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VOCABULARY

1. **Debilitating:** Something that weakens or impairs.
 - Synonyms: Enervating, Exhausting, Excruciating, Draining.
 - Antonyms: Rejuvenating, Invigorating, Energizing, Empowering.
 - sentence: The accident left him with a debilitating injury.

2. **Mooted:** To bring up or introduce for discussion.
 - Synonyms: Proposed, Debated, Presented, Raised.
 - Antonyms: Retracted, Discarded, Shelved, Ignored.
 - sentence: The proposed changes were mooted during the meeting.

3. **Exorbitant:** Something that is unreasonably high.
 - Synonyms: Astronomical, Extravagant, Extreme, Excessive.
 - Antonyms: Reasonable, Affordable, Fair, Economical.
 - sentence: The cost of repair was exorbitant.

4. **Feat:** An impressive or remarkable achievement.
 - Synonyms: Accomplishment, Deed, Victory, Triumph.
 - Antonyms: Setback, Blunder, Failure, Defeat.
 - sentence: Climbing Mount Everest is a remarkable feat.

5. Elucidate: To explain or clarify something.

- Synonyms: Explicate, Illustrate, Interpret, Expound.
- Antonyms: Conceal, Obscure, Complicate, Obfuscate.
- sentence: The teacher elucidated the difficult concept with simple examples.

6. Peculiarities: Distinctive or unique qualities.

- Synonyms: Eccentricities, Oddities, Quirks, Anomalies.
- Antonyms: Regularities, Standards, Typicalities, Conformities.
- sentence: The town's peculiarities made it charming and unforgettable.

7. Undermined: Weakened in effectiveness.

- Synonyms: Sabotaged, Hindered, Impaired, Eroded.
- Antonyms: Bolstered, Buttressed, Supported, Fortified.
- sentence: The constant rain undermined the stability of the hillside.

8. Laudable: Deserving Praise or admiration.

- Synonyms: Commendable, Praiseworthy, Applaudable, Admirable.
- Antonyms: Censurable, Deplorable, Despicable, Blameworthy.
- sentence: Her dedication to charity work is truly laudable.

9. Amicable: A friendly or peaceful relationship.

- Synonyms: Harmonious, Affable, Cordial, Genial.
- Antonyms: Antagonistic, Belligerent, Contentious, Discordant.
- sentence: The neighbors came to an amicable agreement about the property line.

IDIOMS AND PHRASES

- 10.** Play it by ear: To handle a situation without a definite plan, improvising based on the circumstances.
- 11.** Make a beeline for something or someone: To move quickly or directly towards a particular destination.
- 12.** Bury the hatchet: To make peace.
- 13.** Set out: To explain or present something.
- 14.** Stir up: To cause or provoke a reaction.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

11th May, 2024

- 1.** The European Union adopted the first law to tackle violence against women, which includes action against forced marriages, female genital mutilation and online harassment but failed to settle on a common definition of rape.
- 2.** Infosys has just sets a new benchmark in AI innovation and commitment to quality & compliance. The IT Services giant has recently achieved a significant milestone. Infosys announced that it has been certified with ISO 42001:2023, which is the world's first international standard for AI management systems.
 - This certification was awarded by TUV India, a leading independent provider of technical quality and safety services, and part of the TÜV Nord Group.
- 3.** Setu, a leading Indian fintech company and part of the Pine Labs Group, has unveiled Sesame, India's first Large Language Model (LLM) specifically designed for the banking, financial services, and insurance (BFSI) sector. Developed in collaboration with indigenous AI research firm Sarvam AI, this groundbreaking initiative marks a significant milestone in the adoption of advanced AI technologies in the financial services industry.

- 4.** Joint military Exercise Shakti between the Indian and the French forces will be held at the Joint Training Node of the Indian Army in Umroi, Meghalaya, from 13 -26 May 2024. The opening ceremony of the 7th edition of Exercise Shakti will be attended by the French Ambassador to India, Thierry Mathou. Brigadier Mayur Shekatkar, Commander of the 24 Mountain Brigade, and other civilian and military dignitaries.
- 5.** Every year, the 8th of May is observed as World Thalassaemia Day. The day is also observed as International Thalassaemia Day. The day is observed to raise awareness amongst the public and stakeholders about thalassaemia, a genetic disorder.

 - The theme of the 2024 World Thalassaemia Day is "Empowering Lives, Embracing Progress: Equitable and Accessible Thalassaemia Treatment for All."
- 6.** Russian President Vladimir Putin has reappointed Mikhail Mishustin as Prime Minister for the lower house's approval.

 - Parliament Speaker Vyacheslav Volodin said the house, the State Duma, will hold a session later Friday to consider Mr. Mishustin's candidacy.
- 7.** To boost output, the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), a premier institute credited for developing most of the rice and wheat varieties in the country, has introduced a new high yielding variety of wheat seed variety.

- The new seed variant – HD 3386, recently approved by the central seed committee of the agriculture ministry, is resistant to yellow, and leaf rust diseases mostly reported in the key wheat growing region of northwest region – Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.
8. ISRO, through the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC) with support from other launch vehicle centers, is advancing the development of a semicryogenic propulsion system. This system aims to enhance the payload capacity of Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM3) and future launch vehicles by utilizing a 2,000 kN thrust semi-cryogenic engine powered by a combination of liquid oxygen (LOX) and kerosene.
 9. Anandana, The Coca-Cola India Foundation, announces its first ever partnership with Hockey India, for the National Women's Hockey League 2024. The 1st Phase of the tournament commenced on 30th April, and it will conclude on 9th May 2024, in Ranchi, Jharkhand.
 10. Sri Lanka Cricket has announced that the Indian milk producer Amul has been appointed as the 'Official Sponsor' of the Sri Lanka Men's Team for the duration of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024.