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## VOCABULARY

1. Desist: Cease; abstain.

- Synonyms: Stop, cease, refrain.
- Antonyms: Continue, persist, proceed.
- Example: The teacher asked the students to desist from talking during the lecture.

2. Partisan: Prejudiced in favor of a particular cause.

- Synonyms: Biased, one-sided, partial.
- Antonyms: Impartial, unbiased, neutral.
- Example: The news channel was criticized for its partisan coverage of the election.

3. Rebuke: Express sharp disapproval or criticism because of behavior or actions.

- Synonyms: Reprimand, scold, admonish.
- Antonyms: Praise, commend, compliment.
- Example: The manager rebuked the employee for his repeated tardiness.

4. Censure: Express severe disapproval of someone or something, especially in a formal statement.

- Synonyms: Criticize, condemn, reprimand.
- Antonyms: Praise, approve, commend.
- Example: The senator was censured for his inappropriate comments during the session.

5. Ruse: An action intended to deceive someone; a trick.
- Synonyms: Trick, ploy, stratagem.
  - Antonyms: Honesty, truth, reality.
  - Example: The email claiming she won a lottery was just a ruse to steal her personal information.
6. Muffle: To make (a sound) quieter or less distinct.
- Synonyms: Suppress, stifle, mute.
  - Antonyms: Amplify, enhance, increase.
  - Example: The thick walls muffled the sound of the traffic outside.
7. Extermination: The act of killing all the members of a group of people or animals.
- Synonyms: Eradication, annihilation, elimination.
  - Antonyms: Preservation, protection, conservation.
  - Example: The extermination of pests is crucial for maintaining a healthy environment.
8. Impediment: A hindrance or obstruction in doing something.
- Synonyms: Obstacle, barrier, hindrance.
  - Antonyms: Aid, assistance, support.
  - Example: The lack of funding was a significant impediment to the project's completion.

9. Reprieve: A cancellation or postponement of a punishment.
- Synonyms: Pardon, amnesty, clemency.
  - Antonyms: Punishment, penalty, execution.
  - Example: The prisoner received a last-minute reprieve from the governor.

### IDIOMS AND PHRASES

10. A dime a dozen - Anything that is common and easy to Get.
11. At the drop of a hat - At the drop of a hat.
12. Bite your tongue- To avoid talking.
13. Dog days of summer- The hottest day of the summer Season.
14. Bits and Pieces- small things of different types.



## CURRENT AFFAIRS

23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2024

1. The University of Tokyo Atacama Observatory (TAO) has recently been inaugurated. It is now the highest astronomical observatory (altitude of 18,500 feet) in the world, even surpassing the famous Atacama Large Millimeter Array (ALMA), which stands at 16,570 feet.
2. In a major step forward for HIV vaccine development, researchers at the Duke Human Vaccine Institute have successfully induced broadly neutralizing antibodies against HIV through vaccination for the first time.
3. India has climbed to the 39<sup>th</sup> position in the latest index released by WEF.
  - Spain, Japan, France, and Australia feature are the top Four countries in the 2024 list.
  - India was in 54<sup>th</sup> position in the 2021 rankings.
  - The country's overall Travel and Tourism Development Index score is 2.1% lower than its 2019 level.
  - Germany -6<sup>th</sup>, UK -7<sup>th</sup>, China - 8<sup>th</sup>, Italy - 9<sup>th</sup>, Switzerland - 10<sup>th</sup>
4. Delhi has been placed 350 in the Oxford Economics Global Cities Index 2024, making it the highest ranked Indian city. The ranking compares the world's 1000 cities.

- Bengaluru, India's IT hub, stood at 411, higher than the country's financial capital Mumbai, which stood at 427.
5. The International Day for Biological Diversity is celebrated every year on May 22. This year, it falls on a Wednesday. The theme for 2024 is "Be Part of the Plan."
  6. Jyoti Ratre, an entrepreneur and fitness enthusiast from Madhya Pradesh, has become the oldest Indian woman to conquer Mount Everest. The 55-year-old mountaineer reached the summit at 6:30 a.m. on Sunday, May 19.
  7. The Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying signed an MoU with UNDP India to digitalize vaccine cold chain management, enhancing realtime monitoring and addressing supply inequities.
    - The partnership will employ advanced technology, including AI, through the Animal Vaccine Intelligence Network to ensure vaccines remain within the optimal temperature range of 2-8°C.
  8. Seven months into the war in Gaza, the International Criminal Court's (ICC) prosecutor is seeking arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Defence Minister Yoav Gallant, and three Hamas leaders for war crimes.

- The ICC is an international tribunal seated in The Hague, Netherlands, which, when warranted, tries individuals charged with the gravest crimes of concern. The court's announcement about the warrants came just hours after Iran President Ebrahim Raisi and Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian died in a fatal helicopter crash.

**9.** General To Lam was elected as the new president of Vietnam by the Vietnamese parliament on 22 May 2024. To Lam, who was the public security minister, was removed from his post as minister by the Vietnamese parliament before being elected president.

- The appointment comes after Vietnam's former President Vo Van Thuong resigned two months back amid a corruption crackdown.

**10.** Australia and Uzbekistan have been confirmed as the hosts of the 2026 and 2029 editions of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Women's Asian Cup.

- Australia will host the continent's premier women's national team competition for the second time in history, having staged the 2006 edition. Uzbekistan will become the first Central Asian nation to organize the tournament.

**11.** A five-year-old girl from Malappuram district in Kerala who had been undergoing treatment for amoebic meningoencephalitis at the Government Medical College Hospital Kozhikode has died.

- Fadva, daughter of Padinjarepeediyekkal Hassan Kutty and Fasnaof Moonniyur, had been under treatment at the Institute of Maternal and Child Health of the medical college hospital since May 13. She was on ventilator support for over a week.