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## VOCABULARY

1. Fortitude: Courage in pain or adversity.
  - Synonyms: Bravery, resilience, endurance
  - Antonyms: Cowardice, weakness
  - Sentence: She showed great fortitude during the competition.
  
2. Bickering: Arguing about petty and trivial matters.
  - Synonyms: Quarreling, squabbling, arguing
  - Antonyms: Agreeing, cooperating, harmonizing
  - Sentence: The siblings were constantly bickering over small issues.
  
3. Autonomy: The right or condition of self-government.
  - Synonyms: Independence, self-rule, sovereignty
  - Antonyms: Dependence, subjugation, control
  - Sentence: The region has demanded greater autonomy from the central government.
  
4. Prejudice: Preconceived opinion that is not based on reason or actual experience.
  - Synonyms: Bias, partiality, preconceived notion
  - Antonyms: Impartiality, fairness, neutrality
  - Sentence: Prejudice against certain groups should not influence decisions.

**5. Proscribed:** Forbid, especially by law.

- Synonyms: Banned, prohibited, outlawed
- Antonyms: Permitted, allowed, authorized
- Sentence: The organization was proscribed due to its extremist activities.

**6. Piloting:** Leading or guiding (a project or initiative).

- Synonyms: Steering, directing, guiding
- Antonyms: Following, trailing, neglecting
- Sentence: He is piloting a new initiative to improve healthcare services.

**7. Sectarian:** Denoting or concerning a sect or sects.

- Synonyms: Factional, partisan, divisive
- Antonyms: Universal, inclusive, nonpartisan
- Sentence: Sectarian violence has plagued the region for decades.

**8. Wherewithal:** The means or resources to do something.

- Synonyms: Means, resources, capability
- Antonyms: Incapacity, lack, insufficiency
- Sentence: They lacked the wherewithal to complete the project on time.

9. Rebuffed: Reject (someone or something) in an abrupt or ungracious manner.
- Synonyms: Rejected, spurned, turned down
  - Antonyms: Accepted, embraced, welcomed
  - Sentence: He rebuffed all offers of help.
10. Emphatic: Showing or giving emphasis; expressing something forcibly and clearly.
- Synonyms: Assertive, Vigorous
  - Antonyms: Hesitant, Uncertain
  - Sentence: She was emphatic in her refusal to join the project.

### IDIOMS AND PHRASES

11. Under a cloud: Under suspicion, in trouble, or out of favor.
12. To play fast and loose: behave irresponsibly or immorally.
13. To clip one's wings: to limit someone's ability to do or say things.
14. To put a spoke in one's wheel: to hinder
15. To nip in the bud: To stop something in the starting

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

12<sup>th</sup> June, 2024

1. Peru and Slovakia on May 30, signed NASA's Artemis Accords, making them the latest in a rapid number of countries to join the U.S.-led agreement on the safe exploration of space.
  - Both countries signed the accords at NASA's Washington headquarters, but in separate ceremonies with Peru the first to add its name to the accords on May 30 followed by Slovakia. Peru became 41st and Slovakia 42nd countries to do so.
2. French President Emmanuel Macron has dissolved the country's parliament, as well as the National Assembly, calling for snap elections after exit polls showcased his party's heavy loss in European parliamentary elections on Sunday.
  - Preliminary estimates showed that the far-right National Rally (RN) party won 31.5 per cent of the vote, more than double the share of Macron's Renaissance Party, which barely managed to secure second place with 15.2 percent of the vote, ahead of the Socialists in third place with 14.3 percent.
3. Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates has revealed plans to release his highly anticipated memoir, titled "Source Code: My Beginnings." Set to hit the shelves on February 4, 2025.

- 4.** The Indian digital payment company PhonePe has announced a partnership with Sri Lankan ride-hailing platform PickMe. This collaboration allows Indian travelers in Sri Lanka to use PhonePe's UPI payment option to pay for PickMe rides, enabling cashless transactions and enhancing travel convenience.
- 5.** Prem Singh Tamang of the Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) was sworn in as the chief minister of Sikkim for the second consecutive term. The SKM was swept back into power in the recently concluded state legislative assembly election by winning 31 out of 32 seats of the Sikkim Legislative Assembly.
- 6.** The Indian tripartite delegation led by Secretary (Labour & Employment), Ms. Sumita Dawra, participated in the 112th session of the International Labour Conference (ILC) of International Labour Organisation (ILO) being held in Geneva Switzerland.
- 7.** Ashis Kumar Dash has been selected for the appointment as Director in NITI Aayog recommended by the Department of Commerce. He is an Indian Trade Service (ITradeS) service officer of the 2008 batch.

- Arvind Kumar appointed as Deputy Secretary in NITI Aayog recommended by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme. He is an Indian Statistical Service (ISS) officer of the 2015 batch.
8. A tech-based innovation, an integrated generator monitoring, protection and control system, developed by the Indian Army was launched on June 5. 'Vidyut Rakshak', developed by the Army Design Bureau (ADB) was launched by the Army's Vice Chief Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi.
9. Bhajan Lal Sharma, the Chief Minister of Rajasthan, has announced an ambitious plan to develop the Maharana Pratap Tourist Circuit with an investment of Rs 100 crore.
- This announcement was made on 8 June 2023 during the inauguration of the Maharana Pratap Jayanti celebration in Udaipur, where the 484th birthday of the legendary Maharana Pratap of Mewar was celebrated on 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2024 (according to the Hindu calendar).
10. The Canadian Grand Prix 2024, also known as the AWS GRAND PRIX DU CANADA 2024, witnessed a remarkable display of skill and determination as Dutch-Belgian racing driver Max Verstappen of Red Bull.