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VOCABULARY

1. Jubilant: Feeling or expressing great happiness.
 - Synonyms: Ecstatic, Elated, Euphoric, Delighted.
 - Antonyms: Depressed, Mournful, Gloomy, Melancholic.
 - sentence: The students were jubilant when they received their exam results.

2. Besieged: To be surrounded by hostile forces with the intent to capture.
 - Synonyms: Encircled, Blockaded, Swamped, Assailed.
 - Antonyms: Liberated, Released, Unfettered, Unrestricted.
 - sentence: The town was besieged by heavy snowfall, trapping residents indoors for days.

3. Averted: To prevent something undesirable.
 - Synonyms: Avoided, Obviated, Deterred, Thwarted.
 - Antonyms: Provoked, Initiated, Ignited, Prompted.
 - sentence: His quick reflexes averted a collision with the oncoming car.

4. Reprieve: A temporary relief or suspension of a punishment.
 - Synonyms: Respite, Postponement, Stay, Abatement.
 - Antonyms: Punishment, Conviction, Sentencing, Penalty.
 - sentence: The heavy rain provided a reprieve from the scorching heat.

5. Famine: An extreme scarcity of food.

- Synonyms: Hunger, Starvation, Dearth, Paucity.
- Antonyms: Abundance, Plentitude, Opulence, Bounty.
- sentence: The famine left many families struggling to find enough food to eat.

6. Unleashed: To release or set free.

- Synonyms: Unbridled, Unbound, Unshackled, Unfettered.
- Antonyms: Controlled, Tamed, Governed, Restrained.
- sentence: The new policy unleashed a wave of protests across the country.

7. Calamity: An event causing great damage.

- Synonyms: Disaster, Adversity, Tragedy, Catastrophe.
- Antonyms: Prosperity, Boon, Fortune, Blessing.
- sentence: The sudden storm brought calamity to the coastal village.

8. Balk: To obstruct progress or unwilling to proceed.

- Synonyms: Impede, Thwart, Hesitate, Hinder, Halt.
- Antonyms: Continue, Proceed, Advance, Follow through.
- sentence: The horse balked at jumping over the fence.

- 9. Revocation:** The act of officially cancelling or withdrawing something.
- Synonyms: Nullification, Abrogation, Rescind, Annulment.
 - Antonyms: Validation, Ratification, Endorsement, Authorization.
 - sentence: The judge's revocation of his bail shocked the accused.
- 10. Perishable:** Items that are likely to spoil.
- Synonyms: Decaying, Rotting, Fading, Putrescible.
 - Antonyms: Durable, Everlasting, Indestructible.
 - sentence: Unlike fruits and vegetables, which are perishable, canned goods are non-perishable and can be stored for long periods of time.

IDIOMS AND PHRASES

- 11. A far cry:** Something that is significantly different or distant from another thing.
- 12. Cut no ice:** To not cause someone to change their opinion or decision.
- 13. Cutting off one's nose to spite one's face :** The act of hurting oneself in an attempt to punish someone else.
- 14. Took to:** To start to like or enjoy something.
- 15. Bring up:** Raise a topic for discussion.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

9th May, 2024

1. Archaeologists have recently discovered a 7000-year-old pre-historic settlement near the Tamiš River in northeastern Serbia.
 - The settlement is believed to date back to the late Neolithic period and spans roughly 11- 13 hectares, surrounded by four to six ditches.
2. The Border Road Organisation (BRO) celebrated its 65th raising day on 7 May 2024. A ceremony was organised in New Delhi on the occasion, presided over by the Union Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane.
3. The Newari and Tamang languages have been brought into use as the languages for official works within the Bagmati province of Nepal. Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' declared the launching of the Bagmati Province Official Language Act, 2080 today.
4. The pharmaceutical giant AstraZeneca's Covid-19 vaccine is being withdrawn worldwide days after the firm acknowledged in court documents that it can cause a rare and dangerous side effect.
 - AstraZeneca, however, attributed the move to "commercial reasons".

5. A new species of marine tardigrade discovered from the southeast coast of Tamil Nadu has been named *Batillipes chandrayaana* after the Chandrayaan-3 moon mission by researchers at the Cochin University of Science and Technology (Cusat). The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is credited with the first landing near the south pole of the moon.
6. A special citation was issued to the late writer and critic Gregory Stephen Tate (Greg Tate), an American writer, musician, and producer.
- A special citation was also given to journalists and media workers covering the war in Gaza.
 - The prestigious Pulitzer Prizes for 2024 were announced on May 7, 2024, by Columbia University in the United States of America. The awards, considered the most prestigious in the fields of journalism and arts, were conferred by Columbia University on the recommendation of the Pulitzer Prize Board.
7. As tensions rise in the South China Sea and the threat of a war over Taiwan becomes more palpable, the US Pentagon is stepping up its regional defense diplomacy in a potent challenge to China's rising regional threats and ambitions.
- US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin hosted counterparts from Japan, Australia and the Philippines for what is being privately referred to as a budding new "Squad" defense partnership in the Indo-Pacific region.

8. Kerala Health Department has sounded an alert in the districts of Thrissur, Malappuram and Kozhikode following the detection of the vector-borne West Nile fever. The disease claimed a life in Thrissur and six other confirmed cases were reported in Kozhikode and Malappuram in the last two days.
- Samples of people, who showed symptoms of the disease and underwent treatment, were sent by the administration to the Pune-based National Institute of Virology as a routine exercise.
9. ICICI Bank enables NRIs to use UPI in India with their international mobile numbers, streamlining payments without requiring an Indian mobile number.
- Founded –1994
 - Headquarters – Mumbai
 - MD & CEO – Sandeep Bakhshi
 - Tagline – Hum Hai Na Khayal Apka
10. Japan defeated Uzbekistan in the final to win the Men's AFC U-23 Asian Cup for the second time. Japan had earlier won the tournament title in 2016.
- In the final match played at the Jassim bin Hamad Stadium in Doha, Qatar, Japan won by a solitary goal and also qualified for the 2024 Paris Olympics.
 - The 6th edition of AFC U-23 was held in Qatar from 15 April to 3 May 2024.