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## VOCABULARY

1. Intriguing: Arousing one's curiosity or interest; fascinating.
  - Synonyms: Fascinating, captivating, compelling.
  - Antonyms: Boring, dull, uninteresting.
  - Sentence: The motivations behind the political decision are intriguing and require further investigation.
  
2. Brazen: Bold and without shame.
  - Synonyms: Shameless, bold, unabashed.
  - Antonyms: Shy, modest, reserved.
  - Sentence: The brazen threats made by the extremist groups have shocked the nation.
  
3. Umbrage: Offense or annoyance.
  - Synonyms: Offense, resentment, irritation.
  - Antonyms: Delight, pleasure, satisfaction.
  - Sentence: The official took umbrage at the remarks made by the opposing party.
  
4. Adherence: Attachment or commitment to a cause, belief, or rule.
  - Synonyms: Allegiance, loyalty, compliance.
  - Antonyms: Defiance, opposition, resistance.
  - Sentence: The country's adherence to international law has been consistently strong.

5. Transgress: To go beyond the bounds of a moral principle or established standard of behavior.
- Synonyms: Violate, infringe, breach.
  - Antonyms: Obey, comply, respect.
  - Sentence: The country was accused of transgressing international laws.
6. Perception: The way in which something is regarded, understood, or interpreted.
- Synonyms: View, understanding, interpretation.
  - Antonyms: Misconception, misunderstanding, ignorance.
  - Sentence: The perception of the issue differed greatly between the two countries.
7. Covert: Not openly acknowledged or displayed; secretive.
- Synonyms: Hidden, clandestine, undercover.
  - Antonyms: Overt, open, public.
  - Sentence: The government denied any involvement in the covert operations.
8. Turmoil: A state of great disturbance, confusion, or uncertainty.
- Synonyms: Chaos, upheaval, disorder.
  - Antonyms: Calm, peace, stability.
  - Sentence: The country was in political turmoil after the controversial election.

9. Perplexing: Completely baffling; very puzzling.
- Synonyms: Confusing, puzzling, bewildering.
  - Antonyms: Clear, straightforward, simple.
  - Sentence: The professor's explanation was perplexing to the students.
10. Cursory: Hasty and therefore not thorough or detailed.
- Synonyms: Superficial, perfunctory, brief.
  - Antonyms: Thorough, detailed, meticulous.
  - Sentence: A cursory glance at the documents revealed several errors.

### **PHRASAL VERBS**

11. Winnow down: To gradually reduce a large number of choices to a smaller, better group.
12. Zero in on: To focus on or choose a specific target or option.
13. Pick on: To single out a person or thing, sometimes in a negative way, but can also mean to choose.
14. Nail down: To finalize or choose something after careful consideration.

### **IDIOMS AND PHRASES**

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

Odisha Career

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2024

1. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has launched Mission Basundhara 3.0 in Guwahati to provide land rights to indigenous people. Under this, steps will also be taken to digitize various land-related services and publish maps for the benefit of the people of the state.
2. India and Singapore's Air Forces have started the 12th Joint Military Training exercise at Air Force Station Kalaikunda, West Bengal. Running from November 13 to 21, 2024, this exercise focuses on enhancing interoperability and combat readiness through intense air combat simulations and joint mission planning. Personnel will also engage in sports and cultural activities.
3. Hurricane Oscar made landfall early Sunday in the southeastern Bahamas and was heading toward Cuba, an island recently beleaguered by a massive power outage.
  - The National Hurricane Center in Miami said the storm's center arrived on Great Inagua island. It is expected to produce a dangerous storm surge that could translate into significant coastal flooding there and in other areas of the southeastern Bahamas. Two to four inches of rainfall are expected, with isolated areas seeing up to six inches.

4. The United Nations' COP16 Biodiversity Conference kicked off on Oct. 21 in Colombia with a call for increased funding to address biodiversity loss. Colombia takes over the rotating presidency from China for the conference and governments made a call for more action to be taken in the coming weeks.
5. Pakistan's federal cabinet approved the draft of the 26th Constitutional Amendment. This decision followed multiple delays due to political disputes.
  - The amendment aims to reform the judicial system and alter the balance of power between the political executive and the judiciary. The approval sets the stage for discussions and voting in the Senate and National Assembly.
6. India celebrated the first anniversary of Nammo Bharat train operations, marking a major milestone in regional connectivity. The event highlighted the success of India's first Regional Rapid Transit System which spans 42 kilometers serving over 4 million passengers since its launch in October 2023.
7. Thachat Viswanath Narendran, MD and CEO of Tata Steel, has been elected as the chairman of the World Steel Association. He is the second Indian to hold this position, following JSW Group Chairman Sajjan Jindal. The association also elected Ugur Dalbeler and Leon Topalian as Vice Chairs.

8. Egypt was officially declared 'malaria-free' by the World-Health Organization (WHO) on October 20, 2024.
- The country became the second country in the world, following Cabo Verde, to be officially declared malaria-free this year. It is also the fifth African nation to receive malaria-free certification from the WHO.
  - The WHO stated that Egypt's historic malaria-free status was the result of nearly a century of efforts by its government and people to eradicate the disease.
  - Egypt is the third country within the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region to receive malaria-free certification, achieving this milestone in the region after 14 years. Morocco was declared malaria-free in 2010, following the United Arab Emirates, which received the certification in 2007.
9. Railway Sports Promotion Board (RSPB) avenged last year's defeat by beating Indian Oil 3-1 in the Senior Women Inter-Departmental National Hockey Championship final. After an early goal from Indian Oil, Vandana Katariya quickly equalized for Railways.
10. The Indian contingent faces a challenging road ahead in the 2026 Commonwealth Games as major sports like wrestling, badminton, hockey, cricket, shooting, table tennis, and squash have been excluded from the schedule. The games are set to take place in Glasgow, Scotland, from March 17 to March 29, 2026.