেওয়া হয়।

ভূটান সরকার এর জীব বৈচিত্র্যকে রক্ষার জন্য অনেকগুলো পদক্ষেপ নিয়েছে। ভূটানই পৃথিবীতে প্রথম দেশ যেখানে পরিবেশ রক্ষার জন্য মানুষের ওপর সাংবিধানিক বাধ্যবাধকতা রয়েছে। সংবিধান অনুযায়ী দেশটির কমপক্ষে ৬০ ভাগ অবশ্যই সবসময় গাছে ঢাকা থাকবে। জাতিকে বিদেশি সংস্কৃতি এবং মূল্যবোধের অনুপ্রবেশের হাত থেকে রক্ষার জন্যও পদক্ষেপ নেওয়া হয়েছে। ভূটানে বিদেশী পর্যটকদের প্রথম অনুমতি দেওয়া হয় ১৯৭৪ সালে। এখন পর্যটনকে উৎসাহিত করা হয় তবে এটি নিয়ন্ত্রিত এবং বছরে ৬০০০ ভ্রমণকারীর মধ্যে তা সীমাবদ্ধ। দেশবাসীকে টিভি ও ইন্টারনেট সাথে পরিচয় করিয়ে দেয়া সর্বশেষ দেশগুলোর মাঝে ভূটান অন্যতম। সরকার টেলিভিশন আর ইন্টারনেটের উপর থেকে নিষেধাজ্ঞা প্রত্যাহার করেছে মাত্র ১৯৯৯ সালে। ভূটান সরকার জনসমক্ষে জাতীয় পোশাক পরাকে বাধ্যতামূলক করেছে।

সবশেষে, ভূটান সম্পর্কে সবচেয়ে মজার বিষয় এই যে ভূটানই হলো একমাত্র দেশ যেখানে সফলতা পরিমাপ করা হয় মোট জাতীয় উৎপাদনের চেয়ে মোট জাতীয় সুখের ওপর ভিত্তি করে। ২০০৬ সালে বিজনেস্ উইক ভূটানকে এশিয়ার সবচেয়ে সুখী রাষ্ট্র এবং পৃথিবীতে ৮ম সুখী রাষ্ট্র হিসেবে মর্যাদা দেয়।

VOCABULARY

Thunder (থানডার) *n.*—বজ্র the loud noise that follows a flash of lightning; **Dragon** (দ্রাগান) *n.*—কল্পিত সরীসৃপ জাতীয় নখওয়ালা বিশাল প্রাণি; **Fierce** (ফিয়ার্স) *adj.*—violent and angry; হিংস্র ও রাগী তীব্র প্রচণ্ড। **Evolve** (ইভলভ) *v.*—to develop naturally and gradually; স্বাভাবিক ও ধীরগতিতে বিকশিত হওয়া বা করা; **Perform** (পারফর্ম) *v.*—to work or function; কোন কর্ম সম্পাদন করা। **Spirit** (স্পিরিট) *n.*—soul, courage, liveliness; আত্মা, সহসিকতা, সজীবতা, উৎসাহ। **Intrusion** (ইনট্রুজন) *n.*—the act of intruding; অবাস্তিত প্রবেশ, অনুপ্রবেশ। **Mandatory** (ম্যানডেটরি) *adj.*—compulsory; বাধ্যতামূলক। **Gross** (গ্রোস) *adj.*—total, whole; মোট।

answer:

1.

- a. (i) cooking special dishes and wearing new clothes
- b. (ii) 1974
- c. (iii) 60%
- d. (iv) built from
- e. (ii) Gross National Happiness
- f. (iii) 38394
- g. (i) 716896
- h. (ii) iron nails
- i. (ii) labour within
- j. (iii) Television and the Internet
- k. (iv) Gross National Happiness
- l. (iii) mud and stone with wooden roof
- m. (i) 60% of the country must remain under forest cover.
- n. (ii) 1974
- o. (i) cooking special dishes and wearing new clothes
- p. (i) Bhutan
- q. (iii) in the North
- r. (iii) Great Himalayas
- s. (ii) Tshechus
- t. (ii) Gross National Happiness
- u. (iv) Iron nails
- v. (ii) Wild
- w. (iv) Fierce storms from the Himalayas
- x. (i) Losar

2. Answer the following questions

a. How is the progress of Bhutan measured?

The progress of Bhutan is measured by Gross National Happiness (GNH). This unique approach focuses on the well-being and happiness of the citizens rather than only economic growth.

b. How is Losar celebrated?

Losar is celebrated on the Lunar New Year in Bhutan. People cook special dishes, wear new clothes, gather with family, and enjoy games and cultural activities.

c. When did the govt lift a ban on TV and the Internet?

The Bhutanese government lifted the ban on television and the Internet in 1999. This made Bhutan one of the last countries in the world to introduce these modern technologies.

d. What is mandatory for all Bhutanese?

It is mandatory for all Bhutanese to wear their national dress in public. This is a step to preserve their traditional identity and cultural values.

e. Which materials are Bhutanese houses built from?

Bhutanese houses are built from mud and stone with wooden shingle roofs. Iron nails are not used in the construction of their buildings.

f. What do the festivals reflect?

The festivals reflect the rich culture of Bhutan. They showcase colorful masks, traditional dances, and religious rituals.

g. How do the Bhutanese build each other's houses?

Bhutanese people build each other's houses by exchanging labor within the community. This promotes unity and cooperation among them.

h. Why do you think the Buddhist monks perform dances?

The Buddhist monks perform mask dances to protect the valleys and ward off evil spirits. These dances also portray the teachings of Lord Buddha.

i. What is the main religious festival of the Bhutanese?

The main religious festival of Bhutan is Tshechus. It is celebrated for 3-5 days with mask dances and religious rituals.

j. What is Bhutan called?

Bhutan is called the Jewel of the Eastern Himalayas. It is also known as "Druk-yul," meaning land of the thunder dragon.

k. How is the progress of Bhutan as a nation measured?

The progress of Bhutan as a nation is measured by Gross National Happiness. This focuses on spiritual, environmental, and emotional well-being.

l. What geographical feature has contributed to Bhutan's isolation?

The Great Himalayas have contributed to Bhutan's isolation. This natural barrier helped preserve its unique culture and traditions.

m. How does Bhutan measure success and why is it significant?

Bhutan measures success by Gross National Happiness instead of Gross National Product. This approach is significant as it values the overall happiness and well-being of people over material wealth.

n. Describe traditional clothing of Bhutanese men and women.

Bhutanese men wear a knee-length robe called Gho, and women wear a sheet-like cloth called Kira. These clothes symbolize national pride and cultural heritage.

o. What measures are taken by Bhutan to protect its biodiversity?

Bhutan's constitution mandates that 60% of the land must remain forested. Strict laws protect endangered species, and killing certain animals, like the black-necked crane, can lead to life imprisonment.

p. Discuss Bhutan's approach to introducing TV and Internet.

Bhutan introduced TV and the Internet only in 1999, much later than most countries. This cautious approach was taken to protect their culture from foreign influences.

3. Fill in each gap with suitable words:**i.**

- a. taken
- b. steps
- c. diversity
- d. with
- e. obligations

ii.

- a. first
- b. obligations
- c. protect
- d. Efforts
- e. against

iii.

- a. built
- b. traditionally

- c. festivals
- d. Buddhist
- e. religious

