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VOCABULARY

- 1. Trope:** A figurative or metaphorical use of a word or expression.
 - Synonyms: Cliché, motif, metaphor
 - Example: The trope of "hero versus villain" is commonly seen in films.

- 2. Hailed:** Acclaimed or praised enthusiastically.
 - Synonyms: Acclaimed, praised, lauded
 - Antonyms: Criticized, denounced
 - Sentence: The scientist was hailed for her groundbreaking research.

- 3. Salient:** Most noticeable or important.
 - Synonyms: Prominent, conspicuous, notable
 - Antonyms: Insignificant, minor, unimportant
 - Sentence: The most salient point of the meeting was the discussion on climate change.

- 4. Communique:** An official announcement or statement, especially one made to the media.
 - Synonyms: Announcement, bulletin, declaration
 - Antonyms: Concealment, suppression
 - Sentence: The government issued a communique regarding the new policy.

- 5. Recommitted:** Pledged again to do something.
- Synonyms: Reaffirmed, renewed, rededicated
 - Antonyms: Abandoned, neglected
 - Sentence: The organization recommitted to its mission of providing education for all.
- 6. Opportune :** Occurring at a favorable or appropriate time.
- Synonyms: Timely, well-timed, appropriate
 - Antonyms: Inopportune, untimely, inconvenient
 - Sentence: The meeting was held at an opportune moment to address the crisis.
- 7. Recourse:** A source of help in a difficult situation.
- Synonyms: Resort, aid, help
 - Antonyms: Obstruction, hindrance
 - Sentence: Legal recourse was sought to resolve the dispute.
- 8. Apogee:** The highest point in the development of something; a climax or culmination.
- Synonyms: Climax, pinnacle, peak
 - Antonyms: Nadir, bottom, low point
 - Sentence: The empire reached its apogee during the reign of its most powerful ruler.

- 9.** Gumption: Shrewd or spirited initiative and resourcefulness.
- Synonyms: Initiative, resourcefulness, enterprise
 - Antonyms: Indolence, laziness, passivity
 - Sentence: It takes a lot of gumption to start a new business in this economy.
- 10.** Anodyne: Not likely to provoke dissent or offense; inoffensive, often deliberately so.
- Synonyms: Inoffensive, bland, harmless
 - Antonyms: Provocative, offensive, harmful
 - Sentence: His anodyne comments were intended to avoid any controversy.

IDIOMS AND PHRASES

- 11.** Under the weather : Feeling ill / Getting a cold
- 12.** Cold feet : Becoming nervous
- 13.** Apple of my eye : Used to refer to someone whom you are very fond of or like
- 14.** Set the record straight : To reveal the truth / To clarify
- 15.** Kill two birds with a stone : Achieve two results by doing one thing.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

19th June, 2024

1. Saudi Arabia has decided not to renew its 50-year petrodollar deal with the United States, which expired on Sunday, June 9.
 - This agreement, originally signed on June 8, 1974, had been a key part of US global economic influence.
 - The deal set up joint commissions for economic cooperation and Saudi Arabia's military needs. Back then, American officials hoped it would encourage Saudi Arabia to produce more oil and strengthen economic ties with Arab countries.
2. Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister Neth Savoeun and Indian Ambassador to the country Devyani Khobragade launched the first-ever direct flight between Phnom Penh and New Delhi .
 - The flight between the two capitals will be operated four times a week by Cambodia's national flag carrier Cambodia Angkor Air.
3. Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra will make her electoral debut from the Wayanad Lok Sabha seat in Kerala in a bypoll, after her brother and former Congress chief, Rahul Gandhi, decided to retain the Rae Bareli seat in Uttar Pradesh.

- Mr. Gandhi won both the seats in the recently concluded Lok Sabha election but as rules allow only one seat to be retained, he had to choose within 14 days of being elected as an MP. The deadline to do so is June 18.
4. The Assam CM also launched the Janata Bhawan Solar Project during a ceremony at the state Secretariat complex on Sunday. Under the project, the state government would promote the use of renewable energy. It features a 2.5 MW capacity grid-connected solar PV system installed on rooftops and ground surfaces.
 5. On June 18th, countries around the world observe the International Day for Countering Hate Speech. This important day aims to raise awareness about the harmful effects of hate speech and promote strategies to identify, address, and counter it.
 - This year's theme, "The Power of Youth for Countering and Addressing Hate Speech," highlights the crucial role that young people play in fostering a more inclusive and harmonious society.
 6. The official name for the new species of snake eel is "Ophichthus Suryai." It was found several times in different places in Odisha last year. The name of this species comes from Surya Kumar Mohanty, who used to be a joint head of the state's fishery department.

- 7.** In Mercer's 2024 Cost of Living Survey released on June 17, Mumbai solidifies its position as India's most expensive city for expatriates, climbing to 136th globally and 21st in Asia.
- New Delhi follows at 30th within Asia, showcasing a notable shift in cost dynamics across Indian cities. Despite economic challenges, India remains resilient, offering affordability advantages for global talent recruitment.
 - The survey highlights varying cost increases in housing and consumer goods across major Indian cities, with Delhi experiencing the highest rise. Mumbai leads in transportation and personal care costs, while Kolkata emerges as the most economical for essentials. Globally, Hong Kong retains its status as the priciest city for expats, underscoring diverse cost-of-living trends worldwide.
- 8.** The Indian Railways completed a successful trial of an electric engine from Sangaldan to Reasi, crossing the world's highest steel arch rail bridge, the Chenab Bridge.
- 9.** India has more nuclear weapons than Pakistan, while China has increased its nuclear arsenal from 410 warheads in January 2023 to 500 in January 2024, as per a report by a Swedish think-tank.

- With the world witnessing two wars in the past two years, an analysis by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) found that nine nuclear-armed nations, including India, Pakistan and China, continued to modernise their nuclear arsenals.

10. In a thrilling final at the BWF Australian Open 2024 in Sydney on Sunday (16 June), Lee ZiiJia from Malaysia emerged victorious against Naraoka Kodai of Japan, securing his second title of the season.

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