Point of no return: On Israel's next government

Without peace, Israel risks **descending into chaos**

Israeli President Isaac Herzog's decision to invite opposition leader Gadi Eisenkot to form the next government **reflects** the real **mandate** of the October 27 **legislative** elections. While Mr. Eisenkot's centrist Yashar party finished second with 21 seats, behind Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud, which won 27, the former military chief, who **campaigned** on an anti-Netanyahu platform, has **secured** the support of 67 **legislators** in the 120-member **Knesset**. In Mr. Eisenkot's own words, Israel risks "descending to dark places, to a point of no return". But it is not yet clear what kind of a government Mr. Eisenkot is **seeking** to form. The opposition parties are split between a Jewish-led **bloc** with 48 MKs and an Arab-led bloc of 19 MKs. Arab parties have offered **in-principle** support for Mr. Eisenkot to keep Mr. Netanyahu's right-religious **coalition** out of power. But what is not clear is whether they would be part of the government or offer outside support by allowing Mr. Eisenkot to run a minority government. Some of Mr. Eisenkot's Jewish **right-wing allies**, such as Avigdor Lieberman, are opposed to **joining hands with** Arab parties. Mr. Eisenkot has now **called for** a unity government, **appealing** even to Likud and the far-right Religious Zionism, to join him.

But the challenges facing Israel's next leader are **formidable** and immediate. Mr. Netanyahu's **unchecked militarism** has **deepened** Israel's international **isolation**, **strained** its relationship with the U.S., its most important **patron** and ally, and **aggravated** the security challenges it faces in its **neighbourhood**. **At home**, the **surge** of the far-right has further **polarised** society, while **systemic** violence against Palestinians has spread across **the West Bank**. Mr. Netanyahu's response to these challenges has been to **unleash** more violence, which has only **compounded** Israel's problems. If Mr. Eisenkot is serious about pulling Israel back from the point of no return, he must **pursue** a **three-pronged** approach. Firstly, he should form an Arab-Jewish unity government focused on **healing** the country's internal **wounds** and **bridging gaps** between communities. Second, Israel's **deepening** international **isolation** and increasingly negative public opinion around the world will begin to **exact a heavy toll sooner rather than later**. Tel Aviv must take urgent steps to restore its international **standing**. Third, Israel must reopen the path to peace. The new government should **initiate** negotiations with the Palestinians under international **mediation**, **crack down on** settler violence, **pull back** from Gaza and **reaffirm** its **commitment** to the two-state solution. Without peace, Israel risks continuing to "descend to dark places". **[Practice Exercise]**

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

Vocabulary

1. **Point of no return** (phrase) - a stage when it is no longer possible to stop what you are doing वापसी की उम्मीद न होना
2. **Descend into** (phrasal verb) - to gradually get into a bad state बुरी स्थिति में पहुंचना
3. **Chaos** (noun) - disorder, confusion, pandemonium, turmoil, havoc अराजकता
4. **Reflect** (verb) - indicate, show, display, demonstrate, reveal दर्शाना
5. **Mandate** (noun) - authority, directive, instruction, decree, approval जनादेश
6. **Legislative** (adjective) - lawmaking, parliamentary, statutory, governmental, policymaking विधायी
7. **Campaign** (verb) - canvass, lobby, crusade, promote, push अभियान चलाना
8. **Secure** (verb) - obtain, acquire, gain, procure, achieve हासिल करना
9. **Legislator** (noun) - lawmaker, parliamentarian, representative, politician, official विधायक
10. **Knesset** (noun) - parliament, legislature, assembly, council, senate इजरायल की संसद
11. **Seek** (verb) - attempt, try, aim, endeavor, strive प्रयास करना
12. **Bloc** (noun) - group, alliance, coalition, faction, league गुट
13. **In-principle** (adjective) - theoretical, fundamental, general, basic, conceptual सैद्धांतिक रूप से
14. **Coalition** (noun) - alliance, partnership, union, bloc, affiliation गठबंधन
15. **Right-wing** (adjective) - conservative, traditionalist, reactionary, rightist, orthodox दक्षिणपंथी
16. **Ally** (noun) - partner, confederate, associate, supporter, friend सहयोगी
17. **Join hands with** (phrase) - to work together with someone or a group सहयोग करना
18. **Call for** (phrasal verb) - to publicly ask for or demand something मांग करना
19. **Appeal** (verb) - implore, beg, entreat, request, plead अपील करना
20. **Formidable** (adjective) - daunting, intimidating, challenging, fearsome, alarming चुनौतीपूर्ण
21. **Unchecked** (adjective) - uncontrolled, unhindered, unbridled, rampant, unrestricted अनियंत्रित
22. **Militarism** (noun) - aggression, belligerence, warmongering, chauvinism, hostility सैन्यवाद
23. **Deepen** (verb) - intensify, exacerbate, worsen, aggravate, compound गहरा करना
24. **Isolation** (noun) - segregation, separation, quarantine, detachment, alienation अलगाव
25. **Strain** (verb) - overtax, damage, burden, stretch, impair तनावपूर्ण करना
26. **Patron** (noun) - sponsor, backer, supporter, benefactor, defender संरक्षक
27. **Aggravate** (verb) - worsen, exacerbate, inflame, compound, intensify बिगाड़ना
28. **Neighbourhood** (noun) - vicinity, locality, district, surroundings, environs पड़ोस

29. **At home** (phrase) - in one's own country or place of origin स्वदेश में
30. **Surge** (noun) - rise, increase, upsurge, escalation, growth वृद्धि
31. **Polarise** (verb) - divide, separate, alienate, split, part ध्रुवीकरण करना
32. **Systemic** (adjective) - institutional, fundamental, structural, pervasive, ingrained प्रणालीगत
33. **The west bank** (noun) - a landlocked territory near the mediterranean coast of western asia पश्चिमी तट
34. **Unleash** (verb) - release, loose, trigger, vent, precipitate मुक्त करना
35. **Compound** (verb) - worsen, exacerbate, aggravate, complicate, intensify और खराब करना
36. **Pursue** (verb) - follow, conduct, undertake, practice, continue आगे बढ़ाना
37. **Three-pronged** (adjective) - having three parts or elements त्रिकोणीय
38. **Heal** (verb) - cure, mend, remedy, restore, soothe ठीक करना
39. **Wound** (noun) - injury, hurt, trauma, damage, distress घाव
40. **Bridge gaps** (phrase) - to connect or reduce the differences between two things or groups दूरियां मिटाना
41. **Deepening** (adjective) - intensifying, growing, worsening, increasing, escalating गहराता हुआ
42. **Isolation** (noun) - alienation, detachment, segregation, separation, solitariness अलगाव
43. **Exact a heavy toll** (phrase) - to cause a lot of damage, suffering, or deaths भारी नुकसान पहुंचाना
44. **Sooner rather than later** (phrase) - without too much delay जल्दी ही
45. **Standing** (noun) - status, reputation, position, rank, stature प्रतिष्ठा
46. **Initiate** (verb) - start, begin, commence, launch, institute शुरू करना
47. **Mediation** (noun) - arbitration, intervention, conciliation, negotiation, intercession मध्यस्थता
48. **Crack down on** (phrasal verb) - to take severe measures against someone or something कड़ी कार्रवाई करना
49. **Pull back** (phrasal verb) - to retreat or withdraw from an area पीछे हटना
50. **Reaffirm** (verb) - reiterate, state again, assert, confirm, restate फिर से पुष्टि करना
51. **Commitment** (noun) - pledge, promise, obligation, undertaking, dedication प्रतिबद्धता

Summary of the Editorial

1. **Opposition Leader Mandated:** President Isaac Herzog invited opposition leader Gadi Eisenkot to form the next government following the October 27 legislative elections.
2. **Electoral Math & Coalition Base:** Although Netanyahu's Likud won the most seats (27), Eisenkot's centrist Yashar party (21 seats) secured formal support from 67 of the 120 Knesset members.
3. **Existential Warning:** Eisenkot campaigned on an anti-Netanyahu platform, warning that Israel risks "descending to dark places, to a point of no return."
4. **Opposition Split:** The anti-Netanyahu bloc is divided between a Jewish-led bloc (48 seats) and an Arab-led bloc (19 seats).
5. **Conditional Arab Support:** Arab parties offered in-principle support to block Netanyahu's right-religious coalition, though their exact role—inside government or providing outside confidence—remains undecided.
6. **Internal Right-Wing Resistance:** Right-wing figures within Eisenkot's bloc, such as Avigdor Lieberman, oppose formal coalition partnerships with Arab parties.
7. **Call for Broad Unity:** Eisenkot has appealed for a broad national unity government, reaching out even to Likud and the far-right Religious Zionism party.
8. **Consequences of Militarism:** Netanyahu's unchecked military approach has deepened Israel's global isolation and severely strained relations with its primary ally, the United States.
9. **Domestic Polarization:** Rising far-right influence within Israel has exacerbated domestic societal divisions and fueled systemic violence across the West Bank.
10. **Compounding Failures:** Netanyahu's reliance on escalating military force has failed to address underlying security concerns, compounding Israel's strategic challenges.
11. **Pillar 1 – Internal Reconciliation:** The editorial recommends establishing an Arab-Jewish unity government to bridge deep communal divides and heal domestic wounds.
12. **Pillar 2 – Restoring Global Standing:** Tel Aviv must take immediate, concrete steps to repair damaged international relations and counter worsening global public opinion.
13. **Pillar 3 – Reopening the Peace Process:** Israel needs to re-engage in mediated negotiations with Palestinians and reaffirm its commitment to a two-state solution.
14. **De-escalation & Accountability:** The editorial calls for an immediate crackdown on illegal settler violence and a structural pullback from Gaza.
15. **Imperative for Peace:** The overarching conclusion stresses that without a genuine pursuit of peace, Israel will inevitably slide toward chaos and permanent instablity.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **What is the author's primary goal in outlining the three-pronged approach for the incoming Israeli leadership?** [Editorial Page]
   A. To provide a policy roadmap for defusing domestic polarisation, rebuilding international alliances, and pursuing Middle Eastern peace.
   B. To urge opposition party negotiators to dissolve parliamentary representation for religious factions following recent legislative election outcomes.
   C. To demonstrate that maintaining military operations in Gaza remains necessary to prevent further diplomatic isolation in the West.
   D. To argue that unilateral territorial annexations across the West Bank will improve bilateral diplomatic relations with the United States.
2. **What does the passage suggest regarding the internal ideological divide within the anti-Netanyahu opposition?**
   A. Arab parties agreed to merge parliamentary seats with the centrist Yashar party under shared legislative leadership.
   B. Right-wing Jewish allies like Avigdor Lieberman object to entering a formal governing coalition with Arab parties.
   C. The Jewish-led bloc and the Arab-led bloc have finalized ministerial portfolios within an expansive national coalition.
   D. Centrist lawmakers refused to consider outside support arrangements proposed by legislators representing the Likud party.
3. **Which of the following statements best captures the central theme of the passage?**
   A. Securing parliamentary majorities through alliances with religious factions guarantees stability across contested border regions.
   B. Forming a minority administration without Arab party backing remains the sole constitutional method to govern.
   C. Reversing diplomatic isolation and preventing domestic collapse requires Israel to pursue inclusive governance and peace.
   D. Expanding armed military incursions represents an indispensable policy mechanism to mend bilateral relations with Washington.
4. **What does the author convey by stating that "Netanyahu's unchecked militarism has... strained its relationship with the U.S."?**
   A. Aggressive armed policies have eroded goodwill and created diplomatic friction with Israel's chief patron.
   B. Military intelligence agencies suspended defense data sharing agreements across Middle Eastern regional defense headquarters.
   C. Bilateral defense treaties were terminated following unilateral Israeli withdrawal from internationally mediated border talks.
   D. American diplomatic delegations refused to monitor legislative electoral processes conducted across southern Israeli districts.
5. **Identify the correct passive voice form of the following sentence taken from the passage:**
   "The surge of the far-right has polarised society at home, and the new government should initiate negotiations with the Palestinians under international mediation."

A. Society at home was polarised by the surge of the far-right, and negotiations with the Palestinians should be initiated by the new government under international mediation.
B. Society at home has been polarised by the surge of the far-right, and negotiations with the Palestinians should have been initiated by the new government under international mediation.
C. Society at home had been polarised by the surge of the far-right, and negotiations with the Palestinians should be initiated by the new government under international mediation.
D. Society at home has been polarised by the surge of the far-right, and negotiations with the Palestinians should be initiated by the new government under international mediation.

6. **The abstract noun form of 'act' is 'action'. Similarly, the abstract noun form of 'wide' will be:**
   A. widespread
   B. width
   C. wisdom
   D. wideness
7. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.**
   Unique
   A. Distinctive
   B. Wavy
   C. Kind
   D. Common
8. **Choose the alternative which gives the correct meaning of the given idiom or phrase.To go to the dogs**
   A. To become severely ruined or degraded
   B. To show a deep affection for animals
   C. To live a luxurious and pampered life
   D. To hunt for wild game in the forest
9. **Choose the correct antonym of the word:**
   FERVENT
   A. Indifferent
   B. Passionate
   C. Zealous
   D. Warm
10. **What is the antonym of "Opprobrium"?**
    A. Infamy
    B. Dishonor
    C. Honor
    D. Shame
11. **What is the place for ammunition and weapons called?**
    A. Gallery
    B. Library
    C. Arsenal
    D. Laboratory
12. **Select the wrongly spelt word out of the four alternatives.**
    A. assessment

B. passenger
C. adjustment
D. harbingar

13. **Select the correct passive form of the given sentence.**
"They ought to have completed the task."
A. The task ought have completed.
B. The task ought be completed.
C. The task ought to have been completed.
D. The task ought to completed.

14. **Choose the correct direct speech form of the following sentence.**
He exclaimed that the flower was looking very beautiful, which was placed in the vase.
A. He said, How beautiful the flower is looking, which is placed in the vase!
B. He said, What beautiful the flower is looking which was placed in the vase!
C. He said, Which beautiful the flower was looking which is placed in the vase!
D. He said, The flower is looking very beautiful, which is placed in the vase

15. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**
She has great affection ___ her brother.
A. of
B. for
C. at
D. with

16. **Select the most appropriate option to improve the bold part of the sentence.**
He behaves as if he knows everything.
A. knew everything
B. know everything
C. has known everything
D. was knowing everything

17. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.**
They / was / reading / a notice.
A. a notice
B. reading
C. They
D. Was

18. **Select the most appropriate MEANING of the phrasal verb "Wipe out."**
A. To destroy something completely
B. To undergo, experience or suffer
C. To build in, integrate or embed
D. To move back, withdraw, or retreat

19. **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. However, 'visa-free' does not mean unrestricted entry.
B. Before planning an international trip, a common search query, seen as the ultimate convenience, is: Which country offers visa-free travel from India?

C. The recent case of an Indian couple stopped at South Korea's Jeju Island despite visa-free eligibility and being deported back to India has raised questions about what actually is visa-free travel.
D. As of October 2026, Indian passport holders can visit 25 countries visa-free.
E. Immigration officers at the destination may still deny entry.

A. B-D-A-E-C
B. D-B-A-E-C
C. B-A-D-E-C
D. D-A-E-B-C

20. **Direction: In the following question, the passage is split into four parts and labeled P, Q, R, and S. Rearrange these four parts to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent paragraph.**
P. "According to Hindu mythology, the town's name comes from "Manu-Alaya," meaning "the abode of Manu," the first man and the lawgiver.
Q. Legend has it that sage Manu stepped off his ark here to recreate human life after a great flood had deluged the world.
R. Manali is located in the heart of Himachal Pradesh.
S. Manali is often called the "Valley of the Gods" and is nestled in the majestic Himalayas, showcasing nature's unparalleled creativity," shares Incredible India's site.

A. R-P-Q-S
B. P-Q-R-S
C. R-S-P-Q
D. P-R-Q-S

Directions: Five words or phrases in the passage below have been replaced with blanks. Choose the option that best completes each one.
This is that time of the year when Delhi is decorated and (1)___ like a new bride. Old buildings are draped in twinkling lights, and shop billboards scream for attention. The walled city has a rich tradition of celebrating this festival. Mughal rulers attempted to make it inclusive to promote regional harmony. Emperor Akbar started celebrating the festival at Agra Fort and distributed sweets like ghewar, shahi tukda, kheer, peda, and jalebi as greetings. The famous 16th-Century court chronicler Abul Fazl writes in the Ain-i-Akbari that festival celebrations began with Dussehra and continued for several weeks. Akbar strongly believed in (2)___ traditions and even translated the Ramayana into Persian. Abul Fazl further writes that the scenes from this epic were read and re-enacted in Akbar's court during the festival. Under the Mughals, the festival of lights came to be known as Jashn-e Chiragha'n. His son Jahangir comments in his (3)___ that it was celebrated by the 'vaishya' or the trader community as the commencement of the new year. Emperor Shah Jahan, a lover of grandeur, made it a true spectacle. Under his reign, fireworks lit the sky, and thousands of diyas were lit in the Mughal Fort. The famous chronicler of Delhi, RV Smith, in his book Delhi: Unknown Tales of a City, wrote that Shah Jahan introduced akash diya (sky lamp) as part of the celebrations as he shifted the capital to Delhi. According to historian R Nath, in his book Private Life of the Mughals in India writes that the akash diya was lit with great pomp, placed atop a 40-yard-high pole, supported by eighteen ropes, and required several maunds of oil to remain lit. Emperor Aurangzeb kept the celebrations austere and accepted gifts from Rajput kings and noblemen. During the time of the later Mughals, the celebrations (4)___. Emperor Muhammad Shah

'Rangeela' loved celebrations. It is said that on the day of the festival, he sat with his courtiers and watched dancing girls holding diyas (5)___ around water fountains.

21. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (1):**
    A. toned down
    B. laid out
    C. blacked out
    D. decked out
22. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (2):**
    A. ephemeral
    B. orthodox
    C. syncretic
    D. amalgamate
23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (3):**
    A. frescoes
    B. memoirs
    C. epitaph
    D. reminisce
24. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (4):**
    A. revived
    B. invigorated
    C. waned
    D. ossified
25. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (5):**
    A. flounder
    B. rotation
    C. cower
    D. twirl

Answers

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

Explanations

1. A) **To provide a policy roadmap for defusing domestic polarisation, rebuilding international alliances, and pursuing Middle Eastern peace.**
   Passage: "If Mr. Eisenkot is serious about pulling Israel back from the point of no return, he must pursue a three-pronged approach. Firstly, he should form an Arab-Jewish unity government focused on healing the country's internal wounds... Second... Tel Aviv must take urgent steps to restore its international standing. Third, Israel must reopen the path to peace."------The author lists three steps: heal internal divisions through an Arab-Jewish unity government, restore Israel's international standing, and restart peace negotiations with the Palestinians. These steps cover domestic polarisation, international relations and regional peace, which is exactly what option A says, so it is the author's main purpose.
   - Option B is incorrect because the option says the author wants opposition negotiators to remove religious factions from parliament, but the passage never asks for this. It only says Mr. Eisenkot should form an Arab-Jewish unity government and notes that he has appealed even to Likud and Religious Zionism to join him.
   - Option C is incorrect because the option says the author wants military operations in Gaza to continue to prevent isolation, but the passage says the opposite. It says Mr. Netanyahu's militarism deepened isolation, and asks Israel to "pull back from Gaza".
   - Option D is incorrect because the option says the author supports unilateral annexations in the West Bank to improve ties with the US, but the passage calls for cracking down on settler violence and reaffirming the two-state solution. It says nothing in favour of annexation.
2. B) **Right-wing Jewish allies like Avigdor Lieberman object to entering a formal governing coalition with Arab parties.**
   Passage: "The opposition parties are split between a Jewish-led bloc with 48 MKs and an Arab-led bloc of 19 MKs... Some of Mr. Eisenkot's Jewish right-wing allies, such as Avigdor Lieberman, are opposed to joining hands with Arab parties."---The passage shows a split inside the anti-Netanyahu opposition. Arab parties have offered in-principle support, but it is unclear whether they will join the government or support it from outside. Some Jewish right-wing allies, such as Lieberman, are against working with Arab parties at all. This is the internal ideological divide. Option B says this, so it is correct.
   - Option A: Incorrect. The option says Arab parties agreed to merge seats with Yashar under shared leadership, but the passage only says they offered "in-principle support" and that it is unclear whether they would join the government or support it from outside.
   - Option C: Incorrect. The option says the two blocs finalised ministerial portfolios in a national coalition, but the passage says it is "not yet clear what kind of a government Mr. Eisenkot is seeking to form." Nothing has been finalised.

- Option D: Incorrect. The option says centrist lawmakers refused outside support arrangements proposed by Likud, but the passage says the outside-support question concerns Arab parties, and Eisenkot has actually appealed to Likud to join a unity government.

3. C) **Reversing diplomatic isolation and preventing domestic collapse requires Israel to pursue inclusive governance and peace.**
   Passage: "If Mr. Eisenkot is serious about pulling Israel back from the point of no return, he must pursue a three-pronged approach. Firstly, he should form an Arab-Jewish unity government... Third, Israel must reopen the path to peace." and "Without peace, Israel risks continuing to 'descend to dark places'."------The author argues that Israel faces international isolation, social polarisation and violence, and that the way out is an inclusive Arab-Jewish government, steps to restore its global standing, and a return to peace talks. The title also says that without peace Israel risks chaos. Option C covers all these points, so it is the central theme.
   - Option A is incorrect because the option says alliances with religious factions guarantee stability in border regions, but the passage never says this. It notes that Mr. Eisenkot appealed even to the far-right Religious Zionism, yet it treats the far-right surge as a cause of polarisation, not as a source of stability.
   - Option B is incorrect because the option says a minority government without Arab party support is the only constitutional way to govern, but the passage says nothing like this. It says Arab parties have offered in-principle support, and the author wants an Arab-Jewish unity government.
   - Option D is incorrect because the option says expanding military incursions will mend relations with Washington, but the passage says Mr. Netanyahu's unchecked militarism strained ties with the US and that Israel should pull back from Gaza.
4. A) **Aggressive armed policies have eroded goodwill and created diplomatic friction with Israel's chief patron.**
   Passage: "Mr. Netanyahu's unchecked militarism has deepened Israel's international isolation, strained its relationship with the U.S., its most important patron and ally, and aggravated the security challenges it faces in its neighbourhood."---"Unchecked militarism" means an excessive reliance on military force with no restraint. The author says this approach has put pressure on Israel's ties with the US, which is its most important patron and ally. "Strained" means made tense or difficult, not broken. Option A says the same thing: aggressive armed policies reduced goodwill and caused diplomatic friction with its chief patron.
   - Option B is incorrect because the option says military intelligence agencies suspended defence data sharing agreements, but the passage never mentions intelligence agencies or any suspended agreements. It only says the relationship was strained.
   - Option C is incorrect because the option says bilateral defence treaties were terminated after Israel withdrew from mediated border talks, but the passage mentions no treaty termination. A strained relationship is not an ended one, and the author wants talks to be started, not shown as abandoned.
   - Option D is incorrect because the option says American delegations refused to monitor elections in southern Israeli districts, but the passage says nothing about election monitoring. The strain is linked to Israel's militarism, not to any electoral process.

5. D) **Society at home has been polarised by the surge of the far-right, and negotiations with the Palestinians should be initiated by the new government under international mediation.**
   The original sentence is a compound sentence with two clauses: Option D correctly maintains the tenses and modal forms of the original sentence.
   Clause 1: "The surge of the far-right has polarised society at home..."
   Active: [Subject: The surge of the far-right] + [Verb: has polarised (Present Perfect)] + [Object: society at home].
   Passive: [New Subject: Society at home] + [Verb: has been polarised] + [Agent: by the surge of the far-right].
   Clause 2: "...the new government should initiate negotiations with the Palestinians under international mediation."
   Active: [Subject: the new government] + [Verb: should initiate (Modal)] + [Object: negotiations with the Palestinians].
   Passive: [New Subject: negotiations with the Palestinians] + [Verb: should be initiated] + [Agent: by the new government] under international mediation.
   - Option A is incorrect because it uses the simple past ("was polarised") instead of the present perfect.
   - Option B is incorrect because it uses the modal perfect ("should have been initiated"), changing the meaning of the original "should initiate."
   - Option C is incorrect because it uses the past perfect ("had been polarised").
6. B) Width' सही उत्तर है क्योंकि जैसे Verb 'act' का abstract noun 'action' है, वैसे Adjective 'wide' का abstract noun 'width' है, जिसका अर्थ है चौड़ाई।
   'Width' is the correct answer because just as 'action' is the noun form of 'act', 'width' is the abstract noun form of the adjective 'wide', meaning the measurement from side to side. 'Widespread' is an adjective, 'wisdom' is the noun of 'wise' and 'wideness' is not the standard form.
7. A) **Unique** (adjective) – One of a kind, having no equal. अद्वितीय
   Synonym: **Distinctive** (adjective) – Characteristic, clearly different from others. विशिष्ट
   - **Wavy** (adjective) – Having waves or curves. लहरदार
   - **Kind** (adjective) – Caring, generous. दयालु
   - **Common** (adjective) – Usual, ordinary. आम
8. A) **To go to the dogs** (idiom) – To become severely ruined or degraded बर्बाद हो जाना, पतन होना
9. A) **Fervent** (adjective) – Having or showing passionate intensity. उत्साही, जोशीला
   Antonym: **Indifferent** (adjective) – Having no interest or concern. उदासीन
   - **Passionate** (adjective) – Showing strong feelings. भावुक, उत्साही
   - **Zealous** (adjective) – Full of great energy for a cause. उत्साही
   - **Warm** (adjective) – Showing enthusiasm or affection. गर्मजोशी भरा
10. C) **Opprobrium** (noun) – Harsh public criticism; disgrace arising from shameful conduct. अपमान, कलंक
    Antonym: **Honor** (noun) – High respect; great esteem. सम्मान
    - **Infamy** (noun) – The state of being well known for a bad deed. बदनामी
    - **Dishonor** (noun) – Loss of respect; shame. अनादर

- **Shame** (noun) – A feeling of humiliation or disgrace. लज्जा

11. C) **Arsenal** (noun) – A place where ammunition and weapons are stored शस्त्रागार
    - **Gallery** (noun) – a room or building for the display or sale of works of art. चित्रशाला
    - **Library** (noun) – a building or room containing collections of books for reading or borrowing. पुस्तकालय
    - **Laboratory** (noun) – a room or building equipped for scientific experiments, research, or teaching. प्रयोगशाला
12. D) **The correct spelling of 'harbingar' is 'harbinger' which means "a person or thing that announces or signals the approach of another" अग्रदूत, पूर्वसूचक।**
13. C) **The task ought to have been completed.**
    Active से Passive Voice में बदलते समय Object, Passive sentence का Subject बन जाता है और modal verb के साथ सही passive structure प्रयोग किया जाता है। यहाँ "the task" Object है, जो Passive में Subject बन गया। Sentence में modal phrase "ought to have" प्रयोग हुआ है, इसलिए Passive structure होगा — "ought to have been + past participle." Verb "completed" का past participle form वही रहता है। इसलिए सही sentence होगा — "The task ought to have been completed."
    To change a sentence from Active to Passive Voice, the object of the active sentence becomes the subject of the passive sentence, and the correct passive structure is used with the modal verb. Here, "the task" is the object, which becomes the subject in Passive Voice. The sentence uses the modal phrase "ought to have," so the passive structure becomes — "ought to have been + past participle." The verb "completed" remains in its past participle form. Therefore, the correct sentence is — "The task ought to have been completed."
14. A) **He said, "How beautiful the flower is looking, which is placed in the vase!"**
    Indirect Speech से Direct Speech में बदलते समय sentence type और expression को ध्यान में रखा जाता है। यहाँ "exclaimed" आश्चर्य या प्रशंसा (exclamation) को व्यक्त करता है, इसलिए Direct Speech में exclamatory sentence का प्रयोग होगा। "the flower was looking very beautiful" को exclamatory form में "How beautiful the flower is looking!" बनाया जाएगा। साथ ही, "was placed" को Direct Speech में "is placed" किया जाएगा। इसलिए सही उत्तर होगा — "He said, 'How beautiful the flower is looking, which is placed in the vase!'"
    To change Indirect Speech into Direct Speech, the sentence type and expression must be considered carefully. Here, "exclaimed" expresses admiration or exclamation, so an exclamatory sentence should be used in Direct Speech. The clause "the flower was looking very beautiful" changes into the exclamatory form "How beautiful the flower is looking!" Also, "was placed" changes into "is placed" in Direct Speech. Therefore, the correct answer is — "He said, 'How beautiful the flower is looking, which is placed in the vase!'"
15. B) for' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि पूरे संदर्भ में, वाक्य उसके भाई के प्रति उसके स्नेह की बात कर रहा है। यहाँ "She has great affection ___ her brother" में यह दिखाया जा रहा है कि उसके दिल में उसके भाई के लिए प्यार और लगाव है। इसलिए, "for" सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प होगा।
    'for' should be used because in the entire context, the sentence is talking about her love for her brother. Here, in "She has great affection ___ her brother," it indicates the feeling of love and attachment she has towards her brother. Thus, "for" would be the most appropriate choice.

16. A)) knows' के बदले 'knew' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'as if' के बाद imaginary या unreal situation व्यक्त करने के लिए Verb को Past Tense में प्रयोग किया जाता है; जैसे— He talks as if he were a king.
'knew' will be used instead of 'knows' because after 'as if', Past Tense is used to express an unreal or imaginary situation; Like— He talks as if he were a king.
17. D) was' के बदले 'were' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि subject 'They' plural है और इसके साथ verb 'were' plural form में होगा; जैसे— They were playing in the park.
'were' will be used instead of 'was' because the subject 'They' is plural and with it, the verb 'were' will be in plural form; Like— They were playing in the park.
18. A) **Wipe out** (phrasal verb) – to destroy something completely or cause something to be completely lost. (पूरी तरह नष्ट करना)
19. A) **B-D-A-E-C**
Explanation:
Hindi Explanation:
Sentence B पूरे passage का independent opening sentence है। यह अंतरराष्ट्रीय यात्रा की योजना बनाने से पहले लोगों द्वारा सबसे अधिक खोजी जाने वाली सुविधा—"Which country offers visa-free travel from India?"—को सामने लाता है।
Sentence D Sentence B के तुरंत बाद आएगा और B-D का direct link बनाएगा। Sentence B के प्रश्न के प्रत्यक्ष उत्तर के रूप में Sentence D तथ्यात्मक आंकड़ा देता है कि अक्टूबर 2026 तक भारतीय पासपोर्ट धारक 25 देशों की वीजा-मुक्त यात्रा कर सकते हैं।
Sentence A Sentence D को follow करेगा और D-A का mandatory contrast pair बनाएगा। 25 देशों की सुविधा के बाद Sentence A contrastive conjunction "However" के साथ इस नियम की सीमा स्पष्ट करता है कि 'visa-free' का अर्थ बिना किसी रोक-टोक के प्रवेश नहीं है।
Sentence E Sentence A के ठीक बाद आएगा और A-E का direct link बनाएगा। Sentence A के प्रतिबंध को Sentence E व्यावहारिक रूप से स्पष्ट करता है कि गंतव्य पर मौजूद इमिग्रेशन अधिकारी अभी भी प्रवेश देने से मना कर सकते हैं।
Sentence C Sentence E के बाद आकर sequence complete करेगा। Sentence E के बिंदु को Sentence C दक्षिण कोरिया के जेजू द्वीप (Jeju Island) पर एक भारतीय दंपत्ति को रोके जाने और डिपोर्ट किए जाने के वास्तविक उदाहरण से पुष्ट करते हुए पूरे परिच्छेद को तार्किक रूप से समाप्त करता है।
English Explanation:
Sentence B serves as the verbatim opening topic sentence, introducing the widespread pre-travel search query regarding which destinations offer visa-free travel for Indian passport holders.
Sentence D directly follows Sentence B (B-D), directly answering the query with current factual data stating that Indian passport holders can access 25 countries visa-free as of October 2026.
Sentence A forms an immediate contrastive pair with Sentence D (D-A). Transitioning with "However", it qualifies the privilege by clarifying that visa-free travel is not synonymous with guaranteed, unrestricted entry.
Sentence E follows Sentence A (A-E), explaining the concrete operational limitation by noting that immigration authorities at the destination still hold the authority to deny entry.
Sentence C concludes the sequence (E-C), anchoring the principle with a real-world case study—an Indian couple denied entry and deported from South Korea's Jeju Island despite visa-free eligibility, raising fundamental questions about the true nature of visa-free travel.

20. A) **R-P-Q-S**

Explanation:

Hindi Explanation:

Sentence R पूरे परिच्छेद का स्वतंत्र और परिचयात्मक वाक्य (independent introductory sentence) है, जो मुख्य विषय—मनाली और उसकी भौगोलिक स्थिति ("in the heart of Himachal Pradesh") का परिचय देता है।

Sentence P Sentence R के तुरंत बाद आएगा और R-P का सीधा संबंध बनाएगा। शहर के परिचय के बाद Sentence P उसके नाम की पौराणिक व्युत्पत्ति स्पष्ट करता है कि मनाली का नाम "मनु-आलय" (ऋषि मनु का निवास स्थान) से आया है।

Sentence Q Sentence P को follow करेगा और P-Q का अनिवार्य युग्म (mandatory pair) बनाएगा। Sentence P में ऋषि मनु के प्रथम मानव और विधि-निर्माता होने के उल्लेख के बाद Sentence Q उस पौराणिक कथा ("Legend has it...") का विस्तार करता है कि कैसे एक भीषण प्रलय के बाद मनु ने यहाँ उतरकर मानव जीवन का पुनः सृजन किया था।

Sentence S Sentence Q के ठीक बाद आकर क्रम को पूर्ण करेगा। पौराणिक कथाओं के बाद Sentence S मनाली के लोकप्रिय उपनाम (“Valley of the Gods”) और हिमालय की सुंदरता का उल्लेख करते हुए उद्धरण चिह्न बंद करता है और स्रोत ("shares Incredible India’s site") के साथ पूरे परिच्छेद को तार्किक रूप से समाप्त करता है।

English Explanation:

Sentence R serves as the standalone opening topic sentence, introducing the geographical setting and subject: Manali's location in the heart of Himachal Pradesh.

Sentence P directly follows Sentence R (R-P), initiating the descriptive quotation from Incredible India and tracing the etymological roots of the town's name to "Manu-Alaya" (the abode of Manu).

Sentence Q forms a mandatory contextual pair with Sentence P (P-Q). Building upon the mention of Sage Manu, Sentence Q recounts the mythological narrative of him stepping off his ark to recreate humanity following a global deluge.

Sentence S concludes the sequence (Q-S), completing the quotation with Manali's epithet as the “Valley of the Gods” amidst the Himalayas and closing with the attribution: “shares Incredible India’s site.”

21. D) **decked out**

Blank (1) needs a phrasal verb meaning "dressed up and adorned," since Delhi is compared to "a new bride" and its old buildings are "draped in twinkling lights." a) toned down: means made less loud or showy, violating the requirement since the city is being decorated and its billboards "scream for attention." b) laid out: means arranged according to a plan, as streets are, or a body prepared for burial, violating the requirement since a bride is adorned, not laid out, and the phrase says nothing about dressing up. c) blacked out: means plunged into darkness, as in a power cut, violating the requirement since the buildings are "draped in twinkling lights." d) decked out: means dressed up or decorated in a showy, festive way, matching a city adorned like a bride.

Hindi:

Blank (1) में ऐसा phrasal verb चाहिए जिसका meaning हो "सजना-संवरना," क्योंकि Delhi की तुलना "a new bride" से की गई है और उसकी पुरानी buildings "twinkling lights" से ढकी हैं। a) toned down: इसका meaning है loud या showy रूप को हल्का करना, जो violate करता है क्योंकि city सजाई जा रही है

और billboards "scream for attention।" b) laid out: इसका meaning है किसी plan के अनुसार arrange करना, जैसे सड़कें, या अंतिम संस्कार से पहले body को लिटाना, जो violate करता है क्योंकि bride को सजाया जाता है, "laid out" नहीं किया जाता, और यह phrase सजने-संवरने की बात नहीं करता। c) blacked out: इसका meaning है अंधेरे में डूब जाना, जैसे power cut में, जो violate करता है क्योंकि buildings "draped in twinkling lights" हैं। d) decked out: इसका meaning है festive और भड़कीले ढंग से सजना-संवरना, जो bride जैसी सजी city से match करता है।

22. C) **syncretic**
Blank (2) needs an adjective describing traditions that blend different faiths and cultures, since Akbar "even translated the Ramayana into Persian" and the Mughals tried to make the festival "inclusive." a) ephemeral: means lasting only a short time, violating the requirement since a tradition, by its nature, is handed down over time, and the sentence is about blending cultures, not about how long customs last. b) orthodox: means strictly following the established beliefs of one faith, violating the requirement since translating another faith's epic is the opposite of strict orthodoxy, not an example of it, as "and even" would require. c) syncretic: means combining different religious or cultural traditions, matching an emperor who brought a Hindu epic into the Persian language. d) amalgamate: is a verb meaning to combine or merge, close in sense, violating the requirement since "believed in ___ traditions" needs an adjective, not a verb.
Hindi:
Blank (2) में ऐसा adjective चाहिए जो अलग-अलग धर्मों और cultures को मिलाने वाली traditions को बताए, क्योंकि Akbar ने "even translated the Ramayana into Persian" और Mughals ने festival को "inclusive" बनाने का प्रयास किया। a) ephemeral: इसका meaning है थोड़े समय तक रहने वाला, जो violate करता है क्योंकि tradition तो पीढ़ियों तक चलती है, और sentence cultures को मिलाने की बात करता है, customs कितने समय चलते हैं इसकी नहीं। b) orthodox: इसका meaning है एक ही धर्म की स्थापित मान्यताओं का कड़ाई से पालन करना, जो violate करता है क्योंकि दूसरे धर्म के epic का translation करना कड़ी orthodoxy का उल्टा है, उसका उदाहरण नहीं, जैसा "and even" में होना चाहिए। c) syncretic: इसका meaning है अलग-अलग धार्मिक या cultural traditions को मिलाने वाला, जो उस emperor से match करता है जिसने एक Hindu epic को Persian भाषा में उतारा। d) amalgamate: यह verb है जिसका meaning है मिलाना या जोड़ना, sense मिलता-जुलता है, पर violate करता है क्योंकि "believed in ___ traditions" में adjective चाहिए, verb नहीं।

23. B) **memoirs**
Blank (3) needs a noun for a personal written account of one's own life and times, since Jahangir himself "comments" on what he observed. a) frescoes: means paintings made on wet plaster walls, violating the requirement since one "comments … that" in writing, not in wall paintings. b) memoirs: means a written account of events from the writer's own life and experience, matching Jahangir's record of his reign, the Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri. c) epitaph: means a short inscription on a tomb, written about a person after death, violating the requirement since an epitaph is a brief tribute by others, not a record in which Jahangir comments on customs. d) reminisce: is a verb meaning to recall past events with pleasure, close in sense, violating the requirement since "in his ___" needs a noun, not a verb.
Hindi:

Blank (3) में ऐसा noun चाहिए जो अपने जीवन और समय का personal written account बताए, क्योंकि Jahangir अपनी देखी हुई बातों पर "comments" करते हैं। a) frescoes: इसका meaning है गीले plaster वाली walls पर बनी paintings, जो violate करता है क्योंकि "comments … that" लिखकर किया जाता है, wall paintings में नहीं। b) memoirs: इसका meaning है लेखक के अपने जीवन और अनुभवों का लिखित account, जो Jahangir के अपने शासन के record, Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri, से match करता है। c) epitaph: इसका meaning है tomb पर लिखा छोटा inscription, जो किसी की मृत्यु के बाद दूसरे लिखते हैं, जो violate करता है क्योंकि epitaph एक छोटी tribute होती है, ऐसा record नहीं जिसमें Jahangir customs पर comment करें। d) reminisce: यह verb है जिसका meaning है बीती बातों को आनंद से recall करना, sense मिलता-जुलता है, पर violate करता है क्योंकि "in his ___" में noun चाहिए, verb नहीं।

24. A) **revived**

Blank (4) needs an intransitive verb meaning "came back to life," since the celebrations, kept "austere" under Aurangzeb, flourish again under the later Mughals, when Muhammad Shah "Rangeela" "loved celebrations." a) revived: means came back to life or became active again, matching the return of festivity after Aurangzeb's austere years. b) invigorated: means filled with energy, close in sense, violating the requirement since "invigorate" needs an object — something invigorates something else — so "the celebrations invigorated" is left incomplete. c) waned: means grew weaker or smaller, violating the requirement since the next lines describe an emperor who "loved celebrations" and watched dancers with diyas, a sign of revival, not decline. d) ossified: means became rigid and unchanging, violating the requirement since the scene that follows is lively and new, not frozen in an old pattern.

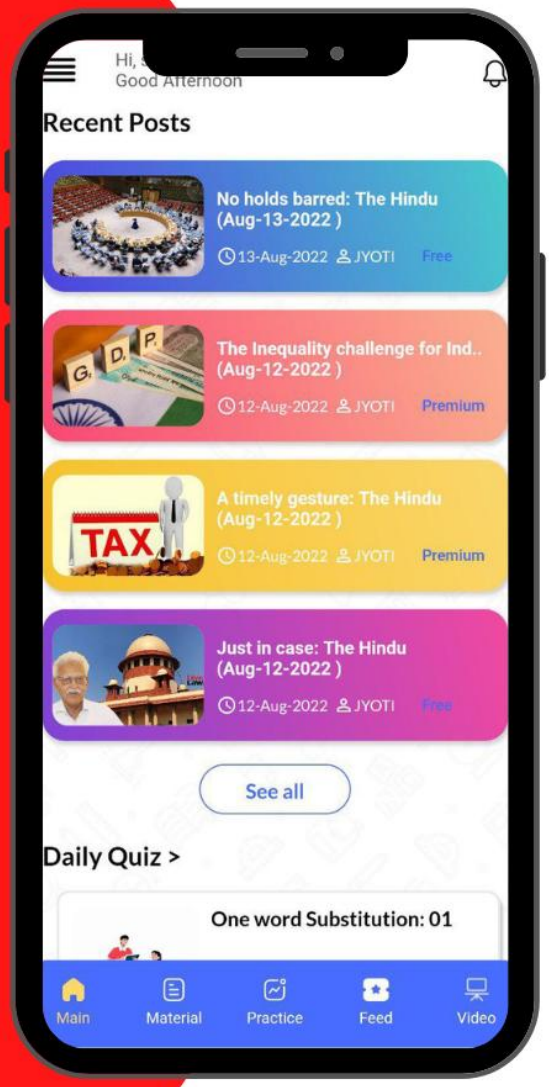
Hindi:

Blank (4) में ऐसा intransitive verb चाहिए जिसका meaning हो "फिर से जीवित हो उठना," क्योंकि Aurangzeb के समय "austere" रखे गए celebrations later Mughals के समय फिर से चमक उठते हैं, जब Muhammad Shah "Rangeela" "loved celebrations।" a) revived: इसका meaning है फिर से जीवित या active हो जाना, जो Aurangzeb के austere वर्षों के बाद festivities के लौटने से match करता है। b) invigorated: इसका meaning है ऊर्जा से भर देना, sense मिलता-जुलता है, पर violate करता है क्योंकि "invigorate" को object चाहिए — कोई किसी को invigorate करता है — इसलिए "the celebrations invigorated" अधूरा रह जाता है। c) waned: इसका meaning है धीमा पड़ना या घटते जाना, जो violate करता है क्योंकि अगली lines में ऐसा emperor है जो "loved celebrations" और diyas लिए dancers को देखता था, जो revival का संकेत है, decline का नहीं। d) ossified: इसका meaning है कठोर और unchanging हो जाना, जो violate करता है क्योंकि आगे का scene जीवंत और नया है, किसी पुराने pattern में जमा हुआ नहीं।

25. D) **twirl**

Blank (5) needs a base verb after "watched dancing girls," naming a graceful spinning movement fit for a dance performed with lamps around fountains. a) flounder: means to struggle or stagger clumsily, often in water or mud, violating the requirement since the "water fountains" may tempt, but a dance performed for the emperor is graceful, not clumsy. b) rotation: is a noun meaning the act of turning, close in sense, violating the requirement since "watched dancing girls ___" needs a verb, not a noun. c) cower: means to crouch down in fear, violating the requirement since these are performers entertaining an emperor at a festival, not people in terror. d) twirl: means to spin round quickly and lightly, matching dancers turning gracefully with diyas in their hands.

Hindi:
Blank (5) में "watched dancing girls" के बाद base verb चाहिए, जो diyas लेकर fountains के चारों ओर किए गए dance के लिए एक graceful घूमने की movement बताए। a) flounder: इसका meaning है often पानी या कीचड़ में अनाड़ीपन से छटपटाना, जो violate करता है क्योंकि "water fountains" tempting लग सकते हैं, पर emperor के सामने किया गया dance graceful होता है, अनाड़ी नहीं। b) rotation: यह noun है जिसका meaning है घूमने की क्रिया, sense मिलता-जुलता है, पर violate करता है क्योंकि "watched dancing girls ___" में verb चाहिए, noun नहीं। c) cower: इसका meaning है डर से सिकुड़कर बैठ जाना, जो violate करता है क्योंकि ये festival में emperor का मनोरंजन करने वाली performers हैं, डरे हुए लोग नहीं। d) twirl: इसका meaning है फुर्ती और हल्केपन से घूमना, जो हाथ में diyas लिए gracefully घूमती dancers से match करता है।



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