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VOCABULARY

- 1. Discourse: Written or spoken communication or debate.
 - Synonyms: Discussion, conversation, dialogue
 - Antonyms: Silence, quiet, monologue
 - Sentence: The academic conference was filled with enlightening discourse on climate change.
- Prevalence: The fact or condition of being prevalent; commonness.
 - Synonyms: Ubiquity, widespread presence, commonness
 - Antonyms: Rarity, infrequency, uncommonness
 - Sentence: The prevalence of mobile phones has significantly changed communication habits.
- 3. Dissenting: Holding or expressing opinions that are at variance with those previously, commonly, or officially expressed.
 - Synonyms: Disagreeing, differing, opposing
 - Antonyms: Agreeing, conforming, concurring
 - Sentence: The judge wrote a dissenting opinion, arguing against the majority's decision.
- 4. Envisaged: Contemplate or conceive of as a possibility or a desirable future event.
 - Synonyms: Imagined, envisioned, anticipated
 - Antonyms: Disregarded, ignored, neglected

- Sentence: The architect envisaged a modern, eco-friendly building.
- 5. Dilution: The action of making something weaker in force, content, or value.
 - Synonyms: Weakening, reduction, attenuation
 - Antonyms: Strengthening, intensification, concentration Sentence: The dilution of the brand's reputation occurred after several scandals.
- 6. Arbitrage: The simultaneous buying and selling of securities, currency, or commodities in different markets to take advantage of differing prices for the same asset.
 - Synonyms: Speculation, trading, profiteering
 - Antonyms: Investment, loss, holding
 - Sentence: The trader engaged in arbitrage to benefit from the price differences in various markets.
- 7. Evacuation: The action of evacuating a person or a place.
 - Synonyms: Removal, withdrawal, clearance
 - Antonyms: Ingress, arrival, occupancy
 - Sentence: The government ordered the evacuation of residents due to the approaching hurricane.

- 8. Displaced: Forced to leave their home, typically because of war, persecution, or natural disaster.
 - Synonyms: Uprooted, relocated, dislodged
 - Antonyms: Settled, stationed, established
 - Sentence: The refugees were displaced by the conflict and sought shelter in neighboring countries.
- 9. Besieged: Surrounded by armed forces aiming to capture it or force surrender.
 - Synonyms: Encircled, surrounded, blockaded
 - Antonyms: Freed, liberated, unencumbered
 - Sentence: The ancient city was besieged by the invaders for months.
- 10. Eroding: Gradually wearing away.
 - Synonyms: Deteriorating, degrading, corroding
 - Antonyms: Strengthening, enhancing, improving
 - Sentence: The coastline is slowly eroding due to the constant wave action.

IDIOMS AND PHRASES

- 11. A mare's nest: A false invention
- 12. A man of straw: A weak person
- 13. Call a spade a spade: Straight talks
- 14. Field day: An enjoyable day or circumstance
- 15. Doing the rounds: To be passed from one person to another

CURRENT AFFAIRS 27th July, 2024

- 1. Eminent filmmaker Shekhar Kapur has been appointed as the festival director of the 55th and 56th editions of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI), Goa. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has issued an order in this regard. The 55th edition of IFFI will be held from 20th to 28th November 2024.
- 2. The winners of the 10th National Community Radio Award were announced by the Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Ashwini Vaishnaw, on 25 July 2024. The minister also inaugurated the country's 500th Community Radio Station. The chief minister of Mizoram Lalduhoma was also present on the occasion.
- 3. A contingent of the Indian Army has departed for Mongolia to participate in the multinational military exercise KHAAN QUEST. The 21st multinational KHAAN QUEST exercise will be held in the Mongolian capital of Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, from 27 July to 9 August 2024.
- **4.** As the 10th edition of the Malabar River Festival, one of the biggest whitewater kayaking championships in the continent is set to begin on July 25 (Thursday) at Meenthullipparain Chakkittapara grama panchayat in Kozhikode, kayaking icons from all over the world have started arriving for the festival.

- 5. Moidams Ahom dynasty's unique Mound-Burial system in Assam has become the 43rd site from India to be inscribed on @UNESCO's World Heritage List. Nearly 700 yrsold, Moidamsare hollow vaults of brick, stone or earth & contain the remains of kings & royals," announced United Nations in India.
- 6. The Israeli Knesset has approved a bill to designate the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA) as a terrorist organization. This move proposes severing relations with the agency, which Israel accuses of collaborating with Hamas and other militant groups in Gaza.
- **7.** Recently, Bolivia became fulltime member of MERCOSUR groupings in order to increase trades with member countries.
- 8. Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) has unveiled the country's new air-to-surface missile dubbed "Wind Demon" at the Farnborough International Airshow 2024.
 - Weighing 140 kilograms (308 pounds), the weapon can be launched from aerial platforms such as attack helicopters and fighter jets.
 - Its long-range capabilities allow it to engage both mobile and stationary targets more than 200 kilometers (124 miles) away.

- Additionally, the Wind Demon can fly at extremely low altitudes, reducing the risk of detection and interception by enemy air defenses.
- According to the manufacturer, the new generation weapon leverages modern capabilities and is built on "years of experience in missiles and loitering munition development."
- 9. The European Space Agency recently announced that its new Ramses spacecraft may accompany the asteroid Apophis before and after its safe, albeit rather close, pass of Earth.
 - ESA is the second major space agency, after NASA, to commit a space mission for Apophis that was once considered to be on a pathway to collide with the Earth. Apophis will come within 32,000 km of the Earth in 2029, offering space agencies a rare opportunity to study an asteroid from such close quarters.
- 10. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy spoke with Estonia's newly elected Prime Minister Kristen Michal on his first day in office, July 22. The discussion centered on Estonia's ongoing military support for Ukraine and future cooperation.