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VOCABULARY

1. **Fragmented:** Broken into smaller parts; not cohesive.
 - Synonyms: Disjointed, divided, scattered.
 - Antonyms: Unified, whole, integrated.
 - Sentence: The fragmented healthcare system is unable to meet the needs of urban populations.

2. **Perilous:** Full of danger or risk.
 - Synonyms: Hazardous, risky, dangerous, treacherous.
 - Antonyms: Safe, secure, harmless, protected.
 - Sentence: The trek through the snow-covered mountains was perilous due to the risk of avalanches.

3. **Catastrophic:** Extremely harmful or disastrous.
 - Synonyms: Calamitous, devastating, ruinous.
 - Antonyms: Beneficial, constructive, harmless.
 - Sentence: Out-of-pocket medical expenses can have catastrophic consequences for low-income families.

4. **Trajectory:** The path or direction followed by something in motion or development.
 - Synonyms: Course, path, direction.
 - Antonyms: Stagnation, immobility.
 - Sentence: The family's financial trajectory changed after the medical crisis.

5. **Abysmal:** Extremely bad or appalling.
 - Synonyms: Terrible, dreadful, appalling.
 - Antonyms: Excellent, commendable, admirable.
 - Sentence: The abysmal state of primary healthcare in urban areas is concerning.

6. Underscore: To emphasize or highlight.
 - Synonyms: Highlight, stress, underline.
 - Antonyms: Ignore, downplay, neglect.
 - Sentence: The report underscores the need for better urban health infrastructure.

7. Prevalence: The commonness or widespread occurrence of something.
 - Synonyms: Ubiquity, pervasiveness, frequency.
 - Antonyms: Rarity, infrequency, uncommonness.
 - Sentence: The prevalence of hypertension is rising in urban populations.

8. Alarming: Worrying or disturbing.
 - Synonyms: Concerning, distressing, startling.
 - Antonyms: Reassuring, calming, comforting.
 - Sentence: The alarming rate of obesity among children calls for immediate action.

9. Fluidity: The quality of being adaptable or subject to change.
 - Synonyms: Flexibility, adaptability, variability.
 - Antonyms: Rigidity, inflexibility, stability.
 - Sentence: The fluidity of labour markets allows for inter-State migration.

10. Pertinent: Relevant or applicable to a particular matter.
 - Synonyms: Relevant, appropriate, applicable.
 - Antonyms: Irrelevant, unrelated, extraneous.
 - Sentence: The speaker raised several pertinent issues regarding urban health systems.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

1st – 2nd December, 2024

1. Nagaland was formally recognised as a separate state on 1st December, 1963, with Kohima being declared as its capital.
 - The State of Nagaland Act, 1962, was enacted by the Parliament to give Nagaland statehood.
2. Border Security Force (BSF) Raising Day is observed every year on December 1, marking the foundation of the BSF, which is counted as one of India's most powerful paramilitary forces. Established in 1965, the BSF was formed in response to the requirement for a specialised force to protect the border of India and secure national security.
3. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch the 'Bima Sakhi Yojana' in Panipat, Haryana, aimed at empowering women by creating job opportunities in the insurance sector. Under this scheme, women will become agents of the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC), enabling them to sell insurance and earn an income. This initiative is part of the broader efforts to promote women's empowerment and economic independence.
4. Syria's military has announced a "temporary troop withdrawal" in the north-western city of Aleppo, where rebel groups launched a surprise offensive on government-held positions for the first time in years.
 - The military said on Saturday that dozens of its soldiers had been killed or wounded in fierce battles with "armed terrorist organisations" in the governorates of Aleppo and Idlib over the previous few days and that it was now regrouping, redeploying troops to strengthen its defence lines as it prepared a "counterattack".
5. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, the first woman and first African to lead the World Trade Organization (WTO), has been reappointed for a second term, starting September 1, 2025.
 - Her reappointment was fast-tracked, prompted by African countries and concerns over potential disruptions from Donald Trump's administration.

6. The 30th edition of the Kolkata International Film Festival (KIFF) is set to showcase a diverse range of films from 41 countries, with a special emphasis on French cinema. Scheduled from December 4 to 11, 2024, the festival will feature 175 films, including contemporary works by French filmmakers.
7. The sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP16) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) will take place in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, from 2 to 13 December 2024.
 - At the 1992 Earth Summit, three global agreements were established: the UNCCD, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). These agreements work together to ensure land, climate, and biodiversity benefit from a joint approach to restore our balance with nature. The UNCCD focuses on coordinated actions to achieve land degradation neutrality and carbon neutrality.
8. The Me·Gong Festival 2024 is celebrated in Meghalaya. It celebrates the rich cultural heritage of Meghalaya, particularly the Garo tribe. Under the theme 'Echoes of Traditions', the festival features international and national artists, traditional games, and exhibitions of handloom and handicrafts. More than 3 lakh visitors attended the event. It aims to spotlight local talent and promote the vibrant culture of the Garo people, preserving their traditions for future generations.