Sustained decline, not just drop in fossil-fuel emissions is needed

For climate-change watchers **confronted** by **soaring** temperatures and extreme weather events, the latest Global Carbon Budget study may offer a **modicum** of **solace**. Presented on the second day of COP31 in Antalya, Turkey, it **forecasts** a slight decline in GHG emissions from fossil-fuel burning this year compared to 2025. But the report should be **read with all its fine print**. The drop is largely a **fallout** of the energy shock **triggered** by the Iran war and the expansion of wind and solar power use. **Geopolitical upheavals** and economic **disruptions** had **catalysed** reduced fossil-fuel use in 1992, 1998 and 2009, as did the Covid pandemic in 2020. These, however, remained single-year **aberrations**. Energy economics is today more favourable to renewables than in the **pandemic** years. Even so, much more is needed to ensure a sustained decline in emissions.

China, the world's largest emitter, is expected to record a nearly 1 per cent fall in emissions this year. The US, Europe and Japan are also **projected** to see declines. India, however, remains an **outlier**. The Carbon Budget Study estimates that the country's fossil fuel emissions will rise by more than 4 per cent this year compared to 2025. India has **registered** impressive growth in installed renewable energy capacity. However, storage shortfalls and inadequate **grid** infrastructure continue to stand in the way of **optimal** green-energy use. Energy generation is **often abundant** when the sun shines and winds blow, but much of the surplus cannot be used when nature is not an **enabler**. According to a report in this newspaper, the poor financial health of **discoms** is a **hurdle**, as these **utilities seek** to upgrade their infrastructure for renewable energy **integration**. India's power companies have long been **constrained** by funding **deficits**. The **green transition imperative** should trigger renewed conversations on their economics

That said, renewable energy alone will not be enough to **contain global warming**. The **projected** decline in fossil-fuel emissions this year will, in fact, be **offset** by rising emissions from **deforestation** and land-use changes, particularly in Southeast Asia. Dry conditions **associated with** the Super El Niño could **exacerbate peat fires** in the coming weeks. Total carbon emissions are expected to rise from 42.8 billion tonnes in 2025 to 43.3 billion tonnes this year. The task before the **delegates** at Antalya is, therefore, clear. COP31 needs to **chart** a pathway for a just transition away from fossil fuels. It also needs to **nudge** countries to find ways to **halt** the **depletion** of **carbon sinks**. **[Practice Exercise]**

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

Vocabulary

1. **Sustained** (adjective) - continuous, steady, prolonged, unceasing, uninterrupted निरंतर
2. **Emissions** (noun) - discharges, releases, exhalations, effusions, emanations उत्सर्जन
3. **Confront** (verb) - challenge, tackle, face, encounter, brave सामना करना
4. **Soaring** (adjective) - escalating, skyrocketing, climbing, surging, rising बढ़ता हुआ
5. **Modicum** (noun) - ounce, shred, speck, fraction, fragment थोड़ी मात्रा
6. **Solace** (noun) - comfort, consolation, relief, support, reassurance सांत्वना
7. **Forecast** (verb) - predict, project, prophesy, foresee, anticipate अनुमान लगाना
8. **Read with all its fine print** (phrase) - to examine the hidden or detailed conditions carefully सूक्ष्म विवरणों को ध्यान से पढ़ना
9. **Fallout** (noun) - repercussion, consequence, aftermath, result, effect परिणाम
10. **Trigger** (verb) - precipitate, prompt, elicit, provoke, generate प्रेरित करना
11. **Geopolitical** (adjective) - connected with political activity as influenced by the physical features of a country or area भू-राजनीतिक
12. **Upheavals** (noun) - disruptions, turbulences, turmoils, disorders, disturbances उथल-पुथल
13. **Disruptions** (noun) - disturbances, interruptions, upheavals, disarrays, disorders व्यवधान
14. **Catalyse** (verb) - accelerate, stimulate, expedite, precipitate, prompt उत्प्रेरित करना
15. **Aberrations** (noun) - anomalies, deviations, abnormalities, irregularities, divergences विपथन
16. **Pandemic** (noun) - epidemic, plague, contagion, outbreak, infection महामारी
17. **Project** (verb) - estimate, forecast, predict, calculate, reckon अनुमान लगाना
18. **Outlier** (noun) - exception, deviation, anomaly, eccentricity, irregularity अपवाद
19. **Register** (verb) - record, log, chronicle, indicate, display दर्ज करना
20. **Grid** (noun) - network, framework, system, matrix, infrastructure ढांचा
21. **Optimal** (adjective) - ideal, best, perfect, supreme, prime इष्टतम
22. **Often** (adverb) - frequently, regularly, repeatedly, habitually, commonly अक्सर
23. **Abundant** (adjective) - plentiful, copious, ample, profuse, bountiful प्रचुर
24. **Enabler** (noun) - facilitator, supporter, promoter, catalyst, helper सहायक
25. **Discoms** (noun) - power distribution companies बिजली वितरण कंपनियां
26. **Hurdle** (noun) - obstacle, barrier, impediment, obstruction, hindrance बाधा

27. **Utilities** (noun) - services, providers, establishments, agencies, corporations उपयोगिता कंपनियां
28. **Seek** (verb) - attempt, endeavor, strive, try, aim प्रयास करना
29. **Integration** (noun) - incorporation, assimilation, unification, consolidation, amalgamation एकीकरण
30. **Constrain** (verb) - restrict, limit, curb, restrain, confine विवश करना
31. **Deficits** (noun) - shortfalls, shortages, deficiencies, inadequacies, gaps घाटा
32. **Green transition** (noun) - the shift towards environmentally sustainable practices and renewable energy हरित ऊर्जा की ओर बदलाव
33. **Imperative** (noun) - necessity, requirement, obligation, priority, essential अनिवार्यता
34. **Contain** (verb) - restrain, control, curb, stifle, limit नियंत्रित करना
35. **Global warming** (noun) - the long-term heating of earth's climate system भूमंडलीय ऊष्मीकरण
36. **Projected** (adjective) - estimated, forecasted, predicted, expected, anticipated अनुमानित
37. **Offset** (verb) - counterbalance, compensate, neutralize, counteract, balance भरपाई करना
38. **Deforestation** (noun) - cutting down trees over a large area वनों की कटाई
39. **Associated with** (phrasal verb) - connected to, related to, linked to, tied to के साथ जुड़ा हुआ
40. **Exacerbate** (verb) - aggravate, worsen, inflame, compound, intensify बिगाड़ना
41. **Peat fires** (noun) - underground fires burning carbon-rich soil पीट की आग
42. **Delegates** (noun) - representatives, envoys, emissaries, ambassadors, agents प्रतिनिधि
43. **Chart** (verb) - map, outline, draft, delineate, plan रूपरेखा तैयार करना
44. **Nudge** (verb) - coax, prompt, encourage, push, stimulate प्रेरित करना
45. **Halt** (verb) - stop, cease, terminate, suspend, arrest रोकना
46. **Depletion** (noun) - reduction, exhaustion, consumption, diminution, decrease कमी
47. **Carbon sinks** (noun) - natural environments that absorb and store carbon dioxide from the atmosphere कार्बन सोखने वाले स्रोत

Summary of the Editorial

1. **A Modest Drop in Fossil-Fuel Emissions:** Presented at COP31 in Antalya, Turkey, the latest Global Carbon Budget study forecasts a slight decline in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from fossil-fuel burning compared to 2025.
2. **Temporary Drivers Behind the Decline:** Rather than purely structural change, this drop is largely driven by an energy shock from the Iran war alongside expanding wind and solar power adoption.
3. **History of One-Off Aberrations:** Past geopolitical and economic shocks—in 1992, 1998, 2009, and during the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic—caused similar dips in fossil-fuel use that proved to be single-year anomalies.
4. **Need for Sustained Reduction:** Although energy economics currently favors renewables far more than during the pandemic years, much stronger action is required to lock in a permanent downward trend.
5. **Declines Among Major Emitters:** China (the world's largest emitter) is projected to see an almost 1% drop in emissions this year, with the US, Europe, and Japan also registering declines.
6. **India as an Outlier:** Defying the global downward trend, India's fossil-fuel emissions are estimated to increase by more than 4% over 2025 levels.
7. **India's Renewable Integration Bottlenecks:** While India has rapidly expanded its installed renewable capacity, storage deficits and weak grid infrastructure prevent it from fully utilizing surplus solar and wind power during off-peak generation periods.
8. **Financial Struggles of Discoms:** Poor financial health and chronic funding deficits among Indian power distribution companies (discoms) hinder their ability to upgrade grid infrastructure for green energy integration.
9. **Urgency of Utility Reforms:** The demands of the green transition highlight an urgent need to rethink and reform the underlying economics of India's power utilities.
10. **Limits of Renewable Energy Alone:** Expanding clean energy capacity is insufficient on its own to curb global warming if other major emission sources remain unchecked.
11. **Offset by Land-Use Emissions:** Any gains from reduced fossil-fuel burning are being neutralized by rising emissions from deforestation and land-use changes, especially in Southeast Asia.
12. **Threat of Super El Niño and Peat Fires:** Dry weather patterns tied to the Super El Niño threaten to intensify peatland fires in the coming weeks, driving land-based emissions even higher.
13. **Net Rise in Total Carbon Emissions:** Overall global carbon emissions are projected to increase from 42.8 billion tonnes in 2025 to 43.3 billion tonnes this year.
14. **COP31's Primary Mandate on Fossil Fuels:** Delegates in Antalya must establish a clear, actionable roadmap for a just transition away from fossil fuels.
15. **Protecting Global Carbon Sinks:** Alongside energy transition, COP31 must push nations to adopt concrete measures to stop the ongoing depletion of vital natural carbon sinks.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Why does the author urge readers to examine the "fine print" of the latest Global Carbon Budget study?** [Editorial Page]
   A. Because the projected dip in fossil-fuel emissions relies heavily on temporary geopolitical shocks and is outweighed by rising land-use emissions.
   B. Because the report reveals that major industrial economies like China, the United States, and Japan are recording significant annual fossil-fuel increases.
   C. Because the expansion of installed solar and wind capacity has reversed the ecological depletion of carbon sinks across Southeast Asia.
   D. Because energy economics during the current year has grown less favourable to renewable power generation than during the pandemic years.
2. **What does the phrase "when nature is not an enabler" in the passage most nearly convey?**
   A. During periods when power distribution utilities remain constrained by long-standing financial funding deficits
   B. During extreme Super El Niño droughts when dry conditions exacerbate peat fires in Southeast Asia
   C. During geopolitical energy shocks when international supply disruptions catalyse reduced fossil-fuel consumption
   D. During periods of low sunlight or calm winds when intermittent renewable installations cannot generate electricity
3. **Why does the author characterize India as an "outlier" in the Global Carbon Budget study's fossil-fuel projections?**
   A. Because India's fossil-fuel emissions are projected to grow over four per cent while major emitters record declines.
   B. Because India's power distribution utilities have long been constrained by funding deficits when upgrading regional transmission grids.
   C. Because India has registered impressive growth in installed renewable energy capacity over recent years despite grid hurdles.
   D. Because Southeast Asian deforestation and land-use changes are projected to offset global declines in fossil-fuel emissions.
4. **What constitutes the dual mandate laid out by the author for delegates at COP31 in Antalya?**
   A. Recognizing that India has registered impressive growth in installed renewable energy capacity despite persistent storage shortfalls
   B. Acknowledging that geopolitical upheavals in 1992, 1998, and 2009 catalysed temporary single-year reductions in fossil-fuel consumption
   C. Charting a pathway for a just fossil-fuel transition while nudging countries to halt carbon sink depletion
   D. Observing that average global carbon emissions are projected to rise from 42.8 billion tonnes to 43.3 billion
5. **The author's tone toward the global climate outlook and the task ahead at COP31 is best described as:**
   A. Pragmatic and diagnostic
   B. Sober and exhortative
   C. Analytical and cautionary

D. Reflective and evaluative

6. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the given word.**
   Anomaly
   A. Irregularity
   B. Catastrophe
   C. Establishment
   D. State
7. **Choose the alternative which gives the correct meaning of the given idiom or phrase.**
   To go the whole hog
   A. To consume a very large meal quickly
   B. To do something fully and thoroughly
   C. To act in an extremely greedy manner
   D. To waste all of one's personal savings
8. **Select the option that best describes the meaning of the phrasal verb "Born out of."**
   A. To do the same thing as someone else has just done.
   B. To be started, created, or happened as a result of something else.
   C. An approach or plan for progress or for solving a problem.
   D. Most importantly; before everything else.
9. **Choose the antonym of 'hostile'.**
   A. Rude
   B. Bitter
   C. Aggressive
   D. Friendly
10. **Direction: In the following question, the passage is split into four parts and labeled A, B, C, and D. Rearrange these four parts to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent paragraph.**
    A. Few places are more beautiful at dawn than the Hope Valley in the Peak District -- particularly when seen from the viewpoint of Mam Tor; its peak is an easy 15-minute walk from the car park.
    B. Forcing yourself out of bed before dawn on a cold day isn't the most appetising prospect, but when the skies are clear, a winter sunrise is the most spectacular you'll see all year.
    C. The pretty town of Castleton lies just below, where the Bulls Head has five cosy bedrooms from £115 B&B.
    D. Cold air holds less water vapour and humidity, meaning the skies are much clearer and the low sun creates an intense angle of light.
    A. B-D-A-C
    B. D-B-A-C
    C. B-A-D-C
    D. A-C-B-D
11. **Choose the one which can be substituted for the given sentence.**
    A medicine that induces sleep
    A. Sedative
    B. Narcotic
    C. Analgesic
    D. Hypnotic

12. **Select the option which is incorrectly spelt.**
    A. Archaeology
    B. Embarass
    C. Bellwether
    D. Colloquial
13. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the given word.**
    Curb
    A. Reconcile
    B. Comprehend
    C. Restrain
    D. Internalise
14. **Select the most appropriate option to improve the bold part of the sentence.**
    This session is an improvement rather the previous one.
    A. best
    B. more good
    C. very better
    D. over
15. **Direction: In the following question, the first and the last sentences of the passage are numbered S1 and S6. The rest of the passage is split into four parts and numbered 1, 2, 3, and 4. Rearrange these four parts to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent passage.**
    S1. In the early hours of October 30, when the GSLV-F18 vehicle soared into the dark skies from the space port in Sriharikota and placed the NVS-03 satellite into a geosynchronous transfer orbit as intended, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and its industrial partners will have heaved a sigh of relief.
    1. Speaking at the Mission Control Centre, soon after the launch, Mr. Narayanan highlighted how ISRO with its partners accomplished this launch with a turnaround time of 56 days.
    2. For ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan, whose tenure thus far has been a mixed bag with hits and misses, the success of the NVS-03 satellite launch could not have come at a more opportune time.
    3. The last time ISRO had two successive launches that were also successful was in December last year, when it launched the LVM-3 rocket twice within a span of 52 days.
    4. The previous successful GSLV mission had launched on September 4 from Sriharikota, carrying the EOS-05 earth-observation satellite.
    S6. Apart from reinforcing the organisation's launching capabilities, the GSLV-F18 mission also initiated the programme to restore the NavIC satellite constellation to be able to provide standalone positioning services.
    A. 1-2-4-3
    B. 2-4-1-3
    C. 2-1-4-3
    D. 4-1-2-3
16. **The following sentence has been divided into parts. One of them may contain an error. Select the part that contains the error from the given options. If you don't find any error, mark 'No error' as your answer.**
    The Arabian Nights / have / many interesting stories for readers

A. The Arabian Nights
B. No error
C. many interesting stories for readers
D. Have

17. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in active voice.**
The poor cat was brutally chased by the kids.
A. The kids brutally chase the poor cat.
B. The kids did brutally chased the poor cat.
C. The kids were brutally chasing the poor cat.
D. The kids brutally chased the poor cat.

18. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in Direct to Indirect Speech.**
He said to me, "Where are you going?"
A. He asked me where I had gone.
B. He asked me where I am going.
C. He asked me where I go.
D. He asked me where I was going.

19. **Choose the antonym of 'Wan'.**
A. Long
B. Tiring
C. Healthy
D. Wearisome

20. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**
The students were keen ____ participating.
A. of
B. with
C. on
D. in

Directions: Complete the following passage by filling in the blanks with the most appropriate words from the options given below.

I was born in 1988, too late to remember the 1980s and too early to grow up with the Internet. (A)___ much of my childhood in a small town still carried the unhurried character of that decade. Discotheques and frantic car chases were strictly Tier 1 phenomena. For children growing up in small-town India, excitement had a very different scale.

The air was cleaner, traffic was sparse, and summer nights could still be spent sleeping on open terraces under starry skies. An evening did not need a restaurant reservation, a multiplex or a digital itinerary. One could simply sit outside after dinner and watch the night unfold. The occasional scooter, a distant train or a barking dog (B)___ enough to interrupt the silence. Air-conditioning was hardly the default. The terrace was part of the house during summer. A charpai, a thin sheet, and a hand fan could be sufficient. We knew which corner of the terrace caught the breeze and which part became cooler after midnight. Today, we can control the temperature indoors at the (C)___ of a button. Back then, we adapted ourselves to the weather.

Fitness was not yet an industry. There were no fitness influencers, protein bars, smartwatches or subscription-based workout programmes. Children exercised (D)___ knowing they were

exercising. We ran, climbed, cycled, played cricket and invented games with whatever was available. Even strength training could be playful. I remember doing lying knee raises with a delighted child perched on me as added weight. Exercise was simply another form of play. Food, too, had a different relationship with the seasons. Fruits appeared when their season arrived. Vegetables were bought locally. Packaged snacks existed, but they had not (E)___ every school bag, kitchen shelf and television commercial. A craving did not automatically translate into an industrially manufactured product. Eating was closer to the rhythms of home and season.

21. **Fill in the blank (A) with the correct linking word to fit the context.**
    A. Yet
    B. On the contrary
    C. Besides
    D. Unless
22. **Choose the grammatically correct option to fill in the blank (B).**
    A. were
    B. was
    C. is
    D. have been
23. **Fill in the blank (C) with the correct word to complete the idiom.**
    A. drop
    B. stroke
    C. push
    D. crack
24. **Choose the correct preposition to fill in the blank (D).**
    A. upon
    B. by
    C. despite
    D. without
25. **Fill in the blank (E) with the word that means "spread into and taken over, the way settlers take over new land."**
    A. colonised
    B. sanitised
    C. vacated
    D. decimated

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. **A) Because the projected dip in fossil-fuel emissions relies heavily on temporary geopolitical shocks and is outweighed by rising land-use emissions.**
   passage: "But the report should be read with all its fine print. The drop is largely a fallout of the energy shock triggered by the Iran war and the expansion of wind and solar power use... The projected decline in fossil-fuel emissions this year will, in fact, be offset by rising emissions from deforestation and land-use changes... Total carbon emissions are expected to rise from 42.8 billion tonnes in 2025 to 43.3 billion tonnes this year."----The headline news is a slight fall in fossil-fuel emissions. The "fine print" is that this fall comes largely from the Iran war energy shock, which is a temporary event, and that rising emissions from deforestation and land-use changes cancel it out. Total emissions still rise from 42.8 to 43.3 billion tonnes. Option A says exactly this, so it is correct.
   - Option B : Incorrect. The option says China, the US and Japan are recording big annual rises in fossil-fuel emissions, but the passage says China is expected to see a nearly 1 per cent fall and the US, Europe and Japan are also projected to see declines. India is the outlier with a rise of more than 4 per cent, hence incorrect.
   - Option C : Incorrect. The option says solar and wind expansion has reversed the depletion of carbon sinks in Southeast Asia, but the passage says deforestation and land-use changes in Southeast Asia are raising emissions, and COP31 must find ways to "halt the depletion of carbon sinks," so the depletion has not been reversed, hence incorrect.
   - Option D : Incorrect. The option says energy economics is less favourable to renewables than in the pandemic years, but the passage says "Energy economics is today more favourable to renewables than in the pandemic years," hence incorrect.
2. **D) During periods of low sunlight or calm winds when intermittent renewable installations cannot generate electricity**
   The phrase "nature is not an enabler" means nature is not helping power generation. The sentence just before it says energy is abundant "when the sun shines and winds blow." So the opposite time is when the sun does not shine and the wind does not blow. At such times, solar and wind plants cannot produce power, and without enough storage and grid support, the earlier surplus cannot be used. Option D says exactly this, so it is correct.
   - Option A: Incorrect. The option says the phrase means times when discoms face funding deficits, but the passage mentions discoms' poor finances as a separate hurdle, in a different sentence. The phrase is about nature (sun and wind), not about money, hence incorrect.
   - Option B: Incorrect. The option says the phrase means Super El Niño droughts and peat fires, but the passage mentions these in the last paragraph, in the context of rising emissions from land-use changes. They are not linked to when solar and wind generation is unavailable, hence incorrect.

- Option C: Incorrect. The option says the phrase means geopolitical energy shocks, but the passage mentions these only as a reason for the fall in fossil-fuel use this year. The phrase is about weather conditions affecting renewable output, not about supply disruptions, hence incorrect.

3. **A) Because India's fossil-fuel emissions are projected to grow over four per cent while major emitters record declines.**
   Passage: "China, the world's largest emitter, is expected to record a nearly 1 per cent fall in emissions this year. The US, Europe and Japan are also projected to see declines. India, however, remains an outlier. The Carbon Budget Study estimates that the country's fossil fuel emissions will rise by more than 4 per cent this year compared to 2025."----An "outlier" is something that stands apart from the general pattern. The passage first says China, the US, Europe and Japan are all expected to cut emissions. It then says "India, however," will see emissions rise by more than 4 per cent. So India is the exception to the downward trend. Option A says exactly this, so it is correct.
   - Option B: Incorrect. The option says India is an outlier because its discoms face funding deficits, but the passage mentions this as a separate hurdle to renewable integration. It explains why emissions may stay high, not why India is called an outlier, hence incorrect.
   - Option C: Incorrect. The option says India is an outlier because of its renewable capacity growth, but the passage mentions this as a positive point after the word "outlier." The outlier label comes from rising emissions, not from renewable growth, hence incorrect.
   - Option D: Incorrect. The option says the label comes from Southeast Asian deforestation, but the passage mentions this in the last paragraph as a reason why global emissions still rise. It is about Southeast Asia, not India, hence incorrect.
4. **C) Charting a pathway for a just fossil-fuel transition while nudging countries to halt carbon sink depletion**
   Passage: "The task before the delegates at Antalya is, therefore, clear. COP31 needs to chart a pathway for a just transition away from fossil fuels. It also needs to nudge countries to find ways to halt the depletion of carbon sinks."----The author gives delegates two tasks. The first is to chart a pathway for a just transition away from fossil fuels. The second is to nudge countries to halt the depletion of carbon sinks. "Dual mandate" means these two tasks together. Option C says exactly this, so it is correct.
   - Option A: Incorrect. The option says the mandate is to recognise India's renewable capacity growth despite storage shortfalls. The option says this is the task, but the passage mentions it only as background in the paragraph about India. It is an observation, not a task given to the delegates.
   - Option B: Incorrect. The option says the mandate is to acknowledge that upheavals in 1992, 1998 and 2009 caused temporary drops in fossil-fuel use. The option says this is the task, but the passage mentions these years only to show that earlier drops were "single-year aberrations." They are history, not a task for COP31.
   - Option D: Incorrect. The option says the mandate is to observe that emissions will rise from 42.8 to 43.3 billion tonnes. The option says this is the task, but the passage gives

this figure as a fact to show why the task is urgent. It is not one of the two tasks the author sets for the delegates.

5. **B) Sober and exhortative**
   Sober and exhortative means serious and realistic, and strongly urging action. The author does not celebrate the small fall in emissions. The author warns that it came from a one-off energy shock, that India's emissions are rising, and that total emissions will still rise from 42.8 to 43.3 billion tonnes. The author then says what COP31 "needs to" do. So the tone is serious and also pushes for action, and this is correct.
   - Option A: Pragmatic and diagnostic means practical and focused on identifying causes. The author does identify causes, such as the Iran war energy shock and storage shortfalls. But the passage does not stop at diagnosis. It ends by telling delegates what they must do, which is a strong call to action. "Diagnostic" is only half of the tone, so this is incorrect.
   - Option C: Analytical and cautionary means examining facts and warning of dangers. This is close, because the author does warn ("read with all its fine print"). But it misses the strongest feature of the ending: the author directly urges COP31 to act ("needs to chart a pathway," "needs to nudge countries"). A warning alone is not an urging, so this is incorrect.
   - Option D: Reflective and evaluative means thoughtful and judging something. The author does judge the report, but the passage is not reflective in the sense of quiet thinking. It is direct and action-focused, with a clear task laid out for delegates, so this is incorrect.
6. A) **Anomaly** (noun) – irregularity, abnormality, deviation, outlier, inconsistency. (विसंगति / अनियमितता)
   Synonym: **Irregularity** (noun) – a state or quality of being irregular, abnormal, or inconsistent. (अनियमितता / विसंगति)
   - **Proprietorship** (noun) – ownership, control, possession, title, holding. (स्वामित्व)
   - **Catastrophe** (noun) – disaster, calamity, tragedy, cataclysm, devastation. (तबाही / आपदा)
   - **State** (noun) – condition, situation, status, phase, stage स्थिति
7. B) Solution: B) **To go the whole hog** (idiom) – To do something fully and thoroughly किसी काम को पूरी तरह करना
8. B) **Born out of** (phrasal verb) – something has started, created, or happened as a result of something else. (से उत्पन्न होना)
9. D) **Hostile** (adjective) – Unfriendly, antagonistic, aggressive, opposed. शत्रुतापूर्ण
   Antonym: **Friendly** (adjective) – Kind, pleasant, amiable, affable, sociable. मित्रतापूर्ण
   - **Rude** (adjective) – Impolite, disrespectful, offensive, ill-mannered. अशिष्ट
   - **Bitter** (adjective) – Harsh, resentful, severe, acrimonious. कटु
   - **Aggressive** (adjective) – Hostile, forceful, belligerent, violent. आक्रामक
10. A) **Correct Answer: A. B-D-A-C**
    Explanation:
    Hindi Explanation:

Sentence B पूरे परिच्छेद का independent opening sentence है। यह मुख्य विषय प्रस्तुत करता है कि ठंड के दिन भोर से पहले बिस्तर से उठना भले ही आकर्षक न लगे, लेकिन आसमान साफ होने पर "a winter sunrise" साल का सबसे शानदार दृश्य होता है।
Sentence D Sentence B के तुरंत बाद आएगा और B-D का सीधा cause-and-effect link बनाएगा। Sentence B में सर्दियों के सूर्योदय के शानदार होने के दावे के बाद Sentence D इसका वैज्ञानिक कारण स्पष्ट करता है कि ठंडी हवा में water vapour और humidity कम होती है, जिससे आसमान अधिक साफ रहता है और नीचा सूरज प्रकाश का एक intense angle बनाता है।
Sentence A Sentence D को follow करेगा और D-A का general-to-specific transition बनाएगा। सामान्य सिद्धांत के बाद Sentence A इस दृश्य को देखने के लिए एक विशिष्ट स्थान---Hope Valley in the Peak District और Mam Tor---का परिचय देता है।
Sentence C Sentence A के ठीक बाद आकर क्रम को पूर्ण करेगा (A-C)। Sentence A में Mam Tor की चोटी के उल्लेख के बाद Sentence C स्थानीय भूगोल और ठहरने की सुविधा को जोड़ता है कि ठीक नीचे Castleton का सुंदर शहर स्थित है, जहाँ Bulls Head में £115 B&B से पांच cosy bedrooms उपलब्ध हैं।
English Explanation:
Sentence B serves as the standalone opening topic sentence, introducing the central premise that while waking up before dawn in the cold is unappealing, a clear winter sunrise is the most spectacular of the entire year.
Sentence D directly follows Sentence B (B-D), providing the immediate scientific explanation for why winter sunrises are so vivid: cold air retains less water vapour and humidity, yielding clearer skies and an intense angle of light from the low sun.
Sentence A follows Sentence D (D-A), transitioning from the general phenomenon to a specific premier viewing destination---highlighting the Hope Valley in the Peak District, particularly from the vantage point of Mam Tor.
Sentence C concludes the sequence (A-C), linking geographically to Mam Tor via the phrase "lies just below" to introduce the nearby town of Castleton and accommodation details at the Bulls Head.

11. B) **Narcotic** – A drug or medicine that induces sleep, relieves pain, and can cause addiction. नशीली दवा जो नींद उत्पन्न करती है।
    - **Sedative** – A drug that calms or reduces anxiety but does not specifically induce sleep. शामक दवा
    - **Analgesic** – A medicine that relieves pain without inducing sleep. दर्दनिवारक
    - **Hypnotic** – A drug specifically causing sleep; however, in this exam context 'Narcotic' is the designated answer as per the official key.
12. B) The correct spelling of 'Embarass' is 'Embarrass' which means "to cause someone to feel awkward or ashamed" शर्मिंदा करना।
13. C) **Curb** (verb) – check, restrain, control, rein in, suppress. (नियंत्रित करना / रोकना)
    Synonym: **Restrain** (verb) – prevent someone or something from doing something; keep under control. (रोकना / नियंत्रित करना)
    - **Reconcile** (verb) – harmonize, accommodate, conciliate, settle. (मेल–मिलाप करना)
    - **Comprehend** (verb) – understand, fathom, grasp, perceive. (समझना)
    - **Internalise** (verb) – incorporate, assimilate, absorb, embody. (आत्मसात करना)

14. D) 'rather' के स्थान पर 'over' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि comparison के लिए "improvement over" सही expression है; जैसे— This version is an improvement over the old one.
    - 'over' will be used instead of 'rather' because the correct expression for comparison is "improvement over"; Like— This version is an improvement over the old one.
15. C) **Correct Answer: C. 2-1-4-3**
    Explanation:
    Hindi Explanation:
    Sentence 2 S1 के तुरंत बाद आएगा और S1-2 का सीधा link बनाएगा। S1 में GSLV-F18 के माध्यम से NVS-03 satellite के सफल launch के बाद Sentence 2 इस सफलता के महत्व को ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan के कार्यकाल से जोड़ता है कि यह सफलता उनके लिए सबसे उपयुक्त समय ("opportune time") पर आई है।
    Sentence 1 Sentence 2 को follow करेगा और 2-1 का direct referential pair बनाएगा। Sentence 2 में V. Narayanan के पूर्ण परिचय के बाद Sentence 1 उनके संक्षिप्त नाम ("Mr. Narayanan") का उपयोग करते हुए Mission Control Centre में दिए गए उनके बयान को प्रस्तुत करता है कि इस मिशन को 56 दिनों के turnaround time में पूरा किया गया।
    Sentence 4 Sentence 1 के ठीक बाद आएगा और 1-4 का logical link बनाएगा। 56 दिनों के turnaround time के उल्लेख के बाद Sentence 4 पिछली सफल GSLV mission (4 सितंबर को EOS-05 earth-observation satellite के साथ) की तारीख और विवरण देकर उन 56 दिनों के अंतराल को स्पष्ट करता है।
    Sentence 3 Sentence 4 के बाद आएगा और 4-3 का chronological comparison link बनाएगा। दो लगातार सफल प्रक्षेपणों (4 सितंबर और 30 अक्टूबर) के बाद Sentence 3 पिछले साल दिसंबर में LVM-3 rocket के 52 दिनों के अंतराल में हुए दो लगातार सफल प्रक्षेपणों का ऐतिहासिक संदर्भ देता है। इसके तुरंत बाद S6 प्रक्षेपण क्षमताओं को मजबूत करने के अलावा NavIC satellite constellation को बहाल करने के कार्यक्रम की शुरुआत के साथ पूरे परिच्छेद को पूर्ण करता है।
    English Explanation:
    Sentence 2 directly follows S1 (S1-2), linking the successful placement of the NVS-03 satellite into orbit with its strategic significance for ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan, noting that the success arrived at an opportune moment during his tenure.
    Sentence 1 forms an immediate referential pair with Sentence 2 (2-1), transitioning from the full introduction of V. Narayanan to "Mr. Narayanan" speaking at the Mission Control Centre to highlight the 56-day turnaround time achieved for the launch.
    Sentence 4 directly follows Sentence 1 (1-4), substantiating the 56-day turnaround reference by specifying the date and payload of the preceding successful GSLV mission---the September 4 launch of the EOS-05 earth-observation satellite from Sriharikota.
    Sentence 3 follows Sentence 4 (4-3), providing historical context for back-to-back successful launches by recalling the previous occurrence in December last year, when ISRO launched the LVM-3 rocket twice within 52 days. Finally, S6 broadens the scope from launch cadence to mission impact, explaining how the GSLV-F18 mission initiated the restoration of the NavIC satellite constellation to conclude the passage.
16. D) have' के बदले 'has' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'The Arabian Nights' सिंगुलर है, इसलिए उसके साथ सिंगुलर verb का प्रयोग होगा; जैसे— "The Arabian Nights has many interesting stories for readers."

- 'has' will be used instead of 'have' because 'The Arabian Nights' is singular, so the verb should also be singular; Like— "The Arabian Nights has many interesting stories for readers."

17. **D) The kids brutally chased the poor cat.**
Active वाक्य में बदलने के लिए, Passive वाक्य का Agent Active वाक्य का Subject बन जाता है और Passive वाक्य का Subject Object बन जाता है। Verb को Passive से Active में बदलते समय सही Tense का use किया जाता है। Passive वाक्य में "The poor cat" Subject है, "was chased" Verb (Past Simple Passive) है और "by the kids" Agent है। Active में बदलने पर "The kids" Subject बन गया, Verb "chased" (Past Simple Active) हो गया और "the poor cat" Object के रूप में use हुआ; Adverb "brutally" verb से पहले आता है। "chase" Present Tense है, "did ... chased" में Auxiliary के साथ V2 गलत है और "were chasing" Past Continuous है, इसलिए ये गलत हैं।
To change a sentence from Passive to Active Voice, the agent of the passive sentence becomes the subject of the active sentence, and the subject of the passive sentence becomes the object. The verb is transformed from the passive form to the active form, ensuring correct tense usage. In this case, "The poor cat" (Subject), "was chased" (Verb in Past Simple Passive) and "by the kids" (Agent) from the passive voice have been transformed into "The kids" (Subject), "chased" (Verb in Past Simple Active) and "the poor cat" (Object), with the adverb "brutally" placed before the verb. "Chase" is in the Present Tense, "did ... chased" wrongly uses V2 with an auxiliary, and "were chasing" is Past Continuous, so these options are incorrect.
18. **D) He asked me where I was going.**
Direct Speech से Indirect Speech में बदलते समय reporting verb, tense और sentence type का ध्यान रखा जाता है। यहाँ sentence एक interrogative sentence (question) है, इसलिए “said to” को “asked” में बदला जाएगा। Question sentence होने के कारण helping verb को हटाकर statement structure बनाया जाता है। Direct Speech में verb “are going” (Present Continuous) है, इसलिए Indirect Speech में यह “was going” (Past Continuous) बन जाएगा। अतः सही उत्तर होगा — “He asked me where I was going.”
To change Direct Speech into Indirect Speech, the reporting verb, tense, and sentence type must be considered carefully. Here, the sentence is an interrogative sentence (question), so “said to” changes into “asked.” Since it is a question, the interrogative structure changes into statement form. In the Direct Speech, the verb “are going” is in the Present Continuous tense, which changes into “was going” in Indirect Speech. Therefore, the correct answer is — “He asked me where I was going.”
19. C) **Wan** (adjective) – Pale, weak, sickly, colorless, faint. पीला / पीला-सा
Antonym: **Healthy** (adjective) – In good physical condition, strong, robust, fit. स्वस्थ / तंदुरुस्त
    - **Long** (adjective) – Extended, lengthy, drawn-out. लंबा
    - **Tiring** (adjective) – Exhausting, draining, fatiguing. थकाने वाला
    - **Wearisome** (adjective) – Boring, tiresome, monotonous. उबाऊ
20. C) on' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि पूरे संदर्भ में, sentence इस बात को व्यक्त कर रहा है कि students किसी activity में भाग लेने के लिए उत्सुक हैं। यहाँ "keen_____ participating" के माध्यम से यह दर्शाया जा रहा है कि students की रुचि और उत्सुकता किसी specific कार्य में लगाई गई है। इसलिए, "on" सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प होगा।

- 'on' should be used because in the entire context, the sentence is expressing that the students are eager to engage in an activity. Here, through "keen _____ participating", it shows that the students' interest and enthusiasm are directed towards a specific action. Thus, "on" would be the most appropriate choice.

21. **A) Answer: (a) Yet**

Blank (A) needs a linking word that signals contrast: the writer was born "too late to remember the 1980s," and still his childhood "carried the unhurried character of that decade." a) Yet: introduces a contrast, matching the surprise that a childhood begun after the 1980s still felt like them. b) On the contrary: rejects what was just said and asserts the opposite, as in "It wasn't dull; on the contrary, it was thrilling," violating the requirement since the writer does not deny being born too late to remember the 1980s; he adds a surprising contrast to it. c) Besides: adds a point in the same direction, violating the requirement since this sentence turns against the previous one instead of adding to it. d) Unless: introduces a condition, violating the requirement since it would turn the sentence into a dependent clause with no main clause, and nothing here is conditional.

Hindi:

- Blank (A) में contrast दिखाने वाला linking word चाहिए: writer का जन्म "too late to remember the 1980s" हुआ, फिर भी उसके बचपन में "the unhurried character of that decade" था। a) Yet: यह contrast बताता है, जो इस आश्चर्य से match करता है कि 1980s के बाद start हुआ बचपन फिर भी उसी decade जैसा लगा। b) On the contrary: यह पिछली बात को नकारकर उसका उल्टा कहता है, जैसे "It wasn't dull; on the contrary, it was thrilling," जो violate करता है क्योंकि writer यह नहीं नकारता कि उसका जन्म 1980s को remember करने के लिए बहुत late हुआ; वह उसमें एक अनोखा contrast जोड़ता है। c) Besides: यह उसी direction में एक और point जोड़ता है, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह sentence पिछली बात के उलट जाता है, उसमें कुछ जोड़ता नहीं। d) Unless: यह condition बताता है, जो violate करता है क्योंकि इससे sentence बिना main clause वाला dependent clause बन जाएगा, और यहाँ कोई condition नहीं है।

22. **B) Answer: (b) was**

Blank (B) needs a singular past-tense verb. The three subjects are joined by "or," so the verb agrees with the nearest subject, "a barking dog," and the paragraph describes the past ("The air was cleaner, traffic was sparse"). a) were: is plural, the trap for readers who count three items, violating the requirement since subjects joined by "or" take a verb that agrees with the nearest one, and each item here is singular anyway. b) was: is singular and past, matching "a barking dog" and the past-tense narrative. c) is: is singular but present, violating the requirement since the whole paragraph is set in the past. d) have been: is plural and present perfect, violating the requirement on both counts.

Hindi:

- Blank (B) में singular past-tense verb चाहिए। तीनों subjects "or" से जुड़े हैं, इसलिए verb सबसे पास वाले subject, "a barking dog," से agree करता है, और paragraph past की बात करता है ("The air was cleaner, traffic was sparse")। a) were: यह plural है, उन readers के लिए trap जो तीन items गिनते हैं, जो violate करता है क्योंकि "or" से जुड़े subjects में verb सबसे पास वाले subject से agree करता है, और वैसे भी यहाँ तीनों items singular हैं। b) was: यह singular और past है, जो "a barking dog" और past-tense narrative से match करता है। c) is: यह singular है

पर present है, जो violate करता है क्योंकि पूरा paragraph past में है। d) have been: यह plural और present perfect है, जो दोनों कारणों से violate करता है।

23. **C) Answer: (c) push**

Blank (C) needs the noun that completes the idiom "at the push of a button," meaning instantly and with no effort. The ease of modern air-conditioning is set against "Back then, we adapted ourselves to the weather." a) drop: belongs to "at the drop of a hat," meaning instantly, which tempts because the sense is close, but violates the requirement since that idiom's fixed noun is "hat"; "at the drop of a button" is not an idiom. b) stroke: belongs to "at the stroke of midnight," meaning exactly at midnight, which tempts because the passage mentions "after midnight," but violates the requirement since it marks a moment in time, not ease of control. c) push: completes "at the push of a button," matching temperature controlled instantly and effortlessly. d) crack: belongs to "at the crack of dawn," meaning very early in the morning, violating the requirement since that idiom is about a time of day, and its fixed noun is "dawn," not "button."

Hindi:

- Blank (C) में वो noun चाहिए जो idiom "at the push of a button" पूरा करे, जिसका meaning है तुरंत और बिना किसी effort के। आज के air-conditioning की सरलता को "Back then, we adapted ourselves to the weather" के सामने रखा गया है। a) drop: यह "at the drop of a hat" का भाग है, जिसका meaning है तुरंत, जो tempting है क्योंकि sense मिलता-जुलता है, पर violate करता है क्योंकि उस idiom का fixed noun "hat" है; "at the drop of a button" कोई idiom नहीं है। b) stroke: यह "at the stroke of midnight" का भाग है, जिसका meaning है ठीक आधी रात को, जो tempting है क्योंकि passage में "after midnight" आता है, पर violate करता है क्योंकि यह समय का एक पल बताता है, control की सरलता नहीं। c) push: यह "at the push of a button" पूरा करता है, जो तुरंत और बिना effort के temperature control करने से match करता है। d) crack: यह "at the crack of dawn" का भाग है, जिसका meaning है एकदम early morning, जो violate करता है क्योंकि वह idiom दिन के एक समय की बात करता है, और उसका fixed noun "dawn" है, "button" नहीं।

24. **D) Answer: (d) without**

Blank (D) needs a preposition meaning "not doing or not having," since the point is that children exercised while unaware of it: "Exercise was simply another form of play." a) upon: means "immediately after," as in "upon arrival," violating the requirement since nothing suggests the children first found out and then exercised. b) by: marks the means of doing something, violating the requirement since knowing was not the method by which they exercised. c) despite: means "in spite of," violating the requirement since "despite knowing" would mean the children knew they were exercising, the opposite of the paragraph's point. d) without: marks the absence of something, matching children who exercised with no idea that they were doing so.

Hindi:

- Blank (D) में ऐसा preposition चाहिए जिसका meaning हो "किसी बात के बिना," क्योंकि बात यह है कि बच्चे बिना जाने exercise करते थे: "Exercise was simply another form of play।" a) upon: इसका meaning है "ठीक बाद," जैसे "upon arrival," जो violate करता है क्योंकि कहीं नहीं लगता कि बच्चों को पहले पता चला और फिर उन्होंने exercise की। b) by: यह किसी काम को करने का ढंग

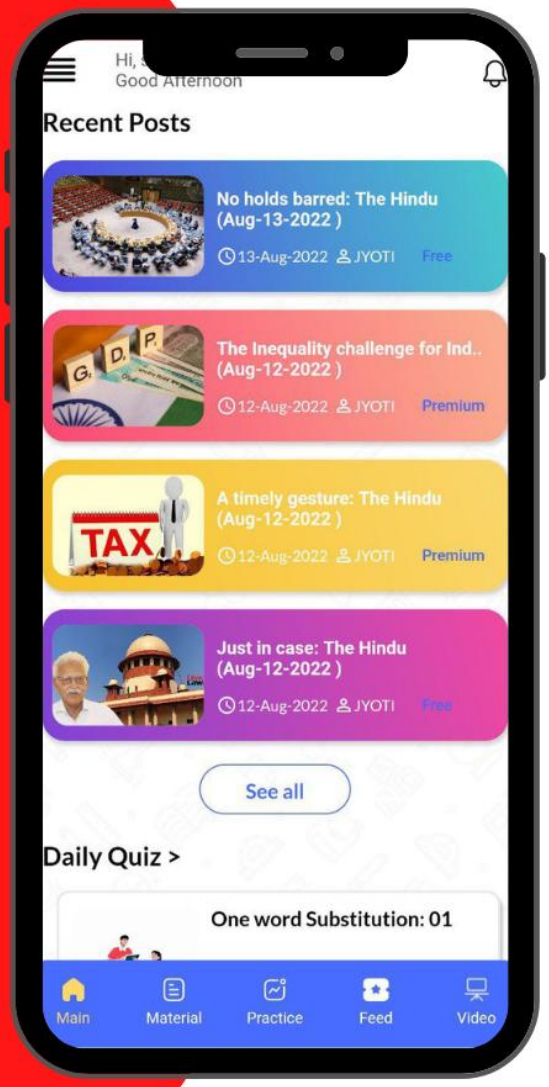
बताता है, जो violate करता है क्योंकि जानना वह ढंग नहीं था जिससे वे exercise करते थे। c) despite: इसका meaning है "in spite of," जो violate करता है क्योंकि "despite knowing" का अर्थ होगा कि बच्चे जानते थे कि वे exercise कर रहे हैं, जो paragraph की बात का उल्टा है। d) without: यह किसी बात के न होने को बताता है, जो उन बच्चों से match करता है जिन्हें पता ही नहीं था कि वे exercise कर रहे हैं।

25. **A) Answer: (a) colonised**

Blank (E) needs a past participle meaning "spread into and taken over, the way settlers take over new land," since packaged snacks had not yet filled "every school bag, kitchen shelf and television commercial." a) colonised: means spread into and taken over, as settlers take over land, matching packaged snacks that had not yet taken over every bag, shelf and advertisement. b) sanitised: means cleaned, or made more acceptable by removing unpleasant parts, violating the requirement since it has nothing to do with spreading into new places. c) vacated: means left empty, violating the requirement since it is the opposite of spreading into and taking over. d) decimated: means destroyed a large part of something, violating the requirement since destroying is not the same as taking over and settling in.

Hindi:

Blank (E) में ऐसा past participle चाहिए जिसका meaning हो "spread into and taken over, the way settlers take over new land," क्योंकि packaged snacks ने अभी "every school bag, kitchen shelf and television commercial" पर अधिकार नहीं जमाया था। a) colonised: इसका meaning है फैलकर पूरा अधिकार कर लेना, जैसे settlers नई भूमि पर करते हैं, जो उन packaged snacks से match करता है जिन्होंने अभी सारे bags, shelves और advertisements पर अधिकार नहीं जमाया था। b) sanitised: इसका meaning है clean करना, या अप्रिय भाग हटाकर अधिक स्वीकार्य बनाना, जो violate करता है क्योंकि इसका नए स्थानों में फैलने से कोई संबंध नहीं है। c) vacated: इसका meaning है empty करके छोड़ देना, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह फैलकर अधिकार जमाने का उल्टा है। d) decimated: इसका meaning है किसी वस्तु का बड़ा भाग नष्ट कर देना, जो violate करता है क्योंकि नष्ट करना अधिकार जमाकर बस जाने जैसा नहीं है।



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