Three to tango: On Trump, Xi, Putin trilateral summit

U.S., China, Russia must **draw up** a **roadmap** for talks on nuclear weapons

The first trilateral **summit** between the Presidents of China, the U.S. and Russia, held in Shenzhen on November 19, **reflected** both the changing global order and the leaders' shared desire to remain engaged with one another in an increasingly **unpredictable** world. For U.S. President Donald Trump, the **summit** was a platform where he could **push for** joint talks between the world's three largest nuclear powers on reducing **nuclear warheads**. After the New START **treaty** between the U.S. and Russia expired in February 2026, Moscow had signalled that it was ready for talks, but Mr. Trump wanted to involve China as well. For President Xi Jinping, the summit **reinforced** China's position as a **peer competitor** to the U.S. While Russia **seeks to deepen** partnership with China, the U.S. is looking to build **strategic stability**. And for Russian President Vladimir Putin, whom the West **sought to isolate** after he launched the **invasion** of Ukraine, the summit offered a seat at the high table. The **decision** to start trilateral talks on nuclear arms and the joint declaration, which **stated** that 'a nuclear war cannot **be** won and must never be fought', are **steps in the right direction**. But much will depend on what follows.

Many had compared the meet to the 1945 Yalta Conference, when Russian leader Joseph Stalin, U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill met to discuss the future of post-War Europe. But Shenzhen was not a summit of the **victors** of a major war. This was more about three great powers setting **terms** of engagement in a changing world. The summit failed to achieve any **breakthrough** on any of the issues on the **agenda** — nuclear arms reduction, **non-proliferation** or the Ukraine war — or even offer a road map for the future. **Moreover**, it is not clear if the Shenzhen spirit could be **sustained** in the medium to long-term as another President in the U.S. could take a very different approach towards Russia and China. The three leaders have **called for** reform of the UN. While it is a welcome move, any attempt to reform the international system and institutions must also involve other powers, particularly rising middle powers such as India, South Africa and Brazil. But the Shenzhen framework could bring greater **stability** and **predictability** to great-power relations. This is important **given** that two of the Big Three are currently **waging** two separate wars. The leaders should draw up a clear road map for nuclear talks and other key issues **outlined** in the Shenzhen declaration, with realistic and achievable objectives. Otherwise, the summit would **amount to** little more than another **diplomatic photo-op.** **[Practice Exercise]**

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

Vocabulary

1. **Three to tango** (idiom) - a situation or activity requiring the involvement and cooperation of three parties तीन पक्षों की भागीदारी या सहयोग की आवश्यकता
2. **Trilateral** (adjective) - tripartite, three-way, three-sided, three-party, triangular त्रिपक्षीय
3. **Draw up** (phrasal verb) - to prepare or draft a formal plan, document, or agreement तैयार करना
4. **Roadmap** (noun) - blueprint, masterplan, framework, strategy, guideline रूपरेखा
5. **Reflect** (verb) - mirror, indicate, demonstrate, manifest, exhibit प्रतिबिंबित करना
6. **Unpredictable** (adjective) - volatile, erratic, uncertain, capricious, precarious अनिश्चित
7. **Summit** (noun) - conference, conclave, parley, assembly, meeting शिखर सम्मेलन
8. **Push for** (phrasal verb) - to strongly advocate, press, or campaign for something to happen जोर देना
9. **Nuclear warheads** (noun) - the explosive front parts of missiles or bombs containing nuclear material परमाणु हथियार
10. **Treaty** (noun) - pact, accord, covenant, agreement, compact संधि
11. **Reinforce** (verb) - strengthen, bolster, fortify, buttress, consolidate मजबूत करना
12. **Peer** (adjective) - equal, equivalent, coequal, comparable, matching बराबर का
13. **Competitor** (noun) - rival, adversary, contender, opponent, antagonist प्रतिस्पर्धी
14. **Seek** (to) (verb) - to try or attempt to achieve a particular goal प्रयास करना
15. **Deepen** (verb) - intensify, strengthen, enhance, consolidate, augment गहरा करना
16. **Strategic** (adjective) - tactical, calculated, deliberate, pivotal, planned रणनीतिक
17. **Stability** (noun) - steadiness, equilibrium, constancy, permanence, firmness स्थिरता
18. **Isolate** (verb) - ostracize, alienate, marginalize, seclude, detach अलग-थलग करना
19. **Invasion** (noun) - incursion, aggression, onslaught, assault, intrusion हमला
20. **State** (verb) - declare, assert, proclaim, affirm, articulate कहना
21. **Steps in the right direction** (idiom) - actions or measures that move toward a positive or desired outcome सही दिशा में उठाए गए कदम
22. **Victors** (noun) - winners, conquerors, champions, vanquishers, masters विजेता
23. **Terms** (noun) - conditions, stipulations, provisions, parameters, clauses नियम
24. **Breakthrough** (noun) - advancement, milestone, progress, leap, development बड़ी सफलता
25. **Agenda** (noun) - schedule, itinerary, docket, programme, roster कार्यसूची

26. **Non-proliferation** (noun) - the prevention of an increase or spread of something, especially nuclear weapons अप्रसार
27. **Moreover** (adverb) - furthermore, besides, additionally, likewise, further इसके अलावा
28. **Sustain** (verb) - maintain, uphold, preserve, perpetuate, prolong बनाए रखना
29. **Call for** (phrasal verb) - to publicly ask, demand, or require something मांग करना
30. **Predictability** (noun) - certainty, reliability, consistency, dependability, regularity निश्चितता
31. **Given** (preposition) - considering, assuming, granting, acknowledging, accepting को देखते हुए
32. **Wage** (verb) - conduct, prosecute, pursue, execute, carry on छेड़ना
33. **Outline** (verb) - delineate, sketch, summarize, draft, frame रूपरेखा प्रस्तुत करना
34. **Amount to** (phrasal verb) - to be equivalent to or come to be the same as something के बराबर होना
35. **Diplomatic** (adjective) - tactful, politic, strategic, discreet, statesmanlike कूटनीतिक
36. **Photo-op** (noun) - a planned event arranged mainly to give public figures a chance to be photographed for publicity प्रचार के लिए तस्वीर खिंचवाने का अवसर

Summary of the Editorial

1. **Historic Trilateral Summit:** The first trilateral summit between the U.S., China and Russia reflected the changing global order and the three powers' desire to maintain engagement in an unpredictable world.
2. **Trump's Objective:** U.S. President Donald Trump wanted the three largest nuclear powers to begin discussions on reducing their nuclear arsenals, especially after the expiry of the **New START treaty**.
3. **China's Position:** President Xi Jinping used the summit to reinforce China's status as a **peer competitor** to the U.S. and a major global power.
4. **Russia's Objective:** Vladimir Putin benefited from the summit by gaining a place at the table of major powers despite Western efforts to isolate Russia following its invasion of Ukraine.
5. **Nuclear Talks:** The decision to begin trilateral discussions on nuclear weapons was a positive development, particularly the declaration that **"a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought."**
6. **Limited Achievements:** Despite its importance, the summit produced no major breakthrough on nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation or the Ukraine war.
7. **No Clear Road Map:** The leaders failed to establish a detailed and practical roadmap for future negotiations on the major issues discussed.
8. **Not Another Yalta:** Although some compared the meeting with the **1945 Yalta Conference**, Shenzhen was fundamentally different because it was not a meeting of victorious powers deciding the post-war order.
9. **New Global Order:** The summit was primarily about establishing terms of engagement among three major powers amid a rapidly changing international system.
10. **Uncertain Future:** The cooperation achieved at Shenzhen may not last because a future U.S. President could adopt a very different policy towards Russia and China.
11. **UN Reform:** The three leaders called for reform of the United Nations, which could be positive, but international-system reform cannot be limited to the three major powers.
12. **Role of Middle Powers:** Countries such as **India, South Africa and Brazil** should also have a meaningful role in reshaping global institutions because of their growing geopolitical importance.
13. **Potential for Stability:** Despite its limitations, the Shenzhen framework could improve **stability and predictability** in relations among the major powers.
14. **Urgency of Cooperation:** Greater stability is especially important because two of the three major powers are currently involved in separate wars, making nuclear and geopolitical tensions particularly dangerous.
15. **Need for Concrete Action:** The three leaders must now create a realistic and achievable roadmap for nuclear negotiations and other commitments. Otherwise, the summit risks becoming merely another **diplomatic photo-op**

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Why did each of the three leaders—Donald Trump, Xi Jinping, and Vladimir Putin—value participating in the Shenzhen trilateral summit according to the passage? [Editorial Page]**
   A. Trump sought post-war European borders, Xi deepened partnership with Washington, and Putin pursued UN institutional reform.
   B. Trump sought to isolate Moscow diplomatically, Xi pushed for New START renewal, and Putin championed rising middle powers.
   C. Trump sought trilateral nuclear talks, Xi reinforced peer-competitor status, and Putin regained high-table diplomatic engagement.
   D. Trump sought a Yalta-style victors' summit, Xi drafted a Ukraine roadmap, and Putin built strategic stability with America.
2. **What is the author's primary analytical purpose in noting that "two of the Big Three are currently waging two separate wars"?**
   A. To underscore why stability and predictability among great powers matter urgently despite the summit's lack of immediate breakthroughs.
   B. To explain why rising middle powers such as India, South Africa, and Brazil opposed the Shenzhen joint declaration on nuclear war.
   C. To show how the February 2026 expiration of New START prevented Moscow from signalling readiness for bilateral nuclear talks.
   D. To demonstrate that the 1945 Yalta Conference created a durable roadmap for resolving contemporary conflicts in post-War Europe.
3. **Which of the following statements best captures the central theme of the passage?**
   A. The November 19 Shenzhen summit replicated the 1945 Yalta Conference by allowing wartime victors to settle post-War European borders.
   B. Following the February 2026 expiration of New START, trilateral negotiations in Shenzhen achieved breakthroughs on nuclear reduction and the Ukraine war.
   C. Rising middle powers such as India, South Africa, and Brazil convened the Shenzhen summit to reform the UN without superpower involvement.
   D. While the Shenzhen summit signalled constructive great-power engagement, translating it into lasting stability requires a concrete roadmap and broader inclusion.
4. **What does the phrase "another diplomatic photo-op" at the end of the passage most nearly convey?**
   A. A historic post-war settlement comparable to the 1945 Yalta Conference where allied leaders discussed post-War European security
   B. A high-profile symbolic gathering that generates publicity without producing binding agreements, substantive progress, or durable follow-through
   C. A multilateral UN reform initiative led by rising middle powers such as India, South Africa, and Brazil
   D. A bilateral arms-control framework replacing the expired New START treaty between the United States and Russia in February 2026
5. **Which item or development is NOT mentioned in the passage as part of the Shenzhen summit's agenda or outcomes?**
   A. Finalizing a bilateral trade agreement between China and the United States
   B. Discussing nuclear arms reduction among the world's three largest nuclear powers

C. Addressing international nuclear non-proliferation and the ongoing Ukraine war
D. Issuing a joint declaration affirming that a nuclear war cannot be won

6. **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. Jeffrey Archer took my innocence when I was 13 and now, I am mourning him.
1. Did I completely understand what the novel stood for when I was a gangly, pimply 13-year-old?
2. I was in Class 8 when I picked up a Jeffrey Archer book — a thick, daunting, well-thumbed edition of Kane and Abel, from my school library.
3. I am absolutely sure I didn't, but could I stop reading it?
4. Perhaps not the most age-appropriate literary decision, but my first tryst with Jeffrey Archer left me feeling scandalised and then absolute engrossment.
S6. The answer is a resounding no. I could not stop.
A. 2-4-1-3
B. 4-2-1-3
C. 2-1-4-3
D. 1-2-4-3

7. **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. To be meaningful, rapprochement should clearly spell out (and not merely imply) a genuine and sincere willingness to mutually forgive and resolutely breakaway from the barbaric practice of retribution or claiming an eye for an eye.
B. From time to time, warring (and war-devastated) countries proclaim their readiness to bury the hatchet.
C. Despite knowing full well that wars are notoriously internecine, there has been little or no let-up in global conflicts in recent years.
D. True forgiveness is, in essence, a heart-soothing balm — in equal measure to both the survivor of a crime (or one affected by it) and the perpetrator.
E. However, few ever forget where it's buried.
A. B-C-E-A-D
B. C-B-A-E-D
C. A-C-B-E-D
D. C-B-E-A-D

8. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the given word.**
Impending
A. Eminent
B. Immanent
C. Impervious
D. Imminent

9. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the given word.**
Enticing
A. Coherent
B. Proactive

C. Exotic
D. Alluring

10. **Directions: Choose the correct meaning of idiom given below**
"Fly in the face of"
A. Challenge or contradict
B. Fly over someone's head
C. Travel by flight
D. Act suspiciously

11. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**
Negotiation
A. Parley
B. Deliberation
C. Governance
D. Deadlock

12. **Directions: Choose the most appropriate antonym of the underlined word.**
The basketball team was looking for a **lanky** player to defend the post.
A. Tall
B. Thin
C. Gaunt
D. Stocky

13. **Directions: Choose the correct one-word substitute for: 'A person who is skilled in beautiful handwriting'**
A. Numismatist
B. Archivist
C. Philatelist
D. Calligrapher

14. **In the following sentence, identify the word that is incorrectly spelled:**
"The diplomat's **obsesion** with strategic **autonomy** led to an **unprecedented depreciation** of bilateral **ties**."
A. obsesion
B. autonomy
C. unprecedented
D. depreciation

15. **Directions: Change the following from active to passive**
Legal advisors urged the firm to amend the draft immediately.
A. It was urged that the firm amend the draft immediately.
B. The draft was urged by legal advisors to be amended.
C. The firm was urged by legal advisors to amend the draft immediately.
D. Legal advice was urging amendment of the draft.

16. **Directions: Choose the accurate direct speech version of the following sentence.**
She asked me to tell her the location of the guest house.
A. She said, "I was wondering if you could possibly tell me the location of the guest house?"
B. She asked, "Could you tell me the location of the guest house?"
C. She said, "Tell me the location of the guest house."

D. She asked, "Could you possibly tell me the location of the guest house?"

17. **Directions: Select the correct option**
The grant allowed researchers to delve __ topics previously considered fringe.
A. onto
B. into
C. in
D. about

18. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank and make a grammatically correct sentence.**
Indian athletes need world-class training facilities _____ if they are to compete with the best in the world abroad.
A. at home
B. at large
C. at ease
D. at length

19. **The following sentence has been divided into segments. One of them may contain an error. Select the segment that contains the error from the given options. If you don't find any error, mark 'No error' as your answer.**
Ignoring the red flag / warning in the beach / is no joke.
A. Ignoring the red flag
B. No Error
C. warning in the beach
D. is no joke.

20. **Select the most appropriate option to substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence.**
Newton found out that the force of gravitation makes the apples fall.
A. Newton popularised that
B. Newton registered that
C. Newton discovered that
D. Newton invented that

Directions: In the following question, a sentence with a blank is given, followed by five words labeled (1), (2), (3), (4), and (5). Choose the word that fills the blank appropriately in the context of the passage.
In its 135 years of existence, the Central Secretariat Library (1)___ thrice, each time coinciding with a political shift in Delhi. It is awaiting yet another move as the Narendra Modi government continues to remake New Delhi.
The move would require (2)___ up a collection of 8.5 lakh books, including 5,545 rare titles dating back to the 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries. Then there are nearly 3,000 commission and committee reports, from both imperial and post-Independence India. All of these sit in the library's Shastri Bhawan premises, which is marked for demolition for the next round of new office complexes, uniformly named 'Kartavya Bhawan'. The library complex, a three-storey building behind the main office complex of Shastri Bhawan (in the G-Wing), requires one to cross a (3) swathe of empty parking space where once cars (4)___ to get the

last vacant spot. Now, troops of monkeys patrol while the demolition crews stand ready, waiting for the final whistle.

Caught in this strange interlude is a three-storeyed structure, a tiramisu of a library that serves all three categories: casual readers who may stroll in accidentally, regular ones who walk in with an air of (5) surety, and scholars, a far smaller group, who come here for the rare records.

21. **Choose correct tense. (1)**
    A. is moving
    B. have moved
    C. had moved
    D. has moved
22. **Choose correct verb form. (2)**
    A. pack
    B. packed
    C. packing
    D. to pack
23. **The word 'swathe' most nearly means: (3)**
    A. Crowded lot
    B. Broad stretch
    C. Wrapping cloth
    D. Narrow lane
24. **Choose correct tense. (4)**
    A. raced
    B. will race
    C. race
    D. have raced
25. **The word 'surety' most nearly means: (5)**
    A. Hesitant doubt
    B. Guarantee against loss
    C. Confident certainty
    D. Secrecy and caution

Answers

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

Explanations

1. **C) Trump sought trilateral nuclear talks, Xi reinforced peer-competitor status, and Putin regained high-table diplomatic engagement.**
   passage: "For U.S. President Donald Trump, the summit was a platform where he could push for joint talks between the world's three largest nuclear powers on reducing nuclear warheads... For President Xi Jinping, the summit reinforced China's position as a peer competitor to the U.S.... And for Russian President Vladimir Putin, whom the West sought to isolate after he launched the invasion of Ukraine, the summit offered a seat at the high table."----The passage gives one reason for each leader. Trump wanted joint talks among the three biggest nuclear powers (trilateral talks) on cutting warheads. Xi used the summit to strengthen China's image as an equal rival to the U.S. Putin, whom the West tried to isolate, got a "seat at the high table," meaning he was brought back into top-level diplomacy. Option C says exactly this, so it is correct.
   - Option A: Incorrect. The option says Trump sought post-war European borders, Xi deepened partnership with Washington, and Putin pursued UN reform. The passage says the post-war Europe talk was only the Yalta comparison, which the author says does not fit Shenzhen. It also says China is a peer competitor of the U.S., not a partner, and UN reform was a joint call by all three leaders, not Putin's own aim.
   - Option B: Incorrect. The option says Trump sought to isolate Moscow, Xi pushed for New START renewal, and Putin championed middle powers. The passage says the West tried to isolate Putin and Trump wanted talks with him. New START expired in February 2026, and Moscow was the one ready for talks, not Xi pushing for renewal. Middle-power inclusion is the author's own view, not Putin's.
   - Option D: Incorrect. The option says Trump sought a Yalta-style victors' summit, Xi drafted a Ukraine roadmap, and Putin built strategic stability with America. The passage says Shenzhen "was not a summit of the victors of a major war," the summit made no breakthrough on Ukraine or offered a road map, and it is the U.S. that is "looking to build strategic stability," not Putin.
2. **A) To underscore why stability and predictability among great powers matter urgently despite the summit's lack of immediate breakthroughs.**
   passage: "But the Shenzhen framework could bring greater stability and predictability to great-power relations. This is important given that two of the Big Three are currently waging two separate wars."----The author first admits the summit produced no breakthrough. Then the author says the Shenzhen framework could still help, because it could bring stability and predictability to great-power relations. The remark about two of the Big Three fighting two wars is given as the reason this matters. If great powers are already at war, calm and predictable relations between them become more urgent. Option A says exactly this, so it is correct.

- Option B: Incorrect. The option says middle powers opposed the joint declaration, but the passage never says this. It only says reform of international institutions should include middle powers such as India, South Africa and Brazil.
- Option C: Incorrect. The option says New START's expiry stopped Moscow from signalling readiness for bilateral talks, but the passage says Moscow did signal readiness after the expiry. It was Trump who wanted China involved as well.
- Option D: Incorrect. The option says the Yalta Conference created a lasting roadmap for today's conflicts, but the passage says Yalta was only a comparison some people made, and that Shenzhen was not a summit of the victors of a major war. It does not call Yalta a roadmap for current conflicts.

3. **D) While the Shenzhen summit signalled constructive great-power engagement, translating it into lasting stability requires a concrete roadmap and broader inclusion.**
passage: "The decision to start trilateral talks on nuclear arms and the joint declaration... are steps in the right direction. But much will depend on what follows." Also: "The leaders should draw up a clear road map for nuclear talks and other key issues... Otherwise, the summit would amount to little more than another diplomatic photo-op."-----The author gives credit to the summit for starting talks and for the declaration that "a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought." But the author also says there was no breakthrough and no roadmap, and that the spirit may not last. The author asks for a clear roadmap with realistic goals and for wider inclusion of middle powers in UN reform. So the main idea is: a positive start that needs a roadmap and broader inclusion to matter. Option D says exactly this, so it is correct.
    - Option A: Incorrect. The option says Shenzhen replicated Yalta by letting wartime victors settle European borders, but the passage says Shenzhen "was not a summit of the victors of a major war." The Yalta comparison is mentioned only to be set aside.
    - Option B: Incorrect. The option says the summit achieved breakthroughs on nuclear reduction and the Ukraine war, but the passage says the summit "failed to achieve any breakthrough on any of the issues on the agenda," including these two.
    - Option C: Incorrect. The option says middle powers convened the summit to reform the UN without superpower involvement, but the passage says the summit was between the Presidents of China, the U.S. and Russia. Middle powers are mentioned only as those who should be included in reform.
4. **B) A high-profile symbolic gathering that generates publicity without producing binding agreements, substantive progress, or durable follow-through**
passage: "The leaders should draw up a clear road map for nuclear talks and other key issues outlined in the Shenzhen declaration, with realistic and achievable objectives. Otherwise, the summit would amount to little more than another diplomatic photo-op."----A "photo-op" is an event arranged mainly so that leaders can be photographed together. The author says that if no clear roadmap follows, the summit will be only this: a show with pictures and publicity, but no real results. The word "another" also suggests that such empty summits have happened before. Option B says exactly this, so it is correct.
    - Option A: Incorrect. The option says the phrase means a historic settlement like Yalta, but the passage says Shenzhen "was not a summit of the victors of a major war," and the author uses "photo-op" as a warning of failure, not as a sign of historic achievement.

- Option C: Incorrect. The option says the phrase means a UN reform initiative led by middle powers, but the passage says the summit was among the US, China and Russia. Middle powers are mentioned only as those who should be included in reform.
- Option D: Incorrect. The option says the phrase means a bilateral arms-control framework replacing New START, but the passage says the summit offered no breakthrough and no roadmap. The talks planned are trilateral, not bilateral, and a photo-op is the opposite of a real framework.

5. **A) Finalizing a bilateral trade agreement between China and the United States.**
passage: "The summit failed to achieve any breakthrough on any of the issues on the agenda — nuclear arms reduction, non-proliferation or the Ukraine war — or even offer a road map for the future." Also: "The decision to start trilateral talks on nuclear arms and the joint declaration, which stated that 'a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought'..."---- The passage names the agenda items as nuclear arms reduction, non-proliferation and the Ukraine war, and the outcomes as the decision to start trilateral nuclear talks and a joint declaration. A bilateral China-US trade agreement is never mentioned in the passage. So option A is the one NOT mentioned, and it is the answer.
    - Option B: Incorrect (it IS mentioned). The passage says Trump pushed for joint talks among the three largest nuclear powers on reducing nuclear warheads, and nuclear arms reduction was on the agenda.
    - Option C: Incorrect (it IS mentioned). The passage lists non-proliferation and the Ukraine war as agenda issues on which no breakthrough was achieved.
    - Option D: Incorrect (it IS mentioned). The passage says the joint declaration stated that "a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought."
6. **A) 2-4-1-3**
Hindi Explanation:
Sentence 2 S1 के तुरंत बाद आएगा (S1-2), क्योंकि S1 में 13 वर्ष की आयु में Jeffrey Archer के साथ पहले अनुभव के उल्लेख के बाद यह उस विशिष्ट घटना—कक्षा 8 में स्कूल लाइब्रेरी से Kane and Abel की एक मोटी, well-thumbed प्रति उठाने—का विवरण देता है।
Sentence 4 Sentence 2 को follow करेगा (2-4), जो उस पुस्तक को चुनने के निर्णय पर टिप्पणी करते हुए बताता है कि यह शायद सबसे age-appropriate साहित्यिक निर्णय नहीं था, लेकिन जेफरी आर्चर के साथ इस पहले अनुभव (first tryst) ने लेखक को पहले स्तब्ध (scandalised) किया और फिर पूरी तरह से तल्लीन (engrossment) कर दिया।
Sentence 1 Sentence 4 के ठीक बाद आएगा (4-1), जो "the novel" (Kane and Abel) के माध्यम से आत्म-चिंतन करते हुए यह सवाल उठाता है कि क्या 13 वर्ष की उम्र में लेखक पूरी तरह समझ पाए थे कि यह उपन्यास वास्तव में किस विषय पर आधारित था।
Sentence 3 Sentence 1 के बाद आएगा (1-3), जो सीधे तौर पर Sentence 1 के प्रश्न का उत्तर ("I am absolutely sure I didn't") देता है और अगला प्रतिप्रश्न ("but could I stop reading it?") जोड़ता है, जिसका अंतिम उत्तर S6 ("The answer is a resounding no. I could not stop.") देकर पूरे passage को तार्किक रूप से समाप्त करता है।
English Explanation:
Sentence 2 directly follows S1 (S1-2), grounding the opening statement about age 13 by specifying when and where the author encountered Jeffrey Archer—picking up a thick, well-thumbed copy of Kane and Abel from the school library in Class 8.

Sentence 4 follows Sentence 2 (2-4), reflecting on that choice as perhaps not the most age-appropriate decision, yet noting how that first tryst left the reader initially scandalised and then completely engrossed.
Sentence 1 directly follows Sentence 4 (4-1), referring back to Kane and Abel as "the novel" to ask a rhetorical question about whether the 13-year-old reader truly grasped what the book stood for.
Sentence 3 follows Sentence 1 (1-3), directly answering the preceding question ("I am absolutely sure I didn't") before posing a follow-up question ("but could I stop reading it?"), which S6 resolves with "The answer is a resounding no. I could not stop."

7. **D) C-B-E-A-D**
Hindi Explanation:
Sentence C पूरे passage का independent opening sentence है (C), जो मुख्य समस्या का परिचय देता है कि यह अच्छी तरह जानने के बावजूद कि युद्ध अत्यधिक internecine (परस्पर विनाशकारी) होते हैं, हाल के वर्षों में वैश्विक संघर्षों में कोई कमी नहीं आई है।
Sentence B Sentence C के तुरंत बाद आएगा (C-B), जो युद्धरत देशों के शांति दिखावे को सामने लाता है कि वे समय-समय पर दुश्मनी खत्म करने (bury the hatchet) की तत्परता घोषित करते हैं।
Sentence E Sentence B को follow करेगा (B-E), क्योंकि Sentence B में आए "the hatchet" को pronoun "it's" के माध्यम से जोड़ते हुए यह contrastive conjunction "However" के साथ बताता है कि बहुत कम देश कभी भूल पाते हैं कि इसे कहाँ गाड़ा गया है।
Sentence A Sentence E के ठीक बाद आएगा (E-A), जो पिछली पंक्तियों में बताई गई अविश्वास की समस्या का समाधान प्रस्तुत करता है कि सार्थक मेल-मिलाप (rapprochement) के लिए एक-दूसरे को क्षमा करने और प्रतिशोध (retribution) की बर्बर प्रथा से अलग होने की सच्ची इच्छा स्पष्ट होनी चाहिए।
Sentence D Sentence A के बाद आकर क्रम को पूर्ण करेगा (A-D), क्योंकि Sentence A में "mutually forgive" (क्षमा) के उल्लेख के तुरंत बाद यह "True forgiveness" को परिभाषित करता है कि सच्ची क्षमा अपराध से पीड़ित व्यक्ति और अपराधी दोनों के लिए समान रूप से हृदय को शांत करने वाले मरहम (heart-soothing balm) के समान है।
English Explanation:
Sentence C serves as the standalone opening topic sentence, introducing the core issue: despite knowing that wars are notoriously internecine, there has been little or no let-up in global conflicts in recent years.
Sentence B directly follows Sentence C (C-B), noting that warring and war-devastated countries periodically proclaim their readiness to bury the hatchet.
Sentence E forms an immediate referential and contrastive pair with Sentence B (B-E), linking back to "the hatchet" via "it's" and pivoting with "However" to point out that few ever forget where it is buried.
Sentence A directly follows Sentence E (E-A), offering the solution to superficial truces by stating that meaningful rapprochement must clearly spell out a sincere willingness to mutually forgive and break away from retribution.
Sentence D concludes the sequence (A-D), picking up directly on "mutually forgive" to define "True forgiveness" as a heart-soothing balm in equal measure to both the survivor and the perpetrator.

8. **D) Impending (adjective) – about to happen; looming as a threat or event in the near future; imminent, approaching, looming, upcoming, forthcoming. (आसन्न)**

Synonym: Imminent (adjective) – about to happen, especially something unpleasant; impending, looming, near. (आसन्न / निकट भविष्य का)

- **Eminent** (adjective) – famous and respected within a particular sphere or profession; distinguished, renowned. (प्रतिष्ठित / विख्यात)
- **Immanent** (adjective) – existing or operating within something, as an inherent quality; inherent, intrinsic. (अंतर्निहित / सर्वव्यापी)
- **Impervious** (adjective) – not allowing something to pass through, or not affected by something; impenetrable, immune. (अभेद्य / अप्रभावित)

9. **D) Enticing (adjective) – attractive or tempting; alluring, tempting, attractive, appealing, captivating. (मोहक / लुभावना)**
   Synonym: Alluring (adjective) – powerfully and mysteriously attractive or fascinating; seductive, tempting, enticing, captivating. (आकर्षक / मोहक)
   - **Coherent** (adjective) – logical and consistent; clear, rational, intelligible. (सुसंगत / तर्कसंगत)
   - **Proactive** (adjective) – creating or controlling a situation rather than just responding to it after it has happened; anticipatory, enterprising, driven. (अग्रसक्रिय)
   - **Exotic** (adjective) – originating in or characteristic of a distant foreign country; foreign, alien, non-native. (विदेशी / अनोखा)
10. **A) Fly in the face of (idiom) – To challenge or contradict openly. खुलेआम चुनौती देना या विरोध करना**
11. **D) Negotiation (noun) – discussion aimed at reaching an agreement; parley, dialogue, bargaining, mediation, deliberation. (बातचीत / समझौता वार्ता)**
    Antonym: Deadlock (noun) – a situation, typically one involving opposing parties, in which no progress can be made; impasse, stalemate, standstill. (गतिरोध / संवादहीनता)
    - **Parley** (noun) – a conference between opposing sides in a dispute, especially a discussion of terms for an armistice; negotiation, dialogue, talks. (वार्ता / संधि-चर्चा)
    - **Deliberation** (noun) – long and careful consideration or discussion; discussion, consultation, reflection. (विचार-विमर्श)
    - **Governance** (noun) – the action or manner of governing a state or organization; administration, management, rule. (शासन / संचालन)
12. **D) Lanky (adjective) – Ungracefully thin and tall. (लंबा और दुबला)**
    Antonym: Stocky (adjective) – Short and sturdy. (नाटा और गठीला)
    - **Tall** (adjective) – Of great height. (लंबा)
    - **Thin** (adjective) – Having little flesh. (पतला)
    - **Gaunt** (adjective) – Lean and haggard. (सूखा-सा)
13. **D) Calligrapher (noun) – A person skilled in beautiful handwriting. सुलेखक**
    - **Numismatist** (noun) – A person who studies or collects coins. मुद्राशास्त्री
    - **Archivist** (noun) – A person who maintains historical records. अभिलेखपाल
    - **Philatelist** (noun) – A person who collects stamps. डाक-टिकट संग्राहक
14. **A) The incorrectly spelled word is obsesion.**

The correct spelling is obsession (noun) – fixation, infatuation, fascination, mania, compulsion (जुनून / धुन).

- Autonomy (noun) – independence, sovereignty, self-governance, freedom, liberty (स्वायत्तता) is spelled correctly.
- Unprecedented (adjective) – unparalleled, unmatched, unequaled, extraordinary, novel (अभूतपूर्व) is spelled correctly.
- Depreciation (noun) – devaluation, decline, fall, slump (मूल्यह्रास / गिरावट) is spelled correctly.

15. **C) The firm was urged by legal advisors to amend the draft immediately.**
Active से Passive Voice में बदलने के लिए, Active वाक्य का Object Passive वाक्य का Subject बन जाता है। Verb को Active से Passive में बदलते समय सही Tense का use किया जाता है। Active वाक्य में "Legal advisors" Subject है, "urged" Verb (Past Simple) है और "the firm" Object है। Passive में बदलने पर Object "The firm" Subject बन गया है, Verb को "was urged" (Past Simple Passive) में बदला गया है और "by legal advisors" का प्रयोग Agent के रूप में किया गया है। "to amend the draft immediately" अपरिवर्तित रखा गया है।
To change a sentence from Active to Passive Voice, the object of the active sentence becomes the subject of the passive sentence. The verb is transformed from the active form to the passive form, ensuring correct tense usage. In this case, "Legal advisors" (Subject), "urged" (Verb in Past Simple), and "the firm" (Object) from the active voice have been transformed into "The firm" (Subject), "was urged" (Past Simple Passive), and "by legal advisors" as the agent. The phrase "to amend the draft immediately" remains unchanged.
16. **C) She said, "Tell me the location of the guest house."**
Indirect से Direct Speech में बदलने के लिए, "asked me to + V1" वाला request या आदेश Direct Speech में Imperative वाक्य बन जाता है। यहाँ "asked me to tell her" बदलकर "said, 'Tell me'" हो गया है और "her" बदलकर "me" हो गया है, क्योंकि बोलने वाली वही है। Imperative में Subject नहीं होता।
To change a sentence from Indirect to Direct Speech, a request or order of the form "asked me to + V1" becomes an imperative sentence in Direct Speech. In this case, "asked me to tell her" becomes "said, 'Tell me'" and "her" changes to "me" as the speaker is the same person. An imperative sentence has no subject.
17. **B) 'into' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "delve into" एक सही phrasal verb है, जिसका अर्थ है किसी विषय की गहराई में जाना। जबकि onto, in और about के साथ 'delve' का प्रयोग सही नहीं बनता।**
    - 'Into' should be used because "delve into" is the correct phrasal verb meaning to investigate a subject deeply. Whereas, 'onto', 'in' and 'about' do not form a correct expression with 'delve'.
18. **A) at home**
'at home' का use होगा क्योंकि 'at home' का अर्थ होता है within one's own country or domestically (देश में)। Sentence में कहा गया है कि दुनिया के सर्वश्रेष्ठ खिलाड़ियों से मुकाबला करने के लिए भारतीय खिलाड़ियों को अपने देश में विश्वस्तरीय प्रशिक्षण सुविधाएँ चाहिए (facilities at home... the best abroad), इसलिए 'at home' यहाँ सही है क्योंकि 'abroad' शब्द देश के भीतर और बाहर के बीच का अंतर स्पष्ट करता है। 'At large' का अर्थ होता है सामान्य रूप से या पकड़ से बाहर (in general, or not yet captured); 'facilities at large' का मतलब होगा आम तौर पर सुविधाएँ, जो 'abroad' के साथ देश के भीतर और बाहर का विरोधाभास नहीं बनाता। 'At ease' का अर्थ होता है सहज या निश्चिंत (relaxed or comfortable); यह किसी

व्यक्ति की मनःस्थिति के लिए आता है, सुविधाओं के स्थान के लिए नहीं। 'At length' का अर्थ होता है विस्तार से या अंततः (in detail, or after a long time); यह किसी चर्चा की अवधि या विस्तार बताता है, सुविधाओं की जगह नहीं।

'at home' should be used because 'at home' means within one's own country or domestically. The sentence says Indian athletes need world-class training facilities in their own country to compete with the best abroad, making 'facilities at home' contextually and grammatically correct, since 'abroad' sets up the contrast between inside and outside the country. 'At large' means in general or not yet captured, so 'facilities at large' would mean facilities in general and would not create the contrast with 'abroad'. 'At ease' means relaxed or comfortable and describes a person's state of mind, not the location of facilities. 'At length' means in detail or after a long time and describes the extent of a discussion, not where facilities should be.

19. **C) warning in the beach' के बदले 'warning on the beach' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि जब हम समुद्र के किनारे के बारे में बात करते हैं, तो 'on' का प्रयोग होता है।**
'warning on the beach' will be used instead of 'warning in the beach' because when referring to the shore of the sea, 'on' is used.
20. **C) Solution: C) 'Newton found out that' के बदले 'Newton discovered that' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि discover का अर्थ है पहले से मौजूद चीज़ (gravitation) को खोजना, जबकि invent का अर्थ नई चीज़ बनाना है। popularised (लोकप्रिय बनाना) और registered (दर्ज करना) का अर्थ यहाँ सही नहीं है।**
    - 'Newton discovered that' will be used because discover means to find something that already exists (gravitation), whereas invent means to create something new. 'Popularised' and 'registered' do not fit the meaning.
21. **D) has moved**
Blank (1) needs the singular present perfect, since "In its 135 years of existence" covers a period that runs up to the present, and the subject, "the Central Secretariat Library," is singular. a) is moving: is the present continuous, violating the requirement since "thrice" counts completed moves, not one happening now. b) have moved: is plural, violating the requirement since the singular subject "the Library" takes "has." c) had moved: is the past perfect, violating the requirement since there is no earlier past moment to look back from; the period runs up to now. d) has moved: is the singular present perfect, matching moves made over a span of time that is still continuing.
Hindi:
    - Blank (1) में singular present perfect चाहिए, क्योंकि "In its 135 years of existence" ऐसी अवधि बताता है जो आज तक चल रही है, और subject "the Central Secretariat Library" singular है। a) is moving: यह present continuous है, जो violate करता है क्योंकि "thrice" पूरे हो चुके moves को गिनता है, अभी हो रहे एक move को नहीं। b) have moved: यह plural है, जो violate करता है क्योंकि singular subject "the Library" के साथ "has" आता है। c) had moved: यह past perfect है, जो violate करता है क्योंकि पीछे देखने के लिए कोई पहले का past moment नहीं है; अवधि आज तक चल रही है। d) has moved: यह singular present perfect है, जो अब भी चल रही अवधि में किए गए moves से match करता है।
22. **C) packing**
Blank (2) needs a gerund, since "require" with no object after it is followed by an -ing form: "would require packing up." Later the passage shows the other pattern, with an object: "requires one to cross." a) pack: is the base form, violating the requirement since a bare verb

cannot follow "require." b) packed: is a past form, violating the requirement since "require" cannot be followed by a past form. c) packing: is the gerund, matching "require + -ing" when no object comes between. d) to pack: is the trap, violating the requirement since "require" takes "to" only after an object, as in "requires one to cross," and there is no object here.
Hindi:

- Blank (2) में gerund चाहिए, क्योंकि जब "require" के बाद कोई object न हो तो -ing form आता है: "would require packing up।" Passage में आगे दूसरा pattern भी है, object के साथ: "requires one to cross।" a) pack: यह base form है, जो violate करता है क्योंकि "require" के बाद bare verb नहीं आ सकता। b) packed: यह past form है, जो violate करता है क्योंकि "require" के बाद past form नहीं आता। c) packing: यह gerund है, जो बीच में object न होने पर "require + -ing" से match करता है। d) to pack: यह trap है, जो violate करता है क्योंकि "require" के बाद "to" तभी आता है जब बीच में object हो, जैसे "requires one to cross," और यहाँ कोई object नहीं है।

23. **B) Broad stretch**
"Swathe" here describes the wide expanse of empty parking space one must cross to reach the library. a) Crowded lot: tempts because cars once "raced to get the last vacant spot," but violates the requirement since the space is now "empty," and "swathe" describes its size, not its crowding. b) Broad stretch: is what "swathe" means here, matching a wide expanse of parking space. c) Wrapping cloth: is the sense of "swathe" as a strip of fabric for wrapping, which tempts because "to swathe" means to wrap, but violates the requirement since one crosses a parking area, not a bandage. d) Narrow lane: means a thin path, violating the requirement since it is the opposite of a broad area.
Hindi:

- "Swathe" यहाँ empty parking space के उस चौड़े विस्तार को बताता है जिसे library तक पहुँचने के लिए पार करना पड़ता है। a) Crowded lot: यह tempting है क्योंकि कभी cars "raced to get the last vacant spot," पर violate करता है क्योंकि अब वह space "empty" है, और "swathe" उसका आकार बताता है, भीड़ नहीं। b) Broad stretch: यहाँ "swathe" का यही meaning है, जो parking space के चौड़े विस्तार से match करता है। c) Wrapping cloth: यह "swathe" का लपेटने वाले कपड़े की पट्टी वाला sense है, जो tempting है क्योंकि "to swathe" का meaning लपेटना है, पर violate करता है क्योंकि पार parking area किया जाता है, कोई पट्टी नहीं। d) Narrow lane: इसका meaning है पतला मार्ग, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह चौड़े क्षेत्र का उल्टा है।

24. **A) raced**
Blank (4) needs the simple past, since "once" here means "in the past," and the next sentence sets the present against it: "Now, troops of monkeys patrol." a) raced: is the simple past, matching a busy past contrasted with today's empty lot. b) will race: is the simple future, violating the requirement since the parking space now lies empty and awaits demolition. c) race: is the simple present, violating the requirement since "once" places the racing in the past. d) have raced: is the present perfect, violating the requirement since "once," meaning "formerly," points to a finished past period, which takes the simple past.
Hindi:

- Blank (4) में simple past चाहिए, क्योंकि यहाँ "once" का meaning "पहले कभी" है, और अगला sentence वर्तमान को इसके सामने रखता है: "Now, troops of monkeys patrol।" a) raced: यह

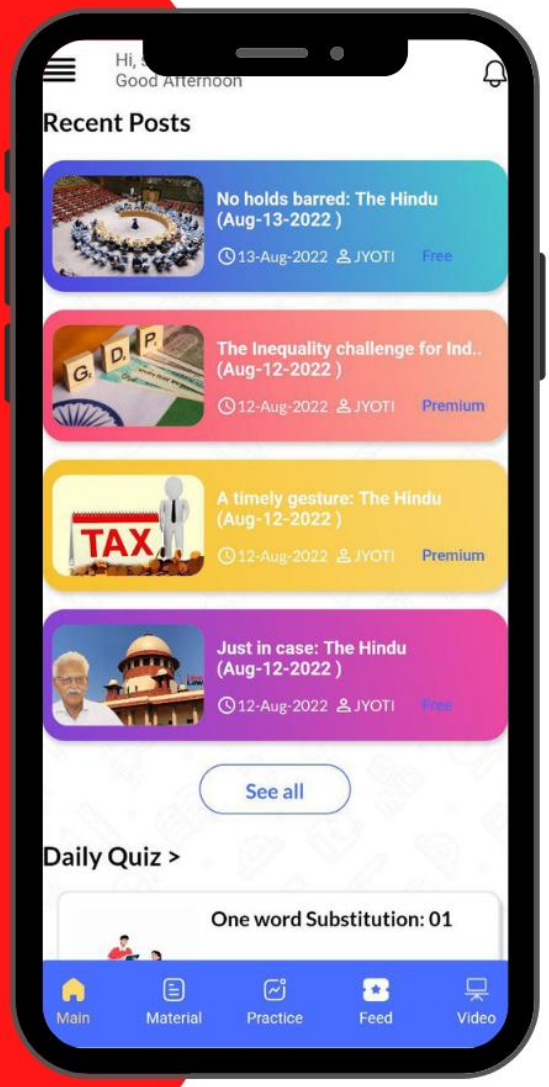
simple past है, जो आज के empty lot के सामने भीड़ भरे past से match करता है। b) will race: यह simple future है, जो violate करता है क्योंकि parking space अब empty है और demolition की प्रतीक्षा में है। c) race: यह simple present है, जो violate करता है क्योंकि "once" दौड़ को past में रखता है। d) have raced: यह present perfect है, जो violate करता है क्योंकि "पहले कभी" के meaning वाला "once" बीत चुके समय को बताता है, जिसके साथ simple past आता है।

25. **C) Confident certainty**

"Surety" here describes how regular readers carry themselves: they "walk in with an air of surety," knowing the place well, unlike casual readers who "stroll in accidentally." a) Hesitant doubt: means uncertainty, violating the requirement since it is the opposite of the regulars' confident manner. b) Guarantee against loss: is the legal and financial sense of "surety," which tempts, but violates the requirement since "an air of" describes a manner, not a financial pledge. c) Confident certainty: is what "surety" means here, matching regulars who know exactly where they are going. d) Secrecy and caution: tempts because "an air of secrecy" is a common phrase, but violates the requirement since regulars walk in assuredly, with nothing to hide.

Hindi:

- "Surety" यहाँ बताता है कि नियमित readers किस ढंग से आते हैं: वे "walk in with an air of surety," स्थान को भली-भाँति जानते हुए, उन casual readers से अलग जो "stroll in accidentally।" a) Hesitant doubt: इसका meaning है अनिश्चितता, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह regulars के आत्मविश्वासी ढंग का उल्टा है। b) Guarantee against loss: यह "surety" का legal और वित्तीय sense है, जो tempting है, पर violate करता है क्योंकि "an air of" किसी ढंग को बताता है, किसी वित्तीय guarantee को नहीं। c) Confident certainty: यहाँ "surety" का यही meaning है, जो उन regulars से match करता है जिन्हें ठीक पता है कि उन्हें कहाँ जाना है। d) Secrecy and caution: यह tempting है क्योंकि "an air of secrecy" एक प्रचलित phrase है, पर violate करता है क्योंकि regulars आत्मविश्वास से आते हैं, उनके पास छिपाने को कुछ नहीं।



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