

Far from over: On the U.S.-Iran conflict

Iran and the U.S. must **address** the trust deficit for their talks to progress

It took only 20 days for the U.S.-Iran memorandum of understanding (MoU), which promised to extend the **ceasefire** by 60 days and launch talks about **outstanding** issues, including Iran's nuclear programme, to start **unravelling**. On Tuesday night, the U.S. carried out sweeping air strikes in Iran after three tankers were attacked in the Strait of Hormuz. Iran struck American bases in Kuwait and Bahrain after which Mr. Trump declared that the ceasefire was over. While he is known for making **exaggerated** claims, the current crisis **poses** the biggest challenge to the peace process since the June 17 MoU. The crisis did not emerge overnight. From the **outset**, the agreement had three major sticking points — Israel's **refusal** to withdraw from southern Lebanon, along with Washington's **push for** a parallel **trilateral framework** involving the U.S., Lebanon and Israel, as **violations** of the spirit of the MoU. And, despite talks, Iran has yet to get access to its frozen funds. Finally, Iran appears **determined** to **assert** control over the Strait. It has opened a "safe passage route" along its **coast**, while the U.S. is **backing** an alternative route along Oman's coast.

Iran fears that the U.S. is trying to strip away the **leverage** it established over the Strait during the war by promoting an alternative route. The U.S. does not want Iran to emerge as the **sole custodian** of a strategic waterway. These **conflicting** positions trigger **skirmishes**, further **undermining** the MoU. What **Mr. Trump**, who senses strategic defeat, **is** trying to do is to **mount** economic and military pressure on Tehran to change its position on the Strait. He can continue his air campaign, but his years-long maximum pressure and 40 days of bombing have done little to **alter** Iran's negotiating positions. If he returns to war over Hormuz, Iran's **stance** on its nuclear programme — still **unaddressed** — would only **get** hardened. If war resumes, it would be bad news for the whole West Asia region and the entire global economy. Mr. Trump is at a strategic dead end, and instead of **digging deeper**, should stick to his **way-out** road map — the MoU. An **obstacle** in the peace process **is** the complete absence of trust. Mr. Trump's public **tirades** and **abuses** against Iran's leadership and **hyperbolic** threats, which are **detached** from ground realities, **are** not helping his **cause**. Equally, if Iran continues targeting commercial vessels, it risks being seen as an aggressor rather than a victim. Both sides should address the trust deficit, resolve the sticking points in the MoU and begin serious talks about the **outstanding** issues for a final settlement.

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Far from** (phrase) - not at all, nowhere near, not even close. से बहुत दूर
2. **Address** (verb) - tackle, deal with, handle, resolve, confront. समाधान करना
3. **Trust deficit** (noun) - lack of trust, mistrust, skepticism, lack of confidence. विश्वास की कमी
4. **Memorandum of understanding** (noun) - a formal agreement between parties; MoU. समझौता ज्ञापन
5. **Ceasefire** (noun) - truce, armistice, peace, suspension of hostilities. युद्धविराम
6. **Outstanding** (adjective) - unresolved, pending, unfinished, remaining, unsettled. लंबित या बकाया
7. **Unravelling** (verb) - breaking down, disintegrating, coming apart, failing, collapsing. बिखरना
8. **Carry out** (phrasal verb) - to execute, perform, conduct. अंजाम देना
9. **Sweeping** (adjective) - extensive, wide-ranging, comprehensive, broad, vast. व्यापक
10. **Exaggerated** (adjective) - inflated, overstated, magnified, excessive, hyperbolic. बढ़ा-चढ़ाकर बताया गया
11. **Pose** (verb) - present, constitute, create, offer, cause. पैदा करना (जैसे चुनौती पैदा करना)
12. **Outset** (noun) - beginning, start, commencement, inception, initiation. शुरुआत
13. **Sticking point** (noun) - problem or issue that prevents progress or agreement. विवाद के मुद्दे
14. **Refusal** (noun) - rejection, denial, declination, disapproval, veto. इनकार
15. **Push for** (phrasal verb) - to advocate strongly for something, promote. दबाव डालना या समर्थन करना
16. **Trilateral** (adjective) - three-sided, tripartite, triple. त्रिपक्षीय
17. **Framework** (noun) - structure, system, plan, architecture, skeleton. ढांचा
18. **Violation** (noun) - breach, infringement, infraction, transgression, defiance. उल्लंघन
19. **Determined** (adjective) - resolute, firm, purposeful, decided, steadfast. दृढ़
20. **Assert** (verb) - claim, declare, maintain, affirm, state. दावा करना या स्थापित करना
21. **Coast** (noun) - shore, seaside, littoral, coastline, seaboard. तट
22. **Backing** (noun) - support, assistance, endorsement, sponsorship, aid. समर्थन
23. **Strip away** (phrasal verb) - to remove or take something away. छीन लेना या हटाना
24. **Leverage** (noun) - influence, advantage, power, weight, grip. प्रभाव या लाभ की स्थिति
25. **Sole** (adjective) - only, single, exclusive, unique, individual. एकमात्र
26. **Custodian** (noun) - guardian, caretaker, protector, warden, keeper. संरक्षक

27. **Conflicting** (adjective) - contradictory, opposing, clashing, inconsistent, discordant. विरोधाभासी
28. **Skirmishes** (noun) - battles, fights, clashes, scuffles, engagements. छोटी लड़ाई या झड़प
29. **Undermine** (verb) - weaken, sabotage, threaten, erode, subvert. कमजोर करना
30. **Mount** (verb) - increase, intensify, escalate, build up, grow. बढ़ाना (जैसे दबाव बढ़ाना)
31. **Alter** (verb) - change, modify, adjust, adapt, transform. बदलना
32. **Stance** (noun) - position, attitude, viewpoint, standpoint, perspective. रुख या दृष्टिकोण
33. **Unaddressed** (adjective) - ignored, unresolved, neglected, overlooked, unattended. जिस पर ध्यान न दिया गया हो
34. **Dig deep** (phrase) - to get more involved in a difficult situation. गहराई में उतरना
35. **Stick to** (phrasal verb) - to continue with something, adhere to. पालन करना या डटे रहना
36. **Way-out** (noun) - solution, exit, remedy, path, option. रास्ता या समाधान
37. **Obstacle** (noun) - hurdle, barrier, hindrance, impediment, block. बाधा
38. **Tirades** (noun) - rants, harangues, diatribes, attacks, lectures. भड़काऊ भाषण या आलोचना
39. **Hyperbolic** (adjective) - exaggerated, overstated, inflated, grandiloquent, florid. अतिशयोक्तिपूर्ण
40. **Detached** (adjective) - disconnected, aloof, disinterested, indifferent, removed. अलग-थलग या बेअसर
41. **Cause** (noun) - movement, objective, goal, principle, purpose. उद्देश्य या अभियान

Summary of the Editorial

1. **The U.S.-Iran ceasefire agreement is weakening** just 20 days after the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed.
2. **The latest crisis began** when the U.S. launched large-scale air strikes on Iran following attacks on three tankers in the Strait of Hormuz.
3. **Iran retaliated** by attacking U.S. military bases in Kuwait and Bahrain, prompting President Donald Trump to declare the ceasefire over.
4. **This is the most serious challenge** to the peace process since the June 17 MoU was signed.
5. **Three unresolved issues** have undermined the agreement:
 - Israel's military presence in southern Lebanon,
 - Iran's access to its frozen financial assets,
 - Control over the Strait of Hormuz.
6. **Iran accuses the U.S. and Israel** of violating the spirit of the MoU by refusing Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon and promoting a trilateral framework involving Lebanon, Israel, and the U.S.
7. **Despite negotiations, Iran has not regained access** to its frozen funds, increasing its dissatisfaction with the agreement.
8. **The Strait of Hormuz remains the central strategic dispute**, with Iran establishing a "safe passage route" while the U.S. supports an alternative route through Oman's coast.
9. **Iran fears the U.S. is attempting to weaken** its strategic influence over the Strait by encouraging alternative shipping routes.
10. **The U.S. wants to prevent Iran** from becoming the dominant power controlling one of the world's most important maritime trade routes.
11. **President Trump's strategy of economic sanctions and military pressure** has failed to significantly change Iran's negotiating position.
12. **Renewed conflict over the Strait of Hormuz** could harden Iran's stance on its nuclear programme, making diplomatic solutions even more difficult.
13. **A return to full-scale war** would threaten regional stability in West Asia and seriously disrupt the global economy due to the importance of oil shipments through the Strait.
14. **The editorial argues that Trump should continue with diplomacy** through the existing MoU instead of escalating military action.
15. **The key obstacle to lasting peace is the deep trust deficit** between the U.S. and Iran. Both countries must avoid provocative actions, resolve the unresolved issues in the MoU, and engage in sincere negotiations for a permanent settlement.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **According to the passage, which of the following statements is true?** [Editorial Page]
 - A. The 40 days of continuous air campaigns transformed Iran's long-standing negotiating parameters
 - B. The recent military skirmishes emerged immediately without any pre-existing underlying disputes over regional access
 - C. The competing navigation channels proposed along different coastlines serve as a major point of friction between the two nations
 - D. The trilateral framework proposed by Washington has successfully resolved the crisis over frozen funds
2. **Which of the following best describes one of the main ideas discussed in the passage?**
 - A. The collapse of the ceasefire stems from deep-rooted, unaddressed structural disputes and a total lack of mutual trust
 - B. External trilateral diplomatic frameworks have successfully resolved the issue of Iran's access to its frozen funds
 - C. Renewed war over the strategic waterway will force Iran to compromise on its nuclear programme
 - D. Escalating economic and military pressure is a highly effective mechanism to alter long-standing state negotiating stances
3. **Which of the following views does the author fully support in the passage?**
 - A. Renewed military hostility in the Strait of Hormuz will effectively soften Iran's stance on its nuclear programme
 - B. Continuing a high-intensity air campaign remains the most viable way for the U.S. to escape its strategic dead end
 - C. Diplomatic progress is severely hindered when public threats and rhetoric are entirely decoupled from factual ground realities
 - D. Iran will successfully preserve its strategic victim status even if it continues to strike down commercial vessels
4. **In the context of the passage, which of the following statements would not be true?**
 - A. The U.S. conducted its sweeping air strikes inside Iran as a direct structural response to the bombardment of American bases in Kuwait and Bahrain.
 - B. Tehran views the introduction of a parallel diplomatic framework involving Israel and Lebanon as a direct breach of the MoU's intended spirit.
 - C. The alternative maritime navigation channel supported by the United States is structurally designated to run along the coastline of Oman.
 - D. A resumption of open military conflict over the strategic waterway is projected to cause a harder, more unyielding Iranian stance on its nuclear programme.
5. **In the sentence, "These conflicting positions trigger skirmishes..." (second paragraph), what two specific developments is the author referring to?**
 - A. Mr. Trump launching targeted air strikes on inland targets and Iran striking back at U.S. naval carriers in the Mediterranean
 - B. Iran establishing a dedicated navigation route along its own coastline and the U.S. promoting an alternative route along Oman's coast

- C. Washington pushing for a trilateral peace framework with Lebanon and Tehran freezing all remaining American financial assets
- D. Iran successfully wiping out the U.S. naval presence in Hormuz and Mr. Trump abandoning the underlying framework of the MoU
6. **Direction: Rearrange the following sentences (1, 2, 3, 4) to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent passage.**
1. A poet knows that he is not more than a mirror of these intimate secrets of the human heart of which the heart itself is so often unaware.
 2. Mrs. Naidu delivered an inspiring address in the course of which she said she would like to destroy all printing presses that printed poetry.
 3. The Mission of Poets" was the subject of an interesting lecture, delivered by Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, to-day, at the instance of the Poetry Society.
 4. And to leave it at the mercy of all learned professors to teach the young how to paraphrase, analyse, interpret, and scan poetry.
- A. 3-2-1-4
B. 3-2-4-1
C. 2-4-3-1
D. 1-3-2-4
7. **Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.**
- A. The train B. left the station C. before we D. had arrived.
- A. The train
B. left the station
C. before we
D. had arrived
8. **Fill in the blank with the most appropriate idiom:**
After months of subtle manipulation, she finally showed her true colors and _____.
- A. played her cards right
B. stabbed him in the back
C. took the bull by the horns
D. burned the midnight oil
9. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the word: Fastidious**
- A. Easygoing
B. Indulgent
C. Meticulous
D. Careless
10. **Choose the correct passive voice transformation of the sentence:**
The chef had prepared the special dish.
- A. The special dish was prepared by the chef.
B. The special dish had been prepared by the chef.
C. The special dish has been prepared by the chef.
D. The special dish is being prepared by the chef.
11. **Choose the most suitable option to replace the highlighted part of the sentence:**
The girl walked the dog, in a green dress.
- A. walk the dog, in a green dress

- B. walking the dog, in a green dress
C. in a green dress, walked the dog
D. in a green dress, walking the dog
12. **Choose the correct meaning of the idiom: Waxed and waned**
A. Increased and decreased
B. Grown steadily
C. Expanded and contracted rapidly
D. Became fixed and stable
13. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in indirect voice.**
The captain said, "We have been sailing in these choppy waters for two days, and we expect that the storm, which is now on the horizon, will hit us in a few hours."
A. The captain said that they have been sailing in these choppy waters for two days, and they expect that the storm, which is now on the horizon, will hit them in a few hours.
B. The captain said that they had been sailing in those choppy waters for two days, and they expected that the storm, which was then on the horizon, would hit them in a few hours.
C. The captain said that they had been sailing in these choppy waters for two days, and they expected that the storm, which was then on the horizon, would hit them in a few hours.
D. The captain said that they had been sailing in those choppy waters for two days, and they expected that the storm, which is now on the horizon, will hit them in a few hours.
14. **Change the following sentence into the Active form.**
Why had the highly sensitive company report been rejected by the board of directors?
A. Why had the board of directors rejected the highly sensitive company report?
B. Why the board of directors had rejected the highly sensitive company report?
C. The board of directors had rejected the highly sensitive company report, why?
D. Why did the board of directors reject the highly sensitive company report?
15. **Select the most appropriate antonym of the word: Gregarious**
A. Sociable
B. Solitary
C. Friendly
D. Outgoing
16. **Choose the correctly spelt word:**
A. Millenium
B. Millennium
C. Millenniam
D. Milenium
17. **Choose the correct one-word substitute for:**
The art of beautiful handwriting.
A. Calligraphy
B. Orthography
C. Orthography
D. Etymology
18. **Direction: Rearrange the following sentences (1, 2, 3, 4) to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent passage.**

1. A former Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation, Dr. Raghavan is not only an accomplished police officer but also a writer and academic.
 2. R.K. Raghavan, a Tamil Nadu cadre IAS officer of the 1963 batch, investigated the Bofors case, the match-fixing case in 2000 that saw the ouster of Indian cricket captain Mohammad Azharuddin, the fodder scam of Bihar's former chief minister Lalu Prasad, and others.
 3. In this conversation, he speaks of his assessment of certain historical events as well as the chronic issues and challenges confronting the country.
 4. In his autobiography A Road Well Travelled (Westland, second edition), Dr. Raghavan, 85, reflects not only on his life, both personal and professional, but also on larger issues such as governance, inter-group tensions in rural areas, criminal justice administration, and representation of minorities in the police forces of the U.S. and India.
- A. 2-1-3-4
B. 4-3-2-1
C. 2-1-4-3
D. 1-2-4-3
19. **Select the most appropriate antonym of the word: Upright**
- A. Corrupt
B. Honest
C. Ethical
D. Noble
20. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.**
- This is an egregious example of the worst inequalities of (A) / / the housing crisis, but (B) / also not as unusual as you may think. (C)
- A. This is an egregious example of the worst inequalities of
B. the housing crisis, but
C. also not as unusual as you may think.
D. No error

Read the cloze passage and answer the following questions:

The _____(1) hills of Kerala's Wayanad district turned into the theatre of yet another weather-induced disaster when a heavy downpour, on July 7, triggered what looked like a debris slide at the entrance to the under-construction twin tunnel at Kalladi in Meppadi panchayat, in the _____(2) of Chooralmala, which was wrecked by massive landslides two years ago. Six workers were confirmed dead. The Kerala government has suspended construction work until the completion of a comprehensive _____(3) into the causes and whether the work complied with the conditions set by the Expert Appraisal Committee under the Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) while granting environmental clearance for the project. Ever since the great floods of 2018, Meppadi panchayat, which is over 7,000 ft above sea level, has witnessed severe climate-induced catastrophes. Landslides hit the Puthumala area in 2019, within hours of an equally lethal landslide across the hills in Kavalappara in Malappuram district. Environmentalists, therefore, made an impassioned _____(4) against the ₹2,100 crore (approximately) 8.73-km-long twin-tube tunnel road, linking Anakkampoyil in Kozhikode to Meppadi, flagging it as a recipe for disaster. It was instead fast-

tracked, citing the need for accelerated mobility for the people of Wayanad, which does not have tertiary care facilities. In April this year, the Supreme Court cited the project's 'national importance' and rejected the Wayanad Prakrithi Samrakshana Samithi's plea to halt it. The group is planning to seek a review _____(5) the order.

21. **Select the most appropriate option for (1):**

- A. volatile
- B. fragile
- C. exhausted
- D. standard

22. **Select the most appropriate option for (2):**

- A. periphery
- B. boundary
- C. distance
- D. vicinity

23. **Select the most appropriate option for (3):**

- A. audit
- B. inquiry
- C. probe
- D. preview

24. **Select the most appropriate option for (4):**

- A. protest
- B. appeal
- C. demand
- D. plea

25. **Select the correct preposition to fill in the blank (5):**

- A. on
- B. for
- C. by
- D. of

Answers

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

[\[Practice exercise\]](#)

Explanations

1. C) **The competing navigation channels proposed along different coastlines serve as a major point of friction between the two nations**

Line from the passage: "It has opened a "safe passage route" along its coast, while the U.S. is backing an alternative route along Oman's coast. Iran fears that the U.S. is trying to strip away the leverage... These conflicting positions trigger skirmishes..." The passage explicitly states that Iran has opened a "'safe passage route' along its coast," while the U.S. is backing an alternative route "along Oman's coast." It goes on to explain that "These conflicting positions trigger skirmishes, further undermining the MoU," showing that these competing routes are a primary source of friction.

(a) is INCORRECT: The passage states the exact opposite: Donald Trump's "years-long maximum pressure and 40 days of bombing have done little to alter Iran's negotiating positions."

(b) is INCORRECT: The passage clearly notes that "The crisis did not emerge overnight" and that underlying disputes over the Strait of Hormuz, frozen funds, and Lebanon existed "From the outset."

(d) is INCORRECT: The trilateral framework concerns Israel's war in Lebanon, not frozen funds. Furthermore, the passage states that despite talks, "Iran has yet to get access to its frozen funds," meaning that issue remains completely unresolved.

2. A) **The collapse of the ceasefire stems from deep-rooted, unaddressed structural disputes and a total lack of mutual trust**

The entire second paragraph is dedicated to explaining that the collapse of the MoU was not an overnight accident, but rather the result of three deep-rooted structural disputes that existed from the very beginning: Israel's war in Lebanon, access to frozen funds, and control over the Strait of Hormuz. Furthermore, the final paragraph emphasizes that the greatest obstacle preventing a resolution to these disputes is the "complete absence of trust" and a severe "trust deficit" between the two nations. option (a) perfectly synthesizes these two core pillars of the author's argument.

(c) is incorrect: The author states the exact opposite at the end of the second paragraph: "If he returns to war over Hormuz, Iran's stance on its nuclear programme... would only get hardened." It will not force a compromise.

(b) is incorrect: The trilateral framework proposed by Washington was related to Israel's war in Lebanon, not the frozen funds. Additionally, the passage explicitly states that the issue of frozen funds is completely unresolved ("Iran has yet to get access to its frozen funds").

(d) is incorrect: The author explicitly argues against this idea, noting that Donald Trump's "years-long maximum pressure and 40 days of bombing have done little to alter Iran's negotiating positions."

3. C) **Diplomatic progress is severely hindered when public threats and rhetoric are entirely decoupled from factual ground realities**

In the second paragraph, the author directly analyzes the major obstacles to the peace process, explicitly focusing on the issue of communication and trust. The author writes: "An obstacle in the peace process is the complete absence of trust. Mr. Trump's public tirades and abuses against Iran's leadership and hyperbolic threats, which are detached from ground realities, are not helping his cause." This directly supports statement (c), indicating that public rhetoric and threats that are detached ("decoupled") from ground realities harm diplomatic progress by worsening the trust deficit.

(a) is incorrect: The author argues the exact opposite, stating that if war resumes, "Iran's stance on its nuclear programme — still unaddressed — would only get hardened." It would not soften.

(b) is incorrect: The passage explicitly states that Mr. Trump is at a "strategic dead end" and that his air campaign and bombing "have done little to alter Iran's negotiating positions." The author argues he should stick to the MoU instead.

(d) is incorrect: The author explicitly warns that if Iran continues this behavior, it will lose its victim status: "Equally, if Iran continues targeting commercial vessels, it risks being seen as an aggressor rather than a victim."

4. **A) The U.S. conducted its sweeping air strikes inside Iran as a direct structural response to the bombardment of American bases in Kuwait and Bahrain.**

Statement (a) reverses the chronological order of events described in the passage.. According to the first paragraph: 1) First, three tankers were attacked in the Strait of Hormuz. 2.) In direct response to that, the U.S. carried out sweeping air strikes in Iran. 3.) After the U.S. air strikes, Iran struck back at American bases in Kuwait and Bahrain, prompting Donald Trump to declare the ceasefire over. Therefore, the U.S. air strikes were a response to the tanker attacks, not a response to the bombardment of bases in Kuwait and Bahrain.

(b) is true: The second paragraph explicitly states that "Tehran sees Israel's refusal to withdraw... along with Washington's push for a parallel trilateral framework involving the U.S., Lebanon and Israel, as violations of the spirit of the MoU."

(c) is true: The second paragraph explicitly notes that "the U.S. is backing an alternative route along Oman's coast."

(d) is true: The second paragraph explicitly states, "If he returns to war over Hormuz, Iran's stance on its nuclear programme — still unaddressed — would only get hardened."

5. **B) Iran establishing a dedicated navigation route along its own coastline and the U.S. promoting an alternative route along Oman's coast**

The phrase "These conflicting positions trigger skirmishes" appears immediately after the author details the exact competing strategies for the strategic waterway in the first paragraph: "Finally, Iran appears determined to assert control over the Strait. It has opened a 'safe passage route' along its coast, while the U.S. is backing an alternative route along Oman's coast." The passage then directly connects these maritime routes to the friction, opening the second paragraph with: "Iran fears that the U.S. is trying to strip away the leverage it established over the Strait... The U.S. does not want Iran to emerge as the sole custodian... These conflicting positions trigger skirmishes..."

(a) is incorrect: The passage mentions strikes on bases in Kuwait and Bahrain, not naval carriers in the Mediterranean.

(c) is incorrect: While the trilateral framework is mentioned, Iran freezing American assets is not in the passage.

(d) is incorrect: Iran did not wipe out the U.S. naval presence, and the author explicitly urges Trump not to abandon the MoU framework, meaning he hasn't done so yet.

6. B) 3-2-4-1

- Sentence 3 पैराग्राफ की शुरुआत में आया क्योंकि यह व्याख्यान (lecture) के विषय और मुख्य वक्ता (Mrs. Sarojini Naidu) को स्पष्ट रूप से introduce करता है।
- Sentence 2 Sentence 3 के बाद आया क्योंकि यह सीधे तौर पर उसी भाषण के मुख्य अंश (inspiring address) और प्रेरित प्रेसों को नष्ट करने की उनकी इच्छा को expand करता है।
- Sentence 4 Sentence 2 के बाद आया क्योंकि यह "And to leave it..." से शुरू होता है, जो सीधे तौर पर Sentence 2 में कही गई बात ("would like to destroy...") की निरंतरता है और वाक्य को पूरा करता है।
- Sentence 1 Sentence 4 के बाद आया क्योंकि यह पैराग्राफ का conclusion है। यह बाहरी छपाई और प्रोफेसर की चर्चा से ध्यान हटाकर कवि के वास्तविक, आंतरिक कर्तव्य (mirror of the human heart) को स्पष्ट करता है।
- Sentence 3 starts the passage because it establishes the foundational context, introducing the speaker, the organization, and the core title of the lecture.
- Sentence 2 follows Sentence 3 because it details the specific initiation of her actual address, moving seamlessly from the introduction of the lecture into her speech.
- Sentence 4 follows Sentence 2 because the conjunction "And to leave it..." serves as a direct grammatical and logical continuation of the statement started in Sentence 2, completing the thought.
- Sentence 1 concludes the passage as the thematic synthesis, shifting away from the external handling and rules of poetry to reveal the intrinsic role of a poet as a mirror of human emotions.

7. D) **had arrived** के बदले 'arrived' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'before' जैसा time-conjunction दो Past घटनाओं को जोड़ता है और यहाँ Past Perfect की आवश्यकता नहीं होती; दोनों क्रियाएँ Simple Past में होंगी। जैसे— "The train left before we reached the platform."

- 'arrived' will be used instead of 'had arrived' because with time conjunctions like 'before', when two actions happened in the past, Simple Past is used for both; Like — "The train left before we reached the platform."

8. B) **stabbed him in the back** – to betray someone धोखा देना / पीठ में छुरा घोंपना

- **played her cards right** – acted wisely to achieve success समझदारी से काम करना
- **took the bull by the horns** – faced a difficult situation boldly कठिन परिस्थिति का साहस से सामना करना
- **burned the midnight oil** – worked late into the night देर रात तक मेहनत करना

9. C) **Fastidious** (adjective) – Very attentive to detail, precise, demanding, difficult to please; fussy, particular, meticulous, exacting, perfectionist. अत्यधिक चुस्त / सूक्ष्मता-प्रिय

Synonym: **Meticulous** (adjective) – Showing great attention to detail; careful, precise. सूक्ष्मता से कार्य करने वाला

- **Easygoing** (adjective) – Relaxed, tolerant, not easily upset. निश्चित / सरल स्वभाव
- **Indulgent** (adjective) – Lenient, permissive. लाड़ करने वाला

- **Careless** (adjective) – Negligent, inattentive. लापरवाह
10. B) **The special dish had been prepared by the chef.**
 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 प्रयोग किया जाता है। Active वाक्य में "The chef" Subject है, "had prepared" Verb (Past Perfect Tense) है और "the special dish" Object है। Passive में बदलने पर Object "The special dish" Subject बन गया है, Verb को "had been prepared" (Past Perfect Passive) में बदला गया है और "by the chef" के रूप में प्रयोग किया 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 chef" (Subject), "had prepared" (Verb in Past Perfect), and "the special dish" (Object) from the active voice have been transformed into "The special dish" (Subject), "had been prepared" (Passive Verb in Past Perfect), and "by the chef".
11. C) 'walked the dog, in a green dress' के बदले **'in a green dress, walked the dog'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि Modifier 'in a green dress' को उस Subject के पास रखना होता है जिसे वह qualify कर रहा है। यहाँ Dress लड़की की है, इसलिए Modifier को Subject 'The girl' के ठीक बाद रखा गया है; जैसे— The girl in a red coat crossed the road.
- 'in a green dress, walked the dog' will be used instead of 'walked the dog, in a green dress' because the modifier 'in a green dress' must be placed close to the noun it qualifies. Here the dress belongs to the girl, so the modifier should directly follow the subject 'The girl'; Like— The girl in a red coat crossed the road.
12. A) **Waxed and waned** (idiom)- Increased and decreased कभी बढ़ना कभी घटना / उतार-चढ़ाव आना
13. B) **The captain said that they had been sailing in those choppy waters for two days, and they expected that the storm, which was then on the horizon, would hit them in a few hours.**
 Direct Speech से Indirect Speech में बदलने के लिए, Direct वाक्य के reported words को reporting verb के बाद indirect clause में परिवर्तित किया जाता है। Pronouns को sense के अनुसार बदला जाता है और यदि reporting verb past tense में हो तो reported speech के tense को एक step पीछे किया जाता है। Direct वाक्य में "The captain" Subject व "said" reporting verb है। Reported speech में "We have been sailing" (Present Perfect Continuous) को "they had been sailing" (Past Perfect Continuous) में बदला गया है। "we expect" (Simple Present) को "they expected" (Simple Past) में बदला गया है और "will hit" (Simple Future) को "would hit" (Future-in-the-Past) में बदला गया है। Time-place words में "these" को "those" तथा "now" को "then" में बदला गया है।
- To change a sentence from Direct to Indirect Speech, the exact quoted part is transformed into a reported clause after the reporting verb. Pronouns are changed according to the point of view, and if the reporting verb is in the past tense, the tense of the reported speech shifts back one step. In this case, "We have been sailing" (Present Perfect Continuous) changes to "they had been sailing" (Past Perfect Continuous), "expect" (Simple Present) changes to "expected" (Simple Past), and "will hit" (Future) changes to "would hit" (Future-in-the-Past). Time-place words "these" changes to "those" and "now" changes to "then".
14. A) **Why had the board of directors rejected the highly sensitive company report?**

Passive से Active Voice में बदलने के लिए Passive वाक्य का Subject (जो असल में Object होता है) Active वाक्य में Object बन जाता है और Passive वाक्य का Agent (by + subject) Active वाक्य का Subject बन जाता है। Passive वाक्य में "had been rejected" (Past Perfect Passive) है, जिसे Active में "had rejected" (Past Perfect Active) में बदला गया है। Passive वाक्य में "the highly sensitive company report" Object है और "the board of directors" Agent है, इसलिए Active में "the board of directors" Subject बना और "the highly sensitive company report" Object बना।

- To change a sentence from Passive to Active Voice, the subject of the passive (which is originally the object) becomes the object in the active form, while the agent (introduced by "by") becomes the subject. The verb is transformed from passive form "had been rejected" (Past Perfect Passive) into active form "had rejected" (Past Perfect Active). Here, "the highly sensitive company report" functions as the object in the active sentence, and "the board of directors" functions as the subject.

15. B) **Gregarious** (adjective) – Fond of company; sociable; outgoing; friendly; convivial. मिलनसार / संग-साथ पसंद करने वाला

Antonym: **Solitary** (adjective) – Preferring to be alone; unsociable; withdrawn. एकांतप्रिय / अकेला रहने वाला

- **Sociable** (adjective) – Enjoying the company of others. मिलनसार
- **Friendly** (adjective) – Kind, pleasant, warm. मित्रतापूर्ण
- **Outgoing** (adjective) – Extroverted, social, cheerful. हंसमुख / मेलजोल पसंद करने वाला

16. B) The correctly spelt word is **Millennium** which means "a period of one thousand years" एक हजार वर्षों की अवधि।

17. A) **Calligraphy** (noun) – the art of beautiful handwriting सुन्दर लेखन कला

- **Orthography** (noun) – correct spelling प्रणाली सही वर्तनी प्रणाली
- **Lexicography** (noun) – the practice of compiling dictionaries शब्दकोश निर्माण कला
- **Etymology** (noun) – the study of word origins शब्द-व्युत्पत्ति विज्ञान

18. C) **2-1-4-3**

- Sentence 2 पैराग्राफ की शुरुआत में आएगा क्योंकि यह आर.के. राघवन के नाम, उनके बैच और उनके द्वारा जांच किए गए प्रमुख मामलों का उल्लेख करके मुख्य विषय को introduce करता है।
- Sentence 1 Sentence 2 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह सीधे तौर पर "Dr. Raghavan" के पद (CBI निदेशक) और उनके एक लेखक व अकादमिक होने के बहुआयामी व्यक्तित्व को expand करता है।
- Sentence 4 Sentence 1 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि पिछले वाक्य में उनके 'लेखक' होने की बात से जुड़ते हुए, यह उनकी आत्मकथा (autobiography) और उसमें शामिल मुख्य विषयों को दर्शाता है।
- Sentence 3 Sentence 4 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह पूरे पैराग्राफ का conclusion है। यह आत्मकथा के विषयों की चर्चा को समाप्त करते हुए वर्तमान बातचीत ("In this conversation") और उसके मुख्य एजेंडे पर आकर पैराग्राफ को पूरा करता है।
 - Sentence 2 starts the passage because it establishes the foundational context, explicitly introducing R.K. Raghavan, his background, and the famous high-profile cases he handled.
 - Sentence 1 follows Sentence 2 because it acts as a logical progression, building on his identity by highlighting his designation as the former CBI Director and introducing his side as a writer and academic.

- Sentence 4 follows Sentence 1 because it directly connects to his profile as a "writer" by introducing his specific literary work, his autobiography, and detailing the broad subjects it covers.
 - Sentence 3 concludes the passage as the thematic synthesis, shifting the narrative focus from his written autobiography to the immediate, structured interview context ("In this conversation") and the specific topics discussed within it.
19. A) **Upright** (adjective) – Morally good, honest, ethical, and honorable; virtuous, just, principled, ethical, righteous. सत्यनिष्ठ / ईमानदार
Antonym: **Corrupt** (adjective) – Dishonest or immoral; willing to act wrongly for personal gain. भ्रष्ट / अनैतिक
- **Honest** (adjective) – Truthful, sincere. ईमानदार
 - **Ethical** (adjective) – Morally right, principled. नैतिक
 - **Noble** (adjective) – Honorable, dignified, virtuous. उदार / श्रेष्ठ
20. D) **No error**
21. B) **fragile**
Fragile is used because it means delicate or easily broken down. This perfectly fits the hills that are weak and prone to landslides during a heavy downpour. Volatile means highly unstable in behavior, which usually describes chemical states or tempers rather than physical terrain damage. Exhausted means fully tired or drained, and Standard means normal, both of which miss the core idea of physical weakness.
- यहाँ Fragile का use किया जाएगा क्योंकि इसका अर्थ नाजुक या आसानी से टूटने वाला होता है, जो भारी बारिश में ढहने वाली कमजोर पहाड़ियों के लिए बिल्कुल सही है। Volatile का अर्थ अस्थिर या अप्रत्याशित होता है जो अक्सर स्वभाव या रसायनों के लिए आता है। Exhausted का अर्थ थका हुआ होता है और Standard का अर्थ सामान्य होता है, जो यहाँ गलत हैं।
22. D) **vicinity**
Vicinity is used because it means the nearby or surrounding area of a place. The text shows that Kalladi is physically close to Chooralmala. Periphery means the outer edge, which does not match the exact meaning of being nearby. Boundary means a dividing border line, which indicates a strict limit rather than general nearness. Distance means being far away, which completely contradicts the idea of being close.
- यहाँ Vicinity का use किया जाएगा क्योंकि इसका अर्थ किसी स्थान के आस-पास का क्षेत्र या पड़ोस होता है। यह दर्शाता है कि कल्लाडी का इलाका चूरलमाला के पास ही स्थित है। Periphery का अर्थ बाहरी किनारा होता है। Boundary का अर्थ सीमा रेखा होता है जो एक निश्चित सीमा को दिखाता है। Distance का अर्थ दूरी होता है, जो यहाँ बिल्कुल विपरीत अर्थ देगा।
23. C) **probe**
Probe is used because it means a deep and official investigation to find hidden facts about a disaster. The government suspended work to investigate the real causes. Audit means an official inspection of financial accounts, which does not fit a disaster investigation. Inquiry means asking for information, but "probe" is the exact word used for official investigations by authorities. Preview means an early viewing, which is impossible here.
- यहाँ Probe का use किया जाएगा क्योंकि इसका अर्थ किसी हादसे की गहराई से की जाने वाली आधिकारिक जांच होता है। Audit का use अक्सर वित्तीय या कागजी जांच के लिए होता है। Inquiry

का अर्थ पूछताछ होता है, लेकिन किसी बड़े हादसे की सरकारी जांच के लिए "probe" सबसे सही शब्द है। Preview का अर्थ पहले से देखना होता है, जो यहाँ गलत है।

24. D) **plea**

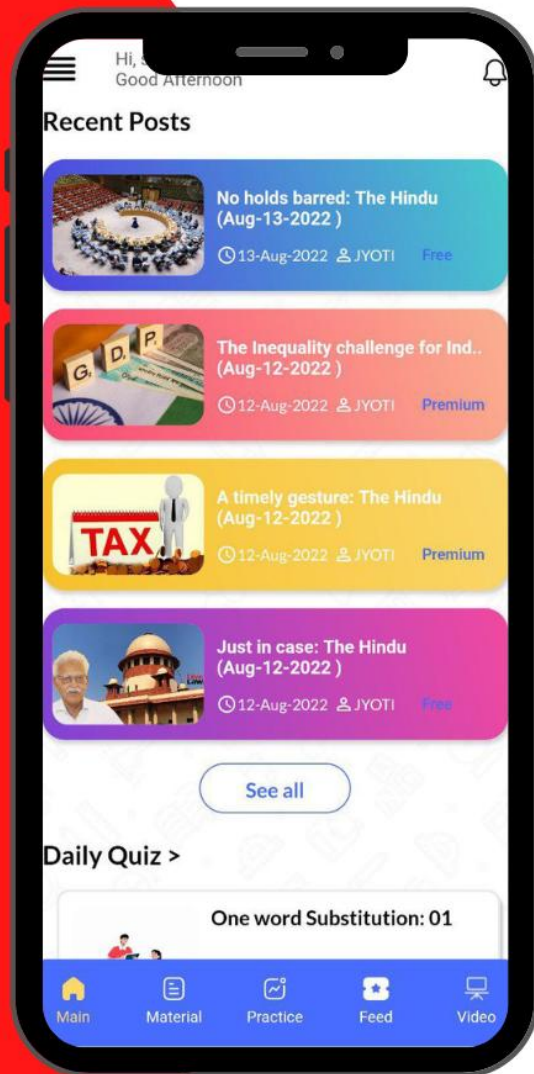
Plea is used because it means an earnest, emotional, and urgent request to an authority. It perfectly matches the word "impassioned" to show the strong appeal made by environmentalists. Appeal also means a request, but it does not match the exact writing style used with "impassioned". Protest means an expression of objection, and Demand means a forceful requirement, which lack the emotional request tone.

- यहाँ Plea का use किया जाएगा क्योंकि इसका अर्थ एक गंभीर या भावुक अनुरोध होता है। यह "impassioned" शब्द के साथ मिलकर पर्यावरणविदों की जोरदार और भावुक अपील को सही ढंग से दर्शाता है। Appeal का अर्थ भी अनुरोध होता है, लेकिन यह यहाँ लिखने की शैली (writing style) में सही नहीं बैठता। Protest का अर्थ विरोध प्रदर्शन होता है और Demand का अर्थ अधिकारपूर्वक मांग होता है, जो यहाँ गलत हैं।

25. D) **of**

Of is used because it is the correct linking word needed to complete the phrase "review of the order". This directly shows what is being reviewed (the court's judgment). At, For, and By are wrong because they do not make a correct or meaningful link after the word "review" when it points to a legal decision.

- यहाँ Of का use किया जाएगा क्योंकि यह "review of the order" (आदेश की समीक्षा) वाक्यांश को पूरा करने के लिए सही शब्द है, जो बताता है कि किस चीज़ की समीक्षा हो रही है। At, For, और By यहाँ गलत हैं क्योंकि ये शब्द एक कानूनी फैसले के साथ "review" शब्द के बाद सही जुड़ाव नहीं बना पाते हैं।



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