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VOCABULARY

1. Stumbled: To experience a sudden decline or difficulty.
 - Synonyms: Faltered, slipped, struggled
 - Antonyms: Thrived, succeeded, advanced
 - Sentence: The company stumbled after losing its biggest client.
2. Uptick: A small increase or upward trend.
 - Synonyms: Rise, growth, surge
 - Antonyms: Decline, drop, decrease
 - Sentence: There was an uptick in sales during the holiday season.
3. Starkly: In a way that is clear and obvious, often harshly so.
 - Synonyms: Bluntly, clearly, sharply
 - Antonyms: Subtly, vaguely, indistinctly
 - Sentence: The report starkly highlighted the flaws in the system.
4. Festering: Persisting and worsening over time.
 - Synonyms: Aggravating, simmering, worsening
 - Antonyms: Resolving, healing, improving
 - Sentence: The festering conflict between the two nations has raised global concerns.
5. Curtail: To reduce or limit something.
 - Synonyms: Diminish, restrict, cut back
 - Antonyms: Extend, increase, expand
 - Sentence: The government decided to curtail unnecessary expenditures.
6. Sops: Benefits or concessions given to appease or placate someone.
 - Synonyms: Perks, incentives, appeasements
 - Sentence: The company offered sops to employees to prevent a strike.
7. Fragile: Easily damaged or destroyed. Synonyms: Delicate, brittle, frail
 - Antonyms: Sturdy, robust, resilient
 - Sentence: The fragile vase broke into pieces when it fell.

8. Dousing: To saturate or thoroughly cover with liquid.
- Synonyms: Soaking, drenching, flooding
 - Antonyms: Drying, parching
 - Sentence: Firefighters were dousing the flames with water.
9. Resistance: The ability to withstand or counteract something.
- Synonyms: Opposition, endurance, immunity
 - Antonyms: Susceptibility, weakness, surrender
 - Sentence: Overusing antibiotics can lead to bacterial resistance.
10. Bolster: To strengthen or support.
- Synonyms: Reinforce, boost, enhance
 - Antonyms: Undermine, weaken, diminish
 - Sentence: The government announced measures to bolster economic growth.

Phrasal Verbs:

11. Catch up on: to do something you missed or fell behind on.
12. Cheer on: to encourage someone.
13. Come forward: to volunteer information or help.
14. Ease into: to approach or enter something gradually.

Idioms & Phrases

15. Get a foot in the door: To gain an initial opportunity.
16. Carry the weight on one's shoulders: To take responsibility for something difficult.
17. Speak with a forked tongue: To speak deceitfully or say one thing but mean another.
18. Sink your teeth into: To get involved in something with enthusiasm and energy
19. Face the music: To confront the consequences of one's actions.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

21st November, 2024

1. The four-day Global Soils Conference 2024 was inaugurated in New Delhi on 19 November 2024 and will be held from 19 to 22 November 2024. The conference, which is the apex global platform for world soil scientists and stakeholders, provides a platform for the stakeholders- government, scientists, industry leaders, farmers, etc. to discuss various issues regarding the importance of soils and to find a solution to concerns about the issue of soil degradation and its sustainable management.
 - Theme of the 2024 Global Soils Conference
 - “Caring Soils Beyond Food Security: Climate Change Mitigation and Ecosystem Services”
2. Uma Dasgupta, the iconic actress who portrayed Durgain Satyajit Ray's Pather Panchali (1955), has passed away at the age of 84 after battling cancer. Known for her unforgettable performance in the film, Dasgupta left a lasting mark on Indian cinema despite not pursuing a mainstream acting career. Her role as Durga, the elder sister of Apu, remains one of the most cherished in cinematic history.
3. World Television Day is observed annually on November 21. It is a significant occasion that highlights the role of television as a powerful medium for communication and information sharing across the globe. The day was established by the United Nations in 1996 to recognize the growing influence of television on public opinion and decision-making.
 - Theme: Television: Connecting the World - This theme highlights TV's role in uniting communities, spreading information, and bringing global stories into our homes.
4. A new genus of freshwater fish from the eastern Ghats — ‘Koima’ — has been described by researchers in India. The two species of fish earlier identified under genus *Nemacheilus* have been reclassified under the newly coined genus.

5. 89 Central Ministries and Departments were assessed and ranked based on a comprehensive index in the dimensions of (1) Efficiency, (2) Feedback, (3) Domain and (4) Organisational Commitment and corresponding 11 indicators.
- Department Of Agriculture And Farmers Welfare Topped The Ranking Followed By Department Of Posting Group A.
 - In Group B, O/O Comptroller & Auditor General Of India Topped.
6. In the past 10 years, PM Narendra Modi has been honoured with top awards from countries across the world. Joining a list of countries, Guyana and Barbados will confer their top awards to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Guyana will confer its highest national award "The Order of Excellence" on PM Modi during his visit.
- Also, Barbados will confer the prestigious 'Honorary Order of Freedom' of Barbados on PM Modi. A few days back, Dominica announced its highest National Award 'Dominica Award of Honour' to PM Modi. From Russia's Order of St Andrew the Apostle Award to Legion of Merit by the US, PM Modi's award list continues to grow. With these three awards, PM Modi's international accolades reached 19 bestowed upon the Indian Prime Minister. PM Modi arrived in Guyana after concluding his successful G20 summit in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil.
7. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni strengthened bilateral ties during their meeting at the G20 Summit in Brazil, advancing the India-Italy Joint Strategic Action Plan 2025-29.
- The discussions focused on enhancing collaboration in defence, trade, technology, and cultural exchanges, with special emphasis on the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC) and the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI).
 - Both leaders agreed to boost trade and investment in sectors such as transportation, green technologies, pharmaceuticals, and advanced manufacturing through the Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation and the Working Group on Food Processing.

8. The National Youth Festival 2025 will be celebrated as Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue on the 11th and 12th of January of the Next year. Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya announced this while addressing a press conference in New Delhi.
9. Karnataka's own king cobra found in the Western Ghats and known as 'Kaalinga Sarpa' in the local parlance will get its name etched in the scientific world.
 - The Western Ghat's species, which has inspired many popular references in films and literature, will be officially named Ophiophagus Kaalinga.
10. The Uttar Pradesh government has set the ball rolling for the completion of India's first night safari in Lucknow by June 26, and the facility is likely to be ready to welcome visitors in December 2026.

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