

## Low snow levels in Hindu Kush region and a reminder to break the ice

The time **snow** remains on the ground during the winter months — snow **persistence**, in scientific parlance — in the Himalayan Hindu Kush Region (HKH) **has** been coming down drastically in recent years. Four of the five winters between 2020-21 and 2024-25 saw below-normal snow **persistence**. According to a report by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), released on Monday, the snow level **plummeted** to a record 23.6 per cent low in the winter of 2024-2025. When it melts in summer, **the snow** from the mountains **contributes** about a fourth of **the run-off** of the 12 major rivers in the region, including the Ganga, Indus, Brahmaputra, Mekong and Amu Darya. The winter season **anomalies** could, therefore, **lead to** reduced snow melt and, in turn, affect the water security of more than two billion people across these river basins, the ICIMOD report warns. The **fall** in river run-offs **could** have **spinoffs** on water availability for drinking, irrigation and hydroelectricity generation.

Low snow persistence is a classic **fallout** of climate change. The Himalayan region, **for instance**, is particularly **vulnerable** to high temperatures. Studies have shown that **the rise** in temperature in the Himalayas **has** exceeded the global average for at least four **decades**. An ICIMOD report of 2019 had warned that even if the global temperature rise is limited to the Paris climate pact's **threshold** of 1.5 degrees Celsius, the HKW region will **witness** a warming of 0.3 degrees Celsius. Local **developments** like changes in the land system — the transformation of farmlands into urban areas — **have** combined with broader climatic changes to **drive** the temperature rise. Extra-tropical **storms** from the Mediterranean, for instance, **are** known to contribute to winter **precipitation** in the Himalayas. But weaker **western disturbances** in recent years seem to have disrupted the timing of seasonal precipitation, leading to shifts in snowfall patterns.

In the coming months and years, policymakers will need a **two-pronged** approach to climate change. Even as they plan a **transition** towards greener forms of development, planners will need to find ways to **shield** people from the **adverse** effects of **global warming**. The ICIMOD report should **occasion** investments in better water management, drought-proofing agriculture, improvements in warning systems and greater regional cooperation on rivers and natural resources. The **countries** in the Subcontinent and China usually **collaborate** in global climate forums. However, **riparian** issues are amongst the most **contentious** in the region, and ecosystem-based approaches are **often hostage** to politics. Data-sharing **mechanisms** on river flows, flood and **drought** alert systems, even a common renewable **energy grid**, **could** reduce people's **vulnerabilities in the face of** melting glaciers and declining snowfall.

[Practice Exercise]

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

## Vocabulary

1. **Break the ice** (phrase) – initiate conversation, ease tension, start interaction, make people comfortable, begin communication बातचीत की शुरुआत करना / माहौल को सहज बनाना
2. **Persistence** (noun) – continuity, durability, stability, endurance, longevity स्थायित्व / लगातार बना रहना
3. **Parlance** (noun) – terminology, language, expression, jargon, idiom बोली / विशेष शब्दावली
4. **Plummet** (verb) – fall sharply, drop, decline, crash, tumble तेजी से गिरना
5. **Run-off** (noun) – water flow, drainage, overflow, outflow, discharge बहाव / प्रवाह
6. **Anomaly** (noun) – irregularity, deviation, abnormality, inconsistency, peculiarity असमान्यता / विचलन
7. **Lead** (to) (verb) – result in, cause, bring about, trigger, produce कारण बनना
8. **Spinoff** (noun) – by-product, offshoot, consequence, result, outcome उपपरिणाम
9. **Fallout** (noun) – consequence, aftermath, result, repercussion, impact दुष्प्रभाव
10. **For instance** (phrase) – for example, such as, like, to illustrate, say उदाहरण के लिए
11. **Vulnerable** (to) (adjective) – susceptible, exposed, prone, weak, at risk असुरक्षित
12. **Decade** (noun) – Period of ten years दशक
13. **Threshold** (noun) – limit, boundary, brink, edge, verge सीमा
14. **Witness** (verb) – observe, see, experience, undergo, encounter देखना
15. **Development** (noun) – Event, happening, occurrence, change, incident, stage घटनाक्रम
16. **Drive** (verb) – propel, push, lead, influence, stimulate प्रेरित करना
17. **Precipitation** (noun) – rainfall, snowfall, drizzle, downpour, sleet वर्षा
18. **Western disturbance** (noun) – The disturbance travels from the “western” to the eastern direction. Disturbance means an area of “disturbed” or reduced air pressure.
19. **Two-pronged** (adjective) – dual approach, bifocal, two-fold, twin-track, multifaceted दोतरफा
20. **Transition** (noun) – change, shift, movement, transformation, progression बदलाव
21. **Shield** (verb) – protect, safeguard, defend, shelter, guard बचाना

22. **Adverse** (adjective) – harmful, unfavorable, negative, damaging, detrimental प्रतिकूल
23. **Global warming** (noun) – the increase in the temperature of the earth's atmosphere, caused by the increase of certain gases वैश्विक ऊष्मीकरण
24. **Occasion** (verb) – cause, prompt, trigger, bring about, initiate उत्पन्न करना
25. **Riparian** (adjective) – riverbank-related, riverside, related to river areas नदी किनारे का / जलस्रोत संबंधी
26. **Contentious** (adjective) – controversial, disputed, debatable, argumentative, problematic विवादास्पद
27. **Often** (adverb) – frequently, regularly, commonly, usually, repeatedly अक्सर
28. **Hostage** (noun) – captive, prisoner, pawn, dependent, constraint (used metaphorically here) बंधक / नियंत्रण में रखा गया
29. **Mechanism** (noun) – system, process, method, setup, structure तंत्र / प्रणाली
30. **Drought** (noun) – dry spell, water scarcity, aridity, lack of rain, famine सूखा
31. **Energy grid** (noun) – an interconnected network that delivers electricity from power plants to consumers.
32. **Vulnerability** (noun) – weakness, susceptibility, exposure, sensitivity, risk कमजोरी
33. **In the face of** (phrase) – despite, confronted with, against, amidst, even though के बावजूद

### Summary of the Editorial

1. **Declining Snow Persistence:** The Hindu Kush Himalayan (HKH) region has seen a drastic reduction in snow persistence (duration of snow cover) in recent winters.
2. **Record Low in 2024-25:** Snow persistence hit a record low of 23.6% below normal in the winter of 2024-25.
3. **Impact on River Run-off:** Snowmelt contributes ~25% of the water flow in 12 major rivers, including the Ganga, Indus, and Brahmaputra.
4. **Water Security Threat:** Reduced snowmelt could endanger water security for over 2 billion people in these river basins.
5. **Consequences:** Lower river flows may affect drinking water, irrigation, and hydropower generation.
6. **Climate Change Link:** Low snow persistence is a direct result of global warming.
7. **Himalayan Warming:** The Himalayas are heating faster than the global average, a trend observed for over 40 years.
8. **Exceeding Paris Limits:** Even if global warming is limited to 1.5°C, the HKH region could warm by an additional 0.3°C.
9. **Local & Global Factors:** Land-use changes (e.g., urbanization) and climatic shifts (weaker western disturbances) contribute to temperature rise.
10. **Disrupted Precipitation:** Weaker Mediterranean storms (western disturbances) have altered snowfall timing and patterns.
11. **Two-Pronged Policy Needed:** Governments must focus on green development while protecting people from climate impacts.
12. **Investment Priorities:** Better water management, drought-resistant agriculture, and improved warning systems are crucial.
13. **Regional Cooperation Needed:** HKH countries must collaborate on river data-sharing, flood alerts, and renewable energy grids.
14. **Political Challenges:** Riparian disputes hinder ecosystem-based solutions, requiring diplomacy for shared resources.
15. **Urgent Action:** Melting glaciers and declining snowfall demand immediate measures to reduce vulnerabilities

**Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based**

1. **Which factor is primarily responsible for the decline in snow persistence in the Himalayan Hindu Kush Region (HKH)?** [Editorial Page]
  - A. Increased rainfall in winter
  - B. Rise in global temperatures due to climate change
  - C. Excessive snowfall in neighboring regions
  - D. Reduced agricultural activities
2. **Why is the reduction in snow persistence a major concern for the Himalayan region?**
  - A. It leads to increased tourism in the mountains
  - B. It causes more frequent earthquakes
  - C. It prevents the formation of glaciers
  - D. It reduces summer river run-offs, affecting water security for billions
3. **What kind of measures does the ICIMOD report suggest to address the challenges posed by declining snow persistence?**
  - A. Investing in better water management, drought-proofing agriculture, and improving warning systems
  - B. Building more dams to store water
  - C. Encouraging mass migration from the Himalayan region
  - D. Reducing industrial activities in South Asia
4. **What can be inferred about the relationship between Western Disturbances and Himalayan snowfall from the passage?**
  - A. Western Disturbances have no impact on Himalayan snowfall.
  - B. Weaker Western Disturbances lead to increased snowfall in the Himalayas.
  - C. Weaker Western Disturbances in recent years have disrupted snowfall patterns.
  - D. Western Disturbances only affect rainfall, not snowfall.
5. **Based on the passage, what is the most likely reason for the lack of regional cooperation on river management in the HKH region?**
  - A. Absence of scientific data on river flows
  - B. Political disputes among riparian countries
  - C. Excessive snowfall ensuring water surplus
  - D. Lack of technological expertise in water management
6. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**  
Dig up dirt
  - A. Enquire about a missing person
  - B. Find and disclose evidence
  - C. To uncover negative information about someone or something.
  - D. Hide and protect vital evidence

7. **Parts of the following sentence have been given as options. Select the option that contains an error.**

Dr. oppenheimer is the exceptional movie of all the movies in recent times.

- A. of all the movies
- B. in recent times
- C. Dr. Oppenheimer is
- D. the exceptional movie

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

The philanthropist's \_\_\_\_\_ donations significantly improved the quality of life in the community.

- A. substantial
- B. meagre
- C. redundant
- D. parsimonious

9. **Select the option that best expresses the meaning of the given idiom.**

When pigs fly

- A. Correct approach
- B. In unity
- C. In due course of time
- D. Just impossible

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

The cat likes to \_\_\_\_\_ in the sun during the afternoon.

- A. lei
- B. lye
- C. lie
- D. lay

11. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**

Cacophony

- A. Noise
- B. Discord
- C. Dissonance
- D. Harmony

12. **Select the correct spelling of the incorrectly spelt word in the given sentence.**

She is an independant writer.

- A. Indipendent
- B. Independent
- C. Indipendant
- D. Independent

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

The movie was so boring that I fell \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. slept
  - B. sleep
  - C. asleep
  - D. sleeping
14. The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.  
After months of / meticulous planning and hard work, / a team successfully launched / their innovative product to the market.
- A. a team successfully launched
  - B. their innovative product to the market.
  - C. after months of
  - D. meticulous planning and hard work
15. Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the underlined word.  
"He was notorious for his avaricious behavior, always seeking ways to accumulate more wealth."
- A. notorious
  - B. sloth
  - C. greedy
  - D. generous
16. Select the option that is OPPOSITE in meaning to the underlined word in the given sentence.  
The state played only a modest part in the outstanding advancement of modern morality
- A. Unimpressive
  - B. Boastful
  - C. Humble
  - D. Moderate
17. The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.  
The residents of Rameswaram / about the 1940s were quite / orthodox, but were also / tolerant of other communities.
- A. tolerant of other communities
  - B. The residents of Rameswaram
  - C. orthodox, but were also
  - D. about the 1940s were quite
18. Select the most appropriate homophone to fill in the blank.  
While learning to drive, Shivani met with an accident because she couldn't hit the \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. brake
  - B. brick
  - C. brack
  - D. break

**19. Select the grammatically correct sentence from the given options.**

These are the works of a great poet Tagore.

- A. These are the works of the great poet Tagore.
- B. These are the works of that great poet Tagore.
- C. These are the works of this great poet Tagore.
- D. These are the works of an great poet Tagore

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

Following weeks of intense training, the athlete \_\_\_\_\_ in the championship.

- A. have been competing
- B. were competing
- C. have competed
- D. competed

**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 terms of technical difficulty, Nanga Parbat, the world's ninth (1)\_\_\_\_\_ peak, competes with K2. The first (2)\_\_\_\_\_ to the summit follows a narrow ridge. The 15,000-foot Rupal Face, a single wall of rock and ice, is located on the mountain's southern side. Climbers have dubbed the Nanga Parbat, which (3)\_\_\_\_\_ as 'naked mountain', 'Killer Mountain'. This gives Annapurna a (4)\_\_\_\_\_ of 32%, making it the most statistically dangerous of the world's 8,000-metre peaks. It is an avalanche-prone area with some technical difficulty. Climbers' misery is (5)\_\_\_\_\_ by insufficient local support, in addition to unpredictable weather and inaccessibility.

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

- A. deepest
- B. highest
- C. lengthiest
- D. fattest

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

- A. launch
- B. lift
- C. rise
- D. ascent

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

- A. translates
- B. transcribes
- C. transposed
- D. transliterates

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

- A. mortal rate

- B. frailty rate
- C. economic rate
- D. fatality rate

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

- A. perfectly
- B. increasingly
- C. worst
- D. exacerbated

## Answers

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

**[Practice Exercise]**

## Explanations

1. B) The passage states that "Low snow persistence is a classic fallout of climate change" and highlights that the Himalayan region is warming faster than the global average. Thus, the primary reason for reduced snow persistence is rising temperatures
2. D) The passage explains that snowmelt contributes to "about a fourth of the run-off of the 12 major rivers" and warns that reduced snow persistence could lead to "reduced snow melt and, in turn, affect the water security of more than two billion people."
3. A) The passage explicitly mentions that the "ICIMOD report should occasion investments in better water management, drought-proofing agriculture, improvements in warning systems, and greater regional cooperation."
4. C) The passage states that "Extra-tropical storms from the Mediterranean... contribute to winter precipitation in the Himalayas" but "weaker western disturbances in recent years seem to have disrupted the timing of seasonal precipitation, leading to shifts in snowfall patterns." From this, we can infer that weaker Western Disturbances are linked to altered snowfall patterns
5. B) The passage mentions that "riparian issues are amongst the most contentious in the region, and ecosystem-based approaches are often hostage to politics." This suggests that political conflicts (Option b) are the primary barrier to cooperation, rather than a lack of data or technology.
6. C) **Dig up dirt** – To uncover negative information about someone or something किसी व्यक्ति या चीज़ के बारे में नकारात्मक जानकारी निकालना।
7. D) 'the exceptional movie' के बदले 'the most exceptional movie' का use होगा क्योंकि जब एक व्यक्ति या वस्तु की तुलना 'of all' या 'among many' से की जाती है, तो Superlative Degree (most + adjective) का use किया जाता है। यहाँ 'exceptional' Positive Degree है, जो गलत है।
  - 'the most exceptional movie' will be used instead of 'the exceptional movie' because when comparing one person or thing using 'of all' or 'among many', we use the Superlative Degree (most + adjective). Here, 'exceptional' is in the Positive Degree, which is incorrect.

Incorrect: She is the tall girl of all.  
 Correct: She is the tallest girl of all.
8. A) **'Substantial'** का use होगा क्योंकि इसका अर्थ है "काफी मात्रा में या महत्वपूर्ण।" sentence में mention है कि परोपकारी व्यक्ति के दान ने समुदाय के जीवन की गुणवत्ता में सुधार किया, जो बताता है कि दान बड़े या महत्वपूर्ण थे। 'Meagre' का अर्थ है "अल्प या कम," जो संदर्भ में सही

नहीं है क्योंकि यह महत्वपूर्ण सुधार को प्रतिबिंबित नहीं करता। 'Redundant' का अर्थ है "अनावश्यक या अतिरिक्त," जो इस वाक्य के भाव से मेल नहीं खाता। 'Parsimonious' का अर्थ है "कंजूस," जो दानकर्ता के उदारता के विपरीत है।

**Substantial** will be used because it means "large in amount or significant." The sentence mentions that the philanthropist's donations improved the community's quality of life, indicating that the donations were large or significant. 'Meagre' means "small or insufficient," which does not fit the context as it implies minimal impact. 'Redundant' means "unnecessary or excessive," which does not align with the sentence's tone. 'Parsimonious' means "stingy or unwilling to spend," which contradicts the philanthropist's generosity described in the sentence.

9. D) **When pigs fly (idiom)- Just impossible** means something that will never happen or is impossible., इसका अर्थ है "ऐसा जो कभी नहीं हो सकता।"

10. C) **Lie** का use होगा क्योंकि इसका अर्थ है "आराम करना या क्षैतिज स्थिति में लेटना।" वाक्य में mention है कि बिल्ली दोपहर में धूप में आराम करना पसंद करती है, इसलिए 'lie' यहाँ सही है। 'Lei' फूलों की माला होती है, जो इस संदर्भ में irrelevant है। 'Lye' एक रासायनिक पदार्थ है, जो वाक्य से संबंधित नहीं है। 'Lay' 'lie' का past form है जब इसका अर्थ "आराम करना" होता है, या इसका अर्थ "कुछ रखना" होता है, जो यहाँ उपयुक्त नहीं है।

**Lie** will be used because it means "to rest or recline in a horizontal position." The sentence mentions that the cat likes to rest in the sun during the afternoon, so 'lie' is contextually correct here. 'Lei' is a garland of flowers, which is irrelevant in this context. 'Lye' is a chemical substance, making it unrelated to the sentence. 'Lay' is the past tense of 'lie' when it means "to rest," or it means "to place something down," which doesn't match the present continuous sense here.

11. D) **Cacophony** (noun) – A harsh, discordant mixture of sounds; clamor; uproar; din. कर्कश ध्वनि  
**Antonym: Harmony** (noun) – The quality of forming a pleasing and consistent whole; agreement or concord in sounds; melodiousness. सामंजस्य

- **Noise** (noun) – Any loud or unpleasant sound; uproar. शोर
- **Discord** (noun) – Disagreement or lack of harmony between people or things; strife. कलह
- **Dissonance** (noun) – Lack of agreement or harmony; inconsistency between beliefs or actions; unpleasant or harsh sound. विसंगति

12. B) The correct spelling of the incorrectly spelt word is '**Independent**', which means "free from outside control; not depending on another's authority". स्वतंत्र, जो दूसरों पर निर्भर नहीं हो।

13. C) 'asleep' का use होगा क्योंकि "asleep" का अर्थ है "सो जाना" और यह adjective के रूप में काम करता है। इस sentence में "fell" एक linking verb है, और उसके बाद adjective का उपयोग किया जाता है। 'slept' (verb) और 'sleep' (noun/verb) को इस context में उपयोग नहीं किया जा सकता क्योंकि वे grammatically सही नहीं हैं। 'Sleeping' (verb/gerund) भी इस context में गलत है।

'Asleep' will be used because it means "to fall into a state of sleep" and functions as an adjective. In this sentence, "fell" is a linking verb, which is followed by an adjective. 'Slept' (verb) and 'Sleep' (noun/verb) are grammatically incorrect in this context. Similarly, 'Sleeping' (verb/gerund) does not fit the grammatical structure of the sentence.

14. B) 'their innovative product' के बदले 'its innovative product' का use होगा क्योंकि 'team' एक collective noun है जिसे यदि unit के रूप में use किया जाए तो उसके साथ singular pronoun और singular verb का use होता है। यहाँ 'team' एक unit के रूप में कार्य कर रही है—launching the product—इसलिए pronoun 'their' की जगह 'its' का प्रयोग करना उचित होगा; जैसे—

The committee gave its final decision after a long discussion.

'its' will be used instead of 'their' because 'team' is a collective noun, and when it is used as a single unit, it takes a singular pronoun and a singular verb. In this sentence, 'team' is functioning as one unit (they collectively launched the product), so 'its' is grammatically correct; Like— The committee gave its final decision after a long discussion

15. C) **Greedy** (adjective) – having an intense and selfish desire for wealth or possessions. लोभी
- **Avaricious** (adjective) – having or showing an extreme greed for wealth or material gain. लालची, लोभी
  - **Notorious** (adjective) – famous or well-known for a bad quality or deed. बदनाम
  - **Sloth** (noun) – reluctance to work or make an effort; laziness. आलस्य
  - **Generous** (adjective) – showing kindness and a willingness to give more than is necessary. उदार
16. B) **Modest** (adjective) – Humble, unassuming, moderate in the estimation of one's abilities or achievements. विनम्र, साधारण
- Antonym: Boastful** (adjective) – Showing excessive pride and self-satisfaction about one's achievements or abilities. घमंडी, डींग मारने वाला
- **Unimpressive** – Not attracting attention or admiration; lacking distinction. प्रभावहीन
  - **Humble** – Having or showing a modest or low estimate of one's importance. नम्र, विनम्र
  - **Moderate** – Average in amount, intensity, or degree. मध्यम, सामान्य

17. D) 'about the 1940s were quite' के बदले 'in the 1940s were quite' का use होगा क्योंकि निश्चित समय (decade - 1940s) को दर्शाने के लिए 'in' preposition का use होता है, 'about' का नहीं।

'in the 1940s were quite' will be used instead of 'about the 1940s were quite' because for referring to a specific time period (decade - 1940s), the preposition 'in' is used, not 'about'. "About" suggests approximation, but decades (e.g., 1940s) require the preposition "in" to indicate a specific time frame.

18. A) **Brake** का use होगा क्योंकि 'brake' का अर्थ है वाहन को रोकने या धीमा करने के लिए इस्तेमाल किया जाने वाला यंत्र। sentence में mention है कि शिवानी ड्राइविंग सीखते समय दुर्घटना का शिकार हुई क्योंकि वह ब्रेक नहीं लगा सकी। 'Brick' का अर्थ होता है ईंट, जो इस वाक्य में irrelevant है। 'Brack' का कोई अर्थ नहीं है और यह शब्द valid नहीं है। 'Break' का अर्थ होता है तोड़ना या टूटना, जो वाक्य के संदर्भ में सही नहीं बैठता है।

Brake' will be used because it refers to a device used to stop or slow down a vehicle. The sentence states that Shivani met with an accident while learning to drive because she couldn't hit the brake. The other options do not fit in this context: 'Brick' means a block of baked clay, which is irrelevant here. 'Brack' has no meaning and is not a valid word. 'Break' means to separate into pieces or pause, which does not fit the context of the sentence.

19. A) **These are the works of the great poet Tagore**

'the' का use करना सही है क्योंकि यहाँ 'Tagore' एक विशेष प्रसिद्ध कवि का नाम है और उनके बारे में जानकारी पहले से ज्ञात है। 'Tagore' के नाम से पहले 'the' का use करना उचित है ताकि उनकी विशिष्टता को व्यक्त किया जा सके।

The use of 'the' is correct because 'Tagore' is the name of a specific, well-known poet, and the article 'the' is used to emphasize his distinctiveness.

20. D) **'Competed'** का use होगा क्योंकि 'competed' का अर्थ है प्रतिस्पर्धा करना। sentence में mention है कि एथलीट ने गहन प्रशिक्षण के बाद चैंपियनशिप में भाग लिया, जो एक completed action है। वाक्य past tense में है, इसलिए 'competed' सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प है। A. 'have been competing' का अर्थ है कि एथलीट अभी भी प्रतिस्पर्धा कर रहा है, जो वाक्य के संदर्भ से मेल नहीं खाता। B. 'were competing' का अर्थ है कि एथलीट किसी समय प्रतिस्पर्धा कर रहे थे, लेकिन वाक्य भूतकाल में पूर्ण क्रिया की ओर इशारा करता है। 'have competed' present perfect tense में है, लेकिन यहाँ simple past tense action चाहिए।

'D. **Competed**' will be used because 'competed' means to have participated in a competition. The sentence indicates that the athlete participated in the championship after weeks of intense training, which is a completed action. The sentence is in the past tense, making 'competed' the most appropriate choice. 'have been competing' implies that the athlete is still competing, which doesn't align with the context of the sentence. 'were competing' suggests an ongoing action in the past, but the sentence refers to a completed action in the past. 'have competed' is in the present perfect tense, but the sentence requires a simple past tense action.

21. B) '**Highest**' का use होगा क्योंकि "highest" का अर्थ है सबसे ऊँचा। Nanga Parbat दुनिया का नौवां सबसे ऊँचा पर्वत है, और इस वाक्य में इसे पर्वत की ऊँचाई को संदर्भित करने के लिए प्रयोग किया गया है। जबकि 'deepest' का अर्थ है सबसे गहरा, 'lengthiest' का अर्थ है सबसे लंबा, और 'fattest' का अर्थ है सबसे मोटा, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं हैं।

'Highest' will be used because it refers to the greatest height. Nanga Parbat is described as the ninth tallest mountain in the world, and the sentence refers to its height. In contrast, 'deepest' means the most profound, 'lengthiest' means the longest, and 'fattest' means the thickest, which are not appropriate in this context.

22. D) '**Ascent**' का use होगा क्योंकि 'ascent' का अर्थ है चढ़ाई या ऊपर की ओर बढ़ना। यह शब्द पर्वतारोहण के संदर्भ में चोटी तक पहुँचने की प्रक्रिया का वर्णन करता है। passage में उल्लेख किया गया है कि पहली चढ़ाई या चोटी तक पहुँचने का प्रयास एक संकरी चट्टान के माध्यम से होता है, इसलिए 'ascent' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'launch' का अर्थ है आरंभ करना या शुरू करना, जो पर्वतारोहण के लिए उपयुक्त नहीं है। 'Lift' का अर्थ है उठाना, और यह भी इस संदर्भ में फिट नहीं होता। 'Rise' का अर्थ है ऊपर उठना, लेकिन यह प्रक्रिया का वर्णन करने के लिए सही नहीं है।

'Ascent' will be used because it means the act of climbing or moving upward, especially in the context of mountaineering. The passage mentions that the first attempt to the summit involves a narrow ridge, making 'ascent' appropriate here.

Whereas, 'launch' means to begin or initiate, which does not fit the context of mountaineering. 'Lift' means to raise something, which is also unsuitable here. 'Rise' means to go upward but does not describe the process correctly in this context.

23. A) '**Translates**' का use होगा क्योंकि इसका अर्थ है एक भाषा या रूप को दूसरे में बदलना, लेकिन अर्थ को बरकरार रखना। वाक्य में उल्लेख किया गया है कि "नंगा पर्वत" का अर्थ "नग्न पर्वत" है, जो यह दर्शाता है कि नाम को उसके मूल भाषा से अंग्रेजी में अनुवाद किया गया है। 'Transcribes' का अर्थ है बोले गए शब्दों को लिखना या लिखित रूप में बदलना, जो यहाँ उपयुक्त नहीं है। 'Transposed' का अर्थ है किसी चीज़ की स्थिति या क्रम को बदलना, जो यहाँ संदर्भ से मेल नहीं खाता। 'Transliterates' का अर्थ है एक लिपि को दूसरी लिपि में इस प्रकार परिवर्तित करना कि उच्चारण बना रहे, अर्थ नहीं। यह भी यहाँ फिट नहीं होता।

'Translates' will be used because it means to convert one language or form into another while retaining the meaning. In the context of the sentence, "Nanga Parbat" is described as meaning "naked mountain," indicating that the name has been translated from its original language to English. 'Transcribes' means to write down spoken words or convert into a written form, which doesn't fit here as the context involves meaning, not writing. 'Transposed' means to change the order or position of something, which is unrelated to translating names. 'Transliterates' means

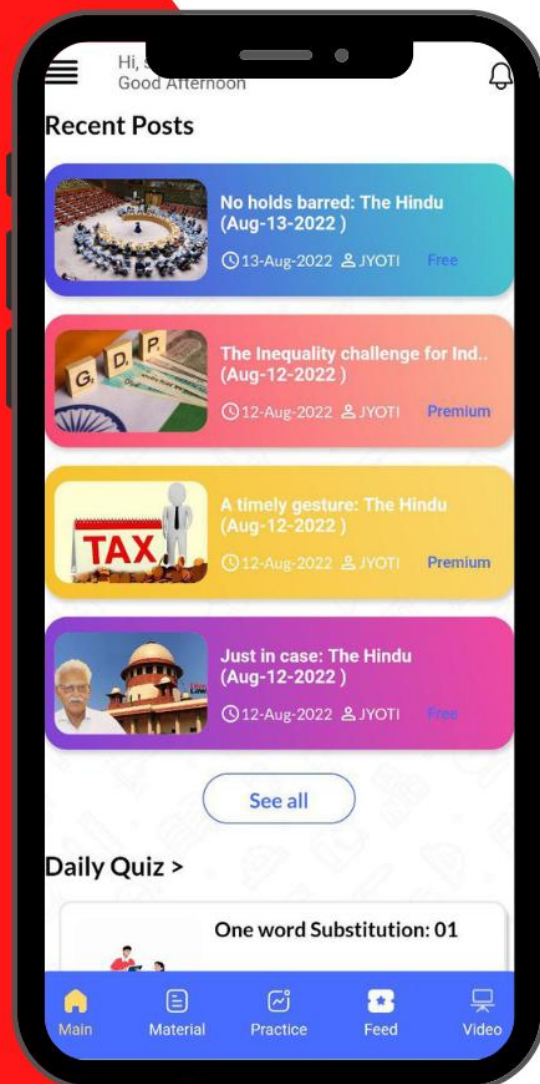
to represent the characters of one script in another, preserving pronunciation rather than meaning, which also doesn't fit here.

24. D) '**Fatality rate**' का use होगा क्योंकि यह किसी घटना के कारण मृत्यु के अनुपात को दर्शाता है। passage में mention है कि Annapurna को दुनिया के सबसे खतरनाक पहाड़ों में से एक माना जाता है और इसका 32% का आंकड़ा दिया गया है, जो केवल मृत्यु दर के संदर्भ में समझा जा सकता है। 'Mortal rate' सही नहीं है क्योंकि "mortal" का अर्थ होता है "नश्वर" या "मृत्यु संबंधी", लेकिन "mortal rate" एक standard statistical term नहीं है। 'Frailty rate' का अर्थ होता है कमजोरी की दर, जो यहां उपयुक्त नहीं है। 'Economic rate' का अर्थ होता है आर्थिक दर, जो संदर्भ से पूरी तरह अप्रासंगिक है। इसलिए, 'Fatality rate' यहां सही उत्तर है।

**Fatality rate** will be used because it refers to the proportion of deaths caused by an event. The passage mentions that Annapurna is considered one of the most dangerous mountains in the world, with a 32% figure, which can only relate to the fatality rate. 'Mortal rate' suggests a death rate but is not a standard term. 'Frailty rate' refers to a rate of weakness, which is irrelevant in this context. 'Economic rate' relates to financial metrics, which is entirely out of context here.

25. 'D) **Exacerbated**' का use सही होगा क्योंकि 'exacerbated' का अर्थ है किसी स्थिति या समस्या को और अधिक गंभीर या खराब करना। sentence में यह mention है कि पर्वतारोहियों की परेशानी अनियमित मौसम और दुर्गमता के अलावा अपर्याप्त स्थानीय समर्थन से बढ़ जाती है, इसलिए 'exacerbated' यहाँ उपयुक्त है। जबकि 'Perfectly' का अर्थ है पूरी तरह से, 'Increasingly' का अर्थ है धीरे-धीरे बढ़ना, और 'Worst' का अर्थ है सबसे खराब, जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं।

**Exacerbated** will be used because it means to make a problem or situation worse. The sentence mentions that climbers' misery is worsened by insufficient local support, in addition to unpredictable weather and inaccessibility, making 'exacerbated' the correct choice here. Whereas, 'Perfectly' means completely, 'Increasingly' means gradually becoming more, and 'Worst' refers to the most severe, which don't fit in this context.



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