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VOCABULARY

- **1.** Rhetoric: Language designed to have a persuasive effect, often lacking in sincerity.
 - Synonyms: Persuasion, discourse
 - Sentence: His speech was filled with rhetoric, aiming to win the hearts of the youth.
- 2. Tempest: A violent storm; or metaphorically, a great upheaval or trouble.
 - Synonyms: Storm, turmoil, upheaval
 - Antonyms: Calm, peace, tranquility
 - Sentence: The Chief Minister managed to weather the tempest of legal battles and returned to his position.
- 3. Plaudits: Praise, applause, or approval.
 - Synonyms: Praise, acclaim, commendation
 - Antonyms: Criticism, disapproval, reproach
 - Sentence: The welfare scheme received plaudits, but it remains uncertain if it will convert to votes.
- **4.** Dog whistle: A coded message that conveys a controversial idea to a particular audience without others noticing.
 - Synonyms: Code, insinuation, hint
 - Antonyms: Transparency, openness, directness
 - Sentence: The BJP's narrative around "infiltrators" is seen as a dog whistle to its supporters.

- 5. Affirmation: The action of affirming or validating something.
 - Synonyms: Confirmation, endorsement, assertion
 - Antonyms: Denial, rejection, refutation
 - Sentence: The INDIA bloc seeks affirmation from voters for the welfare schemes it implemented.
- 6. Commendation: Praise given for someone's achievement.
 - Synonyms: Praise, acclaim, recognition
 - Antonyms: Criticism, blame, condemnation
 - Sentence: His policies won him commendation from his supporters.
- 7. Discontent: Dissatisfaction with one's circumstances.
 - Synonyms: Dissatisfaction, unhappiness, displeasure
 - Antonyms: Satisfaction, contentment, approval
 - Sentence: There is visible discontent among the INDIA bloc's allies over seat distribution.
- 8. Underpin: To support, justify, or strengthen.
 - Synonyms: Support, reinforce, substantiate
 - Antonyms: Weaken, undermine, destabilize
 - Sentence: The JMM aims to underpin its tribal support base with welfare schemes.

- 9. Vindictive: Having or showing a strong desire for revenge.
 - Synonyms: Vengeful, resentful, spiteful
 - Antonyms: Forgiving, lenient, merciful
 - Sentence: The tribals perceived the arrest of Hemant Soren as a vindictive act by the central government.
- 10. Resonate: To evoke a feeling of shared emotion or belief.
 - Synonyms: Echo, reverberate, connect
 - Antonyms: Mute, deaden, suppress
 - Sentence: The leader's message of social justice resonated with the youth at the rally.

IDIOMS AND PHRASES

- 11. A bit obtuse : A little dull and stupid
- **12.** Phase in: To gradually choose to incorporate something new.
- **13.** Bow out of: To choose to withdraw from something.
- **14.** Snug as a bug in a rug: in an extremely comfortable position or situation.
- 15. Lose your marbles: to become insane
- 16. Blue in the face: To be exhausted due to strain or anger
- **17.** Step up your game : to enhance performance, quality, skills, or talents.

CURRENT AFFAIRS 30th October, 2024

- 1. The Pradhan Mantri Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana(PMVKY), launched on October 28, 2014, is an initiative targeting the upliftment and inclusion of India's tribal communities, who represent 8.9% of the population.
 - Addressing their unique socio-economic challenges, this scheme emphasizes sustainable development with a budget allocation of ₹26,135.46 crore from 2021-2026. The program is aligned with the government's vision of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas" and focuses on empowering tribes across the nation with essential services, financial assistance, and preservation of cultural heritage.
- 2. India and Spain have agreed to observe 2026 as the Year of Culture, Tourism, and Artificial Intelligence (AI). This and other agreements were reached between India and Spain to strengthen bilateral ties during the visit of Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez to India.
 - Pedro Sanchez was on his first official visit to India after becoming Spain's Prime Minister in 2018. He is also the first Spanish Prime Minister to visit India in the last 18 years. In 2006, Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero visited India.
 - During his three-day visit to India from 27 to 29 October 2024, the Spanish Prime Minister visited Vadodara in Gujarat and Mumbai in Maharashtra.

- 3. Vipin Kumar, a 1996-batch IAS officer from the Bihar cadre, has officially taken charge as the Chairman of the Airports Authority of India (AAI). Before this new role, he served as the Additional Secretary in the Department of School Education & Literacy under the Ministry of Education.
- 4. Assam's eminent conservation scientist Bibhab Kumar Talukdar was awarded 'The Harry Messel Award' for Conservation Leadership by the Species Survival Commission (SSC) of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
 - The award was presented to him during the ongoing 5th IUCN SSC Leaders' Meeting in Abu Dhabi, where around 300 conservation experts have gathered to address the intertwined crises of biodiversity and climate change.
 - Talukdar was recognised for his significant contributions to species conservation, particularly through his leadership in the SSC and his work on the Indian one-horned rhinoceros.
- **5.** Brazil has decided not to join China's Belt and Road Initiative, becoming the second country in the BRICS bloc after India to stay out of the multi-billion-dollar project.
 - The South American country will instead explore alternative pathways to work with Chinese investors, according to Celso Amorim, Special Presidential Advisor for International Affairs.

- 6. Saudi Arabia recently conducted military exercises with Iran in the Sea of Oman. This event marks an important shift in relations between the two countries. Historically, Saudi-Arabia and Iran have been rivals, often supporting opposing factions in regional conflicts.
 - Their diplomatic ties were severed in 2016. However, a surprising agreement brokered by China last year led to a resumption of relations.
- 7. The 2024 Ballon d'Or ceremony in Paris was a night dominated by Manchester City and Spain midfielder Rodri, who triumphed over competitors from Real Madrid to claim football's most prestigious individual award. The event was also notable for numerous other recognitions, including those for promising young talents, coaching excellence, and outstanding club achievements.
- 8. Sri Sri Ravi Shankar received Fiji's highest civilian award, the "Honourary Officer of the Order of Fiji" for his global work in fostering peace and unity through The Art of Living Foundation. During his visit he discussed ways to support Fiji's youth and mental health initiatives with local leader.

- **9.** The 9th Ayurveda Day 2024 is being observed in the country and over 150 countries worldwide. The Ayurveda Diwas is observed on the Dhanvantari Jayanti or Dhanteras. This year, the Dhanteras, or Ayurveda Day, is being observed on 29 October 2024.
 - On the occasion of the 9th Ayurveda Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in New Delhi, virtually laid the foundation stone for multiple projects related to the health sector across the country. The total worth of the projects is estimated at around 12,850 crore rupees.
 - The theme for the 9th Ayurveda Day is "Ayurveda Innovations for Global Health".