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VOCABULARY

1. Sabotaged: Deliberately destroyed, damaged, or obstructed.
 - Synonyms: Undermined, disrupted, ruined, wrecked.
 - Antonyms: Supported, aided, facilitated, assisted.
 - Example: The workers sabotaged the factory equipment to protest against the new policies.
2. Stricken: Seriously affected by an undesirable condition or unpleasant feeling.
 - Synonyms: Afflicted, devastated, affected, troubled.
 - Antonyms: Unaffected, healthy, well, sound.
 - Example: The small town was stricken by a severe flood that destroyed homes and businesses.
3. Meek: Quiet, gentle, and easily imposed on; submissive.
 - Synonyms: Humble, submissive, docile, timid.
 - Antonyms: Assertive, bold, aggressive, confident.
 - Example: Despite his meek demeanor, he was a strong leader.
4. Crackdown: A series of severe measures to restrict or discourage undesirable or illegal people or behavior.
 - Synonyms: Suppression, clampdown, enforcement, control
 - Antonyms: Leniency, tolerance, permissiveness.
 - Example: The government announced a crackdown on tax evaders.

5. Splintering: Breaking or causing to break into small sharp fragments; dividing into smaller parts.
- Synonyms: Fragmenting, splitting, breaking, dividing.
 - Antonyms: Uniting, merging, consolidating, combining.
 - Example: The splintering of the main regional parties in Maharashtra has made the elections more competitive.
6. Apathy: Lack of interest, enthusiasm, or concern.
- Synonyms: Indifference, unconcern, disinterest, detachment.
 - Antonyms: Interest, enthusiasm, concern, passion.
 - Example: The low voter turnout in Mumbai is a reflection of the city's political apathy.
7. Herald: Be a sign that something is about to happen.
- Synonyms: Announce, signal, indicate, proclaim.
 - Antonyms: Hide, conceal, suppress, ignore.
 - Example: The election could herald a new era in state politics.
8. Consecration: The action of making or declaring something sacred.
- Synonyms: Sanctification, blessing, dedication, hallowing.
 - Antonyms: Desecration, defilement, profanation, impurity.
 - Example: A large congregation gathered for the consecration of the church.

- 9. Fillip:** Something which acts as a stimulus or boost to an activity.
- Synonyms: Boost, stimulus, incentive, spur.
 - Antonyms: Deterrent, hindrance, obstacle, disincentive.
 - Example: The opposition's focus on employment issues provided a fillip to their campaign.
- 10. Formidable:** Inspiring fear or respect through being impressively large, powerful, intense, or capable.
- Synonyms: Daunting, intimidating, powerful, impressive.
 - Antonyms: Weak, unimpressive, feeble, insignificant.
 - Example: The TMC faces a formidable challenge from the BJP in West Bengal.

IDIOMS AND PHRASES

- 11.** A piece of cake - Something that is easy to understand or do.
- 12.** Beat around the bush - To avoid the main topic.
- 13.** Cry over spilt milk - To complain about a loss in the past.
- 14.** Get out of hand - To lose control.
- 15.** Make a long story short - Tell something briefly.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

21st May, 2024

1. Russian President has bolstered the country's military capabilities by ordering the addition of a new nuclear-capable missile known as the Bulava into the Russian military arsenal.
2. TATA AIG has unveiled India's first satellite inorbit third-party liability insurance policy, targeting the specific needs of satellite operators and manufacturers within the country's rapidly growing space industry.
 - This policy offers coverage for third-party injuries and property damage resulting from satellite operations, complying with global standards and practices.
3. A nine-day long Indo-Bangla Baul music festival began in Dhaka on Friday to celebrate the 250th birth anniversary of the mystic saint and humanist bard Fakir Lalan Shah.
 - The event is being organised by the cultural and research organisation Lalon Biswasangha working to popularise the work and promote research on Lalan Fakir. The High Commission of India and the Ministry of Cultural Affairs of Bangladesh are supporting the event.

4. National Anti-Terrorism Day is celebrated in India on May 21 every year to commemorate the death anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, the sixth PM of India who was assassinated on May 21, 1991 at Sriperumbudur, a village near Madras (now Chennai), by LTTE's (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) suicide bomber.
5. The Croatian Parliament confirmed Andrej Plenkovic's third term as Prime Minister, leading a coalition government with the conservative HDZ party and the far-right Homeland Movement.
 - The new government will see the Homeland Movement control three of the 18 ministerial positions.
6. Venezuela has likely to become the first nation to lose all its glaciers, marking a poignant environmental milestone and highlighting the severity of the climate crisis.
7. Initial discussions on the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor took place between India and UAE, following a framework agreement.
 - The meetings reflect the high priority of the IMEEC initiative, aiming for logistical efficiencies, cost reductions, joint investments, and technical collaboration.
 - The pact was inked during PM Modi's UAE visit.
 - UAE/President: Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

8. Iran's first Vice President Mohammad Mokhber was appointed as acting President of the Islamic Republic on May 20 after the death of President Ebrahim Raisi in a helicopter crash in the country's northwest.
9. Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty win the Thailand Open Men's Doubles, defeating Chen Bo Yang and Liu Yi 21-15, 21-15.
 - The Indian duo's victory marks their second title at this tournament since 2019 for their first Superseries or Super 500 level victory.
 - Ranked third in the world, Satwik and Chirag were the top seeds, demonstrating their dominance leading up to the final.
 - Nikhat Zareen and Minakshi win gold medals in their categories at the Elorda Cup 2024 in Kazakhstan.
 - Anamika and Manisha secured silver after competing against tough opponents in the 50kg and 60kg categories, respectively.
 - Team India finishes with an impressive tally of 12 medals, including two gold, two silver, and eight bronze, showcasing their talent and determination.
10. Ronaldo topped Forbes' list with \$260 million in earnings, including \$200 million from Al-Nassr and \$60 million offfield.

- Golfer Jon Rahm ranked second with \$218 million, mostly from LIV Golf Tour wages.
- Lionel Messi earned \$135 million, with \$70 million from off-field activities, placing him third.
- For the first time, the top 10 highest paid athletes have each earned more than \$100 mn.

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