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## **VOCABULARY**

- 1. Faltering:** Losing strength or momentum; failing or hesitating.
  - Synonyms: Wavering, stumbling, unsteady
  - Antonyms: Steady, strong, firm
  - Sentence: The company's growth has been faltering due to economic uncertainties.
- 2. Bristling:** Full of something, often in an intense or aggressive way.
  - Synonyms: Overflowing, packed, teeming
  - Antonyms: Empty, lacking, deficient
  - Sentence: The battlefield was bristling with armed soldiers.
- 3. Sputtering:** Struggling to function or make progress; operating in a way that is inconsistent or irregular.
  - Synonyms: Fizzling, stuttering, stalling
  - Antonyms: Flowing, stable, continuous
  - Sentence: The engine began sputtering before finally breaking down.
- 4. Insipid:** Lacking flavor, interest, or energy; dull or bland.
  - Synonyms: Bland, tasteless, dull
  - Antonyms: Flavorful, exciting, interesting
  - Sentence: The soup was insipid, lacking any distinct flavor.
- 5. Misadventures:** Unfortunate or unlucky events, often resulting in hardship.
  - Synonyms: Mishaps, accidents, misfortunes
  - Antonyms: Success, fortune, luck
  - Sentence: His misadventures during the trip made the journey unforgettable.
- 6. Brisk:** Energetic, quick, or lively in movement or action.
  - Synonyms: Quick, active, lively
  - Antonyms: Slow, sluggish, lazy
  - Sentence: She took a brisk walk around the park to start her day.

- 7. Deregulation:** The removal or reduction of government controls or restrictions on business activities.
- Synonyms: Liberalization, disbanding, freeing
  - Antonyms: Regulation, control, restriction
  - Sentence: The government is considering deregulation to stimulate market growth.
- 8. Fomenting:** To stir up or encourage the development of something, usually something undesirable.
- Synonyms: Instigating, inciting, provoking
  - Antonyms: Quelling, suppressing, calming
  - Sentence: The leader was accused of fomenting unrest among the citizens.
- 9. Infatuated:** Possessing an intense but short-lived passion or admiration for someone or something.
- Synonyms: Obsessed, captivated, enamored
  - Antonyms: Indifferent, disinterested, unconcerned
  - Sentence: She was infatuated with the idea of moving abroad.
- 10. Vigil:** The act of staying awake and alert, especially to observe or prevent something.
- Synonyms: Watchfulness, alertness, attention
  - Antonyms: Negligence, disregard, inattentiveness
  - Sentence: The security team kept vigil during the night to ensure safety.

## **CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**1<sup>st</sup> February, 2024**

1. Nasa has green-lighted the Axiom-4 mission to be piloted by India's Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla. The Indian astronaut will be joined by three others on the 14-day mission to the International Space Station.
  - The crew will launch aboard a SpaceX Dragon spacecraft and travel to the space station. Once docked, the private astronauts plan to spend up to 14 days aboard the orbiting laboratory.
  - Shubhanshu Shukla will be the first Indian astronaut to go to the Space Station, who is also part of the Indian Air Force. Shukla has also been selected as an astronaut in India's Gaganyaan Mission.
2. The Uttar Pradesh government of Yogi Adityanath has set up a three-member judicial committee headed by retired judge of the Allahabad High Court Justice Harsh Kumar, to inquire into the stampede incident in Maha Kumbh at Prayagraj on 29 January 2025.
  - According to the Uttar Pradesh Government, 30 people were killed and 60 were injured in the predawn stampede at the Sangam area of the Maha Kumbh as millions of people rushed to take a holy dip on the occasion of Mauni Amavasya (new moon day) on 29 January 2025.
3. The first Raisina Middle East Conference was held in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) capital city, Abu Dhabi, on 28 and 29 January 2025. External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar was the Chief Guest of the first Raisina Middle East Conference.
  - Dr S. Jaishankar was on a three-day official visit to the UAE on 27 and 29 January 2025.
  - This was the third visit to the UAE by Dr Jaishankar since he was reappointed as the External Affairs Minister in June 2024.
  - The Raisina Dialogue is India's premier conference on geopolitics and geoeconomics which brings together experts to discuss the most challenging issues facing the world community.



4. The Union Cabinet approved the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM) with a total outlay of Rs34,300 crore over seven years.
  - The mission aims to strengthen India's self-reliance in critical minerals, in alignment with the Atmanirbhar Bharat vision.
5. The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) is set to celebrate its 49th Raising Day on 1st February 2025, commemorating nearly five decades of dedicated service in securing India's vast maritime boundaries, an official press release by the ICGT stated.
  - Since its establishment in 1977 with just seven surface platforms, the ICG has grown into a formidable force, now operating 151 ships and 76 aircraft. By 2030, the ICG plans to expand further, targeting 200 surface platforms and 100 aircraft, solidifying its role as one of the world's leading Coast Guard services.
  - The ICG operates under the motto "Vayam Rakshamah" (We Protect), which highlights its mission of safeguarding India's maritime zones. Over the years, the ICG has saved more than 11,730 lives, including 169 in the last year alone. This impressive achievement averages to one life saved every second day. The ICG's efforts cover India's vast 4.6 million square-kilometre Search and Rescue Region, ensuring the safety of seafarers, fishermen, and vessels in peril across these waters.
6. Wing Commander Akshay Saxena has been awarded the Vayu Sena Medal (Gallantry) for his exceptional contributions during anti-piracy operations in the Arabian Sea.
  - This recognition marks the increasing threats posed by piracy in international waters, particularly from Houthi rebels targeting merchant vessels. The operation, conducted on 16 March last year, was part of the Indian Navy's Operation Sankalp, aimed at ensuring maritime security in the region.

7. BIMTECH has launched BIMCOIN, India's first blockchain-based campus currency, to facilitate secure and transparent transactions within its ecosystem. This digital currency operates on a permissioned blockchain, ensuring decentralization and security.
8. The iconic India Gate was illuminated on 30th January 2025 in vibrant hues of purple and orange colourson the occasion of World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day. The World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day is observed every year since 2022 on 30th January to raise awareness about neglected tropical diseases.
- On this occasion across the world, iconic landmarks are lit up to emphasize the importance of the world's collective action to combat these debilitating diseases.
  - The theme of the 2025 World Neglected Tropical Disease Day is Unite. Act. Eliminate.
9. Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant inaugurated the 10th Sci-FI Science Film Festival of India In Panaji on 29 January 2025. The 4-day 10th SciFI Science Film Festival of India will be held in Panaji from 29 January to 1 February 2025.
- The annual Sci-FI Science Film Festival of India is organised by the Goa government every year to foster curiosity, scientific temperament, and enthusiasm amongst the students.
  - Speaking on the occasion Pramod Sawat said the festival will inspire the youth of the state to pursue a career in science and play a crucial role in making India a developed country by 2047. The theme of the 10th Sci-FI Science Film Festival of India is the Green Revolution. It is a tribute to the father of the Indian Green Revolution Dr M S Swaminathan.