



Listening Passages

Unit 1

Sympathy



I lay in sorrow deep depressed...
My grief a proud man heard...
His looks were cold. He gave me gold.
But not a kindly word.
My sorrow passed – I paid him back
The gold he gave me.
Then stood erect and spoke my thanks
And blessed his charity...
I lay in want, in grief and pain.
A poor man passed my way.
He bound my head. He gave me bread.
He watched me night and day.
How shall I pay him back again
For all he did to me?
Oh! Gold is great. But greater far
is heavenly sympathy!
By **Charles Mackay**

one of the most important roads of India that runs through the heart of New Delhi and where the Republic Day parade takes place every year on the 26th of January.

We are placed right next to the flower bedecked saluting dais from where our Honourable President along with our Vice President, Prime Minister and all the other dignitaries will view the parade which showcases India's defence capability and its cultural and social heritage. The day is memorable on account of the presence of the 10 ASEAN leaders who will be amidst us today as chief guests to honour the day when the Constitution of India came into force. My fellow commentator Yusuf is here, to share with you the proceedings of the day...

Yusuf—Good Morning and heartiest greetings to my fellow citizens on the joyous occasion of the 69th Republic Day of our Nation. As you all know, ASEAN is Association of South East Asian Nations comprising of 10 Nations – Thailand, Myanmar, Vietnam, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Cambodia, The Philippines, Laos People's Democratic Republic and Brunei. The whole area opposite the dais is bedecked with colourful fresh flowers and certainly the three prominent colours of yellow, saffron, white and green are given more prominence depicting the colours of our National Flag. I can see the Red Roses, Yellow Marigold, the Bird of Paradise, the Pansies and other foliage giving the green colour to it. Over to Manoj....

Unit 2

Commentary on Republic Day Celebrations and parade at New Delhi

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen. On this splendid morning on behalf of the entire team of Radio India, this is Anitha Rao along with my fellow commentators Yusuf Ahmed, Manoj Pande and our Technical Audio team extending warm greetings to all the listeners on the occasion of the 69th Republic Day of India and welcome you to Rajpath New Delhi, which literally means Kingsway, the ceremonial path and



Manoj – Thank you Yusuf. What a beautiful sight! And in a short while from now, the combined military band will be playing the National Anthem. There are 44 musicians drawn from 3 EME centres and ASE centres from South. They will be playing the National Anthem, the Cavalry brigade and the army star 'Arjunam'.

The three chiefs of the Army, Navy and Air Force, the Central and State Defence Ministers have arrived. They are all stationed in the inner periphery of India Gate, flanking the 'Amar Jawan Jyothi'. It's a resplendent sight. The Amar Jawan Jyothi commemorates the indomitable courage of our soldiers and it is symbolised by a reversed rifle topped by a helmet.

The Prime Minister is now laying the wreath on behalf of the country at the Amar Jawan Jyothi. The Inter services guard of honour gives the command to present the arms 'The Salami Shashtra', followed by the reversal of the arms, "The Shok Shashtra". Six buglers stationed there sounded the last post and a two minute silence is being observed. The completion of the silence is marked by sounding the rouse by the buglers. The Prime Minister is leaving the India Gate and now over to Anitha for an eye witness account of the grand parade.

Anitha – It's a lovely day today. The Prime Minister has arrived at the dais and is greeting the guests of honour on the stage. We now see the Honourable President of our country arriving ceremoniously led by the

President's body guard. The President's body guard personnel are all handpicked, well trained horsemen, paratroopers and tank men. The Honourable President is led to hoist the National Flag.

The President is now giving the highest Gallantry Awards and Medals to the kin of martyrs. Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padmashree are given to eminent personalities from various fields such as literature, education, art, sports, social work, medicine, science, engineering, civil services, public affairs, trade and industry. Bravery awards to children are given for exhibiting courage and valour. Yusuf will now take over from here...

Yusuf – The customary grand parade has started and is moving ceremoniously, in colourful attires. The different tableaux are showcasing the country's progress in different fields. And here comes the newly formed all Women Bikes Contingent, the 27 member BSF Women 'Dare Devils' Squad named 'Seema Bhavani' showcasing their stunts and acrobatics on their 350 cc Royal Enfield Bullet Motorcycles.

After the mesmerising performance of the BSF women, here are the children from various schools in Delhi and 700 students across the guest countries performing on the power of Education. Manoj, isn't it a splendid sight?

Manoj – A real feast to the eyes! A few of the parade's highlights are the BSF camel band, the musical band of the Army, Navy, Air Force and the DRDO Subsonic cruise missile Tableau.



The Rudra formation, The Hercules formation, Nethra Global formation and several other formations by Air force mark the culmination of the Republic Day Parade, ending with a stupendous fly past by the Jets and helicopters carrying the National Flag and the flags of the three services.

It's been a day of joy and celebration. Once again with greetings to the Nation on this Republic Day, Anitha, Yusuf and Manoj take leave and sign off. JAI HIND.

Unit 3

General Packet Radio Services known as GPRS has been around for quite some time. It was established in the early 2000s and is widely used across the world today. It is an extension of the global system for mobile communication.

GPRS works by allowing data to be stored into 'packets'. This data is then transmitted in an efficient manner across the mobile network. GPRS, however, is much faster than the cellular network system. This type of networking system can be used worldwide without difficulty.

GPRS devices are extremely versatile. Any device that has GPRS capability will allow the user to have not only mobile communication but also access the internet for things such as e-mail and internet browsing. You can even adjust various settings on the device in order to keep track of things like changes in temperature, sound and motion.

Car tracking devices are cheaper and easier to install. They mainly work via

GPS satellite navigator, although in some cases a radio frequency or cellular network can be used, if GPS coverage is poor. The actual set up is really very simple; each vehicle transmits a signal to orbiting satellites which relay this information back to a specified computer. The vehicle information is then displayed on maps, allowing you to monitor speed and exact whereabouts.

By utilising real-time vehicle tracking you can get accurate information about the travel. Although this system enables you to avoid traffic and find the quickest road to travel, you will still find an excuse to be late!

Unit 4

Valli : Hello, Surya. Did you read today's newspaper?

Surya : No, is there anything important, that you want me to read?

Valli : Yes, Surya. There's an article on creating sarees with natural fruits, bamboo and aloe vera fibre.

Surya : Oh! That's great! How is that possible? Can you give me more information?

Valli : I'll read out the article; "Natural Fibre Weaving". "The rhythm of the loom" welcomes visitors to Shanmuga Mudhaliar Street nearly 9km from Chennai Airport. There are 90 weavers in the cluster. The cluster consisting mostly of third generation weavers was formed nearly 90 years ago, along the banks of the Adyar River.



“In those days this cluster was producing real Madras chequered fabrics for export to Nigeria,” says Sekar, the President of the Jute Weavers Association.

After 1970, this cluster began weaving cotton fabric and sarees. Kanchi Cotton dress material sets were woven in the 80’s and silk cotton during the 90’s. Over the past 10 years, the cluster has completely shifted to natural fibre weaving.

“As a weaver, I was always looking for a breakthrough, something that would make handloom popular, thereby saving it from extinction,” says Sekar, adding “The South India Textile Research Association involved us in weaving jute and cotton blended yarn. This set me thinking of developing natural fibre yarn from other sources as well.” At that time, a group of students approached him with banana fibre and cotton blended yarn for their project and this added a fillip to his research.

“I developed 25 types of natural fibres and even made it to the Limca Book of Records in 2011 for weaving a saree using 25 different fibres,” he says.

Today the Anakaputhur Natural Fibre Weavers Cluster has 25 pit looms and are pioneers in many methods of natural fibre weaving. Collaborating with NIFT students in design intervention and colour combination has enhanced the reach of the products.

Sekar has introduced “MooligaiPudavai” (herbal Sarees) where he infuses natural fibre yarn with turmeric, tulsi, neem

and sandalwood. He says, these herbs and spices have anti-bacterial properties and are good for the skin. The weavers have developed 30 different natural fibre yarns so far, of which the most popular are pineapple, aloe vera, bamboo, banana stem and erukkanchedi (Calotropis). Eager to adopt some of these practices, the North East Development council has invited Sekar to train the women weavers of Assam.

“We have finally proved that handloom can be a profitable business,” he smiles. This venture has generated more jobs, says Sekar.

Unit 5

Water Shortage

Instructor: 14 of the World's 20 big cities are now experiencing water scarcity or drought conditions. As many as 4 million people already live in regions that experience severe water stress. According to a study in the journal ‘Science Advances’, nearly half of these people live in our country and with the rising population, this stress is going to mount.

Moderator: I’m happy to introduce two eminent speakers Mr. Ramesh, retired Chairman of Water Management Board and Mr. Joseph, founder of ‘The Drop’, an NGO. I now request Mr. Ramesh to throw some light on the topic and lead the discussion.

Mr. Ramesh : Humanity is facing water crisis. Either there is too much water in some places or there isn’t enough water in other places and we all know that this is being driven not only by climate changes



but also by economic growth, population and poor water management.

Moderator: As mentioned by Mr. Ramesh, water management seems to be the crucial point when we talk about water crisis. I now request Mr. Joseph to make a few suggestions.

Mr. Joseph : Well, to tackle water crisis, a good water management strategy has to be adopted at all levels of planning, developing and distributing water for maximum usage. Say for example, in the field of agriculture, water intensive crops like rice and cotton should be grown in water rich regions and crops which need less water grown in other regions where there is less supply of water.

Moderator: Yes, Mr. Ramesh, what have you got to say about this?

Mr. Ramesh: To minimize water crisis, the main option is to share water, not only in the trans-boundary river basins but also in the river basins within nations and states.

Mr. Joseph: I would like to put forth the causes for this water scarcity. Shortfall of rain is the most important issue, that stems from deforestation. The absence of bunds and encroachments at the catchment areas also aggravate the water shortage issue.

Mr. Ramesh: But the good news is that there are always solutions to our problems. Our motto should be “The less water used, the more water saved.” This will go a long way, towards addressing the current crisis. But for the solutions to be effective they need to be implemented vigilantly.

Moderator : Having discussed the status, causes and problems, let us also consider some practical solutions such as

- ❖ do not keep taps running
- ❖ only use what is needed resourcefully
- ❖ practise sustainable home living
- ❖ recycle used water
- ❖ create awareness of the dire consequences of water resource abuse
- ❖ get more involvement from people

By now we are aware how critical our global water shortage is.

Now the panellists are open for questions from the audience.

Unit 6

Text for listening text

Hi everyone! Welcome to our guided tour to a wonderful hiking trail, high up a forested hillside to the Mystery Spot. Gravity and other forces go haywire at this pseudo – scientific anomaly, discovered in 1940. The site is located in Santa Cruz, California amongst the Oak and Eucalyptus trees, near Granite Creek, and within the California Redwood forest. It is a circular area of effect around 150 feet or 46 metres in diameter. Within the Mystery Spot you will be stunned as your perceptions of the laws of physics and gravity are questioned. On this gravity hill you will experience, tilt-induced visual illusion. The illusion experienced by visitors results from the oddly tilted environment as well as standing on a tilted floor. These visual illusions include balls



rolling uphill and people leaning farther than normally possible without falling down.

The mystery spot was discovered in 1939 by a group of surveyors and was opened to the public in 1940. The Mystery Spot has amazed and perplexed hundreds and thousands of visitors from all over the world.

Some speculate that cones of metal were secretly brought here by aliens and buried in the earth as guidance systems of their spacecraft. Some think it is in fact, the spacecraft itself buried deep within the ground. Other theories include carbon dioxide permeating from the earth, a hole in the ozone layer, a magma vortex and the highest dielectric bio cosmic radiation. Whatever the cause is, it remains a mystery.