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### VOCABULARY

- **1.** Prevalent: Widespread in a particular area or at a particular time.
  - Synonyms: Widespread, prevailing, ubiquitous
  - Antonyms: Rare, unusual, exceptional, uncommon
  - Sentence: Malaria is still prevalent in many tropical countries despite medical advancements.
- Repercussions: An unintended consequence of an event or action, especially a bad one.
  - Synonyms: Consequences, effects, fallout, ramifications
  - Antonyms: Causes, origins, reasons, sources
  - Sentence: The economic repercussions of the pandemic were felt across industries worldwide.
- 3. Ostensible: Appearing to be true, but not necessarily so.
  - Synonyms: Apparent, superficial, alleged
  - Antonyms: Genuine, authentic, real
  - Sentence: His ostensible reason for resigning was personal health, but insiders suspected political pressure.
- 4. Conundrum: A confusing or difficult problem or question.
  - Synonyms: Dilemma, puzzle, predicament
  - Antonyms: Solution, clarity, answer
  - Sentence: The government faces a conundrum in balancing economic growth and environmental protection.
- 5. Ephemeral: Lasting for a very short time.
  - Synonyms: Transitory, fleeting, short-lived
  - Antonyms: Permanent, enduring, lasting
  - Sentence: The beauty of a sunset is ephemeral but deeply mesmerizing.

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- 6. Copious: Abundant in supply or quantity.
  - Synonyms: Ample, plentiful, abundant
  - Antonyms: Scarce, sparse, lacking
  - Sentence: The author took copious notes during the interview.
- 7. Hone: To refine or perfect something over a period of time.
  - Synonyms: Sharpen, improve, enhance
  - Antonyms: Blunt, dull, worsen
  - Sentence: She spent years honing her skills as a dancer.
- 8. Euphoria: A feeling or state of intense excitement and happiness.
  - Synonyms: Elation, joy, bliss
  - Antonyms: Despair, misery, gloom
  - Sentence: There was a sense of euphoria in the crowd as the concert began.
- 9. Teeter: Move or balance unsteadily; sway back and forth.
  - Synonyms: Wobble, totter, sway, stagger
  - Antonyms: Stabilize, steady, balance
  - Sentence: The company's finances began to teeter after the market downturn.
- **10.** Wrest: Forcibly pull (something) from a person's grasp.
  - Synonyms: Seize, snatch, grab, take by force
  - Antonyms: Give, release, relinquish
  - Sentence: The rebels managed to wrest control of the capital after a fierce battle.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2024

- Dubai will host the inaugural Global Justice, Love & Peace Summit on April 12-13, 2025, at the Dubai Exhibition Centre, Expo City. Organized by the I am Peacekeeper Movement, the event will bring together 2,800 peacekeepers and 72 speakers, including 10 Nobel Laureates and worldleaders.
- US President Donald Trump on Tuesday signed an executive order to withdraw US from several UN organisations, including the Human Rights Council (UNHRC), while initiating a comprehensive assessment of US financial contributions to the multinational organisation.
  - The White House also withdrew from the primary UN relief organisation for Palestinians (UNRWA), alongside a planned evaluation of involvement with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).
- 3. India has emerged as the global leader in passenger load factor (PLF) for domestic flights, recording an impressive 86.4% in 2024, surpassing the US (84.1%) and China (83.2%), according to the latest International Air Transport Association (IATA) report. India's booming aviation sector carried 16.3 crore domestic passengers in 2024, highlighting its rapid growth and efficiency.
- 4. The recent discovery of three colossal Buddha heads, a giant palm, an ancient wall, and some inscriptions have underlined the significance of Ratnagiri in Odisha's Jajpur district as a prominent Buddhist historical site.
  - The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has now decided to take up fresh surveys at the Ratnagiri Buddhist heritage site more than 60 years after it was first excavated.

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- 5. The Indian Army has renamed Kolkata's Fort William, the Eastern Command headquarters, as 'Vijay Durg' to honor India's indigenous military heritage. Inspired by Maharashtra's Vijaydurg Fort, a Maratha naval stronghold, the December 2024 decision aligns with the government's decolonization efforts.
- 6. Astronomers have discovered a gigantic black hole named Gaia BH3 hiding close to the earth, the third of its kind. All three were discovered by the European Space Agency's Gaia telescope, which has been constantly monitoring the motions of billions of stars in our galaxy since 2013.
  - Black holes are fascinating to non-scientists and astronomers alike. They
    warp spacetime around them such that anything that gets close enough
    to the centre, even light, can't escape back to the universe. Yet black
    holes are still 'visible' because of the unique effects they have on their
    surroundings. As matter swirls around a black hole, it is compressed,
    heated up, and emits X-rays.
- 7. Union Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the "Watershed Yatra," a nationwide mass outreach campaign aimed at raising awareness and encouraging participation in watershed development activities under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (WDC-PMKSY 2.0).
- 8. A significant step has been made towards making Karnataka naxal-free as another naxalite, Kotehonda Ravindra, surrendered in Chikkamagaluru district. Ravindra, classified as an 'A' category naxal, will receive a surrender package including financial aid and skill training.
- Bengaluru Jawans created history by beating Pune United 3-1 to become the champions of the inaugural edition of the World Pickleball League – India's first franchise-based Pickleball league.

10. Uttar Pradesh overcame a stiff challenge from Chandigarh in the men's kabaddi final at the 38th National Games to clinch the gold medal at the Yogasthali Khel Parisar, Roshnabad Stadium in Haridwar on Sunday, February 2.