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VOCABULARY

1. Somersaults (noun): an acrobatic movement in which a person turns head over heels in the air or on the ground; a complete flip
 - Synonyms: Flip, tumble
 - Antonyms: Standstill, immobility
 - Sentence: The gymnast impressed the crowd with her graceful somersaults.
2. Unedifying (adj): not providing moral or intellectual instruction
 - Synonyms: Uninspiring, uninformative
 - Antonyms: Enlightening, educational
 - Sentence: The debate turned out to be an unedifying spectacle of personal attacks.
3. Infidelity (noun): the act of being unfaithful to a spouse or sexual partner
 - Synonyms: Cheating, adultery
 - Antonyms: Fidelity, faithfulness
 - Sentence: Their relationship was strained by repeated acts of infidelity.

4. Affliction (noun): something that causes pain or suffering
 - Synonyms: Suffering, ailment
 - Antonyms: Relief, comfort
 - Sentence: The country has endured the affliction of civil war for many years.
5. Bedfellows (noun): unlikely companions or allies; often used in the phrase 'strange bedfellows'
 - Synonyms: Companions, cohorts
 - Antonyms: Enemies, adversaries
 - Sentence: Politics and ethics make strange bedfellows.
6. Turnaround (noun): a complete change from a bad situation to a good one; a dramatic recovery
 - Synonyms: Reversal, recovery
 - Antonyms: Decline, deterioration
 - Sentence: The new CEO led an impressive turnaround of the struggling company.
7. Rapprochement (noun): an establishment or resumption of harmonious relations
 - Synonyms: Reconciliation, detente
 - Antonyms: Estrangement, alienation
 - Sentence: There has been a significant rapprochement between the two previously hostile nations.

8. Defanged (adj): made less powerful or effective; having had the dangerous or threatening parts removed
- Synonyms: Weakened, disarmed
 - Antonyms: Empowered, strengthened
 - Sentence: The new legislation has defanged the regulatory agency, rendering it less effective.
9. Besmirched (verb): to damage the reputation of someone or something in the opinion of others
- Synonyms: Tarnish, sully
 - Antonyms: Enhance, honor
 - Sentence: The scandal besmirched the politician's once-impeccable reputation.

IDIOMS AND PHRASES

10. Change of heart - A change in one's feelings or opinions.
11. Watershed moment - A crucial or turning point that marks a significant change.
12. Align with - To join, affiliate, or agree with a group, party, or viewpoint.
13. Look for - To seek or search for.
14. Watching out for - To be vigilant or on alert for.

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CURRENT AFFAIRS

30th January, 2024

1. Three Indian scientists are also among the nine scientists selected for the prestigious 'Blavatnik Award' 2024 given to young scientists in Britain. This award will be given to them for their excellent work in chemistry, physics and life sciences.
2. The India Ageing Report 2023, a collaboration between the International Institute for Population Sciences and the United Nations Population Fund, explores the aging population in Jammu and Kashmir.
3. Punjab chief minister Bhagwant Mann on Saturday flagged off 144 hi-tech vehicles of the specialised 'Sadak Surakhya Force' (SSF) to streamline traffic movement and check road accidents in the state.
4. The military regimes ruling Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger have announced their immediate withdrawal from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). The surprise exit is being called a "sovereign decision" taken without delay.

- 5.** The SAMALEI (Samaleswari Temple Area Management and Local Economic Initiative) Plan will comprehensively develop the temple precinct to provide a unique spiritual experience to visitors and pilgrims.
 - The project includes the peripheral development of the shrine, the construction of a heritage corridor, pilgrim amenities, improved access to the temple and the development of the Mahanadi riverfront, among other things.
- 6.** Jadung village in Uttarkashi district was abandoned after the 1962 Indo-China war that impacted relations between the countries and left border disputes unresolved.
 - The Indo-Tibetan Border Police has controlled the cold desert area similar to Ladakh since the residents deserted it.
- 7.** The Ministry of Education's AISHE report reveals a robust spike of 19 lakh students in higher education enrollment, reaching 4.33 crore in 2021-22.
- 8.** Havildar Preeti Rajak, a notable trap shooter, has made history by becoming the first woman within the Indian Army to be promoted to the rank of Subedar.

9. Martyr's Day or Shaheed Diwas is observed in India on several dates. March 23 is remembered as the day when three brave freedom fighters, namely Bhagat Singh, Shivaram Rajguru, and Sukhdev Thapar, were hanged by the British. Also, January 30th is observed as Martyr's Day or Shaheed Diwas in memory of Mahatma Gandhi.

IMPORTANT ONE LINER

10. PM Modi inaugurates Diamond Jubilee Celebration and launches Technology Initiatives for Supreme Court.

11. Louis Vuitton's founder Bernad Arnault surpasses Elon Musk as richest person in the world.