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VOCABULARY

1. Exonerate: To absolve someone from blame or fault.
 - Synonyms: Absolve, acquit, clear
 - Antonyms: Convict, blame, accuse
 - Example: New evidence served to exonerate the accused man, leading to his release.

2. Impounded: Seized and taken legal custody of something.
 - Synonyms: Confiscated, seized, detained
 - Antonyms: Released, freed, returned
 - Sentence: The police impounded the vehicle for parking violations.

3. Aggravated: Made more severe or intense, especially in relation to an offense or injury.
 - Synonyms: Worsened, exacerbated, intensified
 - Antonyms: Alleviated, mitigated, eased
 - Sentence: The situation was aggravated by the lack of communication between the parties.

4. Incarcerated: Imprisoned or confined.
 - Synonyms: Imprisoned, jailed, detained
 - Antonyms: Freed, released, liberated
 - Sentence: He was incarcerated for five years for a crime he did not commit.

- 5. Foster:** Encourage or promote the development of something (typically something regarded as good).
- Synonyms: Encourage, nurture, promote
 - Antonyms: Hinder, neglect, suppress
 - Sentence: The organization aims to foster community spirit through various events.
- 6. Disquiet:** A feeling of anxiety or worry.
- Synonyms: Unease, anxiety, worry
 - Antonyms: Calm, peace, tranquility
 - Sentence: The news of the layoffs caused disquiet among the employees.
- 7. Reprieve :** A cancellation or postponement of a punishment.
- Synonyms: Pardon, respite, clemency
 - Antonyms: Punishment, penalty, condemnation
 - Sentence: The governor granted a last-minute reprieve to the death row inmate.
- 8. Doggedly:** In a manner that shows tenacity and grim persistence.
- Synonyms: Tenaciously, persistently, determinedly
 - Antonyms: Lazily, indifferently, passively
 - Sentence: She doggedly pursued her goal despite numerous setbacks.

- 9. Solicit:** Ask for or try to obtain something from someone.
- Synonyms: Request, seek, ask
 - Antonyms: Reject, refuse, deny
 - Sentence: The charity organization is trying to solicit donations for the flood victims.
- 10. Foisting:** Impose an unwelcome or unnecessary person or thing on.
- Synonyms: Impose, force, inflict
 - Antonyms: Remove, relieve, eliminate
 - Sentence: The manager tried foisting additional work on his already overburdened team.

IDIOMS AND PHRASES

- 11. On the ball :** Quick to understand and react to things
- 12. Face the music :** To accept unpleasant consequences
- 13. Ring a bell :** To sound familiar or to remind you of something.
- 14. Blow off steam:** To do something that helps you to get rid of strong feelings.
- 15. Cut to the chase :** Come to the point

CURRENT AFFAIRS

28th June, 2024

1. Uttar Pradesh's Cabinet approved Tata Sons' Rs 650 crore proposal to build an Ayodhya 'museum of temples,' funded through Tata's CSR. Additionally, Rs100 crore was allocated for Ayodhya's development, and helicopter services will start in Lucknow, Prayagraj, and Kapilvastu.
2. India's first artificial intelligence university, Universal AI University (UAIU), has appointed international strategist and multiple award-winning professor Simon Mak as its vice-chancellor. Mak is the first non-Indian to hold the position of founding vice chancellor of an Indian institution.
3. Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Chennai have been featured in the QS World Ranking 2025 by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) Best Cities Rankings. Delhi has risen to the 111th position, becoming the second most affordable city for students. Bengaluru climbed to the 130th spot, ranking as the seventh-cheapest city. London retains its top spot as the best student city globally, followed by Tokyo in second place.

4. June 27 is observed as Micro, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) Day every year. On April 6, 2017, the UN General Assembly decided to observe this day to raise public awareness of their contribution to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
 - According to a report by the International Council for Small Business (ICSB), Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) make up over 90 percent of all firms and account on average for 60-70 percent of total employment.
5. Recently, the India-Russia mutual logistics agreement named the Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Agreement (RELOS) is now ready for finalisation. It will facilitate military cooperation between India and Russia, including joint exercises, training, and disaster relief efforts.
6. Paraguay has become the 100th country to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA) as a full member. Paraguay handed over its Instrument of Ratification to the ISA in New Delhi on 26 June 2024.
 - The ceremony involved Paraguay's Ambassador to India, Fleming Raul Duarte, and Abhishek Singh, Joint Secretary of Economic Diplomacy and States Division at India's Ministry of External Affairs.

7. The Comptroller and Auditor General of India inaugurated the 'Chadwick House: Navigating Audit Heritage' Museum at Shimla on June 24. A significant milestone in the preservation and celebration of the institution's rich heritage and contributions to the nation's governance.
8. Madhya Pradesh cabinet on June 25 decided that State Ministers will have to pay their Income Tax, instead of the state government bearing such burden.
 - Chief Minister Mohan Yadav in a statement said the cabinet has taken a decision to strike off the 1972 rule, under which the State government was paying the Income Tax on the salaries and perks of Ministers.
9. South India's first and the country's largest leopard safari was inaugurated by Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre on Wednesday at the Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP).
 - As per Central Zoo Authority guidelines for safaris, an area of 20 hectares has been demarcated and fenced for the safari.

10. Anush Agarwalla has been selected by the Equestrian Federation of India (EFI) to represent India in dressage at the Paris Olympics.

- EFI preferred Anush Agarwalla over Shruti Vora due to his consistently superior performances, achieving an average score of 67.695% compared to Shruti's 67.163% in recent assessments. It will be India's first-ever entry at the dressage event at the Olympics.

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