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VOCABULARY

1. Impediment: A hindrance that obstructs progress.
 - Synonyms: Barrier, Obstacle, Constraint, Blockage.
 - Antonyms: Assistance, Facilitation, Support.
 - sentence: The heavy rain was an impediment to our outdoor plans.

2. Confidentiality: The practice of keeping information private or secret.
 - Synonyms: Privacy, Secrecy, Seclusion, Discretion.
 - Antonyms: Disclosure, Revelation, Divulgence.
 - sentence: Confidentiality is crucial in medical settings to protect patient privacy.

3. Abundance: A large quantity.
 - Synonyms: Profusion, Plenty, Bounty, Surplus.
 - Antonyms: Dearth, Paucity, Scarcity, Shortage.
 - sentence: The region is known for its abundance of fresh produce.

4. Expedition: A journey or voyage often for a specific purpose.
 - Synonyms: Tour, Adventure, Quest, Campaign.
 - Antonyms: Stagnation, Hesitation, Inactivity.
 - sentence: We are planning an expedition to the mountains next weekend.

5. Imminent: Something that is about to happen.

- Synonyms: Impending, Looming, Approaching, Inevitable.
- Antonyms: Delayed, Deferred, Unlikely, Postponed.
- sentence: The dark clouds overhead suggested that a storm was imminent.

6. Steering: The action of directing the movement of something.

- Synonyms: Guiding, Piloting, Navigating.
- Antonyms: Misguiding, Misleading, Diverting.
- sentence: She was responsible for steering the ship safely through the stormy seas.

7. Contentious: Something that is likely to cause disagreement.

- Synonyms: Debatable, Disputable, Argumentative.
- Antonyms: Consensual, Harmonious, Amicable.
- sentence: The contentious issue lead to heated arguments among the group.

8. Garnering: Collecting something.

- Synonyms: Gathering, Amassing, Accumulating.
- Antonyms: Dispensing, Dispersing, Distributing.
- sentence: Her hard work is garnering recognition from her peers.

IDIOMS AND PHRASES

9. Ace in the hole: A hidden or secret advantage that can be used if needed to ensure success.
10. Hit the nail on the head: Describe or identify something accurately.
11. Behind the times: Something should have been done a while ago and emphasizes the need for action or reform.
12. Rely on: To depend on or trust in something or someone for support.
13. Flared up: Sudden intensification of a situation such as conflict.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

16th April, 2024

1. Russia's Angara-A5 rocket, successfully launched from the Vostochny Cosmodrome, placing a test load into low orbit.
 - After two failed attempts due to a pressurizing system malfunction and an engine launch-control issue, the third launch attempt proved successful.
 - The rocket blasted off to space, reaching more than 25,000 kilometers (15,500 miles) per hour in minutes.
2. Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong has announced his decision to step down and hand over the reins to his successor Lawrence Wong on May 15.
3. The Arrow Defense System is a cornerstone of Israel's multi-layered defense strategy against aerial threats, including ballistic missiles.
 - Developed jointly by Israel Aerospace Industries and the U.S. Missile Defense Agency, this system began creation in the late 1980s and has evolved over decades to comprise several variants, notably the Arrow 2 and Arrow 3 systems.
 - Arrow Defense System: Comprises Arrow 2 and Arrow 3 systems, targeting long-range ballistic missiles in the upper atmosphere and in space (exo-atmosphere), respectively. Developed in collaboration with the United States, these systems are crucial for high-altitude interceptions.

4. Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully conducted trials of the indigenous Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) Weapon System at the Pokhran Field Firing Range (PFFR), Rajasthan on April 13, 2024. These trials included assessing the missile's performance, warhead capability, and the overall effectiveness of the system.
5. Dr. Gagandeep Kang, an Indian researcher, has been awarded the 2024 John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health Award for her achievements in global health research.
6. Adani Green Energy Limited, an Adani Group company, is building the world's largest renewable energy park in Khavda, Kutch district of Gujarat. The park is spread over 538 square kilometers, which is about five times larger than the total size of the French capital, Paris.
7. Every year on April 15th, people around the globe celebrate World Art Day, a tribute to the enduring impact of art across various cultures and societies.
 - The theme for World Art Day 2024, "A Garden of Expression: Cultivating Community Through Art."
8. Elon Musk-led Tesla has reportedly inked a strategic deal with Tata Electronics to acquire semiconductor chips for its global operations. This move highlights Tesla's growing interest in India beyond local revenue generation.

- 9.** India and Mumbai Indians star batter Rohit Sharma became the first Indian to smash 500 sixes in T20 cricket.
- He achieved this milestone during his side's Indian Premier League match against Chennai Super Kings at Wankhede Stadium.
- 10.** Dipendra made history by hitting 6 sixes in 1 over in a T20I match, joining an elite list of Yuvraj and Pollard.
- This happened against Qatar in the ACC Men's Premier Cup, where he scored 64 runs off 21 balls.
 - Dipendra has been significant in Nepal's cricket history, playing in their 1st-ever ODI in 2018 and hitting the fastest fifty in T20I cricket at the 19th Asian Games.