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VOCABULARY

1. Dubious: something as doubtful.
 - Synonyms: Uncertain, Suspicious, Ambiguous, Unclear, Questionable.
 - Antonyms: Genuine, Definite, Clear, Trustworthy.
 - sentence: She gave him a dubious look when he offered to sell her the broken watch.

2. Defy: to openly resist something to follow.
 - Synonyms: Oppose, Confront, Rebel, Flout.
 - Antonyms: Comply, Adhere, Follow, Conform.
 - sentence: The young rebel chose to defy the rules and create his own path.

3. Unanimously: with complete agreement.
 - Synonyms: Unitedly, Consistently, Consensually.
 - Antonyms: Dividedly, Contentiously, Divisively.
 - sentence: The board members unanimously agreed to implement the new policy.

4. Curtail: to reduce something.
 - Synonyms: Limit, Restrict, Constrain, Decrease, Cut.
 - Antonyms: Expand, Increase, Enhance, Amplify.

- sentence: She had to curtail her vacation plans due to unexpected work commitments.

5. Akin: Similar or related in nature.

- Synonyms: Analogous, Comparable, Parallel, Allied.
- Antonyms: Different, Divergent, Disparate, Unrelated.
- sentence: His actions were akin to those of a hero, selflessly helping others in need.

6. Sway: To influence or persuade someone.

- Synonyms: Impact, Dominate, Affect, Govern.
- Antonyms: Ignore, Reject, Defy, Disregard.
- sentence: The gentle breeze caused the trees to sway gracefully.

7. Indecisiveness: Inability to make decisions.

- Synonyms: Hesitation, Dithering, Vacillation, Doubt.
- Antonyms: Certainty, Clarity, Firmness, Confidence.
- sentence: His indecisiveness often leads to missed opportunities.

8. Steer: to guide or influence the outcome of something.

- Synonyms: Navigate, Lead, Pilot, Direct.
- Antonyms: Follow, Obey, Surrender, Yield.
- sentence: She quickly steered the car to avoid hitting the stray dog.

IDIOMS AND PHRASES

9. To get one's act together (Idiom): To organize oneself.
10. Target one's guns (Phrase): To direct one's attention toward a particular objective.
11. Hollowing out (Phrase): a process where essential part of something is removed.
12. Struck down (Phrasal verb): Something being invalidated or nullified.
13. Run-up (Phrasal verb): The period leading up to an event.

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CURRENT AFFAIRS

9th March, 2024

1. SpaceX launches MethaneSAT to monitor top-polluting oil & gas sites. It tracks methane emissions globally, launched from Vandenberg Space Force Base.
2. Renowned filmmaker Zoya Akhtar and British Indian chef Asma Khan were honored at the annual 'India-UK Achievers' awards in London.
3. Karnataka state government, in a strategic alliance with the World Economic Forum (WEF), has announced the establishment of a cutting-edge AI centre in the state.
4. The Jharkhand Widow Remarriage Promotion Scheme, set to be launched by Chief Minister Champai Soren, aims to provide financial support of Rs2 lakh to widows who choose to remarry. This initiative seeks to empower widows, enhance their living standards, and integrate them into mainstream society.
5. Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Commerce and Industry, and Textiles, Shri Piyush Goyal, launched the 'e-Kisan Upaj Nidhi'.

6. A United States Coast Guard (USCG) ship, the Bertholf, reached Port Blair for a joint exercise with the Indian Coast Guard (ICG), marking a significant step in bolstering bilateral cooperation between the two forces.
 - The joint Coast Guard exercise 'Sea Defenders2024' is scheduled to take place on March 9-10 off the coast of Port Blair.
7. Dubai and India share a deep-rooted and dynamic tourism relationship, characterized by mutual cultural affinity and robust economic ties. To honor this enduring partnership, Dubai is hosting the India by the Creek festival from March 8 to 10, 2024.
 - Organized by Dubai Duty-Free in collaboration with the Indian Consulate General, the event promises to celebrate the rich historical ties between India and the Dubai Emirate.
8. India observes Jan Aushadhi Diwason 7th March every year, a day dedicated to raising awareness about the benefits and importance of generic medicines.
9. South African quick Shabnim Ismail has breached the 130kph barrier for the first time in women's cricket since speeds have been recorded. Ismail bowled a delivery that the speed-gun on broadcast recorded at 132.1kph in the WPL game between her side Mumbai Indians and Delhi Capitals in Delhi.

10. Panama has become the 97th member to ratify the International Solar Alliance. Panama handed over the Instrument of ISA Ratification, during the meeting of the Ambassador of Panama to India, Yasiel Burillo with Joint Secretary (Economic Diplomacy), Abhishek Singh in New Delhi.