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VOCABULARY

1. Debilitating: Causing someone or something to become weak or incapable of functioning effectively.
 - Synonyms: Enfeebling, Exhausting, Paralyzing, Draining.
 - Antonyms: Strengthening, Rejuvenating, Invigorating.
 - sentence: The illness was debilitating, leaving her bedridden for weeks.

2. Undergirding: To provide support or a foundation for something.
 - Synonyms: Buttressing, Bolstering, Underpinning.
 - Antonyms: Undermining, Weakening, Neglecting.
 - sentence: The undergirding principles of democracy ensure fairness and equality for all citizens.

3. Gulf: A wide or significant difference between two things.
 - Synonyms: Gap, Divide, Chasm, Abyss.
 - Antonyms: Harmony, Union, Link, Connection.
 - sentence: There was a gulf between their personalities, making communication challenging.

4. Imperative: Something that is of vital importance.
 - Synonyms: Essential, Crucial, Necessary, Mandatory.
 - Antonyms: Optional, Dispensable, Voluntary, Elective.
 - sentence: It is imperative that we finish the project before the deadline.

5. Leverage: The ability to influence a situation to achieve a particular outcome.
- Synonyms: Authority, Dominance, Sway, Clout.
 - Antonyms: Vulnerability, Impotence, Incapacity, Weakness.
 - sentence: She used her influential leverage to negotiate a better deal.
6. Coherence: The quality of being logical, consistent and orderly in thought.
- Synonyms: Clarity, Rationality, Consonance.
 - Antonyms: Chaos, Disarray, Confusion, Incoherence.
 - sentence: The professor praised the student's essay for its coherence and logical structure.
7. Nexus: A connection or link between two or more things.
- Synonyms: Bond, Association, Tie, Intersection.
 - Antonyms: Division, Alienation, Isolation, Separation.
 - sentence: The town square was the nexus of community activity.
8. Averred: To assert or declare something confidently.
- Synonyms: Stated, Affirmed, Proclaimed, Alleged.
 - Antonyms: Denied, Refuted, Contradicted, Rejected.
 - sentence: He averred his innocence despite the evidence against him.

IDIOMS AND PHRASES

9. Compound one's woes: Making someone's difficulties or troubles more severe or intense.
10. To turn its back on: To reject or abandon something or someone.
11. Bridge the gap: To reduce the differences between two things or groups.
12. Saddled with: To be burdened with something undesirable.
13. Ridden out: Surviving a difficult or challenging situation.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

22nd April, 2024

1. The annual event of World Earth Day falls on April 22. The theme for World Earth Day 2024 is Planet vs Plastics.
2. The theme for the National Civil Services Day 2024 is 'Empowering Citizens, Strengthening Governance' and it is celebrated on 21st April every year.
3. North Korea has conducted tests on a new "super-large" warhead designed for the Hwasal-1 Ra-3 strategic cruise missile, as well as a new type of anti-aircraft missile called the Pyoljji-1-2.
4. The government of India has set up a committee on LGBTQ+ communities' welfare headed by Union Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba. The committee has been set up by the government on the suggestion of the Supreme Court in the Supriyo Chakraborty vs Union Of India Case.
5. Senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Nalin Prabhat has been appointed the Director General of the National Security Guard (NSG), the country's counter-terrorism and counterhijack force.
 - Nalin Prabhat is currently serving as the Additional Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in Jammu and Kashmir.

- According to the order issued by the Personnel Ministry, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has appointed Nalin Prabhat as NSG Director General till August 31, 2028.

6. Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee have reported the discovery of fossils of one of the largest snakes that ever existed and likely lived 47 million years ago during a period called the Middle Eocene.
 - The fossils were found in Kutch, Gujarat, and the reptile, named Vasuki Indicus, could have been anywhere between 10 metres and 15 metres long, or as big as a modern-day school bus.
 - It belonged to the now-extinct Madtsoiidae snake family but represents a unique lineage from India, the authors note.
7. Recently, Meta introduced its most capable Large Language Model (LLM), the Meta Llama 3.
 - Llama or Large Language Model Meta AI is a family of LLMs introduced by Meta AI in February 2023.
8. European astronomers have made a groundbreaking discovery –the largest stellar black hole in our Milky Way galaxy. Named 'BH-3' , this celestial behemoth has a staggering mass 33 times greater than our Sun and is located a mere 2,000 light-years away from Earth.

- 9.** Commonwealth and Asian Games champion Vinesh Phogat earned an Olympic quota in the women's 50kg category by defeating Kazakhstan's Laura Ganikyzy 10-0 in the women's 50kg semifinal at the Asian Olympic qualifiers.
- 10.** The senior Indian wrestling team finished their campaign at the 20th Asian Wrestling Championship by winning nine medals - four silvers and five bronzes. A total of 30 Indian men and women wrestlers competed in the championship. The men's wrestlers participated in the freestyle and Greco-Roman events while the women's team participated only in the freestyle events. The 20th Asian Wrestling Championship 2024 was held in the Kyrgyzstan capital, Bishkek, from 11 -16 April 2024.