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VOCABULARY

1. Slumped: A sudden decline or decrease in something.
 - Synonyms: Dropped, Deteriorated, Languished, Collapsed.
 - Antonyms: Raised, Elevated, Ascended, Perked up.
 - sentence: Sales slumped after the product recall.

2. Temper: To moderate something.
 - Synonyms: Modify, Adjust, Soften, Mellow.
 - Antonyms: Intensify, Amplify, Aggravate, Exacerbate.
 - sentence: She tempered her criticism with praise.

3. Plausible: Something that is believable.
 - Synonyms: Credible, Probable, Sound, Reasonable.
 - Antonyms: Dubious, Unlikely, Improbable, Far-fetched.
 - sentence: His explanation for being late seemed plausible.

4. Persistently: The action of continuing to do something firmly.
 - Synonyms: Relentlessly, Unwaveringly, Consistently, Resolutely.
 - Antonyms: Erratically, Occasionally, Sporadically, Irregularly.
 - sentence: She persistently pursued her goals despite numerous setbacks.

5. Discordant: Something that is conflicting.
 - Synonyms: Dissonant, Unharmonious, Clashing, Unpleasant.

- Antonyms: Pleasant, Harmonious, Agreeable.
- sentence: The discordant sound of the broken alarm clock disrupted the peaceful morning.

6. Devolution: The transfer of power or responsibility.

- Synonyms: Decentralization, Delegation, Deputation, Distribution.
- Antonyms: Centralization, Accumulation, Authoritarianism.
- sentence: Devolution of power to local governments can lead to more effective governance.

7. Recalibration: The process of making adjustments.

- Synonyms: Tweaking, Fine-tuning, Refinement, Modification.
- Antonyms: Stagnation, Permanence.
- sentence: The recalibration of the instrument improved its accuracy significantly.

8. Spurt: Rapid increase in something.

- Synonyms: Surge, Burst, Upsurge, Outburst.
- Antonyms: Slowdown, Slump, Decrease, Decline.
- sentence: The company experienced a spurt in sales after launching its new product.

9. Trajectory: The path followed by a moving object.

- Synonyms: Course, Route, Track, Passage.
- Antonyms: Inactivity, Immobility, Stillness.

- sentence: The trajectory of the ball changed after hitting the wall.

10. Backdrop: background against something which is set or portrayed.

- Synonyms: Surroundings, Environment, Context.
- Antonyms: Highlight, Spotlight, Focus.
- sentence: The mountains served as a picturesque backdrop for the quaint village.

IDIOMS AND PHRASES

11. Running on fumes: To continue functioning despite being exhausted.

12. Rise to the occasion: To perform well in a challenging situation.

13. Hit the wall: Reaching a point of extreme physical fatigue.

14. Sealed up: Closed or shut tightly to prevent escape.

15. Prop up: To support or reinforce something.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

30th March, 2024

1. On March 21, leaders from 34 countries gathered in Brussels, Belgium for the inaugural Nuclear Energy Summit and it concluded recently.
 - The summit was organized with the objective to allow participating governments to present their strategies and plans. Which will be available for utilizing nuclear power to reach net-zero emissions and foster sustainable development.
2. The World's first-ever Om-shaped temple Inaugurated in the village of Jadan in Rajasthan's Pali district.
 - This temple became the world's first temple designed in this iconic form. This architectural masterpiece will not only attract tourists, but will also boast of an impressive visual presence that will be visible from space too.
 - This groundbreaking endeavor marks a significant milestone as it pioneers the creation of such a distinctive temple globally.
 - The 'Om Aakar' temple spans across a vast expanse of 250 acres in Jadan Village.

3. Akums Drugs and Pharmaceuticals has launched India's first domestically developed hydroxyurea oral solution to treat sickle cell disease in children. The company aims to offer this medicine to the government for less than INR600 (USD7.24).
4. The 1st Tejas Mk-1A aircraft was made by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) facility in Bengaluru.
 - IAF ordered 83 Mk-1A fighters for Rs.48,000 crore in February 2021 and plans to buy 97 more Mk-1As at a cost of around Rs.67,000 crore.
 - LCA Mk-1A is an advanced variant of the LCA Mk-1, and it has advanced electronic radar, superior warfare capabilities, and improved maintenance features
5. Skyroot Aerospace, the leading space-tech company, has successfully test-fired the Stage-2 of Vikram-1 space launch vehicle, called Kalam-250, at the propulsion testbed of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), at its Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh on Wednesday.
 - Space launch vehicles consist of multiple stages: main stage followed by subsequent ones. Stage-2 is a critical stage in the ascent of the launch vehicle, as it propels it from atmospheric phase to the deep vacuum of outerspace.

6. **FOOD WASTE INDEX REPORT:** Households across the globe wasted over one billion meals a day in 2022. even as 783 million people struggled with hunger and a third of humanity faced food insecurity, according to the Food Waste Index Report 2024, a study jointly authored by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and WRAP (Waste and Resources Action Programme), a U.K.-based non-profit.
7. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar visited Indian Coast Guard ship Samudra Paheredar, a specialised Pollution Control Vessel, which is in Manila Bay in the Philippines as part of an overseas deployment to the ASEAN countries, and said the civilizational imprint of India's long and distinguished maritime tradition is still visible in the region. The ICG ship arrived at Manila Bay on March 25 on a three-day visit.
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9. Rising Indian player Bijay Chhetri has joined Colon Futbol Club in Uruguay from Chennaiyin FC. The loan is valid until the end of the year, with Colon Futbol Club holding the option to make the signing permanent.
- This signing has made him the first Indian footballer to secure a professional contract with the Latin American club.