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VOCABULARY

1. Reins: Control or leadership in a particular area or context.
 - Synonyms: Command, authority, governance
 - Antonyms: Submission, relinquishment, dependence
 - Sentence: The reins of global governance must be shared equitably among all nations.
2. Devoid: Entirely lacking or free from something.
 - Synonyms: Bereft, absent, without
 - Antonyms: Filled, abundant, replete
 - Sentence: The declaration was devoid of concrete steps to end the conflict.
3. Portents: Signs or warnings that something significant, often bad, is likely to happen.
 - Synonyms: Omens, forewarnings, indications
 - Sentence: The portents of increased geopolitical tensions are troubling for global stability.
4. Concretise: To make something specific, real, or tangible.
 - Synonyms: Materialize, solidify, actualize
 - Antonyms: Abstract, generalize, obscure
 - Sentence: The summit aims to concretise the commitments made by member nations.
5. Alleviation: The act of making something less severe or more bearable.
 - Synonyms: Mitigation, relief, reduction
 - Antonyms: Exacerbation, intensification, aggravation
 - Sentence: Efforts for poverty alleviation should include robust policy measures.

6. Optimised: Improved or adjusted to achieve maximum efficiency or effectiveness.
- Synonyms: Enhanced, streamlined, fine-tuned
 - Antonyms: Inefficient, suboptimal, poorly designed
 - Sentence: Big Tech's cloud tools are optimised for their infrastructure, making switching difficult.
7. Scourge: A source of great suffering or harm.
- Synonyms: Plague, curse, blight
 - Sentence: Poverty has been described as a scourge that affects millions globally.
8. Incentivise: To provide motivation or encouragement to take a particular action.
- Synonyms: Encourage, motivate, promote
 - Antonyms: Discourage, dissuade, deter
 - Sentence: The high costs of training models incentivise Big Tech to dominate AI development.
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. Back away: to move backwards away from something or someone, usually because you are frightened
12. Cut out: to delete or remove
13. Nod off: to begin sleeping, especially not intentionally
14. Turn down: reject something offered or proposed.

Idioms & Phrases

15. Climb the ladder: To advance or achieve success in a hierarchy, especially in a career
16. Bury the hatchet: To make peace or resolve a conflict, usually after a Disagreement
17. Water under the bridge: something that happened in the past and cannot now be changed
18. Jump on the bandwagon: to join in a popular activity
19. The tip of the iceberg Meaning: it is one small part of a much larger problem

CURRENT AFFAIRS

23rd November, 2024

1. In a historic move, the UN Climate Change COP29 has included tourism in its action agenda, with over 50 governments endorsing the COP29 Declaration on Enhanced Climate Action in Tourism. This groundbreaking initiative, spearheaded by the COP29 Presidency under Azerbaijan, aims to transform the global tourism sector into a climate-resilient, low-carbon industry.
2. India has launched its first AI Data Bank, aimed at boosting innovation and enhancing national security. The initiative unveiled by Union Minister Jitendra Singh at the ASSOCHAM AI Leadership Meet 2024 provides access to diverse datasets for researchers and startups to develop scalable AI solutions.
3. The Assam government has decided to rename Karimganj district to Sribhumi, fulfilling a longstanding demand inspired by Rabindranath Tagore's description of the region. The state cabinet also announced plans for panchayat elections by February and an investment summit in 2025.
4. United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) released the State of the World's Children 2024 (SOWC 2024) report that examines the forces and trends shaping children's future by 2050.
 - The report highlights three megatrends shaping children's lives by 2050 i.e., demographic shifts, climate crises, and frontier technologies.
5. Israel and its allies denounced the International Criminal Court's decision to issue an arrest warrant Thursday (November 21, 2024) for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, even as Turkey --and rights groups - welcomed the move.
 - The court also issued warrants for Israel's former Defence Minister as well as Hamas's military chief Mohammed Deif.

6. Kerala was honoured with the Best Marine State award for its contribution to the country's fisheries and aquaculture sector growth. On the occasion of World Fisheries Day 2024, the Department of Fisheries under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying honoured many states, districts, and individuals for their contribution in a ceremony organised in New Delhi on 21 November 2024.
 - The Department of Fisheries has chosen India's Blue Transformation: Strengthening Small-Scale and Sustainable Fisheries as the 2024 World Fisheries Day theme.
7. Armenia has become the 104th full member of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), Ministry of External Affairs Official Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal announced.