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May
we all
grow our
compassion,
kindness,
and care.

VOCABULARY

- 1. Outlook:** Prediction of what is likely to happen in future.
 - Synonyms: Forecast, Viewpoint, Prospect, Opinion.
 - Antonyms: Dismay, Cynicism, Pessimism, Despair.
 - sentence: Her outlook on life is always optimistic.
- 2. Respite:** A short period of rest.
 - Synonyms: Pause, Interval, Suspension, Lull.
 - Antonyms: Continuation, Hardship, Suffering, Stress.
 - sentence: She found a brief respite from her busy schedule in the peaceful park nearby.
- 3. Reneged:** Failing to fulfill an obligation.
 - Synonyms: Revoked, Abandoned, Retracted, Violated.
 - Antonyms: Complied, Abided by, Adhered to, Honored.
 - sentence: She reneged on her pledge to help, leaving her friend in a difficult situation.
- 4. Volatile:** something that is unstable.
 - Synonyms: Unpredictable, Changeable, Mercurial.
 - Antonyms: Steady, Secure, Constant, Unchanging.
 - sentence: The situation remained volatile despite efforts to stabilize it.
- 5. Discontent:** A feeling of dissatisfaction.
 - Synonyms: Displeasure, Unease, Disquiet, Frustration.

- Antonyms: Serenity, Delight, Contentment, Pleasure.
- sentence: The discontent among the citizens grew a economic hardships persisted.

6. **Underscores:** To highlight the importance of something.

- Synonyms: Emphasizes, Accentuates, Spotlights, Stresses, Reinforces.
- Antonyms: Downplays, Minimizes, Overlooks, Neglects, Ignores.
- sentence: His silence during the meeting underscored his disapproval of the proposed plan.

7. **Languish:** lack of progress or become weak.

- Synonyms: Suffer, Falter, Deteriorate, Decay, Wane.
- Antonyms: Flourish, Thrive, Revive, Prosper.
- sentence: He languished in prison, yearning for freedom.

8. **Portend:** An indication of future event.

- Synonyms: Augur, Herald, Imply, Signify.
- Antonyms: Ensure, Guarantee, Foreshadow.
- sentence: The dark clouds portend a coming storm.

9. **Hostage:** A person seized by someone.

- Synonyms: Victim, Pawn, Detainee, Prisoner.
- Antonyms: Liberated, Emancipated, Unbound.
- sentence: The bank robbery ended with the release of all hostages unharmed.

10. **Spike:** A sudden and sharp increase.
- Synonyms: Escalation, Surge, Upswing, Boom.
 - Antonyms: Downturn, Decrease, Decline, Devaluation.
 - sentence: The spike in interest rates led to a decrease in consumer spending.

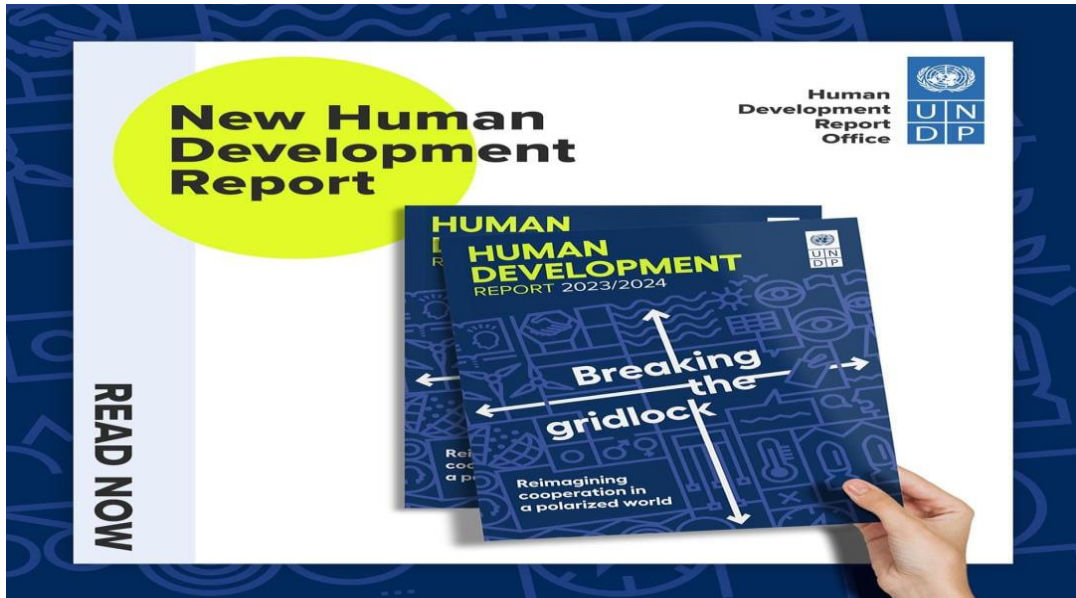
IDIOMS AND PHRASES

11. **Achilles Heel (Idiom):** Weakness or vulnerable point in someone or something.
12. **Keep a lid on (Idiom):** To control or limit something.
13. **Under the strain of something (Idiom):** Pressured or stressed caused by a particular situation.
14. **Pulled off (Phrasal verb):** To successfully achieve something.
15. **Written off (Phrasal verb):** The act of declaring something as loss or no longer valuable.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

16th March, 2024

1.



- According to the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP's) latest report, India ranks 134 out of 193 countries on the global Human Development Index (HDI).
- China and Sri Lanka ranked at 75 and 78. India also ranks below Bhutan (125) and Bangladesh (129).
- The 2023/24 Human Development Report is titled 'Breaking the Gridlock'.

2.



India jumps 14 ranks on Gender inequality index 2022

- According to the Gender Inequality Index 2022 released by the United Nations Development Programme, India ranked 108 out of 193 countries, with a score of 0.437 .
- Denmark topped the chart in the 2022 index, followed by Norway, Switzerland, Sweden, and the Netherlands.
- In 2021, India stood at rank 122 out of 191 countries with a score of 0.490 in the Gender Inequality Index.

3.



- The naval forces of China, Iran, and Russia launched a joint exercise near the Gulf of Oman, aimed at safeguarding regional maritime security. The “Security Belt-2024” exercise marks the fourth time these countries have conducted such a drill since 2019.

4.



- According to EV players, the central government's scheme to promote mobility in the country with an outlay of Rs 500 crore for four months, beginning April 2024, provides a crucial transition period for the industry to stabilise.
- The scheme will help to accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles, particularly two and three-wheelers.

5.



- National Immunisation Day or National Vaccination Day is celebrated in India on 16th March every year to raise awareness about the significance of vaccines in the human body.
- The day is also used to pay tribute to the healthcare providers who work tirelessly to ensure the vaccination of everyone.

6.



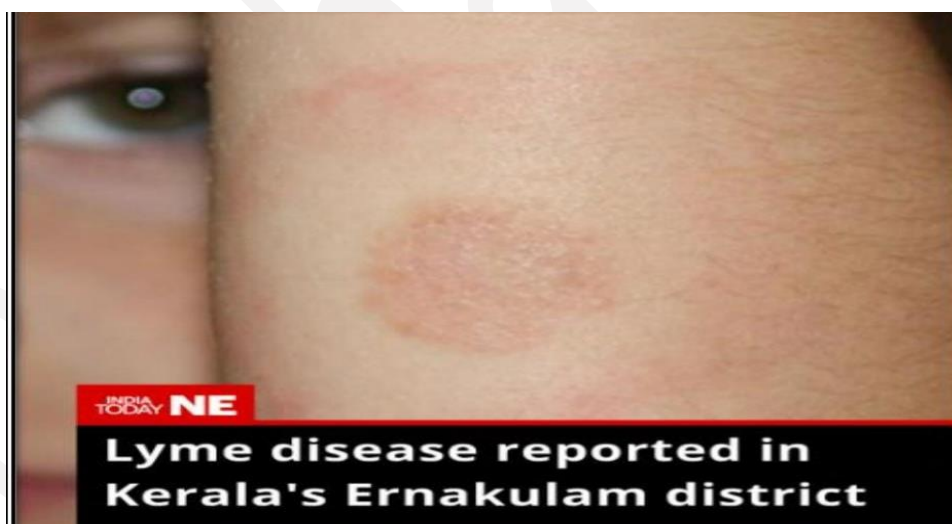
- Phool Dei is a harvest festival in Uttarakhand - Celebrated on the first day of the Hindu month of Chaitra.
- This folk festival celebrates the spring season and is widely celebrated by young girls in the region around March-April.

7.



- The BharatiyaJanata Party (BJP) encashed electoral bonds worth a staggering ₹6,060.5 crore between April 12, 2019, and January 24, 2024, according to the data released by the ECI.
- Total of 213 donors have purchased electoral bonds worth over Rs 10 crore. Future Gaming and Hotel Services emerged as one of the significant buyers with electoral bonds worth over Rs 1,350 crore.
- Megha Engineering, involved in major infrastructure projects, bought bonds worth Rs 966 crore.
 - Vedanta Ltd - Rs398 crore
 - Bharti Airtel's - Rs246 crore

8.



- A case of Lyme disease has been recently reported in the Ernakulam district of Kerala.

9.



- In a significant development for the Indian media landscape, public broadcaster Prasar Bharati launched PB-SHABD, a news-sharing service designed to provide daily news feeds in various formats to media organizations. The launch event, held at the National Media Centre in New Delhi, was presided over by Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting Anurag Singh Thakur.

10.



- India launched a new regional airline, FLY91, on March 14, 2024. The airline, backed by aviation veteran Manoj Chacko, was virtually flagged off by Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia. FLY91's inaugural flight took off from Goa's Mopaairport, connecting to Agatti in Lakshadweep.

11.



- Mumbai won the Ranji Trophy 2024 after beating Vidarbha by 169 runs at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai.

12.



13.



- Elvis Ali Hazarika from Assam makes history, Swims solo across Robben Island.