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## VOCABULARY

1. Potable: Safe to drink; drinkable.
  - Synonyms: Drinkable, pure, clean.
  - Sentense: The villagers walked miles to fetch potable water from a distant well.
2. Contamination: The action of making something impure by exposure to or addition of a poisonous or polluting substance.
  - Synonyms: Pollution, impurity, defilement.
  - Antonyms: Purity, cleanliness, sanitation.
  - Sentense: The contamination of the river affected the health of nearby residents.
3. Cognisant: Having knowledge or being aware of something.
  - Synonyms: Aware, informed, conscious.
  - Antonyms: Ignorant, unaware, oblivious.
  - Sentense: The manager was cognisant of the issues faced by the employees.
4. Catastrophic: Involving or causing sudden great damage or suffering.
  - Synonyms: Disastrous, devastating, calamitous.
  - Antonyms: Beneficial, fortunate, favorable.
  - Sentense: The earthquake caused catastrophic damage to the city.
5. Mitigating: Making something less severe, serious, or painful.
  - Synonyms: Alleviating, reducing, easing.
  - Antonyms: Aggravating, worsening, intensifying.
  - Sentense: The government introduced measures aimed at mitigating the impact of the flood.

6. **Explicitly:** In a clear and detailed manner, leaving no room for confusion or doubt.
- Synonyms: Clearly, plainly, distinctly.
  - Antonyms: Implicitly, vaguely, ambiguously.
  - Sentence: The teacher explicitly stated the rules for the competition.
7. **Trajectory:** The path followed by a projectile, object, or idea moving through space or time.
- Synonyms: Path, route, course.
  - Antonyms: Deviation, divergence.
  - Sentence: The company's financial trajectory has been upward for the past decade.
8. **Sprawl:** The spread of urban developments (such as houses and shopping centers) on undeveloped land near a city.
- Synonyms: Expansion, spread, extension
  - Antonyms: Compactness, concentration
  - Sentence: Urban sprawl has caused the city's boundaries to extend far into the countryside.
9. **Detriment:** The state of being harmed or damaged; something that causes harm.
- Synonyms: Harm, damage, loss
  - Antonyms: Benefit, advantage, gain
  - Sentence: Pollution has been a detriment to the river's ecosystem.
10. **Perseverance:** Steady persistence in a course of action, especially in the face of difficulties.
- Synonyms: Determination, persistence, tenacity
  - Antonyms: Laziness, giving up, surrender
  - Sentence: Her perseverance through challenges helped her achieve her career goals.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

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

1. Nepal and China have formalized a Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) framework agreement during Prime Minister Oli's visit to Beijing. This move, seven years after the initial pact, paves the way for infrastructure projects but raises debt concerns within Nepal's government. The agreement signals a potential shift in Nepal's diplomatic priorities, traditionally aligned with India.
2. India has been selected to chair the 68th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND). This announcement was made by the Indian Embassy in Austria.
  - Ambassador Shambhu S Kumaran has officially assumed the role of Chairman, which marks India's first time leading this UN forum.
3. Human Rights Day is an international United Nations holiday celebrated on December 10 every year. This day aims at spreading awareness about Human Rights across the world and encouraging people to stand up and fight for their rights, regardless of where they are from.
  - It also celebrates the anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on December 10, 1948.
  - The theme for Human Rights Day 2024 is "Our Rights, Our Future, Right Now", focusing on how human rights empower individuals and communities to build a brighter future.
4. Google and the Telangana government have signed an agreement to establish the Google Safety Engineering Centre (GSEC) in Hyderabad. This specialized international cybersecurity hub will be Google's second such centre in the Asia Pacific, after Tokyo, and fifth globally, joining Dublin, Munich, and Malaga.

5. The Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and New & Renewable Energy, Shri Pralhad Joshi, launched 'Anna Chakra' and SCAN (Subsidy Claim Application for NFSA) portal, marking a significant step toward modernizing India's Public Distribution System (PDS) and subsidy claim.
6. The Syrian civil war has reignited with a fresh offensive by Islamist militants led by Hayat Tahriral-Sham (HTS), capturing key territories, including Aleppo, and threatening the stability of President Bashar al-Assad's regime.
7. Uttarakhand will host the National Games 2025 from January 28 to February 14, the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) announced on Monday.
8. Jay Shah, the newly appointed ICC Chairman, has resigned from his position as President of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC). The ACC has announced Shammi Silva, President of Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC), as his successor, and Silva has already taken on his new role.
  - Silva expressed his excitement upon being appointed to the top role and emphasized his commitment to elevating the game with the support of other cricket boards in Asia.