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## VOCABULARY

- 1. Anguished: Experiencing severe mental or physical pain or suffering.
  - Synonyms: Distressed, tormented, pained
  - Antonyms: Calm, content, serene
  - Sentence: Her anguished expression revealed the depth of her sorrow over the tragic news.
- 2. Pervasive: Existing or spreading widely throughout an area or group of people.
  - Synonyms: Ubiquitous, widespread, prevalent
  - Antonyms: Rare, uncommon, limited
  - Sentence: The pervasive nature of digital technology has changed the way we live.
- 3. Burnout: Physical or mental collapse caused by overwork or stress.
  - Synonyms: Fatigue, exhaustion, weariness
  - Antonyms: Refreshment, invigoration, energy
  - Sentence: The intense workload led to her burnout, leaving her unable to focus on tasks.
- 4. Ordeal: A difficult or painful experience.
  - Synonyms: Trial, hardship, suffering
  - Antonyms: Comfort, relief, ease
  - Sentence: The journey through the mountains in harsh weather was an ordeal for the travelers.
- 5. Ruthlessness: Having or showing no pity or compassion for others.
  - Synonyms: Cruelty, mercilessness, harshness
  - Antonyms: Compassion, kindness, mercy
  - Sentence: The ruthlessness with which the company handled layoffs shocked many employees.

- 6. Recourse: A source of help in a difficult situation.
  - Synonyms: Option, remedy, aid
  - Antonyms: Hindrance, obstacle, blockade
  - Sentence: With no other recourse, she decided to take legal action to defend her rights.
- 7. Tragedy: An event causing great suffering, destruction, and distress.
  - Synonyms: Disaster, calamity, misfortune
  - Sentence: The tragic death of the young employee highlighted the need for workplace reforms.
- 8. Norm: A standard or pattern, especially of social behavior, that is typical or expected in a group.
  - Synonyms: Standard, benchmark, rule
  - Sentence: In Europe, a 40-hour work week is the norm, unlike in the U.S. where long hours are common.
- 9. Resentment: Bitter indignation at having been treated unfairly.
  - Synonyms: Bitterness, anger, displeasure
  - Antonyms: Contentment, acceptance, satisfaction
  - Sentence: The unequal distribution of bonuses created resentment among the employees.
- 10. Arbitrary: Based on random choice or personal whim, rather than reason or system.
  - Synonyms: Capricious, whimsical, dictatorial
  - Antonyms: Rational, fair, systematic
  - Sentence: The arbitrary decisions of management led to a sense of insecurity among employees.

#### **Idioms & Phrases**

- 11. Zip your lip: shut up or stop talking
- 12. Miss the boat: miss an opportunity or chance
- 13. Devil's advocate: one who presents a counter-argument.
- 14. White elephant: something that is expensive
- 15. Water under the bridge: something that happened in the past and cannot now be changed

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## CURRENT AFFAIRS 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2024

- 1. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has started the country's first analog space mission at Leh in Ladakh, where space agency will simulate life in an interplanetary habitat. The move assumes significance as India is planning to send a human to the Moon in the near future.
- 2. Artificial intelligence (AI) is reshaping the global economy. It is reinventing labor markets, industries, and societal dynamics.
  - This transformation brings both opportunities and challenges. The global AI market is expected to grow, with a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 36.6% from 2024 to 2030. Advanced economies will experience these changes sooner than emerging markets due to their focus on cognitive-intensive roles.
  - Singapore leads the AI Preparedness Index with a score of 0.80, followed by Denmark and the U.S., as advanced economies are better equipped with AI frameworks.
  - India ranks 72nd, scoring 0.49, with high ChatGPT awareness (45% user rate) and over 338 AI startups, showing growth in AI adoption.
  - Other Countries: Bangladesh (0.38) on 113, Sri Lanka (0.43) on 92, and China (0.63) on 31
- **3.** International Day for Biosphere Reserves 2024 will be celebrated on November 3 to promote the importance of biosphere reserves. Biosphere reserves are protected areas that represent a harmonious relationship between human communities and nature.
- 4. Israel is expected to deploy its new 'Iron Beam' laser defence system within a year, enhancing its ability to counter missiles, drones, and rockets. Developed alongside the Iron Dome, it offers cost-effective and efficient interception but faces limitations in adverse weather conditions.

- 5. The Government of India, in collaboration with the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC), is holding the first Asian Buddhist Summit (ABS) in the national capital. The summit themed 'Role of Buddha Dhammain Strengthening Asia' is a manifestation of India's Act East Policy, which is principled on collective, inclusive and spiritual development of Asia, the Union Culture Ministry said in a statement.
- 6. The 352nd Governing Body meeting of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) is currently taking place in Geneva. This important gathering began on October 28 and will run until November 7, bringing together representatives from member countries to discuss key labor issues.
- 7. The Ningol Chakkouba festival, one of Manipur's biggest, was celebrated on November 3, 2024. It is a special festival for the Meitei community but is now enjoyed by other communities too.
  - Ningol Chakkouba happens each year on the second day of the Meitei lunar month called Hiyangei. On this day, married sisters come to their maternal homes for a big feast and happy reunion, where gifts are exchanged. Traditionally, the brother invites his sister a week before the festival. Many Manipuris celebrate this festival even when they are living outside Manipur.