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## VOCABULARY

1. **Buoyant:** Cheerful or showing a willingness to continue despite difficulty.
  - Synonyms: Optimistic, Spirited, Upbeat, Lively.
  - Antonyms: Pessimistic, Melancholic, Deflated, Gloomy.
  - sentence: Despite the challenges, his buoyant spirit never wavered.
  
2. **Overhaul:** To completely renovate or improve something.
  - Synonyms: Revamp, Refurbish, Upgrade, Refit.
  - Antonyms: Disregard, Neglect, Abandon, Ignore.
  - sentence: It's time for a complete overhaul of our outdated website design.
  
3. **Evasion:** The act of avoiding from something.
  - Synonyms: Escape, Dodging, Shunning, Elusion.
  - Antonyms: Compliance, Encounter, Adherence, Confrontation.
  - sentence: Her evasion of responsibility only led to further complications.
  
4. **Discretionary:** Something that is subjected to individual judgement.
  - Synonyms: Optional, Voluntary, Non-mandatory.
  - Antonyms: Obligatory, Compulsory, Required.
  - sentence: She used her discretionary funds to buy a gift for her colleague.

**5. Atrocities: Extremely cruel or brutal acts.**

- Synonyms: Barbarities, Inhumanities, Horrors, Brutalities.
- Antonyms: Mercy, Kindness, Benevolence, Altruism.
- sentence: The documentary exposed the atrocities of the past regime.

**6. Flouting: Openly disobeying a rule.**

- Synonyms: Violating, Defying, Disregarding, Scorning.
- Antonyms: Obeying, Adhering, Complying, Abiding by.
- sentence: He was fined for flouting the traffic laws.

**7. Besieged: Surrounded by armed forces or overwhelmed by something unpleasant.**

- Synonyms: Encircled, Pestered, Assailed, Attacked.
- Antonyms: Unbound, Unfettered, Liberated.
- sentence: The small village felt besieged by the relentless storm.

**8. Abstained: Refrain from doing something.**

- Synonyms: Avoided, Eschewed, Abjured, Renounced.
- Antonyms: Embraced, Endorsed, Indulged, Engaged.
- sentence: He decided to abstain from drinking alcohol at the party.

**9. Famine: Extreme scarcity of food.**

- Synonyms: Starvation, Hunger, Dearth, Insufficiency.
- Antonyms: Affluence, Abundance, Plenty, Surplus.

- sentence: The famine in the region left many families struggling to find enough food to eat.

**10.** Stampede: A sudden rush or mass movement of a large group of people or animals.

- Synonyms: Commotion, Frenzy, Panic.
- Antonyms: Serenity, Peace, Tranquility, Stability.
- sentence: The unexpected announcement sparked a stampede towards the exit.

### IDIOMS AND PHRASES

**11.** On the brink of something: The point where something is about to happen or change.

**12.** Tightening the screws on: Putting pressure on someone or something.

**13.** To play it by ear: To handle a situation without a definitive plan.

**14.** Call for: To demand or ask for something.

**15.** Wind down: To gradually decrease in intensity.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2024

- 1.** China has built a submarine base in Bangladesh, with the help of which the Chinese can spy on the Indian Navy. It is named BNS Sheikh Hasina.
  - With Chinese help, the construction of the Submarine base being built in Bangladesh is almost complete. Recently, the satellite of Submarine Base is going to send shockwaves in the security circles of India.
  - A dry dock is seen in the picture, where the repair of the submarines are done. The length of the dry dock is 135 meters and the width is about 30 meters.
- 2.** The World Health Organization (WHO) has launched a global network of laboratories to identify and monitor potentially novel coronaviruses that could emerge shortly. Besides SARS-CoV-2, the new WHO Coronavirus Network, called CoViNet, will assess other coronaviruses, including MERS-CoV, with enhanced laboratory capacity.
- 3.** Three traditional products from Tripura have recently received Geographical Indication (GI) tag. The products are Matabari pera prasad and Rignai pacharatextiles. With this, Tripura now has 4 GI Protected products.

4. Professor Meena Charanda, Principal of Kalindi College, Delhi University, has been awarded the prestigious 'International Culture Award' for the year 2024.
5. World Autism Awareness Day is on April 2nd every year. It aims to raise awareness and support for people with autism. The theme for 2024 is "Empowering Autistic Voices."
6. India's coal and lignite production surpassed 1 billion tonnes for the 1st time in FY24, marking a historic achievement.
  - India's total coal and lignite output was at 937 million tonnes in FY23.
  - The combined coal and lignite production was at 1,039.57 MT, while the despatch was at 1,016.71 MT during FY24.
  - The despatch has grown at a CAGR of 5.46% from 572.06 MT during FY14.
7. The Democratic Republic of Congo has appointed Judith Suminwa Tuluka as the country's first female Prime Minister. This move by President Felix Tshisekedi fulfills a campaign promise and comes at a time of worsening violence in the mineral-rich eastern region bordering Rwanda.

- 8.** Novak Djokovic, the 24-time Grand Slam champion, continues to break records on the ATP Tour. As of this week, he begins his 419th week as the World No. 1, extending his huge record.

  - Djokovic will surpass Roger Federer's record and become the oldest World No. 1 in ATP Rankings history at the age of 36 years and 321 days.
  
- 9.** The Supreme Court today issued notice on a petition seeking inter-alia counting of all Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) paper slips in elections, instead of verification of only 5 randomly selected Electronic Voting Machines( EVMs) in each assembly segment of a parliamentary constituency .

  - The Bench of Justices BR Gavai and Sandeep Mehta passed the order, tagging the petition with another plea filed by the Association for Democratic Reforms seeking similar reliefs.
  
- 10.** Hockey India announced the sixth Hockey India Awards 2023 on 31 March 2024 at a function in New Delhi. Salima Tete and Hardik Singh were named the women's and men's player of the year, respectively.

  - Hockey India started the annual Hockey India Awards in 2014 to honour India's best hockey players, former players and officials.