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## VOCABULARY

1. **Gaping:** Very large or wide, especially in a way that is open or exposed.
  - Synonyms: Wide, open, vast, enormous
  - Antonyms: Narrow, small
  - Sentence: The gaping hole in the ground was dangerous for travelers.
2. **Simmering:** To be in a state of quiet or restrained anger or tension.
  - Synonyms: Boiling, brewing, smoldering
  - Antonyms: Calm, peaceful, tranquil
  - Sentence: The simmering frustration among the crowd was evident.
3. **Reluctant:** Unwilling, hesitant, or not eager to do something.
  - Synonyms: Hesitant, unwilling, resistant
  - Antonyms: Willing, eager, enthusiastic
  - Sentence: She was reluctant to speak in front of the large audience.
4. **Catastrophe:** A sudden and widespread disaster or misfortune.
  - Synonyms: Disaster, tragedy, calamity
  - Antonyms: Blessing, fortune, success
  - Sentence: The earthquake was a catastrophe that left the city in ruins.
5. **Proactive:** Taking action by causing change or preventing problems before they occur.
  - Synonyms: Preventive, anticipatory, forward-thinking
  - Antonyms: Reactive, passive, unprepared
  - Sentence: The company took proactive measures to ensure the safety of its employees.
6. **Interventions:** Actions taken to improve or modify a situation.
  - Synonyms: Interference, involvement, action
  - Antonyms: Withdrawal, neglect
  - Sentence: The government's interventions helped reduce the spread of disease.

- 7. Footfall:** The number of people visiting a place or establishment, especially in reference to tourism or business.
- Synonyms: Visitors, attendance, crowd
  - Antonyms: Absence, emptiness
  - Sentence: The footfall in the mall increased significantly during the holiday season
- 8. Touted:** Publicly praised or recommended.
- Synonyms: Promoted, endorsed, boasted
  - Antonyms: Criticized, condemned
  - Sentence: They touted the new technology as a breakthrough in medicine
- 9. Surveillance:** Close observation, especially of a suspect or group.
- Synonyms: Monitoring, observation, supervision
  - Antonyms: Ignorance, neglect
  - Sentence: The city implemented a new surveillance system to monitor traffic.
- 10. Sufficed:** To be enough or adequate.
- Synonyms: Satisfied, met, fulfilled
  - Antonyms: Insufficient, inadequate
  - Sentence: The budget sufficed to cover all the expenses of the project.

## **CURRENT AFFAIRS**

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

1. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) to set up a branch in GIFT City, Gujarat, strengthening its offshore banking operations. BoM, which already operates 101 branches in Gujarat, aims to grow its business by 25% to ₹15,000 crore by Q2 FY25.
2. The National Tribal Festival 'Aadi Mahotsav' was inaugurated by the President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, in New Delhi on February 16, 2025. The festival, organized by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, is a celebration of India's rich tribal heritage, culture, and traditions. The event is being held at Major Dhyhan Chand National Stadium, New Delhi, from February 16 to 24, 2025.
3. India and Japan will conduct the sixth edition of exercise Dharma Guardian at Mount Fuji from February 25 to March 9, focusing on joint urban warfare and counter-terrorism drills under a United Nations mandate.
4. BJP MP Baijayant Panda has been appointed to lead a 31- member Select Committee to review the new Income-Tax Bill proposed by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. The bill seeks to simplify and clarify the existing tax laws, and the committee is expected to submit its report by the start of the Monsoon session.
5. Indian Navy's INS Shardul and Long Range Maritime Surveillance P8I aircraft arrived in Bali, Indonesia on Sunday to participate in the International Fleet Review (IFR) 2025, scheduled from February 15 to 22.
6. Delhi Police is celebrating its 78th Raising Day with a grand ceremonial parade at Kingsway camp parade ground in presence of the Delhi Police family.
  - Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai took the salute as Chief Guest in the presence of Delhi Police Commissioner Sanjay Arora.



7. Jacob Kiplimo, a 24-year-old Ugandan athlete, set a new world record in the half-marathon with a time of 56 minutes and 41 seconds in Barcelona, breaking the previous 57:30 record. Running under ideal conditions, Kiplimo also set a 15km world best of 39:47. The two-time world cross-country champion reclaimed the record with an impressive 49-second improvement.
8. Reliance Consumer Products' Campasecures a major IPL sponsorship deal worth nearly ₹200 crore, positioning itself against Coca-Cola's Thums Up. The early summer has boosted interest in advertising, with RCPL promoting its brands Spinner and RasKik Gluco Energy during the T20 league. Combined ad revenue from IPL 2025 is expected to increase by 8-10%.