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## VOCABULARY

1. Abrogation: The formal abolition or repeal of a law, agreement or practice.
  - Synonyms: Revoke, Cancellation, Nullify, Abolition, Repeal
  - Antonyms: Validation, Establishment, Enactment
  - Sentence: The abrogation of the law caused widespread protests in the country.
  
2. Concurring: Agreeing with a decision or opinion.
  - Synonyms: Endorsing, Supporting, Agreeing
  - Antonyms: Dissenting, Opposing, Disagreeing
  - Sentence: The judge wrote a concurring opinion, agreeing with the majority decision.
  
3. Deliberation: Long and careful consideration or discussion
  - Synonyms: Contemplation, Discussion, Reflection
  - Antonyms: Recklessness, Haste, Impulse
  - Sentence: After much deliberation, the committee decided to reject the proposal.
  
4. Agitation: A state of anxiety nervous excitement, or public protest.
  - Synonyms: Disturbance, Protest, Unrest
  - Antonyms: Tranquility, Peace, Calmness
  - Sentence: The government tried to quell the agitation with promises of reform.

5. Undermine: To weaken gradually or destroy the foundation of something.
- Synonyms: Feeble, Sabotage, Subvert, Weaken, Fragile
  - Antonyms: Fortify, Support, Bolster, Strengthen
  - Sentence: Constant criticism can undermine a person's confidence.
6. Blowback: Unintended adverse result of a political situation or action.
- Synonyms: Consequence, Backlash, Repercussion
  - Antonyms: Approval, Acceptance, Support
  - Sentence: The new policy resulted in expected blowback from the public.
7. Lopsided: With one side lower or smaller than other.
- Synonyms: Unbalanced, Skewed, Uneven
  - Antonyms: Even, Symmetrical, Balanced
  - Sentence: The debate became lopsided when only one side presented convincing argument.
8. Explicit: Stated clearly and in details; leaving no room for confusion or doubt.
- Synonyms: Straight-forward, Precise, Clear
  - Antonyms: Vague, Unclear, Implicit
  - Sentence: The contract provided explicit instructions regarding the terms of payment.

9. Suppress: The forcibly put an end to something, to prevent the development of something
- Synonyms: Stifle, Quash, Subdue
  - Antonyms: Foster, Stimulate, Encourage
  - Sentence: The govt. tried to suppress the growing rebellion through strict measures.
10. Incursion: An invasion or attack, especially a sudden or brief one.
- Synonyms: Intrusion, Invasion, Raid
  - Antonyms: Exit, Retreat, Withdrawal
  - Sentence: The invasion incursion into the territory was quickly repelled by the army.

### **IDIOMS AND PHRASES**

11. Jump the gun: To start something too soon or act prematurely.
12. Burn the candle at both ends: To overwork yourself by doing too much.
13. The elephant in the room: A major issue or problem that everyone is avoiding .
14. Bite the hand that feeds you: To harm or criticize someone who has helped or supported you.
15. Under one's belt: To have achieved or experienced something that adds to one's knowledge or skills.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2024

1. In Indonesia, Prabowo Subianto became the president of the world's third-largest democracy on October 20, 2024. He will be the eighth president of Indonesia, the country with the largest Muslim population.
  - The 73-year-old, a former special forces commander, won the election held on February 14, 2024, with almost 60% of the vote. His policies, like providing free meals to school children, helped him secure a strong victory.
2. According to the Fraser Institute's Economic Freedom of the World report, Hong Kong has regained its title as the freest economy, scoring 8.58.
  - India at 84th among 165 countries, marking a notable improvement from last year's 87th position.
  - Following them, Switzerland ranked third, New Zealand fourth, and the United States fifth.
  - At 165th place, Venezuela ranked last with a score of 3.02.
3. Astronomers have finally found an asteroid keeping pace with Saturn in its orbit around the sun. Such objects, called Trojan asteroids, are already known for the other three giant planets.

4. The Indian Institute of Technology, Madras is set to launch its first international flagship centre here for research, innovation, and entrepreneurship in early 2025, it was announced on Friday. The IITM Global Dubai Centre will specialise in cutting-edge fields such as artificial intelligence (AI), data science, robotics, and sustainable energy and create a new bridge to India's entrepreneurial ecosystem.
5. For the first time in Group of Seven (G-7) history, the defence ministers of the G7 countries met in Naples, Italy, on 19 October 2024. Italian defence minister Guido Crosetto hosted the meeting. Italy holds the rotating presidency of the G-7 for 2024.
  - The G7 Defence Ministers meeting was held in the background of the Israeli announcement that it has killed the Palestinian militant group Hamas chief Yahya Sinwar. The Israelis have accused Yahya Sinwar as the mastermind of the October 7, 2023, attacks on Israel, in which 1,200 people were killed and around 240 people were taken hostage by Hamas. Since then, Israel has attacked Gaza, the base of Hamas.
6. The government will extend the regional air connectivity scheme UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) for 10 more years, Civil Aviation Minister K. Ramamohan Naidu said on Monday (October 21, 2024).

- UDAN has led to the birth and growth of regional airlines, generation of jobs and contribution to tourism, the Minister said at a function in the national capital to mark eight years of the scheme.

7. India and China have reached an agreement on the patrolling arrangements along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh. Briefing media in New Delhi, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said, this agreement can lead to disengagement and resolution of tension that began in 2020.

- He said elaborate discussion between both sides resulted in an agreement on patrolling arrangements along the border areas. Mr Misri added that India has been in discussion with Chinese interlocutors at various levels.
- On the issue of returns of Indians who were fighting in the Russian army, Foreign Secretary Misri said, around 85 Indians have returned from Russia and nearly 20 people are still there.
- He informed that Indian embassy officials have been in close touch with the interlocutors in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Defence of Russia on the early release of Indian soldiers. Mr Misri said the matter was discussed at the highest level.

8. Indian veteran archer Deepika Kumari secured a silver medal in the women's recurve category at the ongoing Archery World Cup final.
- The 30-year-old archer who also competed in the Paris Olympics, was defeated by China's Li Jiaman 0-6 in the final, as per Olympics.com.
9. India's Arjun Kadhe and Rithvik Bollipalli produced a stunning comeback to win the men's doubles title at the Almaty Open 2024 ATP 250 tennis tournament in Kazakhstan.

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