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## VOCABULARY

1. Scathing : Harshly critical or severely damaging
  - Synonyms: Harsh, severe, blistering
  - Antonyms: Mild, gentle, complimentary
  - Sentence: The committee's report was scathing in its criticism of the GST implementation.
2. Contention: A heated disagreement or argument
  - Synonyms: Dispute, conflict, debate
  - Antonyms: Agreement, harmony, accord
  - Sentence: The centralizing tendencies of GST have been a major point of contention.
3. Lackadaisical: Lacking enthusiasm, energy, or determination
  - Synonyms: Careless, lazy, unenthusiastic
  - Antonyms: Diligent, energetic, attentive
  - Sentence: The Finance Ministry's lackadaisical approach to audits led to massive inconsistencies.
4. Resonate: To have an impact or significance
  - Synonyms: Echo, reverberate
  - Sentence: The PAC's recommendations are likely to resonate with the demands of state governments.
5. Ambiguity: The quality of being open to multiple interpretations
  - Synonyms: Uncertainty, vagueness, obscurity
  - Antonyms: Clarity, precision, definiteness
  - Sentence: The ambiguity in tax regulations has led to confusion among businesses.

- 6. Inexorable:** Impossible to stop, alter, or resist
- Synonyms: Relentless, unstoppable, unyielding
  - Antonyms: Flexible, lenient, yielding
  - Sentence: The inexorable rise in tax disputes has weakened the credibility of the GST system.
- 7. Egregious:** Outstandingly bad or shocking
- Synonyms: Appalling, atrocious, heinous
  - Antonyms: Admirable, commendable, excellent
  - Sentence: The PAC highlighted egregious errors in the government's financial records.
- 8. Deplorable:** Shockingly bad in quality; deserving strong condemnation
- Synonyms: Disgraceful, wretched, reprehensible
  - Antonyms: Acceptable, commendable, laudable
  - Sentence: The deplorable mismanagement of GST funds has left states in financial distress.
- 9. Subterfuge:** Deceit used to achieve one's goal
- Synonyms: Deception, trickery, fraudulence
  - Antonyms: Honesty, sincerity, transparency
  - Sentence: The proliferation of fake academic certificates is a result of systemic subterfuge.
- 10. Perfunctory:** Done without interest or effort; carried out as a duty
- Synonyms: Superficial, mechanical, indifferent
  - Antonyms: Thorough, meticulous, diligent
  - Sentence: The perfunctory auditing of tax records has led to massive financial discrepancies.

## **CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**29<sup>th</sup> March, 2025**

1. Roshni Nadar has made history as the first woman to join India's top 10 wealthiest list with a net worth of US\$40 billion, thanks to her father Shiv Nadar's 47% stake in HCL Technologies. She joins other prominent women like Alice Walton and Francoise Bettencourt Meyers in the Hurun Global Rich List 2025.
2. Two back-to-back earthquakes of magnitudes 7.7 and 6.4 on the Richter Scale jolted Myanmar.
  - The iconic Ava Bridge in Myanmar's Mandalay reportedly collapsed into the Irrawaddy River.
  - Mild tremors were felt in Kolkata and Imphal.
3. Prime Minister Modi will visit Thailand for the 6th BIMSTEC Summit on April 3-4, aiming to boost India-Thailand relations and regional cooperation. He will then visit Sri Lanka from April 4-6 to discuss bilateral cooperation and development projects. The visits underscore India's commitment to its 'Neighbourhood First' and 'Act East' policies.
4. In a step towards boosting tourism and wildlife conservation, the Punjab govt has announced plans to develop Nangalas a major tourist destination and turn Anandpur Sahib's Jhajjar Bachauli Wildlife Sanctuary into the state's first leopard safari destination.
5. After eight days of intense sporting action, the second edition of the Khelo India Para Games 2025 came to a close on Thursday with Haryana once again finishing on top of the team standings with 34 gold medals.
  - Tamil Nadu (28 golds) and Uttar Pradesh (23 golds) finished second and third, respectively in the overall standings.



6. The Indian Armed Forces conducted a multi-domain exercise, Prachand Prahar, in Arunachal Pradesh's high-altitude terrain, incorporating advanced surveillance and precision weaponry from the Army, Navy, and Air Force. The exercise highlighted joint operational capabilities and reinforced India's readiness to counter emerging threats along its Northern Borders.
7. GE Aerospace has delivered the first of 99 F404-IN20 engines to HAL for the Tejas Light Combat Aircraft Mk 1A. This delivery highlights the longstanding partnership and commitment to enhancing India's defense capabilities, supporting the vision for advanced next-generation fighter aircraft and defense manufacturing.
8. JSW Steel has become the world's highestvalued steelmaker, surpassing a market capitalisation of \$30 billion. The company's valuation has outpaced other leading international and Indian steel producers.
9. The Lanka India Business Association (LIBA) has been officially launched in Sri Lanka to enhance economic collaboration between India and Sri Lanka. With India poised to become the world's second-largest economy by 2075, the initiative aims to foster trade, investment, and business networking between both nations.
10. Europe's space agency, ESA, has retired the Gaia satellite after more than nine years of service. Launched in 2013, Gaia created the most detailed 3D map of the Milky Way. Positioned at Lagrange point 2, Gaia recorded groundbreaking discoveries about the galaxy. The spacecraft is now in a retirement orbit around the Sun.