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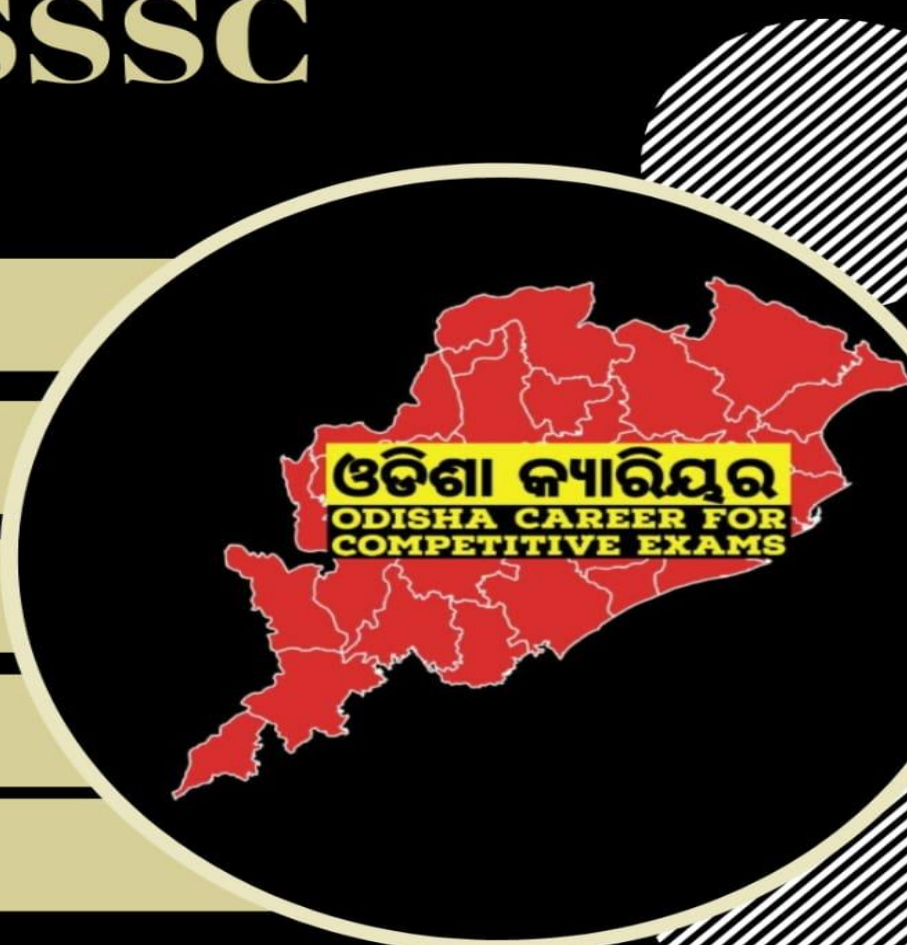
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VOCABULARY

1. **Conceived:** formed an idea, a plan, etc. in your mind; imagined something.
 - Synonyms: envisaged, visualised
 - Antonyms: disregarded, dismissed
 - Example: Can you conceive of a better way to approach this task?

2. **Probe:** to ask questions in order to find out secret or hidden information about somebody/something.
 - Synonyms: investigate, explore
 - Antonyms: overlook, bypass
 - Example: The detective needed to probe further into the case to find additional clues.

3. **Gargantuan:** very large.
 - Synonyms: colossal, titanic
 - Antonyms: infinitesimal, minute
 - Example: The spaceship was a marvel of engineering, with its gargantuan size dwarfing anything nearby.

4. **Punctuated**: interrupted something fairly often and regularly.

- Synonyms: disrupted, broke
- Antonyms: continued, maintained
- Example: The peaceful atmosphere of the beach was punctuated by the sound of crashing waves.

5. **Commendable**: deserving praise.

- Synonyms: laudable, praiseworthy
- Antonyms: ignominious, reprehensible
- Example: The firefighter's bravery during the rescue mission was commendable.

6. **Verbatim**: in a way that uses exactly the same words as were originally used.

- Synonyms: exact, faithful
- Antonyms: inaccurate, distorted
- Example: The professor insisted on students quoting the passage verbatim in their essays.

7. **Amicable**: done or achieved in a polite or friendly way and without arguing.

- Synonyms: harmonious, cordial
- Antonyms: hostile, antagonistic

- Example: Despite their differences, they reached an amicable agreement.
8. **Standstill**: a situation in which all activity or movement has stopped.
- Synonyms: deadlock, impasse
 - Antonyms: headway, breakthrough
 - Example: The construction site was at a standstill due to heavy rain.
9. **Prevails**: to defeat an opponent, especially after a long struggle.
- Synonyms: triumph, conquer
 - Antonyms: yield, surrender
 - Example: Team spirit and determination helped them prevail against their opponents.
10. **Embrace**: to accept something enthusiastically.
- Synonyms: welcome, adopt
 - Antonyms: oppose, resist
 - Example: She decided to embrace the opportunity and take on a new challenge.

Phrasal verbs

11. **Gear up:** to prepare for something that you have to do, or to prepare someone else for something.
12. **Set in:** to begin and seem likely to continue.

Idioms

13. **A free ride:** an opportunity or advantage that someone gets without having done anything to deserve it.
14. **It goes without saying:** said to mean that something is so obvious that it does not need to be said or explained.

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CURRENT AFFAIRS

20th January, 2024

1. On January 18, Pakistan launched a series of “highly coordinated and specifically targeted precision military strikes” against alleged terrorist hideouts in the Sistan and Baluchistan province of Iran.
 - Several terrorists were reportedly killed in the operation codenamed “Marg Bar Sarmachar”, the phrase loosely translates to 'death to guerrilla fighters'.
2. Government of India, under the New Education Policy, has decided to include Farsi (Persian) as one of the nine classical languages of India.
3. A company in China has developed a battery that it says can last longer than the devices it powers. The nuclear-powered BV100 is smaller than a coin and can provide power for 50 years without the need for recharging, according to Beijingbased start-up Betavolt Technology, the company behind the product.

4. Former Chief Justice of India (CJI) Ranjan Gogoi will be honored with Assam's highest civilian award 'Assam Baibhav'. While athlete Hima Das will be awarded the Assam Saurav Samman.
5. Chhattisgarh has introduced Mahtari Vandana Yojana 2024, aiming to offer monthly economic assistance of ₹1000 to women, totaling an annual aid of ₹12,000, thereby empowering through financial support.
6. Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik revealed the Shree-Mandir Parikrama Prakalpa (SMPP), a significant peripheral development initiative encircling Puri's 12th-century Shree Jagannath Temple.
7. Recently, the World Health Organization (WHO) has declared Cabo Verde as a Malaria-free country. Cabo Verde now joins Mauritius and Algeria as the third country in the WHO African region to be certified as malaria-free.
8. The Pakke Paga Hornbill Festival (PPHF) serves as a testament to this diversity, bringing together communities, traditions, and conservation efforts.

9. With a view to transform Ayodhya into a model solar city, a solar power-enabled boat will for the first time be launched in the country in the Saryu river.
 - The Uttar Pradesh New and Renewable Energy Agency (UPNEDA) has prepared the outline for the regular operation of this boat service in the Saryu-river of Ayodhya.
10. Gianni Infantino, FIFA President, received the esteemed International Sports Personality of the Year award, acknowledging remarkable achievements in sports since its 2009 inception.
11. TCS ranked 2nd most valuable IT brand in Global list.
12. Apple surpasses Samsung as top smart phone maker for the first time since 2010.
13. Asian Shooting Championship 2024:
 - Yogesh Singh won individual gold medal in men's 25 meter center fire pistol competition.
 - Yogesh Singh, Pankaj Yadav and Akshay Jain won gold medals in the team event.

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