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## VOCABULARY

1. Imperative: Absolutely necessary or required.
  - Synonyms: Essential, crucial, mandatory
  - Antonyms: Optional, unimportant, unnecessary
  - Sentence: It is imperative to address the challenges of labour exploitation
2. Coerced: Persuaded or forced to do something by using threats or pressure.
  - Synonyms: Compelled, forced, pressured
  - Antonyms: Allowed, permitted, freed
  - Sentence: The workers were coerced into relocating to Libya.
3. Plight: A dangerous, difficult, or otherwise unfortunate situation.
  - Synonyms: Predicament, hardship, trouble
  - Antonyms: Fortune, blessing, comfort
  - Sentence: The Prime Minister acknowledged the plight of Indian workers abroad.
4. Circumvent: To find a way around an obstacle or avoid a rule cleverly.
  - Synonyms: Evade, bypass, dodge
  - Antonyms: Adhere, comply, confront
  - Sentence: Agents often circumvent regulations to exploit workers.
5. Repatriate: To send someone back to their own country.
  - Synonyms: Return, restore, deport
  - Antonyms: Retain, keep
  - Sentence: Many workers were repatriated due to unsafe conditions abroad.
6. Ratified: Approved or confirmed officially.
  - Synonyms: Endorsed, validated, sanctioned
  - Antonyms: Rejected, denied, opposed
  - Sentence: Amendments must be ratified by at least half of the State Assemblies.

7. Militates: To be a powerful factor in preventing or opposing something.
- Synonyms: Opposes, contradicts, hinders
  - Antonyms: Supports, favors, encourages
  - Sentence: Frequent elections militate against the rationale of cost-cutting.
8. Ostensible: Stated or appearing to be true, but not necessarily so.
- Synonyms: Apparent, supposed, outward
  - Antonyms: Genuine, real, authentic
  - Sentence: The ostensible reason for simultaneous elections is cost reduction.
9. Stark: Clear, sharp, and often harsh in appearance or outline.
- Synonyms: Blunt, severe, plain
  - Antonyms: Subtle, mild, vague
  - Sentence: The plight of Indian workers abroad stands in stark contrast to the nation's diplomatic ambitions.
10. Dire: Extremely serious or urgent.
- Synonyms: Grave, critical, severe
  - Antonyms: Minor, trivial, insignificant
  - Sentence: Indian workers in non-ECR countries often face dire consequences.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

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

1. National Mathematics Day is celebrated every year on December 22.
  - It is observed to honor the birth anniversary of the famous mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan who greatly contributed towards mathematical analysis, number theory, infinite series, and continued fractions.
  - In 2012, the Indian Government declared that 22 December will be celebrated every year as National Mathematics Day.
2. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday arrived here in the Gulf nation on a two-day visit where he will meet the Indian diaspora and hold talks with Kuwaiti leadership to "strengthen the India-Kuwait friendship across various sectors".
  - Modi is visiting Kuwait the invitation of Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber AlSabah.
  - His visit to Kuwait will be the first of any Indian Prime Minister to the Gulf nation in 43 years.
3. Google appointed Preeti Lobana as Vice President and Country Manager for India, succeeding Sanjay Gupta. Lobana brings over 30 years of experience in finance and technology, previously leading gTech. Her appointment marks increased female leadership in Indian tech, following Meta's similar move. Lobana will focus on Google's strategic growth and partnerships in the expanding Indian digital market.
4. A 39-member Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC), chaired by BJP MP PP Chaudhary, has been formed to review the bills enabling 'One Nation, One Election.' The committee, comprising members from various parties, including prominent BJP and opposition leaders, will analyze the feasibility of simultaneous elections and submit its report by the next parliamentary session's last week.

5. The Secretary-General of the United Nations has appointed former Supreme Court Judge Madan B Lokur as the Chairperson of the UN Internal Justice Council.
  - The appointment is till November 12, 2028. In a letter addressed to Justice Lokur, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres expressed his congratulations on the appointment to the Council, which was termed as a "key pillar of the administration of justice at the United Nations."
6. The 11th summit meeting of the Developing Eight (D-8) Organization for Economic Cooperation was held in the New Administrative Capital of Egypt on 19 December 2024. The New Administrative Capital of Egypt is being built on the outskirts of the present capital city of Cairo, and it is intended to be the new capital of Egypt.
  - The 10th summit meeting of D-8 countries was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 8th April 2021.
  - Egypt assumed the rotating presidency of the D-8 groups from Bangladesh.
  - Indonesia will host the 12th D-8 summit meeting in 2025.
  - D-8 is a group of eight Islamic countries
  - The theme of the 11th D-8 Summit meeting was "Investing in Youth and Supporting Small and Medium Enterprises: Towards Shaping the Economy of Tomorrow."
7. Chinese astronauts Cai Xuzhe and Song Lingdong completed a 9-hour spacewalk outside the Tiangong space station, setting a new global record.
  - This surpassed the previous record of 8 hours 56 minutes by NASA astronauts James Voss and Susan Helms during a 2001 ISS expedition.
  - The mission marked Song Lingdong's first spacewalk and highlighted China's growing advancements in space exploration.
8. Recently, a rare bat species called Wroughton's free-tailed bat (*Otomops wroughtoni*) has been spotted in Delhi's Yamuna Biodiversity Park.

9. The total forest and tree cover in India is 827,357 sq km, which accounts for 25.17% of the country's geographical area, according to the State of Forest report 2023 released by the Forest Survey of India.
10. Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) on Friday announced the delivery of two major warships-- Nilgiri and Surat, to the Indian Navy.
- The delivery included the First Stealth Frigate of the Project 17A Class and the Fourth Stealth Destroyer of the Project 15B Class, named Yard 12707 (SURAT).

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