



ANGLAIS

THE POWER AND THE GLORY

India has its own form of state-backed capitalism too

1. If you sit in many places in India, whether in the office of the boss of Infosys in Bangalore or in a suburban home, your host may clutch a remote control and appear anxious. You are not the cause of this distress. Your host is waiting for a power cut, after which the remote will be used to switch the air conditioning back on. Power, more than any other industry, captures the prevalence of the state in Indian business – and the harm it can do. Private capital has poured into building power stations, but most other bits of the supply chain are in the hands of the state. Often this set-up fails to deliver.
2. When people think of state capitalism, China springs to mind, with its giant and opaque government controlled firms. But India, more cuddly¹ and less competent, is not too dissimilar. Some 40% of the profits of its 100 biggest listed firms come from state-controlled ones. In finance, energy and natural resources, they control at least two-thirds of production. Most were partially privatized over the past two decades, letting in a small proportion of outside shareholders. The latest example was Coal India, the biggest producer of India's main fuel. It was listed in 2010.
3. Over time, the zeal to sell big-enough chunks of these firms to enable them to become more independent has dissipated. But today's halfway house² is not all that bad. In aggregate³, the 24 state outfits in the top 100 generated a 17% return on equity last financial year, on a par with the private sector, and profits almost doubled in the past five years. Privatisation has made some of them more efficient. Bharat Heavy Electricals, which makes kits for power stations, holds its own against Chinese competitors. And State Bank of India (SBI) is as tech-savvy⁴ as its private rivals.
4. Even if India doesn't have the stomach for full privatization, it is letting in the private sector in other, more subtle ways. A creeping⁵ retreat of the state has taken place in many industries thanks to competition. Thus two of India's most successful industries, air travel and telecoms are dominated by private companies, even though the original state monopolists remain under government control. Public-private partnerships are also common on big infrastructure projects. You might conclude that India, like China, has found its own equilibrium between the state and market forces. But that view is premature. Public-private partnerships are all the rage, but more effort must be made to ensure the private bit of them gets a reasonable return.

The Economist, October 22nd 2011, print edition (pp 110-111, true PDF)

Glossary:

1. cuddly = *doux*

2. halfway house = *compromis*

3. In aggregate = *Toutes réunies*

4. tech-savvy = *calé en technologie*

5. creeping = *rampant*

A - READING COMPREHENSION (09 marks)

I./ Read the text, answer the questions and complete the table. (02 marks)

1. a): Which paragraph of the text shows that India’s state capitalism has produced some good results? Quote the sentence of the text that says so.

Paragraph number :

Sentence:

b): Which paragraph of the text shows that India controls the key areas of its industrial development? Quote the passage that tells us so.

Paragraph number :

Passage:

2. Read the text and complete the table below.

Most state controlled industry	Reason
a):	b):
.....

II./ Are these statements true or false? Tick (v) the relevant boxes and quote the text to justify your answer. (04 marks)

3. Privatisation has helped improve all firms in India. True False

Justification:

4. In companies jointly owned by the government and the private sector, the main problem is the sharing of benefits. True False

Justification:

5. The Indian Government seems to fear full competition in its economic sectors. True False

Justification:

6. In India, air travel and telecoms are the sole sectors where public-private partnerships are being implemented. True False

Justification:

III./ What do the following figures represent in the text? (01 mark)

7.) 40%

8.) 17% :

IV./ Find in the text words or phrases that mean the same as: (01 mark)

9. produced (in paragraph 3):

10. courageous (in paragraph 4):

11. portions (in paragraph 3) :

12. different, not alike (in paragraph 2) :

V./ What do the words below refer to in the text? (01 mark)

13. this distress (paragraph 1, line 3):
14. them (paragraph 4, line 9):
15. ones (paragraph 2, line 3):
16. that view (paragraph 4, line 7):

B- LINGUISTIC COMPETENCE (05 marks)**I./ Use the words or phrases below to complete the sentences. (01 mark)**

Words/phrases: *though* - *thus* - *due to*

- 17.)- In many developing countries like Senegal, economic progress is slow power cuts.
- 18.)- Privatisation certainly brings relief in many sectors the price to be paid by the labour force is high.

II./ Fill in the blanks with the suitable derivatives of the words in brackets. (01.5 marks)

19. Because of power(***to fail***) he wakes up very early every day to be able to do as much work as possible.
20. In Senegal, some modern offices have too many air-conditioners, which increases energy.....(***to consume***).
21. This lady did whatever she could to buy as many **a**) (***sharing***) when the government decided to privatize some of its companies. She has become so **b**)..... (***to succeed***) that she has now got her own businesses.
22. It was not **a**) (***to reason***) of the government to engage young graduates in the private sector without **b**)(***to prepare***) them to face competition.

III./ Complete the following interview appropriately. (02.5 marks)

23. **Journalist:** - Dear audience, Mr. Prime Minister, welcome to our "*Morning Digest*". First question: Your Excellency,..... tell us why you are now controlling such sectors as water and power?
24. **Prime Minister:** - Thank you for **a**)..... me. These sectors are **b**)controlled by the government because they are strategic for our economic development.
25. **Journalist:** - But, Your Excellency, don't you think you should encourage competition?
26. **Prime Minister:** - That is what we are working at. Butcompetition will not profit nationals unless there is some control by the government.
27. **Journalist:** - Investors tend to think differently. Anyway, thanks a lot for our questions.
28. **Prime Minister:** - My pleasure

C - ESSAY WRITING : Choose one topic and write about 200 words on it. (06 marks)

Topic 1: A friend of yours wants to invest in Senegal but is hesitating because she knows very little about our economic environment. Write a short presentation of this environment to encourage her to do business here. Mention the difficulties she may have to face and the opportunities Senegal offers her.

Topic 2: The government wants to re-start a company that was created to offer jobs to thousands of young graduates but has failed. You have your opinion about what caused it to fail. Write to the Minister of Employment to share your views and suggest solutions.

ANSWER KEY**A- READING COMPREHENSION (9 marks)****I./ Read the text, answer the questions and complete the table. (02 marks: 0.5/correct answer)**1. a): Paragraph number : 3Sentence: *"But today's halfway house is not all that bad."*b): Paragraph number : 2Passage: *"In finance, energy and natural resources they control at least two thirds of production."*

2. Table completion

Most state controlled industry	Reason
a): <i>Power industry</i>	b): <i>the harm it can do.</i>

II./ Are these statements true or false? Tick (v) the relevant boxes and quote the text to justify your answer. (04 marks: 01 mark/correct answer)3. False Justification: *"Privatisation has made only some of them more efficient."*4. True Justification: *"Public-private partnerships are all the rage, but ... gets a reasonable return."*5. True Justification: *"India does not have the stomach for full privatization."*6. False Justification: *"Public-private partnerships are also common on big infrastructure projects."***III./ What do the following figures represent in the text? (01 mark: 0.5/correct answer)**7.) : *"The percentage of profit made by the state-owned firms listed in the 100 biggest Indian companies."*8.) : *"The percentage of profit made by the 24 state outfits in 2010 (see date of the article: 22/11/2011)."***IV / Synonyms (01 mark: 0.25/correct answer)**

9. produced = generated

10. be courageous = have the stomach

11. portions = chunks

12. different, not alike = dissimilar

V / Reference words (01 mark: 0.25/correct answer)

13. This distress ⇒ appear anxious

14. Them ⇒ public-private partnerships

15. Ones ⇒ firms

16. That view ⇒ that India has found its equilibrium between the state and market forces.

B- LINGUISTIC COMPETENCE (05 marks)**I./ Use the words or phrases below to complete the sentences. (02 marks: 0.5 mark/correct answer)**17.)- *due to*18.)- *though*

II./ Fill in the blanks with the suitable derivatives of the words in brackets. (01.5 marks : 0.25 mark / correct answer)

19. *failure*

20. *consumption*

21. a) *shares*

b) *successful*

22. a) *reasonable*

b) *preparing*

III./ Complete the following interview appropriately. (02.5 marks: 0.5mark /correct answer)

23. *could* you

24. a) *inviting*

b) *being*

25. *encouraging*

26. *answering*

C- ESSAY WRITING (06 marks)

Relevance to the topic = **03.5 marks** / Accuracy (Grammar and vocabulary) = **01.5 marks** / Presentation (length, form, etc.) = **01 mark**