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## VOCABULARY

1. Turmoil: A state of great disturbance, confusion, or uncertainty.
  - Synonyms: Chaos, disorder, upheaval
  - Antonyms: Peace, stability, order
  - Sentence: The ongoing turmoil surrounding USAID is expected to impact WHO's funding.
2. Keeness: The quality of being eager, enthusiastic, or highly interested.
  - Synonyms: Enthusiasm, eagerness, zeal
  - Antonyms: Indifference, apathy, disinterest
  - Sentence: The government's keeness on implementing the NEP is evident from its increased focus on early education.
3. Prerequisite: A thing that is required as a prior condition for something else to happen or exist.
  - Synonyms: Requirement, necessity, essential
  - Antonyms: Optional, unnecessary, nonessential
  - Sentence: Achieving foundational literacy is a prerequisite for building a highly skilled workforce.
4. Sapped: Gradually weaken or destroy (a person's strength or power).
  - Synonyms: Drained, depleted, exhausted
  - Antonyms: Energized, invigorated, strengthened
  - Sentence: The long hours of work sapped his energy.
5. Overhauling: The process of taking apart and improving or repairing something.
  - Synonyms: Revamping, renovating, refurbishing
  - Antonyms: Neglecting, damaging, harming
  - Sentence: The company is overhauling its entire production system to improve efficiency.

6. Veil: A piece of fine material worn to cover the face; also used metaphorically to describe something that conceals or disguises.
- Synonyms: Mask, curtain, shroud
  - Antonyms: Reveal, expose, uncover
  - Sentence: The company's financial problems were hidden behind a veil of secrecy.
7. Contemporaneous: Existing or occurring in the same period of time.
- Synonyms: Concurrent, coexisting, simultaneous
  - Antonyms: Asynchronous, non-simultaneous, successive
  - Sentence: The two events were contemporaneous, leading to a busy week.
8. Culminating: Reach a climax or point of highest development.
- Synonyms: Concluding, reaching, ending
  - Antonyms: Beginning, starting, commencing
  - Sentence: The tensions culminated in a violent confrontation.
9. Dissipation: The process of slowly disappearing or being reduced, often through wasteful or inefficient use.
- Synonyms: Dispersal, depletion, waste
  - Antonyms: Accumulation, concentration, preservation
  - Sentence: The dissipation of the post-COVID economic boom has led to a more cautious outlook for the future.
10. Lacuna: An unfilled space or gap, especially a missing portion in a manuscript, text, or idea.
- Synonyms: Gap, omission, void, deficiency
  - Antonyms: Continuity, completeness, fullness
  - Sentence: The lacuna in the policy left many citizens confused about their rights.

## **CURRENT AFFAIRS**

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

1. The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) successfully launched the fifth H-3 rocket, which carried the Michibiki No. 6 satellite. This satellite will play a crucial role in enhancing Japan's positioning system, a key component of its own version of the U.S. Global Positioning System (GPS).
2. The 13th edition of the joint military exercise 'Ekuverin' between the Indian Army and the Maldives National Defence Force began on February 2, 2025, in the Maldives.
  - This bilateral annual exercise, named 'Ekuverin' which means 'Friends' in the Dhivehi language, is conducted alternately in India and the Maldives. The 2023 edition took place in Chaubatia, Uttarakhand, from June 11 to 24.
3. The Framework Agreement on the establishment of the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) has officially come into force, as announced by the Environment Ministry. The IBCA and its Secretariat have become a treaty-based, intergovernmental international organization and legal entity as of January 23.
  - Five countries – Nicaragua, Eswatini, India, Somalia, and Liberia – have deposited their instruments of ratification under the Framework Agreement. A total of 27 countries, including India, have consented to join the IBCA. Several international and national organizations working in wildlife conservation have partnered with the IBCA.
  - The IBCA was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 9, 2023, during the 'Commemorating 50 years of Project Tiger' event. The Union Cabinet approved the establishment of the IBCA last year, with its headquarters in India.
  - The IBCA aims to conserve seven big cats: Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar, and Puma.



4. EAST, also known as China's Artificial Sun, maintained a steady-state high-confinement plasma operation for 1000+ seconds reaching a temperature of 100 million °C.
  - A tokamak is a machine that confines a plasma using magnetic fields in a donut shape to harness the energy of fusion.
5. Recently, China's Shenzhou-19 crew aboard the Tiangongspace station made advancement in space exploration by successfully conducting the first in-orbit demonstration of "artificial photosynthesis" technology.
  - This breakthrough allows for the production of oxygen and rocket fuel ingredients in space, enhancing future missions, including a planned crewed moon landing by 2030.
6. The Jharkhand Police has launched the "Chocolate War" initiative to combat illegal opium cultivation in Maoist-affected regions.
  - Police distribute chocolates wrapped with antiopium messages in rural weekly markets.
  - The wrapper highlights legal consequences of opium cultivation under the NDPS Act, warning of up to life imprisonment and property confiscation.
7. An international research team has identified two new species of cardamom in Kerala's Western Ghats, expanding the genus Elettaria to seven species.
  - Known as the "Queen of Spices," cardamom (*Elettaria cardamomum*) is a highly aromatic spice belonging to the Zingiberaceae (ginger) family.
  - Native to the evergreen rainforests of the Western Ghats in South India, it is primarily cultivated in Kerala, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu.
8. The Central Zoo Authority (CZA) has approved India's first white tiger breeding centre in Rewa, Madhya Pradesh. Planned in Govindgarh near Mukundpur's white tiger safari, the project, initially approved in 2011, aims to conserve biodiversity, boost wildlife tourism, and generate local employment.

9. Travis Head received the prestigious Allan Border Medal for Australia's top male cricketer, while Annabel Sutherland was honoured with the Belinda Clark Medal. Head also won the Men's ODI Player of the Year award, and Josh Hazlewood was named Men's Test Player of the Year. Sutherland's achievements included scoring her maiden Test century at the MCG.

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