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VOCABULARY

1. Inception: The beginning of something.

- Synonyms: Commencement, Onset, Launch, Start.
- Antonyms: Conclusion, Completion, Termination, Culmination.
- sentence: The inception of their friendship began with a shared love of books.

2. Strident: Something loud or harsh.

- Synonyms: Piercing, Blaring, Raucous, Clamorous.
- Antonyms: Gentle, Mellow, Harmonious, Soothing.
- sentence: The strident tone of her criticism made it difficult to ignore.

3. Euphoria: An intense feeling of happiness.

- Synonyms: Ecstasy, Delight, Jubilation, Elation.
- Antonyms: Gloom, Sorrow, Melancholy, Anguish.
- sentence: The news of her promotion filled her with euphoria.

4. Envisaged: To foresee something happening in the future.

- Synonyms: Imagined, Anticipated, Visualized, Expected.
- Antonyms: Surprised, Improvised, Spontaneous.
- sentence: The team envisaged a successful outcome for their project.

5. Grave: Something serious.

- Synonyms: Solemn, Severe, Earnest, Important.
- Antonyms: Casual, Frivolous, Insignificant, Minor.
- sentence: The doctor delivered the news with a grave expression.

6. Nebulous: Something unclear or lacking definite form.

- Synonyms: Ambiguous, Obscure, Hazy, Indistinct.
- Antonyms: Precise, Obvious, Clear, Distinct.
- sentence: The painting depicted a nebulous figure, making it difficult to discern its subject.

7. Augury: The practice of interpreting signs.

- Synonyms: Prediction, Omen, Portent, Harbinger.
- Antonyms: Reality, Fact, Verity, Certainty.
- sentence: The sudden drop in temperature was viewed as an augury of the coming winter.

8. Epitomize: To serve as a typical example of something.

- Synonyms: Symbolize, Represent, Exemplify, Signify.
- Antonyms: Ignore, Neglect, Defy, Undermine.
- sentence: Her kindness epitomizes the spirit of generosity.

9. Spillovers: The unintended or indirect effects of an action.

- Synonyms: Impact, Ramifications, Aftermath, Outcomes.
- Antonyms: Isolation, Exclusion, Avoidance, Confinement.
- sentence: The environmental regulations had unintended spillovers on the local economy.

- 10.** Tending: Something that inclines towards a particular outcome.
- Synonyms: Leaning, Swaying, Heading, Drifting.
 - Antonyms: Abandoning, Neglecting, Ignoring.
 - sentence: The weather is tending towards rain.

IDIOMS AND PHRASES

- 11.** To fill the vacuum: To occupy a space or position.
- 12.** Goes without saying: Something is so obvious that it does not need to be explicitly stated.
- 13.** To see through rose-colored glasses: To have a biased view of something.
- 14.** Fall short: Fail to reach a particular goal or expectation.
- 15.** Tramping through: Walking in a clumsily or careless manner.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

20th March, 2024

1. In preparation for the delivery of six Apache attack helicopters from the US starting in May, the Indian Army has established a squadron for these heavy-duty choppers at Jodhpur along the western front with Pakistan.

 - The squadron was raised in the presence of Army Aviation's director general Lt-General Ajay Suri and other officials. According to an officer, the delivery, initially scheduled to begin in February, has been slightly delayed, with the first three Apaches now expected in May.
2. A joint military exercise called Tiger Triumph-24 between India and the United States started on March 18 and will continue until March 31. This exercise is taking place on the Eastern Seaboard (East Coast) of India.

 - The main purpose of this exercise is to improve cooperation between the two countries' armed forces for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations.
3. Prabha Varma, the celebrated poet and litterateur, has been honored with the prestigious Saraswati Samman for 2023 for his Malayalam language poetry work, Roudra Sathwikam and also for his contribution to the literature during the period 2013 to 2022.

4. India's first integrated oil palm processing unit in Arunachal Pradesh started operation by one of India's largest oil palm development companies, 3F Oil Palm.
5. The Guyana Defence Force (GDF) plans to purchase two aircraft from India with a loan of \$23.27 million from the Export-Import Bank of India.
6. The entire city of Mathura is smeared in colors as celebrations for the 10-day Braj Ki Holi began with Barsana's famous Laddoo Mar Holi.
 - The women of Barsana playfully hit them with sticks. As the name suggests, the Braj Ki Holi traditions take a cue from Lord Krishna and Radha's life, and the celebrations at Mathura, Vrindavan, Barsana, Nandgaon, and Gokul are dedicated to Krishna Kanhaniya, who spent his childhood in these regions.
7. The World Sparrow Day falls on March 20th, 2024, and offers a wonderful opportunity to celebrate these charming little birds and raise awareness about the challenges they face.
8. World number two ranked men's tennis player Carlos Alcaraz and world number one ranked women's tennis player Iga Swiatek won the Indian Wells 1000 men's and women's titles, respectively.

9. The Associated Chambers of Commerce & Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), India's oldest apex chamber with the support of Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India is organizing an event viz., "Startup Mahakumbh" scheduled to be held from 17-19 March, 2024 at New Dehi.
10. Uday Bhatia and Manasi Gupta from India were honored with the prestigious 'Diana Memorial Award' on 14 March 2024.
11. Gulveer Singh breaks 16 year National record in the 10,000 meter race.