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## VOCABULARY

- 1. Unleashed:** To release or set free.
  - Synonyms: Unshackled, Unfettered, Unlocked, Unbound.
  - Antonyms: Restrained, Controlled, Tamed, Suppressed.
  - sentence: The storm unleashed its fury on the coastal town.
  
- 2. Casualties:** The people who are killed, injured or harmed in a specific event.
  - Synonyms: Fatalities, Damages, Losses, Injuries.
  - Antonyms: Survivors, Unharmed, Escaped, Intact.
  - sentence: The earthquake caused many casualties in the city.
  
- 3. Vulnerable:** Someone or something that is susceptible to being harmed.
  - Synonyms: Weak, Fragile, Sensitive, Exposed.
  - Antonyms: Resilient, Immune, Protected, Shielded.
  - sentence: She felt vulnerable after sharing her deepest secrets with him.
  
- 4. Relentlessly:** Continuously and without stopping.
  - Synonyms: Persistently, Incessantly, Resolutely, Steadfastly.
  - Antonyms: Sporadically, Periodically, Erratically, Haphazardly.
  - sentence: The detective pursued the suspect relentlessly through the crowded streets.

**5. Ceasefire:** A temporary halt in fighting.

- Synonyms: Truce, Armistice, Suspension, Cessation.
- Antonyms: Combat, Strife, Violence, Confrontation.
- sentence: The ceasefire brought a temporary relief to the war-torn region.

**6. Retaliation:** Seeking revenge for a perceived wrongdoing.

- Synonyms: Retribution, Reprisal, Counterattack, Vengeance.
- Antonyms: Reconciliation, Forgiveness, Resolution, Peacemaking.
- sentence: He feared retaliation if he spoke out against the injustice.

**7. Preaches:** Delivering a speech especially with a moral or religious message.

- Synonyms: Lectures, Teaches, Sermonizes, Exhorts.
- Antonyms: Ignores, Neglects, Conceals, Abandons.
- sentence: She preaches environmental conservation through her artwork.

**8. Mounting:** Becoming more intense over time.

- Synonyms: Escalating, Intensifying, Augmenting, Surging.
- Antonyms: Diminishing, Waning, Ebbing, Receding.
- sentence: The mounting evidence pointed towards his innocence.

- 9. Intransigence:** An inflexible or uncompromising attitude.
- Synonyms: Rigidity, Obstinacy, Firmness, Steadfastness.
  - Antonyms: Flexibility, Adaptability, Cooperation, Amiability
  - sentence: Her intransigence made compromise impossible
- 10. Sully:** The act of tarnishing someone's reputation.
- Synonyms: Staining, Blemishing, Marring, Ruining.
  - Antonyms: Honoring, Dignifying, Exalting. Sanctifying.
  - sentence: Her remarks had the unintended consequence of sully her own reputation.
- 11. Distress:** Causing anxiety or discomfort.
- Synonyms: Troubling, Upsetting, Agonizing, Perturbing.
  - Antonyms: Pleasant, Delightful, Comforting, Uplifting.
  - sentence: The news of the accident was distressing for everyone involved.
- 12. Embolden:** To give someone the courage to do something bold.
- Synonyms: Encourages, Strengthens, Spurs, Galvanizes.
  - Antonyms: Deters, Disheartens, Deflates, Undermines.
  - sentence: The supportive comments from her friends emboldened her to pursue her dreams.

## **IDIOMS AND PHRASES**

13. Burn bridges: Cutting off ties with former allies or enemies.
14. Bite the bullet: To endure a painful or difficult situation with courage.
15. Bring someone to account: Hold someone responsible for their actions or decisions.
16. Piling up: Accumulating or gathering in large quantities.
17. Shoot down: To reject or dismiss an idea or proposal.

## **CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**4<sup>th</sup> May, 2024**

1. India has reiterated support for a Two-State solution where the people of Palestine can live freely in an independent country within secure borders, with due regard to the security needs of Israel, Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, Ruchira Kamboj said.
2. ICICI Bank has etched its name among India's top five companies by market capitalization, surpassing the Rs 8 trillion mark. The private lender's shares surged over 5%, propelling its market value to new heights and cementing its position as a financial powerhouse.
3. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has sought USD 100 million from the Ministry of Defence to develop a high-power laser weapon, named Directionally Unrestricted Ray-Gun Array (DURGA) II, a lightweight directed energy weapon (DEW).
  - It is a 100-kilowatt lightweight DEW and can be used by armed forces.
  - It aims to provide the Indian armed forces with cutting-edge technology capable of neutralising various threats, including drones, missiles, and artillery shells.

4. Dr Purnima Devi Barman won the GBP 1,00,000 Whitley Gold Award from the Whitley Fund for Nature (WFN), which supports grassroots conservation leaders from around the world, at a Royal Geographical Society awards ceremony in London on Wednesday evening.
5. The Central Government has approved the appointment of Shashi Bhushan Singh (IRTS) as Secretary (at Director level) of National Jute Board, Kolkata under the Ministry of Textiles.
6. Jeremiah Manele was elected as the new Prime Minister of the Solomon Islands on May 2, 2024, succeeding incumbent Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare.
  - Manele, a former foreign minister, won 31 votes against Opposition leader Matthew Wales' 18 votes in the 50-seat parliament.
7. World Tuna Day, observed annually on May 2nd, is dedicated to raising awareness about the critical importance of tuna conservation. Tuna is popular for its numerous health benefits, as it provides Omega-3 fatty acids, protein, and vital vitamins. But, tuna populations face significant threats due to overfishing and unsustainable fishing practices.

- 8.** India ranked 159, two spots higher than last year, in the 2024 edition of the Press Freedom Index, published annually by Reporters Without Borders. It's behind Turkey, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, which are ranked at positions 158, 152, and 150, respectively.
- Palestine has dropped just one rank from 156 to 157, despite a months-long Israeli offensive that has ostensibly left the highest number of journalists dead in any conflict in this decade. While Palestinian authorities estimate the death toll to be at least 140, the Committee to Protect Journalists pegs it at around 90.
- 9.** The renowned Indian dairy giant Amul has been named the Lead Arm sponsor for the USA and South Africa cricket teams during the highly anticipated T20 World Cup in June.