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VOCABULARY

- 1. Retail Inflation (noun): the increase in prices of goods and services that consumers buy directly in the retail market
 - Synonyms: Consumer inflation, price rise
 - Antonyms: Deflation, price drop
 - Sentence: Retail inflation has made everyday essentials more expensive for the average consumer.
- 2. Benchmark (noun): a standard or point of reference against which things may be compared or assessed
 - Synonyms: Standard, gauge
 - Antonyms: Abnormality, exception
 - Sentence: The software's performance was evaluated against industry benchmarks to ensure competitiveness.
- 3. Underlying (adjective): basic or fundamental, but not immediately obvious
 - Synonyms: Fundamental, basic
 - Antonyms: Superficial, apparent
 - Sentence: The underlying cause of the problem was much more complex than we initially thought.

- 4. Cereals (noun): grains used for food, such as wheat, oats, or corn
 - Synonyms: Grains, breakfast grains
 - Antonyms: Pulses, legumes
 - Sentence: Cereals are a major source of dietary fiber and essential nutrients.
- 5. Stubbornly (adverb): in a manner that shows determination not to change one's attitude or position on something, especially in spite of good arguments or reasons to do so
 - Synonyms: Obstinately, persistently
 - Antonyms: Flexibly, willingly
 - Sentence: He stubbornly refused to admit his mistake, even when faced with evidence.
- 6. Prospect (noun) = the possibility or likelihood of some future event occurring
 - Synonyms: Possibility, potential
 - Antonyms: Improbability, hopelessness
 - Sentence: The prospect of economic recovery seems more tangible now than it did last year.

- 7. Reservoir (noun) = a large natural or artificial lake used as a source of water supply
 - Synonyms: Lake, basin
 - Antonyms: Drain, desert
 - Sentence: The city's reservoir is filled to capacity after the recent heavy rains.
- 8. Agitation (noun) = a state of nervousness or unrest
 - Synonyms: Unrest, disturbance
 - Antonyms: Calm, peace
 - Sentence: The proposed new law caused great agitation among the population.
- 9. Rebound (verb) = to recover in value, amount, or strength after a decrease or decline
 - Synonyms: Recover, bounce back
 - Antonyms: Decline, deteriorate
 - Sentence: The stock market rebounded quickly after the initial shock of the news.

Idioms & Phrases

- 10. Lagging behind Falling short of a certain level or standard.
- 11. Breaking down Failing to continue or come to an unsuccessful end.

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CURRENT AFFAIRS 14th **FEBRUARY, 2024**

- 1. Lebanese Judge Nawaf Salam elected as new President of International Court of Justice (ICJ) for 3 year term.
 - Ugandan Judge elected ICJ Vice-president amid controversy over Gaza genocide case.
- 2. The Headquarter of confederation of international small Tea holders (CITS) will shift from China to India.
 - The meeting was held in Assam for the first time, with 77 delegates attending the session over three days from January 31.
 - India took over as the chair of the FAO IGG on Tea from the United Kingdom for the next two years and the session was presided over by Saurav-Pahari, deputy chairman of Tea Board India.
- **3.** The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) recently conducted successful tests on a High Altitude PseudoSatellite (HAPS), marking a significant milestone in unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) technology.

- **4.** In October 2023, India's counterpart to the US Food and Drug Administration, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization, made NexCAR19 India's first approved CAR-T cell therapy.
 - The approval was based on the results of two small clinical trials conducted in IndiaExit
 Disclaimer in 64 people with advanced lymphoma or leukemia.
- **5.** The Ministry of Culture is initiating a major project to set up a Regional Centre of Sangeet Natak Akademi in Hyderabad, known as 'Dakshin Bharat Sanskritik-Kendra'.
- **6.** The 71st edition of Miss World will be held in India from February 18 to March 9. With its latest edition, the coveted international beauty pageant is making a return to the country after nearly three decades.
 - The pageant will commence with "The Opening Ceremony" and "India Welcomes the World Gala" by the India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) in New Delhi on February 20.It will conclude with a grand finale at the Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai on March 9 and will be streamed and telecast across the world.

- **7.** To encourage women in the field of science, Professor Ajay Kumar Sood, Principal Scientific Advisor to the Central Government, launched Swati Portal at the Indian National Science Academy. Swati portal was launched on 11 February 2024.
- **8.** Pyarelal Sharma, one-half of the legendary composer duo Laxmikant-Pyarelal, has been felicitated with the prestigious Lakshminarayana International Award.
 - The award was presented to the 'My Name Is Lakhan' composer by musicians L Subramaniam and Kavita Krishnamurti Subramaniam as part of the Lakshminarayana Global Music Festival.
- **9.** The Odisha government declared the Gupteswar forest in Koraput district as its fourth Biodiversity Heritage-Site (BHS).
- 10. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Uttarakhand's Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami unveiled a statue of General Bipin Rawat, who was India's first Chief of Defence Staff (CDS).

11. World Marathon record holder Kelvin Kiptom dies In road accident.

12. 67th all India Police Duty Meet: RPF hosts in Lucknow.

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