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## VOCABULARY

1. Acrimonious: Angry and bitter, typically in speech or debate.
  - Synonyms: Bitter, hostile, caustic
  - Antonyms: Harmonious, peaceful, friendly
  - Sentence: The acrimonious exchanges between the government and the Opposition disrupted the entire session.
2. Scuffle: A short and sudden fight or struggle.
  - Synonyms: Fight, tussle, brawl
  - Antonyms: Peace, calm, agreement
  - Sentence: The debate turned into a scuffle, tarnishing the dignity of the Parliament.
3. Impetus: A driving force or stimulus that encourages activity or development.
  - Synonyms: Motivation, stimulus, boost
  - Antonyms: Deterrent, hindrance, obstacle
  - Sentence: A monetary policy shift could provide the necessary impetus for economic growth.
4. Trajectory: The path followed by a projectile or an object under specific conditions.
  - Synonyms: Path, course, route
  - Antonyms: Deviation, divergence
  - Sentence: The inflation trajectory remains aligned with the projected expectations.
5. Rekindle: To revive or renew something, especially emotions or ideas.
  - Synonyms: Reignite, restore, renew
  - Antonyms: Quench, extinguish, suppress
  - Sentence: A reduction in inflation could rekindle economic growth.

6. Efficacy: The ability to produce the desired result or effect.
- Synonyms: Effectiveness, efficiency, success
  - Antonyms: Ineffectiveness, failure, inefficiency
  - Sentence: The efficacy of the monetary policy depends on its alignment with economic conditions.
7. Absurd: Wildly unreasonable, illogical, or inappropriate.
- Synonyms: Ridiculous, preposterous, irrational
  - Antonyms: Rational, logical, sensible
  - Sentence: The absurd allegations made by the Opposition drew widespread criticism.
8. Corollary: A direct or natural consequence or result.
- Synonyms: Result, consequence, outcome
  - Antonyms: Cause, origin, source
  - Sentence: The reduction in crude oil imports is a corollary of increased electrification.
9. Desideratum: Something that is needed or wanted.
- Synonyms: Requirement, necessity, essential
  - Antonyms: Nonessential, luxury
  - Sentence: Electrification is considered a universal desideratum for modern railway systems.
10. Profligacy: Reckless extravagance or wastefulness in the use of resources.
- Synonyms: Extravagance, wastefulness, squandering
  - Antonyms: Frugality, thrift, economy
  - Sentence: The profligacy of stabling hundreds of diesel locomotives was criticized.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

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

1. India will, for the first time, host the prestigious World Para Athletics Championships in 2025. Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium, in the Indian capital city of New Delhi, will be the venue of the 12th World Para Athletics Championships, to be held in September /October 2025.
  - This is the second major tournament to be hosted by New Delhi in 2025, as it will also host the 2025 Boxing Cup Final & 3rd World Boxing Congress for the first time.
  - The hosting of these international sporting events will showcase Indian abilities to organise major sporting events and will also strengthen India's bid to host the 2036 Summer and Paralympics Games.
2. Kejriwal announced that elderly citizens over 60 years of age will receive treatment free of cost in both government and private hospitals under the new scheme called Sanjeevani Yojana.
3. Bollywood star Salman Khan has been appointed as the brand ambassador for the inaugural Kho Kho World Cup, set to take place in New Delhi from January 13 to 19, 2025. The event will feature teams from 24 countries and is expected to elevate Kho Kho's global profile.
4. ICAR –Indian Institute of Spices Research has released its new ginger variety for commercial applications. Named IISR Surasa, the variety has been developed through a farmers participatory breeding programme.
5. Manipur has reinstated the Protected Area Regime due to security concerns from an influx of people from neighboring countries. This requires foreigners to obtain permits for entry. The government is also investigating an organization calling itself the "Kuki-Zo Council" due to questionable origins and claims, urging the public to be cautious of information from unverified sources.



6. Om Prakash Chautala, former Chief Minister of Haryana and INLD leader, passed away on December 20, 2024, at the age of 89 due to cardiac arrest. A prominent political figure and son of former Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal, Chautala served as Haryana's CM for four terms.
7. Masalivillage in Suigam taluka, Banaskantha, Gujarat, became India's first border solar village. Located 40 km from the Pakistan border, the village has a population of 800 people. The village became part of a Border Development Project aiming to make 17 villages fully solar-powered.
  - The Rs1.16 crore project was supported by the Revenue Department, UGVCL (Uttar Gujarat Vij Company Limited), banks, and solar companies. It received Rs59.81 lakh subsidy under PM Suryaghar Yojana, Rs 20.52 lakh from public contributions, and Rs35.67 lakh from CSR (corporate social responsibility).
8. The Travel and Tourism Development Index (TTDI) report has been published as India is ranked 39th among 119 countries. According to the TTDI 2024 report published by the World Economic Forum (WEF), India is ranked 39th among 119 countries.
  - In the previous index published in 2021, India was ranked 54th. However, due to a revision in the WEF's methodology, India's 2021 rank was adjusted to 38th place.
9. The Indian men's hockey team will end the riveting year in fifth place in the FIH world rankings, while the women's team is placed ninth in the latest update released by the International Hockey Federation (FIH).
  - The Indian men's hockey team made history at the 2024 Paris Olympics by winning back-to-back medals at the Games for the first time since the 1972 Olympics in Munich.

- 10.** The National Tansen Award and Raja Mansingh Tomar Award were given on 18 December 2024 during the Tansen Festival in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh.

**National Tansen Award:**

- Recipient: Pt. Swapan Choudhary, a renowned tabla player from Kolkata, was honored with the National Tansen Samman for the year 2023.
- Prize: The award includes an honorarium of five lakh rupees, a citation plaque, and a shawl-shripal.
- Significance: This award is the highest national music award in the field of Indian classical music, established by the Madhya Pradesh government.
- Raja Mansingh Tomar Award: • Recipient: Sanand Nyas, an institution from Indore, was honored with the Raja Mansingh Tomar Samman for the year 2023.
- Institution's Contribution: Sanand Nyas has been active in the fields of classical music, drama, and cultural festivals in Indore for the last 35 years.