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VOCABULARY

1. Brute: Savage; cruel; resembling a brute or beast in qualities.
 - Synonyms: Savage, cruel, brutal
 - Antonyms: Gentle, kind, humane
 - Sentence: The brute force used by the ruling party to secure defections undermined democratic principles.

2. Draconian : Excessively harsh and severe, especially of laws or regulations.
 - Synonyms: Harsh, severe, stringent
 - Antonyms: Lenient, gentle, mild
 - Sentence: The government's draconian measures to curb dissent were widely criticized by civil society.

3. Foist: To force someone to accept (something unwanted); to impose an unwelcome or unnecessary person or thing.
 - Synonyms: Impose, thrust, impose
 - Antonyms: Accept, embrace, welcome
 - Sentence: The government tried to foist new regulations on the industry without consulting stakeholders.

4. Resist : To withstand the action or effect of something; to oppose or strive against someone or something.
 - Synonyms: Oppose, withstand, confront
 - Antonyms: Accept, yield, surrender
 - Sentence: Citizens must resist any attempts to curtail their fundamental rights.

5. Vicious: Deliberately cruel or violent; involving violence or damage.
- Synonyms: Brutal, ruthless, malicious
 - Antonyms: Gentle, kind, benevolent
 - Sentence: The mob engaged in a vicious attack on the opposition supporters.
6. Perils : Serious and immediate danger; risks or hazards.
- Synonyms: Dangers, risks, threats
 - Antonyms: Safety, security, protection
 - Sentence: Explorers faced many perils on their journey through the treacherous mountains.
7. Stifle: To suppress, restrain, or stop (an activity or process); to suffocate or smother.
- Synonyms: Suppress, restrain, inhibit
 - Antonyms: Encourage, promote, support
 - Sentence: The government tried to stifle dissent by arresting protesters.
8. Fig Leaf: A covering or excuse that hides a defect or shortcomings; something used to conceal a true purpose or character.
- Synonyms: Covering, pretext, disguise
 - Antonyms: Revelation, exposure, clarity
 - Sentence: The investigation revealed that the company's ethics policy was just a fig leaf for unethical practices.

9. Decisively : In a manner that settles an issue or argument; conclusively.
- Synonyms: Conclusively, definitively, conclusively
 - Antonyms: Indecisively, hesitantly, uncertainly
 - Sentence: The jury's verdict decisively ended the long legal battle.
10. Vigilant: Watchful and alert, especially to avoid danger or difficulty.
- Synonyms: Watchful, alert, attentive
 - Antonyms: Careless, inattentive, negligent
 - Sentence: A vigilant citizenry is crucial for maintaining a healthy democracy.

IDIOMS AND PHRASES

11. Off the chain : Extremely good.
12. Hit the books : To study.
13. Hit the sack : To go to bed in order to sleep.
14. Over the hill : Something is old and no longer fit, attractive, or capable of doing useful work.
15. Through thick and thin : Through difficult times and Situations.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

27th June, 2024

1. Om Birla, a BJP MP, has been re-elected as the Speaker of the 18th Lok Sabha through a voice vote, with a contested election against INDIA bloc's Kodikunnil Suresh.
 - Article 93 of the Indian Constitution mandates the election of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker by a simple majority of Lok Sabha members.
 - Om Birla is a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP from Rajasthan's Kota constituency.
2. China's Chang'e 6 spacecraft has successfully brought samples from the far side of the moon back to Earth, marking the first-ever return of materials from this scarcely seen lunar region.
 - The historic feat signals not only China's soaring ambitions as a rising space-exploration superpower but also the next phase of a new space race with the U.S. and its allies to establish outposts at the strategically valuable lunar south pole.
3. Ladakh has made history by achieving a 97% literacy rate, marking it as a fully "functionally literate" union territory. This remarkable milestone was reached following the successful implementation of the ULLAS - Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram scheme.

4. Indian wrestlers have ended their campaign in the Under 17 Asian Wrestling Championship 2024 with a total of 11 medals- four gold, two silver, and five bronze. The annual Under 17 & Under 23 Asian Wrestling Championship 2024 is being held in the Jordanian capital city of Amman from 22-30 June 2024.
- The U-17 championship was held from 22 to 24 June 2024. After the end of the U-17 championship, the U-23 championship has started.
 - The Indian wrestlers competed in the men's and women's freestyle and men's Greco-Roman categories. There were 10 weight divisions in each of the three wrestling formats per age group.
 - The 2023 U-17 & U-23 Asian Wrestling Championship was held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.
5. The Indian Army has established a new skin bank facility to treat severe burn injuries and other skin conditions. In a skin bank, the donated skin can be preserved for up to 5 years.
6. On the occasion of the International Day for Women in diplomacy, UNGA president Dennis Francis paid tribute to Hansa Mehta, a feminist leader, activist and diplomat from India, highlighting her pivotal role in shaping the UDHR to be more inclusive.

- Hansa Mehta is widely credited for successfully arguing against references to "men" as a synonym for humanity, and succeeded in changing the phrase, "All men are born free and equal" to "All human beings are born free and equal" in Article 1 of the UDHR.
7. In Assam, amid devastating floods and landslides claiming lives, children in relief camps will receive educational support through a school in a box initiative.
 - Designed by UNICEF, these kits cater to children aged 6-18, providing learning materials to ensure education continuity despite displacement and trauma. disasters.
 8. Lt Gen NS Raja Subramani is set to be the next Vice Chief of Army Staff with the government clearing his appointment to the post, official sources said on June 20.
 9. A rare Indian Painted Frog has been spotted at the Kawal Tiger Reserve in Telangana, marking a significant find outside its usual habitats in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and western parts of India. This sighting is noteworthy as the species, known scientifically as *Kaloula pulchra*, is seldom seen in Telangana. The frog was previously recorded in Adilabad and Medak in two other instances.

- 10.** The United States of America has designated Kenya as its major non-NATO ally, MNNA. A memorandum published by the White House stated that the MNNA status is a designation under US law that provides foreign partners with certain benefits in the areas of defence trade and security cooperation.

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