Fatal disagreement: on the COP31 summit

Developed nations must **bear** much of **the cost of** carbon emissions

COP31 ended in Antalya, Türkiye, with a **whimper**. The 190-odd countries that had **convened** for nearly 12 days — a close to 50-hour **overshoot** — failed to agree on an **overarching** political statement, called a cover text, that acts as **a stepping stone** to future, collective global action on climate change. Usually, cover texts **evolve** as a final **synthesis** of **deliberations**; the COP31 leadership, **helmed** by Türkiye and Australia, thought it fit to **push for** a cover text early in the **proceedings**. The **headline sought** was a global **electrification** target: 35% of global final energy consumption will come from electricity by 2035, in the hope that this would reduce direct fossil fuel **emissions**. **Ultimately**, the cover text failed to **pass muster** because the European Union **objected** to the text's lack of any **explicit** mention of 'fossil fuel,' let alone its **phase-out**. The COP process is **arduously protracted** as even a single country's objection can **stall** progress. Country-blocks outside the EU, such as **coalitions** of the least developed countries, island nations, some South American countries — **reportedly** 130 countries — were also **insistent on** fossil fuel language. While COP 31 made some progress on old pathways, such as the Just Transition agreement, it is **perplexing** that the **delegations** could not make progress on the other big **prong** of negotiations: climate finance.

The increase in solar panel installations and the significant shift towards battery use in grid storage and transport did not come cheap: the cost of the land required for their installation, their **intermittent** nature of being dependent on weather, grid upgrades all carry costs. It is global markets, imperfectly connected, but connected, that have **managed to** bring it to this stage over **decades**. India and China, major **fossil emitters**, with large, still **indigent** populations, are also leaders in total clean energy installations. Therefore it **stands to** reason that developed countries, which have **committed to** providing climate finance in **recognition** of their historical emissions, **make good** on past promises to **shoulder the cost of** the carbon emissions that are responsible for warming. Economic crises are a feature, and not a bug, of the interconnected financial system **enveloping** the world and there are, **undeniably**, challenges to diverting the necessary finance towards countries most **vulnerable to** climate change impact. However, it is no longer **prudent** to **sweep this under the rug** by **scuttling** experimental approaches — namely carbon capture — as **inimical** to the broader commitment to **eschew** fossil fuel. When the primary **framework** climate agreement was **crafted** three decades ago, nobody **envisaged** AI and the drain that data centres **portended** or the wars that would see the **vociferous antagonists** of coal immediately **shore up** their gas reserves. Without honest good-faith dialogue, the COP is **at risk of** being a **sideshow**: a **mortal blow** to **multilateralism**. **[Practice Exercise]**

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

Vocabulary

1. **Fatal** (adjective) - deadly, lethal, catastrophic, ruinous, devastating घातक
2. **Disagreement** (noun) - dispute, discord, contention, dissent, conflict असहमति
3. **Bear the cost of** (phrase) - to pay for or accept the financial burden of something किसी चीज़ का खर्च उठाना
4. **Whimper** (noun) - anticlimax, fizzle, failure, disappointment, letdown फीका अंत
5. **Convene** (verb) - assemble, gather, summon, congregate, muster एकत्रित होना
6. **Overshoot** (noun) - excess, overrun, surplus, overextension, overreach तय सीमा से अधिक समय लगना
7. **Overarching** (adjective) - comprehensive, all-encompassing, pervasive, sweeping, broad व्यापक
8. **A stepping stone** (phrase) - an action or event that helps one make progress toward a goal प्रगति की सीढ़ी
9. **Evolve** (verb) - develop, progress, advance, mature, unfold विकसित होना
10. **Synthesis** (noun) - combination, amalgamation, fusion, integration, blend संश्लेषण
11. **Deliberations** (noun) - discussions, consultations, debates, negotiations, considerations विचार-विमर्श
12. **Helm** (verb) - lead, steer, direct, spearhead, preside नेतृत्व करना
13. **Push for** (phrasal verb) - to strongly demand or advocate for something किसी चीज़ के लिए ज़ोर देना
14. **Proceedings** (noun) - events, transactions, actions, activities, sessions कार्यवाही
15. **Headline** (noun) - highlight, centerpiece, main point, focal point, key takeaway मुख्य बिंदु
16. **Seek** (verb) - pursue, strive for, aim for, quest, solicit प्रयास करना
17. **Electrification** (noun) - the process of powering systems or sectors by electricity विद्युतीकरण
18. **Emissions** (noun) - the release of gases, especially carbon dioxide, into the atmosphere उत्सर्जन
19. **Ultimately** (adverb) - eventually, finally, conclusively, in the end, fundamentally अंततः
20. **Pass muster** (idiom) - to meet the required standard or be accepted as satisfactory कसौटी पर खरा उतरना
21. **Object** (verb) - oppose, protest, dissent, demur, challenge आपत्ति जताना
22. **Explicit** (adjective) - clear, unambiguous, categorical, unequivocal, overt स्पष्ट
23. **Phase-out** (noun) - the gradual discontinuation or withdrawal of something चरणबद्ध तरीके से समाप्त करना
24. **Arduously** (adverb) - strenuously, laboriously, tiresomely, gruelingly, painstakingly कठिन परिश्रम से

25. **Protracted** (adjective) - prolonged, extended, drawn-out, lengthy, lingering लंबा खिंचा हुआ
26. **Stall** (verb) - halt, impede, obstruct, hinder, delay रोकना
27. **Coalitions** (noun) - alliances, blocs, federations, leagues, partnerships गठबंधन
28. **Reportedly** (adverb) - allegedly, supposedly, ostensibly, purportedly, ostensibly कथित तौर पर
29. **Insistent** (on) (adjective) - firmly demanding or refusing to give up on something किसी बात पर अड़े रहना
30. **Perplexing** (adjective) - baffling, puzzling, bewildering, confounding, enigmatic उलझन में डालने वाला
31. **Delegations** (noun) - representatives, envoys, missions, deputations, contingents प्रतिनिधिमंडल
32. **Prong** (noun) - aspect, facet, element, component, pillar पहलू
33. **Intermittent** (adjective) - sporadic, irregular, erratic, periodic, fitful रुक-रुक कर होने वाला
34. **Manage** (to) (verb) - to succeed in doing something difficult किसी कठिन काम में सफल होना
35. **Decade** (noun) - a period of ten years दशक
36. **Fossil emitters** (noun) - countries or entities that release greenhouse gases by burning fossil fuels जीवाश्म ईंधन उत्सर्जक
37. **Indigent** (adjective) - impoverished, destitute, needy, penurious, impecunious निर्धन
38. **Stand to reason** (phrase) - to be logical, sensible, or obvious तर्कसंगत होना
39. **Commit to** (phrase) - dedicate or pledge to a particular cause or action प्रतिबद्ध होना
40. **Recognition** (noun) - acknowledgment, acceptance, admission, realization, validation स्वीकारोक्ति
41. **Make good** (idiom) - to fulfill a promise or carry out an obligation वादा पूरा करना
42. **Shoulder the cost of** (phrase) - to take on the financial responsibility for something खर्च का बोझ उठाना
43. **Envelop** (verb) - surround, engulf, enclose, encompass, shroud घेर लेना
44. **Undeniably** (adverb) - indisputably, unquestionably, irrefutably, incontrovertibly, manifestly निर्विवाद रूप से
45. **Vulnerable** (to) (adjective) - exposed to the possibility of being harmed or negatively affected के प्रति संवेदनशील
46. **Prudent** (adjective) - wise, judicious, sagacious, sensible, circumspect विवेकपूर्ण
47. **Sweep under the rug** (idiom) - to hide or ignore an unpleasant problem instead of dealing with it समस्या को नज़रअंदाज़ करना
48. **Scuttle** (verb) - sabotage, thwart, wreck, undermine, derail विफल करना
49. **Inimical** (adjective) - hostile, antagonistic, adverse, detrimental, opposed प्रतिकूल

50. **Eschew** (verb) - shun, abstain from, avoid, renounce, forsake त्यागना
51. **Framework** (noun) - structure, blueprint, foundation, system, edifice ढांचा
52. **Craft** (verb) - formulate, devise, fashion, design, construct तैयार करना
53. **Envisage** (verb) - foresee, anticipate, envision, contemplate, predict परिकल्पना करना
54. **Portend** (verb) - foreshadow, herald, augur, presage, forebode पूर्व संकेत देना
55. **Vociferous** (adjective) - vehement, outspoken, clamorous, strident, vocal मुखर
56. **Antagonists** (noun) - opponents, adversaries, rivals, detractors, foes विरोधी
57. **Shore up** (phrasal verb) - to support, strengthen, or bolster something that is weak or at risk मजबूत करना
58. **At risk of** (phrase) - in danger of experiencing something negative के खतरे में
59. **Sideshow** (noun) - distraction, diversion, minor event, irrelevance, footnote गौण विषय
60. **Mortal** (adjective) - fatal, deadly, lethal, terminal, devastating प्राणघातक
61. **Blow** (noun) - setback, shock, misfortune, calamity, jolt आघात
62. **Multilateralism** (noun) - cooperation among multiple countries on shared global issues बहुपक्षवाद

Summary of the Editorial

1. **Unsuccessful Summit:** COP31, held in Antalya, Türkiye, ended without a comprehensive political agreement despite nearly 12 days of negotiations and a 50-hour extension.
2. **Failure of Cover Text:** Countries failed to agree on an overarching political statement (cover text) that could guide future collective climate action.
3. **Early Proposal:** The COP31 leadership, led by Türkiye and Australia, proposed an early cover text to accelerate negotiations.
4. **Electrification Target:** The proposed text aimed to ensure that electricity accounts for 35% of global final energy consumption by 2035 to reduce direct fossil fuel emissions.
5. **EU's Objection:** The European Union rejected the proposal because it did not explicitly mention fossil fuels or their phase-out.
6. **Lack of Consensus:** Around 130 countries, including least developed nations, island states and some South American countries, also demanded clear language on fossil fuel reduction.
7. **Slow Negotiation Process:** COP negotiations are often prolonged because even one country's objection can delay or prevent a collective agreement.
8. **Limited Progress:** Although some progress was achieved on the Just Transition agreement, negotiations on climate finance remained largely unsuccessful.
9. **High Cost of Clean Energy:** Solar installations, battery storage, land acquisition, weather-dependent energy generation and electricity grid upgrades involve substantial financial costs.
10. **Global Contribution:** Global markets and international cooperation have played an important role in advancing renewable energy technologies over several decades.
11. **India and China:** Despite having large populations and significant fossil fuel emissions, India and China have emerged as major leaders in clean energy installations.
12. **Historical Responsibility:** Developed countries must honour their previous climate finance commitments because their historical emissions have contributed significantly to global warming.
13. **Support for Vulnerable Nations:** Wealthier countries should shoulder a greater financial burden to help developing and climate-vulnerable nations deal with climate change.
14. **Need for Flexible Approaches:** Climate negotiations should not dismiss experimental technologies such as carbon capture merely because they involve fossil fuels. Emerging challenges, including AI-driven energy demand, data centres and geopolitical conflicts, also require attention.
15. **Threat to Multilateralism:** Without honest dialogue, mutual cooperation and financial commitments, COP summits risk becoming insignificant events, delivering a serious blow to global multilateralism.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **In the passage, the word "INIMICAL" is used. Which of the following is the most appropriate SYNONYM for "INIMICAL" in this context?** [Editorial Page]
   "However, it is no longer prudent to sweep this under the rug by scuttling experimental approaches — namely carbon capture — as inimical to the broader commitment to eschew fossil fuel."
   A. Detrimental
   B. Indigent
   C. Protracted
   D. Vociferous
2. **Which of the following statements best captures the central theme of the passage?**
   A. Global market expansion in solar panels and battery storage has eliminated the need for developed nations to provide climate finance.
   B. Amid stalled COP31 talks and rising energy pressures, developed nations must fund carbon costs while embracing pragmatic multilateral climate solutions.
   C. The European Union's push for a 35% electrification target by 2035 failed because developing countries opposed mentioning fossil fuels.
   D. Economic crises within interconnected financial systems make experimental carbon capture and multilateral climate dialogues obsolete across major emitting economies.
3. **Why does the author argue that "it is no longer prudent to sweep this under the rug by scuttling experimental approaches — namely carbon capture"?**
   A. Because the European Union made experimental carbon capture a mandatory precondition for adopting the 35% electrification cover text.
   B. Because solar panels and grid-scale batteries have become inexpensive enough to replace fossil fuels across all developing nations.
   C. Because surging electricity demand from AI data centres and war-driven gas stockpiling make rejecting transitional technologies unrealistic.
   D. Because the Just Transition agreement signed in Antalya prohibited developed nations from funding renewable grid upgrades in vulnerable countries.
4. **Which of the following best describes the central contradiction highlighted in the second paragraph regarding global energy politics today?**
   A. Although developed nations already fulfilled their historical climate-finance commitments, developing countries refused to install solar panels or grid batteries.
   B. Although global financial crises halted renewable energy deployment decades ago, international climate summits eliminated all reliance on fossil fuels.
   C. Although the primary climate agreement anticipated AI data centres thirty years ago, modern summits ignored electrification and storage costs.
   D. Although nations pledge fossil-fuel phase-outs, surging AI power demands and wars have led vocal coal critics to expand gas reserves.
5. **According to the passage, which two countries jointly helmed the COP31 leadership in Antalya, and what global electrification target by 2035 did the draft cover text propose?**
   A. Türkiye and Australia, and 35 per cent of global final energy consumption
   B. India and China, and 50 per cent of global final energy consumption
   C. Türkiye and the European Union, and 35 per cent of global final energy consumption

D. Australia and South America, and 12 per cent of global final energy consumption

6. **Direction: In the following question, the passage is split into five parts and named 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. Rearrange these five parts to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent paragraph.**
   1. The famous brown cafes make the perfect place for a cosy nightcap.
   2. Christmas markets throng the historic squares, and the illuminated facades of the gothic and Renaissance buildings create a magical atmosphere.
   3. At Groenplaats, we watched ice-skaters circle the statue of Rubens, while at Handschoenmarkt we listened to carols courtesy of the Singing Christmas Tree.
   4. In December, Antwerp is transformed into a jewellery box of glittering lights.
   5. There's plenty to do during the daytime, too: we admired the art nouveau architecture in Zurenborg and paid homage to Bruegel's Dull Gret at Museum Mayer van den Bergh.
   A. 4-2-3-5-1
   B. 2-4-3-5-1
   C. 2-3-4-5-1
   D. 3-4-2-5-1
7. **Direction: In the following question, the passage is split into four parts and named 1, 2, 3, and 4. Rearrange these four parts to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent paragraph.**
   1. I squeeze into a packed gondola, skis first.
   2. The sliding doors close and I soar above the tops of snow-dusted evergreen trees at the base of Mount Humphrys.
   3. A second chairlift whisks me up to 11,500ft (3,505m), where an icy gale hits me as I push off down the powdered slope.
   4. But I'm not in the Alps or the Rockies – I'm in Arizona, just a 2.5-hour drive from the US's hottest city.
   A. 2-1-3-4
   B. 2-3-1-4
   C. 1-2-3-4
   D. 3-1-2-4
8. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the given word.**
   Contentious
   A. Controversial
   B. Incremental
   C. Commensurate
   D. Petulant
9. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the word "Innumerable."**
   A. Sanguine
   B. Myriad
   C. Durable
   D. Shoddy
10. **Select the most appropriate idiom for the given situation focusing on the underlined segment.**
    You are wasting time by **<u>arguing just for the sake of argument and that too just the opposite</u>** of what we confirm.
    A. Beat around the bush

B. The devil is in the details
C. Play devil's advocate
D. Throw caution to the wind

11. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**
Prominent
A. Vulnerable
B. Inconspicuous
C. Learned
D. Uneven

12. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**
Inevitability
A. Necessity
B. Predictability
C. Avoidability
D. Fatality

13. **Choose the one which can be substituted for the given word/sentence.**
List of issues to be discussed at a meeting.
A. Schedule
B. Agenda
C. Time-table
D. Plan

14. **Directions: Select the wrongly spelt word out of the four alternatives.**
A. Absoloot
B. Brusquely
C. Messenger
D. Exhausted

15. **Choose the correctly spelt word that fits the sentence:**
Sustained civic _____ is essential to ensure transparent governance and prevent institutional vacuums.
A. engagment
B. engagement
C. engegement
D. engagemant

16. **Directions: Select the correct passive form of the given sentence.**
The horse pulled the heavy cart along the narrow mountain road.
A. The heavy cart was pulled by the horse along the narrow mountain road.
B. The heavy cart has been pulled by the horse along the narrow mountain road.
C. The heavy cart was being pulled by the horse along the narrow mountain road.
D. The heavy cart had been pulled by the horse along the narrow mountain road.

17. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in direct speech.**
Parvathy explained that she was playing the violin.
A. "I playing the violin," Parvathy explain.
B. "I played the violin," Parvathy explaining.
C. "I playing the violin," Parvathy explained.

D. "I am playing the violin," Parvathy explained.

18. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**
On 25 August 1925, the Royal Commission on Indian Currency and Finance _____ the establishment of the Central Bank of India
A. figured
B. defined
C. censored
D. proposed

19. **Select the most appropriate option that substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence. If there is no need to substitute it, select 'No substitution required'.**
No woman would be pleased if you said that she did not know the difference **in good and bad** dressing.
A. among good and bad
B. into good and bad
C. No substitution required
D. between good and bad

20. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.**
Nothing hinders the cat / from reaching its master / whenever it listening / to his voice.
A. from reaching its master
B. whenever it listening
C. to his voice
D. Nothing hinders the cat

Directions: In the given passage, some words have been deleted. Fill in the blanks with the help of the alternatives given. Select the most appropriate option for each blank.
Far from the "golden route" of Tokyo, Kyoto and Osaka, Ise Shima Peninsula offers immersion into a rural Japanese seafaring community (1)___ in 2,000 years of Shinto spirituality. This (2)___ coastline is home to natural bays, deep forests and Ise Jingu, the nation's most sacred Shinto shrine. In summer 2027, visitors have a rare chance to experience the ancient tradition of okihiki. The 1,300-year-old summer ritual happens every 20 years when locals (3)___ enormous cypress logs to rebuild the city's shrines by hand (in 2027, weekends from 8 May-12 June; 24 July-1 August). Snag a (4)___ viewing spot along the Isuzu River to enjoy the festive buzz and watch thousands of chanting participants in white happi coats march through the streets of Ise City in a celebration of sustainability and (5)___. Pay respects at Ise Jingu shrine, or explore Ise Shima National Park, where you can also tour Mikimoto Pearl Island – the birthplace of Japan's modern cultured-pearl industry.

21. **What should come in the place of blank number (1)?**
A. bereft
B. estranged
C. steeped
D. mired

22. **What should come in the place of blank number (2)?**
A. submerged
B. jagged

C. linear
D. barren

23. **What should come in the place of blank number (3)?**
A. pilfer
B. incinerate
C. squander
D. haul

24. **What should come in the place of blank number (4)?**
A. prime
B. inaccessible
C. remote
D. dismal

25. **What should come in the place of blank number (5)?**
A. automation
B. vandalism
C. negligence
D. craftsmanship

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. **A) Detrimental**
   The most appropriate synonym for "inimical" in this context is Detrimental.
   Inimical means tending to obstruct or harm, or being hostile/harmful to something. In the sentence, experimental approaches like carbon capture are being viewed by some as harmful or contrary (detrimental) to the broader commitment to avoid ("eschew") fossil fuels.
   - Indigent means poor or needy.
   - Protracted means lasting for a long time or longer than expected.
   - Vociferous means expressing feelings or opinions in a very loud or forceful way.
2. **B) Amid stalled COP31 talks and rising energy pressures, developed nations must fund carbon costs while embracing pragmatic multilateral climate solutions.**
   passage: "Therefore it stands to reason that developed countries, which have committed to providing climate finance in recognition of their historical emissions, make good on past promises to shoulder the cost of the carbon emissions that are responsible for warming." Also: "Without honest good-faith dialogue, the COP is at risk of being a sideshow: a mortal blow to multilateralism."----The passage opens by showing COP31 failed to agree on a cover text and made no progress on climate finance. It then argues that developed countries must keep their promise to pay for the cost of emissions, that experimental approaches like carbon capture should not be dismissed, and that without good-faith dialogue the COP becomes a sideshow. The title says the same. Option B covers the stalled talks, the finance demand and the call for pragmatic, multilateral solutions, so it is correct.
   - Option A: Incorrect. The option says market growth in solar and batteries removed the need for developed nations to give climate finance, but the passage says these gains "did not come cheap" and that developed countries must make good on their finance promises. It says the opposite.
   - Option C: Incorrect. The option says the EU pushed the 35% target and developing countries blocked fossil fuel language. The passage says the COP31 leadership (Türkiye and Australia) pushed the target, and it was the EU, along with about 130 other countries, that objected because the text lacked any mention of fossil fuels. Developing countries did not oppose the mention.
   - Option D: Incorrect. The option says economic crises make carbon capture and dialogue obsolete, but the passage says economic crises are a feature of the financial system and that carbon capture should not be scuttled. It also calls for good-faith dialogue, not its abandonment.
3. **C) Because surging electricity demand from AI data centres and war-driven gas stockpiling make rejecting transitional technologies unrealistic.**
   passage: "However, it is no longer prudent to sweep this under the rug by scuttling experimental approaches — namely carbon capture — as inimical to the broader commitment to eschew fossil fuel. When the primary framework climate agreement was crafted three

decades ago, nobody envisaged AI and the drain that data centres portended or the wars that would see the vociferous antagonists of coal immediately shore up their gas reserves."----The author gives the reason in the very next sentence. When the climate framework was written, nobody imagined the power drain from AI data centres, or that wars would push even strong critics of coal to stock up on gas. The world has changed, so fossil fuel use will not end as neatly as planned. Because of this, dismissing experimental tools like carbon capture is no longer sensible. Option C says exactly this, so it is correct.

- Option A: Incorrect. The option says the EU made carbon capture a mandatory precondition for the cover text, but the passage says the EU objected because the text did not mention fossil fuels at all.
- Option B: Incorrect. The option says solar and batteries are cheap enough to replace fossil fuels everywhere, but the passage says these gains "did not come cheap" and carry costs for land, weather dependence and grid upgrades.
- Option D: Incorrect. The option says the Just Transition agreement banned developed nations from funding grid upgrades, but the passage only says COP31 made some progress on the Just Transition agreement. It never says anything about such a ban, and the author wants developed nations to pay more.

4. **D) Although nations pledge fossil-fuel phase-outs, surging AI power demands and wars have led vocal coal critics to expand gas reserves.**
   passage: "When the primary framework climate agreement was crafted three decades ago, nobody envisaged AI and the drain that data centres portended or the wars that would see the vociferous antagonists of coal immediately shore up their gas reserves."----The contradiction is between what nations say and what they do. Countries talk about moving away from fossil fuels. But new pressures, like the power demand of AI data centres and wars, have pushed even the loudest critics of coal to stock up on gas. Option D says exactly this, so it is correct.
   - Option A: Incorrect. The option says developed nations already fulfilled their finance commitments and developing countries refused to install clean energy. The passage says the opposite: developed countries must "make good on past promises," and India and China are leaders in total clean energy installations.
   - Option B: Incorrect. The option says financial crises halted renewable deployment decades ago and summits ended fossil fuel reliance. The passage says renewables have grown over decades through global markets, and it never says fossil fuel reliance has been eliminated.
   - Option C: Incorrect. The option says the original agreement anticipated AI data centres and modern summits ignored electrification costs. The passage says "nobody envisaged AI" when the agreement was written, and the summit actually pushed an electrification target.
5. **A) Türkiye and Australia, and 35 per cent of global final energy consumption.**
   passage: "The headline sought was a global electrification target: 35% of global final energy consumption will come from electricity by 2035, in the hope that this would reduce direct fossil fuel emissions." Also: "the COP31 leadership, helmed by Türkiye and Australia, thought it fit to push for a cover text early in the proceedings."----The passage names Türkiye and Australia as the two countries helming the COP31 leadership. It also says the headline target in

the cover text was that 35% of global final energy consumption would come from electricity by 2035. Option A gives both facts correctly, so it is correct.

- Option B: Incorrect. The option names India and China as the leaders and gives a 50 per cent target, but the passage mentions India and China only as major emitters and clean energy leaders. The target in the passage is 35%, not 50%.
- Option C: Incorrect. The option names Türkiye and the European Union as the leaders, but the passage says the EU objected to the cover text because it lacked any mention of fossil fuels. The EU did not helm the leadership, Australia did along with Türkiye.
- Option D: Incorrect. The option names Australia and South America, and gives a 12 per cent target. The passage never says South America co-led the talks (it only says some South American countries insisted on fossil fuel language), and the 12 per cent figure appears nowhere. The "nearly 12 days" in the passage is the length of the conference, not a target.

6. A) **4-2-3-5-1**

Hindi Explanation:

Sentence 4 पूरे passage का independent opening sentence है (4), जो मुख्य विषय का परिचय देता है कि दिसंबर में एंटवर्प (Antwerp) जगमगाती रोशनी के एक आभूषण के डिब्बे (jewellery box of glittering lights) में बदल जाता है।

Sentence 2 Sentence 4 के तुरंत बाद आएगा (4-2), क्योंकि यह जगमगाती रोशनी से बने उत्सव के माहौल को विस्तार देते हुए बताता है कि क्रिसमस बाज़ार ऐतिहासिक चौकों में उमड़ पड़ते हैं और गॉथिक तथा पुनर्जागरण इमारतों के रोशन अग्रभाग एक जादुई वातावरण बनाते हैं।

Sentence 3 Sentence 2 को follow करेगा (2-3), जो उन ऐतिहासिक चौकों (historic squares) के विशिष्ट उदाहरण प्रस्तुत करता है—कि Groenplaats में लेखक ने रूबेंस की प्रतिमा के चारों ओर आइस-स्केटर्स को घूमते देखा, जबकि Handschoenmarkt में Singing Christmas Tree के सौजन्य से कैरोल सुने।

Sentence 5 Sentence 3 के ठीक बाद आएगा (3-5), जो शाम की रोशनी और उत्सव के बाद "during the daytime, too" के माध्यम से दिन के समय की गतिविधियों—Zurenborg की art nouveau वास्तुकला की प्रशंसा करने और Museum Mayer van den Bergh में ब्रूगेल की Dull Gret को देखने—का विवरण जोड़ता है।

Sentence 1 Sentence 5 के बाद आकर क्रम को पूर्ण करेगा (5-1), जो दिन और शाम की सैर के बाद रात के समापन (nightcap) का उल्लेख करते हुए बताता है कि प्रसिद्ध brown cafes एक आरामदायक nightcap के लिए एकदम सही जगह हैं।

English Explanation:

Sentence 4 serves as the standalone opening topic sentence, introducing how Antwerp is transformed in December into a jewellery box of glittering lights.

Sentence 2 directly follows Sentence 4 (4-2), elaborating on that glittering transformation by describing how Christmas markets throng the historic squares and illuminated Gothic and Renaissance facades create a magical atmosphere.

Sentence 3 follows Sentence 2 (2-3), illustrating those historic squares with specific evening experiences at Groenplaats (ice-skaters circling Rubens' statue) and Handschoenmarkt (carols from the Singing Christmas Tree).

Sentence 5 directly follows Sentence 3 (3-5), transitioning via "during the daytime, too" to balance the evening festivities with daytime sightseeing—admiring art nouveau architecture in Zurenborg and viewing Bruegel's Dull Gret at Museum Mayer van den Bergh.

Sentence 1 concludes the sequence (5-1), wrapping up the day-to-night progression by noting that the famous brown cafes make the perfect place for a cosy nightcap.

7. C) **1-2-3-4**
   Hindi Explanation:
   Sentence 1 पूरे passage का independent opening sentence है (1), जो यात्रा की शुरुआत करता है कि लेखक स्की के साथ एक खचाखच भरे गोंडोला (packed gondola) में घुसते हैं।
   Sentence 2 Sentence 1 के तुरंत बाद आएगा (1-2), जो गोंडोला में चढ़ने के तुरंत बाद की क्रिया को दर्शाता है कि स्लाइडिंग दरवाजे बंद होते हैं और लेखक Mount Humphrys के आधार पर बर्फ से ढके सदाबहार पेड़ों की चोटियों के ऊपर उड़ान भरते हैं।
   Sentence 3 Sentence 2 को follow करेगा (2-3), जो ऊँचाई पर जाने के अगले चरण (A second chairlift) को जोड़ता है कि दूसरी चेयरलिफ्ट उन्हें 11,500 फीट (3,505 मीटर) ऊपर ले जाती है, जहाँ बर्फीली हवा का झोंका उनसे टकराता है और वे बर्फ की ढलान पर नीचे की ओर फिसलते हैं।
   Sentence 4 Sentence 3 के बाद आकर क्रम को पूर्ण करेगा (3-4), जो contrastive conjunction "But" के साथ एक आश्चर्यजनक खुलासा करते हुए passage को समाप्त करता है कि लेखक आल्प्स (Alps) या रॉकीज़ (Rockies) में नहीं, बल्कि एरिज़ोना (Arizona) में हैं, जो अमेरिका के सबसे गर्म शहर से केवल 2.5 घंटे की ड्राइव पर है।
   English Explanation:
   Sentence 1 serves as the standalone opening topic sentence, initiating the action as the narrator squeezes into a packed gondola, skis first.
   Sentence 2 directly follows Sentence 1 (1-2), describing the immediate next moment inside the gondola as the sliding doors close and it soars above the snow-dusted evergreen trees at the base of Mount Humphrys.
   Sentence 3 follows Sentence 2 (2-3), continuing the upward progression via "A second chairlift" that whisks the skier up to 11,500ft (3,505m) before they push off down the powdered slope.
   Sentence 4 concludes the sequence (3-4), pivoting with "But" to deliver the surprising reveal that this snowy ski run is not in the Alps or the Rockies, but in Arizona, just a 2.5-hour drive from the US's hottest city.
8. A) **Contentious** (adjective) – controversial, debatable, disputed, arguable. (विवादास्पद)
   Synonym: **Controversial** (adjective) – giving rise or likely to give rise to public disagreement. (विवादास्पद)
   - **Incremental** (adjective) – gradual, progressive, cumulative. (क्रमिक)
   - **Commensurate** (adjective) – proportional, equivalent. (आनुपातिक)
   - **Petulant** (adjective) – peevish, irritable. (चिड़चिड़ा)
9. B) **Innumerable** (adjective) – countless, myriad, numerous, untold, incalculable. (असंख्य)
   Synonym: **Myriad** (adjective) – countless or extremely great in number. (असंख्य / बेशुमार)
   - **Sanguine** (adjective) – optimistic, hopeful, positive. (आशावादी)
   - **Durable** (adjective) – lasting, permanent, enduring. (टिकाऊ)
   - **Shoddy** (adjective) – poor quality, inferior, substandard. (घटिया)
10. C) **Play devil's advocate** (idiom) – To argue against something just for the sake of argument. जान-बूझकर विरोध में बोलना

- **Beat around the bush** (idiom) – To avoid coming to the main point. घुमा-फिराकर बात करना
- **The devil is in the details** (idiom) – Small details can cause big problems. छोटी बातों में ही मुश्किल छिपी होती है
- **Throw caution to the wind** (idiom) – To act recklessly. बिना सोचे-समझे जोखिम उठाना

11. B) **Prominent** (adjective) – important, famous, or noticeable; conspicuous, obvious, striking, leading. (प्रमुख / विशिष्ट / प्रत्यक्ष)
    Antonym: **Inconspicuous** (adjective) – not clearly visible or attracting attention; unobtrusive, hidden, unnoticeable. (अस्पष्ट / जो आसानी से दिखाई न दे / अप्रमुख)
    - **Vulnerable** (adjective) – exposed to the possibility of being attacked or harmed; helpless, at-risk. (असुरक्षित / संवेदनशील)
    - **Learned** (adjective) – having acquired much knowledge through study; scholarly, erudite. (विद्वान / शिक्षित)
    - **Uneven** (adjective) – not level or smooth; irregular, inconsistent, patchy. (असमान / असमतल)
12. C) **Inevitability** (noun) – the quality of being certain to happen and impossible to avoid; certainty, unavoidability, inescapability, sureness, necessity. (अनिवार्यता)
    Antonym: **Avoidability** (noun) – the quality of being possible to prevent or steer clear of; evadability, preventability. (जिसे टाला जा सके / परिहार्यता)
    - **Necessity** (noun) – the state of being required or indispensable; need, requirement, essential. (आवश्यकता)
    - **Predictability** (noun) – the quality of being able to be foretold or expected; foreseeability, reliability. (पूर्वानुमेयता)
    - **Fatality** (noun) – a death caused by an accident or disaster, or the quality of being deadly; casualty, mortality. (मृत्यु / प्राणघातकता)
13. B) **Agenda** (noun) – A list of issues to be discussed at a meeting. कार्यसूची
    - **Schedule** (noun) – A plan of times for events. समय-सारणी
    - **Time-table** (noun) – A chart showing times of classes, trains, etc.. समय सारणी
    - **Plan** (noun) – A detailed proposal for doing something. योजना
14. A) 'Absoloot' गलत spelling है। सही spelling 'Absolute' है, जिसका अर्थ है "total, complete or unconditional". पूर्ण, निरपेक्ष
15. **B) The correctly spelt word is (B)**
    engagement (noun – involvement, participation, association, inclusion, interaction / भागीदारी).
16. **A) The heavy cart was pulled by the horse along the narrow mountain road.**
    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 "The horse" Subject है, "pulled" Verb (Past Simple) है और "the heavy cart" Object है। Passive में बदलने पर Object "The heavy cart" Subject बन गया है, Verb को "was pulled" (Past Simple Passive) में बदला गया है और "by the horse" Agent के रूप में आया है। "along the narrow mountain road" 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, "The horse" (Subject), "pulled" (Verb in Past Simple), and "the heavy cart" (Object) from the active voice have been transformed into "The heavy cart" (Subject), "was pulled" (Past Simple Passive), and "by the horse" as the agent. The phrase "along the narrow mountain road" remains unchanged.

17. **D) “I am playing the violin,” Parvathy explained.**
Indirect से Direct Speech में बदलने पर Reported Speech की Past Continuous "was playing" वापस Present Continuous "am playing" बन जाती है, Pronoun "she" बदलकर "I" हो जाता है, और "that" हटाकर inverted commas लगाए जाते हैं। Reporting verb "explained" वैसी ही रहती है।
    - While changing Indirect to Direct Speech, Past Continuous "was playing" changes back to Present Continuous "am playing", the pronoun "she" becomes "I", "that" is removed and inverted commas are added. The reporting verb "explained" remains the same.
18. D) Proposed' का use होगा क्योंकि "propose" का अर्थ होता है प्रस्तावित करना या सुझाव देना। Sentence में mention किया गया है कि Royal Commission on Indian Currency and Finance ने 25 August 1925 को Central Bank of India की स्थापना का प्रस्ताव दिया, इसलिए 'proposed' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Figured' का अर्थ है समझना या विचार करना, 'Defined' का अर्थ है परिभाषित करना, और 'Censored' का अर्थ है रोक ठोक लगाना या संपादित करना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।
    - 'Proposed' should be used because it means to suggest or put forward. The sentence mentions that the Royal Commission on Indian Currency and Finance put forward the suggestion for the establishment of the Central Bank of India on 25 August 1925, making 'proposed' fitting here. Whereas, 'Figured' implies to understand or consider, 'Defined' means to delineate or specify, and 'Censored' means to suppress or edit out, which don't fit in this context.
19. D) ‘in good and bad’ के बदले ‘between good and bad’ का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि ‘difference’ के बाद दो चीज़ों के अंतर के लिए ‘between’ आता है; जैसे— the difference between right and wrong.
    - ‘Between good and bad’ will be used instead of ‘in good and bad’ because ‘difference’ takes ‘between’ when two things are compared; Like— the difference between right and wrong.
20. B) whenever it listening’ के बदले ‘whenever it listens’ का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि वाक्य Simple Present (hinders) में है और ‘whenever’ clause में भी Simple Present आएगा; helping verb के बिना V-ing गलत है; जैसे— The dog runs whenever it hears his voice.
    - ‘Whenever it listens’ will be used instead of ‘whenever it listening’ because the sentence is in the Simple Present (hinders) and the ‘whenever’ clause also takes the Simple Present; V-ing cannot be used without a helping verb; Like— The dog runs whenever it hears his voice.
21. **C) steeped**
Blank (1) needs a word that pairs with "in" to mean "deeply filled with" a tradition. The passage presents the community's 2,000 years of Shinto spirituality as its draw.
    - a) bereft: means lacking or deprived of something, and it takes "of," not "in." It violates the requirement because the community is full of this heritage, not without it.
    - b) estranged: means cut off or alienated, and it takes "from," not "in." It violates the requirement because the community lives within its tradition, not apart from it.

- c) steeped: means thoroughly soaked in or filled with something, as in "steeped in tradition." It matches a community shaped through and through by its long spiritual heritage.
- d) mired: means stuck in a difficult situation, as in "mired in debt." It violates the requirement because it casts the spirituality as a trap, while the passage presents it as an attraction.

Hindi:

Blank (1) में ऐसा word चाहिए जो "in" के साथ मिलकर किसी परंपरा से "गहराई तक भरा होना" का meaning दे। Passage समुदाय की 2,000 वर्षों की Shinto आध्यात्मिकता को उसका आकर्षण बताता है।

- a) bereft: इसका meaning है किसी वस्तु से वंचित होना, और यह "of" के साथ आता है, "in" के साथ नहीं। यह violate करता है क्योंकि समुदाय इस धरोहर से भरा है, उसके बिना नहीं।
- b) estranged: इसका meaning है विमुख या अलग हो जाना, और यह "from" के साथ आता है, "in" के साथ नहीं। यह violate करता है क्योंकि समुदाय अपनी परंपरा के भीतर जीता है, उससे दूर नहीं।
- c) steeped: इसका meaning है किसी बात से पूर्णतः भरा या ओत-प्रोत होना, जैसे "steeped in tradition"। यह उस समुदाय से match करता है जो अपनी लंबी आध्यात्मिक धरोहर से ओत-प्रोत है।
- d) mired: इसका meaning है किसी कठिन स्थिति में फँस जाना, जैसे "mired in debt"। यह violate करता है क्योंकि यह आध्यात्मिकता को एक फंदा बना देता है, परंतु passage उसे आकर्षण के रूप में प्रस्तुत करता है।

22. **B) jagged**

Blank (2) needs an adjective for a coastline that fits what follows: one that is "home to natural bays, deep forests" and a shrine.

- a) submerged: means lying under water. It violates the requirement because land under the sea cannot hold forests and a shrine.
- b) jagged: means having a rough, uneven edge with sharp points and inlets. It matches a coastline broken up by natural bays.
- c) linear: means straight, running in a line. It violates the requirement because a straight coastline would not be cut into natural bays.
- d) barren: means bare and unable to support plant life. It violates the requirement because the same coastline holds "deep forests."

Hindi:

Blank (2) में coastline के लिए ऐसा adjective चाहिए जो आगे के विवरण से मेल खाए: एक ऐसा तट जो "home to natural bays, deep forests" है और जहाँ एक shrine भी है।

- a) submerged: इसका meaning है पानी के नीचे डूबा हुआ। यह violate करता है क्योंकि समुद्र के नीचे की भूमि पर वन और shrine नहीं हो सकते।
- b) jagged: इसका meaning है उबड़-खाबड़, नुकीले छोरों और कटावों वाला। यह उस तट से match करता है जो प्राकृतिक खाड़ियों से कटा-फटा है।
- c) linear: इसका meaning है सीधा, एक रेखा में चलने वाला। यह violate करता है क्योंकि सीधे तट में प्राकृतिक खाड़ियाँ नहीं बनतीं।
- d) barren: इसका meaning है ऊसर, जहाँ पेड़-पौधे न उग सकें। यह violate करता है क्योंकि इसी तट पर "deep forests" हैं।

23. **D) haul**

Blank (3) needs a verb for what locals do with "enormous cypress logs." In this ritual, thousands "march through the streets," and the logs are then used "to rebuild the city's shrines."

- a) pilfer: means to steal, usually small things. It violates the requirement because a sacred community ritual is not theft, and enormous logs are hardly small things slipped away unnoticed.
- b) incinerate: means to burn completely. It violates the requirement because burnt logs cannot be used "to rebuild the city's shrines."
- c) squander: means to waste something carelessly. It violates the requirement because the logs are put to use in rebuilding, and the ritual is described as "a celebration of sustainability," the opposite of waste.
- d) haul: means to pull or drag something heavy with great effort. It matches crowds pulling huge logs through the city for the rebuilding.

Hindi:

Blank (3) में ऐसा verb चाहिए जो बताए कि लोग "enormous cypress logs" के साथ क्या करते हैं। इस अनुष्ठान में बड़ी संख्या में लोग "march through the streets" करते हैं, और लट्ठों का उपयोग "to rebuild the city's shrines" के लिए होता है।

- a) pilfer: इसका meaning है चोरी करना, प्रायः छोटी वस्तुओं की। यह violate करता है क्योंकि एक पवित्र सामुदायिक अनुष्ठान चोरी नहीं है, और विशाल लट्ठे चुपके से नहीं चुराए जाते।
- b) incinerate: इसका meaning है पूर्णतः जला देना। यह violate करता है क्योंकि जले हुए लट्ठों से "to rebuild the city's shrines" संभव नहीं है।
- c) squander: इसका meaning है किसी वस्तु को व्यर्थ गँवा देना। यह violate करता है क्योंकि लट्ठों का उपयोग पुनर्निर्माण में होता है, और अनुष्ठान को "a celebration of sustainability" कहा गया है, जो व्यर्थ गँवाने का उल्टा है।
- d) haul: इसका meaning है किसी भारी वस्तु को बड़े परिश्रम से खींचना या घसीटना। यह उन लोगों से match करता है जो पुनर्निर्माण के लिए विशाल लट्ठे नगर में खींचकर ले जाते हैं।

24. **A) prime**

Blank (4) needs an adjective for the kind of spot a visitor would "snag" (grab quickly before others do) in order "to enjoy the festive buzz and watch" the procession.

- a) prime: means of the best quality, most desirable. It matches the best spot to watch from, the kind people rush to claim.
- b) inaccessible: means impossible to reach or enter. It violates the requirement because a spot no one can reach cannot be snagged in the first place.
- c) remote: means far away from the main activity. It violates the requirement because from a distant spot one could neither feel the festive buzz nor watch the march.
- d) dismal: means gloomy and depressing. It violates the requirement because no one rushes to claim a dreary spot in order to enjoy a festival.

Hindi:

Blank (4) में उस स्थान के लिए adjective चाहिए जिसे visitor "snag" करे, अर्थात दूसरों से पहले झट से हथिया ले, जिससे वह "enjoy the festive buzz and watch" कर सके।

- a) prime: इसका meaning है सबसे उत्तम, सबसे वांछित। यह देखने के सबसे अच्छे स्थान से match करता है, जिसे पाने के लिए लोग दौड़ पड़ते हैं।

- b) inaccessible: इसका meaning है जहाँ पहुँचा न जा सके। यह violate करता है क्योंकि जिस स्थान तक कोई पहुँच ही न सके, उसे हथियाया भी नहीं जा सकता।
- c) remote: इसका meaning है मुख्य गतिविधि से बहुत दूर। यह violate करता है क्योंकि दूर के स्थान से न उत्सव का उल्लास अनुभव हो सकता है, न शोभायात्रा देखी जा सकती है।
- d) dismal: इसका meaning है उदास और निराशाजनक। यह violate करता है क्योंकि उत्सव का आनंद लेने के लिए कोई उदास स्थान पाने को नहीं दौड़ता।

25. **D) craftsmanship**

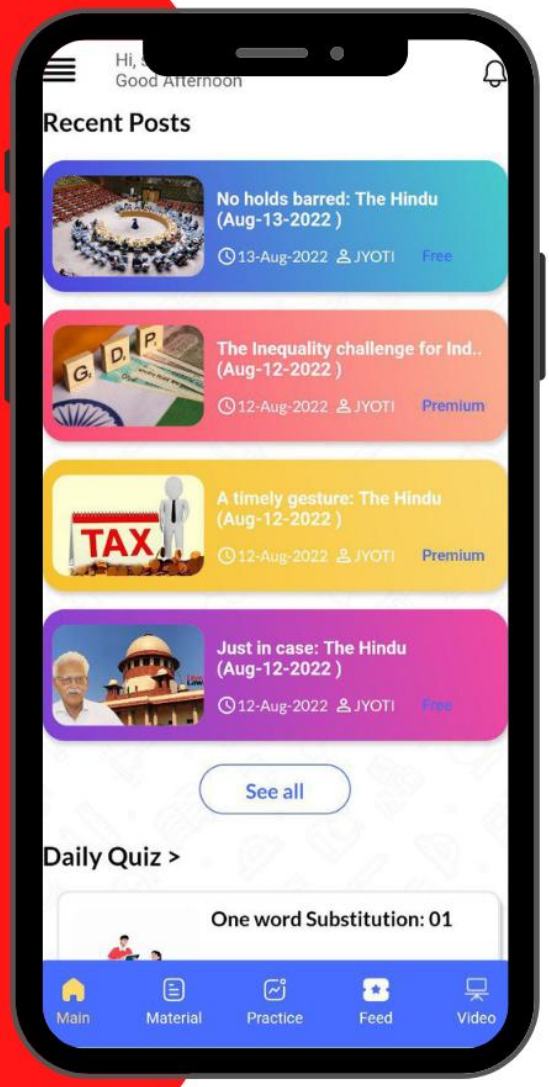
Blank (5) needs a noun naming a quality worth celebrating alongside sustainability, one that fits shrines rebuilt "by hand."

- a) automation: means the use of machines to do work without people. It violates the requirement because the shrines are rebuilt "by hand," the opposite of machine work.
- b) vandalism: means deliberate damage to property. It violates the requirement because the ritual builds the shrines up, and destruction is not something a festival celebrates.
- c) negligence: means failure to take proper care. It violates the requirement because a celebration honours care and skill, not carelessness.
- d) craftsmanship: means skill in making things, especially by hand. It matches the hand-built shrines at the heart of the ritual.

Hindi:

Blank (5) में ऐसा noun चाहिए जो sustainability के साथ उत्सव मनाने योग्य गुण बताए, और "by hand" बनाए जाने वाले shrines से मेल खाए।

- a) automation: इसका meaning है मनुष्यों के बिना मशीनों से काम करवाना। यह violate करता है क्योंकि shrines "by hand" बनाए जाते हैं, जो मशीनी काम का उल्टा है।
- b) vandalism: इसका meaning है संपत्ति को जान-बूझकर क्षति पहुँचाना। यह violate करता है क्योंकि अनुष्ठान shrines का निर्माण करता है, और विनाश का उत्सव नहीं मनाया जाता।
- c) negligence: इसका meaning है उचित सावधानी न रखना। यह violate करता है क्योंकि उत्सव सावधानी और कौशल का सम्मान करता है, असावधानी का नहीं।
- d) craftsmanship: इसका meaning है वस्तुएँ बनाने का कौशल, विशेषकर हाथ से। यह अनुष्ठान के केंद्र में स्थित हाथ से बने shrines से match करता है।



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