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VOCABULARY

1. Sanctions: Penalties or other means of enforcement used to provide incentives for obedience with the law.
 - Synonyms: Penalties, restrictions, embargoes, bans.
 - Antonyms: Permissions, approvals, endorsements, allowances.
 - Example: The sanctions imposed by the international community severely affected the country's economy.

2. Carve-out: A portion of something, often granted as an exemption.
 - Synonyms: Exemption, exclusion, exception, dispensation.
 - Antonyms: Inclusion, entirety, incorporation, totality.
 - Example: The company received a carve-out from the new regulations, allowing it to continue its operations without interruption.

3. Disconnect: A lack of connection or coherence.
 - Synonyms: Disjunction, separation, division, disparity.
 - Antonyms: Connection, coherence, integration, unity.
 - Example: There is a noticeable disconnect between the promises made by politicians and their actions.

4. Rhetoric: The art of effective or persuasive speaking or writing.

- Synonyms: Oratory, eloquence, discourse, speech.
- Antonyms: Silence, inarticulateness, muteness.
- Example: The politician's rhetoric was aimed at winning over the undecided voters.

5. Vituperation: Bitter and abusive language.

- Synonyms: Invective, abuse, diatribe, condemnation.
- Antonyms: Praise, compliment, commendation, approval.
- Example: The debate turned into a session of vituperation rather than a constructive discussion.

6. 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 agitators tried to foment unrest among the workers.

7. Unilateral: Performed by or affecting only one person, group, or country involved in a situation without the agreement of others.

- Synonyms: One-sided, independent, autonomous, solo.
- Antonyms: Bilateral, multilateral, mutual, collective.
- Example: The country's unilateral decision to impose tariffs led to strained international relations.

- 8. Implementation:** The process of putting a decision or plan into effect.
- Synonyms: Execution, enforcement, application, administration.
 - Antonyms: Neglect, abandonment, cessation, omission.
 - Example: Successful implementation of the policy requires cooperation from all departments.
- 9. Lynchpin:** A person or thing vital to an enterprise or organization.
- Synonyms: Key element, cornerstone, pillar, foundation.
 - Antonyms: Peripheral, unimportant, nonessential, minor.
 - Example: Effective communication is the lynchpin of a successful team
- 10. ShriII:** High-pitched and piercing; often used to describe an unpleasantly strong or loud sound or voice.
- Synonyms: Piercing, screeching, strident, sharp.
 - Antonyms: Mellow, soft, gentle, soothing.
 - Example: The shrill tone of the alarm woke everyone up in the middle of the night.

IDIOMS AND PHRASES

11. Rake up: To bring up old problems or memories.
12. Stand to benefit: To be in a position where one is likely to gain something.
13. Reach the end point: To get to the final stage of a process or activity.
14. Dog whistle: A subtly aimed political message that only a particular group of people will understand.
15. Take off: To begin to be successful or popular.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

18th May, 2024

1. In an epic find, archeologists have found evidence of a lost landscape known as Sahul in the ancient days that helped humans travel across continents, that is, from Asia to Australia almost 7,000 decades ago, according to 'The Sun' report.
 - Researchers were amazed to find the ancient piece of land which may stand testimony to the fact that many international historic sites have not been discovered yet.
2. The third meeting of the Eminent Persons' Group (EPG) on the future direction of BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for MultiSectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) was held on 12 and 13 May 2024 at the BIMSTEC Secretariat in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Soonthorn Chaiyindeepum of Thailand, as Thailand is the current chairman of BIMSTEC.
3. For the sixth year in a row, India had the most number of Internet shutdowns reported anywhere in the world in the year 2023.
 - There were 116 incidents in which the Internet was purposefully disconnected in different regions of the country, as reported by the Keep It On coalition, which is a civil advocacy group.

4. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal has been elected as the president of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) in a recent election held on 16th May in New Delhi.
5. Japan and the US have signed a contract to develop interceptors for hypersonic missiles by the 2030s, with the project costing over \$3 billion.
 - Japan allocated 75 billion yen (\$480 million) from its 2024 budget towards the development of missile interceptors.
 - Hypersonic missiles travel over 5 times the speed of sound
 - Aims to strengthen capabilities amidst tensions with China and North Korea.
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. Deepika Padukone, India's global ambassador and icon, has been recently recognized alongside Eva Longoria, Uma Thurman, and Lee Sung Jin as Disruptors for the class of Movers & Shakers 2024 by an International publication's coveted selection of personalities from across the industry and globe.

8. The IndiaSkills Competition 2024, the country's biggest skill competition designed to demonstrate the highest standards of skilling, is all set to commence on 15th May 2024. The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has organized an inauguration ceremony at Yashobhoomi, Dwarka, New Delhi, which will witness the participation of over 900 students from more than 30 states and Union Territories and over 400 industry experts.
9. World Telecommunication and Information Society Day, observed annually on May 17, celebrates the transformative impact of telecommunication and information technology on global connectivity.
 - The theme for World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2024 is "Digital Innovation for Sustainable Development."
10. Joshna Chinappa, Abhay Singh and Velavan Senthil kumar shone brightly winning gold in their respective categories during the National Doubles Squash Championship, which was revived after 17 years.