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VOCABULARY

- 1. Exert: To apply or put forth effort, influence, or pressure.
 - Synonyms: Apply, exercise, wield, enforce
 - Antonyms: Withdraw, relax, neglect, cease
 - Sentence: China exerts significant control over the global rare earth supply chain.
- 2. Reinforce: To strengthen or support.
 - Synonyms: Fortify, bolster, enhance, amplify
 - Antonyms: Weaken, undermine, diminish, erode
 - Sentence: China's ban on rare earth technologies reinforces its dominance in the sector.
- 3. Robust: Strong and effective in all or most situations.
 - Synonyms: Sturdy, resilient, vigorous, durable
 - Antonyms: Fragile, weak, delicate, feeble
 - Sentence: Kazakhstan is building a robust rare earth extraction industry with international partnerships.
- 4. Proximity: Nearness in space, time, or relationship.
 - Synonyms: Closeness, nearness, adjacency, vicinity
 - Antonyms: Distance, remoteness, separation, isolation
 - Sentence: Kazakhstan's proximity to India makes it a favorable partner for rare earth imports.
- 5. Dissent: Holding or expressing an opinion different from the majority.
 - Synonyms: Disagreement, opposition, objection
 - Antonyms: Agreement, consensus, harmony
 - Sentence: The judge's dissent highlighted an alternate perspective on the case.

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- 6. Edifice: A large and imposing structure; often metaphorically referring to a complex system.
 - Synonyms: Structure, building, framework
 - Antonyms: Ruin, dismantlement
 - Sentence: The edifice of modern education relies on both traditional and digital teaching methods.
- 7. Invincible: Too powerful to be defeated or overcome.
 - Synonyms: Unbeatable, invulnerable, indomitable
 - Antonyms: Vulnerable, weak, conquerable
 - Sentence: The team appeared invincible throughout the tournament, winning all their matches.
- 8. Exhibit: To show or display something.
 - Synonyms: Display, reveal, demonstrate
 - Antonyms: Conceal, hide, withhold
 - Sentence: The museum exhibits various artifacts from ancient civilizations
- 9. Capitulation: The action of surrendering or ceasing to resist an opponent.
 - Synonyms: Surrender, submission, yield
 - Antonyms: Resistance, defiance, opposition
 - Sentence: The team's early capitulation in the game left the fans disappointed.
- 10. Leash: A restraint or control over something.
 - Synonyms: Control, restriction, tether
 - Antonyms: Freedom, release, liberation
 - Sentence: The company kept a tight leash on expenses to stay within budget.

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CURRENT AFFAIRS 27th December, 2024

- 1. President Joe Biden signed legislation designating the bald eagle as the official national bird of the United States. Despite its longstanding symbolism since 1782, it had not been legally recognized. The bald eagle, featured on the Great Seal and various national emblems, is now officially acknowledged for its representation of power and strength.
- 2. AAP, led by Arvind Kejriwal, launched the Dr. Ambedkar Samman Yojanato support Dalit students pursuing higher education abroad by covering all educational expenses. This initiative, announced ahead of the Delhi Assembly elections to honor Dr. Ambedkar'svision of educational empowerment for Dalits.
- **3.** Ladakhi Losar, the Tibetan New Year, is a lively and culturally significant festival celebrated with great zeal throughout Ladakh. Beyond being a festive occasion, it serves as a time for reflection, community connection, and the preservation of local traditions.
- 4. Senior IAS officer Arunish Chawla has been appointed as new Revenue Secretary in the Finance Ministry. Chawla is currently serving as secretary of the Department of Pharmaceuticals in the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.
- 5. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath paid tribute to 'Bharat Ratna' and former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee by unveiling his statue at Kudiya Ghat along the Gomti River. The event was a grand homage to the leader's legacy, emphasizing his contributions to the nation.

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- 6. The young Indian weightlifters finished their campaign at the Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships 2024 with a credible 33 medals seven gold, 16 silver, and 10 bronze medals. Jyoshna Sabar of Uttar Pradesh stood out with three gold medals and a new Asian record.
 - In the 2023 Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships held in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh, the Indian weightlifting contingent finished with a total of 42 medals.
- 7. India sent humanitarian assistance consignment to Lesotho compromising of 1000 metric tonnes of rice to help in addressing the food security and nutritional requirements of people in Lesotho.
 - In a post on X, the spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs, Randhir Jaiswal wrote, "India sends humanitarian assistance to Lesotho. A consignment of 1000 MT rice, today departed from Nhava Sheva Port for Lesotho. The consignment will help in addressing food security and nutritional requirements of the friendly people of Lesotho."
- 8. Travelling at speeds of up to 430,000 mph and withstanding temperatures of up to 982°C, the Parker Solar Probe is on a mission to "touch" the Sun.
 - On Christmas Eve, December 24, NASA's Parker Solar Probe made history by coming closer to the Sun than any spacecraft ever has, flying within 3.8 million miles (6.1 million kilometres) of the Sun, into the blistering heat of its outer atmosphere, the corona.
 - No human-made object has ever passed this close to a star, so Parker will truly be returning data from uncharted territory: Mission operations manager at Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory.
- 9. On the occasion of the 162nd birth anniversary of Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid a heartfelt tribute to the freedom fighter and educationist, recalling his invaluable contributions to India's independence and the establishment of the Banaras Hindu University (BHU). The Prime Minister expressed his admiration for Malaviya's lifelong commitment to education, calling him a constant source of inspiration for generations.