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VOCABULARY

- 1. Pessimistic:** Tending to see the worst aspect of things or believe that the worst will happen.
 - Synonyms: Negative, cynical, gloomy, despondent.
 - Antonyms: Optimistic, hopeful, positive, cheerful.
 - Sentence: Even the most pessimistic economists did not foresee such a sharp decline in economic growth.
- 2. Slackening:** Becoming slower, weaker, or less intense.
 - Synonyms: Slowing, weakening, easing, diminishing.
 - Antonyms: Intensifying, strengthening, accelerating, increasing.
 - Sentence: The slackening of urban demand indicators contributed to the economic slowdown.
- 3. Precarious:** Not securely held or in position; dangerously likely to fall or collapse.
 - Synonyms: Unstable, insecure, risky, perilous.
 - Antonyms: Stable, secure, safe, steady.
 - Sentence: The expectations of 7% growth now appear precarious given the recent data.
- 4. Complacent:** Showing smug or uncritical satisfaction with oneself or one's achievements.
 - Synonyms: Self-satisfied, smug, indifferent, apathetic.
 - Antonyms: Concerned, dissatisfied, ambitious, proactive.
 - Sentence: It may be too complacent to assume that urban consumption will rebound on its own.
- 5. Vulnerable:** Exposed to the possibility of being attacked or harmed, either physically or emotionally.
 - Synonyms: Susceptible, defenseless, unprotected, weak.
 - Antonyms: Protected, secure, resilient, invulnerable.
 - Sentence: Vulnerable telecom infrastructure provides fertile ground for cybercrime.

- 6. Rampant:** Flourishing or spreading unchecked, especially something unwelcome.
- Synonyms: Uncontrolled, unrestrained, widespread, unchecked.
 - Antonyms: Controlled, restrained, limited, subdued.
 - Sentence: Rampant cybercrime has become a significant threat to digital safety.
- 7. Transparency:** The quality of being open, clear, and easily understood or recognized.
- Synonyms: Openness, clarity, honesty, accountability.
 - Antonyms: Opaqueness, secrecy, obscurity, ambiguity.
 - Sentence: Aggressive prosecutions must be conducted with integrity and transparency.
- 8. Impunity:** Exemption from punishment or freedom from the injurious consequences of an action.
- Synonyms: Immunity, exemption, pardon, freedom.
 - Antonyms: Accountability, liability, responsibility, penalty.
 - Sentence: Fraudsters operate with a sense of impunity due to weak law enforcement.
- 9. Uptick:** A small increase or upward trend.
- Synonyms: Rise, increase, upsurge, growth.
 - Antonyms: Drop, decline, decrease, downturn.
 - Sentence: The slight uptick in growth was not enough to offset the overall economic decline.
- 10. Jeopardize:** To put someone or something into a situation of danger or risk.
- Synonyms: Endanger, threaten, imperil, risk.
 - Antonyms: Protect, secure, safeguard, ensure.
 - Sentence: Rising out-of-pocket health expenditures jeopardize the financial stability of families.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

3rd December, 2024

1. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar described Tipu Sultan as a "complex figure" in Indian history as he picked apart the selective portrayal of his legacy, saying facts have often been "tailored for regime convenience."
 - "History in all society is complicated, and the politics of the day often indulges in cherry-picking facts. To a considerable extent, that has happened in the case of Tipu Sultan," Jaishankar said during the launch of historian Vikram Sampath's book Tipu Sultan: The Saga of Mysore Interregnum 1761-1799 on Saturday.
2. Jay Shah, an experienced cricket administrator and Secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), has officially commenced his tenure as the Chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC). At 36, Shah becomes the youngest to ever hold the prestigious position.
3. The national capital is bracing for a fresh round of farmers' protest on Monday. Farmers' groups, led by the Bhartiya Kisan Parishad (BKP) and other farmer organisations, have decided to march towards Delhi. This has led to increased security and route diversions in Delhi-NCR. The decision to march to Delhi was taken after negotiations between farmer outfits, under the banner of Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM), and district authorities failed to get a breakthrough on Sunday.
4. The joint military exercise between India and Malaysia, Harimau Shakti 2024, is scheduled to take place from December 2 to December 15 at the Bentong Camp in the Malaysian capital, Kuala Lumpur, the Additional Directorate General of Public Information (ADGPI) of the Indian Army stated on Saturday.
 - The Army, via an official statement on X, stated that the exercise is expected to enhance interoperability between the Indian Army and the Malaysian Army in conducting sub-conventional operations under the United Nations mandate.

- This year, the bilateral military exercise is themed around the motto, "Two nations, one mission: Ensuring global peace."
5. The two-day Mahabodhi Mahotsav is being held at the Great Stupa at Sanchi, Madhya Pradesh, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- The event includes religious ceremonies honoring the relics of Lord Buddha's chief disciples, Sariputra and Maudgalyayana, highlighting the cultural and spiritual significance of Sanchi Stupa.
6. National Pollution Control Day is celebrated on December 2nd
- National Pollution Control Day is observed to honor the victims of the Bhopal Gas Tragedy, which happened on the night of December 2–3, 1984.
 - The tragedy was caused by a leak of methyl isocyanate (MIC) gas from a pesticide plant and resulted in the deaths of thousands of people. Theme 2024: "Clean Air, Green Earth: A Step Towards Sustainable Living"
7. India has declared snakebite a notifiable disease, which will help reduce the burden. The country contributes to nearly 50 per cent of global snakebite deaths and is considered the snakebite capital of the world.
- In a letter to states and union territories dated November 27, Union Health Secretary Punya Salila Srivastava urged them "to make snakebite cases and deaths a 'notifiable disease' under the relevant provisions under the State Public Health Act or other applicable legislation making it mandatory for all government and private health facilities (including medical colleges) to report all suspected, probably snakebite cases and deaths."