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## VOCABULARY

- 1. Espionage:** The act of spying or using spies to obtain political or military information.
  - Synonyms: Spying, intelligence, surveillance
  - Antonyms: Openness, transparency, public
  - Sentence: The double agent was arrested and charged with espionage.
  
- 2. Reprisal:** An act of retaliation.
  - Synonyms: Retaliation, retribution, revenge
  - Antonyms: Forgiveness, pardon, clemency
  - Sentence: The government warned that any attack would be met with swift reprisal.
  
- 3. Hounding:** Harassing or pursuing relentlessly.
  - Synonyms: Persecuting, chasing, harrying
  - Antonyms: Ignoring, neglecting, leaving
  - Sentence: The paparazzi were hounding the celebrity wherever she went.
  
- 4. Reprieve:** A temporary relief or delay.
  - Synonyms: Pardon, respite, deferment
  - Antonyms: Continuation, persistence, sentencing
  - Sentence: The unexpected storm provided a reprieve from the summer heat.

**5. Troves:** Valuable or delightful collections.

- Synonyms: Hoards, caches, treasures
- Sentence: The museum's new exhibit features troves of ancient artifacts.

**6. Indicted:** Formally charged with a crime.

- Synonyms: Accused, charged, arraigned
- Antonyms: Acquitted, exonerated, cleared
- Sentence: The businessman was indicted for fraud and embezzlement.

**7. Extradition:** The action of extraditing a person accused or convicted of a crime.

- Synonyms: Deportation, handover, rendition
- Antonyms: Asylum, refuge, shelter
- Sentence: The country has signed an extradition treaty with its neighbor.

**8. Doggedly:** In a manner that shows tenacity and grim persistence.

- Synonyms: Stubbornly, persistently, resolutely
- Antonyms: Lazily, indifferently, passively
- Sentence: She doggedly pursued her goal despite numerous setbacks.

- 9.** Elusive: Difficult to find, catch, or achieve.
- Synonyms: Evasive, slippery, intangible
  - Antonyms: Accessible, attainable, obtainable
  - Example: The answer to the mystery proved to be elusive.
- 10.** Hostility: Hostile behavior; unfriendliness or opposition.
- Synonyms: Antagonism, enmity, animosity
  - Antonyms: Friendship, goodwill, kindness
  - Sentence: There was visible hostility between the two rival groups.

### IDIOMS AND PHRASES

- 11.** Burn the midnight oil : read or work late into the night.
- 12.** Throw in the towel : To quit in defeat.
- 13.** In the same boat : be in the same difficult circumstances as others.
- 14.** Get over something : to deal with a problem successfully
- 15.** On cloud nine : to be extremely happy and excited.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

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

1. Chief Minister of Haryana, Nayab Singh Saini, on Sunday, June 23, announced an increase in the annual income limit for creamy layer from Rs6 lakh to Rs8 lakh, in line with the Centre.
  - He further announced that the reservation for backward classes in Group-A and Group-B jobs, which is now at 15 per cent, will be enhanced to 27 per cent, in accordance with the Central government's policy. It is expected that it will provide significant benefits in employment to the OBC category.
2. The government of India-owned Coal India Limited subsidiary company, Eastern Coalfields Limited, has launched a pilot project for in situ underground coal gasification at the Kasta coal block in Jamtara District, Jharkhand. The coal will not be removed from the mine, and the coal gasification process will take place within the mine.
  - If the project is successful, it will create transformative opportunities for India's energy sector, showcasing the sustainable and efficient use of the country's coal resources.

- 3.** 22 year old Dhiraj Bommadevara won two bronze medals for India at the Archery World Cup 2024 stage 3 in Antalya, Turkiye on 23 June 2024. The Indian team finished their campaign at Antalaya with four medals- one gold,one silver and two bronze.
- The Archery World Cup 2024 stage 3 was organised by the World Archery at Antalya, Turkiyee from 18 to 23 June 2024.
- 4.** Indian cricket captain Rohit Sharma achieved a historic milestone in the ongoing ICC T20 World Cup Super 8 match against Australia, becoming the first-ever batter to notch up 200 sixes in T20 Internationals. The prolific opener reached this landmark in spectacular fashion at the Daren Sammy National Cricket Stadium.
- Cummins, who captains Australia in ODIs and Tests, is the only bowler to take two hat-tricks in T20 World Cups and the first to do so in consecutive matches. He led Australia to winning the World Test Championship and the ODI World Cup last year, beating India in the final on both the occasions.
- 5.** The Kerala Legislative Assembly, in a unanimous decision on June 24, passed a resolution proposing a Constitutional amendment to change the name of the State from 'Kerala' to 'Keralam'. The resolution, moved by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, called for invoking Article 3 of the Indian Constitution to effectuate this change in the First Schedule.

**6.** Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda launched the National STOP Diarrhoea Campaign 2024, on June 24.

- He was joined by Smt. Anupriya Patel and Shri Jadhav Patraprao Ganpatrao, Union Ministers of State for Health and Family Welfare. The dignitaries also released IEC materials like logo, posters, radio spots and audio visuals for the campaign and distributed oral rehydration salts (ORS) and zinc tablets to children on the occasion.

**7.** The National Aeronautical Space Administration (NASA) has been at the forefront of sharing with us some fascinating images and videos of Earth and space. Recently, NASA shared a stunning picture of the 'Phobos', one of the two moons of Mars. One of the highlights of the rare picture is that the moon appears to be like a potato.

- The moon is being referred to as 'Space Potato' due to its unique shape and texture. In the caption, NASA wrote, "Phobos is the larger of Mars' two moons, but it's still only about 17 x 14 x 11 miles (27 by 22 by 18 kilometres) in diameter. Because Phobos is so small, its gravity isn't strong enough to pull it into a sphere (like Earth's Moon), giving it its lumpy shape."

- 8.** India is hosting the 64th International Sugar Organisation (ISO) Council Meeting from June 25 to 27 in New Delhi. Delegates from over 30 countries and representatives of many international organisations are participating.
- Discussions will focus on critical issues of the sugar and biofuel sector. An industrial tour to a grain-based distillery in Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh will showcase India's biofuel technology. A workshop titled 'Sugar and Biofuels – Emerging Vistas' will be held at Bharat Mandapam, inaugurated by Minister Pralhad Joshi.
  - India is nominated as the Chair of ISO for 2024 due to being the largest consumer and second-largest producer of sugar. ISO has about 85 member countries, covering nearly 90% of global sugar production. ISO aims to foster mutual understanding and progressive approaches among major sugar-producing, consuming, and trading nations.
- 9.** Somalia's only all-women news team, Bilan, has won the 2024 One World Media Press Freedom Award today, becoming the first Somali media team to receive this honour.