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## VOCABULARY

1. **Laudable:** Deserving praise and commendation.
  - Synonyms: Praiseworthy, commendable, admirable
  - Antonyms: Blameworthy, condemnable, disreputable
  - Sentence: The team's efforts to help the underprivileged were truly laudable.
2. **Scramble:** Struggle or compete frantically to achieve something.
  - Synonyms: Struggle, rush, hustle
  - Antonyms: Relax, rest, stroll
  - Sentence: Exporters are scrambling for newer markets due to U.S.-led tariff uncertainties.
3. **Whopping:** Very large in size or amount.
  - Synonyms: Huge, massive, enormous
  - Antonyms: Tiny, small, little
  - Sentence: India suffers a whopping ₹1.52 trillion in post-harvest losses every year.
4. **Nascent :** Just beginning to develop or emerge.
  - Synonyms: Emerging, budding, developing
  - Antonyms: Mature, established, developed
  - Sentence: India's carbon market is still in its nascent stage and requires careful regulation.
5. **Plummeted:** Fell or dropped straight down at high speed or suddenly.
  - Synonyms: Dropped, plunged, tumbled, crashed
  - Antonyms: Rose, increased, ascended
  - Sentence: Vegetable prices have plummeted over the past four months, relieving household budgets.

- 6. Conformance:** Compliance with established standards or rules.
- Synonyms: Adherence, conformity, compliance
  - Antonyms: Disobedience, deviation, divergence
  - Sentence: Conformance with global standards is essential for credibility in the carbon market.
- 7. Emulate:** To imitate or follow the example of.
- Synonyms: Imitate, copy, mirror
  - Antonyms: Neglect, ignore, deviate
  - Sentence: India aims to emulate best practices from international carbon market models.
- 8. Dampening:** Reducing the intensity or vigor of something.
- Synonyms: Weakening, reducing, softening
  - Antonyms: Increasing, intensifying, enhancing
  - Sentence: Investor confidence is dampening amid global trade uncertainties.
- 9. Meticulously:** Showing great attention to detail; very careful and precise.
- Synonyms: Carefully, precisely, thoroughly
  - Antonyms: Carelessly, hastily, roughly
  - Sentence: The architect meticulously reviewed the blueprints to ensure there were no errors.
- 10. Umbrage:** Offense or annoyance.
- Synonyms: Offense, resentment, irritation
  - Antonyms: Satisfaction, contentment, pleasure
  - Sentence: She took umbrage at his sarcastic remarks during the meeting.

## **CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**17<sup>th</sup> April, 2025**

1. India and 62 other nations have agreed to a global carbon tax on commercial shipping, a sector responsible for 3% of global emissions and excluded from the Paris Agreement. Starting in 2028, ship owners must adopt cleaner fuels or face fines, with the generated funds dedicated to decarbonizing the shipping industry.
2. On 14 April 2025, six women, including singer Katy Perry, successfully completed a short space tourism flight aboard Blue Origin's NS 31's New Shepard spacecraft. The rocket launched from western Texas around 7 IST, reaching over 100 kilometers above Earth, past the Karman line boundary of space. The fully automated flight lasted about 10 minutes, with the crew capsule safely parachuting back to the Texas desert.
  - This was the first all-women tourist spaceflight since Valentina Tereshkova's solo mission in 1963. The crew included Gayle King, Kerianne Flynn, Aisha Bowe, Amanda Nguyen, and Lauren Sánchez. New Shepard, developed by Jeff Bezos's Blue Origin, is a reusable sub-orbital vehicle named after astronaut Alan Shepard.
3. The recent conferment of the Geographical Indication (GI) tag to the Banaras Shehnai is a landmark recognition of India's rich intangible cultural heritage. Known worldwide through Ustad Bismillah Khan, the shehnai is not just an instrument but a symbol of spiritual and ceremonial music.
  - For the traditional artisans of Varanasi (Kashi), the GI tag is not merely an official certificate—it is a deeply emotional and cultural validation of their legacy, commitment, and craftsmanship spanning generations.
4. The Hardik Singh-led Hockey Punjab team won the 15th Hockey India Senior Men National Championship Trophy 2025 by comprehensively defeating Hockey Madhya Pradesh 4-1 in the final. The final match of Division A of the 15th Hockey India Senior Men National Championship was played at the Major Dhyan Chand Hockey Stadium at Jhansi, Madhya Pradesh, on 15th April 2025.



- Uttar Pradesh Hockey won the bronze medal, defeating Manipur Hockey 5-1 .
5. Chief Justice of India Sanjiv name of Justice B R Gavai Khanna has recommended the Gavai is the second as the next Chief Justice. Justice most senior judge of the Supreme Court, and his name has been recommended to the Union Law Ministry. The tenure of the current CJI, Justice Khanna is going to end on the 13<sup>th</sup> of next month.
  6. The two are now part of the over 21 lakh people who have completed the Local Self Government (LSG) department's 'Digi Kerala' digital literacy programme, making Kerala the first State to achieve total digital literacy.
  7. Olympic silver medallist Saikhom Mirabai Chanu was chosen as the Chairperson of the newly established Athletes Commission under the Indian Weightlifting Federation (IWLF). Known for her commitment and sporting achievements, Chanu has promised to represent the voices of Indian weightlifting.
  8. The Indian archers finished their campaign at the Archery World Cup 2025 Stage 1 with four medals—one gold, one silver and two bronze. India also finished fourth in the medal tally behind Mexico, China, and the USA.
    - The first stage of the 2025 Archery World Cup was held in Auburndale, Florida, in the United States of America from 8 2025 .