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VOCABULARY

1. **Abject:** Extremely bad, degrading, or without dignity.
 - Synonyms: Miserable, wretched, degrading
 - Antonyms: Excellent, noble, dignified
 - Sentence: The refugees lived in abject poverty, with little hope for improvement.
2. **Expropriation:** The act of taking property, especially for public use or by the government, often without compensation.
 - Synonyms: Confiscation, requisition, seizure
 - Sentence: The government faced backlash for the expropriation of land from local farmers.
3. **Reprisal:** An act of retaliation, especially in the context of international politics or warfare.
 - Synonyms: Retaliation, revenge, payback
 - Antonyms: Forgiveness, pardon, mercy
 - Sentence: The military launched airstrikes as a reprisal for the enemy's attack on their base.
4. **Covert:** Not openly acknowledged or displayed; secret.
 - Synonyms: Secret, undercover, concealed
 - Antonyms: Overt, open, public
 - Sentence: The intelligence agency conducted a covert operation to gather information on the enemy.

5. Destabilised: To make a system, country, or organization unstable or less secure.
- Synonyms: Undermined, weakened, disrupted
 - Antonyms: Stabilized, strengthened, supported
 - Sentence: The country's political institutions were destabilised by years of corruption and civil unrest.
6. Brutality: Savage physical violence or cruelty.
- Synonyms: Cruelty, savagery, harshness
 - Antonyms: Kindness, compassion, gentleness
 - Sentence: The brutality of the war shocked the international community, leading to calls for intervention.
7. Saliency: The quality of being particularly noticeable or important.
- Synonyms: Prominence, importance, significance
 - Antonyms: Insignificance, unimportance, obscurity
 - Sentence: The saliency of the issue was evident when it became the focal point of the national debate.
8. Retaliation: The action of returning a military attack or hostile action; revenge.
- Synonyms: Revenge, reprisal, counterattack
 - Antonyms: Forgiveness, peace, reconciliation
 - Sentence: The airstrike was seen as a retaliation for the earlier bombing of a government facility.

9. Restraint: The action of holding back or controlling oneself or others.

- Synonyms: Control, moderation, self-discipline
- Antonyms: Freedom, indulgence, wildness
- Sentence: The police showed great restraint in handling the protest to prevent any violence.

PHRASAL VERBS

10. Turn in: To submit something (like a report or assignment); to go to bed.
11. Pass out: To lose consciousness; to distribute something.
12. Get along with: To have a good relationship with someone.
13. Keep up with: To stay informed or maintain the same level as others.

IDIOMS AND PHRASES

14. Wolf in sheep's clothing: someone who hides malicious intent under the guise of kindness
15. Whistleblower : a person who informs on someone engaged in illegal activities
16. Whole nine yards : everything you can possibly want, have, or do in a particular situation.
17. Zip your lip : to stop talking immediately
18. Catch someone's eye : to get someone's attention

CURRENT AFFAIRS

19th October, 2024

1. Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh, unveiled the country's first self-powered indoor air quality monitor, Pavana Chitra, at Thiruvananthapuram International Airport today.
 - Pavana Chitra embodies a powerful fusion of technology, tradition, and art, presenting an off-grid, self-powered indoor air quality monitor powered by indigenous indoor solar cells developed by CSIR-NIIST. It is crafted from locally available materials and designed to mimic the natural process of photosynthesis.
2. Minister for Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw today inaugurated the 'Shetkari Samridhi' special kisan rail from Devlali in Maharashtra to Danapur in Bihar, just before the Election Commission announced the Assembly election schedule for Maharashtra. The event was held at Devlali Railway Station, with Vaishnaw participating via video conferencing. The primary aim of the train is to facilitate the rapid transportation of farmers' produce.
 - The Indian Railways has reduced the Advance Reservation Period (ARP) for long-distance train bookings from 120 days to 60 days, effective November 1, 2024. This change aims to prevent the blocking of funds for tickets booked months in advance, especially during peak travel seasons.

3. Nepalis observe Kojagrat Poornimatoday as part of the final day of the 15-day Bada Dashain festival by worshipping and paying homage to Taleju and Kumari Ghar in Kathmandu Valley. The Bada Dashain festival formally ends today with the marking of the Kojagrat Poornima.
4. The "Mera Hou Chongba" festival was celebrated in Manipur amidst ongoing ethnic tensions between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities. This annual festival serves as a significant cultural event aimed at reinforcing the bonds of brotherhood and harmony among the indigenous communities of the state.
5. The Uttarakhand Madrasa Education Board (UMEB) has proposed making Sanskrit a compulsory subject in 416 madrassas across the state. This initiative aims to enhance the educational curriculum and support the academic growth of students.
6. Justice J.B. Pardiwala, the lone dissenting judge on the Supreme Court's Constitution Bench, on Thursday (October 17, 2024) argued that Section 6A of the Citizenship Act, 1955, incentivises undocumented immigrants from Bangladesh to stay in Assam indefinitely until they are detected.

- Justice Pardiwalaspecifically referred to how Section 6A(3) mandated that for migrants to register as citizens, they must first be detected as foreigners.

7. India, which was the fastest growing major economy in 2023 with output increasing by 7.8%, is on track to become the third-largest economy in the world by 2028.

- India is poised to face a higher increase in energy demand than any other country over the next decade mainly because of its size and the scale of rising demand from all sectors, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said in its World Energy Outlook on Wednesday.
- “India was the fastest growing major economy in 2023, with output increasing by 7.8%. It is on track to become the third-largest economy in the world by 2028. India overtook China in 2023 to become the most populous country in the world, even as its fertility rate dropped below replacement level,”.

8. Captain Ashalata Devi is set to become the first Indian woman footballer to reach 100 international matches, marking this milestone in the SAFF Championship opener against Pakistan in Kathmandu. Debuting in 2011, Devi has had a remarkable journey with India, aiming to secure the championship title as part of her significant career achievement.