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## VOCABULARY

1. Polarization: The process of dividing people or opinions into opposing groups or positions.
  - Synonyms: Segregation, Partisanization, Fragmentation, Factionalization.
  - Antonyms: Harmony, Cooperation, Integration, Consensus.
  - sentence: The country's polarization became evident during the heated election season.
  
2. Scurry: To move hurriedly with short and quick steps.
  - Synonyms: Hasten, Skitter, Dash, Rush, Dart.
  - Antonyms: Trudge, Linger, Stroll, Saunter, Amble.
  - sentence: The children watched the ants scurry across the sidewalk with fascination.
  
3. Persist: To continue firmly in an opinion or a course of action.
  - Synonyms: Endure, Prevail, Carry on, Persevere.
  - Antonyms: Cease, Halt, Stop, Quit.
  - sentence: She persisted, despite the odds stacked against her.
  
4. Compliance: The act of obeying a rule, request or demand.
  - Synonyms: Conformity, Adherence, Accordance, Obedience.
  - Antonyms: Defiance, Resistance, Non-conformity, Disobedience.
  - sentence: The restaurant ensured compliance with health codes.

5. Underwhelming: Something that fails to impress or meet expectations.
- Synonyms: Disappointing, Subpar, Unsatisfactory.
  - Antonyms: Impressive, Outstanding, Remarkable, Exceptional.
  - sentence: The presentation was underwhelming, lacking in both content and delivery.
6. Virtuous: Someone who has high moral standards and behaves in a righteous manner.
- Synonyms: Honorable, Ethical, Morally upright, Good.
  - Antonyms: Immoral, Unethical, Corrupt, Wicked.
  - sentence: His virtuous actions spoke volumes about his character.
7. Galvanized: To excite someone into taking action.
- Synonyms: Energized, Motivated, Stirred, Ignited.
  - Antonyms: Deterred, Demotivated, Discouraged.
  - sentence: The inspiring speech galvanized the crowd into taking action towards positive change.
8. Meagre: Lacking in quantity or quality.
- Synonyms: Inadequate, Insufficient, Limited, Bare.
  - Antonyms: Abundant, Plentiful, Ample, Generous.
  - sentence: Despite her hard work, she received only a meagre salary.

- 9. Archaic:** Something that is very old or ancient.
- Synonyms: Antique, Outdated, Obsolete.
  - Antonyms: Modern, Contemporary, Innovative.
  - sentence: The museum displayed a collection of archaic artifacts from centuries ago.
- 10. Proponent:** Someone who supports a particular idea.
- Synonyms: Advocate, Champion, Defender, Promoter.
  - Antonyms: Opponent, Critic, Adversary, Detractor.
  - sentence: The environmentalist was a vocal proponent of renewable energy initiatives in her community.

### **IDIOMS AND PHRASES**

- 11. Walk the talk:** Follow through on one's words with corresponding actions.
- 12. See the light of the day:** Something becoming known or revealed.
- 13. Set the bar higher:** Raising the standard or expectations, often in the context of achieving a new record.
- 14. Veer into:** A sudden shift in focus or behavior.
- 15. Edging out:** To surpass someone or something, usually in a competitive context.

## **CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2024**

1. World Press Freedom Day is observed on 3 May every year.
  - The Theme of World Press Freedom Day 2024 is "A Press for the Planet: Journalism in the Face of the environmental crisis".
2. Sri Lanka's Cabinet has approved the plan to renovate the Kankesanthurai port in the Northern part of the island. The project will be executed under an Indian financial grant. The project had faced delays as estimated costs surpassed available funds.
3. The air quality in Kathmandu was at the top of the list of cities with 'unhealthy air' in the world.
  - According to IQAir, an organization that measures the real-time pollution of 101 cities in the world, Kathmandu was found to be the most polluted city in the world.
4. The Gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections hit a record high in April 2024 at ₹2.10 lakh crore. This represents a significant 12.4% year-on-year growth, driven by a strong increase in domestic transactions (up 13.4%) and imports (up 8.3%). After accounting for refunds, the net GST revenue for April 2024 stands at ₹1.92 lakh crore, reflecting an impressive 15.5% growth compared to the same period last year.

- 5.** Zimbabwe has launched a new currency called the ZiG (short for Zimbabwe Gold) in an attempt to address the country's long-running currency crisis. The ZiG, backed by Zimbabwe's gold reserves, was introduced electronically in early April and has now been released in banknote and coin form.
- 6.** India will host the 46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM 46) and the 26th Meeting of the Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP 26) from May 20 to 30, 2024, in Kochi, Kerala.

  - The National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research, Union Ministry of Earth Science, will host the meeting. Over 350 delegates from more than 60 countries are expected to attend the 46th ATCM and 26th CEP meetings.
- 7.** China's Chang'e-6 lunar probe is poised for launch, aiming to gather samples from the Moon's far side. In a historic partnership, Pakistan's ICUBE-Q will join the mission, marking Pakistan's debut.
- 8.** India has kickstarted the process of unifying its four airspace regions into one spanning the entire nation under Project ISHAN.
- 9.** The inaugural season of the National Women's Hockey League 2024 –2025 will be held in Ranchi from April 30 to May 9, Hockey India announced.

- 10.** The Indian Army and Punit Balan Group collaborate to inaugurate Pune's Constitution Park. Lt. Gen. Ajai Kumar Singh stresses citizen duty towards development by 2047.
- 11.** Kenya's Mwaniki and Lilian take the honours in TCS world 10K Bengaluru.

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