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## VOCABULARY

- 1. Lynchpin:** A person or thing that is essential for the success.
  - Synonyms: Backbone, Keystone, Core, Mainstay.
  - Antonyms: Insignificant, Auxiliary, Tangential, Extraneous.
  - sentence: The CEO's innovative vision was the lynchpin of the company's growth.
  
- 2. Incumbency:** Holding of an official position, typically in government.
  - Synonyms: Occupancy, Authority, Tenure, Stewardship.
  - Antonyms: Vacancy, Inactivity, Non-possession, Void.
  - sentence: Incumbency brings both responsibility and opportunity.
  
- 3. Upend:** To completely change a situation.
  - Synonyms: Overturn, Alter, Overhaul, Transform.
  - Antonyms: Uphold, Maintain, Preserve, Retain.
  - sentence: The unexpected discovery upended their plans for the project.
  
- 4. Slandering:** The act of making damaging statements about someone.
  - Synonyms: Vilifying, Disparaging, Defaming, Maligning.
  - Antonyms: Applauding, Commending, Honoring, Praising.
  - sentence: He was accused of slandering his former colleague during the meeting.

- 5. Mitigation:** The action of reducing severity of something.
- Synonyms: Palliation, Attenuation, Diminishment, Reduction.
  - Antonyms: Aggravation, Exacerbation, Intensification.
  - sentence: Community efforts focused on environmental mitigation yielded promising results.
- 6. Ominously:** Something done in a way that suggests something bad is going to happen.
- Synonyms: Forebodingly, Gloomily, Unfavorably, Threateningly.
  - Antonyms: Hopefully, Favorably, Cheerfully, Reassuringly.
  - sentence: The stranger's warning sounded ominously in the deserted alleyway.
- 7. Entrenched:** Something that is firmly established.
- Synonyms: Ingrained, Inherent, Rooted, Fixed.
  - Antonyms: Evolving, Unfixed, Flexible, Mutable.
  - sentence: The tradition was so entrenched that it seemed impossible to change.
- 8. Undermining:** The act of weakening something.
- Synonyms: Sabotaging, Eroding, Degrading, Debilitating.
  - Antonyms: Nurturing, Enhancing, Bolstering, Fostering.
  - sentence: Her constant criticism was subtly undermining his confidence.

### IDIOMS AND PHRASES

9. Turn the corner : Reach a point where success becomes more likely after a period of difficulty.
10. Hit the big time: Achieve great success or recognition
11. Turn over a new leaf (Idiom) Meaning: To start anew, often with a commitment to improve for the better.
12. Ruled out: To exclude something from consideration.
13. Phase in: To gradually introduce or implement something.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

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

1. The government of Sri Lanka has decided to hand over the management of a Chinese-built Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport in Hambantota to an Indian and Russian company. This information was given by the Sri Lankan government on 26 April 2024 after a cabinet meeting.
2. Recently a study found out that Mount Erebus, in Antarctica, expels pockets of gas containing roughly 80 grams of crystallised gold daily, worth about USD 6,000.
  - Mount Erebus and Deception Island are the only two active volcanoes out of a total of 138, present in Antarctica.
3. In the latest advancement of China's space program, the Shenzhou-18 mission saw the successful launch of a three-member crew aboard the Shenzhou-18 spacecraft. The mission's objective is to rendezvous with the Tiangong space station, marking another milestone in China's ambitious space exploration endeavors.
4. Telangana's Department of Heritage discovered a hoard of 3,730 lead coins in an earthen pot at Phanigiri, a renowned Buddhist heritage site located 110 km away from Hyderabad.
  - A globular pot measuring 16.7 cm in diameter and 15 cm in height was unearthed at a depth of 40 cm from the ground level in the Southernmost monastic cell.

- The pot's mouth was covered with a shallow pot on the outside and a broken bowl base on the inside and contained 3730 coins weighing an average of 2.3 grams each.
- 5.** State-owned Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) said it was granted the 'Navratna' status by the Union government on April 26.
- In an exchange filing, IREDA said that the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) has granted the 'Navratna status'.
- 6.** The Indian government has given the green light for Adani's Vizhinjam Port in Kerala to operate as the nation's inaugural transshipment hub, signaling a significant step towards reducing reliance.
- 7.** In Archery, India's Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Aditi Gopichand Swami and Parneet Kaur won gold in the women's final, beating Italy 236-225 at the Archery World Cup in Shanghai.
- The Indian women's team just dropped four points and managed to beat the sixth-seeded Italy without breaking a sweat. India added a third gold to their kitty as the pair of Jyothi Surekha Vennam and Abhishek Verma won the compound mixed team gold final by defeating Estonia 158-157.

- Men's team of Abhishek Verma, Priyansh and Prathamesh Fuge beat the Netherlands 238-231 to win gold in their final. Later in the day, Priyansh in the men's category and Vennam in the women's category, will contest the individual semi-finals.
8. The world football governing body FIFA (Fédération Internationale de Football Association) announced a major sponsorship deal with the Saudi Arabian oil giant Aramco on 25 April 2024. Under the deal, Aramco company would sponsor major FIFA tournaments until 2027.
  9. India's Yuki Bhambri and French partner Albano Olivetti won the doubles title at the BMW Open 2024 tennis tournament in Munich, Germany on Sunday.
    - Also known as the Bavarian International Tennis Championships, the clay court tournament was an ATP 250 event.
  10. The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced the appointment of Indian cricket legend Yuvraj Singh as an ambassador for the upcoming ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024.