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VOCABULARY

1. **Wanton:** (of a cruel or violent action) deliberate and unproved
 - Synonyms: Unrestrained, indiscriminate, licentious
 - Antonyms: Restrained, disciplined, prudent
 - Sentence: The wanton destruction of the forest angered environmentalists.

2. **Razing:** to completely destroy a building, town etc.
 - Synonyms: Demolition, destruction, leveling
 - Antonyms: Construction, building, preservation
 - Sentence: The developers planned on razing the old building to make way for a new shopping mall.

3. **Adhering:** to follow a rule
 - Synonyms: Following, obeying, complying
 - Antonyms: Disobeying, violating, disregarding
 - Sentence: The company strictly adheres to safety regulations.

4. **Slew:** mass, great deal, plenty
 - Synonyms: Large number, multitude, abundance
 - Antonyms: Few, scarcity, shortage

- Sentence: There has been a slew of new developments in the technology sector recently.
5. **Assault** : a sudden attack on somebody
- Synonyms: Attack, onslaught, aggression
 - Antonyms: Defense, protection, retreat
 - Sentence: The critics viewed the proposed amendments as an assault on environmental conservation efforts.
6. **Conjecture**: an opinion or conclusion formed on the basis of incomplete information
- Synonyms: Speculation, guess, hypothesis
 - Antonyms: Fact, certainty, truth
 - Sentence: Without evidence, any statement about the impact of the amendments on the carbon sink is mere conjecture.
7. **Dispassionate**: not influenced by strong emotion, and so able to be rational and impartial
- Synonyms: Impartial, unbiased, objective
 - Antonyms: Biased, partial, emotional
 - Sentence: We need a dispassionate analysis of the situation to make informed decisions.

8. **Travesty:** something that fails to represent the values and qualities that it is intended to represent, in a way that is shocking or offensive.
- Synonyms: mockery, parody
 - Antonyms: solemnity, model
 - Example: The injustice of the verdict was a travesty of the legal system.
9. **Fathom:** to understand something
- Synonyms: Understand, comprehend, grasp
 - Antonyms: Misunderstand, confuse, overlook
 - Sentence: It's challenging to fathom the complexity of the human brain.
10. **Assimilate:** to learn and understand something
- Synonyms: Absorb, integrate, incorporate
 - Antonyms: Reject, exclude, segregate
 - Sentence: It's important to assimilate different perspectives when making decisions.
11. **Sobering:** not funny; serious
- Synonyms: Serious, grave, solemn
 - Antonyms: Light-hearted, cheerful, amusing
 - Sentence: The sobering statistics underscore the urgency of addressing the issue.

12. **Lesions:** damaged caused to a part of the body due to injury
- Synonyms: Abnormalities, injuries, wounds
 - Antonyms: Health, normality, wellness
 - Sentence: The doctor identified several precancerous lesions during the examination.

Phrases

13. **Propel into:** To drive or push forward forcefully, often into a new era or phase.
14. **Advocating for:** It means supporting or promoting.
15. **Flip Side:** The opposite or contrasting aspect of a situation, often the negative or less favourable side.
16. **Spell out:** to explain something in a very clear way with details.

Idioms

17. **A level playing field:** a situation in which everyone has the same chance of succeeding.
18. **Turn the page:** to make a new start after a period of difficulties.

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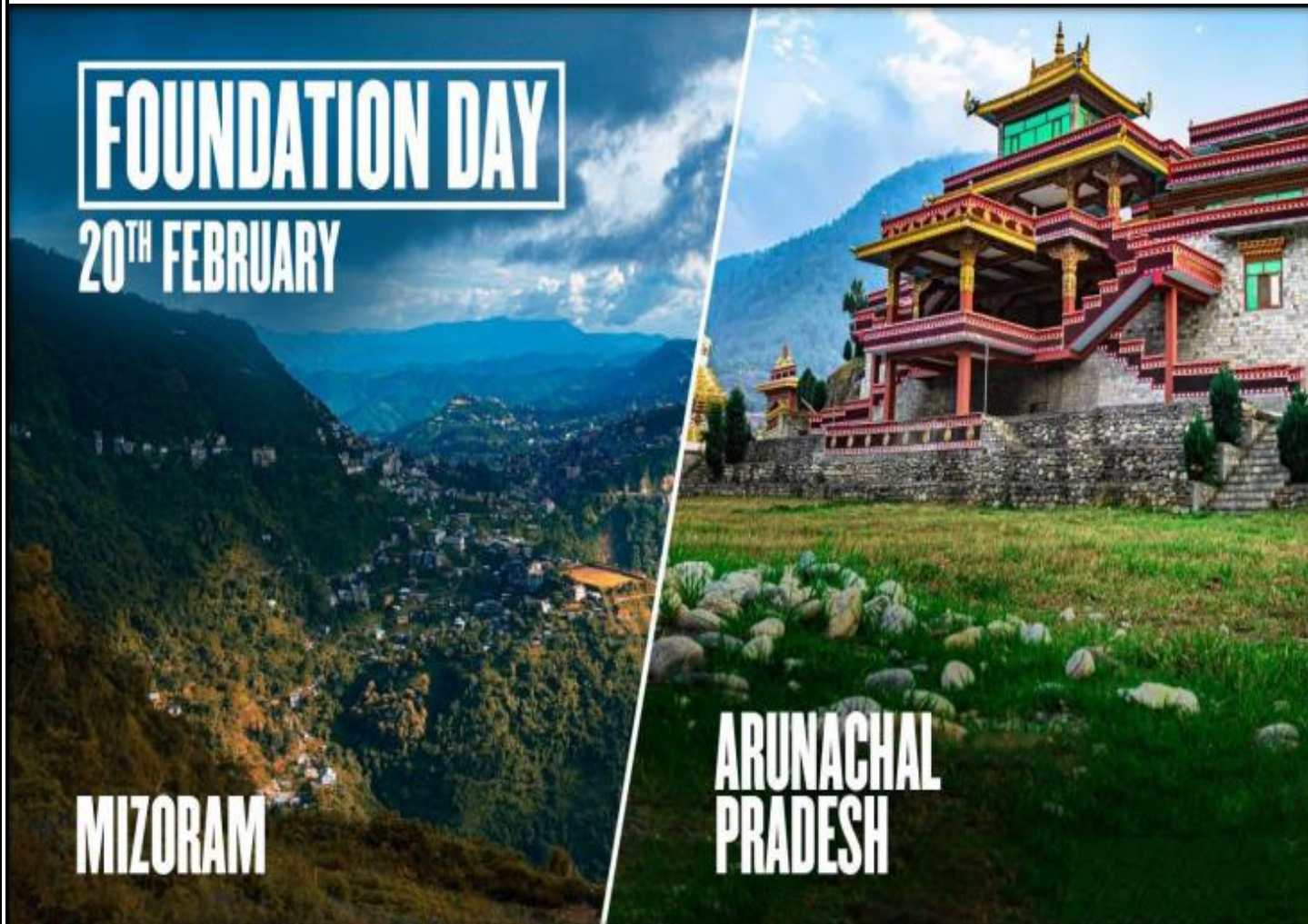
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CURRENT AFFAIRS

21th FEBRUARY, 2024

1. The European Union launched a naval mission on Monday to protect Red Sea shipping from Yemen's Houthi rebels as a U.S.-owned cargo vessel repeatedly came under fire in the region.
 - The Iran-backed Houthis, who control much of war-torn Yemen, have been harassing the vital shipping lane since November in a campaign they say is in solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza during the Israel-Hamas war.
2. The much-anticipated INDUS-X Summit is scheduled to be held on Feb 20-21, 2024, in Delhi. This summit marks a milestone in the collaborative efforts between India and the US in defence innovation.
3. India's first spy satellite built by Tata Advanced Systems Ltd (TASL) will be launched in a SpaceX rocket by April and will be used by the armed forces to obtain secret information.

4. Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami launched the 'Himalayan Basket' initiative at his residence.



5. Arunachal Pradesh Foundation Day 2024 falls on February 20th. This significant day commemorates the state's official declaration as a distinct entity within India in 1987.

- Mizoram Foundation Day 2024, observed on February 20th, commemorates the state's establishment as the 23rd state of India in 1987.

6. A steam of sweat rose as hundreds of naked men tussled over a bag of wooden talismans, performing a dramatic end to a thousand-yearold ritual in Japan that took place for the last time.

- Their passionate chants of jasso, joyasa (“evil, be gone”) echoed through a cedar forest of the northern Japan’s Iwate region, where the secluded Kokuseki Temple has decided to end the popular annual rite.



NAKED MEN FESTIVAL

- 7.** Maharashtra clocked the highest passenger vehicle sales in the October-December period of 2023. The Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) has revealed that Maharashtra recorded 121,030 units of passenger vehicles in the fourth quarter of the last calendar year.
- The second position was held by Uttar Pradesh with 101,568 units of passenger vehicle sales, followed by Gujarat and Karanata with these states registering 85,599 units and 71,549 units respectively.
- 8.** Iconic Indian cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni was on Sunday selected as the leader of IPL's all-time greatest squad, which was picked to celebrate the success of world's most-popular T20 league which was launched in 2008.
- 9.** Punjab Chief Electoral Officer's office has announced Indian cricketer Shubman Gill as the new "state icon" for Punjab.
- 10.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate and lay the foundation for a number of new educational institutions on Tuesday. The projects are worth ₹13,375 crore. The ceremony will be held in Jammu.

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