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VOCABULARY

- 1. Contentious:** Something that is likely to cause disagreement.
 - Synonyms: Disputable, Debatable, Controversial.
 - Antonyms: Agreeable, Harmonious, Peaceful, Amicable.
 - sentence: The contentious issue divided the group into opposing factions.
- 2. Callously:** Doing something in a manner that shows a lack of empathy.
 - Synonyms: Indifferently, Ruthlessly, Insensitively.
 - Antonyms: Empathetically, Compassionately.
 - sentence: He callously ignored her pleas for help.
- 3. Bandwagon:** A trend or activity that becomes popular.
 - Synonyms: Craze, Fashion, Hype, Fad.
 - Antonyms: Unpopularity, Nonconformity.
 - sentence: She joined the fitness bandwagon and started going to the gym regularly.
- 4. Retrieval:** The process of finding and bringing back something.
 - Synonyms: Recovery, Restoration, Recuperation.
 - Antonyms: Abandonment, Surrender, Neglect.
 - sentence: She mastered the retrieval of information from the database in no time.

5. Inspection: Carefully examining something.

- Synonyms: Assessment, Scrutiny, Audit, Examination.
- Antonyms: Disregard, Neglect, Disdain, Oversight.
- sentence: The mechanic conducted a quick inspection of the car's engine.

6. Decreed: An official order by someone in authority.

- Synonyms: Directed, Commanded, Enacted, Prescribed.
- Antonyms: Nullified, Revoked, Repealed, Rescinded.
- sentence: The king decreed that all citizens must pay taxes by the end of the month.

7. Yardstick: A standard of measurement used to evaluate something.

- Synonyms: Benchmark, Touchstone, Criterion.
- Antonyms: Anomaly, Exception, Aberration.
- sentence: The growth of a company can be seen as a yardstick for its success.

8. Humongous: Something extremely large.

- Synonyms: Gigantic, Enormous, Mammoth, Colossal.
- Antonyms: Minuscule, Lilliputian, Petite, Miniature.
- sentence: The humongous elephant lumbered through the dense jungle.

IDIOMS AND PHRASES

- 9.** Bone of contention: Issue that causes disagreement between people.
- 10.** Riding the crest of a wave: Experiencing a period of success or popularity.
- 11.** To hit the ground running: To start something immediately with great energy.
- 12.** Raking up: Bringing up old issues.
- 13.** Shoot up: Increase rapidly in quantity or value.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

2nd April, 2024

1. The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) unanimously appointed Saudi Arabia to chair its 69th session in 2025, CNN reported, citing the Saudi Arabia Mission to the UN.
 - Saudi ambassador to the UN, Abdulaziz Alwasil, was elected as chair.
2. Katchatheevu Island issue: The political row over the Katchatheevu issue intensified on Monday as external affairs Minister S Jaishankar held a press conference and claimed that the decades old territorial and fishing rights dispute around the island didn't surface suddenly and that it has often been debated at Parliament. He also claimed that prime ministers from the congress displayed indifference about Katchatheevu Island and gave away Indian fishermen's right despite legal views to the contrary.
 - Katchatheevu is an uninhabited island located in the Palk Strait between India and Sri Lanka. The island has been a subject of controversy and dispute between the two countries for several decades. It is currently under the control of Sri Lanka.

3. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) commenced its operations on 1st of April in 1935 and organizing a ceremony to mark the 90th years on 1st April 2024.
4. A recent study conducted in 265 districts across 17 states/UTs has revealed that a coalition of civil society organizations prevented or stopped 9,551 child marriages in 2022-23. Among these, the majority of the girls, almost 60%, were between the ages of 15 to 18.
5. India's one of the most supported and widely accepted protests, 'Vaikom Satyagraha', is celebrating 100 years on Saturday. It not only challenged caste oppression but also demolished the social norms of the Kingdom of Travancore.
6. Shigmo, also known as Shigmotsav, is a vibrant and culturally rich spring festival celebrated with great enthusiasm in the Indian state of Goa. It is one of the region's most significant and colorful festivals, and it holds deep cultural and historical significance.
 - Shigmo usually takes place in March, typically falling around the same time as the more widely known Holi festival. Let's dive into the details of the Shigmo celebration in Goa.

7. In a historic move, the Kerala Kalamandalam, a deemed university for arts and culture, has lifted gender restrictions to learn Mohiniyattam.
- The decision was taken unanimously in the governing council meeting of the Kalamandalam on Wednesday. The admission for the Mohiniyattam course will be open from the next academic year onwards.
8. 6 traditional products and crafts of Assam, including Bihu Dhol, Jaapi and Sarthebari bell metal craft, have been accorded GI tags.
- Assam Asharikandi Terracotta Craft, Assam Pani Mateka Craft, Sarthebari Metal Craft, and Assam Missing Handloom Products are the other products that received the GI tags.