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## VOCABULARY

1. Tepid: Lacking enthusiasm or conviction; lukewarm
  - Synonyms: Unenthusiastic, indifferent, half hearted
  - Antonyms: Enthusiastic, passionate, eager
  - Sentence: The new policy received a tepid response from the public, with only a few showing interest in its implementation.
2. Intermittent: Occurring at irregular intervals; not continuous
  - Synonyms: Sporadic, occasional, periodic
  - Antonyms: Continuous, constant, unceasing
  - Sentence: The intermittent supply of electricity made it difficult for factories to function efficiently.
3. Precarious: Not secure; dependent on uncertain conditions
  - Synonyms: Unstable, insecure, risky
  - Antonyms: Secure, stable, safe
  - Sentence: The precarious economic situation made investors hesitant to put their money into the market.
4. Roiled: To disturb or cause turmoil
  - Synonyms: Agitate, disturb, unsettle
  - Antonyms: Calm, soothe, settle
  - Sentence: The sudden changes in trade policies roiled global markets, leading to panic among investors.
5. Retaliatory: Done as a response to a perceived wrong; revengeful
  - Synonyms: Revengeful, vengeful, retributive
  - Antonyms: Forgiving, conciliatory, merciful
  - Sentence: The country imposed retaliatory tariffs in response to trade restrictions placed by its neighbor.

6. Deleterious: Causing harm or damage
  - Synonyms: Harmful, detrimental, injurious
  - Antonyms: Beneficial, helpful, advantageous
  - Sentence: Smoking has a deleterious effect on health, increasing the risk of lung diseases.
7. Panacea: A solution or remedy for all problems or difficulties
  - Synonyms: Cure-all, universal remedy, elixir
  - Antonyms: Problem, ailment, affliction
  - Sentence: Many believe that technological advancements are a panacea for all economic challenges.
8. Envisage: To imagine or expect something as a future possibility
  - Synonyms: Foresee, anticipate, predict
  - Antonyms: Ignore, disregard, neglect
  - Sentence: The project envisages a significant reduction in carbon emissions over the next decade.
9. Overwhelming: Very great in amount or intensity
  - Synonyms: Staggering, immense, tremendous
  - Antonyms: Insignificant, minor, trivial
  - Sentence: The overwhelming dependence on China for solar panels has slowed India's renewable energy progress.
10. Prerogative: A special right or privilege exclusive to a particular individual or group
  - Synonyms: Privilege, right, entitlement
  - Antonyms: Obligation, duty, restriction
  - Sentence: It is the prerogative of the government to impose tariffs to protect domestic industries.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

4<sup>th</sup> February, 2024

1. A23a, the largest iceberg in the world, was set afloat recently on his journey in the south Atlantic after having been freed from the Filchner Ice Shelf in Antarctica. But this geographic event has instigated several questions as to how the iceberg will now affect the natural ecosystem of South Georgia Island.
2. New Zealand recognized Mount Taranaki as a legal person, granting it the same rights as a human being. This decision acknowledges its cultural and spiritual significance to the Māori people.
3. Cancer is a major global health challenge, causing nearly 10 million deaths in 2022, according to the WHO. World Cancer Day, observed on February 4th, highlights the need for awareness, action, and collaboration to reduce the global burden of this life threatening disease.
4. Golden-headed Cisticola (*Cisticola exilis*), usually found in grasslands, was recently discovered in the Mathikettan Shola National Park, Idukki, located in the southern part of the Palakkad Gap in the Western Ghats. This discovery marks the first sighting of the bird in the southern Western Ghats after an extensive gap, according to bird watchers.
  - The bird was spotted by Lathish R. Nath from Koratti, Principal at VHSS Wadakkanchery, and Raveendran K.C, retired village officer, Athirappilly, both members of Thrissur Kole Birders, an organisation of bird watchers.
5. Navin Chawla, former Chief Election Commissioner who introduced the 'Other' category for third gender voters, passed away at 79. He was known for his significant electoral reforms and a controversial tenure, with allegations of partisanship brought against him by the BJP. Chawla also authored a notable biography of Mother Teresa.



6. Hours before Benjamin Netanyahu meets with U.S. President Donald Trump, Iran has unveiled two missiles in a mega show of strength. President Masoud Pezeshkian unveiled the Etemad ballistic missile, which reportedly has a range of 1,700 kms. Iran's IRGC also tested anti-ship cruise missile Ghadr-380, which reportedly has a range of more than 1,000 kms.
7. Indian-American musician and business leader Chandrika Tandon won the Grammy for Best New Age, Ambient, or Chant Album for 'Triveni', a collaboration with Wouter Kellerman and Eru Matsumoto, at the 67th Grammy Awards on February 2, 2025.
8. Lieutenant Commanders Dilna K and Roopa A, aboard INSV Tarini, successfully crossed Point Nemo, the remotest location on Earth, during their circumnavigation mission. They also collected valuable water samples for oceanographic research, marking a significant milestone in India's Navika Sagar Parikramall mission.
9. The Ministry of Railways launched the 'SwaRail' SuperApp, aiming to consolidate various railway services into a single, user-friendly platform. Currently in its beta phase, the app is available for download on the Google Play Store and Apple App Store. The primary objective is to enhance user experience by integrating multiple services, thereby reducing the need for several separate applications.
10. Indian Grandmaster R. Praggnanandhaa clinched the prestigious Tata Steel Masters 2025 title by defeating World Champion D. Gukesh in a thrilling tiebreaker on 2 Feb 2025 at Wijk aan Zee, Netherlands. This victory makes him the first Indian since Viswanathan Anand in 2006 to claim the prestigious title. The event ended dramatically, with both Gukesh and Pragg tied at 8.5 points after 13 rounds. In the tiebreak, Gukesh won the first of two blitz games and needed only a draw in the second to secure the title. However, Pragg staged a stunning comeback, winning both blitz games to clinch the championship.