Business, unusual: On engaging with the Myanmar junta

Engaging with the Myanmar **junta** is a **short-sighted** move

Months after a **sham election** that installed junta chief Min Aung Hlaing as Myanmar's civilian President, the military continues to **wage** war on its own people even as the world has largely **looked away**. More than a lakh people are **estimated** to have died since the 2021 **coup**, many in fighting between the junta and the **anti-coup** People's Defence Forces and **ethnic** armed organisations. The junta has also killed thousands of civilians in air **strikes** on villages in rebel-held areas to **terrorise** communities into **giving up** their **resistance**. With wars affecting Ukraine, Gaza, Sudan and Yemen, and Iran, the world has grown **numb** to such violence. The junta has **exploited** that **indifference** and a shifting **geopolitical** situation to act with **impunity**. Russia and China, its principal arms suppliers, have **stood by** it with the former supplying jets that were used to **bomb** civilians. Beijing, which **tacitly** allowed three **ethnic** armed organisations to launch an offensive in Shan and Rakhine States in late 2023, has since pressured two of them into **ceasefires** and returning **seized** territory. It also **backed** the January election. Since being **sworn in**, Min Aung Hlaing has visited India, Thailand, Vietnam and three other ASEAN member-states. ASEAN still swears by its Five-Point Consensus, which **calls for** an end to violence and **dialogue**. Yet, its members seem more than **eager** to do business with a **regime** that has **flouted** every point. **Meanwhile**, U.S. officials **reportedly** held secret talks with the junta in Tokyo in June and October, and a senior **delegation** met Min Aung Hlaing in Naypyidaw in September. Japan is reportedly **pressing** the Financial Action Task Force to **take** Myanmar **off** its blacklist.

The **motives** are not hard to understand. China wants an **outlet** to the Indian Ocean and security for its oil and gas pipelines. It has also played both sides, **dealing with** the junta and powerful **rebel** groups such as the Kachin Independence Organisation, whose territory is rich in rare earths and **jade**, and the United Wa State Army, which runs a massive tin mine. New Delhi wants to **revive** its **stalled** Act East policy, including the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project. The U.S. eyes access to mining **vital** heavy rare earths such as dysprosium and terbium, for use in electric vehicles and weapons systems. What these **short-sighted overtures** miss is that trade **thrives** in a country at peace, not one where armed groups are **perennially** battling for control. The junta which has killed its citizens and has **scuttled** every move towards democracy cannot deliver that peace. Unless the generals are made to answer for their war crimes, Myanmar will remain a war zone. It will be **ruinous** not only for its **hapless** people but also for businesses **seeking** to trade with it. **[Practice Exercise]**

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

Vocabulary

1. **Junta** (noun) - faction, cabal, clique, council, administration सैन्य गुट
2. **Short-sighted** (adjective) - myopic, imprudent, careless, thoughtless, unwise अदूरदर्शी
3. **Sham election** (noun) - a fraudulent or fake electoral process फर्जी चुनाव
4. **Wage** (verb) - conduct, undertake, pursue, execute, practice छेड़ना (युद्ध आदि)
5. **Look away** (phrasal verb) - to ignore or pretend not to see something अनदेखा करना
6. **Estimate** (verb) - calculate, assess, evaluate, gauge, appraise अनुमान लगाना
7. **Coup** (noun) - takeover, overthrow, rebellion, revolution, putsch तख्तापलट
8. **Anti-coup** (adjective) - opposing a sudden, violent, and illegal seizure of power from a government तख्तापलट विरोधी
9. **Ethnic** (adjective) - racial, cultural, tribal, indigenous, traditional जातीय
10. **Strike** (noun) - attack, assault, raid, bombing, offensive हमला
11. **Terrorise** (verb) - intimidate, frighten, threaten, coerce, bully आतंकित करना
12. **Give up** (phrasal verb) - to surrender or stop doing something हार मानना
13. **Resistance** (noun) - opposition, defiance, struggle, fight, hindrance प्रतिरोध
14. **Numb** (adjective) - desensitized, unfeeling, indifferent, apathetic, detached संवेदनहीन
15. **Exploit** (verb) - utilize, manipulate, abuse, misuse, leverage फायदा उठाना
16. **Indifference** (noun) - apathy, unconcern, disregard, negligence, aloofness उदासीनता
17. **Geopolitical** (adjective) - relating to politics, especially international relations, as influenced by geographical factors भू-राजनीतिक
18. **Impunity** (noun) - exemption, immunity, nonliability, freedom, dispensation दंडमुक्ति
19. **Stand by** (phrasal verb) - to support or remain loyal to someone or something साथ देना
20. **Bomb** (verb) - attack, blast, shell, destroy, obliterate बमबारी करना
21. **Tacitly** (adverb) - silently, implicitly, indirectly, quietly, unspokenly मौन रूप से
22. **Ceasefire** (noun) - truce, armistice, peace, suspension, break युद्धविराम
23. **Seize** (verb) - capture, grab, snatch, confiscate, appropriate कब्ज़ा करना
24. **Back** (verb) - support, endorse, sponsor, champion, assist समर्थन करना
25. **Swear in** (phrasal verb) - to make someone take an oath before taking a new job or position शपथ दिलाना
26. **Call for** (phrasal verb) - to demand or request publicly मांग करना
27. **Dialogue** (noun) - conversation, discussion, talk, negotiation, parley बातचीत
28. **Eager** (adjective) - keen, enthusiastic, impatient, anxious, avid उत्सुक
29. **Regime** (noun) - government, administration, rule, authority, system शासन
30. **Flout** (verb) - defy, disregard, ignore, violate, disobey उल्लंघन करना
31. **Meanwhile** (adverb) - simultaneously, concurrently, meantime, however, yet इस बीच
32. **Reportedly** (adverb) - allegedly, supposedly, apparently, ostensibly, purportedly कथित तौर पर

33. **Delegation** (noun) - mission, commission, contingent, deputation, legation प्रतिनिधिमंडल
34. **Press** (verb) - urge, force, compel, pressure, push दबाव डालना
35. **Take off** (phrasal verb) - to remove someone or something from a list या सूची से हटाना
36. **Motive** (noun) - reason, intention, purpose, cause, incentive उद्देश्य
37. **Outlet** (noun) - market, vent, channel, avenue, opening निकास
38. **Deal with** (phrasal verb) - to interact with, handle, or manage someone or something सौदा करना
39. **Rebel** (noun) - insurgent, revolutionary, mutineer, agitator, dissident विद्रोही
40. **Jade** (noun) - greenstone, gemstone, mineral, stone, rock जेड (एक प्रकार का कीमती पत्थर)
41. **Revive** (verb) - restore, resurrect, renew, revitalize, recover पुनर्जीवित करना
42. **Stall** (verb) - halt, delay, obstruct, hinder, stop अटकाना
43. **Vital** (adjective) - crucial, essential, critical, important, indispensable अति आवश्यक
44. **Overture** (noun) - approach, proposal, advance, offer, move प्रस्ताव
45. **Thrive** (verb) - flourish, prosper, bloom, succeed, grow फलना-फूलना
46. **Perennially** (adverb) - constantly, continually, perpetually, always, permanently हमेशा
47. **Scuttle** (verb) - sabotage, ruin, destroy, wreck, foil विफल करना
48. **Ruinous** (adjective) - destructive, disastrous, catastrophic, devastating, fatal विनाशकारी
49. **Hapless** (adjective) - unfortunate, unlucky, miserable, wretched, cursed अभागा
50. **Seek** (verb) - pursue, look, aim, attempt, endeavor खोजना

Summary of the Editorial

1. **Short-Sighted Engagement:** Foreign engagement with Myanmar's military junta is a short-sighted strategy that fails to address the underlying conflict.
2. **Sham Election:** Junta chief Min Aung Hlaing was installed as Myanmar's civilian President following a sham election.
3. **Severe Human Cost:** Over 100,000 people are estimated to have died since the 2021 military coup.
4. **Targeting Civilians:** The junta continues to launch deliberate air strikes on villages in rebel-held areas to terrorize communities into ending resistance.
5. **Ongoing Conflict:** Heavy fighting persists between the junta, the anti-coup People's Defence Forces, and ethnic armed organizations.
6. **Global Indifference:** The world's focus on conflicts in Ukraine, Gaza, Sudan, Yemen, and Iran has allowed the junta to act with impunity.
7. **Russian Support:** Russia remains a key arms supplier, providing fighter jets used by the junta to bomb civilians.
8. **China's Shifting Tactics:** China initially permitted ethnic armed alliances to launch offensives in Shan and Rakhine states, but later forced ceasefires, demanded the return of seized territory, and backed the January election.
9. **Regional Diplomacy Failure:** Despite ASEAN's commitment to its Five-Point Consensus calling for non-violence and dialogue, ASEAN members continue to conduct business with the regime.
10. **High-Level Regional Visits:** Since taking office as President, Min Aung Hlaing has visited India, Thailand, Vietnam, and three other ASEAN nations.
11. **Secret U.S. Outreach:** U.S. officials reportedly engaged in secret talks with the junta in Tokyo, followed by a senior delegation meeting in Naypyidaw.
12. **Japanese Intervention:** Japan is reportedly lobbying the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) to remove Myanmar from its blacklist.
13. **Geopolitical & Resource Interests:**
    - **China** seeks security for its pipelines, Indian Ocean access, and access to rare earths, jade, and tin by dealing with both the junta and powerful rebel groups (such as the KIO and UWSA).
    - **India** aims to revive its stalled Act East policy and projects like the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project.
    - **The U.S.** seeks access to heavy rare earths (dysprosium and terbium) essential for electric vehicles and defense systems.
14. **Economic Reality:** Foreign powers are overlooking the fact that sustainable trade requires peace, which a regime waging war on its own citizens cannot deliver.
15. **Lack of Accountability:** Without holding the junta accountable for war crimes, Myanmar will remain an unstable war zone, causing ruin for both its people and foreign commercial interests.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **What does the phrase "scuttled every move" in the passage most nearly convey? [Editorial]**
   A. Deliberately sabotaged and destroyed all democratic political processes
   B. Gradually transitioned state administrative institutions into constitutional civilian governance
   C. Formally ratified international humanitarian accords during regional summit deliberations
   D. Temporarily suspended commercial mineral extraction concessions across northern frontier
2. **Why does the author argue that New Delhi's engagement with the military administration is short-sighted?**
   A. Because regional trade regulations prohibit domestic enterprises from investing capital in foreign maritime transportation facilities.
   B. Because reviving connectivity initiatives like the Kaladan project is unfeasible while territorial conflict continues across transit areas.
   C. Because the central military government refused to grant transit corridors connecting landlocked provinces to the Bay of Bengal.
   D. Because international financial institutions have made regional infrastructure funding conditional upon conducting fresh nationwide parliamentary elections.
3. **According to the passage, what dual approach did Beijing adopt toward the armed offensive launched in late 2023?**
   A. Beijing provided direct financial subsidies to ethnic militias while deploying peacekeeping forces along disputed international borders.
   B. Beijing mediated continuous formal power-sharing negotiations between civilian political leaders and high-ranking military commanders.
   C. Beijing initially permitted rebel groups to initiate operations before exerting diplomatic pressure to enforce ceasefires.
   D. Beijing coordinated joint naval surveillance operations with regional coast guards to prevent weapons shipments along coastlines.
4. **Identify the correct passive voice form of the sentence taken from the passage:**
   "Russia supplied advanced fighter jets to the junta, and the military killed thousands of civilians in air strikes."
   A. Advanced fighter jets are supplied to the junta by Russia, and thousands of civilians were killed by the military in air strikes.
   B. Advanced fighter jets were supplied to the junta by Russia, and thousands of civilians are killed by the military in air strikes.
   C. Advanced fighter jets had been supplied to the junta by Russia, and thousands of civilians were killed by the military in air strikes.
   D. Advanced fighter jets were supplied to the junta by Russia, and thousands of civilians were killed by the military in air strikes.
5. **What constitutes a primary regional diplomatic agreement mentioned in the passgae that the junta has completely disregarded?**
   A. ASEAN Five-Point Consensus on Myanmar
   B. Bay of Bengal Multi-Sectoral Convention
   C. Southeast Asian Nuclear Free Zone

D. East Asia Summit Security Protocol

6. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the underlined word.**
   He gave a large amount of donation for flood victims and everyone appreciated his **magnanimous** act.
   A. Vindictive
   B. Chimerical
   C. Chivalrous
   D. Cherubic
7. **What does the idiom "Go the extra mile" mean?**
   A. To do more than necessary
   B. To run quickly
   C. To travel far
   D. To wait patiently
8. **Direction: In the following question, the passage is split into five parts and named A, B, C, D, and E. Rearrange these five parts to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent paragraph.**
   A. Innsbruck is ringed by the Austrian Alps, meaning wherever you wander in the city – among the medieval alleys of the Altstadt or past the colourful houses along the River Inn – snow-covered mountains are the constant backdrop.
   B. Those jagged peaks are home to 12 ski areas within 15 to 75 minutes of the city by public transport, and some are worth the trip for the snow-plough-averse too.
   C. Zaha Hadid's swooping, modernist Bergisel ski jump is a dominant sight above the town and the vertiginous view is even better from its observation deck.
   D. The architect also designed four of the Nordpark Cable Railway stations that feature fluid glass canopies mimicking natural ice formations and glaciers.
   E. They take skiers and non-skiers up to the Nordkette mountains for a bird's eye view of the Tirolean capital.
   A. A-B-C-D-E
   B. B-A-C-D-E
   C. C-D-E-A-B
   D. D-E-C-A-B
9. **Select the option that best expresses the meaning of the given phrasal verb.**
   Bog down
   A. To publicly support an idea or a set of opinions
   B. To improve a situation or make it better
   C. To slow down or prevent progress from happening
   D. To explain something in a very clear way with details
10. **Choose the antonym of 'affluent'.**
    A. Wealthy
    B. Rich
    C. Destitute
    D. Prosperous
11. **Identify the active voice form of the given sentence.**
    Let the mobile be charged.
    A. Charge the mobile.

B. One must charge the mobile.
C. Someone should charge the mobile.
D. Will you charge the mobile?

12. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.**
Bewilderment
A. Settlement
B. Agreement
C. Arrangement
D. Confusion

13. **Choose the correct one-word substitute for:**
The study of the universe's origin, structure, and evolution
A. Astronomy
B. Astrophysics
C. Cosmology
D. Stellar Dynamics

14. **Select the correctly spelt word out of the four alternatives.**
A. Mellifluous
B. Melifluous
C. Mellifluas
D. Melliflouous

15. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in indirect speech.**
The boy said to the teacher, "Sir, I am weak in Maths and seek your advice."
A. The boy told the teacher that he was weak in Maths and seek his advice.
B. The boy told the teacher that he was weak in Maths and sought his advice.
C. The boy told the teacher that he is weak in Maths and see his advice.
D. The boy told that he was weak in Maths and sought his advice

16. **Direction: In the following question, the passage is split into five parts and named A, B, C, D, and E. Rearrange these five parts to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent paragraph.**
A. Nordic skates have long blades attached only at the front of the boot, used to make long, rhythmic glides, while other specialist safety kit includes poles to assess ice thickness and a backpack that doubles as a flotation device.
B. While Scandinavians started using animal bones to make primitive ice skates thousands of years ago, wild, or Nordic, skating as we know it (long-distance skating outdoors on natural ice for sport rather than utility) evolved in Sweden in the 1900s.
C. Wild is the operative word here, and it is prudent as a beginner to skate with a pro.
D. Stockholm's Skridskoseglarklubb ("Skate Sailing Club") was formed in 1901 and today has more than 10,000 members, who share the latest ice information online to find the ideal skating locations.
E. Stockholm-based Ice Guide runs guided tours across Lake Mälaren or the Baltic Sea, while nearby Hellasgården is another popular spot featuring ploughed tracks on Lake Källtorpssjön.
A. D-B-A-C-E
B. B-D-A-C-E
C. C-E-B-D-A
D. A-D-B-C-E

17. **Choose the antonym of 'commend':**
    A. Praise
    B. Approve
    C. Criticize
    D. Applaud
18. **Fill in the blank with the correct collocation.**
    Holm, a Danish traveller, had made a/an _____ replica of the tablet, which in 1908 was deposited in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York
    A. corrupt
    B. obscure
    C. wild
    D. exact
19. **Select the most appropriate option to improve the bold part of the sentence.**
    They **returned back to their home.**
    A. came back to home
    B. went back home
    C. returned to house
    D. returned home
20. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment thatcontains a grammatical error.**
    Janet has / a pet dog / who are / very smart.
    A. Janet has
    B. who are
    C. a pet dog
    D. very smart

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

    Strip away the technical vocabulary, and the story begins to sound strangely familiar. In the summer of 1816, a bored 18-year-old named Mary Shelley was stuck indoors in a rented villa in Switzerland through weeks of freezing, rain-soaked weather that nobody at the time could explain. We know now that a volcano called Tambora had erupted the year before, on the other side of the world, throwing enough (1)___ into the sky to disturb the climate of the entire planet. That year became known as the "Year Without a Summer".

    Cooped up indoors with Byron, her future husband Percy Shelley, and their friends, Mary passed the evenings writing a ghost story that evolved into Frankenstein. It is rather strange that the most famous cautionary tale about human beings losing control of their own creation was itself written during a climate disaster that its author never realised she was living through. Two centuries later, the old warning has acquired a (4) disconcerting new (2)___.

    The modern architects of artificial intelligence stood up in public and urged a pause in the (5) headlong race to develop it further. On September 12, Dario Amodei, who runs Anthropic, published an essay saying the industry was moving faster than its ability to keep the technology safe, and that it owed it to everyone else to (3)___. Within a day, two of his biggest rivals, Sam Altman of OpenAI and Elon Musk, admitted publicly that he had a point.
21. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (1):**

A. magma
B. pyroclastic
C. lava
D. ash

22. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (2):**
    A. triviality
    B. relevance
    C. pertinently
    D. anachronism
23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (3):**
    A. ramp up
    B. slowed down
    C. ease off
    D. press on
24. **The word "disconcerting" (4) in the passage is closest in meaning to:**
    A. perturbing
    B. exhilarating
    C. reassuring
    D. soporific
25. **Select the word that is the most appropriate antonym of "headlong" (5) as used in the passage:**
    A. precipitate
    B. measured
    C. breakneck
    D. impetuous

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. A) **Deliberately sabotaged and destroyed all democratic political processes.**
   "Scuttle" means to deliberately ruin or destroy something so that it cannot succeed. The passage says the junta has done this to "every move towards democracy." This fits with the rest of the passage: the election was called a "sham," the military is still fighting its own people, and it has blocked any path to democratic change. So the phrase means the junta has destroyed all efforts toward democracy. Option A says this.
   - Option B is incorrect because the option says the junta slowly moved state institutions toward civilian rule, but the passage says the opposite. It calls the election a "sham" and says the military keeps waging war on its own people. "Scuttled" means ruined, not carried forward.
   - Option C is incorrect because the option says the junta signed international humanitarian agreements, but the passage never says this. It says ASEAN's Five-Point Consensus, which calls for an end to violence and dialogue, has been flouted by the regime.
   - Option D is incorrect because the option says mining permits were paused for a short time, but the passage is talking about democracy, not mining. Mining and rare earths are mentioned only as reasons why other countries want to deal with Myanmar.
2. B) **Because reviving connectivity initiatives like the Kaladan project is unfeasible while territorial conflict continues across transit areas.**
   Passage: "New Delhi wants to revive its stalled Act East policy, including the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project... What these short-sighted overtures miss is that trade thrives in a country at peace, not one where armed groups are perennially battling for control. The junta... cannot deliver that peace."---The passage says India wants to revive the Kaladan project and its Act East policy by dealing with the junta. The author says this overlooks one thing: trade and projects need peace. Myanmar is full of armed groups fighting for control, and the junta cannot bring peace. So India's plan cannot work well while the fighting continues. Option B says this.
   - Option A is incorrect because the option says trade rules ban Indian firms from investing in foreign transport facilities, but the passage says nothing about any such rule. The author's objection is about the lack of peace, not a legal ban.
   - Option C is incorrect because the option says the junta refused to give transit corridors to the Bay of Bengal, but the passage never says this. It says the junta has been receiving visits and talks from many countries, including India.
   - Option D is incorrect because the option says international lenders made funding depend on new elections, but the passage never mentions this. It only says the January election was a "sham" and that Japan is pressing the FATF to take Myanmar off its blacklist.

3. C) **Beijing initially permitted rebel groups to initiate operations before exerting diplomatic pressure to enforce ceasefires.**
   Passage: "Beijing, which tacitly allowed three ethnic armed organisations to launch an offensive in Shan and Rakhine States in late 2023, has since pressured two of them into ceasefires and returning seized territory."---The passage describes two steps by Beijing. First, it quietly allowed three ethnic armed groups to start an offensive in late 2023. Later, it pressured two of those groups to agree to ceasefires and give back the land they had taken. This is the "dual approach": first allow, then pressure. Option C says this.
   - Option A is incorrect because the option says Beijing gave money to militias and sent peacekeepers to the borders, but the passage never says this. It only says Beijing allowed the offensive and later pressured the groups.
   - Option B is incorrect because the option says Beijing mediated power-sharing talks between civilian leaders and military commanders, but the passage never says this. It says Beijing backed the January election and pressured rebel groups into ceasefires.
   - Option D is incorrect because the option says Beijing ran joint naval patrols with coast guards to stop weapons shipments, but the passage never mentions this. It says China and Russia are the junta's main arms suppliers.
4. D) **Advanced fighter jets were supplied to the junta by Russia, and thousands of civilians were killed by the military in air strikes.**
   Sentence: "Russia supplied advanced fighter jets to the junta, and the military killed thousands of civilians in air strikes." This sentence has two parts joined by "and." Both verbs, "supplied" and "killed," are in the simple past tense. To make passive voice, we do three things for each part: 1.) The object becomes the new subject. 2.) The verb becomes "was/were + past participle," in the same tense as the original. 3.) The doer moves to the end with "by."
   Part 1: "Russia supplied advanced fighter jets" becomes "Advanced fighter jets were supplied... by Russia." ("Jets" is plural, so we use "were.")
   Part 2: "the military killed thousands of civilians" becomes "thousands of civilians were killed by the military." ("Civilians" is plural, so we use "were.") So both parts must use "were" (simple past passive). Option D does this.
   - Option A is incorrect because the option uses "are supplied" in the first part, which is present tense. The original verb "supplied" is past tense, so the tense is wrongly changed.
   - Option B is incorrect because the option uses "are killed" in the second part, which is present tense. The original verb "killed" is past tense, so the tense is wrongly changed.
   - Option C is incorrect because the option uses "had been supplied" in the first part, which is past perfect tense. The original is simple past, so this changes the time meaning. It also mixes two different tenses in the sentence.
5. A) **ASEAN Five-Point Consensus on Myanmar**
   Passage: "ASEAN still swears by its Five-Point Consensus, which calls for an end to violence and dialogue. Yet, its members seem more than eager to do business with a regime that has flouted every point."---The passage names only one regional agreement: the ASEAN Five-Point Consensus. It says this agreement asks for an end to violence and for dialogue. It then says the junta has "flouted every point," which means it has ignored all of them. So the agreement the junta has disregarded is the ASEAN Five-Point Consensus. Option A says this.

- Option B is incorrect because the option names a “Bay of Bengal Multi-Sectoral Convention,” but the passage never mentions any such agreement. It only mentions the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project, which is an Indian connectivity project, not a diplomatic agreement the junta broke.
- Option C is incorrect because the option names a “Southeast Asian Nuclear Free Zone,” but the passage says nothing about nuclear matters. The passage talks about violence, elections and trade.
- Option D is incorrect because the option names an “East Asia Summit Security Protocol,” but the passage never mentions this. The only agreement named in the passage as being flouted is ASEAN’s Five-Point Consensus.

6. C) **Magnanimous** (adjective) – Generous in forgiving an insult or injury; free from petty resentfulness or vindictiveness, large-hearted, charitable. उदार
   Synonym: **Chivalrous** (adjective) – Courteous and gallant, especially towards women, knightly, gentlemanly. शूरवीर
   - **Vindictive** (adjective) – Having or showing a strong or unreasoning desire for revenge, vengeful, spiteful. प्रतिशोधी
   - **Chimerical** (adjective) – Unlikely to be realized; imaginary, fantastical, quixotic. कल्पनाशील
   - **Cherubic** (adjective) – Having the innocence or plump prettiness of a young child, angelic, sweet, innocent. स्वर्गीय
7. A) **Go the extra mile** (idiom) – To do more than necessary (make extra effort) अपेक्षा से अधिक प्रयास करना
8. A) **A-B-C-D-E**
   Explanation:
   Hindi Explanation:
   - Sentence A standalone opening sentence है। यह main subject Innsbruck और उसके background में फैले "snow-covered mountains" को introduce करता है।
   - Sentence B Sentence A के तुरंत बाद आएगा और A-B का mandatory pair बनाएगा। Sentence A के "snow-covered mountains" को Sentence B demonstrative phrase "Those jagged peaks" के जरिए point out करता है और वहाँ मौजूद 12 ski areas को introduce करता है।
   - Sentence C Sentence B को follow करेगा। Ski areas के broad landscape के बाद Sentence C town के ऊपर मौजूद specific landmark—Zaha Hadid द्वारा design किए गए Bergisel ski jump को सामने लाता है।
   - Sentence D Sentence C के ठीक बाद आएगा और C-D का direct additive pair बनाएगा। Sentence C में architect Zaha Hadid के introduction के बाद Sentence D "The architect

also designed..." phrase का use करके उनके दूसरे project—चार Nordpark Cable Railway stations को जोड़ता है।

- Sentence E Sentence D के बाद आकर sequence को logically conclude करेगा। Sentence D में उल्लिखित four railway stations के लिए Sentence E में pronoun "They" का use हुआ है ("They take skiers and non-skiers up to the Nordkette mountains..."), जो Tirolean capital के panoramic view के साथ passage को complete करता है।

English Explanation:

- Sentence A serves as the independent opening sentence, introducing the primary geographical setting of Innsbruck nestled within the Austrian Alps, with snow-covered mountains acting as an omnipresent backdrop.
- Sentence B directly follows Sentence A (A-B). The demonstrative noun phrase "Those jagged peaks" hooks back to the "snow-covered mountains" established in A, cataloging the 12 accessible ski zones around the city.
- Sentence C follows Sentence B, transitioning from the broader slopes to a prominent urban architectural landmark: Zaha Hadid's modernist Bergisel ski jump.
- Sentence D forms an essential additive pair with Sentence C (C-D). Following the explicit introduction of architect Zaha Hadid in C, Sentence D uses the referential phrase "The architect also designed..." to introduce her second contribution—four Nordpark Cable Railway stations.
- Sentence E concludes the sequence (D-E). The plural subject pronoun "They" in E refers directly back to the railway stations detailed in D, outlining their operational function of carrying visitors up to the Nordkette range for aerial city views.

9. C) **Bog down** (phrasal verb) – to slow down or prevent progress; to get stuck. (उलझ जाना या अटक जाना)

10. C) **Affluent** (adjective) – Having a great deal of money; wealthy, rich, prosperous. संपन्न
Antonym: **Destitute** (adjective) – Extremely poor; lacking basic necessities, impoverished. गरीब, निर्धन

    - **Wealthy** (adjective) – Having a lot of money or possessions; rich, affluent. धनाढ्य
    - **Rich** (adjective) – Having plentiful resources or wealth; affluent, prosperous. अमीर
    - **Prosperous** (adjective) – Successful in material terms; flourishing financially. समृद्ध

11. A) **Charge the mobile.**
Passive से Active Voice में बदलते समय sentence का वास्तविक अर्थ और structure ध्यान में रखा जाता है। यहाँ "Let the mobile be charged" एक imperative passive sentence है, जिसमें किसी कार्य को करने का आदेश या निर्देश दिया जा रहा है। इसका Active Voice imperative form होगा — "Charge the mobile." यहाँ "the mobile" Object है और "charge" verb की base form में प्रयोग हुआ है।
To change a sentence from Passive to Active Voice, the actual meaning and structure of the sentence must be considered carefully. Here, "Let the mobile be charged" is an imperative passive sentence expressing an order or instruction. Its active voice imperative form becomes

— “Charge the mobile.” Here, “the mobile” is the object and “charge” is used in its base verb form

12. D) **Bewilderment** (noun) – A state of being confused, puzzled, or perplexed. परेशानी
Synonym: **Confusion** (noun) – Lack of understanding or uncertainty; a situation of panic or disorder. भ्रम
    - **Settlement** (noun) – The action or process of settling an account or dispute; an official agreement intended to resolve a dispute or conflict. निपटान
    - **Agreement** (noun) – Harmony or accordance in opinion or feeling; a negotiated and typically legally binding arrangement between parties. समझौता
    - **Arrangement** (noun) – The action, process, or result of arranging or being arranged; a plan or preparation for a future event.व्यवस्था
13. C) **Cosmology** (noun) – The study of the origin, structure and evolution of the universe. ब्रह्मांड विज्ञान
    - **Astronomy** (noun) – The study of celestial objects, space and the physical universe as a whole. खगोल विज्ञान
    - **Astrophysics** (noun) – The branch of astronomy dealing with the physical nature of stars and other celestial bodies. खगोल भौतिकी
    - **Stellar Dynamics** (noun) – The study of the motion of stars under the influence of gravity. तारकीय गतिकी
14. A) **The correct spelling is ‘Mellifluous’ which means “(of a voice or words) sweet or musical; pleasant to hear” मधुर, सुरीला।**
15. B) **The boy told the teacher that he was weak in Maths and sought his advice.**
Direct से Indirect Speech में बदलने के लिए Reporting Verb "said to" को "told" में बदला जाता है, inverted commas हटाकर "that" लगाया जाता है, address वाला शब्द ("Sir") हटाया जाता है और Reported Speech के Tense तथा Pronoun में आवश्यक बदलाव किए जाते हैं। Reported Speech "I am weak in Maths and seek your advice" में दोनों Verbs Present Simple में हैं, इसलिए दोनों Past Simple में बदलेंगे: "am" → "was" और "seek" → "sought"। Pronoun "I" का मतलब बोलने वाला "The boy" है, इसलिए "I" की जगह "he" और "your" की जगह "his" आएगा। "seek" और "see" में Tense नहीं बदला या गलत Verb है, "he is weak" में Tense नहीं बदला और "told that" में "the teacher" छूट गया है, इसलिए ये गलत हैं।
To change a sentence from Direct to Indirect Speech, the reporting verb "said to" is changed to "told", the inverted commas are removed and "that" is added, the word of address ("Sir") is dropped, and the tense and pronouns of the reported speech are adjusted as required. In the reported speech "I am weak in Maths and seek your advice", both verbs are in the Present Simple, so both change to the Past Simple: "am" becomes "was" and "seek" becomes "sought". The pronoun "I" refers to the speaker, "The boy", so "I" changes to "he" and "your" changes to "his". "Seek" and "see" do not change the tense correctly or use a wrong verb, "he

is weak" leaves the tense unchanged, and "told that" omits "the teacher", so these options are incorrect.

16. B) **B-D-A-C-E**

Explanation:

Hindi Explanation:

- Sentence B standalone opening sentence है। यह ancient history (animal bone skates) से transition करके main subject—"wild, or Nordic, skating" और 1900s में Sweden में इसके evolution को introduce करता है।
- Sentence D Sentence B को follow करेगा और B-D का chronological link बनाएगा। Sentence B में 1900s के evolution के बाद Sentence D ठीक 1901 में स्थापित "Stockholm's Skridskoseglarklubb" और skating locations तलाशने के community network को detail करता है।
- Sentence A Sentence D के बाद आएगा। Sport और community establish होने के बाद Sentence A essential equipment ("Nordic skates") और safety kit ("poles to assess ice thickness", "flotation device") की specifications को describe करता है।
- Sentence C Sentence A के ठीक बाद आकर A-C का mandatory contextual link बनाएगा। Sentence A में safety gear की आवश्यकता बताने के बाद Sentence C "Wild is the operative word here" phrase के जरिए natural ice के inherent risks को underline करता है और beginners को "skate with a pro" की सलाह देता है।
- Sentence E Sentence C को follow करेगा और C-E का direct pair बनाएगा। Sentence C के professional recommendation के बाद Sentence E professional services ("Stockholm-based Ice Guide") और guided touring routes (Lake Mälaren, Hellasgården) की practical details देकर passage logically complete करता है।

English Explanation:

- Sentence B functions as the independent introductory sentence, establishing the broader historical backdrop before formally defining the core subject: modern "wild, or Nordic, skating" as an outdoor pursuit that emerged in Sweden in the 1900s.
- Sentence D directly follows Sentence B (B-D), providing immediate chronological progression from the general 1900s emergence to the specific 1901 founding of Stockholm's Skridskoseglarklubb and its modern network for tracking ice conditions.
- Sentence A follows Sentence D, transitioning from organizational history to technical equipment, detailing the mechanical design of Nordic skates and specialized safety gear.
- Sentence C forms an immediate referential link with Sentence A (A-C). Building on the safety precautions described in A, Sentence C highlights the phrase "Wild is the operative word here" to emphasize natural hazards, advising novices to skate with certified guides.

- Sentence E concludes the sequence (C-E). Responding to the recommendation to skate with professionals in C, Sentence E provides tangible commercial examples by introducing Stockholm-based Ice Guide along with established excursion hubs like Lake Mälaren and Hellasgården.

17. C) **Commend** (verb) – To praise formally or officially; to express approval. सराहना करना
    Antonym: **Criticize** (verb) – To indicate the faults of someone or something in a disapproving way. आलोचना करना
    - **Praise** (verb) – Express warm approval or admiration of. प्रशंसा करना
    - **Approve** (verb) – To officially agree to or accept as satisfactory. मंज़ूरी देना
    - **Applaud** (verb) – Show approval or praise by clapping. ताली बजाना, सराहना करना
18. D) Exact' का use होगा क्योंकि "exact" का अर्थ होता है बिलकुल सही या यथार्थ। sentence में बताया गया है कि Holm ने टैबलेट की एक replica बनाई थी, जो 1908 में Metropolitan Museum of Art में रखी गई थी, इसलिए 'exact' यहाँ सही है क्योंकि यह दर्शाता है कि replica बिलकुल असली टैबलेट जैसी थी। 'Corrupt' का अर्थ होता है भ्रष्ट या बिगड़ा हुआ, 'Obscure' का अर्थ होता है अस्पष्ट या अज्ञात, और 'Wild' का अर्थ होता है जंगली या अनियंत्रित, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।
    Exact' should be used because it means completely accurate or precise. The sentence indicates that Holm had made a replica of the tablet, which was then placed in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in 1908, so 'exact' is correct here as it suggests that the replica was just like the original tablet. 'Corrupt' implies something that is tainted or damaged, 'Obscure' means not clear or unknown, and 'Wild' suggests something untamed or uncontrolled, none of which fit in this context.
19. D) returned back to their home ' के बदले 'returned home' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'return' में ही 'back' का अर्थ शामिल है, अत: 'back' का प्रयोग अनावश्यक है; साथ ही 'home' के साथ 'to' का प्रयोग नहीं किया जाता; जैसे—They returned home after the trip.
    'returned home' will be used instead of (to their home)' because 'return' already implies 'back', so using 'back' is redundant; also, 'to' is not used with 'home'; Like—They returned home after the trip.
20. B) **'who are' के बदले 'who is' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'dog' singular है और इसके लिए singular verb का प्रयोग होगा; जैसे— She is the girl who is studying in my class.**
    'who is' will be used instead of 'who are' because 'dog' is singular and hence a singular verb will be used for it; Like— She is the girl who is studying in my class.
21. D) **ash**
    Blank (1) needs a noun for the fine volcanic material that Tambora threw "into the sky," enough "to disturb the climate of the entire planet." a) magma: means molten rock still beneath the earth's surface, violating the requirement since magma stays underground — once it erupts, it is called lava. b) pyroclastic: is an adjective describing material thrown out by a volcano, close in sense, violating the requirement since "enough ___" needs a noun, as in "pyroclastic material." c) lava: means molten rock that pours out of a volcano and flows over the ground, violating the requirement since lava falls back to earth rather than hanging in the

sky to block sunlight. d) ash: means the fine particles blasted out of an erupting volcano, matching the cloud that spread through the atmosphere and cooled the planet.
Hindi:
Blank (1) में उस बारीक volcanic material के लिए noun चाहिए जो Tambora ने "into the sky" फेंका, इतना कि वो "to disturb the climate of the entire planet" कर सके। a) magma: इसका meaning है धरती की सतह के नीचे की पिघली चट्टान, जो violate करता है क्योंकि magma ground के नीचे रहता है — बाहर निकलने पर उसे lava कहते हैं। b) pyroclastic: यह adjective है जो volcano से फेंके गए material को describe करता है, sense करीब है, पर violate करता है क्योंकि "enough ___" में noun चाहिए, जैसे "pyroclastic material।" c) lava: इसका meaning है volcano से निकलकर ground पर बहने वाली पिघली चट्टान, जो violate करता है क्योंकि lava वापस धरती पर गिरता है, sky में रहकर धूप नहीं रोकता। d) ash: इसका meaning है फटते volcano से निकलने वाले बारीक कण, जो atmosphere में फैलकर धरती को ठंडा करने वाले बादल से match करता है।

22. B) **relevance**
Blank (2) needs a noun for the quality of mattering to the present, since a 200-year-old warning about losing control of one's creation now speaks directly to the race to build AI. a) triviality: means lack of importance, violating the requirement since the warning has become more important, not less — it is "disconcerting." b) relevance: means close connection or importance to the matter at hand, matching Frankenstein's warning suddenly applying to artificial intelligence. c) pertinently: is an adverb meaning in a relevant way, close in meaning, violating the requirement since "a disconcerting new ___" needs a noun, not an adverb. d) anachronism: means something belonging to a different time, violating the requirement since the warning has become more fitting for today, not out of place in it.
Hindi:
Blank (2) में ऐसा noun चाहिए जो आज के समय से जुड़ाव की quality बताए, क्योंकि अपनी creation पर control खोने की 200 साल पुरानी warning अब सीधे AI बनाने की race पर apply होती है। a) triviality: इसका meaning है importance की कमी, जो violate करता है क्योंकि warning ज़्यादा important हो गई है, कम नहीं — वो "disconcerting" है। b) relevance: इसका meaning है current बात से गहरा जुड़ाव या importance, जो Frankenstein की warning के अचानक AI पर apply होने से match करता है। c) pertinently: यह adverb है जिसका meaning है relevant तरीके से, meaning करीब है, पर violate करता है क्योंकि "a disconcerting new ___" में noun चाहिए, adverb नहीं। d) anachronism: इसका meaning है किसी दूसरे समय की चीज़, जो violate करता है क्योंकि warning आज के लिए और ज़्यादा fit हो गई है, आज में out of place नहीं।

23. C) **ease off**
Blank (3) needs a base-form phrasal verb after "to" meaning "slow down" or "reduce intensity," since Amodei argued the industry was "moving faster than its ability to keep the technology safe," and industry leaders urged "a pause in the headlong race." a) ramp up: means to increase speed or output, violating the requirement since speeding up is exactly what the essay warned against. b) slowed down: has the right meaning, but violates the

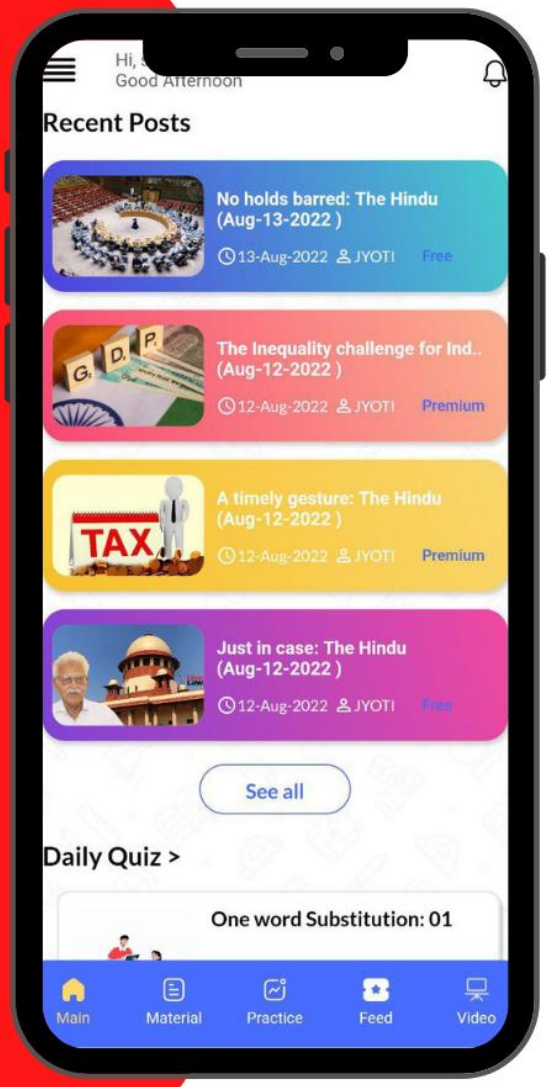
requirement since "to" must be followed by the base form, "slow down," not the past form. c) ease off: means to slow down or become less intense, matching the call for the industry to reduce its breakneck pace. d) press on: means to continue determinedly despite difficulty, violating the requirement since it is the opposite of the pause being called for.
Hindi:
Blank (3) में "to" के बाद base-form phrasal verb चाहिए जिसका meaning हो "धीमा होना" या "pace कम करना," क्योंकि Amodei ने कहा कि industry "moving faster than its ability to keep the technology safe" है, और industry leaders ने "a pause in the headlong race" की appeal की। a) ramp up: इसका meaning है speed या output बढ़ाना, जो violate करता है क्योंकि speed बढ़ाने के against ही essay ने warning दी थी। b) slowed down: इसका meaning सही है, पर violate करता है क्योंकि "to" के बाद base form "slow down" चाहिए, past form नहीं। c) ease off: इसका meaning है धीमा होना या intensity कम करना, जो industry से अपनी तेज़ pace कम करने की appeal से match करता है। d) press on: इसका meaning है मुश्किलों के despite लगे रहना, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह माँगी गई pause का उल्टा है।

24. A) **perturbing**
"Disconcerting," as used in the passage, means unsettling or worrying — the old Frankenstein warning has become uncomfortably relevant to today's AI race. a) perturbing: means causing anxiety or unease, matching the uncomfortable feeling that the old warning now fits the AI race. b) exhilarating: means thrilling and exciting, violating the requirement since the comparison with Frankenstein worries the reader rather than thrilling them. c) reassuring: means making someone feel less worried, violating the requirement since it is the opposite of "disconcerting." d) soporific: means causing sleep, or dull and boring, violating the requirement since the new relevance is alarming, not tedious.
Hindi:
Passage में "disconcerting" का meaning है unsettling या चिंता में डालने वाला — Frankenstein वाली पुरानी warning आज की AI race पर uncomfortable तरीके से fit हो गई है। a) perturbing: इसका meaning है चिंता या unease पैदा करने वाला, जो इस uncomfortable feeling से match करता है कि पुरानी warning अब AI race पर fit बैठती है। b) exhilarating: इसका meaning है रोमांचक, बहुत excited करने वाला, जो violate करता है क्योंकि Frankenstein से comparison reader को चिंता में डालती है, thrill नहीं देती। c) reassuring: इसका meaning है किसी की चिंता कम करना, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह "disconcerting" का उल्टा है। d) soporific: इसका meaning है नींद लाने वाला या उबाऊ, जो violate करता है क्योंकि नई relevance डराने वाली है, उबाऊ नहीं।

25. B) **measured**
"Headlong," as used in the passage, means rushing ahead with reckless speed and without careful thought — the AI race that industry leaders urged should pause — so the antonym must mean slow and careful. a) precipitate: as an adjective, means done suddenly and without enough thought, violating the requirement since it is a near-synonym of "headlong." b) measured: means slow, careful and deliberate, matching the opposite of a reckless, headlong

rush. c) breakneck: means dangerously fast, violating the requirement since it is close to "headlong," not opposite. d) impetuous: means acting quickly without thinking, violating the requirement since it also describes rash haste.
Hindi:

- Passage में "headlong" का meaning है बिना सोचे-समझे, reckless तेज़ी से आगे बढ़ना — वही AI race जिसे रोकने की industry leaders ने appeal की — इसलिए antonym का meaning धीमा और सोच-समझकर होना चाहिए। a) precipitate: adjective के रूप में इसका meaning है अचानक और बिना पूरा सोचे किया गया, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह "headlong" का लगभग synonym है। b) measured: इसका meaning है धीमा, सावधान और सोच-समझकर किया गया, जो reckless, headlong दौड़ के उल्टे भाव से match करता है। c) breakneck: इसका meaning है dangerously तेज़, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह "headlong" के करीब है, उल्टा नहीं। d) impetuous: इसका meaning है बिना सोचे haste में काम करना, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह भी reckless haste बताता है।



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