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VOCABULARY

1. Malign: Evil in nature or effect; malevolent.
 - Synonyms: Malevolent, malicious, harmful, wicked.
 - Antonyms: Benevolent, kind, benign.
 - Example: The malign intentions of the antagonist were evident in his every move.

2. Clandestine: Kept secret or done secretly, especially because illicit.
 - Synonyms: Secret, covert, furtive, stealthy.
 - Antonyms: Open, overt, public.
 - Example: The clandestine meeting between the two spies took place at midnight in a secluded park.

3. Bona fides: Good faith; sincerity.
 - Synonyms: Authenticity, genuineness, honesty, sincerity.
 - Antonyms: Fraudulence, deceit, dishonesty.
 - Example: The company's bona fides were questioned after several customer complaints about its services.

4. Statutory: Required, permitted, or enacted by statute.
 - Synonyms: Legal, lawful, regulatory, mandated.
 - Antonyms: Illegal, unlawful, unauthorized.
 - Example: Employers must adhere to the statutory regulations regarding employee benefits.

5. Foment: Instigate or stir up (an undesirable or violent sentiment or course of action).
- Synonyms: Incite, provoke, agitate, instigate.
 - Antonyms: Quell, suppress, pacify.
 - Example: The rebels tried to foment a revolution against the corrupt government.
6. Sacrosanct: Regarded as too important or valuable to be interfered with.
- Synonyms: Sacred, inviolable, untouchable, holy.
 - Antonyms: Profane, irreverent, desecrated.
 - Example: The constitutional rights of citizens are considered sacrosanct in a democracy.
7. Remand: Place (a defendant) on bail or in custody, especially when a trial is adjourned.
- Synonyms: Detain, incarcerate, confine, jail.
 - Antonyms: Release, free, liberate.
 - Example: The suspect was remanded in custody until the next court hearing.
8. Far-fetched: Unlikely and unconvincing; implausible.
- Synonyms: Implausible, improbable, unlikely, unrealistic.
 - Antonyms: Plausible, credible, likely, realistic.
 - Example: The detective dismissed the theory as too far-fetched to be taken seriously.

9. Contraction: The process of becoming smaller.
- Synonyms: Reduction, shrinking, decrease, diminution.
 - Antonyms: Expansion, enlargement, increase, growth.
 - Example: The contraction in the economy led to widespread job losses.
10. Deleterious: Causing harm or damage.
- Synonyms: Harmful, damaging, detrimental, injurious.
 - Antonyms: Beneficial, advantageous, helpful.
 - Example: The deleterious effects of pollution on health are well-documented.
11. Vigour: Physical strength and good health.
- Synonyms: Energy, vitality, robustness, strength.
 - Antonyms: Weakness, lethargy, frailty.
 - Example: The athlete's vigour was evident as she crossed the finish line in record time.

Idioms and Phrases

12. In its entirety: Completely; in full.
13. Kept in the dark: To be kept uninformed or unaware.
14. As a matter of course: Something that happens or is done routinely or automatically.
15. Go into: To discuss or examine something in detail.
16. Roll up its sleeves: To prepare to work hard, often involving physical effort.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

17th May, 2024

1. Lawrence Wong sworn in as the new Prime Minister of Singapore. The country witnessed first leadership change in 20 years and Wong became only the fourth leader since the nation's Independence.
2. India has set up its pavilion for the first time at the World Hydrogen Summit 2024, currently underway in the Netherlands' Rotterdam. The pavilion was inaugurated by Renewable Energy Secretary Bhupinder S. Bhalla. It showcases the country's progress in the field of Green Hydrogen.
3. Indian Air Force has tested BHISHM Cube, a state-of-the-art indigenous mobile hospital, for airdrop in Agra. Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said, this innovative technology is a great leap forward in providing rapid and comprehensive medical aid during emergencies anywhere.
4. The first Canadian author to win the Nobel Prize in literature, Alice Munro, has died at the age of 92 in Ontario.
 - Acclaimed author Alice Munro was the first Canadian to win the Nobel Prize in literature. Her collections of short stories were celebrated for their complexity and authenticity. She died at the age of 92.

5. Centre extends the ban on Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) for 5 more years.
 - Ministry of Home Affairs in its notification says, the central govt has taken the decision in view of the activities of the LTTE that continues to pose a threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of India.
6. The government of India has announced humanitarian assistance worth \$ one million to the government of Kenya to deal with the devastation caused by the floods in the country. More than 267 people in the country have been killed by the devastating flood, which has displaced more than 3,80,00 people in the country.
7. Veteran actor Shabana Azmi has been honoured with the 'Freedom of the City of London' award for her outstanding contribution to Indian cinema and as a campaigner for women's rights. The actress was in London to celebrate her 50 years in cinema at the annual UK Asian Film Festival (UKAFF).
8. PhonePe has partnered with LankaPay to enable UPI payments in Sri Lanka, allowing PhonePe users to transact seamlessly at LankaPay QR merchants.

9. Indian football icon and captain of the national team, Sunil Chhetri, has announced his decision to retire from international football on 6 June.
10. Indian Army has set up two of the world's highest tank repair facilities to support its operations amid fourth year of bilateral friction with China along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). Over 500 tanks and infantry combat vehicles have been deployed in Eastern Ladakh.
11. Special Commemorative coin released on MDL Shipyard On its 250th Anniversary.