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## VOCABULARY

1. **Suo motu:** An action taken by a court or an authority on its own initiative, without a request from any party.
  - Synonyms: Self-initiated, voluntary, self-propelled
  - Sentence: The judge took suo motu cognizance of the environmental violation case.
  
2. **Transgression:** An act of violating a law, command, or duty.
  - Synonyms: Violation, infringement, breach
  - Antonyms: Compliance, obedience, adherence
  - Sentence: The company faced penalties for its transgression of safety regulations.
  
3. **Contingent:** Dependent on certain conditions or circumstances.
  - Synonyms: Conditional, dependent, subject to
  - Antonyms: Unconditional, independent
  - Sentence: The success of the event was contingent on the weather remaining clear.
  
4. **Causus belli:** An act or situation provoking or justifying war.
  - Synonyms: Cause of war, justification, provocation
  - Antonyms: Peace treaty, resolution, reconciliation
  - Sentence: The assassination of the diplomat was used as a causus belli for the invasion.
  
5. **Demarcate:** To set boundaries or limits.
  - Synonyms: Delimit, delineate, mark
  - Antonyms: Merge, unify, blend
  - Sentence: The new policy aims to demarcate the responsibilities of each department clearly.

6. Viability: The ability to work successfully or be feasible.
- Synonyms: Feasibility, practicality, workability
  - Antonyms: Impracticality, infeasibility, unlikelihood
  - Example: The viability of the project was questioned due to a lack of funding.
7. Intricate: Very complicated or detailed.
- Synonyms: Complex, elaborate, sophisticated
  - Antonyms: Simple, straightforward, plain
  - Sentence: The artist's intricate design took months to complete.
8. Contention: A heated disagreement or an assertion in an argument.
- Synonyms: Dispute, argument, assertion
  - Antonyms: Agreement, consensus, harmony
  - Sentence: The main point of contention was the ownership of the land.
9. Ambiguous: Open to more than one interpretation; not clearly defined.
- Synonyms: Unclear, vague, equivocal
  - Antonyms: Clear, explicit, definite
  - Sentence: The ambiguous instructions led to confusion among the participants.
10. Pivot: A significant change in strategy or direction.
- Synonyms: Shift, turn, adjustment
  - Antonyms: Continuation, constancy, steadiness
  - Sentence: The company decided to pivot its focus towards renewable energy solutions.

## **CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**6<sup>th</sup> December, 2024**

1. India and Bhutan on Thursday (December 5, 2024) discussed bilateral projects in the fields of electricity and urban planning during the visit of King Jigme Khesar Namgyal Wangchuk and Queen Jetsun Pema.
  - His Majesty Wangchuk met Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and both sides reiterated continued collaboration on multiple fronts, including the Gelephu Mindfulness City project and hydropower.
  - A joint statement issued after the meeting declared PM Modi “reassured His Majesty of India’s continued support for the Gelephu Mindfulness City Project, which will bring prosperity and well-being in Bhutan and also the border areas, and further strengthen economy and investment linkages between the two countries”.
2. French Prime Minister Michel Barnier resigned after a no-confidence vote, becoming the shortest-serving PM in modern French history. President Macron is seeking a swift replacement before the Notre-Dame reopening ceremony, while facing pressure from the far-right and a polarized parliament. The country risks operating without a stable government or a 2025 budget.
3. India and Kuwait have recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance their partnership. This agreement established a Joint Commission for Cooperation (JCC) at the foreign ministers’ level, which took place during Kuwait’s Foreign Minister Abdullah Ali Al Yahya’s official visit to India.
4. The Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya inaugurated the International Gita Mahotsav at Kurukshetra, Haryana, on 5 December 2024. The Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, Lt. General (Retd.) Gurmit Singh, Governor of Uttarakhand, Arif Muhammad Khan, Governor of Kerala and Ms Tabia, Minister for Information, Youth and Culture, Zanzibar, were also present.

5. Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has announced that the Telangana Government will seek the Central Government's assistance for the construction of Indiramma houses to fulfil the Congress promise of providing houses to all shelterless families.
  - The government has taken up construction of 3,500 houses each in the 119 assembly constituencies totalling to 4.5 lakh houses in the first phase and has decided to provide financial assistance of ₹5 lakh in four instalments for construction of each house to eligible beneficiaries who own piece of land. It has been decided to select the poorest of poor for the scheme prioritising dalits, tribals, persons with disabilities, agricultural labour, sanitation workers and transgenders.
6. The Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has decided to keep the repo rate unchanged at 6.5% for the eleventh consecutive time since February 2023. This decision, reached by a 4-2 majority, reflects the MPC's focus on containing inflation while supporting economic growth.
7. International Civil Aviation Day was first observed on December 7, 1994, marking the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Convention on International Civil Aviation, also known as the Chicago Convention. By 1996, the United Nations officially recognized it, highlighting its importance in promoting international peace, understanding, and economic development through aviation.
8. Researchers have identified a new species of ancient humans, which they have named Homo juluensis, meaning "big head," based partly on a very large skull found in China.
9. PM Modi, with Union home minister Amit Shah, reviews the implementation of three new laws ensuring victim support. These laws expedite justice in heinous crimes against women. Chandigarh becomes the first to fully implement these reforms, showcasing advanced police functions through AI and digital evidence. Modi emphasizes promoting such modern practices nationwide.