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VOCABULARY

1. Behemoth: Something large and powerful.
 - Synonyms: Giant, Mammoth, Massive, Huge, Colossus.
 - Antonyms: Lilliputian, Compact, Tiny, Petite.
 - sentence: The company's latest merger created a corporate behemoth in the industry.

2. Sacked: To be fired or dismissed from a job.
 - Synonyms: Terminated, Pink-slipped, Discharged, Removed, Axed.
 - Antonyms: Assigned, Hired, Onboarded, Retained.
 - sentence: He was sacked for repeatedly arriving late to work.

3. Perversity: To deliberately behaving in an unacceptable manner.
 - Synonyms: Obstinace, Fickleness, Stubbornness.
 - Antonyms: Compliance, Obedience, Conformity.
 - sentence: Her perversity made it difficult to have a constructive conversation.

4. Exorbitant: Something that is unreasonably high.
 - Synonyms: Excessive, Extravagant, Lavish, Immoderate.
 - Antonyms: Reasonable, Economical, Affordable.
 - sentence: The shop charged exorbitant prices for basic items.

- 5. Spearheading:** To leading or initiating an effort or campaign.
- Synonyms: Pioneering, Trailblazing, Guiding, Directing.
 - Antonyms: Lagging, Following, Trailing, Delaying.
 - sentence: She is spearheading the project to revitalize the neighborhood park.
- 6. Vindicate:** To clear someone of blame.
- Synonyms: Exonerate, Validate, Corroborate.
 - Antonyms: Denounce, Accuse, Blame, Condemn.
 - sentence: The success of the project vindicated her unconventional approach.
- 7. Arbitration:** A method of dispute resolution outside of court system.
- Synonyms: Settlement, Negotiation, Adjudication.
 - Antonyms: Litigation, Lawsuit, Trial.
 - sentence: The arbitration process resolved the disagreement fairly and efficiently.
- 8. Halted:** To cease moving or progressing.
- Synonyms: Stopped, Suspended, Terminated, Paused.
 - Antonyms: Progressed, Persisted, Continued, Extended.
 - sentence: The construction work was halted due to heavy rain.

9. Erred: To make a mistake or to be mistaken.

- Synonyms: Blundered, Fumbled, Goofed, Misjudged.
- Antonyms: Corrected, Faultless, Succeeded, Achieved.
- sentence: She erred by sending the email to the wrong recipient.

10. Curative: Having the ability to cure or heal.

- Synonyms: Palliative, Therapeutic, Antidotal, Remedy.
- Antonyms: Injurious, Ineffective, Harmful, Deleterious.
- sentence: The ointment had curative properties, healing the wound quickly.

IDIOMS AND PHRASES

11. The tip of the iceberg: A situation where only a small, visible portion of a larger issue is apparent.

12. To call in the umpire: To make impartial decisions.

13. Set aside: To temporarily ignore something.

14. Break the ice: To initiate conversation or social interaction in a situation where there is tension or awkwardness.

15. Handed over: Giving or transferring significance to something.

16. Tucked away: To put something in a place that is not easily seen or accessible.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

12th April, 2024

- 1.** India accounted for the second-highest number of cases of hepatitis B and C in 2022 after China, with 3.5 crore infections, according to a report by the World Health Organisation (WHO).
- 2.** In 2024, the global unicorn landscape witnessed significant developments and challenges, as outlined in the Hurun Global Unicorn Index. While the United States maintained its lead with 703 unicorns and China followed with 340, India ranked third with 67 unicorns.
- 3.** Sarhul is the festival of the New Year celebrated in the state of Jharkhand by the tribal communities as part of the local Sarnareligion. It is celebrated in the Hindu month of Chaitra, three days after the appearance of the new moon.
 - It is also a celebration of the beginning of spring. The word "Sarhul" is connected with tree worship. It is a festival where nature is venerated.
- 4.** George Lucas will receive an honorary Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival next month, festival organizers announced Tuesday. Lucas will be honoured at the closing ceremony to the 77th French film festival on May 25.

- He joins a short list of those to receive honorary Palmes. Last year, Harrison Ford, a regular leading man for Lucas in “Star Wars” and “Indiana Jones,” was awarded one. Other recent recipients include Michael Douglas, Tom Cruise, Forest Whitaker and Jodie Foster.
5. The Sangeet Natak Akademi (SNA) is organizing the festival ‘Shakti – A Festival of Music and Dance’ from April 9 to 17, 2024.
- The festival is celebrated in seven different Shaktipeeths (sacred sites) across the country. The event is being organized under the Kala Pravah series to revive the temple traditions in the country during the auspicious Navratri period.
6. Sixty-nine Indian universities made it to the rankings with 424 entries in the 2024 QS World University Rankings by Subject. This marks a 19.4 per cent rise from the previous year’s 355 entries.
7. The volume of global trade in merchandise should increase by 2.6 percent this year, the World Trade Organization (WTO) said in its annual trade statistics and outlook report published on Wednesday.

- According to the WTO, the volume of world trade in merchandise fell by 1.2 percent last year, but will increase by 3.3 percent in 2025.
8. The Philippine Air Force (PAF) will deploy a fighter plane to participate for the first time in Australia's large-scale multilateral air combat exercise this year.
- PAF spokesperson Col. Maria Consuelo Castillo on Tuesday said that the Philippines will send an FA50 light fighter aircraft for Australia's Pitch Black Exercise in August.
9. The largest private sector lender HDFC Bank on Wednesday inaugurated a branch in Lakshadweep's Kavaratti island. The bank is the only private sector lender to have a presence in Lakshadweep, according to a statement.
10. Former Indian Hockey player and Dronacharyaawardee Harendra Singh has been selected by Hockey India as the coach of the senior national women's hockey team. According to a newspaper report, he will be appointed coach until the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.