New deal: On COP31 and lofty climate goals

Nations must **deliver on** past promises before **committing** to lofty climate goals

The 31st Conference of Parties (COP) began this week in Antalya, Türkiye. Hosted by Türkiye and **negotiations presided over** by Australia, **the run-up to** the **gathering** saw ministerial **delegations** visit Fiji and Tuvalu. This was to serve as a **stark** reminder of the purpose of COPs, namely that it was small island nations that are most **vulnerable to** warming from rising greenhouse gas **emissions**. However, the opening days have **belied** this sense of urgency. Prominent world leaders, even from the European countries who as a group **champion** the **cause** most **vociferously**, have chosen to skip the meet. The agenda and pre-summit expectations suggest that the main concerns this year are **likely** to be about delivering on existing commitments such as delivering $300 billion a year by 2035, which was decided at COP29 in Baku, as well as the COP30 call to triple the **adaptation finance** during that interval. However, deciding how these climate funds will practically flow has been **deferred** to COP32. The second global **stocktake**, a **periodic** check on progress under the Paris Agreement, begins at COP31, but the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has **dithered** on a timeline for the next reports that will serve as the scientific push to policy makers to accelerate efforts towards keeping a rise in temperatures below 2°C, and more **ambitiously** 1.5°C.

The previous edition of COP30 **concluded** without a formal **roadmap** away from **fossil fuels** — a step back from the COP28 consensus in Dubai. There is a **voluntary** roadmap ahead of COP31 but it is out of the formal negotiating text. **In the background of** the West Asia war, the withdrawal of the United States from the Paris Agreement and **financial strain** **writ large** over Europe, funds are a challenge as **evidenced** in the recent Loss and Damage fund approval to Nepal of $21 million when the ask is in billions. COP31 president, Murat Kurum has **laid** an electrification target, which is to raise electricity's share from 23% of total energy consumption to 35% by 2035. India has already refused to sign such a **pledge** and **insisted on** predictable climate finance, technology transfer, and nationally determined approaches to **climate mitigation**. These negotiations have a character of their own and **deliberating** nations must **strive** to get nations to deliver on past promises rather than commit to new lofty targets.

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

Vocabulary

1. **Lofty** (adjective) - elevated, towering, soaring, high, exalted बुलंद
2. **Deliver on** (phrase) - to fulfill a promise or commitment वादा पूरा करना
3. **Commit** (verb) - pledge, dedicate, obligate, bind, vow प्रतिबद्ध होना
4. **Negotiations** (noun) - discussions, talks, parleys, deliberations, consultations बातचीत
5. **Preside over** (phrasal verb) - to be in charge of or manage a meeting or event अध्यक्षता करना
6. **The run-up to** (noun) - the period of time just before an important event किसी महत्वपूर्ण घटना से पहले का समय
7. **Gathering** (noun) - assembly, congregation, convention, meeting, get-together सभा
8. **Delegations** (noun) - missions, commissions, contingents, deputations, envoys प्रतिनिधिमंडल
9. **Stark** (adjective) - severe, bare, grim, harsh, absolute कठोर
10. **Vulnerable** (to) (adjective) - exposed to the possibility of being attacked or harmed by something के प्रति संवेदनशील
11. **Emission** (noun) - discharge, release, exhalation, outpouring, ejection उत्सर्जन
12. **Belie** (verb) - contradict, disprove, debunk, conceal, disguise झुठलाना
13. **Champion** (verb) - advocate, promote, defend, support, endorse समर्थन करना
14. **Cause** (noun) - principle, objective, movement, ideal, purpose उद्देश्य
15. **Vociferously** (adverb) - loudly, vehemently, forcefully, noisily, assertively ज़ोर-शोर से
16. **Likely** (adjective) - probable, possible, expected, anticipated, plausible संभावित
17. **Adaptation finance** (noun) - funds allocated to help countries adjust to the impacts of climate change जलवायु परिवर्तन के अनुकूलन के लिए वित्तीय सहायता
18. **Defer** (verb) - postpone, delay, adjourn, suspend, put off टालना
19. **Stocktake** (noun) - assessment, evaluation, review, appraisal, inventory समीक्षा
20. **Periodic** (adjective) - regular, cyclical, recurrent, recurring, intermittent आवधिक
21. **Dither** (verb) - hesitate, vacillate, waver, falter, dawdle हिचकिचाना
22. **Ambitiously** (adverb) - eagerly, zealously, determinedly, assertively, purposefully महत्वाकांक्षा से
23. **Conclude** (verb) - finish, terminate, end, close, culminate समाप्त होना
24. **Roadmap** (noun) - plan, blueprint, guideline, strategy, framework रूपरेखा
25. **Fossil fuels** (noun) - natural fuels formed in the geological past from the remains of living organisms जीवाश्म ईंधन
26. **Voluntary** (adjective) - optional, discretionary, elective, unforced, willing स्वैच्छिक

27. **In the background of** (phrase) - happening in the context or setting of other events के परिप्रेक्ष्य में
28. **Financial strain** (phrase) - pressure or worry caused by lack of money वित्तीय तनाव
29. **Writ large** (idiom) - clear and obvious, in a prominent or exaggerated way स्पष्ट रूप से दिखाई देना
30. **Evidence** (verb) - show, prove, demonstrate, indicate, manifest प्रमाणित करना
31. **Lay** (verb) - present, establish, set, propose, formulate प्रस्तुत करना
37.
32. **Pledge** (noun) - promise, vow, commitment, undertaking, assurance संकल्प
33. **Insist on** (phrasal verb) - to demand something forcefully, not accepting refusal जोर देना
34. **Climate mitigation** (noun) - actions taken to reduce or prevent the emission of greenhouse gases जलवायु शमन
35. **Deliberate** (verb) - ponder, consider, contemplate, discuss, debate विचार-विमर्श करना
36. **Strive** (verb) - endeavor, attempt, struggle, aim, labor प्रयास करना

Summary of the Editorial

1. **COP31 Kickoff:** The 31st Conference of Parties (COP31) began in Antalya, Türkiye, hosted by Türkiye with negotiations presided over by Australia.
2. **Focus on Island Nations:** Pre-summit visits to Fiji and Tuvalu aimed to highlight the extreme vulnerability of small island nations to climate change.
3. **Lack of Political Urgency:** Despite these symbolic visits, major world leaders—including those from vocal European nations—skipped the opening days of the summit.
4. **Delivering Past Pledges:** The summit's primary focus is on fulfilling earlier promises, specifically the COP29 goal of $300 billion annually by 2035 and COP30's call to triple adaptation finance.
5. **Deferred Funding Mechanics:** Practical decisions on how these promised climate funds will actually flow have been postponed until COP32.
6. **Second Global Stocktake:** COP31 marks the start of the second periodic progress review under the Paris Agreement.
7. **IPCC Delays:** The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has stalled on setting a timeline for its upcoming scientific reports, weakening the urgency needed to cap warming at 1.5°C–2°C.
8. **Backtracking on Fossil Fuels:** COP30 ended without a formal fossil fuel phase-out roadmap, retreating from the COP28 consensus in Dubai.
9. **Weak Voluntary Measures:** Ahead of COP31, only a voluntary roadmap exists for transitioning away from fossil fuels, excluded from the formal negotiating text.
10. **Global Geopolitical Headwinds:** Climate financing faces severe strain due to the West Asia war, the U.S. withdrawal from the Paris Agreement, and economic pressures in Europe.
11. **Inadequate Loss and Damage Aid:** The funding shortfall is highlighted by Nepal receiving just $21 million from the Loss and Damage fund against demands running into billions.
12. **New Electrification Target:** COP31 President Murat Kurum proposed raising electricity's share of total energy consumption from 23% to 35% by 2035.
13. **India’s Refusal:** India rejected this electrification pledge, demanding predictable climate finance and technology transfer instead.
14. **National Autonomy:** India maintained that climate mitigation must rely on nationally determined approaches rather than rigid global targets.
15. **Core Takeaway:** Negotiating countries must prioritize fulfilling existing climate commitments rather than announcing ambitious new goals.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **According to the passage, what three geopolitical and economic factors are currently constraining global climate finance?** [Editorial Page]
   A. Ministerial visits to Pacific island nations, Australian negotiation leadership, and delayed scientific assessments from the IPCC.
   B. India's refusal to sign electrification pledges, voluntary fossil-fuel roadmaps, and the second global stocktake review process.
   C. Türkiye's hosting of COP31 in Antalya, COP28 Dubai consensus rules, and Nepal's multi-billion-dollar adaptation requests.
   D. The West Asia war, the US withdrawal from the Paris Agreement, and widespread financial strain across Europe.
2. **What does the phrase "these negotiations have a character of their own" imply in the concluding sentence?**
   A. Prominent European leaders chose to skip the opening days of COP31 despite championing climate action vociferously
   B. Practical decisions on how promised climate funds will flow have been deferred until the COP32 summit
   C. India insisted on predictable climate finance, technology transfer, and nationally determined approaches to climate mitigation efforts
   D. Climate summits follow recurring diplomatic dynamics that risk prioritizing symbolic future pledges over implementing past obligations
3. **Why does the author mention that ministerial delegations visited Fiji and Tuvalu in the run-up to COP31?**
   A. To note that Türkiye hosted the thirty-first Conference of Parties in Antalya while Australia presided over negotiations.
   B. To explain that the second global stocktake under the Paris Agreement checks periodic progress toward temperature limits.
   C. To show that the summit was meant to spotlight small island vulnerability, making leaders' subsequent absence more glaring.
   D. To highlight that COP30 called for tripling adaptation finance during the interval leading up to twenty thirty-five.
4. **How does the passage evaluate the role of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) at the start of COP31?**
   A. Notes that its hesitation over report timelines weakens the scientific impetus needed to accelerate policy action toward temperature goals.
   B. Observes that prominent European leaders skipped the Antalya summit despite championing the international climate cause vociferously as a group.
   C. Contends that delivering three hundred billion dollars annually by 2035 and tripling adaptation finance remain central pre-summit expectations.
   D. Suggests that the second global stocktake serves as a periodic check on national progress under the Paris Agreement framework.
5. **Identify the grammatical function of the phrase "In the background of the West Asia war, the withdrawal of the United States from the Paris Agreement and financial strain writ large over Europe" in the second paragraph.**

A. It is the main subject of the sentence.
B. It is an introductory phrase modifying the main clause.
C. It is a dependent clause providing a condition.
D. It is a direct object of the verb.

6. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the given word.**
Prohibit
A. Emphatic
B. Bar
C. Inept
D. Sluggish

7. **Select the synonym of Revoke.**
A. Cancel
B. Improve
C. Permit
D. Confirm

8. **Select the option that best expresses the meaning of the given phrase.**
Draw attention to
A. To permanently mark or emotionally scar an individual for a lifetime
B. To make someone notice or consider a particular fact or development
C. To signal a planned end to daily proceedings through strategic withdrawal
D. To seek immediate administrative or judicial assistance in times of distress

9. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**
Brutal
A. Relentless
B. Precarious
C. Humane
D. Insatiable

10. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**
Oust
A. Complicate
B. Deteriorate
C. Reinstate
D. Squander

11. **Choose the one which can be substituted for the given sentence.**
A word formed from the initial letters of a name
A. Pseudonym
B. Homonym
C. Acronym
D. Antonym

12. **Choose the option where all words are correctly spelt.**
A. Conservationist, Archaic, Reinterpret
B. Concervationist, Archaic, Reinterpret
C. Conservationist, Archaiac, Reinterpret
D. Conservationist, Archaic, Reinterprete

13. **Which of the following sentences has NO spelling errors?**
    A. The botanist studied how interspecific introgresion facilitated natural drought resistance
    B. The botanist studied how interspecific intrograssion facilitated natural drought resistance.
    C. The botanist studied how interspecific introgression facilitated natural drought resistance.
    D. The botanist studied how interspecific intrograsion facilitated natural drought resistance.
14. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in reported speech.**
    He said to me, "How are you now?"
    A. He asked me If I was well then.
    B. He asked me how was I then.
    C. He asked me that how I was now.
    D. He asked me how I was then.
15. **Select the option that changes the voice of the following sentence.**
    The newlywed couple has bought a new house in Delhi.
    A. A new house in Delhi was being bought by the newlywed couple.
    B. A new house in Delhi have been bought by the newlywed couple.
    C. A new house in Delhi has been bought by the newlywed couple.
    D. A new house in Delhi was bought by the newlywed couple.
16. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**
    I _____ to the hope that he's still alive.
    A. cling
    B. take
    C. hold
    D. grab
17. **Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence.**
    The excessive using of pocket calculators can stultify your capacity to do mental calculations
    A. use of pocket calculators
    B. used of pocket calculators
    C. utility of pocket calculators
    D. aversion of pocket calculators
18. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.**
    In October, / they will have lived / in San Francisco /for five years.
    A. In October
    B. for five years
    C. in San Francisco
    D. they will have lived
19. **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. Science reveals aspects of art that are otherwise difficult to uncover.
    1. Working at the intersection of material science and art history, Federico Carò, a research scientist at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, brings a distinct perspective to the study of ancient Indian sculpture.

2. It thus probes a range of humanistic concerns in the production, circulation, and preservation of art.
3. From tracing the geological provenance of Buddhist sculptures in South India to investigating Gupta-period bronze-casting technologies, his research demonstrates how scientific methods can deepen our understanding of artistic practices and material histories.
4. By investigating how artworks are made, for instance, scientific analysis encourages us to understand art not simply as the impulse of a royal or religious patron but also the work of an artisan.
S6. In this conversation, he reflects on the vital contribution of scientific research to the study of Indian art and to contemporary museum practice.

A. 4-1-2-3
B. 2-4-1-3
C. 4-2-1-3
D. 1-3-4-2

20. **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. People often use vanilla as the primary flavour in baked goods and in chocolates.
B. Vanilla is a common additive to make cakes, ice creams, and fragrant body lotions.
C. Vanilla comes from the fruits of the orchid herb that botanists call Vanilla planifolia, found mostly in tropical countries.
D. Children enjoy a good vanilla ice cream.
E. It is not just the flavour: vanilla also has health-promoting properties that have been known for centuries.

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

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

Our parents and elders say that we do not spend enough time in playgrounds. (A)___ we may not spend as much time in the traditional playground, my generation deals with an entirely different kind of playground. Even though the adults usually say otherwise, I think it is safe to say that the emotions regarding the word have not changed, but have evolved.
This digital playground of ours, similar (B)___ the traditional one, deals with some largely unspoken rules created by its inhabitants, which are sure to confuse a newcomer to this new society.
To understand the rules, you must first understand its inhabitants.
The speedus-typus is a creature whose hands have been trained for the sole purpose of typing a hundred small messages in 30 seconds to make the recipient's device (C)___ buzzing like the nest of angry hornets.
This is done to force the receiver to reply or receive a large amount of static electricity in their pockets.
When researching the inhabitants of this weird place, we were forced to rethink the definition of the word inhabitants itself due to the strange finding of a peculiar creature we like to call

the silentium scrollerus. This (D)___ in the shadows and acts only as an observer. It has been proven to have an excellent memory. When questioned regarding any happenings in the group chat, it shows more knowledge of the event than people who were directly involved. The rules and habits of this playground are just as strange. Scientific proof confirms that the human typing speed increases to supersonic levels just 120 seconds before the Google Classroom assignment closes its doors forever.

A forensic look inside a laptop running 14 open tabs: 13 are dedicated to memes and gaming wikis while the single history PDF remains untouched since 4:00 pm. An ancient art used to confuse parents and leave a classmate on read for more than four minutes is considered a low-level act of diplomatic warfare. This leads to (E)___ shoulders from all friends for a week.

It is true, however, that the digital playground is not yet welcoming of all.

21. **Fill in the blank (A) with the correct linking word to fit the context.**
    A. Lest
    B. Unless
    C. As if
    D. While
22. **Choose the correct preposition to fill in the blank (B).**
    A. as
    B. with
    C. to
    D. from
23. **Choose the grammatically correct option to fill in the blank (C).**
    A. start
    B. starts
    C. to start
    D. started
24. **Fill in the blank (D) with the word that means "stays hidden, watching and waiting without being noticed."**
    A. bustles
    B. lurks
    C. flaunts
    D. swaggers
25. **Fill in the blank (E) with the correct word to complete the idiom.**
    A. broad
    B. square
    C. warm
    D. cold

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. **D) The West Asia war, the US withdrawal from the Paris Agreement, and widespread financial strain across Europe.**
   passage: "In the background of the West Asia war, the withdrawal of the United States from the Paris Agreement and financial strain writ large over Europe, funds are a challenge as evidenced in the recent Loss and Damage fund approval to Nepal of $21 million when the ask is in billions."----The passage names three background factors that make funds a challenge: the West Asia war, the US pulling out of the Paris Agreement, and financial strain across Europe. It then gives the small Nepal approval ($21 million against an ask in billions) as proof. Option D lists exactly these three, so it is correct.
   - Option 1: Incorrect. The option says ministerial visits to island nations, Australian leadership and delayed IPCC assessments constrain climate finance, but the passage mentions the visits and Australia's role only as background to COP31, and the IPCC delay is about the science timeline, not funds. None of these is given as a reason funds are a challenge, hence incorrect.
   - Option 2: Incorrect. The option says India's refusal to sign the electrification pledge, the voluntary roadmap and the second global stocktake constrain finance, but the passage presents these as items on the COP31 agenda. India's refusal is linked to its demand for predictable finance, not named as a cause of the funding shortage, hence incorrect.
   - Option 3: Incorrect. The option says Türkiye's hosting, the COP28 Dubai consensus rules and Nepal's multi-billion requests are the constraints, but the passage says Türkiye is only the host. The Dubai consensus is mentioned as something COP30 stepped back from, and Nepal's case is evidence of the funding gap, not a cause of it, hence incorrect.
2. **D) Climate summits follow recurring diplomatic dynamics that risk prioritizing symbolic future pledges over implementing past obligations.**
   passage: "These negotiations have a character of their own and deliberating nations must strive to get nations to deliver on past promises rather than commit to new lofty targets."----The phrase "a character of their own" means these negotiations have their own typical, repeated pattern. The very next part of the sentence explains what that pattern is: nations tend to make new, big targets while old promises (like the $300 billion a year and the tripled adaptation finance) are not yet delivered. The author therefore asks nations to deliver on past promises first. Option D says exactly this, so it is correct.
   - Option A: Incorrect. The option says the phrase means European leaders skipped the opening days, but the passage mentions this earlier, as a sign that urgency is missing. It is a single event, and the phrase is about the general nature of the negotiations, hence incorrect.

- Option B: Incorrect. The option says the phrase means fund-flow decisions were deferred to COP32, but the passage mentions this deferral as a separate fact. It does not explain the "character" of the negotiations, hence incorrect.
- Option C: Incorrect. The option says the phrase means India's insistence on finance and technology transfer, but the passage mentions India's stand as one country's position. The phrase refers to how negotiations work in general, not to what one country wants, hence incorrect.

3. **C) To show that the summit was meant to spotlight small island vulnerability, making leaders' subsequent absence more glaring.**
passage: "...the run-up to the gathering saw ministerial delegations visit Fiji and Tuvalu. This was to serve as a stark reminder of the purpose of COPs, namely that it was small island nations that are most vulnerable to warming from rising greenhouse gas emissions. However, the opening days have belied this sense of urgency. Prominent world leaders, even from the European countries who as a group champion the cause most vociferously, have chosen to skip the meet."----The passage says the visits to Fiji and Tuvalu were meant to remind everyone that small island nations are the most vulnerable. The word "However" then shows a contrast: the opening days did not match this urgency, because prominent leaders skipped the meet. So the visits are mentioned to set up this contrast. Option C says exactly this, so it is correct.
    - Option A: Incorrect. The option says the visits are mentioned to note that Türkiye hosts and Australia presides, but the passage gives that in the sentence before the visits as a separate fact. The visits are explained by the "stark reminder" line, not by who hosts or presides, hence incorrect.
    - Option B: Incorrect. The option says the visits explain how the second global stocktake checks progress, but the passage mentions the stocktake later, in a different context. It has no link to the visits to Fiji and Tuvalu, hence incorrect.
    - Option D: Incorrect. The option says the visits highlight COP30's call to triple adaptation finance, but the passage mentions that call as part of the agenda on existing commitments. The visits are linked to small island vulnerability, not to adaptation finance, hence incorrect.
4. **A) Notes that its hesitation over report timelines weakens the scientific impetus needed to accelerate policy action toward temperature goals.**
passage: "The second global stocktake, a periodic check on progress under the Paris Agreement, begins at COP31, but the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has dithered on a timeline for the next reports that will serve as the scientific push to policy makers to accelerate efforts towards keeping a rise in temperatures below 2°C, and more ambitiously 1.5°C."----The passage says the IPCC has "dithered" (delayed and hesitated) on setting a timeline for its next reports. These reports are meant to give the scientific push to policy makers to speed up action on temperature limits. So the passage sees the IPCC's hesitation as weakening that push. Option A says exactly this, so it is correct.
    - Option B: Incorrect. The option says European leaders skipped the summit despite championing the cause, but this is a fact about leaders, mentioned earlier in the passage. It says nothing about the IPCC, hence incorrect.

- Option C: Incorrect. The option says the $300 billion a year and tripled adaptation finance are central expectations, but these are pre-summit finance commitments from COP29 and COP30. They are not about the IPCC, hence incorrect.
- Option D: Incorrect. The option says the stocktake is a periodic check on progress, which is true, but it describes the stocktake and not the IPCC. The passage's judgment on the IPCC is that it has dithered on report timelines, hence incorrect.

5. **B) It is an introductory phrase modifying the main clause.**
   The phrase starts with the preposition "In" and sits at the beginning of the sentence, before the main clause "funds are a challenge." It has no verb of its own that forms a clause, and it tells us the background or circumstances in which funds are a challenge. A phrase that opens a sentence and adds such information to the main clause is an introductory phrase. Option B says exactly this, so it is correct.
   - Option A: Incorrect. The option says the phrase is the main subject, but the subject of the sentence is "funds" (with the verb "are"). The phrase only sets the background before the subject, hence incorrect.
   - Option C: Incorrect. The option says it is a dependent clause giving a condition, but a clause needs its own subject and verb, and this phrase has none (it begins with a preposition). It also gives background, not a condition like "if" or "unless," hence incorrect.
   - Option D: Incorrect. The option says it is the direct object of a verb, but no verb in the sentence acts on this phrase. The verb "are" links "funds" to "a challenge," and the phrase just opens the sentence, hence incorrect.
6. B) **Prohibit** (verb) – forbid, ban, bar, restrict, prevent. (मना करना / रोकना)
   Synonym: **Bar** (verb) – to officially prevent someone from doing something or going somewhere. (रोक लगाना / वर्जित करना)
   - **Emphatic** (adjective) – showing or giving emphasis; forceful. (जोरदार)
   - **Inept** (adjective) – having or showing no skill; clumsy. (अकुशल)
   - **Sluggish** (adjective) – slow-moving or inactive. (सुस्त)
7. A) Solution: A) **Revoke** (verb) – To officially cancel a decree, decision or promise. रद्द करना
   Synonym: **Cancel** (verb) – To decide that something will not take place or is no longer valid. रद्द करना
   - **Improve** (verb) – To make better. सुधारना
   - **Permit** (verb) – To allow. अनुमति देना
   - **Confirm** (verb) – To establish the truth of. पुष्टि करना
8. B) **Draw attention to** (phrase) – to direct someone's notice, focus, or consideration toward a specific matter, irregularity, or fact. (ध्यान आकर्षित करना / संज्ञान में लाना)
   - To make someone notice or consider a particular fact or development. (किसी विशेष तथ्य, घटना अथवा मुद्दे की ओर किसी का ध्यान दिलाना)
9. C) **Brutal** (adjective) – savagely violent, cruel, vicious, harsh, ruthless. (क्रूर / निर्दयी / बर्बर)
   Antonym: **Humane** (adjective) – having or showing compassion, benevolence, or kindness; compassionate, merciful, kind. (मानवीय / दयालु / रहमदिल)

- **Relentless** (adjective) – unceasingly intense, harsh, or inflexible; persistent, unremitting. (कठोर / अथक / निरंतर)
- **Precarious** (adjective) – not securely held or in position; dangerously likely to fall or collapse; uncertain, risky. (अनिश्चित / खतरनाक)
- **Insatiable** (adjective) – impossible to satisfy; unquenchable, voracious. (अतृप्त / जिसे संतुष्ट न किया जा सके)

10. C) **Oust** (verb) – drive out or expel someone from a position or place; dismiss, overthrow, topple, remove. (बेदखल करना / पद से हटाना)
    Antonym: **Reinstate** (verb) – restore someone or something to their former position or condition; restore, re-establish. (पुनर्स्थापित करना / पद पर बहाल करना)
    - **Complicate** (verb) – make something more difficult or confusing; entangle, embroil. (जटिल बनाना)
    - **Deteriorate** (verb) – become progressively worse; decline, degenerate. (बिगड़ना / खराब होना)
    - **Squander** (verb) – waste something in a reckless and foolish manner; dissipate, fritter. (गँवाना / बर्बाद करना)
11. C) Solution: C) **Acronym** – A word formed from the initial letters of a name or phrase. जैसे: NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization), NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration). आद्याक्षरों से बना शब्द।
    - **Pseudonym** – A false name used by an author; उपनाम/छद्म नाम।
    - **Homonym** – A word that sounds the same or is spelled the same as another word but has a different meaning; समध्वनि शब्द।
    - **Antonym** – A word opposite in meaning to another; विपरीतार्थक शब्द।
12. A) Option (A) is the only option where all three words are spelt perfectly.
    - **Conservationist** (c-o-n-s-e-r-v-a-t-i-o-n-i-s-t) (संरक्षणवादी / पर्यावरणविद्)
    - **Archaic** (a-r-c-h-a-i-c). (प्राचीन / अप्रचलित)
    - **Reinterpret** (r-e-i-n-t-e-r-p-r-e-t) (फिर से व्याख्या करना)
13. **C) The botanist studied how interspecific introgression facilitated natural drought resistance.**
    The correct sentence is C.
    The target word is correctly spelt as Introgression (i-n-t-r-o-g-r-e-s-s-i-o-n – spelt with double s and ending in -ion).
    Introgression (noun) – the transfer of genetic information from one species to another as a result of hybridization between them and repeated backcrossing; gene flow. (आनुवंशिक सम्मिश्रण / अंतःप्रवेश)
14. **D) He asked me how I was then.**
    Wh-question को Indirect Speech में बदलने पर "said to" बदलकर "asked" हो जाता है, वाक्य statement के order में आ जाता है (how + subject + verb) और question mark हट जाता है। "are" बदलकर "was", "you" बदलकर "I" और "now" बदलकर "then" हो जाता है।
    When a Wh-question is changed into Indirect Speech, "said to" changes to "asked", the sentence takes the statement order (how + subject + verb) and the question mark is dropped. "Are" changes to "was", "you" changes to "I" and "now" changes to "then".
15. **C) Solution: C) A new house in Delhi has been bought by the newlywed couple.**

Active वाक्य में "has bought" Present Perfect है, इसलिए Passive में "has been bought" (has/have been + V3) का प्रयोग होगा। Object "a new house in Delhi" Subject बन गया और "by the newlywed couple" agent के रूप में आया।
"Has bought" is Present Perfect in the active sentence, so the passive uses "has been bought" (has/have been + V3). The object "a new house in Delhi" becomes the Subject and "by the newlywed couple" is the agent.

16. A) 'Cling' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "cling to the hope" का अर्थ है उम्मीद को कसकर पकड़े रखना, और यह सही collocation है। जबकि take, hold और grab के साथ "to the hope" का प्रयोग सही नहीं बनता (hold के लिए 'on to' चाहिए)।
    - 'Cling' should be used because "cling to the hope" means to hold on to hope firmly and is the correct collocation. Whereas, 'take', 'hold' and 'grab' do not form a correct expression with "to the hope" ('hold' would need 'on to').
17. A) 'using of pocket calculators' के बदले 'use of pocket calculators' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'use' इस context में उचित है जिसे अधिक प्रयोग के संदर्भ में दर्शाया जाता है।
    - 'use of pocket calculators' will be used instead of 'using of pocket calculators' because 'use' is more appropriate in this context to represent excessive usage.
18. D) 'they will have lived' के बदले 'they will have been living' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'for five years' अवधि बताता है और वह क्रिया October तक लगातार चलती रहेगी, इसलिए Future Perfect Continuous Tense (will have been + V-ing) उपयुक्त है; जैसे— By June, she will have been working here for ten years.
    - 'They will have been living' will be used instead of 'they will have lived' because 'for five years' shows a duration of an action that continues up to October, so the Future Perfect Continuous Tense (will have been + V-ing) is suitable; Like— By June, she will have been working here for ten years.
19. C) **4-2-1-3**
    Hindi Explanation:
    Sentence 4 S1 के तुरंत बाद आएगा और S1-4 का सीधा link बनाएगा। S1 में इस सामान्य विचार के बाद कि विज्ञान कला के छिपे पहलुओं को उजागर करता है, Sentence 4 "for instance" का प्रयोग करते हुए इसका उदाहरण देता है कि कलाकृतियों के निर्माण की जांच करके scientific analysis हमें कला को केवल संरक्षक की इच्छा के बजाय एक कारीगर ("artisan") के काम के रूप में समझने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करता है।
    Sentence 2 Sentence 4 को follow करेगा और 4-2 का logical consequence pair बनाएगा। Sentence 4 में कारीगर के काम की समझ के बाद Sentence 2 "It thus probes..." से निष्कर्ष निकालता है कि यह कला के उत्पादन, प्रसार और संरक्षण ("production, circulation, and preservation") से जुड़ी मानवीय चिंताओं की जांच करता है।
    Sentence 1 Sentence 2 के ठीक बाद आएगा और 2-1 का general-to-specific transition बनाएगा। सामान्य सिद्धांत के बाद Sentence 1 एक विशिष्ट विशेषज्ञ—Metropolitan Museum of Art में वैज्ञानिक Federico Carò—का परिचय देता है, जो प्राचीन भारतीय मूर्तिकला के अध्ययन में एक अनूठा दृष्टिकोण लाते हैं।
    Sentence 3 Sentence 1 के बाद आएगा और 1-3 का direct referential pair बनाएगा। Sentence 1 में Federico Carò के परिचय के बाद Sentence 3 "his research demonstrates..." से दक्षिण भारत की बौद्ध मूर्तियों और गुप्तकालीन कांस्य-ढलाई तकनीकों पर उनके शोध का विवरण देता है। इसके तुरंत बाद S6

pronoun "he" के माध्यम से इस बातचीत में भारतीय कला और समकालीन संग्रहालय अभ्यास में वैज्ञानिक अनुसंधान के योगदान पर उनके विचारों के साथ पूरे परिच्छेद को पूर्ण करता है।
English Explanation:
Sentence 4 directly follows S1 (S1-4), illustrating the opening premise via "for instance" by explaining how scientific analysis of how artworks are made highlights the role of the artisan alongside royal or religious patrons.
Sentence 2 follows Sentence 4 (4-2), using the pronoun "It" (referring to scientific analysis) and the logical connector "thus" to conclude that such analysis probes humanistic concerns across the production, circulation, and preservation of art.
Sentence 1 directly follows Sentence 2 (2-1), transitioning from the broad theoretical role of science in art to a specific practitioner: introducing Federico Carò, a research scientist at the Metropolitan Museum of Art studying ancient Indian sculpture.
Sentence 3 forms an immediate referential pair with Sentence 1 (1-3), picking up on Federico Carò via "his research" to detail his specific work tracing geological provenance and Gupta-period bronze-casting technologies. Finally, S6 connects directly via "he", introducing his reflections on the contribution of scientific research to Indian art and museum practice to conclude the passage.

20. B) **B-D-A-E-C**
Hindi Explanation:
Sentence B पूरे परिच्छेद का independent opening sentence है। यह मुख्य विषय Vanilla और केक, आइसक्रीम तथा खुशबूदार body lotions बनाने में एक सामान्य additive के रूप में इसके व्यापक उपयोग का परिचय देता है।
Sentence D Sentence B के तुरंत बाद आएगा और B-D का सीधा link बनाएगा। Sentence B में ice creams के उल्लेख के तुरंत बाद Sentence D उसी संदर्भ को आगे बढ़ाते हुए बताता है कि बच्चों को एक अच्छी vanilla ice cream बहुत पसंद आती है।
Sentence A Sentence D को follow करेगा और D-A का logical continuation link बनाएगा। आइसक्रीम के बाद Sentence A बेकरी उत्पादों (baked goods) और चॉकलेट में प्राथमिक स्वाद (primary flavour) के रूप में इसके उपयोग को जोड़ता है।
Sentence E Sentence A के ठीक बाद आएगा और A-E का transition link बनाएगा। स्वाद (flavour) के उपयोगों को समाप्त करने के बाद Sentence E "It is not just the flavour:" के माध्यम से विषय को इसके सदियों से ज्ञात स्वास्थ्यवर्धक गुणों (health-promoting properties) की ओर मोड़ता है।
Sentence C Sentence E के बाद आकर क्रम को पूर्ण करेगा (E-C)। इसके स्वास्थ्य लाभों के परिचय के बाद Sentence C वैनिला के वानस्पतिक स्रोत (orchid herb जिसे वनस्पतिशास्त्री Vanilla planifolia कहते हैं) और उष्णकटिबंधीय देशों (tropical countries) में इसकी उपस्थिति का विवरण देकर परिच्छेद को तार्किक रूप से समाप्त करता है।
English Explanation:
Sentence B serves as the standalone opening topic sentence, introducing vanilla and its widespread use as a common additive in cakes, ice creams, and fragrant body lotions.
Sentence D directly follows Sentence B (B-D), picking up immediately on the mention of ice creams by noting that children enjoy a good vanilla ice cream.
Sentence A follows Sentence D (D-A), broadening its culinary applications by stating that people frequently use vanilla as the primary flavour in baked goods and chocolates.

Sentence E forms an immediate transitional pair with Sentence A (A-E), pivoting away from culinary taste via "It is not just the flavour:" to highlight vanilla's centuries-old health-promoting properties.
Sentence C concludes the sequence (E-C), providing the botanical origin of the plant—the fruits of the tropical orchid herb Vanilla planifolia—to complete the paragraph logically.

21. **D) While**
Blank (A) needs a linking word that concedes one point before making a contrasting one: young people may spend less time in traditional playgrounds, but they have a different kind of playground instead. a) Lest: means "for fear that," violating the requirement since the sentence expresses no fear or precaution. b) Unless: introduces a condition meaning "except if," violating the requirement since the new playground does not depend on any condition, and "unless … may not" makes a confusing double negative. c) As if: compares something with an imagined situation, as in "he acts as if he owns the place," violating the requirement since nothing here is being compared. d) While: here means "although," matching the concession that the writer's generation may spend less time in traditional playgrounds yet has a playground of its own.
Hindi:
    - Blank (A) में ऐसा linking word चाहिए जो एक बात मानकर फिर उसके उलट बात कहे: युवा भले ही traditional playgrounds में थोड़ा समय बिताते हों, पर उनके पास एक अलग प्रकार का playground है। a) Lest: इसका meaning है "for fear that," जो violate करता है क्योंकि sentence में कोई डर या सावधानी नहीं बताई गई। b) Unless: यह "except if" वाली condition बताता है, जो violate करता है क्योंकि नया playground किसी condition पर निर्भर नहीं है, और "unless … may not" से उलझा हुआ double negative बन जाता है। c) As if: यह किसी बात की तुलना किसी काल्पनिक स्थिति से करता है, जैसे "he acts as if he owns the place," जो violate करता है क्योंकि यहाँ कोई तुलना नहीं हो रही। d) While: यहाँ इसका meaning "although" है, जो इस बात से match करता है कि writer की generation भले ही traditional playgrounds में थोड़ा समय बिताए, पर उसका अपना एक playground है।

22. **C) to**
Blank (B) needs the preposition that "similar" always takes: "similar to." a) as: belongs to "the same as," violating the requirement since "similar" never takes "as." b) with: is a common error, violating the requirement since "with" goes with verbs like "compare with," not with "similar." c) to: completes "similar to," matching the comparison between the digital playground and the traditional one. d) from: belongs to "different from," violating the requirement since the opposite word does not lend its preposition to "similar."
Hindi:
    - Blank (B) में वो preposition चाहिए जो "similar" के साथ fixed रूप से आता है: "similar to।" a) as: यह "the same as" का भाग है, जो violate करता है क्योंकि "similar" के साथ कभी "as" नहीं आता। b) with: यह एक common error है, जो violate करता है क्योंकि "with" "compare with" जैसे verbs के साथ आता है, "similar" के साथ नहीं। c) to: यह "similar to" पूरा करता है, जो digital playground और traditional playground की तुलना से match करता है। d) from: यह "different from" का भाग है, जो violate करता है क्योंकि उल्टे meaning वाले word का preposition "similar" के साथ नहीं आता।

23. **A) start**

Blank (C) needs a bare infinitive (the base form without "to"), since "make" in the active voice is followed by object + base verb: "make the recipient's device start buzzing." a) start: is the bare infinitive, matching the pattern "make + object + base verb." b) starts: is a present-tense form with "-s," violating the requirement since a verb after "make + object" never takes tense endings. c) to start: is the classic error, violating the requirement since active "make" never takes "to" before the next verb; "to" appears only in the passive, as in "the device was made to start." d) started: is a past form, violating the requirement since "make" needs the base form after its object, not a past tense.

Hindi:

- Blank (C) में bare infinitive (बिना "to" वाला base form) चाहिए, क्योंकि active voice में "make" के बाद object + base verb आता है: "make the recipient's device start buzzing।" a) start: यह bare infinitive है, जो "make + object + base verb" pattern से match करता है। b) starts: यह "-s" वाला present-tense form है, जो violate करता है क्योंकि "make + object" के बाद आने वाला verb tense ending नहीं लेता। c) to start: यह classic error है, जो violate करता है क्योंकि active "make" के बाद अगले verb से पहले "to" नहीं आता; "to" केवल passive में आता है, जैसे "the device was made to start।" d) started: यह past form है, जो violate करता है क्योंकि "make" के object के बाद base form चाहिए, past tense नहीं।

24. **B) lurks**

Blank (D) needs a verb meaning "stays hidden, watching and waiting without being noticed," which fits the silentium scrollerus, a group-chat member who "acts only as an observer" yet remembers everything. a) bustles: means moves about busily and energetically, violating the requirement since the creature does nothing but watch. b) lurks: means stays hidden and watches without being seen, matching the silent member who reads every message but never speaks. c) flaunts: means shows something off to attract attention, violating the requirement since it is the opposite of staying hidden, and it needs an object. d) swaggers: means walks or behaves in a very confident, showy way, violating the requirement since a swaggering creature would draw attention, not hide in the shadows.

Hindi:

- Blank (D) में ऐसा verb चाहिए जिसका meaning हो "stays hidden, watching and waiting without being noticed," जो silentium scrollerus पर fit बैठता है — group chat का वह member जो "acts only as an observer" पर सब कुछ remember रखता है। a) bustles: इसका meaning है busy होकर इधर-उधर फुर्ती से घूमना, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह creature केवल देखता है, और कुछ नहीं करता। b) lurks: इसका meaning है छिपकर, बिना दिखे देखते रहना, जो उस चुप member से match करता है जो सारे messages पढ़ता है पर कभी बोलता नहीं। c) flaunts: इसका meaning है ध्यान खींचने के लिए कुछ दिखाना, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह छिपे रहने का उल्टा है, और इसे object भी चाहिए। d) swaggers: इसका meaning है बहुत confident और दिखावटी ढंग से चलना या व्यवहार करना, जो violate करता है क्योंकि ऐसा creature ध्यान खींचेगा, shadows में छिपेगा नहीं।

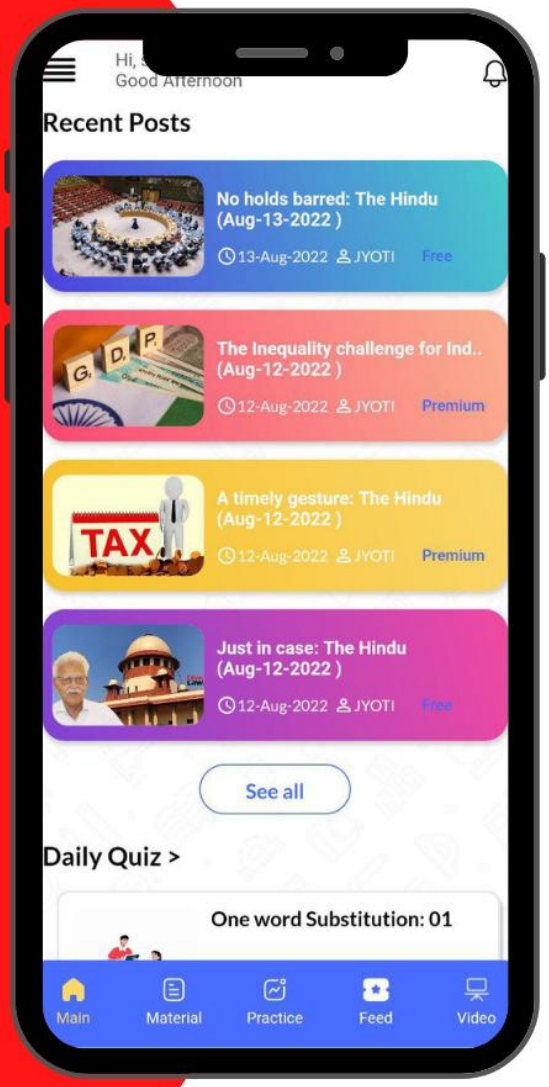
25. **D) cold**

Blank (E) needs the adjective that completes the idiom "the cold shoulder," meaning deliberate unfriendliness or being ignored. That is the punishment for leaving a classmate "on read." a) broad: belongs to "have broad shoulders," meaning to be able to bear responsibility or criticism, violating the requirement since that idiom describes strength, not a snub. b)

square: recalls "square one's shoulders," meaning to brace oneself for something difficult, violating the requirement since that describes preparing oneself, not being ignored by friends. c) warm: forms no idiom with "shoulder," violating the requirement since warmth would be the opposite of the punishment the sentence describes. d) cold: completes "cold shoulder," matching a week of being ignored by all friends.

Hindi:

- Blank (E) में वो adjective चाहिए जो idiom "the cold shoulder" पूरा करे, जिसका meaning है जानबूझकर रूखा व्यवहार या ignore किया जाना। यह किसी classmate को "on read" छोड़ने का punishment है। a) broad: यह "have broad shoulders" का भाग है, जिसका meaning है responsibility या आलोचना सह पाना, जो violate करता है क्योंकि वह idiom strength की बात करता है, किसी को ignore करने की नहीं। b) square: यह "square one's shoulders" जैसा लगता है, जिसका meaning है किसी कठिन बात के लिए अपने आप को ready करना, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह ready होने की बात है, friends द्वारा ignore किए जाने की नहीं। c) warm: यह "shoulder" के साथ कोई idiom नहीं बनाता, जो violate करता है क्योंकि warmth sentence में बताए गए punishment का उल्टा होगी। d) cold: यह "cold shoulder" पूरा करता है, जो सारे friends द्वारा एक सप्ताह तक ignore किए जाने से match करता है।



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