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## VOCABULARY

### 1. Skewed: To be biased.

- Synonyms: Prejudiced, Slanted, Distorted, Tilted.
- Antonyms: Balanced, Unbiased, Impartial.
- sentence: The media coverage of the event was skewed towards one political viewpoint.

### 2. Unscrupulous: Someone or something that is dishonest.

- Synonyms: Unethical, Corrupt, Untrustworthy, Immoral.
- Antonyms: Moral, Trustworthy, Honest, Upright.
- sentence: The unscrupulous behavior of the corporation led to public outrage.

### 3. opaque: Something that is difficult to understand or see through.

- Synonyms: Obscure, Hazy, Ambiguous, Unclear.
- Antonyms: Lucid, Understandable, Translucent, Clear.
- sentence: The frosted glass was opaque, preventing anyone to see through it.

### 4. Prodded: To poke someone or something.

- Synonyms: Nudged, Pushed, Jabbed.
- Antonyms: Prevented, Dissuaded, Deterred.
- sentence: She prodded her brother to finish his homework before dinner.

**5. Topple:** To cause something to fall over.

- Synonyms: Overturn, Collapse, Overthrow, Dethrone.
- Antonyms: Stabilize, Uphold, Secure, Strengthen.
- sentence: The scandal led to the government being toppled from power.

**6. Radicalised:** Embracing extreme or revolutionary beliefs.

- Synonyms: Extremized, Ideologized, Activized.
- Antonyms: Pragmatic, Centrist, Rational.
- sentence: The peaceful protest was infiltrated by a group of radicalized individuals.

**7. Prevail:** Prove more powerful or superior.

- Synonyms: Triumph, Conquer, Reign.
- Antonyms: Surrender, Succumb, Give up, Lose.
- sentence: The prevailing opinion among experts is that climate change poses a significant threat.

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

- Synonyms: Emphasizes, Accentuates, Stresses.
- Antonyms: Downplays, Suppresses, Disregards.
- sentence: His success underscores the importance of hard work and determination.

**9. Outskirts:** Outer parts of a town.

Synonyms: Periphery, Suburbs, Boundary, Fringe.

Antonyms: Central, Core, Downtown.

sentence: The farmhouse was located on the outskirts of the village.

**10. Cronyism:** The practice of favoring one's close friends or relatives.

- Synonyms: Nepotism, Favoritism, Partisanship.
- Antonyms: Equity, Transparency, Impartiality.
- sentence: Cronyism within the government undermined public trust in the administration.

### IDIOMS AND PHRASES

**11. Hit below the belt:** To use unfair or unethical tactics in an attack.

**12. Go on the offensive:** To take the initiative in an attack, often to gain advantage over an opponent.

**13. Let the cat out of the bag:** To disclose information that was meant to be kept confidential.

**14. Carried out:** To complete or execute a task.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

26<sup>th</sup> March, 2024

1. Simon Harris, at 37, is poised to become Ireland's youngest prime minister, stepping into the spotlight following the unexpected departure of Leo Varadkar.
2. Dr. Sultan Al Jaber, the President of COP28 (the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference), received the CERAWeek Leadership Award.
3. New Zealand will ban disposable e-cigarettes, or vapes, and raise financial penalties for those who sell such products to minors.
  - The New Zealand government has received significant criticism for rolling back a world-first law banning tobacco sales for future generations. The New Zealand government has received significant criticism for rolling back a world-first law banning tobacco sales for future generations.
  - Retailers that sell vapes to children under 18 years of age will face fines of up to 100,000 New Zealand dollars.
4. Shaheed Diwas 2024 falls on March 23, 2024, commemorating the day when three iconic freedom fighters – Bhagat Singh, Shivaram Rajguru, and Sukhdev Thapar – were martyred by the British Government.

5. UNESCO puts 6 new Madhya Pradesh destinations on tentative list of World Heritage site: The six sites include Gwalior Fort, the historical Dhamnar rock-cut caves and Bhojeshwar Mahadev Temple in Bhojpur, the rock art site of Chambal valley, Khooni Bhandara-Burhanpur, Ramnagar and Mandla Gond sites.
6. The European Space Agency's Gaia space telescope has made a groundbreaking discovery, uncovering two ancient streams of stars named Shiva and Shakti. Led by Khyati Malhan of the Max Planck Institute for Astronomy (MPIA) in Germany, this revelation significantly enhances our understanding of the Milky Way's origins.
7. Drone manufacturer Garuda Aerospace has launched a Border Patrol Surveillance Drone, 'Trishul'. Garuda Aerospace Company gave information in this regard on 22 March 2024.
  - The Border Patrol surveillance drone Trishul can be used to monitor the movement of people, monitor natural disasters and assess traffic.
8. The United States, the United Kingdom and Australia have entered a new agreement to build Australia's SSN-AUKUS submarines and termed it a significant milestone in the endeavour of defence cooperation.