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VOCABULARY

1. Consolidation: Combining separate things into a single.
 - Synonyms: Integration, Unification, Cohesion, Amalgamation.
 - Antonyms: Separation, Division, Fragmentation, Segregation.
 - sentence: The consolidation of power within the organization led to increased efficiency.
2. Agitated: A state of being emotionally disturbed.
 - Synonyms: Anxious, Perturbed, Restless, Nervous.
 - Antonyms: Placid, Peaceful, Serene, Calm.
 - sentence: His agitated state made it difficult for him to focus on anything else.
3. Lynchpin: A central or crucial element that holds something together.
 - Synonyms: Keystone, Cornerstone, Foundation.
 - Antonyms: Impediment, Nonessential, Irrelevant.
 - sentence: Effective communication is the lynchpin of any successful relationship.
4. Rogue: Someone who behaves in a dishonest manner.
 - Synonyms: Rascal, Villain, Maverick, Miscreant.
 - Antonyms: Honorable, Respectable, Virtuous.
 - sentence: The rogue agent operated outside the bounds of law.

5. Ravaged: Something that has been severely damaged.
- Synonyms: Devastated, Ruined, Wrecked, Blighted.
 - Antonyms: Preserved, Protected, Unscathed.
 - sentence: The war ravaged the countryside, leaving nothing but ruins in its wake.
6. Pivoting: Act of shifting or changing direction.
- Synonyms: Adjusting, Rotating, Altering, Reorienting.
 - Antonyms: Stagnating, Persisting, Maintaining.
 - sentence: The team's ability to pivot quickly allowed them to seize unexpected opportunities.
7. Throttled: To restrict or limit something.
- Synonyms: Constricted, Curbed, Damped, Strangled.
 - Antonyms: Unhampered, Unfettered, Free.
 - sentence: The airflow to the engine was throttled to conserve fuel.
8. Douse: To extinguish or soak something.
- Synonyms: Saturate, Dunk, Drench.
 - Antonyms: Ignite, Blaze, Enflame.
 - sentence: She quickly doused the candle before leaving the room.

IDIOMS AND PHRASES

9. A shot in the arm: Something that provides encouragement.
10. Fan the flames: To intensify or worsen a situation.
11. To light the fuse: Triggering a series of events that could lead to a larger conflict.
12. Roped in: To involve someone in a task.
13. Roll back: To reduce or decrease something.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

6th April, 2024

1. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is marking its 75th anniversary this year. The alliance, founded in 1949, will hold a special event in Brussels, Belgium to commemorate this milestone.
 - NATO Secretary-General: Jens Stoltenberg;
 - NATO Founded: 4 April 1949, Washington, D.C., United States;
 - NATO Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium.
2. Zimbabwe declared drought a national disaster on Wednesday, with President Emmerson Mnangagwa saying the country needed \$2 billion in aid to help millions of people who are going hungry.
 - A severe dry spell induced by the El Nino weather pattern is wreaking havoc across southern Africa.
3. Inspired by the pioneering work of Cognition Labs in the US, which produced the world's first fully autonomous AI software engineer named Devin, a young innovator from Kerala has introduced India to its very own AI software engineer, named Devika.
4. SEBI enhances investor complaint resolution with SCORES 2.0, introducing auto-routing, oversight, and streamlined processes. From April 1, 2024, investors must use the updated system.

- 5.** The Department of Posts in Bihar on Sunday issued a “special cover” to commemorate 250 years of the release of the world’s first postal stamp from Patna.
- The “special cover” was released by Anil Kumar, Chief Postmaster General of Bihar Postal Circle, at a function here.
- 6.** Archaeologists excavated skeletons, along with pottery artifacts and animal bones.
- In 2018, archeologists from the University of Kerala in collaboration with Krantiguru Shyamji Krishna Varma Kachchh University, Bhuj, unearthed a mass burial site with 500 graves in Kutch district.
 - Early Harappan - 3200 to 2600 BCE.
 - Mature Harappan - 2600 to 1900 BCE.
 - Late Harappan - 1900 to 1700 BCE.
- 7.** The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and India's Strategic Forces Command (SFC) have successfully conducted a flight test of the new generation ballistic missile called 'Agni-Prime'.
- DRDO is setting up a new test centre in Junput village, West Bengal, similar to Chandipur in Odisha, to accommodate the increasing workload of weapon system testing. The project, covering 8.73 acres .

- 8.** The Sri Ponkalamman temple in Tamil Nadu's Erode district radiated with the enthusiasm of over 50,000 devotees during the revered Ponkalamman festival. Thousands of worshippers took part in a magnificent procession on 3 April 2024 (Wednesday) evening, carrying fire torches as a symbol of their unwavering faith.
- 9.** RBI Monetary Policy Committee has decided by majority 5:1 to keep policy rates unchanged, Governor Shaktikanta Das announced on April 5. He also that core inflation has declined steadily. It is the first bi-monthly monetary policy of 2024-25.

 - The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor also announced MSF & Bank rates to continue to be at 6.75%. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor has kept the policy rate unchanged at 6.5 per cent.
- 10.** The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu, launched India's first home-grown gene therapy for cancer at IIT Bombay. The President announced the launch of India's first gene therapy, called "CAR-T cell therapy," which is accessible and affordable, providing new hope in the battle against cancer.

- 11.** The Philippines will hold joint naval drills with the United States, Japan and Australia, two diplomatic sources told AFP on April 04, as the four countries deepen military ties to counter China's expanding influence in the Asia-Pacific region.
- The exercise will be held on April 07 in the disputed South China Sea — which Beijing claims almost entirely — days before U.S. President Joe Biden is due to hold the first trilateral summit with the leaders of the Philippines and Japan.