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## VOCABULARY

1. Profound: Having deep insight or understanding; intense.
  - Synonyms: Deep, intense, insightful.
  - Antonyms: Shallow, superficial, trivial.
  - Sentence: The teacher's profound words left a lasting impact on the students.
  
2. Enlightening: Giving someone greater knowledge or understanding about a subject.
  - Synonyms: Informative, illuminating, instructive.
  - Antonyms: Confusing, perplexing, misleading.
  - Sentence: The documentary was enlightening and opened my eyes to new possibilities.
  
3. Foster: To encourage the development or growth of something.
  - Synonyms: Promote, nurture, cultivate.
  - Antonyms: Discourage, neglect, hinder.
  - Sentence: The community center fosters creativity through its various art programs.
  
4. Trivial: Of little importance or value.
  - Synonyms: Insignificant, minor, negligible.
  - Antonyms: Significant, important, critical.
  - Sentence: He dismissed the issue as trivial, but it turned out to be a major problem.
  
5. Reinforce: To strengthen or support something.
  - Synonyms: Strengthen, bolster, fortify.
  - Antonyms: Weaken, undermine, diminish.
  - Sentence: The new evidence reinforced his argument in court.

6. Impermanence: The state of not lasting forever.
  - Synonyms: Transience, fleetingness, ephemerality.
  - Antonyms: Permanence, durability, constancy.
  - Sentence: The impermanence of life makes every moment precious.
  
7. Hilarious: Extremely amusing or funny.
  - Synonyms: Humorous, entertaining, comical.
  - Antonyms: Serious, somber, dull.
  - Sentence: The comedian's performance was so hilarious that the audience couldn't stop laughing.
  
8. Extravagant: Lacking restraint in spending money or resources; excessively elaborate.
  - Synonyms: Lavish, excessive, profligate.
  - Antonyms: Moderate, frugal, economical.
  - Sentence: She threw an extravagant party to celebrate her promotion.
  
9. Ephemeral: Lasting for a very short time.
  - Synonyms: Transient, fleeting, momentary.
  - Antonyms: Permanent, lasting, enduring.
  - Sentence: The beauty of a sunset is ephemeral, fading within minutes.
  
10. Exuberant: Full of energy, excitement, and cheerfulness.
  - Synonyms: Lively, enthusiastic, buoyant.
  - Antonyms: Gloomy, lethargic, subdued.
  - Sentence: The children were exuberant during the school's annual festival.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

16<sup>th</sup> December, 2024

1. India, France, and the UAE have launched "Desert Knight," a trilateral air combat exercise over the Arabian Sea to boost military interoperability and enhance defence ties. Conducted southwest of Karachi, the exercise features intensive combat manoeuvres involving advanced aircraft like Sukhoi30MKIs, Rafales, and F-16s. This marks a continued effort to build strategic partnerships in the IndoPacific and Persian Gulf regions amid global geopolitical tensions.
2. French President Emmanuel Macron has chosen seasoned centrist François Bayrou, 73, as the new prime minister. Bayrou's appointment follows a parliamentary vote that ousted the previous government. His extensive political experience is considered crucial for addressing France's political fragmentation, particularly the lack of a clear majority in the National Assembly. Macron remains committed to serving his full term until 2027.
3. The second India-Iran-Armenia trilateral consultation was held on Thursday, where the three sides discussed a wide range of matters, including connectivity initiatives, engagement in multilateral fora, and regional developments, the Ministry of External Affairs stated.
4. Energy efficiency stands as a cornerstone of sustainable development, weaving together the threads of progress and environmental stewardship. In India, this deep dedication to sustainability is passionately commemorated on December 14 as National Energy Conservation Day.
  - This annual observance shines as a ray of hope and shared responsibility, underscoring the critical need for adopting sustainable energy practices. Far beyond a ceremonial occasion, it serves as a driving force for individuals, industries, and institutions to embrace energy efficiency, paving the way for a greener, more harmonious future.
  - This year, the theme for National Energy Conservation Day 2024 is "Powering Sustainability: Every Watt Counts."

5. Vijay Diwas is commemorated on December 16 every year to honor the victory of the Indian armed forces over Pakistan in the 1971 war and to pay tribute to the soldiers who sacrificed their lives for the country.
  - The day is also observed in Bangladesh as 'Bijoy Dibos' or Victory Day, marking the country's formal independence from Pakistan.
6. The "Under the Sal Tree" Theatre Festival, held annually in Rampur, Assam, promotes ecofriendly and sustainable practices in theatre while showcasing rich cultural diversity.
  - An open-air theatre festival promoting carbon neutrality and eco-conscious practices in theatre, hosted by Badungduppa Kalakendra in Rampur, Assam.
  - Performances are staged under sal trees, without artificial lights or electric sound systems.
7. Caitlin Clark, 22, is Time Magazine's 2024 Athlete of the Year. The WNBA star led the league in assists and three-pointers, setting a new single-season assist record. Clark's influence boosted women's basketball viewership and attendance, earning her the Rookie of the Year award and a spot on the All-WNBA first team.
  - Lisa Su of USA has been recognized as 'CEO of the Year 2024' by Time Magazine.
  - Lisa Tz Wu-Fang Su (China-origin) is an American billionaire, business executive, computer scientist, and electrical engineer who is the president, chief executive officer (CEO), and chair of the semiconductor company Advanced Micro Devices (AMD).
8. The International Cricket Council (ICC) has approved a hybrid model for the 2025 ICC Champions Trophy, allowing matches to be hosted in both Pakistan and Dubai. Meanwhile, Pakistan will not travel to India for the 2026 T20 World Cup.