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## VOCABULARY

1. Stagnant: Showing no activity; dull and sluggish.
  - Synonyms: Inactive, still, inert
  - Antonyms: Active, flowing, dynamic
  - Sentence: The stagnant state of municipal finances is a cause for concern.
2. Precarious: Not securely held or in position; dangerously likely to fall or collapse.
  - Synonyms: Unstable, insecure, risky
  - Antonyms: Stable, secure, safe
  - Sentence: The precarious financial condition of urban municipalities needs urgent attention.
3. Surplus: An amount of something left over when requirements have been met.
  - Synonyms: Excess, extra, overflow
  - Antonyms: Deficit, shortage, lack
  - Sentence: The surplus funds in municipal budgets are not being effectively utilised.
4. Viability: Ability to work successfully or to survive.
  - Synonyms: Feasibility, practicality, sustainability
  - Antonyms: Impracticality, infeasibility, unlikelihood
  - Sentence: The viability of urban projects depends on effective financial planning.
5. Leverage: To use something to maximum advantage.
  - Synonyms: Utilize, exploit, harness
  - Antonyms: Misuse, neglect, ignore
  - Sentence: The government plans to leverage digital infrastructure for better service delivery.

6. Harness: To control and make use of resources effectively.
- Synonyms: Utilize, exploit, channel
  - Antonyms: Waste, neglect, squander
  - Sentence: India needs to harness land value for urban transport projects.
7. Decouple: To separate or disengage something from something else.
- Synonyms: Disconnect, detach, separate
  - Antonyms: Link, connect, combine
  - Sentence: It is essential to decouple project preparation from financial assistance.
8. Relentless: Continuing without becoming weaker or less severe.
- Synonyms: Persistent, unyielding, continuous
  - Antonyms: Intermittent, yielding, sporadic
  - Sentence: Relentless focus on governance efficiency is needed to transform cities.
9. Earmark: To designate something, typically funds or resources, for a particular purpose.
- Synonyms: Allocate, reserve, assign
  - Antonyms: Misallocate, reassign, ignore
  - Sentence: Half of the total budget is earmarked for urban transport projects.
10. Assimilate: To take in and integrate information, ideas, or culture.
- Synonyms: Absorb, incorporate, integrate
  - Antonyms: Reject, exclude, misunderstand
  - Sentence: Urban policies must assimilate environmental concerns for sustainability.

**Idioms & Phrases**

11. A hard nut to crack: a problem that is very difficult to solve
12. Better late than never: doing something late is better than not doing it at all
13. Draw a longbow: to exaggerate in telling stories; overstate something
14. Eat like a bird: eat very little
15. Find your feet: to become confident and independent in a new situation

Odisha Career

## **CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**25<sup>th</sup> November, 2024**

1. The Reserve Bank of India and the Maldives Monetary Authority have signed an agreement to allow crossborder transactions using the Indian Rupee and the Maldivian Rufiyaa. This framework aims to reduce transaction costs, promote bilateral trade, and strengthen economic ties between the two nations.
2. India has launched its first AI Data Bank, aimed at boosting innovation and enhancing national security. The initiative unveiled by Union Minister Jitendra Singh at the ASSOCHAM AI Leadership Meet 2024 provides access to diverse datasets for researchers and startups to develop scalable AI solutions.
3. The 9th Amur Falcon Festival was celebrated in Tamenglong, Manipur, to raise awareness about Amur falcons, the world's longest-traveling birds.
  - These falcons roost in Tamenglong during OctoberNovember, migrating to southern and eastern Africa. Amur Falcons (*Falco amurensis*) are small raptors named after the Amur River, bordering Russia and China. They breed in southeastern Siberia and northern China and migrate across India to Africa, returning to Mongolia and Siberia.
4. The Haryana government launched the 'Haryana Good Governance Award Scheme 2024' to recognize and reward employees for innovative practices and exceptional efforts that enhance governance across the state.
  - The scheme aims to promote excellence in governance by recognizing and rewarding employees for innovative practices and exceptional efforts that enhance governance across the state.
5. India and Australia have strengthened their space cooperation through a new agreement. The agreement, signed by ISRO and ASA, focuses on crew and module recovery for India's Gaganyaan missions. This includes Australian support for search and rescue operations in Australian waters, ensuring the safety of India's first crewed spaceflight program.

6. India is ranked 23rd on the Sustainable Trade Index 2024. The index was created in 2022 by the Institute for Management Development (IMD) World Competitiveness Center and the Hinrich Foundation.
  - It assesses 30 economies on readiness for global trade, focusing on economic, environmental, and societal pillars. Sustainable trade ensures mutual benefits for partners while balancing economic growth, social development, and environmental protection. New Zealand, the UK, and Australia are the top-performing nations on the index.
7. JMM leader Hemant Soren on Sunday met Jharkhand Governor Santosh Kumar Gangwar and staked claim to form the government, soon after leaders of the INDIA bloc in the State unanimously elected him as the legislature party leader. The Governor has made him working Chief Minister till the new government, while the oath-taking ceremony will be on November 28.
8. Italy claimed their fifth Billie Jean King Cup title after an 11- year drought, defeating Slovakia 2-0 in the final. Jasmine Paolini and Lucia Bronzetti secured straight-set victories in their respective singles matches, leading Italy to a triumphant victory. The win highlights the resurgence of Italian women's tennis on the global stage.