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## VOCABULARY

1. Touting: The act of promoting something in a persistent manner.
  - Synonyms: Advertising, Endorsing, Soliciting, Peddling.
  - Antonyms: Ignoring, Criticizing, Opposing, Disparaging.
  - sentence: He was touting his new product to everyone he met.
  
2. Cognisance: Awareness or knowledge of something.
  - Synonyms: Consciousness, Understanding, Acquaintance, Familiarity.
  - Antonyms: Obliviousness, Insensitivity, Unawareness, Disregard.
  - sentence: He had no cognisance of the new regulations.
  
3. Sedentary: A lifestyle characterized by little physical activity.
  - Synonyms: Inactive, Passive, Dormant, Lethargic, Sluggish.
  - Antonyms: Vigorous, Dynamic, Energetic, Lively.
  - sentence: Sedentary lifestyles often lead to health problems.
  
4. Chided: To scold or rebuke someone mildly.
  - Synonyms: Reprimanded, Censured, Admonished, Reproved.
  - Antonyms: Endorsed, Supported, Applauded, Praised.
  - sentence: She chided her son for forgetting to take out the trash.

- 5. Threshold:** The point or level at which something begins or changes.
- Synonyms: Baseline, Brink, Edge, Verge, Limit.
  - Antonyms: Conclusion, Completion, Termination,
  - sentence: Crossing the threshold into adulthood brought newfound responsibilities.
- 6. Errant:** Behaving wrongly or disobediently.
- Synonyms: Straying, Delinquent, Misbehaving, Unruly.
  - Antonyms: Righteous, Compliant, Disciplined, Conforming.
  - sentence: The errant student was caught cheating on the exam.
- 7. Tedious:** Something that is boring because it lacks variety.
- Synonyms: Monotonous, Dreary, Tiresome, Dull.
  - Antonyms: Captivating, Exciting, Enjoyable, Fascinating.
  - sentence: The tedious process of data entry made the job seem never-ending.
- 8. Scrapped:** To discard or abandon something.
- Synonyms: Abolished, Dropped, Eliminated, Ditched.
  - Antonyms: Retained, Sustained, Maintained, Preserved.
  - sentence: The company scrapped its plans for the new product due to budget constraints.

- 9. Frayed:** Something that is strained or exhausted.
- Synonyms: Tattered, Ragged, Shabby, Frazzled.
  - Antonyms: Unspoiled, Pristine, Immaculate, Fresh.
  - sentence: The frayed relationship between the two countries was in need of repair.
- 10. Retributive:** Something related to the act of seeking revenge for wrongdoing.
- Synonyms: Vengeful, Retaliatory, Punitive, Vindictive.
  - Antonyms: Benevolent, Merciful, Lenient, Pardoning.
  - sentence: The retributive actions taken by the authorities left no room for leniency.

### IDIOMS AND PHRASES

- 11. Drew a blank:** To be unable to think of something.
- 12. Mend their frayed ties:** To repair or improve a relationship that has become strained or damaged.
- 13. Take the bull by the horns:** To confront a difficult situation directly or assertively, rather than avoiding it.
- 14. Pull up:** To cause someone to improve their behavior or performance.
- 15. Call out:** To challenge or criticize someone.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

26<sup>th</sup> April, 2024

1. U.S. President Joe Biden on Wednesday signed a bill forcing TikTok's Chinese parent ByteDance to divest ownership of the app or see it banned in the next nine months, extendable by another three months if needed.
  - The bill was signed after the U.S. Senate voted largely in favour of it, along with foreign aid to strategic American allies.
2. Chidanand Naik, a student at the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), has achieved recognition as his film "Sunflowers Were the First Ones to Know" has been selected for the competitive section of the 77th Cannes Film Festival in France.
3. The Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), installed and activated India's biggest Climate Clock at the CSIR Headquarters in New Delhi as a part of the Earth Day Celebrations.
  - The event signifies CSIR's aim to spread awareness about climate change and to make people energy literate.

4. Razorpay has launched 'UPI Switch' in collaboration with Airtel Payments Bank for faster, smoother transactions.
  - It has enhanced transaction success rates by 4-5% and can handle up to 10,000 TPS, addressing peak time demands.
  - It has aimed for 5x quicker access to UPI innovations for businesses, promising efficiency in digital payments.
5. The International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure's 6th edition has begun in New Delhi.
  - The conference's theme is "Investing today for a more resilient tomorrow".
6. Five months after the launch of the Project Nilgiri Tahr, Tamil Nadu is all set to estimate the population of its State animal.
  - Forest Departments of Tamil Nadu and Kerala will jointly count the population of the mountain ungulate in a three-day synchronised census starting from April 29.
7. Every year, from April 24 to 30, the world celebrates World Immunization Week.
  - The theme for World Immunization Week 2024 is "Humanly Possible: Immunization for All."
8. The Indian Air Force (IAF) has successfully carried out a test firing of a new version of an air-launched mediumrange ballistic missile that is capable of hitting targets at a distance exceeding 250 km.

- The missile, also referred to as ROCKS or Crystal Maze 2, originated from Israel and underwent a test launch from a Su-30 MKI fighter jet in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands last week.
9. A recent study ranks the Indian passport as the second cheapest globally, with the UAE passport being the most affordable. While the Indian passport offers low acquisition and yearly costs.
10. The prestigious 2024 Laureus Sports Awards ceremony, held in Madrid, was a grand celebration of the world's best athletes and their remarkable achievements.