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VOCABULARY

1. **Bolster**: to support.

- Synonyms: Strengthen, Reinforce, Boost, Fortify.
- Antonyms: Undermine, Diminish, Weaken, Impair.
- sentence: The government plans to bolster the economy with new stimulus measures.

2. **Travesty**: a false representation of something.

- Synonyms: Mockery, Parody, Sham, Charade.
- Antonyms: Authenticity, Truthfulness, Sincerity.
- sentence: The trial was a travesty of injustice, with the evidence being manipulated and witnesses forced.

3. **Coercive**: use of force to persuade someone.

- Synonyms: Compelling, Forceful, Persuasive, Pressuring.
- Antonyms: Voluntary, Convincing, Gentle, Cooperative.
- sentence: The coercive nature of the contract made it difficult for the smaller party to negotiate fair terms.

4. **Vicinity**: a nearby region of someone or something.

- Synonyms: Area, Surroundings, Proximity.
- Antonyms: Distant, Faraway, Remote.
- sentence: I heard loud noises coming from the vicinity of the park last night.

5. **Allude**: to refer to something indirectly.

- Synonyms: Hint, Suggest, Indicate, Imply, Signal.
- Antonyms: Elaborate, Specify, Describe.
- sentence: He alluded to his past struggles without delving into the details.

6. **Benign**: something that is gentle or kind in nature.

- Synonyms: Harmless, Friendly, Amiable, Congenial.
- Antonyms: Hostile, Malignant, Harsh, Rude.
- sentence: Her intentions were always benign, motivated by a desire to help others.

7. **Connived**: to secretly cooperate.

- Synonyms: Conspired, Collaborated, Schemed.
- Antonyms: Opposed, Resisted, Hindered, Exposed.
- sentence: She openly opposed any attempt to connive in the scheme.

8. **Soared**: To rise quickly and sharply.

- Synonyms: Surged, Escalated, Skyrocketed, Increased.
- Antonyms: Plummeted, Dropped, Declined, Fell.
- sentence: The eagle soared gracefully through the sky.

9. **Reckless**: To act without thinking about the consequences.

- Synonyms: Careless, Impulsive, Unmindful.
- Antonyms: Cautious, Careful, Prudent, Considerate.
- sentence: His reckless behavior put everyone in danger.

10. **Intruded:** to enter a place where one is not wanted.
- Synonyms: Invaded, Encroached, Trespassed.
 - Antonyms: Abstained, Avoided, Excluded, Withdrew.
 - sentence: The stranger intruded into our private conversation.

IDIOMS AND PHRASES

11. **Bone of contention (Idiom):** A subject or issue that causes disagreement.
12. **Slippery slope (Idiom):** A course of action likely to lead to something bad.
13. **Play down (phrasal verb):** To represent something as being less important.
14. **Stand up to (Phrasal verb):** To oppose something dangerous with courage.
15. **Come down (Phrasal verb):** To criticise someone or something.

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CURRENT AFFAIRS

8th March, 2024

1.



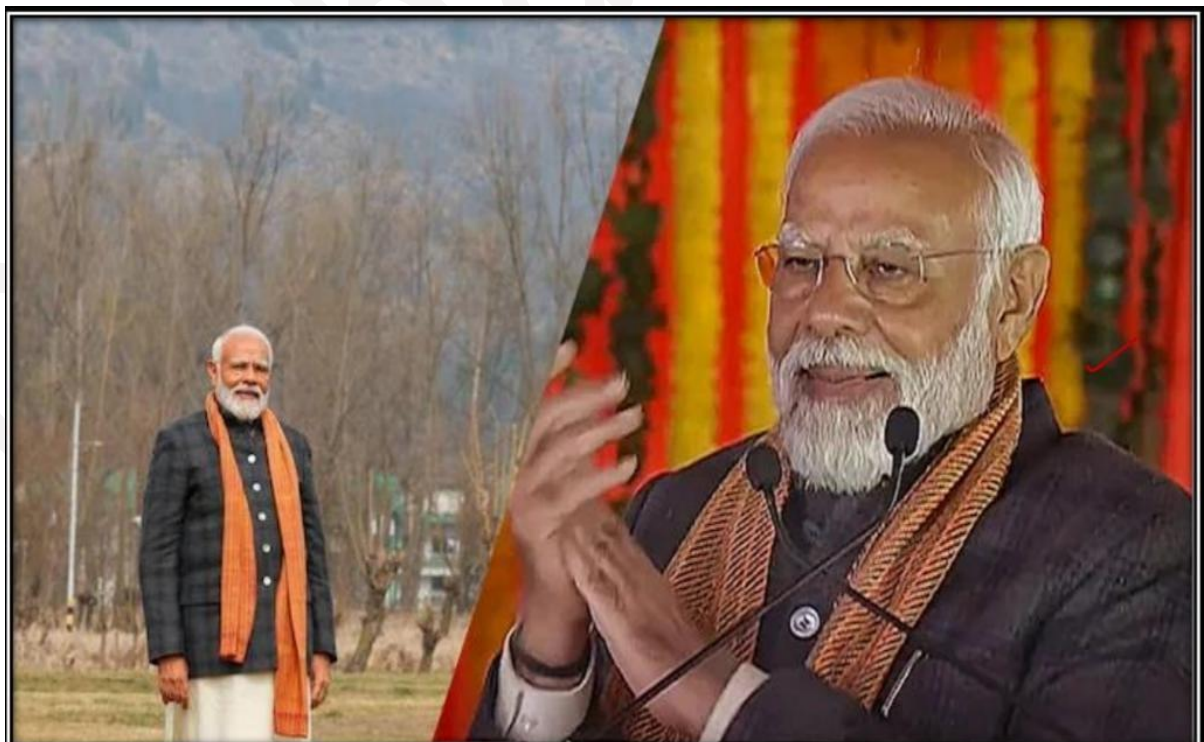
- Hungary's parliament appoints Tamás Sulyok as president following the previous head's resignation over a controversial pardon. Opposition calls for direct elections amid concerns of political bias.

2.



- Legendary golfer Tiger Woods has been named the winner of the prestigious Bob Jones Award, the highest honor bestowed by the United States Golf Association (USGA).

3.



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch the Comprehensive agriculture development program (worth Rs 5000 crore) in Srinagar. Holistic agriculture development programme (HADP) is an integrated program encompassing the full spectrum of activities in the three major domains of agri-economy viz Horticulture, Agriculture and Livestock husbandry in Jammu and Kashmir.

4.



- Defense Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the Naval War College building named 'Chola' at INS Mandvi at Verem in Goa today. On the occasion he said that the Indian Navy's capabilities in the Indian Ocean as well as the Pacific region are growing.

5.



- Kerala school has introduced Iris, a humanoid teacher, marking a significant milestone in the realm of educational technology. Developed in collaboration with Makerlabs Edutech Private Limited, Iris represents a pioneering effort to make learning more interactive, engaging, and accessible.

6.



7.



- International Women's Day (IWD) is all set to be celebrated this year on 8 March globally, focusing on recognizing women's social, economic, cultural, and political achievements.
- The United Nations has decided this year's theme as 'Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress' is aimed at tackling economic disempowerment. While the campaign theme for the same year is 'Inspire Inclusion.'

8. The Supreme Court has slammed the politicalbureaucrat nexus over illegal construction and felling of trees at the Jim Corbett National Park in Uttarakhand, saying public trust had been thrown into the "waste bin".

9.



- Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw to inaugurate the 'NITI For States' platform by NITI Aayog, fostering policy formulation and governance. With 7,500 best practices, 5,000 policy documents.

10.



- In a meeting with representatives from Ladakh, which has been witnessing protests recently, Union Home Minister Amit Shah offered to extend Article 371- like protections to the region. He is learnt to have told the Leh Apex Body (ABL) and the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) that their concerns related to jobs, Land and Culture would be taken care of, but the govt. would not go as far as to include Ladakh as the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.

11.



- B. Sai Praneeth, the decorated Indian badminton player, has announced his retirement from the sport.

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