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VOCABULARY

1. Apex: The highest point or peak of something.
 - Synonyms: Pinnacle, Summit, Acme, Zenith, Crest.
 - Antonyms: Nadir, Trough, Bottom, Foot.
 - sentence: The eagle soared to the apex of the mountain.

2. Cohort: A group of people who share a common characteristic.
 - Synonyms: Crew, Batch, Collection, Team.
 - Antonyms: Solitary, Isolated, Unaccompanied, Individual, Solo.
 - sentence: She joined a cohort of talented artists for the collaborative project.

3. Clamping: The act of fastening or securing something tightly in place.
 - Synonyms: Holding, Gripping, Affixing, Tightening.
 - Antonyms: Detaching, Unfastening, Untying, Loosening.
 - sentence: She is clamping the fabric before sewing it together.

4. Reap: To receive a reward or benefit as a result of one's actions.
 - Synonyms: Garner, Procure, Acquire, Attain.
 - Antonyms: Lose, Waste, Miss, Forego.
 - sentence: She reaps the benefits of her daily exercise routine.

5. Prevail: Widespread or common in a particular context.
- Synonyms: Endure, Persist, Exist, Survive.
 - Antonyms: Surrender, Succumb, Fail, Lose.
 - sentence: Against all odds, kindness prevails.
6. Disclosure: The act of revealing something that was previously unknown.
- Synonyms: Divulgence, Dissemination, Exposition, Revelation.
 - Antonyms: Concealment, Hiding, Secrecy, Withholding.
 - sentence: The disclosure of her secret surprised everyone at the meeting.
7. Premised: Providing a statement that serves as the basis for an argument.
- Synonyms: Assumed, Founded, Presumed, Posited.
 - Antonyms: Overlooked, Abandoned, Disregarded, Refuted.
 - sentence: The project's success was premised on thorough research and planning.
8. Discretionary: Something that is left to one's own judgement.
- Synonyms: Voluntary, Optional, Elective, Arbitrary.
 - Antonyms: Compulsory, Obligatory, Required, Essential.
 - sentence: The CEO has discretionary authority over the company's budget allocations.

9. Procession: A series of events or actions that occur in a particular order.

- Synonyms: Parade, March, Retinue, Convoy.
- Antonyms: Disarray, Disorder, Randomness, Chaos.
- sentence: The bride and groom led the wedding procession down the aisle.

10. Barred: Prohibited from something.

- Synonyms: Banned, Forbidden, Excluded, Outlawed.
- Antonyms: Allowed, Approved, Embraced, Admitted.
- sentence: He was barred from attending the event due to his disruptive behavior.

IDIOMS AND PHRASES

11. Icing on the cake: Something that enhances a positive situation or makes it even better.

12. To be on a short leash: To be closely monitored or restricted in one's actions.

13. A fly in the ointment: A small problem that spoils a successful situation.

14. Moving out: The process of leaving one's current location to somewhere else.

15. Run up: To approach something quickly.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

24th April, 2024

- 1.** India's population has reportedly soared to an estimated 144 crore (1.44 billion), with approximately 24 per cent falling within the 0-14 age bracket, as per a recent analysis by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).
- 2.** Slovenia & Sweden became the 39th & 38th Countries to sign Artemis Accords respectively.
 - The Artemis Accords are a set of principles and guidelines for global cooperation in space exploration.
 - They had been announced by NASA in 2020 and named after NASA's Artemis program which is aimed toward returning people to the Moon by the mid-2020s.
 - The Accords mirror ideas set out in 1967, as a part of the Outer Space Treaty to assist govern international cooperation space.
 - Members: Artemis Accords has 39 contributors inclusive of Australia, France, Germany, India, Japan, United-Kingdom, United States of America and many others.
 - India joined the Artemis Accords in 2023.
 - Russia and China are not part of the Artemis Accords.
- 3.** The Malcolm and Elizabeth Adiseshiah Trust has announced the Dr. Malcolm Adiseshiah National Award 2024 for two distinguished professors.

- Prof. Surinder S. Jodhka from JNU has been selected for the Malcolm Adiseshiah Award, receiving 2 lakhs and a citation.
 - Assoc. Prof. Vikas Kumar from Azim Premji University has been granted the Elizabeth Adiseshiah Award, with 1 lakh and a citation.
4. India got its first elected member to the 18th Lok Sabha from Surat as BJP's Mukesh Dalalgot elected unopposed after BSP candidate and independents withdrew their nominations.
- This is the first instance of any Lok Sabha candidate being elected unopposed in Gujarat's electoral history.
5. For the first time, members of the Shompen, one of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in the country and who reside in the dense tropical rain forests of the Great Nicobar island, on Friday took part in the election process by casting their votes in the Andaman and Nicobar Lok Sabha constituency.
6. India has emerged as the fourth largest military spender globally in 2023, allocating \$83.6 billion for defense, following the United States, China, and Russia. This significant investment underscores India's commitment to enhancing its defense capabilities, particularly along the China border post the Ladakh standoff in 2020.

7. The southern Indian state of Kerala is renowned for its rich cultural tapestry, encompassing a diverse array of religions, landscapes, rituals, and histories. Amidst this vibrant melting pot, one festival stands out as a true embodiment of Kerala's profound cultural heritage –the Thrissur Pooram.
8. The 34th Seng Kihlang festival, a revered event for adherents of the Khasi Indigenous Faith, recently concluded in Wahiajer, Meghalaya. Spanning from April 19, 2024, the festival celebrated the unity.
9. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj commemorates the 24th of April every year as National Panchayati Raj Day (NPRD) with profound zeal and fervour, marking the enactment of the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992, which came into force on 24th April, 1993.
10. Ratan Tata, Chairman Emeritus of Tata Group, receives the prestigious KISS Humanitarian Award 2021 at a private ceremony in Mumbai, recognizing his global humanitarian efforts.
 - After dominating the skies for years, Air India's iconic jumbo jet Boeing 747, also known as the "Queen of the Skies" bid its farewell to the sky on April 22. The aircraft made its last take-off from Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport at 10:47 AM, marking the end of an era.

11. French carmaker Citroen has engaged cricketing legend Mahendra Singh Dhoni as its brand ambassador.
12. 1st ever Hindi Radio broadcast begins in Kuwait.
13. Max Verstappen has won the Chinese F1 Grand prix.
14. Naima Khatoon appointed as Aligarh Muslim university's first woman vice chancellor .

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