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VOCABULARY

1. Sparse : Thinly dispersed or scattered.

- Synonyms: Scanty, meager, limited
- Antonyms: Dense, abundant, plentiful
- Sentence: The remote village had sparse cellular network coverage, making communication difficult.

2. Flashpoint: A situation or place where violence or conflict is likely to occur.

- Synonyms: Crisis point, hotspot, critical juncture
- Antonyms: Stability, harmony, peace → Example
- Sentence: The border region has become a flashpoint for military tensions between the two nations.

3. Contentious: Causing or likely to cause an argument.

- Synonyms: Controversial, debatable, disputed
- Antonyms: Uncontroversial, agreeable, peaceful
- Sentence: The taxation policy has been a contentious issue in the political sphere.

4. Panacea: A solution for all difficulties or diseases.

- Synonyms: Cure-all, remedy, universal solution
- Sentence: While technology can improve education, it is not a panacea for all learning challenges.

5. Scrutiny: Critical observation or examination.

- Synonyms: Inspection, analysis, investigation
- Antonyms: Neglect, ignorance, inattention
- Sentence: The government's new policies have come under intense scrutiny from opposition leaders.

- 6.** Parochial: Having a narrow or limited perspective, especially focused on a small area or community.
- Synonyms: Narrow-minded, provincial, insular
 - Antonyms: Open-minded, cosmopolitan, broad-minded
 - Sentence: The discussion on language policies should not be limited to parochial interests but should consider national unity.
- 7.** Reconcile: To restore friendly relations; to settle a disagreement.
- Synonyms: Settle, resolve, harmonize
 - Antonyms: Disagree, separate, alienate
 - Sentence: The leaders worked hard to reconcile their differences for the sake of the community.
- 8.** Ambiguous: Open to more than one interpretation; not having one obvious meaning.
- Synonyms: Unclear, vague, equivocal
 - Antonyms: Clear, definite, explicit
 - Sentence: The ambiguous statement left everyone confused about his intentions.
- 9.** Abysmal: Extremely bad or appalling.
- Synonyms: Terrible, dreadful, appalling.
 - Antonyms: Excellent, commendable, admirable.
 - Sentence: The abysmal state of primary healthcare in urban areas is concerning.
- 10.** Inextricably: In a way that is impossible to separate.
- Synonyms: Inseparably, inevitably, indistinguishably
 - Antonyms: Loosely, separably, disconnectably
 - Sentence: The fate of the environment is inextricably linked to human actions.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

4th March, 2025

1. India proudly commemorates 52 years of Project Tiger, a pioneering initiative that transformed the landscape of wildlife conservation. On this day in 1973, the Government of India launched Project Tiger to protect the country's dwindling tiger population. With a legacy of resilience and determination, the project has played a crucial role in increasing tiger populations and preserving their natural habitats. Over five decades, the initiative has grown into one of the world's most successful wildlife conservation programs.
2. As part of the ambitious Swarna Andhra-2047 vision, the Government of Andhra Pradesh is set to launch its flagship poverty eradication initiative, the 'Zero Poverty – P4 Policy', on Ugadi, the Telugu New Year (March 30, 2025). This program aims to eradicate poverty in the state by 2047 and is one of the key principles under 'Padi Sutralu' (Ten Principles) of Swarna Andhra-2047.
3. Donald Trump's announcement of a 26% reciprocal tariff on Indian goods has significant implications for India's economy and trade relations. This tariff, effective from April 9, 2025, is aimed at countering what Trump described as India's high tariffs on American goods, which he claimed were as high as 52%.
4. Nikhil Singhal, a distinguished media strategist, Founder of Vigor Media Worldwide, and President of the Noida High Rise Federation, has been honored with the prestigious Uttar Pradesh Anmol Ratan Award.
5. Chaiti Chhath Puja is a four-day Hindu festival dedicated to the worship of the Sun God (Surya Dev) and Chhathi Maiya. It is mainly celebrated in Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh with great devotion. This festival falls in the Hindu month of Chaitra and is considered very sacred.

6. Mohsin Naqvi, the new Asian Cricket Council president and current PCB chairman, aims to enhance Asian cricket's growth and influence. Succeeding Shammi Silva, Naqvi is committed to fostering collaboration and development. Silva, reflecting on his tenure, is confident in Naqvi's leadership to continue advancing the ACC's prominence and achievements in the cricketing world.
7. International Mine Awareness Day is marked on April 4 each year to highlight the dangers posed by landmines and the ongoing global efforts for their removal. The theme for 2025, "Safe Futures Start Here", emphasizes the importance of ensuring a landmine-free world.
8. The Indian Navy's frigate INS Tarkash has intercepted and seized over 2,500 kg of narcotics in the Western Indian Ocean. The Defence Ministry, in a statement today, said that during a patrol on 31st March, INS Tarkash received multiple inputs from the Indian Navy's P-8I aircraft regarding suspicious vessels operating in the area. These vessels were believed to be involved in illicit activities, including narcotics trafficking. In response, the ship altered its course to intercept the suspicious vessels.
9. Russia unveiled the 'Zircon' Hypersonic Missile, a cutting-edge weapon capable of reaching speeds of Mach 9 (over 10,000 kilometers per hour, km/h) at altitudes of 20 km. Zircon is described as a "strategic asset" representing a significant leap in military technology, capable of striking land, sea, and airborne targets with unmatched precision and speed.