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VOCABULARY

1. Deterrence: The action of discouraging an action or event through instilling doubt or fear of the consequences.
 - Synonyms: Prevention, discouragement, inhibition
 - Antonyms: Encouragement, incitement, provocation
 - Sentence: The presence of nuclear weapons is supposed to act as a deterrence against a full-scale war.

2. Punters: People who gamble or make risky investments.
 - Synonyms: Gamblers, speculators, bettors
 - Sentence: The new regulations are designed to discourage punters from making reckless bets in the stock market.

3. Offset: To balance the effect of something by having an opposite effect.
 - Synonyms: Counterbalance, neutralize, compensate
 - Antonyms: Exacerbate, intensify, aggravate
 - Sentence: The company's losses in Europe were offset by gains in Asia.

4. Renounce: To formally declare one's abandonment of a right, claim, or possession.
 - Synonyms: Relinquish, forsake, abandon
 - Antonyms: Claim, accept, retain
 - Sentence: The prince renounced his claim to the throne in favor of his younger brother.

5. Retaliation: The action of returning a military attack; revenge.
- Synonyms: Reprisal, revenge, retribution
 - Antonyms: Forgiveness, mercy, reconciliation
 - Sentence: The country launched a retaliation strike after its capital was bombed.
6. Escalate: To increase or intensify in extent, volume, or scope.
- Synonyms: Intensify, heighten, amplify
 - Antonyms: Lessen, reduce, diminish
 - Sentence: The conflict between the two countries escalated quickly into a full-blown war.
7. Breach: An act of breaking or failing to observe a law, agreement, or code of conduct.
- Synonyms: Violation, infringement, contravention
 - Antonyms: Compliance, observance, adherence
 - Sentence: The company was fined for breaching environmental regulations.
8. Catastrophic: Involving or causing sudden great damage or suffering.
- Synonyms: Disastrous, calamitous, devastating
 - Antonyms: Fortunate, beneficial, favorable
 - Sentence: The earthquake caused catastrophic damage to the city.

9. Menace: A person or thing that is likely to cause harm; a threat or danger.
- Synonyms: Threat, danger, peril
 - Antonyms: Safety, security, assurance
 - Sentence: Cybercrime has become a growing menace in the modern digital world.
10. Reckless: Marked by a lack of thought about danger or consequences; carelessly irresponsible.
- Synonyms: Careless, heedless, thoughtless
 - Antonyms: Cautious, careful, prudent
 - Sentence: His reckless driving led to a serious accident on the highway.

IDIOMS AND PHRASES

11. Grease the palm: to bribe discreetly to gain favours
12. Turn a deaf ear: to ignore someone when they complain or ask for something
13. In a flutter: to be in a state of confusion or excitement
14. At a loose end: not knowing what to do
15. Blow hot and cold: keep changing their attitude towards something

CURRENT AFFAIRS

3rd October, 2024

1. Britain became the first Group of Seven country to abolish all coal-fired power generation after closing its last coal plant on Monday. This marks the end of 142 years of coal power in the country.
 - The closing ceremony took place on Tuesday at the Ratcliffe-on-Soar power station in Nottinghamshire, England. The station began operation in 1967.
2. The cassowary, often called the 'most dangerous bird in the world,' is at risk due to hunting and habitat loss. With fewer than 5,000 left in Australia, efforts to protect this species are becoming more urgent.

About Harpoon Missile:

- The Harpoon (RGM-84/UGM-84/AGM-84) is a U.S.-designed subsonic antiship cruise missile that has been in service since 1977.
 - Numerous variants have been produced since its inception, including air-, ship-, and sub-launched versions.
 - It is currently in service with the armed forces of more than 30 countries, including India.
3. Shri Prataprao Jadhav, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Ayush, and Union Minister of State, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, inaugurated the Ayush Medical Value Travel Summit 2024. The event took place in Mumbai.

Theme

- Global Synergy in Ayush: Transforming Health and Wellness through Medical Value Travel
- It is set to position India as the premier global hub for holistic healthcare based on Ayush systems.

4. Archaeologists have recently found the oldest known Kohl stick, a type of ancient eyeliner, at an archaeological site called Yeşilova Höyük in Turkey. This discovery shows that people have been using makeup for more than 8,000 years.
5. Kerala has earned the top spot in the Urban Governance Index (UGI) by the Praja Foundation, because of its strengths in managing finances and planning at the local level. However, the study also points out areas where Kerala can improve, especially in city administration.
6. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone, and inaugurate various projects worth over 83 thousand crore rupees on the 2nd of next month in Jharkhand.
 - During his visit, the Prime Minister will launch Dharti AabaJanjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan with a total outlay of over 79 thousand crore rupees in Hazaribag. This Abhiyan will cover around 63 thousand villages benefitting more than five crore tribal people in 549 districts and two thousand 740 blocks across the country.

7. The Geographical Indications Registry in Chennai has granted the GI tag to eight products from the Assam region, including traditional food items and several unique varieties of rice beer.
- The application for Geographical Indication tags for three variants of rice beer was filed by the Bodo Traditional Brewers Association. The first variant, 'Bodo Jou Gwran', has the highest percentage of alcohol (about 16.11%) when compared with other varieties of rice beer made by the Bodo community.
 - The second variant, 'MaibraJou Bidwi', known locally as 'Maibra Jwu Bidwi' or 'Maibra Zwu Bidwi', is revered and served as a welcome drink by most Bodo tribes. It's prepared by fermenting half-cooked rice (mairong) with less water, and adding a little 'amao' (a potential source of yeast) to it. The third variant, called 'Bodo Jou Gishi', is also a traditionally fermented ricebased alcoholic beverage. The GI filing states Bodoland has had a tradition of consuming rice beer since times immemorial. The Bodo people believe the drink originated from Lord Shiva, and it's taken as a medicine.
8. Iran launched at least 180 missiles into Israel on Tuesday, the latest in a series of rapidly escalating attacks between Israel and Iran and its Arab allies that threatens to push the Middle East closer to a regionwide war.

- Iran said the barrage was retaliation for a series of devastating blows Israel has landed in recent weeks against the Iranbacked militant group Hezbollah in Lebanon, which has been firing rockets into Israel since the war in Gaza began. Earlier Tuesday, Israel launched what it said is a limited ground incursion in southern Lebanon.
9. At the ISSF junior world championship in Peru, India is leading the tally with 14 medals including 10 Gold, a Silver and three Bronze. The USA is at the second place, while Italy holds the third spot. China, with three medals, is currently in fourth place. The championships which include rifle, pistol, and shotgun events will end on 6 October 2024.
- Divanshi shot at her best in the final to clinch the gold in the 25-metre sports pistol event of the World junior shooting championship in Lima, Peru.
10. In Junior World Wushu Championship, Indian team bagged a rich haul of seven medals including two golds in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei. India won two gold medals, one silver and four bronze medals.