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VOCABULARY

1. Zeitgeist: The defining spirit or mood of a particular period of history.
 - Synonyms: Spirit of the times, ethos, culture
 - Antonyms: Anachronism, old-fashionedness, datedness
 - Sentence: The novel captures the zeitgeist of the 1960s.

2. Sapped: Gradually weaken or destroy (a person's strength or power).
 - Synonyms: Drained, depleted, exhausted
 - Antonyms: Energized, invigorated, strengthened
 - Sentence: The long hours of work sapped his energy.

3. Tribulations: A cause of great trouble or suffering.
 - Synonyms: Hardships, adversities, ordeals
 - Antonyms: Joys, delights, pleasures
 - Sentence: The family's tribulations brought them closer together.

4. Catalyst: A person or thing that precipitates an event.
 - Synonyms: Stimulus, spur, impetus
 - Antonyms: Hindrance, deterrent, obstacle
 - Sentence: The activist's speech served as a catalyst for the protest movement.

5. Disconcerting: Causing one to feel unsettled or disturbed.
- Synonyms: Unsettling, disturbing, troubling
 - Antonyms: Reassuring, comforting, calming
 - Sentence: The disconcerting news left everyone in shock.
6. Dampened: Make less strong or intense.
- Synonyms: Weakened, subdued, lessened
 - Antonyms: Intensified, strengthened, heightened
 - Sentence: The excitement of the crowd was dampened by the unexpected rain.
7. Contraction: The process of becoming smaller.
- Synonyms: Reduction, decrease, shrinkage
 - Antonyms: Expansion, increase, growth
 - Sentence: The company faced a contraction in sales due to the new competitor.
8. Pegged: To fix or hold (a price, rate, or amount) at a particular level.
- Synonyms: Fixed, set, determined
 - Antonyms: Unfixed, variable, fluctuating
 - Sentence: The central bank pegged the interest rate to control inflation.

9. Contemporaneous: Existing or occurring in the same period of time.
- Synonyms: Concurrent, coexisting, simultaneous
 - Antonyms: Asynchronous, non-simultaneous, successive
 - Sentence: The two events were contemporaneous, leading to a busy week.
10. Transcends: Goes beyond the range or limits of something.
- Synonyms: Surpasses, exceeds, outstrips
 - Antonyms: Fails, falls short, lags
 - Sentence: Her talent transcends the boundaries of classical music.

IDIOMS AND PHRASES

11. Better late than never: To do something rather than not
Doing
12. Back to the drawing board: To start over again because a plan has failed or been unsuccessful.
13. Hang in there Meaning: Stay strong in a difficult situation
14. Call it a day: To stop doing something
15. Give someone the cold shoulder: To ignore or treat someone with indifference

CURRENT AFFAIRS

5th August, 2024

1. The Centre sent back BSF director general Nitin Agarwal and special BSF DG Yogesh Khurana back to their respective cadres.
 - The Union Cabinet on Friday approved the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) proposal to send Border Security Force (BSF) director general Nitin Agarwal on premature repatriation to his parent Kerala cadre with immediate effect.

2. Lt Gen Vikas Lakheratook over as the 22nd director general of Assam Rifles on Wednesday. He succeeds Lt Gen (retd) PC Nair, who relinquished the command of the force on superannuation from military service.

3. The world's 20 biggest economies (G20) agreed on Thursday to work together to ensure the ultra rich are effectively taxed, in a declaration that seeks a balance between national sovereignty and more cooperation on tax avoidance
 - The declaration, which will be published on Friday, was a priority for Brazil, chairing talks of the G20 this year, whose leader Luiz Inacio Lula, a former factory worker, was pushing to include the "billionaire tax" on the G20 agenda.

4. Bharatanatyam and Kuchipudi veteran Yamini Krishnamurthy died at the Apollo hospital in New Delhi on August 3. She was 83.
 - “She was suffering from age-related issues and was in the ICU for the last seven months,” Ms. Krishnamurthy’s manager and secretary Ganesh told PTI.
5. Indian submarine INS Shalki is on a two-day visit to Sri Lanka in reflection of growing maritime security cooperation between the two countries. The Shishumar class diesel-electric submarine arrived in Colombo on August 2, the Indian Navy said on Saturday.
6. Manu Bhaker missed out on the 3rd medal at the Paris Olympics. In the women’s 25- meter pistol final, the 22-year-old came in fourth place and missed the bronze medal.
7. Hareli festival is considered to be the first festival of Chhattisgarh, which is celebrated every year on Hareli Amavasya in the month of Sawan.
 - This festival has a special significance for the farmers of Chhattisgarh. After the sowing of paddy, all agricultural and iron tools are worshiped by the farmers on the day of Hareli.

- 8.** The shipments of Tur/Pigeon peas from Nacala Port in Mozambique, disrupted by an “anti-India” group, have resumed after the Ministry of Consumer Affairs raised the issue with the Ministry of External Affairs and the Indian High Commissioner there persuaded the matter with the local authorities, The Indian Express has learnt.
- According to sources, the Indian High Commissioner to Mozambique has informed the Consumer Affairs Ministry that 1,400 containers carrying about 35,000 tons of Tur/Pigeon peas have already left for India from Nacala port. The remaining 400 containers — apart from some containers from Malawi — which also uses the same port to export Tur/Pigeon peas to India — are expected to leave by mid-August.
 - India is the world’s largest producer of pulses, but it is still dependent on imports to meet its domestic demand. The country imports about a dozen types of pulses from different countries, in which Mozambique is its main source for Tur/Pigeon pea imports.
- 9.** India has announced the selection of two astronauts, Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla and Group Captain Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair, for the upcoming Axiom-4 mission to the International Space Station (ISS).

- This mission represents a significant step in strengthening human spaceflight cooperation between ISRO and NASA, as well as advancing India's own human space program.
- Commander: Peggy Whitson (USA)
- Pilot: Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla (India)
- Mission Specialists: SÅ,awosz Uznanski (Poland) and Tibor Kapu (Hungary)

10. The state Assembly on Thursday passed the 'Young India Skills University Telangana (Public-Private Partnership) Bill-2024, paving the way for establishing a premier institution of quality skill education recognised by national and international industry and service sectors.

- The said university will offer 17 courses related to healthcare, pharmaceutical and life sciences, artificial intelligence and information sciences, tourism and hospitality, automotive and electric vehicles, banking financial services and insurance, animation visual effects gaming and comics, construction and interiors, advanced manufacturing, retail operations and management, e-commerce and logistics, renewable energy, food processing and agriculture, beauty and wellness, media and gaming and films, electronics and semiconductors and digital design.