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VOCABULARY

1. **Heralded:** To be a sign that something is about to happen.
 - Synonyms: Announced, proclaimed, signaled
 - Antonyms: Concealed, hidden, suppressed
 - Sentence: The new product launch was heralded by a massive advertising campaign.

2. **Prodigiously:** Impressively great in size, force, or extent; enormous.
 - Synonyms: Enormously, immensely, vastly
 - Antonyms: Slightly, insignificantly, negligibly
 - Sentence: The young pianist was prodigiously talented, wowing audiences worldwide.

3. **Perpetual:** Never ending or changing; occurring repeatedly; so frequent as to seem endless and uninterrupted.
 - Synonyms: Everlasting, eternal, incessant
 - Antonyms: Temporary, fleeting, intermittent
 - Sentence: The perpetual noise from the construction site made it hard to concentrate.

4. **Flux:** Continuous change or movement.
 - Synonyms: Flow, fluctuation, instability
 - Antonyms: Stability, steadiness, constancy
 - Sentence: The company is in a state of flux as it undergoes major restructuring.

5. Engendered: To cause or give rise to a feeling, situation, or condition.
- Synonyms: Caused, provoked, generated
 - Antonyms: Suppressed, prevented, stifled
 - Sentence: The politician's speech engendered a strong reaction from the audience.
6. Fraught: Filled with or likely to result in something undesirable.
- Synonyms: Full of, loaded with, rife with
 - Antonyms: Empty, devoid, vacant
 - Sentence: The negotiations were fraught with tension and hostility.
7. Unassailable: Unable to be attacked, questioned, or defeated.
- Synonyms: Invincible, undeniable, irrefutable
 - Antonyms: Vulnerable, questionable, disputable
 - Sentence: The fortress was built on a hill, making it practically unassailable.
8. Mettle: A person's ability to cope well with difficulties or to face a demanding situation in a spirited and resilient way.
- Synonyms: Courage, spirit, fortitude
 - Antonyms: Cowardice, timidity, weakness

- Sentence: The soldier showed his mettle in the face of danger.

9. Condoned: To accept or allow behavior that is morally wrong or offensive to continue.

- Synonyms: Overlooked, ignored, tolerated
- Antonyms: Condemned, criticized, denounced
- Sentence: The teacher could not condone cheating during exams.

IDIOMS AND PHRASES

10. Break a leg : Good luck
11. Miss the boat : It's too late
12. On the ball : Doing a good job
13. The best of both worlds : An ideal situation
14. To get bent out of shape : To get upset

CURRENT AFFAIRS

16th July, 2024

1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has achieved a significant milestone by surpassing 100 million followers on his social media account X. This notable growth includes an increase of about 30 million followers over the past three years.
2. Spain won their fourth European Championship by defeating England 2-1 in the Euro 2024 final in Berlin.
 - Nico Williams scored first for Spain early in the second half assisted by Lamine Yamal. England's Cole Palmer equalized with a left-footed strike from outside the box. Spain's Mike Oyarzabal secured the victory with a late goal from Marc Cucurella's pass.
 - This win adds to Spain's previous Euro titles from 1964, 2008, and 2012. England faced another final defeat after losing to Italy in Euro 2020.
3. The Indian Air Force (IAF) contingent has landed at the Darwin air base of the Royal Australian Air Force to participate in the biennial Pitch Black exercise. In a first, Bhawana Kanth who was the first female pilot of the IAF to fly Su-30MKI fighters planes is also participating in the exercise Pitch Black.

- 4.** India will host the first World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit (WAVES) in Goa from 20- 24 November 2024. This was announced by the Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Ashwani Vaishnaw, at a curtain-raiser event in New Delhi.
- 5.** World Youth Skills Day, observed annually on July 15th, was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2014. This day serves as a global platform to highlight the importance of equipping young people with skills essential for employment, decent work, and entrepreneurship.

 - As we approach the 2024 celebration, the theme “Youth Skills for Peace and Development” takes center stage, emphasizing the crucial role of young people in fostering peace and driving sustainable development.
- 6.** State-owned Punjab National Bank (PNB) on Tuesday introduced a new security feature 'Safety Ring' within its internet banking system and mobile banking system in response to the increasing number of cyber frauds.

 - This mechanism provides an additional safety layer to minimise potential losses in case of unauthorised access by fraudsters, PNB said in a statement.

- 7.** The Andhra Pradesh Community Managed Natural Farming (APCNF), a State government's initiative launched through Rythu Sadhikara Samstha (RySS) seven years ago, has won the 2024 Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity, an award instituted by Portugal-based Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation (CGF) and presented annually to individuals and organisations contributing to global food security, climate resilience and ecosystem protection.
- The APCNF shares this year's one million euro prize money with two others-renowned soil scientist Rattan Lal and Egypt-based SEKEM, a conglomeration of NGOs and businesses championing holistic approaches to tackle climate change.
- 8.** The Centre has strengthened the authority of the Lieutenant Governor (LG) of Jammu and Kashmir through amendments to the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019.
- The amended rules, effective immediately upon publication in the Official Gazette, significantly enhance the LG's powers, particularly in matters related to transfers, postings of all-India service officers, police, and judicial appointments.

- 9.** In a recent update by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), Qutub Minar has left Agra Fort behind to become the second most visited monument by foreigners in 2023-24, after the famous Taj Mahal. Qutub Minar is a stunning 13th-century architectural marvel built during the reign of Delhi Sultanate.
- 10.** NASA's CHAPEA project involved four volunteers living in a simulated Mars habitat for a year to study the challenges of long-duration missions to Mars.
- The mission, part of NASA's Crew Health and Performance Exploration Analog (CHAPEA), was the first of three planned simulations.
 - The habitat, called "Mars Dune Alpha," was a 1,700 sq ft 3D-printed structure at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, designed to replicate Martian conditions, including a backdrop of red, rocky cliffs and simulated Martian soil.
 - The crew experienced conditions similar to those on Mars, including spacewalks in "Marswalks" suits, growing vegetables, and dealing with communication delays, limited resources, and prolonged isolation.