Unit 18 – Lesson 30

Scanning the text and comprehension check

Scan the following text – pay attention to the introduction, identify the main points to be covered, the heading and the conclusion.

I have visited 100 places, away from tourist traps, over the past two decades. Yet I feel my travels have not begun. I have not even experienced a fragment of the natural bounty,. we Indians are fortunate to possess. In truth, India is many countries rolled up in one. Not because of its size but its diversity. Cold deserts and frozen, snow bound mountains sweeping, windswept coastlines dropping rainforests arid scrublands fading into sandy 'deserts, islands in the sun where travellers can walk under shady green canopies or dive beneath azure, glassy blue waters.

Himalayan havens in Kashmir, Ladakh, Garshwal, Himachal Pradesh, Assam and arunachal Pradesh are all dotted with sanctuaries and national parks of indescribable beauty such remote wildernesses protect the vast bulk of our water sources and have been reversed for centuries. Apart from ancient civilizations and cultures, these bio diversity vaults harbours black bears, pheasants, deer and carnivores, all of which cluing to a fragile existence in a world decorated by orchids and towering peaks. These are also places where people can discover themselves.

There is something humbling about nature. Even as the deep sea or a towering mountain or even a complex rainforest forces humility upon your, nature ego intact. On the other hand if you respect its power and tread lightly upon its earth ,the Himalayas will protect you and deliver to you the satisfactory of being cocooned in pure nature.

Almost anywhere you go, the traditional hospitality of the hill people will ensure that you obtain a hot meal, a friendly welcome and a place to rest your tired body for the night.

At the foothills of the Himalayas are located tiger reserves such as Dudhwa and Corbett the land of roar and trumpet such forests provide us with a glimpse of pre history.

Higher up are alpine forests such as the great Himalayan National park, accessible from Kulu.valley.

One of my abiding sorrow is the fact that kashmir's happy valley has been so traumatized in the past few years. I have often walked up 2000 meters to the famous Oak forests of the Dachigam sanctuary near srinagar. It seems difficult to imagine that so much blood has been shed in the beautiful Kashmir valley and I worry about the fate of Kashmir's endangered

wildlife. I have also walked the alpine forests of Overa near Pahalgam and watched white capped Redstarts build nests over swift flowing rivers.

If our cities were managed with even a fraction of the efficiency of a forest, disease, congestion and filth would become things of the past! Now that's the thought to take back to your city home from the wilds where I hope you will holiday this summer.

Answer the following

1. Why does the author say 'India is many Countries rolled up in One'
2. Mention the contrasting features seen in India
3. Give the names of the Himalayan Havens that are all dotted with sanctuaries and natural parks.
4. Where are the tiger reserves located?
5. What is the sorrow mentioned by the author?

Answers

1. The author says India is many countries rolled up in one because of its diversity.
2. Dripping rainforests and arid scrublands are the contrasting features seen in India.
3. Ladakh, Gorhwal, Himachal Pradesh, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.
4. At the foothills of Himalayas.
5. The author finds it difficult to imagine that so much blood has been shed in the beautiful Kashmir valley and he sad about how people are traumatized there.