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## VOCABULARY

1. **Impede:** To obstruct or slow down the progress of something.
  - Synonyms: Hinder, Hamper, Thwart, Inhibit.
  - Antonyms: Facilitate, Accelerate, Expedite, Support.
  - sentence: The construction work has impeded our progress.
  
2. **Concerted:** Jointly or mutually arranged.
  - Synonyms: Cooperative, Collaborative, United, Combined.
  - Antonyms: Isolated, Fragmented, Divided, Disjointed.
  - sentence: They made a concerted attempt to resolve the issue.
  
3. **Sternly:** In a serious or strict manner.
  - Synonyms: Harshly, Firmly, Rigidly, Austerely.
  - Antonyms: Tenderly, Mildly, Leniently, Gently.
  - sentence: She shook her head sternly, signalling her disapproval.
  
4. **Leverage:** Strategic use of resources or power.
  - Synonyms: Advantage, Control, Authority.
  - Antonyms: Ineptitude, Incapacity, Impotence.
  - sentence: She leveraged her network of contacts to secure a job interview.

**5. Kerfuffle:** Disturbance caused by misunderstanding or minor conflict.

- Synonyms: Commotion, Fuss, Tumult, Chaos.
- Antonyms: Serenity, Tranquility, Calm, Quiet.
- sentence: There was a kerfuffle over who would get to use the conference room.

**6. Indictment:** A charge of a serious crime.

- Synonyms: Accusation, Allegation, Complaint
- Antonyms: Exoneration, Acquittal, Vindication, Absolution.
- sentence: The indictment was a major setback for the defendant's case.

**7. Pugilistic:** Someone who is aggressive or prone to fighting.

- Synonyms: Combative, Belligerent, Bellicose, Quarrelsome.
- Antonyms: Pacifistic, Passive, Noncombative, Peaceful.
- sentence: The boxer's pugilistic style intimidated his opponents.

**8. Touted:** To promote someone or something in a positive manner.

- Synonyms: Endorsed, Advocated, Championed.
- Antonyms: Rejected, Criticised, Opposed, Belittled.
- sentence: The restaurant was touted as having the best pizza in town.

- 9. Bleak:** Something that is gloomy or lacking in hope.
- Synonyms: Grim, Somber, Dreary, Stark.
  - Antonyms: Cheerful, Optimistic, Joyful, Pleasant.
  - sentence: His future looks bleak without a job offer in sight.
- 10. Outlook:** One's perspective regarding a future situation.
- Synonyms: Expectation, Prediction, Forecast, View.
  - Antonyms: Pessimism, Cynicism, Dismay, Despair.
  - sentence: Despite facing many challenges, she maintained a positive outlook on life.

### IDIOMS AND PHRASES

- 11.** To be a tough cookie: Someone who is strong and determined.
- 12.** To have a one track mind: To have focus on just only one thing.
- 13.** Squaring off: To prepare for a confrontation.
- 14.** Waste away: To gradually become weaker or decline in value.
- 15.** Cut out: To remove or isolate something.

## **CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**29<sup>th</sup> March, 2024**

1. The state of Florida in US has reportedly introduced a law banning social media accounts for minors under the age of 14, while requiring parental consent for kids aged 14 and 15 years old.
  - The Governor of Florida, Ron DeSantis, signed the bill on Monday aiming to protect children from risks and damage caused by social media to their mental health.
2. Bassirou Diomaye Faye, an anti-establishment figure, has won the Senegalese presidential election with 54.28 per cent of the votes in the first round.
  - Senegal Capital: Dakar
  - Senegal President: Macky Sall
  - Senegal Currency: West African CFA franc
  - Senegal Official language: French
3. Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati successfully transferred a pioneering vaccine technology to BioMed Pvt. Ltd., a manufacturing company specializing in high-quality vaccines.
  - This technology entails a recombinant vector vaccine designed specifically for combating the classical swine

fever virus in pigs and wild boars, filling a significant gap in India's vaccine landscape.

4. The Union Home Minister recently said the central government will consider revoking the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act in Jammu and Kashmir.
5. Gujarat's Minister of State for Education, Praful Pansheriya, launched the online learning platform Shiksha Reform in Surat. The event was attended by noted educationist Deepak Rajguru, trustees, principals, Kimmo Nikkanen from Finland's Kajaani University of Applied Sciences, and educationist Antti Isovita.
  - Minister Pansheriya emphasized the importance of embracing technology in education, stating, "The world is fast moving towards technology, and it is critical to enhance digital skills."
6. Sadanand Vasant Date, a senior IPS officer, has been appointed as the Director General of the National Investigation Agency (NIA).
  - Date, a 1990-batch Indian Police Service officer, currently serves as the Chief of Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS).
  - The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved Date's appointment for a tenure up to his superannuation on December 31, 2026.
  - Rajeev Kumar Sharma, a 1990 batch Rajasthan Cadre IPS officer, has been appointed as the Director General of

## Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D).

- Piyush Anand, an IPS officer from the Uttar Pradesh cadre, has been appointed as the Director General of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF). Anand is currently serving as the Special DG of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).
7. T+0 settlement system - the world's shortest! India's stock market has introduced the T+0 settlement system, settling trades on the same day, departing from the current T+1 cycle. The 'Beta version' launch will ensure smooth transition. The new system enhances liquidity and efficiency, benefiting retail traders.
  8. A 900-year-old Kannada inscription from the Kalyana Chalukya dynasty has been found in a state of utter neglect at Gangapuram, a temple Town, in Jadcherla mandal, Mahabubnagar district.
  9. Haryana clinched the team titles in both the boys and girls categories with an impressive combined haul of 19 medals at the Boxing Sub Junior National Championship.