Qualified cheer: On Shubhanshu Shukla, Axiom-4 mission

Shubhanshu Shukla's paid flight to ISS will provide **insight** on human spaceflight

At noon on June 25, 2025 (IST), India's Shubhanshu Shukla **lifted off** with three other **astronauts** from NASA's Florida spaceport to the International Space Station (ISS) as part of the Axiom-4 commercial mission. This is the first time an Indian has gone to **orbital space** since Rakesh Sharma in 1984. If the Dragon **crew** capsule **docks** successfully with the ISS on June 26, Mr. Shukla will also become the first Indian **onboard** the ISS. Over the next two weeks, he and the ISS crew will perform a **suite** of experiments carried by the Axiom-4 mission, including eight from the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). Mr. Shukla is among the leading candidates to fly in India's **maiden** human space flight mission, Gaganyaan, currently **slated** for 2027. For now, the Department of Space has not **articulated** the reasons for spending ₹548 crore to buy Mr. Shukla's seat on Axiom-4. **Against the backdrop of** the ₹20,200-crore budget for Gaganyaan, Mr. Shukla's **paid flight** to the ISS, packaged along with advanced training for him and back-up crewmate Prasanth Nair, **will** give India **considerable** insight into human space flight and how it is **coordinated** ahead of **mounting** its own astronaut **expeditions**, **regardless of** the money spent. However, this does not **spare** the Department of Space and ISRO from communicating the **rationale** and extent of these benefits, which has yet to happen.

Space flight has changed **considerably** between Mr. Sharma's and Mr. Shukla's flights: the **stakes** today are **multidimensional** and more **demanding**. Axiom is a private entity contracted with NASA and SpaceX, and which sells seats to commercial missions to the ISS. But uncertainties **linger over** NASA's future access to the Dragon crew capsules **following** Elon Musk's **spat** with U.S. President Donald Trump. The **effects** of Mr. Trump's tariffs and his willingness to **honour predecessor** Joe Biden's **commitments** to India, **given** the major budget cuts he has proposed for 2026, **are** also unclear. And the ISS is set to be **decommissioned** by 2030. In this world, the future of India's own space programme is caught between multiple futures. **NASA and private U.S. companies**, including Blue Origin, **have** said they would like to use Gaganyaan technologies in future missions as part of **strengthening** U.S.-India **ties** in the space sector. But even as the country balances commercial with public sector needs, it needs to remain a relevant provider of space flight services. The Indian government has **signalled** that it is willing to take positive **steps** to **bolster** the private sector but which, **thus far**, **have** been inadequate. Thus, once Mr. Shukla returns, ISRO's to-do list will move to the next big challenge even as public **expectations** of it, including **transparent** communication, **will** soar.

<mark>[Practice Exercise]</mark>

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

Vocabulary

1. **Qualified** (adjective) – not complete or absolute; limited.

2. **Cheer** (noun) – Applause, acclaim, encouragement, praise, ovation उत्साहवर्धन

3. **Insight** (noun) – Understanding, perception, awareness, comprehension, discernment अंतर्दृष्टि

4. **Lift off** (phrasal verb) – Launch, ascend, blast off, take off, soar उड़ान भरना

5. **Astronaut** (noun) – Space traveler, cosmonaut, spacefarer, spaceman, mission specialist अंतरिक्ष यात्री

6. **Orbital space** (noun) – Earth orbit, orbital path, LEO (Low Earth Orbit), orbital zone, orbital plane कक्षा संबंधी अंतरिक्ष

7. **Crew** (noun) – Team, group, staff, personnel, unit चालक दल

8. **Dock** (verb) – Attach, connect, moor, berth, join जुड़ना / जोड़ना

9. **Onboard** (verb) – Embark, enter, board, load, install सवार होना

10. **Suite** (noun) – Set, collection, group, package, array संकलन / समूह

11. **Maiden** (adjective) – First, initial, inaugural, primary, introductory प्रारंभिक

12. **Slate** (verb) – Schedule, plan, designate, list, nominate निर्धारित करना

13. **Articulate** (verb) – Express, convey, state, communicate, verbalize स्पष्ट रूप से व्यक्त करना

14. **Against the backdrop** (phrase) – In the context of, considering, in light of, amid, based on की पृष्ठभूमि में

15. **Considerable** (adjective) – Significant, substantial, large, noteworthy, extensive काफ़ी

16. **Coordinate** (verb) – Organize, align, manage, synchronize, harmonize समन्वय करना

17. **Mount** (verb) – Launch, initiate, begin, start, undertake शुरू करना

18. **Expedition** (noun) – Mission, journey, voyage, exploration, operation अभियान / यात्रा

19. **Regardless of** (phrase) – Despite, notwithstanding, even though, although, without considering के बावजूद

20. **Spare** (verb) – Exempt, release, withhold, relieve, save बचाना / अलग रखना

21. **Rationale** (noun) – Reasoning, justification, logic, explanation, grounds तर्क

22. **Considerably** (adverb) – Significantly, greatly, markedly, extensively, substantially काफी हद तक

23. **Stake** (noun) – Risk, interest, share, involvement, investment दांव

24. **Multidimensional** (adjective) – Complex, multifaceted, diverse, varied, layered बहुआयामी

25. **Demanding** (adjective) – Challenging, taxing, tough, strenuous, rigorous कठिन / थकाऊ

26. **Linger** (over) (verb) – Remain, persist, stay, delay, dwell बने रहना

27. **Following** (preposition) – After, subsequent to, ensuing, in the wake of, post के बाद

28. **Spate** (noun) – Series, wave, outbreak, flood, rush अचानक वृद्धि

29. **Honour** (verb) – Fulfill, respect, uphold, abide by, carry out सम्मान देना / पालन करना

30. **Predecessor** (noun) – Forerunner, precursor, ancestor, antecedent, prior holder पूर्ववर्ती

31. **Commitment** (noun) – Promise, pledge, assurance, obligation, undertaking प्रतिबद्धता / वचन

32. **Given** (preposition) – Considering, in view of, taking into account, owing to, based on को देखते हुए

33. **Decommission** (verb) – Retire, deactivate, shut down, dismantle, phase out सेवा से हटाना

34. **Strengthen** (verb) – Reinforce, bolster, support, enhance, fortify मज़बूत करना

35. **Ties** (noun) – Relations, connections, links, bonds, associations संबंध

36. **Signal** (verb) – Indicate, show, express, announce, convey संकेत देना

37. **Bolster** (verb) – Support, reinforce, strengthen, boost, uphold मज़बूत करना

38. **Thus far** (phrase) – Until now, so far, up to this point, as yet, till date अब तक

39. **Transparent** (adjective) – Clear, open, honest, straightforward, evident पारदर्शी

40. **Soar** (verb) – Rise, surge, escalate, climb, increase बढ़ना

Summary of the Editorial

1. Shubhanshu Shukla launched to the ISS on June 25, 2025, via the Axiom-4 mission from NASA's Florida spaceport.

2. This marks the first Indian in orbital space since Rakesh Sharma's 1984 mission.

3. If docking succeeds, Shukla will become the first Indian to board the International Space Station (ISS).

4. He will conduct multiple experiments over two weeks, including eight by ISRO.

5. Shukla is a strong candidate for India's first indigenous human spaceflight mission, Gaganyaan, planned for 2027.

6. The Indian government spent ₹548 crore for Shukla's seat and training under Axiom-4.

7. Though expensive, the mission offers valuable experience in human spaceflight logistics and international coordination.

8. The government has not yet justified the expenditure publicly or explained the strategic benefits clearly.

9. Spaceflight today is more complex, with higher stakes and commercial-private collaborations like Axiom-NASA-SpaceX.

10. There are geopolitical uncertainties, including tensions between Elon Musk and Donald Trump, affecting future NASA collaborations.

11. Trump's tariffs and budget cuts may impact India-U.S. space ties and access to American space technologies.

12. The ISS is set to be decommissioned by 2030, adding urgency to India's space ambitions.

13. U.S. agencies and companies have shown interest in using Gaganyaan technologies in joint future missions.

14. India must balance public and private sector development in space services to stay globally competitive.

15. Once Shukla returns, public expectations from ISRO will rise, especially for transparency and progress in the space programme.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **How much did India reportedly spend for Shubhanshu Shukla's seat on the Axiom-4 mission, and what is the proposed budget for Gaganyaan?**
   A. ₹548 crore for Axiom-4; ₹20,200 crore for Gaganyaan
   B. ₹1,000 crore for Axiom-4; ₹10,000 crore for Gaganyaan
   C. ₹750 crore for Axiom-4; ₹25,000 crore for Gaganyaan
   D. ₹600 crore for Axiom-4; ₹15,000 crore for Gaganyaan

2. **What is the tone of the passage?**
   A. Jubilant
   B. Cautiously optimistic
   C. Dismissive
   D. Neutral

3. **What is the main theme of the passage?**
   A. The financial cost of space travel for India
   B. The international implications of private space partnerships
   C. India's entry into human spaceflight and the associated strategic, political, and public challenges
   D. Criticism of ISRO's lack of public communication

4. **Why is Shubhanshu Shukla's mission to the ISS considered historic for India?**
   A. He is the first Indian to fly with NASA astronauts
   B. He is the first Indian astronaut to command an international mission
   C. He is the first Indian trained by SpaceX for spacewalks
   D. He is the first Indian to go to orbital space since Rakesh Sharma and potentially the first to board the ISS

5. **What is a major concern related to India's participation in commercial missions like Axiom-4?**
   A. India's lack of access to launch vehicles
   B. The unavailability of qualified astronauts for long-duration space missions
   C. The lack of public transparency and communication by ISRO regarding the mission's benefits and costs
   D. The refusal of the U.S. to collaborate with India on Gaganyaan

6. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM for the underlined word.**
   They want to **bifurcate** the states.
   A. Combine
   B. Examine
   C. Support
   D. Divide

7. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**
   He is an intelligent person who always thinks before he _____.
   A. acting
   B. acts
   C. act
   D. acted

8. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word:**
   Grapple
   A. Clasp
   B. Release
   C. Wrestle
   D. Grumble

9. **The following sentence has been divided into parts. One of them may contain an error. Select the part that contains the error from the given options. If you don't find any error, mark 'No error' as your answer.**
   Ravi said that / his red jacket is / the cheaper than all other jackets.
   A. ravi said that
   B. no error
   C. his red jacket is
   D. the cheaper than all other jackets.

10. **Select the option that corrects the Phrasal Verb (appearing in bold letters) in the given sentence.**
    The burglarsbroke offmy neighbour's house when they were away.
    A. broke into
    B. broke down
    C. broke with
    D. broke away

11. **Rectify the sentence by selecting the correct spelling from the options.**
    After the storm passed, the sun emarged from behind the clouds
    A. emerged
    B. amergad
    C. amarged
    D. emerged

12. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**
    Straight from the horse's mouth
    A. Directly eating from the provider
    B. Giving no expression at all
    C. Rumours begin at home
    D. Directly from the person iInvolve

13. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the underlined word in the following sentence.**
    Don't fight over such a **trivial** issue.
    A. Complex
    B. Insignificant
    C. Controversial
    D. Tricky

14. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**
    The author's use of vivid imagery _____ the reader's senses, making the story come alive.

A. confuses

B. actions

C. heightens

D. dulls

15. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the underlined word in the given sentence.**

He is a complete **novice** when it comes to driving a car.

A. Swindler

B. Amateur

C. Expert

D. Zealous

16. **Select the appropriate option that can substitute the underlined word in the following sentence to make it grammatically correct.**

Smart watches are **the last** gadgets used by younger generations.

A. later

B. the later

C. latest

D. the latest

17. **Select the meaningful and correctly spelt word from the given options to fill in the blank.**

The oceans cover more than 70% of the Earth's surface, making them the largest _____ on the planet.

A. habit

B. hybrid

C. habitude

D. habitat

18. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**

My brother plays the guitar _____ than I do.

A. well

B. good

C. best

D. better

19. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**

The way Sonam performs live on stage can be called the _____ one.

A. more perfect

B. mostly perfect

C. most perfect

D. perfectable

20. **Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence. If there is no need to substitute it, select 'No substitution'.**

The pineapple dessert was **so delicious that we couldn't help eat it.**

A. so delicious that we couldn't helping eat it

B. No substitution

C. so delicious that we couldn't help eating it

D. so that delicious we couldn't help eating it

Comprehension:

In the following passage, some words have been deleted. Read the passage carefully and select the most appropriate option to fill in each blank:

In the realm of literature, words are the (1) _____ of creation, and authors are the (2) _____ of meaning. They skillfully weave stories with (3) _____ narratives that can (4) _____ the depths of human emotion. A well-crafted novel can (5) _____ readers into its world, making them forget the passage of time.

21. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 1.

A. isolate

B. convey

C. tools

D. mundane

22. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 2.

A. keepers

B. direction

C. coward

D. vibrators

23. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 3.

A. mundane

B. vivid

C. defrost

D. convey

24. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 4.

A. pilot

B. teacher

C. banker

D. sailor

25. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 5.

A. repel

B. isolate

C. captivate

D. immerse

Answers

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

Explanations

1. **A) ₹548 crore for Axiom-4; ₹20,200 crore for Gaganyaan**

   The passage explicitly mentions that ₹548 crore was spent on Axiom-4 and the budget for Gaganyaan is ₹20,200 crore.

   B is incorrect – These figures are not cited anywhere in the passage.

   C is incorrect – ₹750 crore and ₹25,000 crore are fabricated values.

   D is incorrect – Again, incorrect numerical data not aligned with the passage.

2. **B) Cautiously optimistic**

   The passage is positive about India's growing space capabilities and Mr. Shukla's milestone, but it's also cautious and analytical about future challenges, geopolitical tensions, and ISRO's responsibilities. It's neither blindly celebratory nor harsh — it balances hope with realism.

   A. Jubilant – Too celebratory; the editorial tempers joy with warnings and accountability.

   C. Dismissive – Not at all dismissive; it values the achievement.

   D. Neutral – The writer clearly has an evaluative, slightly critical tone with hope.

3. **C) India's entry into human spaceflight and the associated strategic, political, and public challenges**

   The passage highlights India's return to human spaceflight, celebrates it, but also explores financial, political, international, and public accountability concerns — making this broad, multi-dimensional view the correct theme.

   A. Cost is mentioned, but not the full theme.

   B. International/private issues are one layer, not the core.

   D. Communication critique is a point, not the overall message.

4. **D) He is the first Indian to go to orbital space since Rakesh Sharma and potentially the first to board the ISS**

   The passage states that Mr. Shukla is the first Indian to go to orbital space since Rakesh Sharma in 1984, and if the docking succeeds, he will be the first Indian on the ISS.

   A is incorrect – The passage doesn't highlight that flying with NASA astronauts is a first for Indians.

   B is incorrect – Mr. Shukla is not commanding the mission.

   C is incorrect – There's no mention of specific SpaceX spacewalk training in the passage.

5. **C) The lack of public transparency and communication by ISRO regarding the mission's benefits and costs**

   The passage criticizes the Department of Space and ISRO for not communicating the rationale and extent of benefits of the ₹548 crore expense for the Axiom-4 mission.

   A is incorrect – There's no mention of launch vehicle access issues.

   B is incorrect – Mr. Shukla is a trained astronaut; training is underway.

   D is incorrect – The U.S. and its companies have shown interest in collaborating on Gaganyaan.

6. A) **Bifurcate** (verb) – To divide into two branches or parts; split; separate. विभाजित करना

Antonym: **Combine** (verb) – To join or merge to form a single unit or substance; unite; amalgamate. संयोजित करना

- **Examine** (verb) – To inspect or scrutinize carefully; analyze; study. जांचना
- **Support** (verb) – To bear all or part of the weight of; hold up; assist; back up. समर्थन करना
- **Divide** (verb) – To separate or be separated into parts; split; partition. विभाजित करना

7. B) 'Acts' का use होगा क्योंकि "acts" एक present tense verb है जो singular subject ("he") के साथ agree करती है। Sentence में mention किया गया है कि वह एक बुद्धिमान व्यक्ति है जो हमेशा सोचता है फिर काम करता है, इसलिए 'acts' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Acting' एक gerund/infinitive form है, 'act' plural subject के लिए है, और 'acted' past tense है जो present context में fit नहीं होता।

'Acts' will be used because it is a present tense verb agreeing with the singular subject ("he"). The sentence states that he is an intelligent person who always thinks before doing something, making 'acts' correct here. Whereas, 'Acting' is a gerund/infinitive, 'act' is for plural subjects, and 'acted' is past tense, which does not fit the present context.

8. B) **Grapple** (verb) – To struggle, wrestle, or seize in a firm grip, especially in a physical or mental sense. जूझना, संघर्ष करना।

Antonym: **Release** (verb) – To let go, free, or set loose; to stop holding something.
छोड़ना, मुक्त करना।

- **Clasp** (verb) – To hold tightly, grip, or embrace. कसकर पकड़ना
- **Wrestle** (verb) – To engage in a physical struggle or fight, often similar to grappling कुश्ती लड़ना, संघर्ष करना
- **Grumble** (verb) – To complain or murmur in dissatisfaction. शिकायत करना, बड़बड़ाना।

9. **D)** 'the cheaper' के बदले **'cheaper'** का use होगा क्योंकि यहाँ Comparative Adjective का use हो रहा है, और तुलनात्मक विशेषण के साथ article 'the' का use नहीं होता जब तक कि पहले 'of' न हो। उदाहरण के लिए— He has a faster car than any other in the neighborhood.

'cheaper' will be used instead of 'the cheaper' because here a comparative adjective is used, and with comparative adjectives, the article 'the' is not used unless preceded by 'of'. For example— He has a faster car than any other in the neighborhood.

10. A) **'Broke into'** का use होगा क्योंकि **'break into'** का अर्थ है जबरदस्ती किसी जगह में प्रवेश करना, जैसे चोरी के उद्देश्य से। वाक्य में बताया गया है कि चोर पड़ोसी के घर में उस समय जबरदस्ती घुस गए जब वे घर पर नहीं थे, इसलिए 'broke into' यहाँ सही phrasal verb है। जबकि: 'Broke off' का अर्थ है अचानक से किसी चीज़ को रोक देना। 'Broke down' का अर्थ है किसी चीज़ का खराब हो जाना, जैसे मशीन या भावनात्मक रूप से टूट जाना। 'Broke with' का अर्थ है किसी चीज़ या व्यक्ति के साथ संबंध तोड़ लेना। 'Broke away' का अर्थ है भाग जाना या अलग हो जाना।

'Broke into' will be used because **'break into'** means to enter a place forcefully, usually with the intent to commit a theft or other unlawful act. The sentence describes burglars entering the neighbor's house while they were away, making 'broke into' the correct phrasal verb. 'Broke off' means to suddenly stop or terminate something. 'Broke down' means to stop functioning, as in a machine, or to break emotionally. 'Broke with' means to end a relationship or association. 'Broke away' means to escape or separate.

11. A) The correct spelling of the word '**emarged**' is '**emerged**' which means "to become visible or known, or to come into view". भरना, दिखाई देना, या सामने आना"।

12. D) **Straight from the horse's mouth (idiom)** – Directly from the person involved सीधे संबंधित व्यक्ति से (जानकारी प्राप्त करना)

13. B) **Trivial** (adjective) – Of little value or importance; insignificant; unimportant. तुच्छ
    Synonym: **Insignificant** (adjective) – Too small or unimportant to be worth consideration; trivial; negligible. महत्वहीन
    - **Complex** (adjective) – Consisting of many different and connected parts; complicated; intricate. जटिल
    - **Controversial** (adjective) – Giving rise or likely to give rise to public disagreement; debatable; disputable. विवादास्पद
    - **Tricky** (adjective) – Requiring care and skill because difficult or awkward; cunning; crafty. कठिन

14. C) **Heightens'** का use होगा क्योंकि इसका अर्थ है किसी चीज़ को बढ़ाना या तीव्र करना। sentence में बताया गया है कि लेखक का जीवंत कल्पना का use readers की इंद्रियों को जागृत करता है और कहानी को जीवंत बनाता है, इसलिए 'heightens' सही है। जबकि 'Confuses' का अर्थ है भ्रमित करना, 'Actions' का अर्थ है कार्यवाही करना, और 'Dulls' का अर्थ है सुस्त करना, जो इस संदर्भ में उपयुक्त नहीं हैं।
    Heightens' will be used because it means to increase or intensify something. The sentence states that the author's use of vivid imagery engages the reader's senses, making the story come alive, so 'heightens' is the correct fit here. Whereas, 'Confuses' means to perplex, 'Actions' implies taking steps or performing tasks, and 'Dulls' means to make something less intense, all of which are inappropriate in this context.

15. B) **Novice** (noun) – A person new to and inexperienced in a job or situation; beginner, learner, newcomer. नौसिखिया
    Synonym: **Amateur** (noun) – A person who engages in a pursuit, a beginner or non-professional. शौकिया
    - **Swindler** (noun) – A person who uses deception to deprive someone of money or possessions; fraudster, cheat. ठग
    - **Expert** (noun) – A person who is very knowledgeable about or skillful in a particular area; specialist, authority. विशेषज्ञ

- **Zealous** (adjective) – Having or showing zeal; fervent, passionate, enthusiastic. उत्साही

16. D) 'The latest' का use होगा क्योंकि "latest" का अर्थ होता है "नवीनतम" या सबसे हाल का। Sentence में बात हो रही है कि स्मार्टवॉच younger generations द्वारा इस्तेमाल किए जाने वाले सबसे नए gadgets हैं, इसलिए 'the latest' सही है। 'The' का use इसलिए किया जाता है क्योंकि हम एक specific group (younger generations) के बारे में बात कर रहे हैं। **'later'** (बाद में) – यह समय (time) को दर्शाता है, gadgets की नवीनता को नहीं। **'the later'** (बाद वाला) – यहाँ comparative sense में use होता है, जो इस context में fit नहीं है। **'latest'** (बिना 'the' के) – Article 'the' का absence grammatical रूप से गलत है क्योंकि हम specific gadgets (नवीनतम gadgets) की बात कर रहे हैं।

   'The latest' will be used because it means "most recent" or newest. The sentence talks about smartwatches being the newest gadgets used by younger generations, so 'the latest' fits. 'The' is used because we are referring to a specific group (younger generations). **'later'** – Refers to time, not the newness of gadgets. **'the later'** – Used in a comparative sense, which doesn't fit here. **'latest'** (without 'the') – Grammatically incorrect because we need the definite article 'the' for specificity.

17. D) **Habitat'** का use होगा क्योंकि 'Habitat' का अर्थ है किसी जीव का प्राकृतिक आवास या पर्यावरण। ssentence में कहा गया है कि महासागर पृथ्वी की सतह का 70% से अधिक भाग कवर करते हैं, जिससे वे ग्रह का सबसे बड़ा प्राकृतिक आवास बन जाते हैं। इस संदर्भ में 'Habitat' सही शब्द है। 'Habit' का अर्थ है आदत, जो यहाँ अप्रासंगिक है। 'Hybrid' का अर्थ है मिश्रित प्रकार या दो भिन्न चीजों का संयोजन, जो इस संदर्भ में गलत है। 'Habitude' का अर्थ है स्वभाव या आदत, जो इस वाक्य के लिए उपयुक्त नहीं है।

   'Habitat' will be used because it refers to the natural home or environment of a living organism. The sentence states that the oceans cover more than 70% of Earth's surface, making them the largest natural environment on the planet, which makes 'Habitat' appropriate here. 'Habit' means a regular practice or routine, which is irrelevant in this context. 'Hybrid' refers to a mix of two different things, which does not fit the context.
   'Habitude' means a habitual tendency or disposition, which is also unsuitable here.

18. D) **Better'** का use होगा क्योंकि "better" एक comparative adjective है, जिसका use दो लोगों या वस्तुओं की तुलना करने के लिए किया जाता है। वाक्य में "my brother" और "I" की तुलना की जा रही है कि कौन गिटार बेहतर बजाता है। इसलिए 'better' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'well' एक adverb है, जो इस वाक्य में गलत है। 'Good' एक adjective है, लेकिन यहाँ comparative degree की जरूरत है, इसलिए यह सही नहीं है। 'Best' superlative degree है, जिसका use तीन या अधिक की तुलना में होता है, जो इस context में गलत है।

   Better' will be used because "better" is a comparative adjective used to compare two people or things. In the sentence, "my brother" and "I" are being compared regarding who plays the guitar

better, making 'better' appropriate here. Whereas, 'well' is an adverb, which is incorrect in this sentence. 'Good' is an adjective, but the comparative degree is required here, so it doesn't fit. 'Best' is the superlative degree, which is used for comparisons involving three or more, making it incorrect in this context.

19. C) '**Most perfect'** का use होगा क्योंकि "perfect" एक ऐसा adjective है जो अपने आप में सर्वोच्च स्थिति को दर्शाता है। इसके साथ 'most' का use इसे superlative बनाता है। यहाँ वाक्य का अर्थ है कि सोनम का मंच पर प्रदर्शन सर्वोत्तम (सबसे परिपूर्ण) है। more perfect: 'Perfect' का comparative रूप 'more' के साथ असंगत है क्योंकि 'perfect' पहले से ही एक पूर्ण अवस्था को दर्शाता है। mostly perfect: 'Mostly perfect' का अर्थ होता है "ज्यादातर परिपूर्ण," जो वाक्य के अर्थ को कमजोर बनाता है। Perfectable: 'Perfectable' का अर्थ है "सुधार योग्य," जो यहाँ के संदर्भ में फिट नहीं होता।

Most perfect' will be used because "perfect" is an adjective that inherently conveys a sense of completeness. Adding 'most' makes it a superlative, which is appropriate here as the sentence implies that Sonam's live stage performance is the best. more perfect: Using 'more' with 'perfect' is inconsistent since 'perfect' already denotes an absolute state. mostly perfect: 'Mostly perfect' implies "almost perfect," which weakens the intended meaning of the sentence. Perfectable: 'Perfectable' means "capable of being improved," which doesn't fit the context here.

20. C) 'so delicious that we couldn't help eating it' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "couldn't help" के बाद gerund (verb + ing) का प्रयोग होता है, न कि base form (eat)। यह एक fixed structure है जो अनियंत्रित क्रिया को दर्शाता है। Example:

Incorrect: We couldn't help laugh at the joke.
Correct: We couldn't help laughing at the joke.

'so delicious that we couldn't help eating it' will be used because after "couldn't help," a gerund (verb + ing) is used, not the base form (eat). This is a fixed structure indicating an uncontrollable action.

21. C) **Tools'** का use यहाँ होगा क्योंकि इसका अर्थ है ऐसे उपकरण या साधन जिनका use किसी चीज़ को हासिल करने के लिए किया जाता है। इस संदर्भ में, शब्दों को साहित्यिक सृजन के उपकरण के रूप में रूपक रूप में संदर्भित किया गया है। यह इस बात को दर्शाता है कि लेखक कैसे शब्दों का use कहानियों को बनाने के लिए करते हैं। 'Isolate' का अर्थ है अलग करना, जो "creation" के संदर्भ में उपयुक्त नहीं है। 'Convey' का अर्थ है व्यक्त करना या संप्रेषित करना, जो यहाँ पर शब्दों की भूमिका के लिए उपयुक्त नहीं है। 'Mundane' का अर्थ है साधारण या नीरस, जो साहित्य की रचनात्मकता के विचार के विपरीत है।

'Tools' will be used here because it refers to instruments or means used to achieve something, and in this context, words are metaphorically referred to as tools for literary creation. This fits the context of how authors use words to craft stories. 'Isolate' means to separate, which does

not fit the context of "creation." 'Convey' means to express or communicate, which does not suit the role words play as instruments here. 'Mundane' means ordinary or dull, which is opposite to the idea of creativity in literature.

22. A) **'Keepers'** का use यहाँ सही है क्योंकि इसका अर्थ है "रक्षक" या "संरक्षक," और इस संदर्भ में लेखक अर्थ के संरक्षक के रूप में वर्णित हैं। बाकी विकल्प इस संदर्भ में फिट नहीं होते। 'Direction' का अर्थ है दिशा, जो यहाँ प्रासंगिक नहीं है। 'Coward' का अर्थ है कायर, जो बिल्कुल भी मेल नहीं खाता। 'Vibrators' इस संदर्भ में पूरी तरह से अनुपयुक्त है।

'Keepers' is the correct choice as it means "guardians" or "protectors," and in this context, authors are described as the keepers of meaning. The other options don't fit in this context. 'Direction' means guidance, which is not relevant here. 'Coward' means someone lacking courage, which is completely irrelevant. 'Vibrators' is entirely inappropriate in this context.

23. B) **Vivid'** का use होगा क्योंकि इसका अर्थ है "ज्वलंत" या "स्पष्ट और जीवंत"। यह शब्द दर्शाता है कि लेखक की कहानियां इतनी स्पष्ट और प्रभावशाली होती हैं कि वे पाठकों की भावनाओं को गहराई तक छू सकती हैं। यहाँ context में "narratives" का जिक्र है, जो जीवंत और आकर्षक होने चाहिए। जबकि: 'Mundane' का अर्थ है "साधारण या नीरस", जो इस संदर्भ में उपयुक्त नहीं है। 'Defrost' का अर्थ है "जमा हुआ पिघलाना", जो यहाँ बिल्कुल अप्रासंगिक है। 'Convey' का अर्थ है "संदेश या भाव को व्यक्त करना", जो इस संदर्भ में मुख्य विचार को व्यक्त नहीं करता।

'Vivid' will be used because it means "clear, lively, or vibrant." It perfectly conveys the idea that the narratives woven by authors are so striking and impactful that they touch the depths of human emotions. In this context, "narratives" must be vivid to engage readers deeply.
Whereas: 'Mundane' means "ordinary or dull," which does not fit here. 'Defrost' means "to thaw something frozen," which is irrelevant to the context. 'Convey' means "to express or communicate an idea," which does not align with the specific intent of "vivid narratives" in this passage.
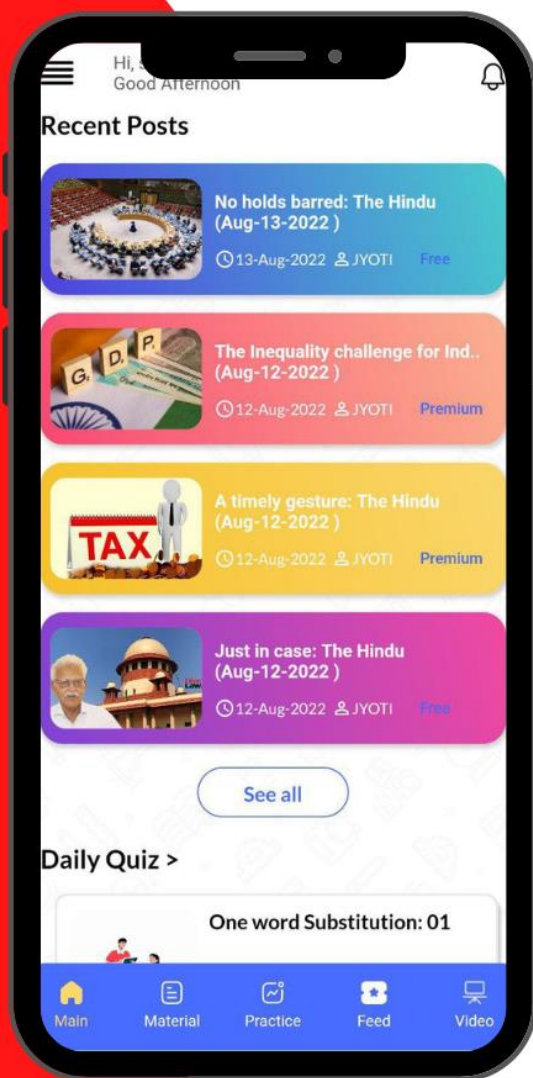
24. 'A) **Pilot'** का use सही है क्योंकि इसका अर्थ होता है "किसी चीज़ को सावधानी से संचालित करना या मार्गदर्शन करना।" यह वाक्य इस संदर्भ में फिट बैठता है क्योंकि यह दर्शाता है कि कथाएँ मानवीय भावनाओं की गहराइयों को सावधानीपूर्वक संचालित करती हैं। 'Teacher' का अर्थ है शिक्षक, जो इस संदर्भ में उपयुक्त नहीं है। 'Banker' का अर्थ है बैंकर, जो यहां अप्रासंगिक है। 'Sailor' का अर्थ है नाविक, जो यहां भावनाओं के संचालन के लिए उपयुक्त नहीं है।

'Pilot' will be used because it means to carefully guide or navigate something. In this context, it fits as it conveys that narratives carefully navigate the depths of human emotion. 'Teacher' means an instructor, which is not relevant here. 'Banker' means someone who works in banking, which is out of context. 'Sailor' means someone who navigates the sea, which is not appropriate for navigating emotions.

25. D) **'Immerse'** का use होगा क्योंकि इसका अर्थ है "किसी चीज़ में पूरी तरह डूब जाना या उसमें खो जाना।" sentence में कहा गया है कि एक अच्छी तरह से रचित उपन्यास पाठकों को अपनी दुनिया में खींच ले जाता है और उन्हें समय के बीतने का एहसास नहीं होता। यह दर्शाता है कि पाठक उपन्यास की कहानी में पूरी तरह डूब जाते हैं। जबकि: 'Repel' का अर्थ है "दूर करना या विकर्षित करना," जो इस संदर्भ में उपयुक्त नहीं है। 'Isolate' का अर्थ है "अलग-थलग करना," जो यहां फिट नहीं होता। 'Captivate' का अर्थ है "मोहित करना," लेकिन वाक्य का मुख्य उद्देश्य पाठकों को पूरी तरह उपन्यास में डूबा देना है, न कि केवल मोहित करना।

'**Immerse'** will be used because it means "to become deeply involved or absorbed in something." The sentence states that a well-crafted novel draws readers into its world, making them lose track of time, which clearly indicates readers are fully immersed in the story. Whereas: 'Repel' means "to drive away or push back," which is incorrect here. 'Isolate' means "to set apart or detach," which doesn't fit the context. 'Captivate' means "to enchant or attract," but the sentence emphasizes complete absorption rather than mere attraction.