

An icy warning: On threats from contracting glaciers

Threats from **contracting** glaciers **should** be in the same category of risk as cyclones and earthquakes

Few **barometers** measure the climate crisis as **evocatively** as the state of glaciers, a key component of the **cryosphere**. The World Meteorological Organization's recent report, The Global Climate 2011-2020, gives a broad view of the planet's response to **greenhouse gas emissions**. In the section on the state of glacier health, it **points out** that, on average, the world's glaciers **thinned** by approximately a metre a year from 2011 to 2020. When compared across **decades**, there is significant regional variability, but the overall pattern remains that glaciers in all regions of the world are becoming smaller. In fact, **some of the reference glaciers**, which are used to make long-term **assessments** of glacier health, **have** already melted away as the **nourishing** winter snow is completely melting away during summer. In Africa, **glaciers** on the Rwenzori Mountains and Mount Kenya **are projected** to disappear by 2030, and those on Kilimanjaro by 2040. The report **points to** the rapid growth of **proglacial lakes** and the **likelihood** of glacier lake outburst flood (GLOF), posing additional threats to **ecosystems** and **livelihoods**. The reports **singled out** how "...water from glacial melt contributed to one of the decade's worst flooding disasters, the Uttarakhand floods of June 2013".

The **fury** of a GLOF event **was brought home** this year by the destruction of the Chungthang dam in Sikkim after the South Lhonak Lake flooded from a melting glacier, **triggering catastrophe downstream**. Earlier this year, a separate **report** by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development **found** that the **disappearance** of glaciers in the Hindu Kush Himalayas **was** "65% faster in the 2010s than in the previous decade". At the current rate of global greenhouse gas emissions, which is expected to see temperatures increase by 2.5°-3°C by the end of the century, the volume of glaciers is **forecast** to decline anywhere from 55% to 75%. This means sharp reductions in freshwater supply in the immediate **vicinity** of 2050. The **sensitivity** of glacier systems to warming **underlines** the need for their careful **monitoring**. Despite awareness of the risks **posed** by Himalayan glaciers there is no early warning system for the likelihood of GLOF events. Much like warnings before cyclones, floods and earthquakes, authorities must **elevate** threats from contracting glaciers to the same category of risk. **Correspondingly**, there is a need to make **comprehensive** risk assessments, map regions of **vulnerability** and **commission infrastructure** development with the highest standards of care.

- **Bring home** (phrase) – to make someone understand something much more clearly than they did before, especially something unpleasant **[Practice Exercise]**
- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'.

Vocabulary

1. **Contracting** (adjective) – Shrinking, diminishing, reducing, narrowing, lessening
सिकुड़ते
2. **Barometer** (noun) – an instrument that measures air pressure and indicates changes in weather
3. **Evocatively** (adverb) – Suggestively, vividly, poignantly, expressively, strikingly स्मरण कराने वाला
4. **Cryosphere** (noun) – an all-encompassing term for the portions of Earth's surface where water is in solid form, including sea ice, lake ice, river ice, snow cover, glaciers, ice caps, ice sheets, and frozen ground
5. **Greenhouse gas** (noun) – gases in the earth's atmosphere that trap heat
6. **Emission** (noun) – Discharge, release, effusion, emanation, exhalation उत्सर्जन
7. **Point out** (phrasal verb) – Highlight, indicate, specify, mention, note इंगित करना
8. **Thin** (verb) – Slim, reduce, dilute, weaken, attenuate पतला करना
9. **Decade** (noun) – Period of ten years दशक
10. **Assessment** (noun) – Evaluation, appraisal, judgment, estimation, analysis आकलन
11. **Nourishing** (adjective) – Nutritious, wholesome, healthy, beneficial, sustaining सहायता देनेवाला
12. **Project** (verb) – Forecast, predict, estimate, calculate, plan पूर्वानुमान करना
13. **Point to** (phrasal verb) – Indicate, suggest, imply, hint at, refer to संकेत करना
14. **Pro-** (adjective) – In favor of, supportive, positive, for, endorsing समर्थन में
15. **Likelihood** (noun) – Probability, chance, possibility, prospect, potential संभावना
16. **Ecosystem** (noun) – Environment, habitat, biosphere, ecology, system पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र
17. **Livelihood** (noun) – Occupation, job, employment, work, means of living जीविका
18. **Single out** (phrasal verb) – Select, choose, pick, highlight, emphasize विशेष रूप से चुनना
19. **Fury** (noun) – Rage, anger, wrath, ire, fury क्रोध
20. **Trigger** (verb) – Activate, initiate, cause, generate, provoke सक्रिय करना
21. **Catastrophe** (noun) – Disaster, calamity, tragedy, mishap, crisis आपदा
22. **Downstream** (adverb) – Down the river, along the river, in the direction of the current धारा के निचे की ओर
23. **Forecast** (noun) – Prediction, projection, prognosis, outlook, expectation भविष्यवाणी

24. **Vicinity** (noun) – Proximity, neighborhood, area, surroundings, locale निकटता
25. **Sensitivity** (noun) – Responsiveness, susceptibility, reactivity, perceptiveness, awareness संवेदनशीलता
26. **Underline** (verb) – Emphasize, highlight, underscore, stress, accentuate ज़ोर देना
27. **Monitoring** (noun) – Surveillance, observation, supervision, tracking, oversight निगरानी
28. **Pose** (verb) – Present, create, cause, produce, pose खड़ा करना
29. **Elevate** (verb) – Raise, lift, upgrade, enhance, promote बढ़ाना
30. **Correspondingly** (adverb) – Respectively, singly, separately, individually, तदनुसार
31. **Comprehensive** (adjective) – Thorough, extensive, complete, inclusive, all-inclusive व्यापक
32. **Vulnerability** (noun) – Susceptibility, weakness, fragility, risk, sensitivity कमजोरी
33. **Commission** (verb) – to formally choose someone to do a special piece of work, or to formally ask for a special piece of work from someone को नियुक्त करना
34. **Infrastructure** (noun) – Facilities, structure, framework, system, network बुनियादी संरचना

Summary of the Editorial

1. **Global Climate Overview:** The World Meteorological Organization's report "The Global Climate 2011-2020" highlights the impact of greenhouse gas emissions on the planet.
2. **Glacier Thinning:** From 2011 to 2020, the world's glaciers have thinned by about a meter each year, indicating a clear pattern of glacial retreat globally.
3. **Regional Variability but Consistent Pattern:** Although there's significant regional variability, the consistent trend is that glaciers are shrinking in all parts of the world.
4. **Disappearance of Reference Glaciers:** Some reference glaciers used for long-term assessments have completely melted, with winter snows failing to persist through summer.
5. **African Glaciers:** Glaciers in Africa, such as those on the Rwenzori Mountains, Mount Kenya, and Kilimanjaro, are expected to disappear by 2030 to 2040.
6. **Growth of Pro-Glacial Lakes:** The report highlights the rapid increase in pro-glacial lakes and the associated risks of glacier lake outburst floods (GLOFs).
7. **Impact on Ecosystems and Livelihoods:** The growth of GLOFs poses threats to ecosystems and livelihoods, with water from glacial melt contributing to major flooding disasters.
8. **Recent GLOF Events:** The Chungthang dam in Sikkim was destroyed due to a GLOF, exemplifying the destructive potential of these events.
9. **Accelerated Glacial Loss in Hindu Kush Himalayas:** Glacial disappearance in this region is occurring 65% faster in the 2010s compared to the previous decade.
10. **Projected Decline in Glacier Volume:** With current greenhouse gas emission rates, glaciers could decline 55% to 75% by the end of the century, significantly reducing freshwater supply by 2050.
11. **Need for Careful Monitoring:** The sensitivity of glacier systems to warming underscores the importance of their close monitoring.
12. **Lack of Early Warning Systems:** Despite awareness, there's no early warning system for GLOF events in critical regions like the Himalayas.
13. **Elevating Glacier Threats:** Authorities should classify the risks from contracting glaciers in the same category as other major natural disasters like cyclones and earthquakes.
14. **Comprehensive Risk Assessments:** There is a need for comprehensive risk assessments and mapping of vulnerable regions.
15. **Infrastructure Development Standards:** Infrastructure development in these areas needs to adhere to the highest standards of care to mitigate risks.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

[Editorial page]

1. **What is the tone of the passage?**
 - A. Optimistic
 - B. Indifferent
 - C. Alarmist
 - D. Nostalgic
2. **What is the main theme of the passage?**
 - A. The beauty of natural landscapes
 - B. The economic impact of climate change
 - C. The environmental threats posed by contracting glaciers
 - D. The history of climate change research
3. **According to the World Meteorological Organization's report, The Global Climate 2011-2020, what trend is observed in the state of glaciers worldwide?**
 - A. Glaciers are expanding at an unprecedented rate in all regions.
 - B. Glaciers are stable with no significant changes in size.
 - C. Glaciers are contracting, with an average thinning of approximately a metre a year from 2011 to 2020.
 - D. Only glaciers in Africa are contracting, while others remain unaffected.
4. **What are the projected consequences of glacier contraction as highlighted in the passage?**
 - A. The creation of new ecosystems that support diverse wildlife.
 - B. Increased water supply for agricultural practices.
 - C. The disappearance of glaciers on the Rwenzori Mountains, Mount Kenya, and Kilimanjaro by 2030-2040, and the risk of glacier lake outburst floods (GLOF).
 - D. Stabilization of global sea levels.
5. **Which of the following can be inferred about the current monitoring systems for glacier-related risks?**
 - i. They are comprehensive and include early warning systems for GLOF events.
 - ii. They lack in providing early warnings similar to those available for cyclones and earthquakes.
 - iii. They are primarily focused on tracking the rate of glacier contraction rather than forecasting GLOF events.
 - A. i only
 - B. ii only
 - C. iii only
 - D. ii and iii
6. **What implication can be drawn about the impact of increasing global greenhouse gas emissions on glacier systems?**
 - (i) It will lead to a significant reduction in freshwater supply by 2050.
 - (ii) It will cause a decrease in the frequency of GLOF events.
 - (iii) It will result in a drastic increase in glacier volume.
 - A. i only
 - B. ii only

- C. iii only
D. i and iii
7. **Which of the following statements is INCORRECT regarding the threats from contracting glaciers?**
- A. The destruction of the Chungthang dam in Sikkim was caused by a GLOF event due to a melting glacier.
B. The disappearance rate of glaciers in the Hindu Kush Himalayas was 65% slower in the 2010s than in the previous decade.
C. It is forecasted that at the current rate of global greenhouse gas emissions, glacier volumes might decline by 55% to 75% by the end of the century.
D. Despite the awareness of risks posed by Himalayan glaciers, there is no early warning system for GLOF events.
8. **What word in the passage is a synonym for "catastrophe"?**
- A. Warning
B. Destruction
C. Sensitivity
D. Monitoring
9. **Parts of the following sentence have been given as options. One of them may contain an error. Select the option that contains the error. If you don't find any error, mark 'No error' as your answer.**
- With reference of your letter, the organisation wishes to hire you for the security services.
- A. With reference of your letter
B. for the security services
C. the organisation wishes to hire you
D. No error
10. **Select the correct spelling of the underlined word in the given sentence.**
- Incidently, I happened to bump into my childhood friend at the airport yesterday.
- A. Incidantly
B. Incidental
C. Incidantally
D. Incidentally
11. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in passive voice.**
- The boy will bring the coffee.
- A. The coffee will be brought by the boy.
B. The coffee will have been brought by the boy.
C. The coffee would have been brought by the boy.
D. The coffee must have been brought by the boy.
12. **Select the correctly spelt word.**
- A. Recommend
B. Recemmend
C. Reccommend
D. Recomend

13. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in active voice.**

The dog was run over by a truck

- A. A truck had run over the dog.
- B. A truck runs over the dog.
- C. A truck has run over the dog.
- D. A truck ran over the dog.

14. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the underlined word.**

Demand for water is also rapidly rising due to population growth, urbanisation and increasing pressures from the agriculture and energy sector.

- A. promptly
- B. luxuriously
- C. leisurely
- D. Hopefully

15. **Parts of a sentence are given below in jumbled order. Select the option that arranges the parts in the correct order to form a meaningful sentence.**

- A. By conquest, rather than by economic contract
- B. Other types of feudalism was the relation
- C. The principal difference between Indian and
- D. Between lord and vassal, established in this case

- A. B, D, A, C
- B. C, B, D, A
- C. B, A, D, C
- D. C, B, A, D

16. **Select the most appropriate idiom for the following statement.**

We should be together to fight any danger. Otherwise, separately, we won't be able to fight.

- A. Nothing ventured, nothing gained.
- B. A full purse makes the mouth speak.
- C. United we stand, divided we fall.
- D. Well begun is half done.

17. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**

One who is new to some trade or profession

- A. Novice
- B. Philistine
- C. Martyr
- D. Omnipresent

18. **Parts of a sentence are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the parts in the correct order to form a meaningful sentence.**

- A. and he shone like a beacon
- B. but also for the whole world
- C. our country gave birth to a mighty soul
- D. not only for India

- A. DBCA

- B. ACDB
C. CADB
D. ADBC
19. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the underlined word.**
The Sustainable Development Goals are a call for action by all countries—poor, rich and middle-income—to promote prosperity while protecting the planet.
- A. conceal
B. holistic
C. growl
D. Boost

20. **Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the following sentence.**

As the storm raged outside, the children huddled together under blankets, listening to the sound of the rain hitting the windows hard and hoping that the power wouldn't go out.

- A. climbing up to the windows
B. setting off the windows
C. pounding against the windows
D. beating off the windows

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.

Once king Krishnadeva Raya _____ 1 _____ a parrot of which he was excessively fond. He kept it in a silver cage and fed it fruits and nuts and anything else the bird asked for. The parrot longed for freedom and often asked for it, but the king would always reply, "Ask for anything else." One day, the parrot said to the king, "Give me freedom and I'll give you three _____ 2 _____ advice that could be of great benefit to you." The king loved the parrot, but he loved money _____ 3 _____. The parrot said, "Never believe everything that is told to you. What you don't know is that I've two priceless gems in my stomach," said the bird. "Two priceless gems," echoed the king, "Oh, what a fool I was to set you free! I'll regret this for the rest of my life!" I _____ 4 _____ you never to grieve over losses but here you are grieving over losing me," said the parrot, "I advised you never to believe everything you hear, but you immediately believed me when I told you I had two gems in my stomach. _____ 5 _____ I have survived if I really had two gems in my stomach?" My third advice is, "Listen, learn to listen with your mind instead of just with your ears." Saying these words, the parrot flew away.

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

- A. has
B. had
C. have
D. will have

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

- A. digit of
B. number of

- C. pieces of
D. quantity of
23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 3.**
- A. most
B. better
C. extra
D. More
24. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 4.**
- A. have advised
B. advised
C. advise
D. did advised
25. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 5.**
- A. Can
B. May
C. Might
D. Could

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. **C) Alarmist**

The tone of the passage is alarmist. This is evident from the urgent and serious manner in which the author discusses the threats posed by contracting glaciers. The use of phrases like "threats," "rapid growth of pro-glacial lakes," "triggering catastrophe," and the comparison of these threats with cyclones and earthquakes, all contribute to a tone that is intended to alarm and warn the reader about the imminent dangers of climate change and its impact on glaciers.

2. **C) The environmental threats posed by contracting glaciers**

The main theme of the passage is the environmental threats posed by contracting glaciers. The passage focuses on the critical condition of glaciers worldwide due to climate change, highlighting their rapid melting, the formation of pro-glacial lakes, and the potential for disastrous glacier lake outburst floods (GLOF). The author emphasizes the need for careful monitoring and risk assessment of these environmental threats, making it clear that this is the central focus of the passage.

3. **C) Glaciers are contracting, with an average thinning of approximately a metre a year from 2011 to 2020.**

The passage clearly states that the world's glaciers have thinned by approximately a metre a year from 2011 to 2020, indicating a global trend of glacier contraction. This rules out the other options which suggest expansion, stability, or regional contraction limited to Africa.

4. **C) The disappearance of glaciers on the Rwenzori Mountains, Mount Kenya, and Kilimanjaro by 2030-2040, and the risk of glacier lake outburst floods (GLOF).**

The passage mentions the specific threat of glaciers disappearing in Africa (Rwenzori Mountains, Mount Kenya, and Kilimanjaro) by 2030-2040 and highlights the risk of glacier lake outburst floods (GLOF). The other options, such as creation of new ecosystems, increased water supply for agriculture, and stabilization of sea levels, are not mentioned in the passage and are contrary to the typical consequences of glacier contraction.

5. **B) ii only**

The passage explicitly states that despite awareness of the risks posed by Himalayan glaciers, there is no early warning system for the likelihood of GLOF events. This implies that the current systems are inadequate in providing early warnings, similar to those for cyclones and earthquakes, focusing mainly on monitoring glacier contraction rather than forecasting potential GLOF events.

6. **A) i only.**

The passage indicates that the increase in global greenhouse gas emissions, expected to raise temperatures by 2.5°-3°C by the end of the century, will lead to a decline in glacier volume by

55% to 75%. This significant reduction in glacier volume will subsequently result in a sharp decrease in freshwater supply by 2050.

7. B) **The disappearance rate of glaciers in the Hindu Kush Himalayas was 65% slower in the 2010s than in the previous decade.**

The correct statement should be that the disappearance rate of glaciers in the Hindu Kush Himalayas was 65% faster in the 2010s than in the previous decade, not slower. This is a critical piece of information that contradicts the overall narrative of increasing risks and accelerated glacier melt due to climate change. Options A, C, and D are in line with the passage, highlighting the seriousness of the issue and the lack of adequate early warning systems for GLOF events. Thus, option B is the incorrect statement as it understates the severity of the situation.

8. B) **Destruction**

The word "catastrophe" refers to a disastrous event causing great damage or suffering. In the passage, the "destruction of the Chungthang dam in Sikkim" is a similar event, making 'destruction' a synonym for 'catastrophe'.

9. A) With reference of your letter' में 'of' के बदले 'to' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि सही phrase 'With reference to' होता है।

- 'to' will be used instead of 'of' in 'With reference of your letter' because the correct phrase is 'With reference to'.

10. D) The correct spelling of '(Incidentally)' is 'Incidentally' which means "by chance" or "as a minor or subordinate matter." यादृच्छिक रूप से, अकस्मात्.

11. A) The coffee will be brought by the boy.

12. A) The correct spelling is 'Recommend' which is option A. The word 'Recommend' means "to present as worthy of confidence, acceptance, use, etc.; commend; mention favorably" सिफारिश करना, प्रशंसा करना.

13. D) A truck ran over the dog

14. A) **Rapidly** (adverb) – At a fast pace, swiftly, quickly, speedily. तेजी से

Synonym: **Promptly** (adverb) – Without delay, immediately, at once, right away. तुरंत

- **Luxuriously** (adverb) – In a lavish and extravagant manner, opulently. विलासिता से
- **Leisurely** (adverb) – Without hurry, unhurriedly, at a relaxed pace. आराम से
- **Hopefully** (adverb) – With an optimistic attitude, expectantly, with hope. आशावादी रूप से

15. B) **C, B, D, A**

The principal difference between Indian and Other types of feudalism was the relation Between lord and vassal, established in this case By conquest, rather than by economic contract

16. C) **United we stand, divided we fall** (idiom) – We should be together to fight any danger. Otherwise, separately, we won't be able to fight. साथ में होते हुए हम किसी भी खतरे का मुकाबला कर सकते हैं। अलग होते हुए, हम मुकाबला नहीं कर पाएंगे।
- **Nothing ventured, nothing gained** (idiom) – One has to take risks to achieve something.
 - **A full purse makes the mouth speak** (idiom) – People tend to be more confident or boastful when they have money.
 - **Well begun is half done** (idiom) – A good start to a task leads to easier completion.
17. A) **Novice** (noun) – a person who is new to the circumstances, work, etc., in which they are placed; beginner. नौसिखिया
- **Philistine** (noun) – a person who is hostile or indifferent to culture and the arts. अशिक्षित मनुष्य
 - **Martyr** (noun) – a person who is killed or suffers greatly for a religion, cause, etc. शहीद
 - **Omnipresent** (adjective) – present everywhere at the same time. सर्वत्र विद्यमान
18. C) **CADB**
Our country gave birth to a mighty soul and he shone like a beacon not only for India but also for the whole world
19. D) **Promote** (verb) – To support, encourage, boost, further, stimulate प्रोत्साहित करना
Synonym: **Boost** (verb) – Lift, raise, bolster, strengthen. बढ़ावा देना
- **Conceal** (verb) – To hide, cover, keep secret. छुपाना
 - **Holistic** (adjective) – Comprehensive, all-encompassing, integrated. समग्र
 - **Growl** (verb) – A low, guttural sound made by an animal (like a dog). घुराना
20. C) **hitting the windows hard** के बदले 'pounding against the windows' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यह वाक्य में बारिश के जोरदार प्रहार को दर्शाता है।
- 'pounding against the windows' will be used instead of 'hitting the windows hard' because it conveys the forceful impact of the rain.
21. B) **Had** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि पैसेज में भूतकाल की घटनाओं का वर्णन हो रहा है। 'Has' और 'Have' वर्तमानकाल के लिए होते हैं जबकि 'Will have' भविष्यकाल के लिए होता है, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।
- **'Had'** should be used because the passage describes events in the past tense. 'Has' and 'Have' are for the present tense, while 'Will have' is for the future tense, which doesn't fit in this context.
22. C) **'Pieces of'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "pieces of" का अर्थ होता है किसी चीज के विभिन्न भाग। जब बात किसी उपदेश, सलाह, या अन्य अभिवादन की होती है, तो 'pieces of' अधिक उपयुक्त

है। 'Digit of' का अर्थ होता है किसी संख्या का अंश, 'Number of' का अर्थ है किसी चीज की मात्रा, और 'Quantity of' का अर्थ है परिमाण, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।

- **Pieces of'** should be used because it refers to various parts or segments of something. When referring to advice, guidance, or other instructions, 'pieces of' is more appropriate. Whereas, 'Digit of' refers to a part of a number, 'Number of' indicates a count of something, and 'Quantity of' signifies volume or amount, which don't fit in this context.

23. D) '**More**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यहाँ पर राजा को पैसों से प्यार अधिक था, इसलिए 'More' सही शब्द है जिसे यहाँ प्रयोग किया जाना चाहिए। 'Most' का अर्थ है सबसे ज्यादा, 'Better' का अर्थ है अधिक अच्छा, और 'Extra' का अर्थ है अतिरिक्त, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।

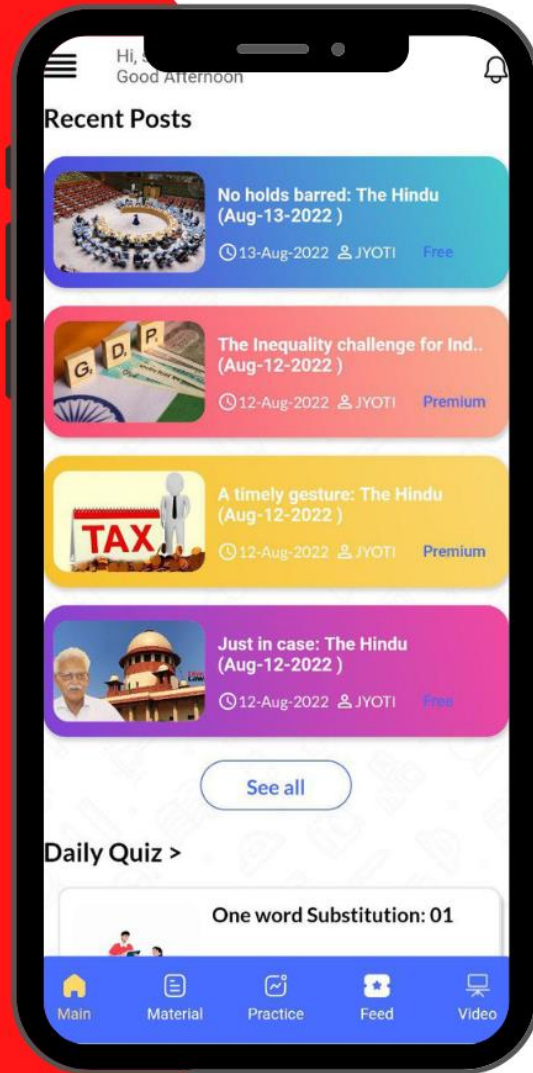
- **More'** should be used because the king loved money more than the parrot, making 'More' the appropriate word to use in this context. 'Most' means the greatest amount or extent, 'Better' implies superior, and 'Extra' means additional or beyond the usual, which don't fit in this context.

24. B) '**Advised**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यह अतीत काल में किसी कार्य को सूचित करता है और इस वाक्य में तोता अब जो कुछ भी कह रहा है वह पहले ही सलाह देने का संदर्भ है। 'Have advised' का प्रयोग अतीत सम्पूर्ण काल में होता है, 'Advise' वर्तमान काल में सलाह देने का संदर्भ है, और 'Did advised' वाक्यात्मक रूप में गलत है।

- **'Advised'** should be used because it indicates an action that took place in the past and in this sentence, the parrot is referring to advice he previously gave. 'Have advised' is used in the perfect past tense, 'Advise' is in the present tense for giving advice, and 'Did advised' is grammatically incorrect in this context.

25. D) '**Could**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "could" का अर्थ होता है संभावना या क्षमता होना। पता आवेदन करते हुए पूछता है कि क्या वह सचमुच में अपने पेट में दो मूल्यवान रत्न रखकर जीवित रह सकता था, इस संदर्भ में "could" उपयुक्त विकल्प है। जबकि 'Can' का अर्थ है सक्षम होना, 'May' का अर्थ है संभावना होना, और 'Might' भी संभावना दर्शाता है, लेकिन यहाँ पर 'Could' सबसे उपयुक्त है।

- **'Could'** should be used because it indicates possibility or capability. The parrot is questioning whether it could have actually lived with two precious gems in its stomach, making "could" the suitable choice in this context. Whereas, 'Can' means being capable, 'May' implies a possibility, and 'Might' also indicates a possibility, but 'Could' is the most fitting here



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