Precis Writing

Write the precis of the following passages reducing its length to one third. Don’t miss out any important point.

 Passage 1

A drop of water fell out of the cloud into the sea, and finding itself lost in such an immensity of fluid matter, broke out into the following reflection: ‘Alas! What an inconsiderable creature am I in this prodigious ocean of waters: My existence is of no concern in the universe; ‘I am reduced to a kind of nothing, and am the least of the works of God’. It so happened that an oyster which lay in the neighborhood of this drop chanced to gape and swallow it up in the midst of this his soliloquy. The drop, say the fables, lay a great while hardening in the shell, until by degrees it was ripened into a pearl, falling into the hands of a diver, after a long series of adventures, is at present that famous pearl which is fixed on the top of the Persian diadem. [No of words = 147]

Passage 2

Odisha, a small state in the east coast of India, was battered by Cyclone Philine in the last weekend. The cyclone came from the Bay of Bengal. It was the result of a low pressure area developing in the sea. From a location a few hundred kilometers off the coast, Cyclone Philine gradually moved towards the land. The wind speed was nearly 220 kilometers per hour. The violent wind hit villages near the coastline with deadly force. Mud houses were flattened, trees uprooted and power lines were reduced to tangled heaps of wire. Fortunately, weather radars tracked the Philine doggedly as a result of which people were evacuated from their houses that fell in the projected path of Cyclone Philine. Millions of people were quickly moved to temporary shelters with remarkable efficiency. This reduced the death toll to negligible numbers. It was a remarkable success of disaster management in India. In another operation, the Coast Guard spotted a cargo ship at night that had tilted dangerously in the waters a few kilometers off Bengal. Responding to its SOS call, the Coast Guard rushed to its rescue and lifted out the sailors who were floating on their life boat in the dark near their ship. [No of words 204] [Target word count for précis- 68 to 73]

Passage 3

I ran into Janet in a pub when I was in Rome last month to attend a conference on archeology. It was a chance encounter after nearly 20 years. Clearly my wife and I were excited to see Janet after so many years. Memories rushed through my mind. But, we were shocked at what we saw. Janet had grown to healthy beautiful lass, but there was a scar in her face. She wore skimpy dress. Her barely covered back revealed the tattoo of a bearded face. Around her were her male companions, all with rough fierce faces. The tallest and stoutest among them was a person with a beard. We quickly realized that the bearded face tattooed in Janet’s back was his. Obviously, the guy lorded over her. For a moment, I was lost in the memory of the sweet, little kid Janet was 20 years ago. She was so cute that the ladies in the neighborhood vied with one another to cuddle her. Now, Janet had slipped into the world of crimes, living with that evil man. Before we could have few more words with her, she excused herself and rushed to serve drinks to her ‘boss’. When she was a child, I had dreamed that one day she would be a doctor or dancer or an artist and would occupy a responsible position in life. Now, she was a ‘whore’. What had gone wrong? [Number of words 236] [Target word count of précis – 75 to 82]

Passage 4

There are different types of forests in India. So, the products received from these forests are also several. The following are some of the forest products which are important in the growth and development of industries.  
Forest products and the industries based on them:  
(i) Timber : Timber from the forest are utilised in building activities, industries and in carpentry workshops. In Andaman Islands, Asia's largest saw mill has been in operation.  
(ii) Rubber : Rubber trees are grown in large numbers on the Western Ghats. As a consequence, there are a large number of industries dependent on rubber in the Peninsular India.  
(iii) Wood Pulp : Wood pulp is made from the wood of the forests and paper is manufactured from the pulp. Paper mills are large in number in the States of Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh. In the city of Nepa in Madhya Pradesh, there is a newsprint industry.  
(iv) Lac and Wax : Lac and Wax are forest products and they are used in manufacturing paints. Thus a number of industries make use of forest products.  
(v) And for the growth of the cottage industries the forests have been responsible in many an instance.