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Subject: English. By: R.N.Singh

**Read the given extract and answer the questions given below.**

The description, while less than kind, is difficult to refute. The Greater Adjutant's head is naked except for a few scraggly feathers making it look like a balding old man. A long orange pouch dangles loosely from its neck. There is no melody in its call. Its vocalisation has been described as a grunting croak. There is not much grace in its movements either, Indeed, this stork gets its name adjutant, which refers to a military officer, from its stiff, awkward gait. Known locally as hargila (the Bengali word for bone swallower), they were considered unclean but valued as scavengers. They were sometimes hunted for the use of their meat in folk medicine.

Many hundreds of thousands of Greater Adjutants once congregated in enormous flocks from Pakistan to Cambodia. In Kolkata, one account put a few individuals

on 'almost every house'. Over the years, the widespread destruction of its wetlands habitat, and the loss of its nesting trees, has led to a drastic fall in the numbers of the Greater Adjutant stork in India. So much so that it went from being one of the most common storks to the rarest. By the 1990s, one estimate put the number of Greater Adjutants at a mere 1000, bringing it dangerously close to extinction.

Now answer the following questions

1 Write the name of the chapter from which the extract is taken.

2 Who is the author of the given extract?

3 What do you mean by 'hargila' ?

4 What is the Greater Adjutant stork?

5 Define the word extinction