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VOCABULARY

1. Gruelling: Extremely tiring.
 - Synonyms: Exhausting, Arduous, Draining, Strenuous.
 - Antonyms: Pleasant, Comfortable, Effortless, Relaxed.
 - sentence: She underwent a gruelling training regimen to prepare for the marathon.

2. Slumps: A period of low spirits or depression.
 - Synonyms: Downturn, Dejection, Languish, Decline.
 - Antonyms: Elation, Energize, Upswing, Cheerfulness.
 - sentence: The company went through a financial slump during recession.

3. Dire: Extremely serious or urgent.
 - Synonyms: Severe, Grave, Acute, Drastic.
 - Antonyms: Optimistic, Promising, Mild, Trivial.
 - sentence: The storm left the town in dire need of food, water and shelter.

4. Delinquent: Someone who engages in illegal or antisocial behavior or fails to fulfill one's responsibilities.
 - Synonyms: Errant, Offending, Overdue, Defaulting.
 - Antonyms: Responsible, Compliant, Conforming.
 - sentence: They faced legal action for their delinquent tax payments.

5. Underscores: To highlight the importance of something.

- Synonyms: Emphasizes, Spotlights, Accentuates, Stresses.
 - Antonyms: Overlooks, Ignores, Disregards, Underplays.
 - sentence: The decision to include these statistics underscores the severity of the issue.
6. Decoupling: The process of separating two or more things that were previously linked.
- Synonyms: Detaching, Disentangling, Unlinking, Dismantling.
 - Antonyms: Combining, Connecting, Linking, Integrating.
 - sentence: The decoupling of the two economies had significant implications for global trade.
7. Exacerbating: Making a situation worse.
- Synonyms: Aggravating, Exaggerating, Amplifying.
 - Antonyms: Alleviating, Soothing, Palliating, Abating.
 - sentence: The economic downturn is exacerbating the unemployment rate.
8. Spurs: Something that stimulates the development of something else.
- Synonyms: Encourages, Incites, Galvanizes, Fosters.
 - Antonyms: Inhibits, Stifles, Deters, Hinders.
 - sentence: The new investment spurs economic growth in the region.
9. Purview: The scope or extent of authority of someone or something.

- Synonyms: Range, Realm, Domain, Control.
- Antonyms: Constraint, Limitation, Exclusion.
- sentence: His expertise in economics falls within the purview of his academic field.

10. Hastily: To do something quickly.

- Synonyms: Rapidly, Swiftly, Promptly, Speedily.
- Antonyms: Prudently, Diligently, Cautiously.
- sentence: He hastily apologized for his mistake.

IDIOMS AND PHRASES

11. Paves the way: To make it easier for something to happen or succeed.

12. Within striking distance: Being in a position where success or victory is imminent and achievable with a small effort.

13. Leave no trace: Minimizing one's impact on the environment by leaving behind no evidence of human activity.

14. Edge out: To defeat or surpass someone or something by a small margin.

15. To make up for: To compensate for something.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

23rd April, 2024

1. The United States vetoed a widely backed U.N. resolution on Thursday that would have paved the way for full United Nations membership for the state of Palestine.
 - The vote in the 15-member Security Council was 12 in favour, the United States opposed and two abstentions.
2. The Indian Navy on Saturday said it carried out an extensive exercise along the East Coast as part of efforts to check its preparedness to meet any maritime security challenges.
 - The exercise 'Poorvi Leher' witnessed participation of ships, submarines, aircraft and special naval forces.
3. Tamil Nadu continued to be the numero unoin the export of electronic goods. It achieved a recordbreaking \$9.56 billion in electronics exports in FY 2023- 24 -a whopping 78 percent growth over the previous year's performance of \$5.37 billion
4. World Book Day, recognized annually on April 23rd as World Book and Copyright Day, serves as a platform to promote the manifold benefits of reading.

5. The state-owned dairy brand in Karnataka, Nandini, is all set to present itself on a global stage during the cricket T20 World Cup scheduled in June this year. Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF)'s Nandini will sponsor Scotland and Ireland cricket teams during the upcoming cricket tournament.
 - This is the first time for a home-grown brand, which was in the news during the assembly elections, to sponsor international cricket teams.

6. Reuters photographer Mohammed Salem won the prestigious 2024 World Press Photo of the Year award on April 18 for his image of a Palestinian woman cradling the body of her five-year-old niece in the Gaza Strip.
 - The picture was taken on Oct. 17, 2023, at Nasser hospital in Khan Younis in southern Gaza, where families were searching for relatives killed during Israeli bombing of the Palestinian enclave.

7. OpenAI hired its first employee in India, appointing Pragya Misra as the head of government relations.
 - Misra, previously served as the Director of Public Affairs at Truecaller since July 2021.
 - Misra, aged 39, assumes the role of government relations head, stepping into the position during the ongoing 2024 Lok Sabha Elections in India.

8. On the auspicious occasion of Mahaveer Jayanti, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 2550th Bhagwan Mahaveer Nirvan Mahotsav at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.
- The event paid tribute to the 24th Tirthankar, Bhagwan Mahaveer, whose teachings of Ahimsa (Non-Violence), Satya (Truthfulness), Asteya(Non-Stealing), Brahmacharya (Chastity), and Aparigraha(Non-attachment) have illuminated the path of peaceful coexistence and universal brotherhood.