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VOCABULARY

- 1. Pragmatic: Dealing with things sensibly and realistically in a way that is based on practical considerations.
 - Synonyms: Practical, sensible, realistic
 - Antonyms: Impractical, unrealistic, idealistic
 - Sentence: A pragmatic approach to solving the problem helped the team move forward.
- 2. Counter-intuitive: Contrary to what one would expect based on common sense or intuition.
 - Synonyms: Illogical, unexpected, paradoxical
 - Antonyms: Intuitive, logical, expected
 - Sentence: The idea that positive thinking could hinder progress was counter-intuitive but supported by the research.
- 3. Exhilarating: Making one feel very happy, animated, or elated.
 - Synonyms: Thrilling, exciting, invigorating
 - Antonyms: Depressing, dull, boring
 - Sentence: The exhilarating ride made everyone feel alive and full of energy.
- 4. Tapping into: To gain access to or use something, usually a resource or skill.
 - Synonyms: Utilizing, exploiting, accessing
 - Antonyms: Ignoring, neglecting, avoiding
 - Sentence: The company is tapping into new technologies to improve its products.
- 5. Conjecture: An opinion or conclusion formed on the basis of incomplete information.
 - Synonyms: Guess, hypothesis, assumption
 - Antonyms: Fact, certainty, proof
 - Sentence: The theory was based on conjecture rather than solid evidence

- 6. Perplexed: Completely baffled or puzzled, uncertain about something.
 - Synonyms: Confused, bewildered, puzzled
 - Antonyms: Clear, certain, understanding
 - Sentence: She was perplexed by the complexity of the situation and didn't know how to proceed.
- 7. Gullible: Easily persuaded to believe something; credulous.
 - Synonyms: Naive, trusting, credulous
 - Antonyms: Cynical, suspicious, skeptical
 - · Sentence: The gullible tourist was quickly swindled by the street vendor.
- 8. Acrimony: Bitterness or ill feeling.
 - Synonyms: Bitterness, animosity, hostility
 - Antonyms: Goodwill, harmony, friendship
 - Sentence: The debate was filled with acrimony, leaving both sides more divided than ever.
- 9. Flamboyantly: In a very confident and lively way.
 - Synonyms: Ostentatiously, exuberantly, vividly
 - Antonyms: Modestly, subtly, quietly
 - Sentence: She flamboyantly announced her victory to the entire school.
- 10. Overhaul: Take apart (a piece of machinery or equipment) in order to examine it and repair it if necessary.
 - Synonyms: Renovate, refurbish, repair
 - Antonyms: Neglect, damage, destroy
 - Sentence: The company decided to overhaul its entire network system to improve efficiency.

CURRENT AFFAIRS 1st January, 2024

- 1. The Kagyed Dance Festival in Sikkim, held at Tsuklakhang Palace, is a vibrant Buddhist event marking the destruction of evil and the welcoming of peace and prosperity for the new year. Celebrated in early December, it features masked monks performing traditional Cham dances.
- 2. Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel has launched a new citizen-centric initiative called the SWAR (Speech and Written Analysis Resource) platform.
 - The SWAR (Speech and Written Analysis Resource) platform was launched on the occasion of Good Governance Day on December 25.
- 3. The 21st edition of the Third Eye Asian Film Festival, a cornerstone of Maharashtra's film culture, is set to take place from January 10 to January 16, 2025. This year's festival will be held at MovieMax Theatres in Andheri, Sion, and Thane, bringing an impressive lineup of 61 films from across Asia to cinephiles in Mumbai and Thane.
- **4.** The decision follows a proposal from the Endowments Commissioner, highlighting the temple's annual income of ₹11.26 crore and its popularity among devotees from Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, and Telangana.
 - The Andhra Pradesh government has declared the Ratha Saptami as a State festival for three days at the Sri Suryanarayana Swamytemple at Arasavalli in Srikakulam district.
- **5.** Jimmy Carter, the 39th US President passed away at the age of 100 in Georgia on Sunday. He was the longest-lived president in the history of the United States.
 - He was the third American president to visit India, but the only one with a personal connection with the country. His mother, Lillian Carter, had served as a health volunteer with the Peace Corps in India during the late 1960s.

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- The Carter Centre noted that on January 3, 1978, former US President Jimmy Carter and First Lady Rosalynn Carter visited the village of Daulatpur Nasirabad, located an hour southwest of New Delhi.
- 6. Centre has assigned senior IPS officer Vitul Kumar to officiate as Director General of CRPF following the retirement of Anish Dayal Singh on Dec 31. Kumar, currently Special DG of CRPF, will serve until a regular appointment is made. Kumar's career highlights include multiple promotions, accolades, and leadership roles within the police force.
- 7. The 18th Elephant and Tourism Festival, held in Sauraha, Chitwan, Nepal, has attracted both local and international visitors. Taking place at the Baghmara Intermediate Community Forest near Chitwan National Park, the five-day event coincides with New Year and Christmas celebrations.
- 8. India will host the World Audio Visual Entertainment Summit (WAVES) for the first time in February next year which will be a global platform for its creative talents, fostering collaborations and showcasing the country's potential as a hub for world-class content creation.
- 9. The International Cricket Council has announced the nominees for the ICC awards 2024. Indian Pacer Arshdeep Singh has been named among the nominees for the T20I Cricketer of the Year award, joining Zimbabwe's Sikandar Raza, Pakistan's Babar Azam and Australia's Travis Head. Arshdeep starred in the T20 World Cup triumph for India and took 36 wickets in T20 Internationals, this year.
 - In the Women's Emerging Cricketer of the Year category India's Shreyanka Patil is amongst the final list of nominations for the iconic award, while Smriti Mandhanais shortlisted for the Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year award.

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