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## **VOCABULARY**

- 1. Reunification:** The process of bringing together parts of a country, organization, or group that were previously separated.
  - Synonyms: Restoration, integration, merging
  - Antonyms: Separation, division, disintegration
  - Sentence: The reunification of Germany in 1990 marked a historic moment in European politics.
- 2. Notoriety:** The state of being famous or well-known for something bad.
  - Synonyms: Infamy, disrepute, dishonor
  - Antonyms: Fame, honor, reputation
  - Sentence: The company gained notoriety for violating safety regulations in its drug production.
- 3. Irrefutable:** Impossible to deny or disprove.
  - Synonyms: Undeniable, indisputable, unquestionable
  - Antonyms: Questionable, disputable, uncertain
  - Sentence: The video evidence presented in the case was irrefutable proof of the company's illegal activities.
- 4. Clinching:** Decisively settling an argument or proving a point.
  - Synonyms: Conclusive, definitive, final
  - Antonyms: Inconclusive, uncertain, debatable
  - Sentence: The forensic report provided clinching evidence of the suspect's involvement in the crime.
- 5. Surging:** Moving quickly and forcefully in a particular direction.
  - Synonyms: Soaring, rising, escalating
  - Antonyms: Declining, falling, decreasing
  - Sentence: The demand for electric vehicles is surging due to environmental concerns.

6. Deterrent: Something that discourages or prevents a certain action.
- Synonyms: Hindrance, obstacle, prevention
  - Antonyms: Encouragement, incentive, motivation
  - Sentence: Strict laws act as a deterrent against reckless driving.
7. Illicit: Forbidden by law, rules, or customs.
- Synonyms: Illegal, unlawful, prohibited
  - Antonyms: Legal, lawful, permitted
  - Sentence: The police uncovered an illicit drug trade operating in the city.
8. Imploded: To collapse inward violently.
- Synonyms: Collapsed, crumbled, disintegrated
  - Antonyms: Expanded, strengthened, flourished
  - Sentence: The party imploded due to internal conflicts and leadership failures.
9. Grappling: Struggling to deal with or overcome a difficult problem.
- Synonyms: Struggling, wrestling, tackling
  - Antonyms: Resolving, overcoming, mastering
  - Sentence: The government is grappling with high unemployment and economic instability.
10. permeated: To spread throughout something; to pass through or penetrate.
- Synonyms: Pervade, saturate, infiltrate
  - Antonyms: Contain, restrict, block
  - Sentence: The aroma of freshly baked bread permeated the entire house.

## **CURRENT AFFAIRS**

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

1. The Christian Democratic Union is poised to win the German election, making Friedrich Merz the next likely chancellor. The current ruling party, Scholz's Social Democrats, is seeing a significant decline, while the far-right Alternative for Germany is gaining strength. Merz has a business background and aims to make Germany a leader in European security.
2. The Indian Coast Guard conducted the 'Sagar Kavach' exercise along West Bengal's 158 km coastline on Feb 21- 22, 2025, to enhance coastal security. The drill tested responses to hijacking, smuggling and IED threats while improving coordination among agencies like the Navy, BSF, CISF and local police.
3. Recently, farmers protesting at the Punjab and Haryana borders are observed February 23 as Pagri Sambhal Diwas, in honour of Ajit Singh, paternal uncle of freedom fighter Bhagat Singh.
  - Ajit Singh started the Pagri Sambhal Jatta movement in 1907 in protest against 3 agricultural laws imposed by the British.
  - 'Pagri SambhalJatta' literally translates to 'take care of your turban, o farmer', and invokes self-respect and honour.
4. The first Conference for Women Peacekeepers with the theme "Women in Peacekeeping: A Global South Perspective" will be held in New Delhi on February 24-25. Organized by India's MEA, it will include participation from 35 Troop Contributing Countries and key UN officials to discuss critical aspects of peacekeeping.
5. Former RBI governor Shaktikanta Das has been appointed as principal secretary-2 to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a newly created post. His appointment is co-terminus with the PM's term and reflects his success during demonetisation and the COVID-19 lockdown.



6. In a remarkable natural event, over 700,000 Olive Ridley turtles have descended upon Rushikulya beach in Odisha, India, marking a record-breaking mass nesting season. This annual phenomenon, known as Arribada, began on February 15 and is expected to continue until February 25, according to Rabindranath Sahu, Secretary of the Rushikulya Sea Turtle Protection Group.
  - Authorities have fenced off the nesting area to safeguard the turtles, ensuring minimal human interference. Upon reaching the beach, female Olive Ridley turtles dig holes in the sand, where they lay more than 100 eggs each. These eggs will hatch in approximately 50 days, with the hatchlings making their way to the ocean under the cover of darkness to enhance their chances of survival.
7. Indian squash icon Saurav Ghosal made a remarkable comeback from retirement by securing the Octane Sydney Classic title. The former World No. 10 had stepped away from the Professional Squash Association (PSA) Tour in April 2023 but remained determined to continue representing India.
8. Hangzhou Asian Games bronze medalist Gulveer Singh has broken the 13-minute barrier in an indoor 5000m event while improving his outdoor National record and earning a berth in the World Athletics championships, to be held in Tokyo in September.
  - A week after bettering the 3000m indoor national record, Gulveer, whose previous personal best (13:11.82) over 5000m had come last year, clocked 12:59.77 to finish fourth in the Terrier DMR Challenge indoor competition in Boston.
9. Virat Kohli reached 14,000 runs in ODI cricket during the match against Pakistan in the Champions Trophy. In his 299th game, Kohli achieved this milestone, maintaining his position as the second-highest ODI run-scorer for India behind Sachin Tendulkar. In the contest, Pakistan managed to score 241 but a potential loss to India could jeopardise their semi-final chances.