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VOCABULARY

1. Astutely: Showing an ability to accurately assess situations or people and turn this to one's advantage.
 - Synonyms: Shrewdly, cleverly, wisely
 - Antonyms: Foolishly, naively, ineptly
 - Sentence: She handled the negotiations astutely, ensuring the best outcome for her company.

2. Tightrope: A difficult situation in which someone must balance opposing requirements, risks, or expectations.
 - Synonyms: Delicate balance, precarious situation
 - Antonyms: Secure ground, stability
 - Sentence: He walked a tightrope between satisfying the shareholders and keeping the employees happy.

3. Stasis: A period or state of inactivity or equilibrium.
 - Synonyms: Inertia, stagnation, standstill
 - Antonyms: Movement, progress, dynamism
 - Sentence: The economy was in stasis due to the lack of new investments.

4. Autonomously: In a way that is independent and self-governing.
 - Synonyms: Independently, self-sufficiently, freely
 - Antonyms: Dependently, subordinate
 - Sentence: The department was allowed to operate autonomously from the main office.

5. Mediocrity: The quality of being average or unremarkable.
- Synonyms: Ordinary, averageness, dullness
 - Antonyms: Excellence, brilliance, distinction
 - Sentence: The project was plagued by mediocrity due to lack of innovation and enthusiasm.
6. Despair: The complete loss or absence of hope.
- Synonyms: Hopelessness, despondency, gloom
 - Antonyms: Hope, optimism, confidence
 - Sentence: The residents were in despair after the natural disaster devastated their town.
7. Unentangle: Free from complications or confusion.
- Synonyms: Disentangle, simplify, resolve
 - Antonyms: Entangle, complicate, confuse
 - Sentence: She worked hard to unentangle the conflicting pieces of information in the report.
8. Rankled: To cause continuous irritation or resentment.
- Synonyms: Irritate, annoy, vex
 - Antonyms: Soothe, comfort, calm
 - Sentence: His unfair criticism rankled her for days after the meeting.
9. Acceded: To agree to a demand, request, or treaty.
- Synonyms: Agree, consent, accept
 - Antonyms: Refuse, deny, reject

- Sentence: After long negotiations, the government acceded to the demands of the protesters.

10. Subtle: So delicate or precise as to be difficult to analyze or describe.

- Synonyms: Delicate, fine, nuanced
- Antonyms: Obvious, blunt, direct
- Sentence: The artist's work displayed a subtle use of color that required close attention to appreciate.

Phrasal Verbs

11. Cut down (on): To reduce the amount of something.
12. Bring up: To mention a topic in conversation; to raise a child.
13. Fill out: To complete a form or document.
14. Run out (of): To use all of something and have none left.

IDIOMS AND PHRASES

15. Crocodile tears: False or insincere expressions of sorrow
16. A wild goose chase: A futile or hopeless pursuit
17. A fish out of water: To feel uncomfortable or out of place in a particular situation
18. A snake in the grass: Someone who is deceitful or hides their true intentions
19. Curiosity killed the cat: Being too curious or inquisitive can lead to trouble or danger

CURRENT AFFAIRS

11th October, 2024

1. Indian Naval Ship (INS) Talwar arrived in Simon's Town, South Africa to join India-Brazil-South Africa Maritime (IBSAMAR VIII). Running until October 18, it emphasizes Blue Water Naval Warfare, aiming to enhance interoperability.

- The exercise includes drills, professional exchanges, and joint operations, reinforcing India-South Africa defence ties and fostering mutual growth.

India's Other Maritime Exercises

- Thailand: India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT)
- United Kingdom: Konkan – Shakti
- Indonesia: Samudra Shakti
- Singapore: Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX)
- Qatar: Zair-Al-Bahr
- Japan: Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX)

2. The Nobel prize in literature has been awarded to 53-year-old South Korean novelist Han Kang for her "intense poetic prose that confronts historical traumas and exposes the fragility of human life".

3. The Red Panda Program of Darjeeling's Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park has been selected as a finalist for the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) Conservation Award 2024.
- Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park has undertaken several habitat restoration initiatives in collaboration with various institutions and the government of India. Between 2022 and 2024, nine captive-bred red pandas (seven females and two males) were released into Singalila National Park in West Bengal.
 - The zoo's conservation efforts are strengthened by its Biobanking and Genetic Resource Facility, wherein gametes, tissues, and DNA of Red Pandas and other endangered species will be preserved for future use.
 - The winner for the WAZA award will be announced on the 7th of next month at the 79th WAZA Annual Conference in Australia's Tarong Zoo.
4. India's National Space Commission has approved the Lunar Polar Exploration Mission (Lupex), a collaboration with Japan's JAXA. Set to last 100 days, Lupex aims to explore water resources on the Moon, enhancing future lunar missions and strengthening international cooperation in space exploration.

5. The central government has given temporary approval to create Bihar's second tiger reserve in Kaimur district. This decision came after a proposal from the Bihar state government and is aimed at improving wildlife protection in the area.
6. On October 6, 2024, the upper stage of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle C-37 (PSLV-C37) successfully re-entered the Earth's atmosphere.
 - This mission, which launched on February 15, 2017, was a major achievement for the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), as it set a world record by launching 104 satellites in a single mission.
7. The Union Cabinet, in a meeting held on 9 October 2024 and chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the development of the National Maritime Heritage Complex at Lothal, Gujarat. The Heritage Complex to be developed at the ancient Indus Valley Civilisation site of Lothal will be developed in two phases.
 - The National Maritime Heritage Complex is being developed as an international tourist destination. It would display India's maritime heritage from ancient to modern times and raise public awareness about it.

8. Rafael Nadal on Thursday announced his retirement from professional tennis after the Davis Cup finals in November, ending a 23-year career that saw him win 22 Grand Slam titles and two Olympic golds.
- The 38-year-old is second in the men's all-time list for number of wins, after Serbian Novak Djokovic.
9. In badminton, the 2024 Arctic Open kicks off today in Finland. Indian players PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen will make their return to the court for the first time since the Paris Olympics. Other Indian participants in the tournament include Kidambi Srikanth, Aakarshi Kashyap, Kiran George, and Malvika Bansod.
- There will be no Indians in the men's doubles, as Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy have withdrawn from the event. The match between Malvika Bansod and Taiwanese player Sung Shuo Yun is in progress. The tournament will conclude on the 13th of this month.
10. In a statement, the IOA said, "The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) is pleased to announce that the 38th edition of the National Games will be held in Uttarakhand from 28 January to 14 February 2025 (subject to the approval of IOA's General Assembly, which is scheduled to meet in New Delhi on 25 October 2024).