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VOCABULARY

1. **Offensive:** Relating to or causing attack; aggressive or confrontational.
 - Synonyms: Aggressive, attacking, hostile, combative.
 - Antonyms: Defensive, peaceful, nonaggressive.
 - Example: The sudden offensive by the Russian forces caught the Ukrainian army off guard, leading to intense fighting in the region.
2. **Intolerant:** Not willing to accept beliefs, opinions, or behaviors that differ from one's own; showing unwillingness to tolerate something.
 - Synonyms: Bigoted, narrow-minded, prejudiced, dogmatic.
 - Antonyms: Tolerant, open-minded, accepting.
 - Example: The regime's intolerant policies towards dissent led to widespread protests and international condemnation.
3. **Fatigued:** Extremely tired or exhausted, typically as a result of physical or mental exertion.
 - Synonyms: Exhausted, weary, drained, spent.
 - Antonyms: Refreshed, energized, invigorated.
 - Example: After weeks of continuous combat, the soldiers were fatigued both physically and mentally, longing for a moment of rest.

4. Isolated: Placed or occurring apart from others; remote or secluded.
- Synonyms: Secluded, remote, solitary, detached.
 - Antonyms: Connected, integrated, included.
 - Example: The small village remained isolated from modern amenities, nestled deep in the mountains.
5. Attrition: The process of gradually reducing the strength or effectiveness of someone or something through sustained attack or pressure.
- Synonyms: Erosion, weakening, wearing down, depletion.
 - Antonyms: Strengthening, reinforcement, augmentation.
 - Example: The prolonged conflict resulted in attrition on both sides, with casualties mounting steadily over time.
6. Reclusive: Seeking or preferring seclusion or isolation.
- Synonyms: Solitary, hermit-like, withdrawn, secluded.
 - Antonyms: Sociable, outgoing, gregarious.
 - Example: The reclusive author rarely made public appearances, preferring the solitude of his mountain cabin for writing.
7. Repressive: Exerting control or power in a cruel or unjust manner; inhibiting freedom or expression.
- Synonyms: Oppressive, authoritarian, tyrannical, suppressive.
 - Antonyms: Liberating, democratic, permissive.

- Example: The regime's repressive measures stifled dissent and silenced opposition voices, leading to widespread fear and discontent among the populace.

8. Inconsistency: Lack of uniformity or consistency; the quality of being unpredictable or irregular.

- Synonyms: Discrepancy, irregularity, variability.
- Antonyms: Consistency, uniformity, coherence.
- Example: The judge's rulings displayed a troubling inconsistency, leading to confusion among the legal community.

9. Parity: Equality or equivalence, especially in status, value, or rank.

- Synonyms: Equality, equivalence, similarity, balance.
- Antonyms: Inequality, disparity, imbalance.
- Example: The company's pay policy aims to achieve parity between employees of different departments, ensuring fairness and transparency.

10. Interim: Temporary or provisional; in the meantime.

- Synonyms: Temporary, provisional, makeshift.
- Antonyms: Permanent, final, lasting.
- Example: The interim CEO was appointed to oversee operations until a permanent replacement could be found.

11. Peculiarities: Distinctive features or qualities; characteristics that are unusual or unique.
- Synonyms: Distinctiveness, uniqueness, oddity.
 - Antonyms: Commonalities, regularities, normality.
 - Example: The novel's plot was filled with peculiarities that set it apart from traditional literary works.
12. Stringent: Strict, precise, and exacting, especially in requirements, standards, or regulations.
- Synonyms: Rigorous, severe, stringent, exacting.
 - Antonyms: Lenient, lax, permissive.
 - Example: The company enforces stringent security measures to protect sensitive data from unauthorized access.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

16th May, 2024

1. The India-U.S joint exercise in conducting coordinated operations in urban counter terrorism contingencies will conclude in Kolkata on Wednesday.
 - The seventh edition of the Indo-U.S. joint counter terrorism exercise "Tarkash", between the elite National Security Guard (NSG) and the U.S. Special Operations Forces (SOF) commenced on April 22.
2. Ruskin Bond, a stalwart of Indian literature, has been awarded the prestigious Sahitya Akademi Fellowship. The ceremony was held at his Mussoorie home, honouring his five decades of literary contributions across various genres.
3. Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), one of India's premier shipbuilding yards, celebrated its 250th Foundation Day today with a series of high-profile events in Mumbai. The celebrations were presided over by Defence Secretary Shri Giridhar Aramane, who hailed MDL as a "precious jewel of India" for its significant contributions to the nation's economy and security.

4. As per the Center for World University Rankings (CWUR) Report 2024, Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ahmedabad has been ranked as the bestperforming institute across India.
 - IIM Ahmedabad climbed nine spots to secure the 410th position globally. The rankings process examined data from over 20,966 universities worldwide.
5. After a gap of 140 years, researchers have rediscovered *Uniyala multibracteata* from a non-protected area of the Wagamon hills in the Western Ghats.
6. BRO India celebrates as the Sela Tunnel is officially recognised as the highest tunnel in the country by the International Book of Honour, England.
 - The 2.598 Km long tunnel is situated at an altitude of 13000 fton the Tezpur-Tawang Road and has been constructed by BRO India to guarantee year-round connectivity to the strategic Tawang Region.
7. Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP), a key unit of the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) situated in Chhattisgarh, is set to inaugurate the state's premier floating solar project.

8. National Dengue Day is observed on 16 May every year to raise awareness about dengue, a mosquito-borne viral infection. It is endemic to more than 100 countries, and nearly half of the world's population is at risk of contracting it.
- The National Dengue Day Theme for 2024 is “Dengue Prevention: Our Responsibility for a Safer Tomorrow”.
9. Magnus Carlsen emerged as the winner of the 2024 Superbet Poland Rapid & Blitz. The World #1 became the leader of the Grand Chess Tour 2024 season and took home \$40,000 first prize.
10. UAE captain and opener Muhammad Waseem is named the ICC Men's Player of the Month thanks to his notable run-scoring feats as the UAE triumphed in the ACC Premier Cup.
- Matthews celebrates her third ICC Women's Player of the Month award after previously winning in November 2021 and October 2023.
11. Manika Batra becomes 1st Indian woman to break into Top-25 of World Table Tennis singles rankings.
- She jumps from no. 39 to 24 in latest ITTF ranking.