Overweight and weak: On the UN, the 81st session of the UN General Assembly

The United Nations is **unwieldy**, and needs to move away from superpower **hegemony**

The 81st **session** of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) could **have** been **written off** as just another year, with another set of speeches delivered on the global **multilateral** stage. However, this year, the UN's annual Summit has a unique sense of **urgency**. This is UN Secretary-General (UNSG) António Guterres's final session, after a tenure **marked** by a record number of global crises, conflicts, **pandemics**, climate disasters and the **advent** of a dangerous age of **Artificial Intelligence**. Not since the Second World War have there been so many conflicts; one study recorded more than 65 conflicts across 35 countries in 2025, the highest since 1946. Growing **polarisation** on every major issue, wars by global superpowers in **violation** of the UN charter, nuclear threats and the **imposition** of **unilateral** and **illegitimate sanctions** have weakened the UN, which at 81 seems overweight, weak and unrepresentative of the world. This makes it an important year for the world to **unite** in favour of a **strengthened** and reformed UN while choosing the next UNSG to guide that process over the next **decade**. This is an important year for South Asia too, with the election of Bangladesh's Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman as the President of the UNGA's 81st session; he will **oversee** the UNSG's selection. It was **disappointing** that the world's most powerful leaders and those **at the heart of** the conflicts in Ukraine, Gaza and the Persian Gulf failed to suggest solutions for the future. U.S. President Donald Trump spoke about the possible "**annihilation**" of Iran, and **defended** U.S. actions in Venezuela. Much to India's **chagrin**, he again **claimed** to have **negotiated** peace in conflicts including the 2025 India-Pakistan four-day war. Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian referred to the U.S. and Israel as "murderers, terrorists and **assassins**". The Russian President skipped the session, while the U.S. **denied** visas to the Palestinian **delegation**. An **initiative** led by the European Union and a few other countries, co-sponsored by India, to build a Partnership for Multilateralism (P4M) beyond superpower hegemony **is** **well-meaning**, but was **drowned out** by the **rancour** at this year's UNGA.

For India, this year was significant as the Narendra Modi government launched a campaign for a second two-year non-permanent term in the UN Security Council in 2028-29. It was therefore surprising that Mr. Modi decided to skip the UNGA speech this year, and the multilateral summits **on the side-lines**, fresh from his **hosting** of the Delhi BRICS Summit. India's **voice**, of a balancing power that speaks for a rules-based international order based on the UN Charter, **diplomacy** and **dialogue**, **is** needed more than ever **amidst** the global **warmongering**. **[Practice Exercise]**

- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'.

Vocabulary

1. **Unwieldy** (adjective) - cumbersome, unmanageable, bulky, clumsy, ponderous असुविधाजनक
2. **Hegemony** (noun) - dominance, supremacy, authority, dominion, leadership आधिपत्य
3. **Write off** (phrasal verb) - to consider someone or something as insignificant, useless, or a failure महत्वहीन मानना
4. **Multilateral** (adjective) - collaborative, collective, international, tripartite, multi-sided बहुपक्षीय
5. **Urgency** (noun) - necessity, gravity, exigency, importance, seriousness अत्यावश्यकता
6. **Mark** (verb) - characterize, signify, indicate, denote, distinguish चिह्नित करना
7. **Pandemic** (noun) - epidemic, contagion, outbreak, plague, infection महामारी
8. **Advent** (noun) - arrival, emergence, appearance, beginning, onset आगमन
9. **Artificial intelligence** (noun) - computer technology that allows something to be done in a way that is similar to the way a human would do it कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता
10. **Polarisation** (noun) - division, separation, divergence, segregation, partition ध्रुवीकरण
11. **Violation** (noun) - breach, infringement, transgression, contravention, defiance उल्लंघन
12. **Imposition** (noun) - enforcement, infliction, levying, application, introduction थोपना
13. **Unilateral** (adjective) - one-sided, independent, autonomous, unreciprocated, absolute एकतरफा
14. **Illegitimate** (adjective) - illegal, unlawful, illicit, unauthorized, invalid अवैध
15. **Sanction** (noun) - penalty, embargo, restriction, boycott, punishment प्रतिबंध
16. **Unite** (verb) - combine, merge, collaborate, cooperate, coalesce एकजुट होना
17. **Strengthen** (verb) - fortify, bolster, reinforce, empower, consolidate मजबूत करना
18. **Decade** (noun) - period of ten years दशक
19. **Oversee** (verb) - supervise, direct, manage, administer, superintend निगरानी करना
20. **Disappointing** (adjective) - unsatisfactory, disheartening, discouraging, dismaying, frustrating निराशाजनक
21. **At the heart of** (phrase) - being the most important part or central cause of a situation के केंद्र में
22. **Annihilation** (noun) - destruction, obliteration, eradication, extermination, elimination विनाश
23. **Defend** (verb) - protect, justify, safeguard, support, guard बचाव करना
24. **Chagrin** (noun) - annoyance, irritation, displeasure, vexation, frustration चिढ़
25. **Claim** (verb) - assert, declare, profess, state, maintain दावा करना
26. **Negotiate** (verb) - bargain, broker, mediate, arrange, arbitrate बातचीत करना
27. **Assassin** (noun) - murderer, killer, slayer, executioner, liquidator हत्यारा
28. **Deny** (verb) - refuse, reject, decline, prohibit, withhold मना करना

29. **Delegation** (noun) - deputation, contingent, commission, mission, representation प्रतिनिधिमंडल
30. **Well-meaning** (adjective) - well-intentioned, sincere, earnest, genuine, sympathetic नेक नीयत वाला
31. **Drown out** (phrasal verb) - to make so much noise that another sound or voice cannot be heard शोर में दबा देना
32. **Rancour** (noun) - bitterness, spite, hostility, malice, resentment विद्वेष
33. **On the side-lines** (phrase) - watching a situation without directly participating in it मुख्य गतिविधि से अलग
34. **Host** (verb) - organize, arrange, present, facilitate, entertain आयोजित करना
35. **Diplomacy** (noun) - statesmanship, statecraft, negotiation, tact, tactfulness कूटनीति
36. **Dialogue** (noun) - conversation, discussion, discourse, talk, communication बातचीत
37. **Amidst** (preposition) - among, during, mid, midst, between के बीच
38. **Warmongering** (noun) - militarism, aggression, jingoism, bellicosity, hawkishness युद्ध भड़काना

Summary of the Editorial

1. The 81st session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) comes at a crucial time when the United Nations faces serious challenges to its relevance and effectiveness.
2. The session is particularly significant because it is António Guterres's final session as UN Secretary-General after a tenure marked by numerous global crises.
3. The world has experienced an extraordinary number of conflicts, pandemics, climate disasters and geopolitical tensions, along with the emergence of potentially disruptive Artificial Intelligence.
4. More than 65 conflicts across 35 countries were recorded in 2025, making it the highest number of conflicts since 1946, according to a study cited by the editorial.
5. Increasing global polarisation, wars involving major powers, nuclear threats and unilateral sanctions have weakened the authority and effectiveness of the UN.
6. The editorial describes the UN as "overweight, weak and unrepresentative", arguing that its institutions need substantial reform to reflect today's geopolitical realities.
7. The selection of the next UN Secretary-General is therefore important because the new leader will have to guide efforts to strengthen and reform the organisation over the coming decade.
8. The 81st UNGA session is also significant for South Asia, as Bangladesh's Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman became President of the General Assembly and will oversee the selection process for the next UNSG.
9. The world's most powerful leaders failed to provide convincing solutions to major conflicts, including those in Ukraine, Gaza and the Persian Gulf, highlighting the UN's current limitations.
10. The session was marked by sharp rhetoric and geopolitical disagreements, including statements by U.S. President Donald Trump and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian.
11. An initiative led by the European Union and other countries, with India as a co-sponsor, seeks to promote a Partnership for Multilateralism (P4M) that moves beyond dependence on superpower dominance, but its message was overshadowed by tensions at the UNGA.
12. For India, the session was particularly important because it launched its campaign for a second two-year non-permanent term on the UN Security Council for 2028-29.
13. The editorial finds it notable that Prime Minister Narendra Modi did not attend the UNGA session, despite India's campaign for a Security Council seat and its emphasis on multilateral diplomacy.
14. The editorial argues that India has an important role to play as a balancing power, supporting a rules-based international order based on the UN Charter, diplomacy and dialogue.
15. Overall, the editorial calls for a stronger, more representative and reformed UN capable of responding to conflicts and global challenges, while arguing that countries such as India should actively support multilateralism rather than allowing global affairs to be dominated by superpower rivalry.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **What does the word "rancour" imply in the context of the 81st UNGA session? [Editorial Pg.]**
   A. The bitter resentment and hostility that overshadowed the well-meaning diplomatic initiatives.
   B. The collaborative spirit among the global leaders to find solutions for the future of the world.
   C. The official consensus reached by the superpowers regarding the imposition of the sanctions.
   D. The diplomatic success of the Partnership for Multilateralism in resolving the nuclear threats.
2. **What does the phrase "Partnership for Multilateralism (P4M)" in the passage most likely refer to?**
   A. A financial framework aimed at imposing unilateral sanctions on countries that violate the current UN charter.
   B. A formal military alliance between the European Union and India to resolve the ongoing conflict in Ukraine.
   C. An initiative designed to reduce the influence of superpowers by fostering cooperation among diverse nations.
   D. A diplomatic mission led by the next Secretary-General to address the dangers of the Artificial Intelligence.
3. **Which conflict is NOT mentioned as a region where powerful leaders failed to suggest solutions?**
   A. The ongoing territorial war in Ukraine
   B. The humanitarian crisis in the Gaza strip
   C. The military tensions in the Persian Gulf
   D. The four-day India-Pakistan war of 2025
4. **Which of the following statements best captures the central theme of the passage?**
   A. The imperative for structural transformation within the United Nations to counter the dominance of global superpowers.
   B. The escalating number of global conflicts and the role of the Secretary-General in maintaining the global peace.
   C. The strategic importance of the 81st UNGA session for South Asian countries in achieving a rules-based order.
   D. The impact of Artificial Intelligence and climate disasters on the effectiveness of the current UN charter.
5. **What is the significance of Khalilur Rahman's role in the 81st session of the UNGA?**
   A. He has been tasked with building a Partnership for Multilateralism to challenge the global hegemony.
   B. He is responsible for overseeing the selection process of the next United Nations Secretary-General.
   C. He is the primary leader responsible for drafting the new UN charter to address nuclear threats.
   D. He has been chosen to lead the campaign for India's non-permanent term in the Security Council.

6. **Direction: Rearrange the following four sentences (1, 2, 3, 4) in the proper sequence to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent paragraph.**
   1. Italy has it all, from great city breaks in Rome & Milan to seaside holidays on the Italian Riviera, the spectacular Amalfi Coast & Sorrento.
   2. Italy is the birthplace to renowned Renaissance artists like Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo and Raphael.
   3. Visit Italy and enjoy a holiday filled with fantastic fresh food & wine, historical sites and breathtaking views.
   4. For those who prefer a more cultural holiday then head to Florence - The Cradle of the Renaissance where you can roam around world famous galleries and museums

   A. 3-1-4-2
   B. 1-3-4-2
   C. 3-4-1-2
   D. 3-1-2-4
7. **Direction: Rearrange the following four sentences (P, Q, R, S) in the proper sequence to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent paragraph.**

   P. Boasting magnificent fjord-like landscapes, dotted with vibrant lemon groves and charming resort towns, it's no surprise that Lake Garda remains one of Italy's most popular tourist hotspots every year.

   Q. Nestled between mountain landscapes and lake-side vistas, Garda's charming resort towns provide the perfect backdrop for an Italian escape.

   R. Make the most of your time with a suite of fascinating optional excursions, from city tours of Venice and Verona to a scenic drive through the nearby Dolomites, and discover the delights of one of Italy's most impressive regions.

   S. Enjoy a taste of la dolce vita with a stay on Garda's glorious shores with ample time to explore both under guidance and at your own pace.

   A. Q-P-R-S
   B. P-Q-S-R
   C. Q-P-S-R
   D. Q-S-P-R
8. **Select the option that best describes the meaning of the phrase "Leave no room for."**
   A. a sure way to cause a specific outcome
   B. to deny permission or refuse to agree
   C. to make something impossible or provide no opportunity
   D. to originate from or be based on something
9. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**

   DAUNT

   A. Frighten
   B. Encourage
   C. Intimidate
   D. Terrify
10. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**

    INSIDIOUS

    A. Treacherous

B. Straightforward
C. Cunning
D. Deceitful

11. **Choose the correct one-word substitute for: 'A person who pretends to be morally superior than others.'**
A. Sanctimonious
B. Ingenious
C. Magnanimous
D. Spontaneous

12. **In the given sentence the underlined word may have been incorrectly spelt. Identify the option that rectifies the spelling. If there is no error in spelling, select 'No error'.**
Getting a compliment from her husband was a rare occurrance in Rashmila's life.
A. No error
B. occurrence
C. ocurrancce
D. ocurrance

13. **Pick the correctly spelled word referring to the process of evaluating or analyzing something.**
A. Assesment
B. Asessment
C. Assessment
D. Assesement

14. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in passive voice.**
The child broke many toys in the shop. He even threw the paintings.
A. Many toys in the shop were broken by the child. Even the paintings have been thrown by him.
B. Many toys in the shop were broken by the child. Even the paintings were thrown by him.
C. Many toys in the shop have been broken by the child. Even the paintings were thrown by him.
D. Many toys in the shop were broken by the child. He has even thrown the paintings

15. **Choose the option that is the most appropriate conversion of the following sentence into Direct Speech.**
She asked me how many of the students had registered till then.
A. She said to me, "how many of the students had register till then?"
B. She said to me, "how many of the students have register till then?"
C. She asked me, "How many of the students has registered till now?"
D. She asked me, "How many of the students have registered till now?"

16. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank and complete the collocation.**
I had a nice _____ on my birthday with all my friends and relatives.
A. opportunity
B. day
C. time
D. experience

17. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.**

They all, except Shirin, were very sad / during the farewell party given / to the teacher retiring, and her / indifference were well noticed

A. They all, except Shirin, were very sad
B. to the teacher retiring, and her
C. during the farewell party given
D. indifference were well noticed

18. **Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence.**

Mother ordered John **to switch on the light** as it was time to sleep.

A. to switch off the light
B. to switch of the light
C. to switch out the light
D. to switch in the light

19. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the given word.**

REITERATE

A. Forget
B. Repeat
C. Ignore
D. Deny

20. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the given word.**

DEFERENCE

A. Disrespect
B. Arrogance
C. Contempt
D. Respect

Directions: Five words in the passage below have been replaced with blanks. Choose the option that best completes each one.

The steamer moves quietly out of the historic Rütli Meadow (1)___ Lake Lucerne into waters of an unbelievable turquoise, a colour that can only be imagined. As the wind (2)___ the Rigi in long clean sweeps and the villages on either shore (3)___ into their Alpine stillness, the noise of the ordinary world falls away. And I begin to palpably feel the presence of silence and the spirit of the great writers who had come to these waters before me. It's been many days since I came to its shores. It was not for anything else but a pilgrimage, an act of (4)___ to the writers and musicians who shaped the way I see and hear and think. I came to T.S. Eliot young, as so many of my generation did, and spent years inside The Waste Land, that great broken monument to a civilisation in crisis, assembled from fragments of everything Eliot had loved and mourned: "These fragments I have shored against my ruins." What I did not fully understand (5)___ I stood on the deck of the steamer, with the Alps closing in on all sides, was how much of The Waste Land is Wagnerian, and how deeply Eliot had absorbed the music that was born on these very shores.

21. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (1):**

A. on
B. at
C. in

D. above

22. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (2):**
    A. came across
    B. comes off
    C. comes about
    D. come on
23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (3):**
    A. retractable
    B. retreat
    C. recede
    D. recoil
24. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (4):**
    A. tribute
    B. commend
    C. penance
    D. homage
25. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (5):**
    A. until
    B. unless
    C. while
    D. while

Answers

1. A	2. C	3. D	4.A	5. B	6. A	7. C	8. C	9.B	10. B	11.A	12.B
13. C	14.B	15.D	16.C	17.D	18.A	19.B	20.D	21.A	22.B	23.C	24.D
25. A									[Practice Exercise]		

Explanations

1. A) **The bitter resentment and hostility that overshadowed the well-meaning diplomatic initiatives.**

   passage: "An initiative led by the European Union and a few other countries, co-sponsored by India, to build a Partnership for Multilateralism (P4M) beyond superpower hegemony is well-meaning, but was drowned out by the rancour at this year's UNGA."-- "Rancour" means deep, bitter resentment or hostility. The passage shows this session filled with hostile exchanges — Trump talking about "annihilation," Iran's president calling the U.S. and Israel "murderers, terrorists and assassins," Russia skipping entirely, and the U.S. denying visas to Palestinians. This bitterness and hostility "drowned out" the positive P4M initiative — showing that the negative, hostile atmosphere overshadowed constructive diplomatic efforts, exactly matching Option A.

   Option B — Incorrect. The passage describes the opposite of collaboration — leaders making hostile statements, skipping sessions, and denying visas. There is no "collaborative spirit" shown among global leaders; the passage explicitly criticizes them for "fail[ing] to suggest solutions for the future."

   Option C — Incorrect. The passage mentions "unilateral and illegitimate sanctions" as something imposed by superpowers, but does not describe this as an "official consensus" reached collectively — rather, unilateral sanctions imply one-sided action, not agreement among multiple parties, and this is unrelated to the meaning of "rancour."

   Option D — Incorrect. The passage states the P4M initiative was "drowned out" by rancour, meaning it did NOT succeed in overcoming the hostility — this is the opposite of claiming it achieved "diplomatic success" in resolving nuclear threats.

2. C) **An initiative designed to reduce the influence of superpowers by fostering cooperation among diverse nations.**

   passage: "An initiative led by the European Union and a few other countries, co-sponsored by India, to build a Partnership for Multilateralism (P4M) beyond superpower hegemony is well-meaning, but was drowned out by the rancour at this year's UNGA."---The passage explicitly describes P4M as an initiative "beyond superpower hegemony," led by the EU and other countries (including India as co-sponsor). This means its purpose is to build cooperation among various nations while reducing the dominant influence/control of superpowers — exactly matching Option C, which describes reducing superpower influence through fostering cooperation among diverse nations.

   Option A — Incorrect. The passage does not describe P4M as a "financial framework" or connect it to "imposing sanctions." In fact, "unilateral and illegitimate sanctions" are mentioned separately as something that has "weakened the UN" — this is presented as a problem, not as part of the P4M initiative itself.

   Option B — Incorrect. The passage does not describe P4M as a "military alliance," nor does it connect this initiative specifically to "resolving the conflict in Ukraine." P4M is described

broadly as being about multilateralism beyond superpower hegemony, not as a military pact focused on one specific conflict.

Option D — Incorrect. The passage does not connect P4M to the "next Secretary-General" or to addressing "Artificial Intelligence" dangers. P4M is described as being led by the EU and other countries (co-sponsored by India) — there is no mention of the incoming UNSG leading this specific initiative or it being focused on AI.

3. D) **The four-day India-Pakistan war of 2025**

passage: "It was disappointing that the world's most powerful leaders and those at the heart of the conflicts in Ukraine, Gaza and the Persian Gulf failed to suggest solutions for the future."---The passage specifically names Ukraine, Gaza, and the Persian Gulf as the regions where powerful leaders failed to offer solutions. The India-Pakistan four-day war of 2025 is mentioned separately in the passage — only in connection with Trump claiming to have negotiated peace in it — not as one of the conflicts where leaders "failed to suggest solutions." This makes Option D the conflict NOT included in that specific list.

Option A — Ukraine is explicitly named in the list of conflicts "where the world's most powerful leaders... failed to suggest solutions for the future."

Option B — Gaza is explicitly named in the same list as one of the conflicts where leaders failed to suggest solutions.

Option C —The Persian Gulf is explicitly named in the same list as one of the conflicts where leaders failed to suggest solutions.

4. A) **The imperative for structural transformation within the United Nations to counter the dominance of global superpowers**.

passage: "Growing polarisation on every major issue, wars by global superpowers in violation of the UN charter, nuclear threats and the imposition of unilateral and illegitimate sanctions have weakened the UN, which at 81 seems overweight, weak and unrepresentative of the world. This makes it an important year for the world to unite in favour of a strengthened and reformed UN..."---The passage's title itself states "The United Nations is unwieldy, and needs to move away from superpower hegemony," and the entire passage builds toward this argument — showing how superpower actions (wars, sanctions, hostile rhetoric) have weakened the UN, and calling for reform and a move away from superpower dominance (also reflected in the P4M initiative "beyond superpower hegemony"). This matches Option A precisely, capturing the passage's core argument about needing UN reform to counter superpower control.

Option B — Incorrect. While the passage does mention the rising number of conflicts and Guterres's tenure, it does not focus on his "role in maintaining global peace" as the central theme. In fact, the passage criticizes global leaders broadly for failing to find solutions — this is not centered on the Secretary-General's peacekeeping role specifically.

Option C — Incorrect. While the passage does mention South Asia's significance (Bangladesh's Khalilur Rahman, India's Security Council campaign), this is presented as one supporting detail among several, not as the passage's central theme. The broader argument is about UN reform and superpower hegemony, not specifically about South Asia's importance.

Option D — Incorrect. The passage mentions AI and climate disasters only briefly, as part of listing crises during Guterres's tenure ("pandemics, climate disasters and the advent of a dangerous age of Artificial Intelligence") — these are not developed into a focused discussion

about their specific "impact... on the effectiveness of the UN charter," making this too narrow a theme compared to the passage's broader argument.

5. B) He is responsible for overseeing the selection process of the next United Nations Secretary-General.

passage: "This is an important year for South Asia too, with the election of Bangladesh's Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman as the President of the UNGA's 81st session; he will oversee the UNSG's selection."-- The passage states that as President of the UNGA's 81st session, Khalilur Rahman "will oversee the UNSG's selection" — meaning his significant role this year is specifically to guide the process of choosing the next UN Secretary-General, matching Option B exactly.

Option A — Incorrect. The Partnership for Multilateralism (P4M) is described as being "led by the European Union and a few other countries, co-sponsored by India" — there is no mention of Khalilur Rahman being tasked with this initiative. This option incorrectly attributes the P4M leadership to him.

Option C — Incorrect. The passage never mentions Khalilur Rahman "drafting" any new UN charter. There is no discussion of a new charter being written to address nuclear threats.

Option D — Incorrect. The passage discusses India's own campaign for a UN Security Council seat as something led by "the Narendra Modi government" — there is no connection made between Khalilur Rahman and India's specific campaign for its non-permanent Security Council term.

6. A) **3-1-4-2**

Explanation:

Hindi Explanation:

- Sentence 3 paragraph की शुरुआत करेगा क्योंकि यह introductory sentence है। यह बिना किसी पूर्व संदर्भ के पाठकों को इटली की यात्रा करने और भोजन, वाइन, ऐतिहासिक स्थलों तथा सुंदर दृश्यों से भरी छुट्टी का आनंद लेने का सीधा निमंत्रण देता है।
- Sentence 1 Sentence 3 को follow करेगा क्योंकि यह Sentence 3 के व्यापक विचार का विस्तार करता है और बताता है कि इटली में सब कुछ उपलब्ध है—रोम और मिलान के सिटी ब्रेक्स से लेकर इटैलियन रिविएरा और अमाल्फी तट की छुट्टियाँ।
- Sentence 4 Sentence 1 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह सामान्य छुट्टियों (शहर और समुद्र तट) से आगे बढ़कर एक विशिष्ट विकल्प प्रस्तुत करता है—उन लोगों के लिए जो सांस्कृतिक अवकाश पसंद करते हैं, उन्हें फ्लोरेंस जाने का सुझाव दिया गया है।
- Sentence 2 Sentence 4 के बाद आएगा और paragraph का conclusion बनेगा। यह Sentence 4 में उल्लिखित "Cradle of the Renaissance" (पुनर्जागरण का उद्गम स्थल) को सीधे जोड़ता है और स्पष्ट करता है कि इटली लियोनार्डो दा विंची, माइकलएंजेलो और राफेल जैसे प्रसिद्ध पुनर्जागरण कलाकारों की जन्मभूमि है।

English Explanation:

- Sentence 3 functions as the standalone introductory sentence, extending a direct invitation to travel to Italy and highlighting its core appeals: culinary heritage, historical landmarks, and scenic landscapes.

- Sentence 1 follows Sentence 3 directly by elaborating on the broad scope of destinations available, contrasting urban exploration in Rome and Milan with coastal retreats along the Italian Riviera and Amalfi Coast.
- Sentence 4 follows Sentence 1 by tailoring options to a specific traveler demographic—guiding those seeking a cultural getaway toward Florence, designated as "The Cradle of the Renaissance."
- Sentence 2 follows Sentence 4 as the natural conclusion, reinforcing the Renaissance motif by celebrating Italy as the birthplace of masters such as Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, and Raphael.

7. C) **Q-P-S-R**

Hindi Explanation:

- Sentence Q paragraph की शुरुआत करेगा क्योंकि यह introductory sentence है। यह बिना किसी previous context के Lake Garda के resort towns, mountain landscapes और lakeside vistas को introduce करता है और इसे एक ideal Italian escape बताता है।
- Sentence P Sentence Q को follow करेगा क्योंकि यह Sentence Q में mention किए गए features (fjord-like landscapes, lemon groves) को detail में explain करता है और बताता है कि Lake Garda हर साल Italy का top tourist hotspot क्यों बना रहता है।
- Sentence S Sentence P के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह general geographical description से आगे बढ़कर traveler को direct address करता है कि वे Garda के shores पर stay करके "la dolce vita" enjoy करें और self-paced exploration करें।
- Sentence R Sentence S के बाद आएगा और paragraph का conclusion बनेगा। यह stay के दौरान available optional excursions जैसे Venice और Verona के city tours और Dolomites की scenic drive का mention करके travel plan को complete करता है।

English Explanation:

- Sentence Q functions as the standalone introductory sentence, framing the picturesque geographic setting—resort towns nestled between mountains and lakeside vistas—as the ideal foundation for an Italian holiday.
- Sentence P follows Sentence Q directly by expanding upon those physical characteristics (fjord-like terrain, lemon groves) to explain why Lake Garda consistently ranks as one of Italy's premier tourist destinations.
- Sentence S follows Sentence P by transitioning from macro-level regional description to direct traveler experience, encouraging a stay along the shores to sample "la dolce vita" through guided and self-paced exploration.
- Sentence R follows Sentence S as the natural conclusion, presenting specific daytime activities and optional regional itineraries—ranging from cultural excursions in Venice and Verona to scenic alpine drives across the Dolomites.

8. C) **Leave no room for** (phrase) – to make something impossible or provide no opportunity for something to happen. (कोई गुंजाइश न छोड़ना)

9. B) Solution: **Daunt** (verb) – To make someone feel intimidated or apprehensive; to discourage or frighten. क़ाबू में करना, भय दिखाना, हिम्मत तोड़ना Antonym: Encourage (verb) – To give support, confidence, or hope to someone; to inspire with courage and determination. प्रोत्साहित करना, हिम्मत देना, उत्साहित करना

- **Frighten** (verb) – To make someone afraid — a synonym of daunt, not antonym. डराना, भयभीत करना
- **Intimidate** (verb) – To frighten or overawe into submission — a synonym of daunt. धमकाना, डरा-धमकाकर वश में करना
- **Terrify** (verb) – To cause extreme fear — a synonym, not antonym of daunt. आतंकित करना, भयभीत करना

10. B) **Insidious** (adjective) – Proceeding in a gradual, subtle way but with harmful effects; treacherous and deceptive. कपटी, धोखेबाज, छल-कपट से भरा

    Antonym: **Straightforward** (adjective) – Honest and direct; easy to understand; without any attempt to deceive. सीधा, ईमानदार, स्पष्ट
    - **Treacherous** (adjective) – Guilty of betrayal; not to be relied on — a synonym of insidious. विश्वासघाती, धोखेबाज
    - **Cunning** (adjective) – Having skill in achieving goals by deceit — a synonym of insidious. चालाक, धूर्त
    - **Deceitful** (adjective) – Guilty of or involving deceit — a synonym of insidious, not antonym. धोखेबाज, कपटी
11. A) **Sanctimonious** – A person who acts morally superior or excessively righteous ढोंगी धार्मिक / नैतिकता का दिखावा करने वाला
    - **Ingenious** – Clever and inventive बुद्धिमान
    - **Magnanimous** – Generous and forgiving उदार
    - **Spontaneous** – Natural and unplanned स्वतःस्फूर्त
12. B) The correct spelling of 'occurrance' is '**occurrence'** घटना, प्रस्थिति.
13. C) **Assessment** (noun) – the evaluation or estimation of the nature, quality, or ability of someone or something. (मूल्यांकन)
14. B) **Many toys in the shop were broken by the child. Even the paintings were thrown by him**. Active से Passive Voice में बदलने के लिए, दोनों वाक्यों के Object Passive वाक्यों के Subject बन जाते हैं और Verb को उसी Tense में Passive रूप में बदला जाता है। पहले वाक्य में "The child" Subject है, "broke" Verb (Simple Past) है और "many toys in the shop" Object है; दूसरे वाक्य में "He" Subject है, "threw" Verb (Simple Past) है और "the paintings" Object है। Passive में बदलने पर दोनों वाक्यों का Tense समान (Simple Past) बना रहता है, इसलिए "many toys in the shop" Subject बनकर "were broken by the child" बनता है, और "the paintings" Subject बनकर "were thrown by him" बनता है।
    - To change these sentences from Active to Passive Voice, the objects of both active sentences become the subjects of the passive sentences, and the verbs are transformed into their passive form while keeping the same tense throughout. In the first sentence, "The child" (Subject), "broke" (Verb in Simple Past), and "many toys in the shop" (Object) have been transformed into "Many toys in the shop" (Subject) and "were broken by the child" (Passive Verb in Simple Past). In the second sentence, "He"

(Subject), "threw" (Verb in Simple Past), and "the paintings" (Object) have been transformed into "the paintings" (Subject) and "were thrown by him" (Passive Verb in Simple Past) — giving option 2: Many toys in the shop were broken by the child. Even the paintings were thrown by him.

15. D) **She asked me, "How many of the students have registered till now?"**
Indirect Speech से Direct Speech में बदलते समय tense और time expression को original form में वापस लाया जाता है। यहाँ "had registered" Past Perfect tense में है, इसलिए Direct Speech में यह "have registered" (Present Perfect) बनेगा। साथ ही "till then" का परिवर्तन "till now" में होगा। क्योंकि sentence interrogative है, इसलिए reporting verb "asked" रहेगा। इसलिए सही sentence होगा — "She asked me, 'How many of the students have registered till now?'"
    - To change Indirect Speech into Direct Speech, the tense and time expression are restored to their original form. Here, "had registered" in Past Perfect changes back to "have registered" in the Present Perfect tense. Also, "till then" changes into "till now." Since the sentence is interrogative, the reporting verb "asked" remains appropriate. Therefore, the correct sentence is — "She asked me, 'How many of the students have registered till now?'"
16. C)**'Time'** का उपयोग होगा क्योंकि "time" का अर्थ होता है किसी खास मौके पर बिताए गए समय का अनुभव। Sentence में कहा गया है कि मैंने अपने जन्मदिन पर सभी दोस्तों और रिश्तेदारों के साथ अच्छा समय बिताया, इसलिए 'time' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'opportunity' का अर्थ है अवसर, 'day' का अर्थ है दिन, और 'experience' का अर्थ है अनुभव, जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं।
    - 'Time' will be used because it refers to the experience of a particular moment or occasion. The sentence mentions that I had a good time with friends and relatives on my birthday, making 'time' fitting here. Whereas, 'opportunity' means a chance, 'day' means a specific day, and 'experience' means the overall experience, which don't fit in this context.
17. D) 'were' के बदले **'was'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि Subject 'indifference' Singular Noun है अत: Verb भी Singular होनी चाहिए; जैसे— His dedication was well noticed.
    - 'was' will be used instead of 'were' because the subject 'indifference' is a Singular Noun, so the Verb should also be Singular; Like— His dedication was well noticed.
18. A) 'to switch on the light' के बदले **'to switch off the light'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि सोने का समय होने पर प्राय: लाइट बंद की जाती है, न कि चालू की जाती है; जैसे— माँ ने जॉन को लाइट बंद करने को कहा क्योंकि सोने का समय हो चुका था।
    - 'to switch off the light' will be used instead of 'to switch on the light' because generally, the light is turned off when it is time to sleep, not turned on; Like— Mother ordered John to switch off the light as it was time to sleep.
19. B) **Repeat** (verb) – say or do again; state again. Hindi: दोहराना, फिर से कहना। The word REITERATE (verb) means to say something again or a number of times, typically for emphasis. Hindi: बार बार दुहराना।
    - **Forget** (verb) – fail to remember; be unable to recall. Hindi: भूल जाना। It is the antonym of REITERATE.

- **Ignore** (verb) – refuse to take notice of or acknowledge. Hindi: अनदेखा करना। It is opposite in meaning to REITERATE.
- **Deny** (verb) – state that one refuses to admit the truth of something. Hindi: इनकार करना। It does not match the meaning of REITERATE.

20. D) **Respect** (noun) – a feeling of deep admiration for someone or something elicited by their abilities, qualities, or achievements. Hindi: सम्मान, आदर। The word DEFERENCE (noun) means polite submission and respect shown towards another person. Hindi: सम्मान, आदर।
    - **Disrespect** (noun) – lack of respect or courtesy. Hindi: अपमान, बेअदबी। It is the antonym of DEFERENCE.
    - **Arrogance** (noun) – the quality of being unpleasantly proud and behaving as if one is better than others. Hindi: अहंकार, घमंड। It is opposite in meaning to DEFERENCE.
    - **Contempt** (noun) – the feeling that a person or a thing is worthless or beneath consideration. Hindi: तिरस्कार, अवमानना। It does not match the meaning of DEFERENCE.
21. A) **on**

    Blank (1) needs the preposition that pairs with a named lake to indicate a location sitting beside or upon its shore. a) on: is the standard English preposition for a place situated at the edge of a body of water, as in "a meadow on Lake Lucerne," matching the fixed convention English uses for naming locations along a lake's edge. b) at: marks a specific point, more natural for a one-time event or precise address than the enduring geographic position of a landmark, violating the requirement since it doesn't reflect the established convention for a place along a named lake's shore. c) in: marks enclosure within something, violating the requirement since it would place the meadow inside the water itself, contradicting a meadow being solid ground. d) above: means positioned at a higher elevation over something, violating the requirement since the steamer moves directly out of the meadow into the lake's waters, implying the meadow sits at the same level as the water's edge, not elevated above it.
    Hindi:
    - Blank (1) में वो preposition चाहिए जो किसी नामी झील के साथ आकर किसी जगह के उसके किनारे पर बसे होने को बताए। a) on: यह अंग्रेज़ी का standard preposition है जो पानी के किनारे बसी जगह के लिए use होता है, जैसे "a meadow on Lake Lucerne", जो झील के किनारे जगहों के नाम बताने के तय तरीके से match करता है। b) at: यह किसी खास बिंदु को बताता है, जो किसी एक बार की घटना या सटीक पते के लिए ज़्यादा स्वाभाविक है, किसी स्थायी landmark के भौगोलिक स्थान के लिए नहीं, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह उस तय परंपरा को नहीं दर्शाता। c) in: यह किसी चीज़ के अंदर घिरे होने को बताता है, जो violate करता है क्योंकि इससे meadow खुद पानी के अंदर चली जाएगी, जबकि meadow तो ठोस ज़मीन है। d) above: इसका meaning है किसी चीज़ के ऊपर, ज़्यादा ऊँचाई पर होना, जो violate करता है क्योंकि स्टीमर सीधे meadow से निकलकर झील के पानी में जाता है, जिससे पता चलता है कि meadow पानी के किनारे के बराबर स्तर पर है, ऊँचाई पर बना कोई देखने का स्थान नहीं।
22. B) **comes off**

    Blank (2) needs a present-tense phrasal verb agreeing with "the wind," for air moving down and away from high ground, matching the present tense used elsewhere in the same sentence

("recede"). a) came across: is past tense, violating the requirement since the surrounding clause stays in the present; its meaning is also wrong — to be perceived a certain way or travel across an area, not wind blowing down a mountain. b) comes off: means wind blowing down and away from an elevated landform, matching both the present-tense frame and "the Rigi" as the mountain the wind sweeps down from. c) comes about: means for something to happen or arise, violating the requirement since it describes an abstract event occurring, not wind's direction relative to a mountain. d) come on: lacks the "-s" needed for singular "the wind," violating the requirement grammatically, and properly means to begin operating, like an illness or device, not wind descending from high ground.

Hindi:

- Blank (2) में singular "the wind" से agree करने वाला present-tense phrasal verb चाहिए, जो ऊँची ज़मीन से नीचे बहती हवा को बताए, और sentence के बाकी हिस्से ("recede") जैसे ही present tense से मेल खाए। a) came across: यह past tense है, जो violate करता है क्योंकि आसपास का clause present tense में है; meaning भी गलत है — किसी खास तरह समझा जाना या इलाका पार करना, पहाड़ से बहती हवा नहीं। b) comes off: इसका meaning है हवा का किसी ऊँचे पहाड़ से नीचे बहना, जो present-tense ढाँचे और "the Rigi" वाले पहाड़ दोनों से match करता है। c) comes about: इसका meaning है किसी बात का होना या उठ खड़ा होना, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह अमूर्त घटना बताता है, हवा की दिशा नहीं। d) come on: इसमें singular subject के लिए ज़रूरी "-s" नहीं है, जो violate करता है, और इसका सही meaning है शुरू होना, जैसे बीमारी या उपकरण, हवा का बहना नहीं।

23. C) **recede**

Blank (3) needs a plural present-tense verb agreeing with "the villages," for something gradually growing distant as one moves away. a) retractable: is an adjective meaning capable of being drawn back inward, like a retractable roof or blade, violating the requirement since the blank needs a verb to complete the sentence's action, and an adjective cannot occupy that grammatical slot at all. b) retreat: means to withdraw deliberately, typically from conflict or danger, violating the requirement since it implies intentional agency, whereas villages simply appear more distant from the viewer's perspective, with no choice involved. c) recede: means to move gradually further away and become less visible, as scenery does when viewed from a moving vessel, matching villages merging into their "Alpine stillness" as the steamer moves on. d) recoil: means to jerk back suddenly in fear or shock, violating the requirement since it describes a sudden sharp reaction, not the slow, continuous fading of scenery into the distance.

Hindi:

- Blank (3) में "the villages" से agree करने वाला plural present-tense verb चाहिए, जो दूर जाते हुए धीरे-धीरे धुंधले पड़ते जाने को बताए। a) retractable: यह एक adjective है जिसका meaning है अंदर की ओर खींचे जाने लायक, जैसे retractable छत या ब्लेड, जो violate करता है क्योंकि blank में sentence की क्रिया पूरी करने के लिए verb चाहिए, adjective यहाँ बैठ ही नहीं सकता। b) retreat: इसका meaning है जानबूझकर पीछे हटना, आमतौर पर टकराव से, जो violate करता है क्योंकि इसमें जानबूझकर हटने का

भाव है, जबकि गाँव तो बस देखने वाले की नज़र से दूर दिखते हैं, कोई चुनाव नहीं करते। c) recede: इसका meaning है धीरे-धीरे दूर होते जाना और कम दिखना, जो स्टीमर के आगे बढ़ने पर "Alpine stillness" में घुलते गाँवों से match करता है। d) recoil: इसका meaning है डर या सदमे से अचानक पीछे हटना, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह तीखी प्रतिक्रिया बताता है, धीमे धुंधलेपन को नहीं।

24. D) **homage**

Blank (4) needs a noun completing "an act of ___ to," for a deliberate, respectful gesture made in honour of admired figures. a) tribute: close in meaning, but violating the requirement since "an act of tribute" isn't standard collocation — natural phrasing is "pay tribute to" or "a tribute to." b) commend: is a verb meaning to praise or recommend someone formally, violating the requirement since the blank needs a noun to follow "an act of," and a bare verb cannot occupy that grammatical position at all. c) penance: violates the requirement on two counts — it collocates with "for," not "to" ("an act of penance for one's sins"), and it means atonement for wrongdoing, the opposite emotional register from reverence for beloved writers. d) homage: means a public show of respect through a deliberate act, matching the fixed phrase "an act of homage to," used exactly for a gesture made in honour of revered figures.

Hindi:

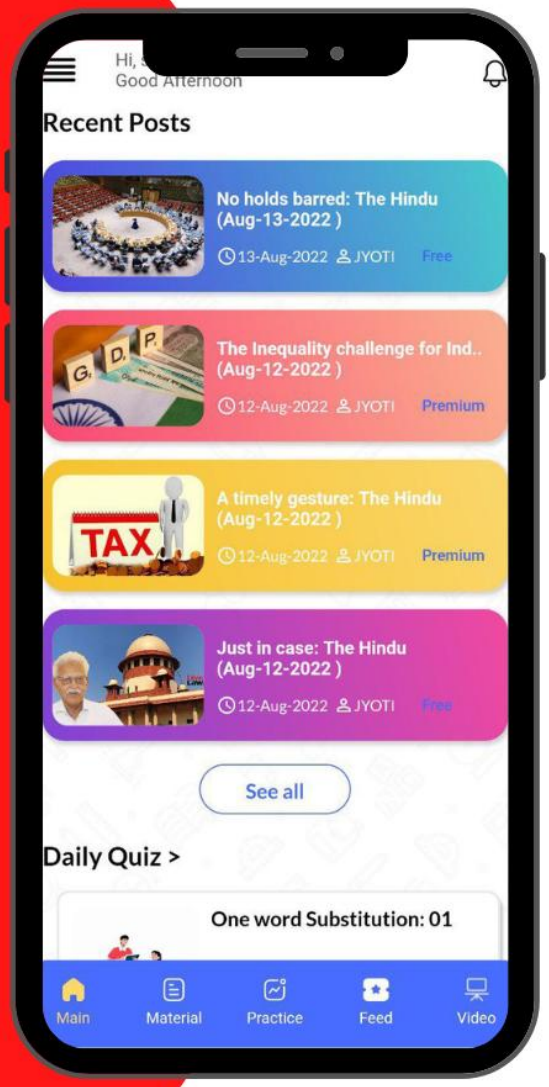
- Blank (4) में "an act of ___ to" को पूरा करने वाला noun चाहिए जो श्रद्धेय लोगों के सम्मान में किए गए जानबूझकर कदम को बताए। a) tribute: meaning करीब है, पर violate करता है क्योंकि "an act of tribute" standard जोड़ा नहीं है — स्वाभाविक phrasing है "pay tribute to" या "a tribute to"। b) commend: यह एक verb है जिसका meaning है औपचारिक रूप से किसी की प्रशंसा करना या सिफ़ारिश करना, जो violate करता है क्योंकि "an act of" के बाद noun चाहिए, और अकेला verb यहाँ बैठ ही नहीं सकता। c) penance: दो वजहों से violate करता है — इसके साथ "for" आता है, "to" नहीं ("an act of penance for one's sins"), और इसका meaning है गलती का प्रायश्चित, जो श्रद्धा के बिल्कुल उलट भाव है। d) homage: इसका meaning है किसी के प्रति दिया गया सार्वजनिक सम्मान, जो "an act of homage to" वाले जमे-जमाए phrase से match करता है।

25. A) **until**

Blank (5) needs a conjunction marking the point up to which something remained not understood, before a realisation described right after. a) until: means up to the point in time when something happens, after which the situation changes, matching the narrator's incomplete understanding persisting right up to standing on the deck, when realisation finally occurred. b) unless: means "except if," introducing a hypothetical condition, violating the requirement since the sentence describes an actual, completed realisation, not a condition that might avert an outcome. c) while: means during the same time as something else, violating the requirement since it would suggest the confusion and the deck-standing were simultaneous, whereas the sentence marks standing on deck as the turning point after which understanding began. d) since: means from a past point to now, or "because," violating the requirement since neither sense fits a past moment marking the end of not fully understanding something.

Hindi:

- Blank (5) में ऐसा conjunction चाहिए जो उस बिंदु को बताए जहाँ तक कोई बात समझ में नहीं आई थी, आगे बताई गई समझ से पहले। a) until: इसका meaning है किसी समय तक, जिसके बाद स्थिति बदल जाती है, जो डेक पर खड़े होने तक बनी रही अधूरी समझ से match करता है, जिसके बाद समझ आ गई। b) unless: इसका meaning है "अगर ऐसा ना हो तो", जो काल्पनिक शर्त रखता है, जो violate करता है क्योंकि sentence एक असल, पूरी हो चुकी समझ बताता है। c) while: इसका meaning है किसी और घटना के साथ-साथ, जो violate करता है क्योंकि इससे लगेगा कि उलझन और डेक पर खड़ा होना एक साथ था, जबकि sentence डेक को समझ शुरू होने के मोड़ की तरह दिखाता है। d) since: इसका meaning है बीते पल से अब तक, या "क्योंकि", जो violate करता है क्योंकि कोई भी भाव उस बीते पल पर फिट नहीं बैठता।



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