

### Reading Comprehension (Unseen)

3. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

**Kolkata:** Double decker buses—the lumbering behemoths of everyday commute once ubiquitous on Kolkata's Streets, but phased out since the early 90s—are set to return to the city, exactly a century since the first one arrived during British rule, but in a swankier avatar.

Kolkata, too, is on the cusp of leading the second wave of double decker buses in metros across the country. If the Central Institute of Road Transport (CIRT) gives the final certification to the two buses designed and developed indigenously—merely a formality, according to sources—those will be the latest approved model of double deckers across the country.

Until the certification comes, there are no approved models, since no Indian automobile manufacturers make double deckers. Officials at the West Bengal transport department said the final nod is expected by this month, allowing the two buses to hit the road early March.

“These buses will open a new vista for the reintroduction of double deckers across the nation, particularly in the form of Electric Vehicles (EV),” said a transport department official. “As of now, the two buses are diesel-run, but unlike the earlier double deckers, which were fuel guzzlers, these are BS-IV compliant and fuel-efficient,” he added.

In the late 1980s, the then Left Front government in Bengal had decided to decommission double deckers in phases as the fleet guzzled fuel. They also belched black smoke, but that wasn't much of a concern then. By 2005, the last double decker went off road. In Mumbai, double deckers still ply but the number of buses is on the decline. At present, BEST has 48 double deckers, down from more than 250.

What really set off the drive to design the swankier vehicles from scratch was CM Mamata Banerjee's desire to reintroduce the lost icon, said a source. When transport officials wrote to vehicle manufacturers, including Ashok Leyland and Tata Motors, they said they did not have a product that met BS-IV emission norms.

[Adapted from *The Times of India*, 20th February, 2020]

A. Choose the correct answers from the given alternatives:

1×6=6