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VOCABULARY

1. Oscillate: To move or swing back and forth at a regular speed.
 - Synonyms: Swing, fluctuate, waver
 - Antonyms: Stabilize, remain, stay
 - Sentence: The tournament will oscillate between Sharjah and Dubai over the next fortnight.
2. Vanquish: To defeat thoroughly in a contest or conflict.
 - Synonyms: Defeat, conquer, overpower
 - Antonyms: Surrender, yield, lose
 - Sentence: Australia vanquished host South Africa in the 2023 edition of the Women's World Cup.
3. Wilt: To lose energy, strength, or confidence.
 - Synonyms: Wither, weaken, droop
 - Antonyms: Thrive, flourish, strengthen
 - Sentence: India wilted under pressure in the 2020 final against Australia.
4. Travesty: A false, absurd, or distorted representation of something.
 - Synonyms: Mockery, parody, distortion
 - Antonyms: Excellence, accuracy, fairness
 - Sentence: It is a travesty that Mithali Raj played only 12 Tests in her long career.

5. Behemoth: A huge or monstrous creature; something enormous in size or power.
- Synonyms: Giant, colossus, leviathan
 - Antonyms: Dwarf, small entity, weakling
 - Sentence: Australia remains the behemoth of women's cricket with six title wins.
6. Heft: The weight or bulk of something; influence or power.
- Synonyms: Weight, bulk, influence
 - Antonyms: Lightness, insignificance, weakness
 - Sentence: Male players often gain more commercial heft in cricket than their female counterparts.
7. Dissemination: The act of spreading something, especially information, widely.
- Synonyms: Distribution, circulation, broadcasting
 - Antonyms: Containment, suppression, concealment
 - Sentence: The university's goal is the creation and dissemination of knowledge through teaching and research.
8. Unfettered: Not restricted or restrained.
- Synonyms: Unrestrained, unrestricted, free
 - Antonyms: Restricted, constrained, limited
 - Sentence: The American education system is shaped by a belief in unfettered private competition.

9. Onerous: Involving a great deal of effort, trouble, or difficulty.
- Synonyms: Burdensome, heavy, laborious
 - Antonyms: Easy, effortless, light
 - Sentence: The government's responsibility to fund universities has become too onerous.
10. Precedence: The condition of being considered more important than someone or something else.
- Synonyms: Priority, superiority, importance
 - Antonyms: Inferiority, insignificance, unimportance
 - Sentence: Writing research papers often takes precedence over teaching in today's universities.
11. Look after: To take care of someone or something.
- Synonyms: Care for, tend, watch over, supervise
 - Antonyms: Neglect, ignore, abandon
 - Sentence: She stayed home to look after her sick mother.
12. Come across: To find or meet something or someone by chance.
- Synonyms: Encounter, stumble upon, run into, discover
 - Antonyms: Miss, overlook, avoid
 - Sentence: While reading the book, I came across a fascinating fact about ancient history.

13. Get rid of/Do away with: To remove or dispose of something unwanted or undesirable.
- Synonyms: Eliminate, discard, remove, dispose of
 - Antonyms: Keep, retain, hold on to
 - Sentence: He wanted to get rid of the old furniture to make space for the new one.
14. Get over: To recover from something, especially an illness or a difficult situation.
- Synonyms: Overcome, recover, heal, move on
 - Antonyms: Struggle, suffer, remain, dwell on
 - Sentence: It took her months to get over the loss of her pet.

IDIOMS AND PHRASES

15. A dime a dozen: Anything that is common and easy to get
16. At the drop of a hat: Something is happening instantly
17. Bite your tongue: To avoid talking
18. Dog days of summer : The hottest day of the summer season
19. Bits and Pieces : Small things of different types

CURRENT AFFAIRS

4th October, 2024

1. President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi have greeted the Jewish community on the auspicious occasion of Jewish New Year, Rosh Hashanah.
 - Rosh Hashanah, which means 'head of the year', is celebrated from the eve of the first day of the year, at sunset on Wednesday 2 October. The holiday is characterised by deep and meaningful traditions, including the blowing of the shofar, a kosher animal horn blown 100 times to inaugurate the month of Tishrei.
2. The overexploitation of 25 species of host plants valued for their medicinal properties threatens the swallowtail butterflies in the forest habitats of a part of Assam often referred to as the "citrus belt of the world", a new study has found.
 - The study, conducted in the Bodoland Territorial Region on the northern bank of the Brahmaputra River, also underscored illegal cattle farming within the protected areas, agriculture and tea cultivation near the habitats, illegal tree felling, and pesticide use to be among the crucial factors contributing to the decline in the number of these butterflies.

3. The Madhya Pradesh government has classified heatwaves as natural disasters. This decision will take effect in the summer of 2025. With this initiative, people affected by the heat wave will also be able to get financial help.
4. A recent study suggests that Mount Everest's height may be increasing due to the erosion of the Arun River, located near the base of the Himalayas. As the river carves through the landscape, it reduces pressure on the Earth's crust, potentially causing the world's tallest peak to rise. This groundbreaking discovery sheds new light on how natural processes like river erosion can influence the height of mountains, adding another layer of complexity to our understanding of Earth's geological dynamics.
5. India has formally joined the Minerals Security Finance Network (MSFN), a US-led initiative focused on enhancing cooperation among members to secure supply chains for critical minerals. The announcement, made by the US State Department on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, involves a pact signed by 14 countries and the European Union.
 - The MSFN is an extension of the Minerals Security Partnership (MSP), launched by the US in 2022. India had already joined the MSP in June 2023.

6. A retired diplomat and IIT graduate has been named as the working president of the new political outfit Jan Suraaj Party (JSP), formed by election strategist-turned politician Prashant Kishor.
 - Manoj Bharti, handpicked by Mr Kishor as one of the key members of the JSP, is a resident of Madhubani in Bihar and a graduate of the Indian Institute of Technology in Kanpur (BTech) and Delhi (MTech).
7. China has kicked off of a second phase of construction to enhance the capabilities of what is already the world's largest single-dish radio telescope.
 - The Five-hundred-meter Aperture Spherical Telescope (FAST), situated in a karst region in Guizhou, southwest China, has been operating since January 2020. But now a second phase will add 24 new moveable radio telescopes, each with a diameter of 131 feet (40 meters).
8. Kho Kho Federation of India (KKFI) in collaboration with the International Kho Kho Federation revealed plans to organize the inaugural Kho Kho World Cup in India come 2025.

9. Nagaland government has signed Wales as one of the Country Partners for the upcoming 25th Edition of the Hornbill Festival. Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, who is on an official visit to Wales, announced the signing of the agreement with the Welsh Government, the British Council, and Wales Arts International representatives in Cardiff today.
10. The government has introduced the Jal Hi AMRIT scheme in its first 100 days, aiming to promote efficient water management, the Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs, Manohar Lal said while addressing the press on 100 days achievement of the ministry.