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VOCABULARY

1. Ceiling: An upper limit set on the number or amount of something.
 - Synonyms: Limit, cap, maximum
 - Antonyms: Base, floor, minimum
 - Sentence: The government imposed a ceiling on the number of immigrants allowed into the country each year.

2. Preamble: A preliminary statement, especially the introduction to a formal document.
 - Synonyms: Introduction, preface, foreword
 - Antonyms: Conclusion, ending, epilogue
 - Sentence: The preamble of the Constitution outlines the goals and purposes of the document.

3. Crystallised: Made clear or definite; given a definite form.
 - Synonyms: Solidified, clarified, defined
 - Antonyms: Confused, obscured, blurred
 - Sentence: The discussion helped crystallise our ideas about the project.

4. Pruning: Trimming or cutting away dead or overgrown branches or stems to encourage growth.
 - Synonyms: Trimming, cutting, clipping
 - Antonyms: Growing, cultivating, nurturing
 - Sentence: The gardener spent the morning pruning the rose bushes.

5. Stymie: To prevent or hinder the progress of.
- Synonyms: Hinder, block, thwart
 - Antonyms: Assist, facilitate, aid
 - Sentence: The complicated rules stymied their efforts to complete the project on time.
6. Deprived: Suffering a severe and damaging lack of basic material and cultural benefits.
- Synonyms: Disadvantaged, underprivileged, impoverished
 - Antonyms: Privileged, affluent, wealthy
 - Sentence: The charity works to provide educational opportunities for deprived children.
7. Ostensible: Stated or appearing to be true, but not necessarily so.
- Synonyms: Apparent, seeming, superficial
 - Antonyms: Genuine, real, actual
 - Sentence: The ostensible reason for his visit was to inspect the new facility.
8. Indulge: Allow oneself to enjoy the pleasure of.
- Synonyms: Pamper, gratify, satisfy
 - Antonyms: Deprive, deny, restrain
 - Sentence: She decided to indulge in a luxurious spa day after a long week of work.

9. Behoove: To be necessary, proper, or advantageous for.
- Synonyms: Be appropriate, benefit, suit
 - Antonyms: Disregard, neglect
 - Sentence: It would behoove you to start saving for retirement early.
10. Misgivings: Feelings of doubt or apprehension about the outcome or consequences of something.
- Synonyms: Doubts, reservations, apprehensions
 - Antonyms: Confidence, certainty, assurance
 - Sentence: She had serious misgivings about taking the new job.
11. Rescind: Revoke, cancel, or repeal (a law, order, or agreement).
- Synonyms: Revoke, annul, cancel
 - Antonyms: Enforce, uphold, ratify
 - Sentence: The policy was rescinded after numerous complaints from the public

IDIOMS AND PHRASES

12. Bits and Pieces : small things of different types
13. Kick the bucket : Die
14. A man of straw: A weak person
15. Bite your tongue : To avoid talking
16. At the drop of a hat : Willing to do something immediately

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CURRENT AFFAIRS

24th June, 2024

1. Every year on June 23, the world celebrates International Olympic Day, a commemoration of the modern Olympic Games and an opportunity to promote the values of sports across the globe.
 - This day holds significant importance not just for athletes and sports enthusiasts, but for everyone who appreciates the spirit of competition, unity, and athleticism.
2. Scientists caution that climate change induced rising sea levels could cause Delos, a tiny Aegean Sea island near bustling Mykonos, to vanish within the next 50 years.
 - Delos is described as one of the most important sanctuaries of the ancient Greek and Roman world.
3. The annual Ambubachi Mela at Kamakhya temple, atop Nilachal hills in Assam's Guwahati, commenced on Saturday with worship stopped for the next four days, coinciding with the ritualistic annual menstrual cycle of the goddess.
 - Lakhs of devotees attend the mela and wait for the resumption of worship and pay obeisance to the goddess.

4. Tajikistan passes bill to ban Hijab and children's celebration during Eid (A nation where 96% Muslims live): The Bill was passed by the lower house of the Parliament (the Majlisi Namoyandagon) on May 8, and approved by the upper house (the Majlisi Milli) on June 19, after Eid celebrations. This move gives legal weight to the remarks made by President Emomali Rahmon, who has referred to the hijab as "foreign clothing".
5. Recently, the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) won the Blue Planet Prize for 2024.
 - IPBES was awarded as "the leading global authority on the state of knowledge and science about biodiversity, ecosystem services and nature's contributions to people".
 - The other awardee is Robert Costanza from the Institute for Global Prosperity, University College London, for his contributions to the field of ecological economics.
6. The Truenat platform, a rapid molecular test for the diagnosis of pulmonary, extrapulmonary, and rifampicin-resistant tuberculosis, that was developed in India, has been hailed for its role in combating TB and as a possible component of global healthcare solutions at the recently-held 77th World Health Assembly in Geneva.

- Developed by Goa-based Molbio, a point-of-care molecular diagnostics company, Truenat was first launched in 2017 and is a real-time quantitative micro-PCR system. It is a portable, battery-operated machine that can be deployed at labs, health centres, and in the field. Truenat delivers results from samples in less than an hour and can test for over 40 diseases.
7. The 53rd GST Council met under the Chairpersonship of Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi. The meeting was attended by key officials, including Union Minister of State for Finance Shri Pankaj Chaudhary, Chief Ministers of Goa and Meghalaya, Deputy Chief Ministers of Bihar, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, and Odisha, Finance Ministers of States & UTs (with legislature), and senior officers of the Ministry of Finance & States/ UTs.
 8. The Iberian lynx, one of the rarest cat species globally, has moved from being 'endangered' to 'vulnerable' on The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List,
 9. Punjab Police conducted a massive state-level cordon and search Operation (CASO) named 'EAGLE-IV' on Friday, targeting identified drug hotspots across the state, according to an official statement.

- Over 500 police teams, comprising more than 4,000 personnel, cordoned off 392 drug hotspots, the points of sale of drugs and psychotropic substances, and arrested 254 persons. Additionally, 352 checkpoints were established around these areas, the statement said.

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