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VOCABULARY

1. Exculpatory: Clearing someone of guilt or blame.
 - Synonyms: Vindicating, absolving, exonerating
 - Antonyms: Incriminating, accusing, implicating
 - Sentence: The new evidence presented in court was exculpatory and led to the defendant's acquittal.

2. Vehemence: The display of strong feeling; passion.
 - Synonyms: Intensity, fervor, ardor
 - Antonyms: Apathy, indifference, calmness
 - Sentence: The vehemence of his argument surprised everyone in the room.

3. Perversity: A deliberate desire to behave in an unreasonable or unacceptable way; contrariness.
 - Synonyms: Obstinacy, stubbornness, willfulness
 - Antonyms: Compliance, agreeableness, conformity
 - Sentence: The perversity of the decision baffled all the employees.

4. Swelling: Increasing in size or volume; expanding.
 - Synonyms: Growing, enlarging, expanding
 - Antonyms: Shrinking, contracting, decreasing
 - Sentence: The swelling number of job seekers is a significant challenge for the economy.

5. Unincorporated: Not constituted as a legal corporation.
- Synonyms: Unorganized, non-corporate, informal
 - Antonyms: Incorporated, formalized, structured
 - Sentence: Many small businesses operate as unincorporated entities to avoid complex regulations.
6. Reiterated: Say something again or a number of times, typically for emphasis or clarity.
- Synonyms: Repeated, restated, emphasized
 - Antonyms: Neglected, ignored, disregarded
 - Sentence: The teacher reiterated the importance of studying for the upcoming exam.
7. Revulsion: A sense of disgust and loathing.
- Synonyms: Disgust, abhorrence, repulsion
 - Antonyms: Attraction, affection, admiration
 - Sentence: She felt a sense of revulsion at the sight of the dirty room.
8. Alleviating: Making (suffering, deficiency, or a problem) less severe.
- Synonyms: Easing, relieving, mitigating
 - Antonyms: Aggravating, exacerbating, worsening
 - Sentence: The new policy was aimed at alleviating poverty in the region.

9. Convene: To call together for a meeting.

- Synonyms: Summon, assemble, gather
- Antonyms: Disperse, dismiss, adjourn
- Sentence: The committee will convene next week to discuss the new project.

IDIOMS AND PHRASES

10. Rain cats and dogs: Rain heavily
11. No avail: Without any result
12. Be in a tight corner: In a very difficult situation
13. Bring to light: Disclose
14. Chew the cud: Ponder over something

CURRENT AFFAIRS

18th July, 2024

- 1.** Nallathamby Kalaiselvi, the first woman Director General of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), on Tuesday was granted a two-year extension in service.
 - A government order said the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet had approved the extension of tenure of Ms. Kalaiselvi "for a period of two years beyond 07.08.2024, or until further orders, whichever is earlier."
- 2.** The International Cricket Council (ICC) is set to make history as it holds its Annual Conference in Sri Lanka from July 19th to 22nd, 2024. This marks the first time the prestigious event will be hosted in the Asian region, highlighting the growing importance of Asian cricket on the global stage.
- 3.** Mandela Day is an annual global celebration that takes place on 18 July to honour the life and legacy of Nelson Mandela. This day is a call to action for individuals, communities, and organisations to take time to reflect on Mandela's values and principles and to make a positive impact in their own communities.

4. July 16, marks the official beginning of Sawan accompanied by the vibrant Harela festival celebrated across Uttarakhand. This traditional festival holds deep significance for the region's agriculture and culture, symbolising prosperity and overall well-being.
- Harela is a significant Hindu festival observed in Uttarakhand and parts of Himachal Pradesh, particularly popular in the Kumaun region of Uttarakhand. Celebrated with immense enthusiasm, Harela signifies peace, prosperity, and the celebration of nature.
 - This traditional festival holds deep cultural and environmental importance, symbolising prayers and hopes for abundant harvests and prosperity through divine blessings.
 - It also commemorates the ceremonial union of Shiva and Parvati.
5. Roberta Metsola, a prominent Maltese politician, has secured a historic second term as President of the European Parliament, making her the first woman to achieve this feat in the EU assembly's history. Known for her leadership and advocacy, Metsola garnered significant support from EU politicians, receiving 562 out of 623 votes in her favor.

6. Scientists of Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) have discovered a new species of deep-water dogfish shark, *Squalus hima*, from the Sakthikulangara fishing harbour in Kerala along the Arabian Sea.
- *Squalus* is a genus of dogfish sharks in the family Squalidae. commonly known as spurdogs, and are characterised by smooth dorsal fin spines.
7. The United States will start deploying long-range fire capabilities in Germany in 2026 in an effort to demonstrate its commitment to NATO and European defense, the United States and Germany said in a joint statement on Wednesday.
- The United States' "episodic deployments" are in preparation for longer-term stationing of such capabilities that will include SM-6, Tomahawk cruise missiles and developmental hypersonic weapons that have a longer range than current capabilities in Europe, the two countries said.
8. An Asian elephant at Houston zoo in the US has received the first mRNA vaccine against herpes, which is the leading killer of Asian elephants calves in captivity.
- Tess, a 40-year-old Asian elephant, was injected with the trial vaccine at the Texas zoo in June, after a spate of deaths in juveniles in zoos around the world from the elephant endotheliotropic herpesvirus (EEHV).

9. Rwandan President Paul Kagame was gearing up on July 16 for a fourth term after winning a thundering 99.15% of votes according to partial results from an election where only two challengers were allowed to run against him.
- The outcome of the July 15 poll was never in doubt, with Mr. Kagame ruling the small African nation with an iron fist as de facto leader then president for three decades.

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