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VOCABULARY

1. Ceasefire: A temporary suspension of fighting.
 - Synonyms: Truce, Armistice, Suspension, Stand-down.
 - Antonyms: Resumption, Escalation, Continuation.
 - sentence: The ceasefire brought a moment of relief to the war-torn region.

2. Abstained: To voluntarily refrain from doing something.
 - Synonyms: Shunned, Avoided, Eschewed.
 - Antonyms: Endorsed, Supported, Backed.
 - sentence: He abstained from dessert to stick to his diet.

3. Besieged: To be surrounded by armed forces or subjected to intense pressure.
 - Synonyms: Harassed, Pestered, Assailed.
 - Antonyms: Liberated, Relieved, Unburdened.
 - sentence: The CEO felt besieged by the constant demand of the shareholders.

4. Rubble: Broken fragments of stone.
 - Synonyms: Debris, Remnants, Ruins, Litter.
 - Antonyms: Structure, Building, Edifice.
 - sentence: After the earthquake, the once vibrant city was reduced to rubble.

5. Sombre: Something that is dark or gloomy in mood or tone.
 - Synonyms: Grave, Serious, Mournful, Dreary.

- Antonyms: Optimistic, Cheerful, Radiant, Joyful.
- sentence: The sombre sky matched his mood as he walked home alone.

6. Instill: To gradually but firmly introduce an idea.

- Synonyms: Infuse, Inject, Embed, Inculcate.
- Antonyms: Eradicate, Eliminate, Dislodge, Dispel.
- sentence: She tried to instill confidence in her shy son before his first day at school.

7. Coerced: To force someone to do something.

- Synonyms: Compelled, Pressured, Intimidated.
- Antonyms: Convinced, Persuaded, Inspired, Influenced.
- sentence: He coerced his younger brother into doing his chores for him.

8. Despondency: A state of low spirits.

- Synonyms: Despair, Hopelessness, Melancholy, Dejection, Sadness.
- Antonyms: Optimism, Hopefulness, Enthusiasm.
- sentence: His despondency was evident in his slumped posture and downcast eyes.

IDIOMS AND PHRASES

9. In the offing: Something that is likely to happen soon.
10. Bury the hatchet: To make peace or to resolve a conflict.
11. Call off the dogs: To cease aggressive actions.
12. Cramped into : Feeling confined or restricted.
13. Abide by: To adhere or follow the rules associated with something.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

27th March, 2024

1. China launched a satellite that will act as a communications bridge between ground operations on Earth and an upcoming mission on the far side of the moon, marking a new phase in the country's long-term lunar exploration programme.
2. In response to the Israel-Hamas conflict, the Indian Navy's 'Op Sankalp' has been vital in the Indian Ocean.
 - The navy has been at the forefront, addressing 18 incidents including the action against the hijacking of MV Ruen.
 - Deploying over 5000 personnel, and 21 ships, the operation has safeguarded maritime routes against piracy, terrorism, and other non-traditional threats.
3. During the 148th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) held in Geneva in Switzerland, India delivered a sharp critique of Pakistan, underlining the irony of receiving lectures on democracy from a nation notorious for its democratic deficiencies and its sponsorship of terrorism across borders. Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh, representing India, used his right of reply to address Pakistan's criticisms of India directly.

4. The International Astronomical Union (IAU) has named an asteroid after India's Professor Jayant Murthy, a distinguished scientist known for his work on the interstellar medium, ultraviolet astronomy, and space missions.
5. The Supreme Court, led by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, appoints an expert committee to tackle the critical endangerment of the Great Indian Bustard. With a focus on balancing conservation .
6. The Chipko movement, which began in Uttarakhand, a state in the Himalayas, in early 1973, marks its 50th anniversary.
7. Bharat Biotech International Ltd has initiated clinical trials for the Tuberculosis vaccine MTBVAC on adults in India.
 - MTBVAC is the first tuberculosis vaccine derived from a human source, developed by the Spanish biopharmaceutical company, Biofabri.
 - Bharat Biotech is conducting these trials in close collaboration with Biofabri.
 - The development of MTBVAC is seen as a significant milestone in global vaccinology, highlighting the importance of public-private, national, and international collaboration.

8. World Theatre Day is celebrated every year on 27 March. This day is dedicated to the art form of theatre, and its importance in society. The day is observed to raise awareness about the role of theatre in our lives, and to promote its growth. The history of World Theatre Day dates back to 1962, when the first World Theatre Day was celebrated.
9. India achieved a Guinness World Record on World Kabaddi Day, March 24, 2024, with 128 players participating, held at Tau Devi Lal Indoor Stadium in Panchkula, Haryana.
10. Virat Kohli became the first Indian batter to get to the landmark of 100 fifty-plus scores with his knock against PBKS on March 25 in Bengaluru. Kohli joined Gayle and Warner in the elite list.