



3. Sub-titling

The purpose of sub-titling is to convey the main idea or theme of each section of a long piece of writing. It helps the reader know at a glance the sub-topics that are being addressed. Giving suitable sub-titles helps break the monotony of reading long passages.

Read the newspaper article given below and do the tasks that follow.

A new deal for old cities

The example of Curitiba in Brazil, which has attracted global attention for innovative urban plans using low-cost technologies, shows that inclusive development models for urban renewal are workable.

working class in that country.

Urban Decay

came to global notice during the the cost of basic civic reform. pneumonic plague of 1994 in Surat; it epitomised the failure of governments challenge before the current mission in the post-Independence era and to enable and also compel local

Tany cities in India accurately ignored fundamental public health mirror Friedrich Engels' issues inherited from colonial rule. description of urban centres in There is little evidence to show that nineteenth century England even policymakers assimilated the lessons today. "Streets that are generally from the Surat public health unpaved, rough, dirty, filled with disaster. State and municipal vegetable and animal refuse, without governments did not pursue reform sewers or gutters but supplied with in waste management, though civic foul, stagnant pools instead," wrote conditions in Surat itself underwent Engels on the living conditions of the change in the plague aftermath. During the past decade, many cities pursued development agendas—often with the help of massive international The depths of urban decay in India loans—to project 'modernisation' at

There is thus a continuing exposed development policies that governments to abide by the

provisions of the Municipal Solid they are legally bound.

as cholera and other communicable United States. diseases continue to stalk the poor in the biggest cities.

only rudimentary 'pit' facilities. The motorised vehicles. number of households without a the demand even where it exists.

unresolved.

motorised vehicles.

It comes as no surprise therefore Waste Management Rules by which that pedestrians and bicycle riders, who form 30 to 70 per cent of peak Post-liberalisation policies have hour traffic in most urban centres, tended to largely disregard other key also make up a large proportion of factors that affect the quality of life fatalities in road accidents. A paper in cities and towns: poverty, lack of prepared by the Transport Research sanitation, water shortages, gross and Injury Prevention Programme undersupply of affordable housing, (TRIPP) of the Indian Institute of and traffic chaos generated by Technology, Delhi, says pedestrian automobile dependence, in turn fatalities in Mumbai and Delhi were created by neglect of public transport. nearly 78 per cent and 53 per cent In the absence of a hygienic of the total, according to recent environment and safe water supply, data, compared to 13 per cent and chronic water-borne diseases such 12 per cent in Germany and the

Such alarming death rates — and an equally high injury rate — should It must be sobering to the affluent persuade policymakers to revisit layers of the population that nearly their urban planning strategies and 14 million Indian households correct the distortions. But many (forming 26 per cent of the total) in cities such as Chennai have actually the urban areas do not have a latrine done the reverse — reduced within the house, as per the Census footpaths and areas for pedestrian of India 2001; some 14 per cent have use to facilitate unrestricted use of

The practice in progressive world drainage connection stands at 11.8 cities has been different. Curitiba in million (representing 22.1 per cent Brazil, which has attracted global of households). Migration to cities attention for innovative urban plans continues and infrastructure to treat using low-cost technologies, has sewage is grossly inadequate to meet done everything that Indian policymakers would dread to do. It is unlikely that the quality of Starting in the 1970s, this provincial the urban environment can be centre with the highest per capita dramatically improved therefore, if ownership of cars in Brazil (other such fundamental questions remain than the capital) at the time, banned automobiles from many crowded Urban transport receives scant areas in favour of pedestrians, built attention from policymakers. Policy an internationally acknowledged bus distortions have led to rising system that reduced household automobile dependency, higher commuting expenditure to below the safety risks for road users, and land national average, and created new use plans that are based not on the housing areas that were provided needs of people, but primarily transport links in a planned manner. designed to facilitate use of private Some of the prestigious land development in the city, including a

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abandoned sites such as quarries. of existing wetlands by real estate

time by a third, Scientific American residents then demand expensive noted in a review in the mid-1990s. new storm water drains. by providing for advance ticketing, specially-designed boarding areas that inclusive development models with wider doors for entry/exit and for urban renewal are workable. If dedicated lanes for faster transit.

Curitiba managed floods with a based approach to affordable dedication that Mumbai, Bangalore, housing, sanitation, water supply, and Chennai can only marvel at. The mobility and a clean environment, city created large artificial lakes in instead of a market-oriented model suitable places that filled up in the that lays excessive emphasis on monsoon, avoiding flooding of recovery of costs incurred by profitresidential areas. In the summer, oriented private sector service these lakes turned into parks to provision. provide recreational spaces.

planning bodies in India follow about genuine urban renewal.

new Opera House, came up in policies that, ironically, allow filling The bus-way system cut riding lobbies, leading to flooding. The

Examples such as Curitiba show only the state and local governments In another low-cost initiative, can be persuaded to adopt a rights-Support from a progressive middle class and trade State administrations and urban unions is equally critical to bring

> G. Ananthakrishnan The Hindu, 13 December 2005

Activity

- 1. Notice the italicised sentence placed at the top of the article which tells us at a glance what the article is about.
- 2. Divide the article into four sections based on the shifts in the sub-topics and give a suitable sub-heading for each section. One has been done for you in the article as an example.
- 3. Look for pictures in newspapers and magazines that depict the urban civic problems discussed in the text. Cut them out and pin them to the text at appropriate places.