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VOCABULARY

- 1. Fortified:** Strengthened with defensive works to protect against attack.
 - Synonyms: Strengthened, secured, reinforced
 - Antonyms: Weak, vulnerable, exposed
 - Sentence: The city was heavily fortified to withstand enemy assaults.
- 2. Retaliation:** The action of returning an attack or injury in kind.
 - Synonyms: Revenge, retribution, vengeance
 - Antonyms: Forgiveness, pardon, mercy
 - Sentence: In retaliation for the attack, the army launched a counter-offensive.
- 3. Deter:** To discourage someone from doing something, typically by instilling doubt or fear of the consequences.
 - Synonyms: Discourage, prevent, hinder
 - Antonyms: Encourage, incite, promote
 - Sentence: The heavy penalties are meant to deter people from committing crimes.
- 4. Entrenched:** Firmly established and difficult to change.
 - Synonyms: Established, rooted, ingrained
 - Antonyms: Unstable, weak, temporary
 - Sentence: Corruption was so entrenched in the system that reforms seemed almost impossible.

- 5. Dislodge:** To remove from a position of power or authority, or to forcefully remove from a place.
- Synonyms: Eject, oust, uproot
 - Antonyms: Install, place, settle
 - Sentence: The enemy was unable to dislodge the troops from their stronghold.
- 6. Fragile:** Easily broken or damaged; weak or delicate.
- Synonyms: Delicate, weak, brittle
 - Antonyms: Strong, sturdy, durable
 - Sentence: The fragile ceasefire was frequently broken by minor skirmishes.
- 7. Deteriorate:** To become progressively worse.
- Synonyms: Decline, degrade, worsen
 - Antonyms: Improve, enhance, better
 - Sentence: The relationship between the two countries began to deteriorate after the failed negotiations.
- 8. Dilemma:** A situation in which a difficult choice has to be made between two or more alternatives.
- Synonyms: Predicament, quandary, conundrum
 - Antonyms: Solution, certainty, resolution
 - Sentence: The diplomat faced a dilemma on how to handle the escalating conflict.

- 9.** Penetrate: To go through or into something, making a way through or into.
- Synonyms: Pierce, infiltrate, enter
 - Antonyms: Block, seal, obstruct
 - Sentence: The missile managed to penetrate the fortified walls of the city.
- 10.** Palatable: Acceptable or satisfactory in terms of taste or standards.
- Synonyms: Acceptable, agreeable, satisfactory
 - Antonyms: Unacceptable, disagreeable, unsatisfactory
 - Sentence: The government made the policy more palatable by offering incentives to consumers.

IDIOMS AND PHRASES

- 11.** It's all Greek to me: a way of saying that one do not understand something that is said
- 12.** Close but no cigar: used to say that someone almost succeeded, but is not completely successful
- 13.** An axe to grind: to have a selfish reason or strong opinion that influences your actions
- 14.** To bend over backwards: to try extremely hard to do something good
- 15.** A sitting duck: easy to attack, cheat, or take advantage of someone/ something.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

18th September, 2024

1. Iran successfully launched its Chamran-1 research satellite into orbit using the Qaem-100 rocket, developed by the Revolutionary Guard. The satellite aims to test orbital maneuver technology. This launch comes amid heightened Middle East tensions and follows recent military actions by Iran. Western nations, particularly the US, express concerns over potential ballistic missile development disguised as space activities. Iran maintains that its space program is purely civilian and defensive.
2. World Bamboo Day is celebrated on September 18th to highlight the importance of bamboo and its role in sustainable development. The day raises awareness about the environmental, economic, and cultural benefits of bamboo.
 - The theme for World Bamboo Day 2024 is "Next Generation Bamboo: Solution, Innovation, and Design".
3. Navika Sagar Parikraman is an upcoming all-women circumnavigation expedition by Indian Navy officers Lt Cdr Roopa A and Lt Cdr Dilna K aboard INSV Tarini. After three years of intense training and multiple oceanic voyages, they are set to embark on this global journey.

4. The first-ever preliminary herpetofauna survey conducted in Grass Hills National Park and Karian Shola National Park in the Pollachi division of the Anamalai Tiger Reserve (ATR) has revealed rich biodiversity of the regions. The survey held from September 3 to 5 identified 20 species of reptiles and 34 species of amphibians.

- According to ATR authorities, the survey team recorded 11 reptile species and 12 amphibian species in Grass Hills National Park, which is spread over 3,122 hectares in the Valparai forest range. The landscape is a combination of peaks and high plateaus above 2,000 metres mean sea level (MSL) comprising the montane shola grassland ecosystem that is unique to the higher ranges of the Western Ghats.

5. President Droupadi Murmu has stressed the need to initiate a people's movement to achieve the goals of water conservation, improved management, development, and distribution. Inaugurating the 8th India Water Week at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.

- the President emphasised the importance of united efforts to tackle the pressing issue of water conservation and sustainability. She noted there are many ancient practices in the country on water resources management that are still relevant, and they should be applied in their modern form.

6. Nirmala Sitharaman, Union Finance Minister, launched the NPS Vatsalyascheme for minors in New Delhi on 17 September 2024. The event was attended by school children and was held simultaneously in 75 locations across the country. She also distributed the Permanent Retirement Account Number (PRAN) cards to new minor subscribers.
- Nirmala Sitharaman announced the NPS Vatsalya scheme in her 2024-25 union budget speech.
 - The NPS Vatsalya will be regulated by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).
7. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Tripura Chief Minister Dr. Manik Sahainaugurated the Sidheshwari Temple in Barkathal, Tripura, on September 16, 2024. Adityanath praised the doubleengine government model for driving grassroots development.
8. The 4th South Asian Junior Athletics Championships was held at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, from 11-13 September 2024.
- The first South Asian Junior Athletics Championships was held in Sri Lanka in November 2007. The second edition was held in Ranchi in November 2013, and the third was held in May 2018 in Colombo, Sri Lanka.
 - On the final day of the championship, the Indian contingent dominated the middle-distance races and throwing events, while Sri Lankan athletes shone in the sprint events.

- In the men's 4x100-meter relay race, the Sri Lankan team won the gold, and the Indian team had to settle for the silver medal.
- However, in the women's 4x100-meter relay race, the Indian women's team comfortably won the race, with the Sri Lankan team coming second.

9. Indian opposition leader Arvind Kejriwal picked Delhi minister Atishi to replace him as chief minister of the capital territory on Tuesday, allowing him to focus on winning a fresh mandate in elections due next year after getting bail in a graft case.

- Atishi, 43, who uses only one name, is a founding member of the decade-old Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) that rose to national prominence after emerging out of an anti-corruption movement led by Kejriwal, a fierce critic of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

10. India's 17-year-old Anmol Kharb clinched her first international title in women's singles as she beat Denmark's Amalie Schulz in a hard-fought final in the Belgian International badminton tournament here.