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VOCABULARY

- 1. Ubiquitous: Present, appearing, or found everywhere
 - Synonyms: Omnipresent, universal, pervasive
 - Antonyms: Rare, uncommon, limited
 - Sentence: Satellite technologies have become ubiquitous in modern communication systems.
- 2. Detriment: Something that causes harm or damage
 - Synonyms: Disadvantage, injury, impairment
 - Antonyms: Benefit, advantage, improvement
 - Sentence: The continued use of harmful propellants could be to the detriment of our planet's atmosphere.
- 3. Enforceable: Capable of being enforced or carried out
 - Synonyms: Implementable, executable, actionable
 - Antonyms: Unenforceable, ineffective, inoperable
 - Sentence: The new international regulations must be clear and enforceable to be effective.
- 4. Magnification: The act of making something larger or more significant
 - Synonyms: Amplification, enlargement, expansion
 - Antonyms: Reduction, diminution, minimization
 - Sentence: The risk magnification of orbital debris threatens future space exploration efforts.
- 5. Defunct: No longer existing or functioning
 - Synonyms: Inactive, obsolete, inoperative
 - Antonyms: Active, functional, operational
 - Sentence: Defunct satellites contribute significantly to the growing problem of space debris.
- 6. Affluence: The state of having a great deal of money or wealth
 - Synonyms: Prosperity, wealth, abundance
 - Antonyms: Poverty, scarcity, deprivation

- Sentence: The growing affluence of tech companies has accelerated space exploration efforts.
- 7. Mitigate: To make less severe, serious, or painful
 - Synonyms: Reduce, alleviate, diminish
 - Antonyms: Exacerbate, worsen, intensify
 - Sentence: New technologies aim to mitigate the environmental impact of rocket launches.
- 8. Proliferation: Rapid increase in number or quantity
 - Synonyms: Multiplication, expansion, spread
 - Antonyms: Reduction, decline, contraction
 - Sentence: The proliferation of satellite technologies has transformed global communication.
- 9. Intrinsic: Belonging naturally; essential
 - Synonyms: Inherent, innate, fundamental
 - Antonyms: Extrinsic, external, superficial
 - Sentence: The intrinsic value of space exploration lies in its potential for scientific discovery.
- **10.** Precarious: Not securely held or in position; dangerously likely to fall or collapse
 - Synonyms: Unstable, uncertain, risky
 - Antonyms: Secure, stable, certain
 - Sentence: The precarious nature of space debris creates significant challenges for future missions.

CURRENT AFFAIRS 12th December, 2024

- 1. Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma announced that Rajasthan will observe the Pravasi Rajasthani Diwason 10 December every year. The chief minister made the announcement at the 'Rajasthan Parvasi Conclave' held in Jaipur on 10 December 20224 as part of the ongoing Rising Rajasthan Global Investment Summit in Jaipur, Rajasthan.
 - The three-day Rising Rajasthan Global Investment Summit will be held in Jaipur, Rajasthan, from 9 to 11 December. It aims to attract Indian and Global investment to the state. At the summit, the government is organising a separate session focused on the Pravasi Rajasthani Conclave on 10 December and the MSME Conclave on 11 December.
- 2. A plume of hot ash and gases up to three kilometres high forced residents to seek shelter after a volcano in the Philippines erupted on Monday.
 - There were no immediate reports of casualties in the latest explosion of Mount Kanlaon, on central Negros island, but authorities shut schools and imposed a nighttime curfew after several villages were hit by ashfalls that clouded the the visibility of motorists and sparked health concerns.
 - It sounded like a cannon, Mayor Jose Chubasco Cardenas of Canlaon city, which lies southeast of the volcano, told The Associated Press by telephone. There have been quiet eruptions before, but this was one very loud.
- 3. Veteran Indian ecologist Madhav Gadgil has been chosen as one of the six persons/institutions to be honoured with the prestigious 2024 United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) 'Champions of the Earth' award.
 - Madhav Gadgil, along with Brazilian Sonia Guajajara, Lu Qi of China, Amy Bowers Cordalisof the USA, Gabriel Paun of România, and the Egyptian environmental organisation Sekem, has been chosen for this year 'Champions of the Earth' award in various categories.
 - The 'Champions of the Earth award is considered the United Nation's highest environmental honour.

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About Champions of the Earth award:

- It was established in 2005 and awarded by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- It is the UN's highest environmental honour, recognises trailblazers at the forefront of efforts to protect people and the planet.
- Every year, UNEP honours individuals and organizations working on innovative and sustainable solutions to address the triple planetary crisis of climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, and pollution and waste. Champions transform our economies, innovate, lead political change, fight environmental injustice, and defend our natural resources.
- 4. Veteran filmmaker Shaji N Karun has been selected for the prestigious JC Daniel Award 2023 for his lifetime contributions to Malayalam cinema. The JC Daniel Award is the highest honor for a filmmaker in Kerala and is presented by the state government to recognize excellence.
- 5. Vaibhav Chaturvedi, Chief General Manager of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), has been appointed as an ex-officio member of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI). Representing the RBI, Chaturvedi will contribute to the board's efforts in ensuring a transparent insolvency resolution process and strengthening the insolvency ecosystem.
- 6. The India Internet Governance Forum (IIGF) 2024 is scheduled for December 9-10, 2024, at the Bharat Mandapam Convention Center in New Delhi. The event is supported by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and the National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI). This forum gathers experts and stakeholders to discuss Internet governance.
- 7. Economic Affairs Secretary Ajay Seth has been given the additional responsibility of the Revenue department. The appointment, effective immediately, was made by the Appointment Committee of the Cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Seth, a 1987 batch IAS officer, will hold the additional charge until a regular incumbent is appointed.

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- 8. The 20th Asian Women's Handball Championship concluded in a spectacular fashion on December 10, 2024, with Japan clinching their second-ever championship title by defeating South Korea 25-24 in a thrilling final. Held at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium, the match showcased exceptional skill.
- **9.** Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus was voted WTA(Women Tennis Association) Player of the Year for 2024. This is the first time Aryna Sabalenka has won the WTA Player of the Year award.
 - The international tennis media, accredited by the women's professional tennis governing body WTA, votes to select the best players, tournaments, and coaches of the year after the conclusion of the WTA calendar year.
 - Apart from Aryna Sabalenka, the Italian doubles duo of Sara Erraniand
 Jasmine Paolini were voted the Doubles Team of the Year, Emma Navarro
 the Most Improved Player, Paula Badosathe Comeback Player, and
 Lulu Sun the Newcomer of the Year.
- 10. Nine-year-old Aarit Kapil from Delhi defeated Grandmaster Raset Ziatdinov in a classical chess match at the KIIT International Open. This makes him the youngest Indian and third youngest globally to achieve this feat. Ziatdinov held an advantage until a late-game error allowed Aarit to secure victory. Aarit now sets his sights on the Under-13 and Under-9 National Championships.

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