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VOCABULARY

1. Insidious: proceeding in a gradual, subtle way but with harmful effects
 - Synonyms: Stealthy, sneaky
 - Antonyms: Beneficial, harmless
 - Sentence: The insidious disease spread throughout the community before anyone realized its severity.
2. Incendiary: designed to cause fires or conflict
 - Synonyms: Inflammatory, provocative
 - Antonyms: Peacemaking, soothing
 - Sentence: The politician's incendiary remarks ignited riots in the city.
3. Devastating: causing severe shock, distress, or destruction
 - Synonyms: Destructive, disastrous
 - Antonyms: Fortuitous, beneficial
 - Sentence: The hurricane had a devastating impact on the coastal community.
4. Pervasive: spreading widely throughout an area or a group of people
 - Synonyms: Ubiquitous, omnipresent
 - Antonyms: Limited, localized
 - Sentence: Corruption is so pervasive in the system that it's hard to find any clean operations.

5. Proprietor: the owner of a business, or a holder of property
- Synonyms: Owner, holder
 - Antonyms: Tenant, lessee
 - Sentence: The proprietor of the cafe greeted the customers warmly.
6. Headway: forward movement or progress
- Synonyms: Progress, advancement
 - Antonyms: Retreat, regression
 - Sentence: The negotiation team is making little headway in resolving the conflict.
7. Revamp: give new and improved form, structure, or appearance to
- Synonyms: Renovate, refurbish
 - Antonyms: Ruin, damage
 - Sentence: The company decided to revamp its old product line to reattract customers.
8. Appalling: causing shock or dismay; horrific
- Synonyms: Horrifying, awful
 - Antonyms: Pleasant, comforting
 - Sentence: The conditions in the refugee camps were appalling.

9. Holistic: comprehending all the parts of something as interconnected and explicable only by reference to the whole
- Synonyms: Comprehensive, entire
 - Antonyms: Partial, fragmentary
 - Sentence: The therapist recommends a holistic approach to health, which includes physical, mental, and emotional well-being.
10. Grim reminder: A serious warning or an example that makes people remember something, especially something bad or dangerous that should not be forgotten.
11. Tailor-made: Made or adapted for a particular purpose or person.

Idioms & Phrases

12. Set aside: To save or reserve something, especially money or time, for a particular purpose.
13. Cough up: To provide money, especially when the payment is reluctant or unwelcome.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

30th May, 2024

1. The Philippines is taking steps to make divorce legal, which is a big change in policy. Representative Edcel Lagman pushed for this bill to become law in the House of Representatives, which it recently passed.
 - The Bill's goal is to give people who are stuck in violent or dysfunctional marriages legal freedom. It will now go to the Senate for further approval.
2. World Hunger Day is observed every year on 28 May.
 - This day raises awareness about the urgent issue of global hunger. It's time to acknowledge the millions suffering from malnutrition and the need for sustainable solutions to end hunger for good.
 - Theme 2024 – Thriving Mothers, Thriving World
 - In 2011, The Hunger Project, a global organisation dedicated to ending hunger and poverty, established World Hunger Day as a yearly event.
 - This day serves as a platform to advocate for sustainable solutions that address the root causes of hunger, promote food security, and empower communities.
3. Thousands of devotees from various parts of the Tamil Nadu participated in the 'Vaikaasi Visaagam' festival held at Lord Subramaniya Swami Temple.

- As the festival commenced on May 13, the 10th day celebrations started on Wednesday with traditional rituals and prayers from 1 a.m. onwards. After the 'abhishekam' and 'deepaaraadhanai' at 10.30 a.m., the deity reached the 'vasantha mandapam' in a golden car at 4 p.m. Following the 'giriveethi' procession along with Valliand Devayani, the festival came to an end in the night.
4. A research testbed facility has been proposed to help meteorologists to deploy drones, mobile vans and high-end instruments to track the Nor'westers, or Kalbaisakhi, that affect the east and northeast regions of India every summer.
- Norwesters Impact: Though the Norwesters were less active this summer, there were occasional instances in April and early May.
 - Strong winds and thunderstorms swept through the northern districts of West Bengal, Assam and Tripura, killing at least five people last month.
5. On May 30, 1987, the territory was split, and Goa was formed as the 25th state of the Republic of India. Panaji was designated as the capital of Goa, and Konkani was declared the official language. Since then, Goa Statehood Day has been observed annually on May 30.
6. Hindi Journalism Day May 30 marks the important event in the history of Hindi Journalism. India's first Hindi newspaper 'Udant Martand' was published on this day in the year 1826.

- Pandit Jugal Kishore Shukla in 1826 has started 'Udant Martand' from Calcutta (now Kolkata) as its editor and publisher. This eight pages editorial was a weekly newspaper published every Tuesday, which priced Rs. 2 annually.
7. Major Radhika Sen, an Indian woman peacekeeper, who served with the UN mission in Congo, will be honored with a prestigious 2023 UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year.
- She served in the East of the Democratic Republic of the Congo from March 2023 to April 2024 as the Commander of MONUSCO's Engagement Platoon for the Indian Rapid Deployment Battalion.
 - UN Secretary-General: Antonio Guterres
8. Ghana has signed deals with a Reliance Jiosubsidiary, Tech Mahindra and other vendors to build 4G and 5G infrastructure as the African country aims to enhance its telecom capabilities.
- Ghana's state-backed Next-Gen Infrastructure Company (NGIC) has partnered with Jio's arm Radisys, Tech Mahindra and Nokia to build the necessary infrastructure for delivering affordable 5G mobile broadband services.
9. Taking a "hands-off approach", the Supreme Court Friday adjourned an application filed by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), an NGO, seeking directions to the Election Commission (EC) to publish booth-wise voter

turnout figures and to make the Form 17C vote tally records available online within 48 hours of polling for each phase of the ongoing Lok Sabha polls.

- The court noted that with five phases of elections already completed and two pending (the sixth phase was held the following day), it would be difficult for the EC to allocate the necessary resources at this juncture.
- The SC then adjourned the interlocutory application filed by the NGO on 9 May, saying that granting any interim relief would amount to granting relief in the main petition pending before the court since 2019. The court then asked ADR to list the matter before a regular bench after the court's summer vacation.

10. Four players finished the Sharjah Masters atop the standings with 6½ points.

- IM Divya Deshmukh drew against IM Leya Garifullina to win the Sharjah Challengers 2024.
- Bardiya Daneshvar, aged 17, claimed tournament victory at the Sharjah Masters 2024 .
- Safin, Vivaan Rana, and Jayaraj Gowrishankar are 3 more Indians to make a top-10 finish in the Futures.