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## **VOCABULARY**

- 1. Meagre:** Lacking in quantity or quality; insufficient.
  - Synonyms: Scanty, insufficient, paltry
  - Antonyms: Abundant, ample, plentiful
  - Sentence: The workers were dissatisfied with the meagre wages they received for their hard work.
- 2. Bottlenecks:** Points of congestion or blockage that slow down progress.
  - Synonyms: Hindrances, obstacles, impediments
  - Antonyms: Smooth flow, clearance, ease
  - Sentence: The government is working on removing bottlenecks in the supply chain to ensure timely delivery of goods.
- 3. Synergy:** The combined effect of two or more elements that is greater than the sum of their individual effects.
  - Synonyms: Cooperation, collaboration, harmony
  - Antonyms: Discord, conflict, opposition
  - Sentence: The synergy between the public and private sectors has led to significant advancements in defence manufacturing.
- 4. Unprecedented:** Never done or known before.
  - Synonyms: Unparalleled, extraordinary, novel
  - Antonyms: Common, ordinary, usual
  - Sentence: The pandemic led to unprecedented changes in the way businesses operate.
- 5. Prowess:** Exceptional skill or expertise in a particular field.
  - Synonyms: Mastery, competence, excellence
  - Antonyms: Incompetence, weakness, inability
  - Sentence: His prowess in artificial intelligence research earned him global recognition.

- 6. Lofty:** Of imposing height; noble or ambitious but difficult to achieve.
- Synonyms: Grand, elevated, ambitious
  - Antonyms: Humble, lowly, modest
  - Sentence: His lofty aspirations of becoming an astronaut required years of rigorous training.
- 7. Envisage:** To imagine or predict a future possibility.
- Synonyms: Foresee, anticipate, conceptualize
  - Antonyms: Ignore, disregard, dismiss
  - Sentence: The government envisages India becoming a global leader in aerospace technology within the next decade.
- 8. Murky:** Not clear; obscure or suspiciously unclear.
- Synonyms: Opaque, obscure, ambiguous, dubious
  - Antonyms: Clear, transparent, explicit
  - Sentence: The administration's murky stance on defying forests has raised concerns among environmentalists.
- 9. Exuberant:** Full of energy, excitement, and cheerfulness.
- Synonyms: Lively, enthusiastic, buoyant.
  - Antonyms: Gloomy, lethargic, subdued.
  - Sentence: The children were exuberant during the school's annual festival.
- 10. Trivial:** Of little importance or value.
- Synonyms: Insignificant, minor, negligible.
  - Antonyms: Significant, important, critical.
  - Sentence: He dismissed the issue as trivial, but it turned out to be a major problem.

## **CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**10<sup>th</sup> February, 2024**

1. The Department of Youth Affairs organized the BIMSTEC Youth Summit from 7th to 11th February 2025 in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurated the event on 8th February 2025.
  - The summit aims to bring together youth from BIMSTEC nations to share experiences on youth-led initiatives. The theme is "Youth as a Bridge for Intra-BIMSTEC Exchange," focused on advancing regional goals and achieving SDGs by 2030.
2. The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), Government of India, celebrated the 75th anniversary of the National Sample Survey (NSS) at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, on 7th February 2025.
  - The event marked the beginning of a nationwide series of initiatives highlighting NSS's critical role in evidence-based policymaking, raising awareness about data-driven governance, and engaging stakeholders from diverse sectors.
  - The celebration featured keynote addresses, expert discussions, the unveiling of Diamond Jubilee publications, and special performances emphasizing NSS's fieldwork contributions.
3. The Union Cabinet in a meeting held in New Delhi on 7th February 2025 and chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has restructured and extended the central sector scheme "Skill India Programme" till 2025-26.
  - The Skill India Mission was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2015 to create a trained workforce in India to meet the needs of the industry and help in the economic development of the country.
  - The government of India later launched various schemes to realize the objectives of the Skill India Mission.
  - Three key skilling schemes of the central government - Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 4.0, Pradhan Mantri National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (PMNAPS), and the Jan Shikshan Sansthan Scheme have been consolidated into a comprehensive "Skill India Programme".



4. The Union Cabinet in a meeting held in New Delhi and chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has extended the tenure of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis for a period of three years till 31 March 2028.
  - The tenure of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis was to lapse on 31st March 2025.
5. The US Navy successfully tested the Helios laser weapon against a drone from the USS Preble. Developed by Lockheed Martin, Helios uses a 60 kW high-energy laser to neutralize unmanned aerial vehicles, fast-attack craft, and missiles. It provides a significant boost to the Navy's defense capabilities.
6. Uganda launched a vaccination trial for the Sudan strain of Ebola on Monday, following the confirmation of an outbreak. This marks the sixth time Uganda has faced this virus, for which no approved vaccine exists.
  - The world health organization (WHO) supported the trial, which uses a candidate vaccine that has already passed phase 1 and 2 trials. The vaccine is being administered in a "ring" vaccination strategy targeting high-risk contacts. This quick response highlights progress in pandemic preparedness and outbreak control efforts.
7. World Pulses Day 2025 is celebrated every year on 10th February. The day is celebrated as a day of recognition of pulses and their role in human nutrition, environmental well-being and sustainable agriculture. The day was declared as world pulses day under the United Nations General Assembly in 2016. The year was also marked as the International Year of Pulses. Due to the huge success of this celebration, the potential of the crops were recognised and added as a goal to be achieved under the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.
8. Recently, the Odisha Government has implemented a series of initiatives under the "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao" scheme, which **"How is Odisha Government leading the fight against child marriages in India"**
  - The key programs of the government such as "Nirbhaya Kadhi" (Fearless Bud), "Mo Gelha Jiya" (My Dear Daughter) in Ganjam, "Kalpana Avijan" in Dhenkanal, "Swarna Kalika" in Keonjhar, and "Veerangana Yojana" in Deogarh district are designed especially to empower adolescent girls.

9. FIFA has suspended the Pakistan Football Federation due to its failure to implement necessary constitutional amendments for better governance. The federation has been under the supervision of a FIFA-appointed normalisation committee since 2019, which has struggled with internal conflicts and delays. The suspension will remain until the amendments are adopted.

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