

Limits of America: On the U.S.-Iran agreement

Iran won the war by **merely** denying the U.S. a victory

Israel and the U.S. launched their war on Iran on February 28 to bring about **regime** change in Tehran, destroy its nuclear and missile capabilities and end its support for **non-state actors** such as Hamas, Hezbollah and Houthis. More than 100 days later, on June 15, the U.S. reached a **memorandum of understanding** (MoU) with Iran to end fighting, lift the **blockades** in the Strait of Hormuz and the Gulf of Oman — disruptions that did not **exist** before the war — and **pave the way for** more **substantive** talks on the nuclear question, while Israel, frustrated and **isolated**, is watching from the **sidelines**. That U.S. President Donald Trump pushed ahead despite Israeli objection **underscores** how dramatically the region's strategic **landscape** has shifted. Left with few **viable** military options to make Iran **submit** to America's **maximalist** demands, or to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, Mr. Trump ultimately turned to a **phased diplomatic** approach: a **preliminary** agreement now, followed by negotiations on a final deal. Iranian officials say the arrangement would include the release of some **frozen assets** and **reparations** for Tehran as part of a broader regional **ceasefire** agreement. Core **issues** such as Iran's nuclear programme and western **sanctions** would **be** discussed next.

The MoU is only the first step on a long and difficult road to peace and **stability**. Mr. Trump's immediate challenge is to prevent a fresh **outbreak** of **hostilities** between the U.S. and Iran, or Israel and Iran, while nuclear negotiations remain **under way**. His biggest strategic mistake was his belief, shared by Israel, that there was a military solution to the Iranian nuclear issue. Washington underestimated Iran's **resolve**, strategic depth and **geographical** advantages. As Henry Kissinger put it, "**the guerrilla wins if he does not lose**". Iran won this war by not losing while the U.S., the most powerful country, lost it by failing to achieve its goals. With the nuclear talks **set to** resume, Mr. Trump finds himself in a weaker position today than the one Barack Obama occupied when he held talks with Iran in 2013-15. **Nevertheless**, the **prospects** for a **negotiated outcome** **are** still real as Iran urgently needs long-term economic relief. One **potential disruptor**, however, could **be** Israel, which has said it would not withdraw from occupied Southern Lebanon. Iran and the U.S. should **rein in** their respective **allies**, Hezbollah and Israel; Tehran should also take measures to **instil** confidence in the process. It has already **demonstrated** its **deterrence** by taking control of the Strait of Hormuz. It must now reopen the waterway in exchange for the U.S. removing its blockade. Iran and the U.S. should remain focused on **diplomacy**, **resist** potential Israeli efforts to **sabotage** the process, and work towards restoring stability in West Asia. **[Practice Exercise]**

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

Vocabulary

1. **Merely** (adverb) - only, simply, just, purely, solely. केवल
2. **Regime** (noun) - administration, government, authority, rule, power. शासन
3. **Non-state actors** (noun) - individuals or organizations that operate independently of governments and influence political, economic, or social affairs. गैर-राज्य कारक
4. **Memorandum of understanding** (noun) - a formal agreement between parties before a binding contract. समझौता ज्ञापन
5. **Blockade** (noun) - siege, barrier, obstruction, encirclement, barricade. नाकेबंदी
6. **Exist** (verb) - live, breathe, be, subsist, survive. अस्तित्व में होना
7. **Pave the way for** (phrase) - to make progress or future development easier. मार्ग प्रशस्त करना
8. **Substantive** (adjective) - meaningful, significant, solid, real, considerable. ठोस (महत्वपूर्ण)
9. **Isolated** (adjective) - alone, lonely, remote, detached, secluded. अलग-थलग
10. **Sidelines** (noun) - periphery, sidelines, margin, edge, border. किनारे (बाहरी स्थिति)
11. **Underscore** (verb) - emphasize, highlight, stress, underline, accent. रेखांकित करना
12. **Landscape** (noun) - scene, terrain, vista, view, panorama. परिदृश्य
13. **Viable** (adjective) - feasible, workable, practicable, achievable, possible. व्यवहार्य
14. **Submit** (verb) - surrender, capitulate, yield, succumb, concede. समर्पण करना
15. **Maximalist** (adjective) - uncompromising, extremist, radical, maximal, total. अधिकतमवादी
16. **Phased** (adjective) - staged, gradual, incremental, step-by-step, periodic. चरणों में
17. **Diplomatic** (adjective) - political, tactful, strategic, ministerial, judicious. कूटनीतिक
18. **Preliminary** (adjective) - initial, introductory, opening, preparatory, primary. प्रारंभिक
19. **Frozen assets** (noun) - assets or funds that have been legally blocked and cannot be accessed, transferred, or used. जमे हुए कोष
20. **Reparation** (noun) - compensation, amends, indemnity, redress, restitution. हर्जाना
21. **Ceasefire** (noun) - a temporary agreement to stop fighting between opposing sides, truce युद्धविराम
22. **Sanction** (noun) - penalty, punishment, restriction, embargo, ban. प्रतिबंध
23. **Stability** (noun) - consistency, steadfastness, firmness, equilibrium, balance. स्थिरता
24. **Outbreak** (noun) - eruption, flare-up, outburst, surge, explosion. प्रकोप (फैलना)
25. **Hostility** (noun) - aggression, animosity, conflict, war, antagonism. शत्रुता

26. **Under way** (adjective) - in progress, happening, ongoing, proceeding, continuing. चल रहा है
27. **Resolve** (noun) - determination, firmness, purpose, drive, grit. संकल्प
28. **Geographical** (adjective) - relating to the physical features, location, and characteristics of places on Earth. भौगोलिक
29. **Guerrilla wins if he does not lose** (phrase) - success for an irregular force is defined by survival against a superior power. गुरिल्ला तब जीतता है जब वह हारता नहीं है
30. **Set to** (phrase) - to start working or dealing with something तैयार
31. **Nevertheless** (adverb) - however, nonetheless, yet. फिर भी
32. **Prospect** (noun) - possibility, outlook, chance, potential, hope. संभावना
33. **Negotiated** (adjective) - agreed, settled, discussed, bargained, arranged. बातचीत द्वारा तय किया गया
34. **Outcome** (noun) - result, consequence, effect, end, upshot. परिणाम
35. **Potential** (adjective) - possible, likely, prospective, latent, hidden. संभावित
36. **Rein in** (phrasal verb) - to control or restrain नियंत्रित करना
37. **Ally** (noun) - partner, associate, colleague, supporter, confederate. सहयोगी
38. **Instil** (verb) - inject, infuse, implant, impart, teach. मन में बैठाना
39. **Demonstrate** (verb) - show, exhibit, display, manifest, reveal. प्रदर्शन करना
40. **Deterrence** (noun) - discouragement, dissuasion, prevention, check, warning. निवारण
41. **Diplomacy** (noun) - the practice of managing relations and negotiations between countries. कूटनीति
42. **Resist** (verb) - oppose, withstand, defy, fight, combat. विरोध करना
43. **Sabotage** (verb) - disrupt, damage, wreck, undermine, thwart. तोड़-फोड़ करना

Summary of the Editorial

1. The U.S. and Israel launched a war against Iran on **February 28** with goals of weakening Iran's government and reducing its military and regional influence.
2. Their objectives included destroying Iran's **nuclear programme, missile capabilities**, and ending support to groups such as Hamas, Hezbollah and Houthis.
3. After more than **100 days of conflict**, the U.S. reached a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with Iran on **June 15** to end active fighting.
4. The agreement aims to restore stability by lifting blockades in the **Strait of Hormuz** and the **Gulf of Oman**.
5. The MoU also creates a path for future negotiations on unresolved issues, especially Iran's nuclear programme.
6. Israel appeared frustrated and isolated because the U.S. moved ahead with diplomacy despite Israeli objections.
7. The editorial argues that U.S. President Donald Trump eventually realised that military pressure alone could not force Iran to accept American demands.
8. The U.S. therefore shifted from military confrontation to a **phased diplomatic strategy**.
9. Iranian officials indicated that the agreement may include the release of frozen Iranian assets and possible reparations.
10. Important issues such as sanctions and nuclear restrictions are still unresolved and will require further talks.
11. The editorial criticises the U.S. for believing there was a military solution to the Iranian nuclear issue.
12. According to the article, Washington underestimated Iran's determination, strategic depth, and geographical advantages.
13. Using Henry Kissinger's idea that "the guerrilla wins if he does not lose," the editorial argues that Iran succeeded by simply preventing the U.S. from achieving its goals.
14. It claims Mr. Trump now negotiates from a weaker position than Barack Obama did during the 2013–15 Iran negotiations.
15. The editorial concludes that lasting peace depends on continued diplomacy, avoiding renewed conflict, reopening trade routes, and preventing disruptions from regional allies such as Israel and Hezbollah.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Which of the following statements best describes the primary strategic shift that occurred between the outbreak of the war and the signing of the MoU?** [Editorial Page]
 - A. The U.S. abandoned its initial maximalist goals of regime change and total disarmament in favor of a phased diplomatic settlement.
 - B. Israel effectively co-opted the U.S. command structure to secure a permanent military occupation of southern Lebanese territories.
 - C. Iran successfully leveraged its regional non-state allies to physically destroy the core of the U.S. naval presence in West Asia.
 - D. The U.S. built an international coalition that dismantled Iran's nuclear facilities before transitioning to peace talks.
2. **According to the passage, how does the current strategic position of the U.S. in nuclear negotiations compare to its historical standing during the 2013-15 talks?**
 - A. The U.S. holds greater leverage today because it managed to isolate Israel from influencing regional security policies.
 - B. The U.S. occupies a fundamentally weaker negotiating position because it failed to achieve its military objectives against Iran.
 - C. The U.S. is in an identical diplomatic position because Iran's absolute need for long-term economic relief has not changed since 2013.
 - D. The U.S. possesses superior structural advantages today due to its preemptive blockade of the Gulf of Oman and the Strait of Hormuz.
3. **What is the underlying logic behind the author's application of Henry Kissinger's quote, "the guerrilla wins if he does not lose," to the outcome of this conflict?**
 - A. Iran achieved a strategic victory simply by maintaining its core structural existence and resisting total American capitulation.
 - B. Iran won the conflict by deploying conventional guerilla warfare tactics that systematically depleted U.S. ground forces.
 - C. The U.S. lost the war because its military forces were completely driven out of West Asia by Iran's non-state actors.
 - D. Non-state actors like Hamas and Hezbollah successfully forced a total collapse of the domestic political regime in Tehran.
4. **Based on the passage, which of the following represents the most immediate threat to the stabilization process initiated by the MoU?**
 - A. The refusal of the U.S. to release any frozen Iranian assets prior to a final, comprehensive nuclear treaty.
 - B. Potential military provocations or acts of diplomatic sabotage originating from a frustrated and isolated Israel.
 - C. Iran's absolute refusal to reopen the Strait of Hormuz until all western sanctions are permanently repealed.
 - D. A sudden outbreak of civil war within Lebanon that destroys the command structure of Hezbollah.
5. **Identify the grammatical role of "while" in the phrase "while nuclear negotiations remain under way" from the second paragraph of the passage.**
 - A. Preposition

- B. Conjunction
C. Adverb
D. Noun
6. **Direction: Rearrange the following sentences (1, 2, 3, 4) to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent passage based on the provided text.**
1. The root cause of this military stall was Washington's fundamental mistake of severely underestimating Iran's resolve, strategic depth, and geographical advantages.
 2. More than 100 days after launching a war for regime change, the U.S. surprisingly reached a preliminary memorandum of understanding with Iran to end the fighting.
 3. This geopolitical shift ultimately occurred because the U.S. was forced to abandon its maximalist demands when its military efforts stalled.
 4. By paving the way for nuclear negotiations, this diplomatic arrangement has dramatically shifted the region's strategic landscape, leaving a frustrated Israel isolated.
- A. 2-4-3-1
B. 2-3-4-1
C. 4-1-3-2
D. 3-1-2-4
7. **Direction: Rearrange the following sentences (1, 2, 3, 4) to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent passage based on the provided text.**
1. Consequently, the discipline is finally being allowed to contain multitudes rather than a single narrative.
 2. Instead, the craft is now actively being shown, collected, and passionately argued with.
 3. Indian art in London is no longer just a mere novelty or a soft-power accessory.
 4. The true force of this transformative shift lies entirely in its rich, structural plurality.
- A. 3-4-2-1
B. 3-1-2-4
C. 3-2-4-1
D. 2-4-1-3
8. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the word "Throttle."**
- A. Malignly
B. Aberrant
C. Suppress
D. Venerate
9. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the word "Alter."**
- A. Modify
B. Garner
C. Kindle
D. Pacify
10. **What is the correct meaning of the idiom "Hunky Dory"?**
- A. Very bad
B. Average
C. Perfectly fine
D. Confusing
11. **Fill in the blank with the most appropriate phrasal verb.**

The legal team was instructed to _____ a comprehensive non-disclosure agreement before the merger negotiations commenced.

- A. Draw on
- B. Draw up
- C. Draw in
- D. Draw out

12. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the word "Revamp."**

- A. Refine
- B. Damage
- C. Relent
- D. Assert

13. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the word "Dampen."**

- A. Ameliorate
- B. Capitulate
- C. Invigorate
- D. Facilitate

14. **Which word describes self-punishment for wrongdoing or sin?**

- A. Penitence
- B. Vindication
- C. Exoneration
- D. Redemption

15. **Choose the correct one-word substitute for:**

A person who is in charge of a ship.

- A. Sailor
- B. Captain
- C. Officer
- D. Pilot

16. **Choose the correctly spelt word for Expression of mild disapproval**

- A. Expostulation
- B. Exposstulation
- C. Expostelation
- D. Expostullation

17. **Convert the sentence provided below from its passive voice structure to an active voice structure:**

The claim that the system has been tampered with was dismissed as baseless

- A. The system tampered the claim, which was dismissed.
- B. The dismissal of the system tampering was claimed.
- C. It was dismissed as baseless that the system was tampered with.
- D. Authorities dismissed the claim that someone had tampered with the system.

18. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in direct voice:**

The teacher told the students that they had to complete the complex project that had been assigned to them the previous week, as it was a crucial part of their curriculum which would determine their final grades.

- A. "You must complete this complex project that has been assigned to you last week, as it is a crucial part of your curriculum which will determine your final grades," the teacher said to the students.
- B. "You had to complete the complex project that was assigned to you last week, as it was a crucial part of your curriculum which would determine your final grades," the teacher said to the students.
- C. "You must complete this complex project that was assigned to you last week, as it is a crucial part of your curriculum which will determine your final grades," the teacher said to the students.
- D. "You must complete that complex project that was assigned to you the previous week, as it is a crucial part of your curriculum which will determine your final grades," the teacher said to the students.

19. **Fill in the Blanks**

The multi-national conglomerate channelled its overseas infrastructure investments through a newly incorporated offshore _____ entity to optimize tax liabilities.

- A. high-flown
B. wide-awake
C. step-down
D. long-drawn

20. **In the given question, a sentence is divided into four parts and given in the alternatives (A), (B), (C), and (D). There is an error in one part. Choose the alternative containing that part of the sentence that has the error. Choosing the alternative with the error will be the answer.**

It is 14:25 hours now and the arrival time of the train is 14:30 hours, so we have to wait for five more minutes, and the train is going to come to the station within five minutes.

- A. It is 14:25 hours now and the arrival
B. time of the train is 14:30 hours, so we
C. have to wait for five more minutes, and
D. the train is going to come to the station within five minutes.

Passage:

Dear friends,

I know I've thanked you many times before, and even now I still do. You've always said there's no need, but when I sit back and reflect on the last three years – the years since my life changed when I became a carer to my mum after she was diagnosed with cancer – I (1) _____ there will always be a need. (2) _____ doesn't run out. It stays with you.

Her diagnosis came as a complete shock. One moment, life felt normal; and the next, everything shifted. Suddenly, I was the one responsible and I don't have much close family to lean on. Overnight, my world became caring for my mum – cooking meals, helping her move around the house, taking her to appointments, managing the household, and trying to stay strong even when I felt like I was falling apart inside. I was broken and mentally drained. As a carer, I didn't have the capacity to care for myself. I remember those dark days so clearly – sitting at home, staring at the same four walls, feeling lonely and overwhelmed. I was constantly on the go, up at the crack of dawn and going to sleep late at night, running on chai, an empty stomach and very little rest. I gave up my full-time job. Everything changed. I had no idea what the future would hold, (3) _____ the constant fear that lived in the back of my

mind: What if this is it for my mum? I never imagined that in my early 40s I would become a (4) _____ carer. I also never imagined I would suddenly be learning to cook proper Indian meals from scratch. Let's just say there were a few early attempts that my mum bravely ate – and we both pretended they were delicious. We survived on (5) _____, langar meals from the gurdwara and a lot of hope.

21. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 1.**
 - A. doubt
 - B. realise
 - C. deny
 - D. ignore
22. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 2.**
 - A. Resentment
 - B. Sympathy
 - C. Patience
 - D. Gratitude
23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 3.**
 - A. regarding
 - B. although
 - C. unless
 - D. except
24. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 4.**
 - A. soul
 - B. shoal
 - C. sole
 - D. solo
25. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 5.**
 - A. bread and butter
 - B. trial and error
 - C. bits and pieces
 - D. hustle and bustle

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanation

- A) The U.S. abandoned its initial maximalist goals of regime change and total disarmament in favor of a phased diplomatic settlement.

Line from the passage: "Left with few viable military options to make Iran submit to America's maximalist demands... Mr. Trump ultimately turned to a phased diplomatic approach: a preliminary agreement now, followed by negotiations on a final deal." correct: The passage explicitly states that the U.S. entered the conflict with "maximalist demands" (including regime change and destroying Iran's nuclear/missile capabilities) but, due to a lack of viable military options, was forced to shift strategy completely by turning to a "phased diplomatic approach" starting with an MoU.

option B incorrect: The passage states that Israel is isolated and watching from the sidelines, and that Trump signed the agreement despite Israeli objections. This directly contradicts the idea that Israel co-opted or controlled the U.S. decision-making process.

option C incorrect: The passage mentions that Iran demonstrated its deterrence by taking control of the Strait of Hormuz, but it never states or implies that Iran "physically destroyed the core of the U.S. naval presence."

option D incorrect: The passage clarifies that Iran's nuclear program has not been dismantled; rather, it is a core issue that remains unresolved and is scheduled to be negotiated next.
- B) The U.S. occupies a fundamentally weaker negotiating position because it failed to achieve its military objectives against Iran.

Line from the passage: "Iran won this war by not losing while the U.S., the most powerful country, lost it by failing to achieve its goals. With the nuclear talks set to resume, Mr. Trump finds himself in a weaker position today than the one Barack Obama occupied..." correct: The passage explicitly matches this reasoning. It notes that because the U.S. failed to achieve its maximalist military goals and lost the conflict by failing to make Iran submit, Trump enters these upcoming nuclear negotiations from a much weaker position than Obama held in 2013-15.

option A incorrect: The passage states that the U.S. finds itself in a weaker position, not a position of greater leverage. Additionally, while Israel is watching from the sidelines, the passage mentions Israel as a "potential disruptor" that could sabotage the process, meaning they are not entirely blocked from influencing regional security.

option C incorrect: While the passage confirms Iran still needs economic relief, it explicitly frames the current position as weaker compared to the 2013-15 period, meaning the positions are fundamentally different, not identical.

option D incorrect: The passage clarifies that the blockades were regional disruptions that escalated during the conflict, and that the U.S. was left with few viable military options to reopen the waterway, indicating a lack of structural advantages.
- A) Iran achieved a strategic victory simply by maintaining its core structural existence and resisting total American capitulation.

Line from the passage: "Iran won this war by not losing while the U.S., the most powerful country, lost it by failing to achieve its goals." correct: In asymmetric conflicts, the weaker party (metaphorically the "guerrilla") does not need to launch an offensive and destroy the superpower to win; they simply need to survive, endure, and resist bowing down to the superpower's demands. Because Iran successfully survived the campaign without submitting to America's maximalist goals of regime change and disarmament, it won by "not losing."

option B incorrect: The author uses Kissinger's quote as a strategic analogy regarding political and defensive objectives, not as a literal description of tactical guerrilla warfare or physical troop casualties.

option C incorrect: The passage states the U.S. lost strictly because it failed to achieve its political and military goals (regime change, disarmament), not because its regional bases or forces were physically wiped out or driven away.

option D incorrect: The U.S. and Israel wanted a regime change in Tehran, but they failed. Tehran's government is very much intact and actively negotiating the MoU with the U.S., meaning it did not collapse.

4. B) Potential military provocations or acts of diplomatic sabotage originating from a frustrated and isolated Israel.

Line from the passage: "...while Israel, frustrated and isolated, is watching from the sidelines. [...] Mr. Trump's immediate challenge is to prevent a fresh outbreak of hostilities between [...] Israel and Iran... One potential disruptor, however, could be Israel... Iran and the U.S. should [...] resist potential Israeli efforts to sabotage the process..." correct: The passage explicitly identifies Israel as the primary "potential disruptor" and warns that they are "frustrated and isolated." The author clearly highlights that preventing a fresh outbreak of hostilities involving Israel and resisting their potential efforts to "sabotage the process" are the most immediate challenges to maintaining the peace framework.

option A: incorrect: The passage states that the preliminary arrangement already includes the release of some frozen assets. The passage does not list an asset dispute as the immediate threat to the process.

option C: incorrect: The passage outlines a specific, immediate trade-off for the waterway: Iran reopens the Strait of Hormuz in exchange for the U.S. removing its blockade, not the permanent repeal of all western sanctions (which are explicitly slated to be discussed at a later stage).

option D: incorrect: While Southern Lebanon is mentioned because of Israel's refusal to withdraw and the presence of Hezbollah, a domestic "civil war" or the total destruction of Hezbollah's command structure is entirely unmentioned and fabricated.

5. B) Conjunction

In the phrase "while nuclear negotiations remain under way," the word "while" serves as a subordinating conjunction. It introduces a subordinate clause ("nuclear negotiations remain under way") that contains both a subject (nuclear negotiations) and a verb (remain). It connects this subordinate clause to a main clause to indicate that two actions are happening simultaneously or to show a contrast.

- Preposition: A preposition would be followed by a noun or a gerund, not a full clause with a verb

- Adverb: While "while" can occasionally function as an adverb in specific structures, its primary role in connecting clauses is conjunctive.
- Noun: As a noun, "while" refers to a period of time (e.g., "stay for a while"), which does not fit the structural usage here.

6. A) 2-4-3-1

Sentence 2, पैराग्राफ की शुरुआत में आएगा क्योंकि यह एकमात्र ऐसा वाक्य है जो "Independent" है और "factual ground" तैयार करता है। यह बिना किसी पूर्व संदर्भ या 'This/That' के मुख्य घटना का परिचय देता है—कि अमेरिका ने शासन परिवर्तन के लिए युद्ध शुरू करने के 100 दिन बाद अचानक ईरान के साथ एक समझौता (memorandum of understanding) कर लिया।

Sentence 4, Sentence 2 के ठीक बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "this diplomatic arrangement" (यह कूटनीतिक व्यवस्था) शब्द सीधे तौर पर 2 में हुए 'memorandum of understanding' की ओर इशारा करते हैं। यह एक अनिवार्य लिंक (mandatory link) बनाता है, जो बताता है कि इस समझौते ने क्षेत्र के रणनीतिक परिदृश्य को बदल दिया है (shifted the region's strategic landscape)। (ध्यान दें: यदि आप 2 के बाद 3 लगाते हैं, तो 3 में मौजूद 'This geopolitical shift' के लिए 2 में कोई संदर्भ नहीं है, इसलिए 2-4 एक अटूट जोड़ी है)।

Sentence 3, Sentence 4 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "This geopolitical shift" (यह भू-राजनीतिक बदलाव) शब्द सीधे तौर पर 4 में स्थापित किए गए 'shifted the region's strategic landscape' की ओर इशारा करते हैं। यह स्पष्ट करता है कि यह बदलाव इसलिए हुआ क्योंकि सैन्य प्रयासों के ठप होने (military efforts stalled) के कारण अमेरिका को अपनी मांगें छोड़नी पड़ीं।

Sentence 1, Sentence 3 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह पूरे scenario को एक "conclusion" की ओर ले जाता है। इसमें "this military stall" (यह सैन्य रुकावट) का जिक्र है जो सीधे तौर पर 3 में बताए गए 'military efforts stalled' से जुड़ता है। यह निष्कर्ष निकालता है कि इस सैन्य विफलता का मूल कारण वाशिंगटन द्वारा ईरान की ताकत को कम आंकना (underestimating Iran's resolve) था, जो पैराग्राफ के तार्किक प्रवाह को पूरा करता है।

- Sentence 2 comes at the beginning because it is the only independent sentence. It establishes the factual ground, introducing the primary event—the U.S. reaching a "memorandum of understanding" with Iran—without relying on any preceding demonstrative pronouns.
- Sentence 4 follows 2 because the phrase "this diplomatic arrangement" creates an unbreakable mandatory link pointing directly back to the "memorandum of understanding" in 2. It introduces the consequence of this deal: it has "dramatically shifted the region's strategic landscape."
- Sentence 3 follows 4 as the phrase "This geopolitical shift" creates a mandatory link pointing directly to the shifting of the "strategic landscape" established at the end of 4. It explains why the shift happened: the U.S. had to abandon its demands because its "military efforts stalled."

- Sentence 1 follows 3 as the final conclusion. It uses the phrase "this military stall" to refer directly back to the "military efforts stalled" in 3. It brilliantly concludes the passage by revealing the root cause of the entire failure: Washington's underestimation of Iran's resolve and geography.

7. C) 3-2-4-1

Sentence 3, पैराग्राफ की शुरुआत करेगा क्योंकि यह एकमात्र "Independent" वाक्य है। इसमें कोई पूर्व-संदर्भित सर्वनाम (Pronoun) या योजक (Conjunction) नहीं है। यह सीधे विषय (Indian art in London) का परिचय देता है और एक नकारात्मक स्थिति (no longer just a mere novelty) बताता है।

Sentence 2, Sentence 3 के ठीक बाद आएगा। 3 में कहा गया है कि यह "अब केवल नॉवेल्टी नहीं (no longer)" है। Sentence 2 "Instead" (इसके बजाय) से शुरू होता है, जो 3 के 'no longer' का सीधा जवाब देता है कि अगर यह नॉवेल्टी नहीं है, तो इसके बजाय क्या है? (इसे दिखाया जा रहा है, कलेक्ट किया जा रहा है और इस पर बहस हो रही है)। (3-2 एक मजबूत Mandatory Pair है)।

Sentence 4, Sentence 2 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "this transformative shift" (यह परिवर्तनकारी बदलाव) सीधे तौर पर 3 और 2 में हुए बदलाव (सिर्फ एक दिखावे से लेकर एक गंभीर बहस का हिस्सा बनने तक) की ओर इशारा करता है। यह बताता है कि इस बड़े बदलाव की असली ताकत इसकी बहुलता (plurality) में है।

Sentence 1, Sentence 4 के बाद अंतिम निष्कर्ष के रूप में आएगा। इसमें मौजूद "Consequently" (परिणामस्वरूप) और "contain multitudes" (विविधताओं को समाहित करना) शब्द सीधे तौर पर 4 में बताए गए "rich plurality" (समृद्ध बहुलता) का अंतिम परिणाम हैं। बहुलता के कारण ही इसे केवल एक नैरेटिव तक सीमित न रखकर 'multitudes' को समाहित करने की अनुमति मिल रही है।

- Sentence 3 comes first because it is the only fully independent sentence. It introduces the primary noun ("Indian art in London") and sets up a negation ("no longer just a mere novelty").
- Sentence 2 immediately follows 3. The transitional word "Instead" creates an unbreakable mandatory link with the "no longer" in 3. It answers what the art is doing instead of just being a novelty.
- Sentence 4 follows 2 because the phrase "this transformative shift" directly refers to the massive change in perception described across sentences 3 and 2 (evolving from a mere accessory to something passionately argued with).
- Sentence 1 concludes the passage. The adverb "Consequently" shows the final result, and the phrase "contain multitudes" is the direct, logical outcome of the "rich plurality" mentioned in 4.

8. C) **Throttle** (verb) – restrict, choke, suppress, curb, stifle. (रोकना या गला घोटना)

Synonym: Suppress (verb) – Forcibly put an end to; prevent the development, action, or expression of. (दबाना/रोकना)

- **Malignly** (adverb): In a manner that is malevolent, harmful, or evil in nature. (हानिकारक रूप से)

- **Aberrant** (adjective): Departing from an accepted standard; diverging from the normal type. (असामान्य)
 - **Venerate** (verb): To regard with great respect; to revere or worship. (सम्मान करना)
9. A) **Alter** (verb) – change, modify, adjust, adapt, vary. (बदलना)
Synonym: **Modify** (verb) – To make partial or minor changes to something, typically to improve it. (संशोधन करना)
- **Garner** (verb): To gather or collect something, especially information or approval, over time. (संग्रह करना)
 - **Kindle** (verb): To light or set on fire; to arouse or inspire an emotion or feeling. (सुलगाना / प्रेरित करना)
 - **Pacify** (verb): To quell the anger, agitation, or excitement of; to bring peace to a country. (शांत करना)
10. C) “Hunky Dory” means Perfectly fine बिल्कुल ठीक
11. B) **Draw up** (phrasal verb) – To prepare or create a formal document, plan, or written agreement. (तैयार करना)
The action involves the formal "preparation" or "creation" of a contract by legal experts.
- **Draw on** (phrasal verb): To use information or experience of something to help you do something. (उपयोग करना)
 - **Draw in** (phrasal verb): To involve someone in a conversation or situation, often against their will. (शामिल करना)
 - **Draw out** (phrasal verb): To make something last longer than is necessary or expected. (लंबा खींचना)
12. B) **Revamp** (verb) – renovate, overhaul, modernize, renew, reform. (सुधारना)
Antonym: **Damage** (verb) – To inflict physical harm on something so as to impair its value, shape, or function. (क्षति पहुँचाना / बिगाड़ना)
- **Refine** (verb): To improve something by making small changes, in particular make it more subtle. (परिष्कृत करना)
 - **Relent** (verb): To abandon or mitigate a harsh intention or cruel treatment. (तरस खाना)
 - **Assert** (verb): To behave or speak in a confident and forceful manner. (दृढ़तापूर्वक कहना)
13. C) **Dampen** (verb) – discourage, reduce, diminish, suppress, lessen. (कम करना)
Antonym: **Invigorate** (verb) – To give strength or energy to; to stimulate or encourage something to be more active. (मजबूत करना / उत्साहित करना)
- **Ameliorate** (verb): To make something bad or unsatisfactory better or more tolerable. (सुधारना)

- **Capitulate** (verb): To cease to resist an opponent or an unwelcome demand; to surrender. (आत्मसमर्पण करना)
 - **Facilitate** (verb): To make an action or process easy or easier to achieve. (सुविधाजनक बनाना)
14. A) **Penitence** (noun) – Self-punishment or deep remorse for wrongdoing or sin
प्रायश्चित्त/पश्चाताप
- **Vindication** (noun) – Justification or clearing of blame निर्दोष सिद्धि
 - **Exoneration** (noun) – Release from accusation or blame दोषमुक्ति
 - **Redemption** (noun) – Deliverance from sin or guilt, often through atonement उद्धार
15. B) **Captain** (noun) – a person who is in charge of a ship जहाज़ का प्रभारी / कप्तान
- **Sailor** (noun) – a person who works on a ship नाविक
 - **Officer** (noun) – a person holding a position of authority अधिकारी
 - **Pilot** (noun) – a person who operates an aircraft वैमानिक
16. A) The correct spelling of 'Expostulation' is 'Expostulation' which means "an expression of mild disapproval or protest" हल्का विरोध या असहमति का अभिव्यक्ति.
17. D) Authorities dismissed the claim that someone had tampered with the system.
Passive से Active Voice में बदलने के लिए, Passive वाक्य का Subject (The claim that the system has been tampered with) Active वाक्य का Object बन जाता है। Passive verb "was dismissed" को Active में "dismissed" किया जाता है और जो कार्य कर रहा है, उसे Subject के रूप में जोड़ा जाता है। यहाँ Passive वाक्य में "was dismissed" (Past Simple Passive) प्रयोग हुआ है, इसलिए Active में Past Simple Active का प्रयोग होगा।
"Authorities" को कर्ता (Subject) के रूप में जोड़ा गया है, जिससे वाक्य स्पष्ट और व्याकरणिक रूप से सही हो जाता है।
- To change from Passive to Active Voice, the subject of the passive sentence becomes the object of the active sentence. The passive verb "was dismissed" (Past Simple Passive) is changed into "dismissed" (Past Simple Active), and an appropriate subject performing the action is introduced.
 - Here, "Authorities" functions as the subject, "dismissed" as the verb, and "the claim that someone had tampered with the system" as the object, making option D the correct active voice transformation.
18. C) "You must complete this complex project that was assigned to you last week, as it is a crucial part of your curriculum which will determine your final grades," the teacher said to the students.
Active से Direct Speech में बदलने के लिए, Reported Speech को उसके मूल रूप (Direct) में वापस बदला जाता है। Indirect Speech में Tense-change, Pronoun-shift, और Time-expressions बदले हुए होते हैं, जिन्हें Direct Speech में पुनः original रूप में restore किया जाता है। दिए गए वाक्य में the

teacher Speaker है, told the students Reporting verb है और पूरा भाग Reported Speech है। Indirect रूप में had to obligation का past रूप है, जिसे Direct में must या have to के रूप में restore किया जाता है। the previous week → last week, Pronouns they/them → you, और Tense वापस Present + Past के मिश्रित रूप में आता है क्योंकि teacher उसी समय निर्देश दे रहा था।

- To convert Indirect Speech to Direct Speech, the reported clause is restored to its original tense, pronouns are shifted back to the speaker–listener perspective, and time expressions are reverted. Here, the teacher is the speaker, told the students is the reporting structure, and the clause expresses instruction. In indirect form, had to shows reported obligation, which becomes must in direct form. The previous week returns to last week, and pronouns shift from they/them to you.

19. C) Step-down (adjective) - indirect subsidiary (a subsidiary of a subsidiary). (उप-सहायक कंपनी)

The adjective accurately fits the blank because the sentence outlines a complex corporate hierarchy where investments are routed indirectly through a secondary layer subsidiary.

High-flown (adjective): Extravagant or proud in style, language, or high-reaching corporate ambitions. Wide-awake (adjective):

Fully alert, deeply observant, and highly cautious of impending structural dangers.

Long-drawn (adjective): Extended or prolonged excessively in time, causing unexpected operational delays.

20. D) Solution: D) "the train is going to come to the station within five minutes"

'is going to come' के बदले 'will come' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि जब किसी कार्य के बारे में तुरंत भविष्य (immediate future) में सामान्य भविष्यवाणी या निश्चित घटना बतानी हो, तो 'will' अधिक उपयुक्त होता है, न कि 'is going to'.

- 'will come' will be used instead of 'is going to come' because the sentence expresses a simple future event (train arrival in a few minutes), so 'will' is preferred for natural and correct expression; Like— The train will arrive in five minutes.

21. B) The blank requires a verb in the present tense that shows the result of reflecting on the past. The writer is thinking about the last three years and comes to a conclusion. "(realise)" means to become fully aware of something as a fact, which perfectly fits the transition from reflecting to understanding. A) doubt, C) deny, and D) ignore are negative verbs that contradict the writer's ongoing feeling of wanting to thank her friends.

- Blank को present tense के एक ऐसे verb की ज़रूरत है जो past पर reflect करने के result को दिखाए। Writer पिछले तीन सालों के बारे में सोच रही है और एक conclusion पर पहुँचती है। "(realise)" का मतलब है किसी fact को पूरी तरह से समझना या महसूस करना, जो reflect करने से समझने तक के transition के लिए एकदम सही है। A) doubt (शक करना), C) deny (मना करना), और D) ignore (अनदेखा करना) negative verbs हैं जो writer की अपने दोस्तों को धन्यवाद देने की continuous feeling को contradict करते हैं।

22. D) The blank requires a noun that connects to the opening sentence ("I've thanked you many times before"). "(Gratitude)" means the quality of being thankful, which directly links to her

repeatedly thanking her friends. A) Resentment means bitter anger. B) Sympathy means feeling pity for someone else. D) Patience means the ability to wait.

- Blank को एक ऐसे noun की ज़रूरत है जो opening sentence ("मैंने आपको पहले भी कई बार thank you बोला है") से connect करता हो। "(Gratitude)" का मतलब thankful होने की quality है, जो directly उसके द्वारा अपने दोस्तों को बार-बार धन्यवाद देने से related है। A) Resentment का मतलब गुस्सा या नाराज़गी है। B) Sympathy का मतलब हमदर्दी है। D) Patience का मतलब सब्र है, जिसका किसी को धन्यवाद देने से सीधा relation नहीं है।

23. C) The blank needs a preposition to show an exception. The writer says, "I had no idea what the future would hold" (meaning zero knowledge), but then introduces one specific thing she did know/feel: "the constant fear." "(except)" means "not including" or "other than," making it the perfect word to introduce the single thing she was certain about. A) regarding means 'about'. B) although and C) unless are conjunctions that don't fit the grammatical structure here.

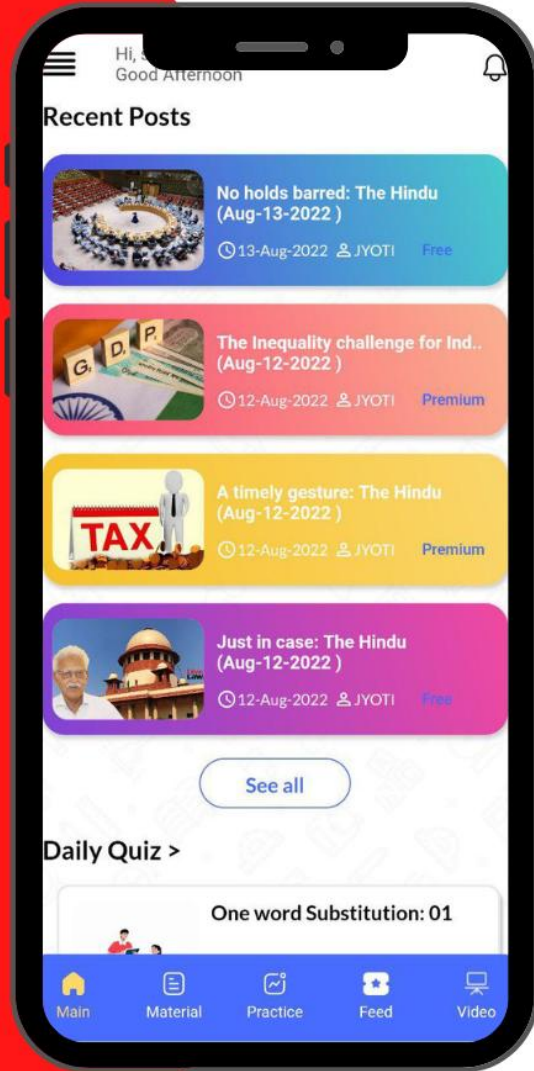
- Blank को एक exception दिखाने के लिए एक preposition की ज़रूरत है। Writer कहती है, "मुझे नहीं पता था कि future में क्या होगा" (मतलब zero knowledge), लेकिन फिर वह एक specific चीज़ introduce करती है जो वह जानती/महसूस करती थी: "constant fear"। "(except)" का मतलब है 'के सिवाय' या 'other than', जो उस इकलौती चीज़ को introduce करने के लिए एकदम perfect शब्द है जिसके बारे में वह sure थी। A) regarding का मतलब 'के बारे में' है। B) although और C) unless conjunctions हैं जो यहाँ grammatical structure में fit नहीं बैठते।

24. C) The blank requires an adjective describing the type of carer she became. Earlier, she states, "I don't have much close family to lean on," indicating she was doing all the work alone. "(sole)" means being the only one, and "sole carer" is the correct standard phrase for someone who has exclusive responsibility for looking after someone. A) soul refers to the spiritual part of a person. B) shoal is a large group of fish. D) solo is usually used for activities done alone (like a solo flight or solo artist), not typically as an adjective for "carer."

- Blank को एक ऐसे adjective की ज़रूरत है जो describe करे कि वह किस तरह की 'carer' बनी। Passage में पहले, वह बताती है, "मेरे पास सहारा लेने के लिए कोई close family नहीं है," जो indicate करता है कि वह सारा काम अकेले कर रही थी। "(sole)" का मतलब 'अकेला' या 'only one' है, और "sole carer" किसी ऐसे इंसान के लिए use होने वाला एक standard phrase है जिसके पास देखभाल करने की full responsibility होती है। A) soul का मतलब आत्मा है। B) shoal का मतलब मछलियों का झुंड है। D) solo का use generally अकेले की जाने वाली activities के लिए किया जाता है, 'carer' के लिए adjective की तरह नहीं।

25. B) The blank requires a phrase that logically connects to the previous sentence about "learning to cook" and making "early attempts" that were barely edible. "(trial and error)" is the exact phrase for the process of experimenting, failing, and learning from those mistakes, which perfectly describes her cooking journey. A) bread and butter is an idiom for a person's primary source of income. C) bits and pieces means small, random fragments. D) hustle and bustle means a large amount of busy, noisy activity.

Blank को एक ऐसे phrase की ज़रूरत है जो "खाना बनाना सीखने" और "early attempts" के बारे में previous sentence से logically connect करता हो। "(trial and error)" अलग-अलग methods try करने, fail होने और उन गलतियों से सीखने की process के लिए एकदम सही phrase है, जो उसकी cooking journey को perfectly describe करता है। A) bread and butter एक idiom है जिसका मतलब किसी इंसान की income का primary source है। C) bits and pieces का मतलब छोटे, random fragments है। D) hustle and bustle का मतलब busy और noisy activity (भागदौड़) है।



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