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## VOCABULARY

1. Extract: To remove or take out, especially by effort or force.
  - Synonyms: Remove, withdraw, obtain
  - Antonyms: Insert, embed
  - Sentence: They managed to extract valuable information from the experiment.
  
2. Lopsided: Uneven or disproportionate in some way.
  - Synonyms: Uneven, unbalanced, asymmetrical
  - Antonyms: Balanced, symmetrical, equal
  - Sentence: The lop-sided competition favored only a few skilled participants.
  
3. Obstacles: Things that block or hinder progress.
  - Synonyms: Barriers, hurdles, impediments
  - Antonyms: Aids, assistances, advantages
  - Sentence: Despite the obstacles in her path, she remained focused on her goals.
  
4. Affiliate: To officially attach or connect to an organization.
  - Synonyms: Associate, partner, ally
  - Antonyms: Separate, detach, disassociate
  - Sentence: The company decided to affiliate with several international firms.
  
5. Inconsequential: Not important or significant.
  - Synonyms: Trivial, insignificant, negligible
  - Antonyms: Significant, important, substantial
  - Sentence: The mistake was inconsequential to the overall project outcome.

6. Reckoning: The action or process of calculating or estimating something.
  - Synonyms: Calculation, assessment, evaluation
  - Antonyms: Guesswork, haphazardness
  - Sentence: After much reckoning, they decided to proceed with the plan.
  
7. Overhaul: To take apart and examine to make necessary changes or improvements.
  - Synonyms: Revamp, reform, renovate
  - Antonyms: Neglect, ignore
  - Sentence: The education system requires a complete overhaul to meet modern demands.
  
8. Obscure: Not well-known, or not clear or easy to understand.
  - Synonyms: Vague, unclear, ambiguous
  - Antonyms: Clear, obvious, evident
  - Sentence: The author's early work was somewhat obscure but gained popularity over time.
  
9. Expedite: To speed up the process of something.
  - Synonyms: Hasten, accelerate, quicken
  - Antonyms: Delay, hinder, obstruct
  - Sentence: New technology can help expedite data analysis in research.
  
10. Stalwart: Reliable, and hard-working; also means physically strong.
  - Synonyms: Dependable, robust, steadfast
  - Antonyms: Weak, unreliable, disloyal
  - Sentence: He has been a stalwart supporter of the organization for years.

**Phrasal Verbs:**

11. Blurt out: to say something suddenly, often without thinking.
12. Boil down to: to summarize or reduce to the essential details.
13. Bottle up: to keep emotions hidden or suppressed.
14. Brush off: to dismiss or ignore someone or something.

**Idioms & Phrases**

15. Rome wasn't built in a day: achieving something great takes time and effort
16. A penny for your thoughts: asking someone to share their thoughts
17. Cat got your tongue?: asking why someone is not speaking or suddenly became quiet
18. Put the best foot forward: start impressively
19. Bear the palm Meaning: to win or take the prize

## **CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**6<sup>th</sup> November, 2024**

1. Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar inaugurated a new Indian Consulate General in Brisbane, Australia, highlighting its role in strengthening ties with Queensland and serving the Indian diaspora. Jaishankar's visit underscores growing bilateral cooperation, including trade and disaster relief efforts, and includes meetings with Australian officials and participation in key forums.
2. In a world-first, Japanese researchers have built a tiny wooden satellite named LignoSat that will be launched into space in September. This innovative project aims to reduce space debris by burning up completely upon reentry into Earth's atmosphere.
  - LignoSat is a collaborative effort between Kyoto University and the logging company Sumitomo Forestry. With development beginning in April 2020, the satellite is a mere 10 centimetres on each side and is crafted from magnolia wood, selected for its strength and workability after space exposure tests were conducted on cherry, birch, and magnolia wood chips. The wood was sourced from Sumitomo Forestry's company forest.
3. India and France have been elected as President and CoPresident of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) for a two-year term from 2024 to 2026. India was the sole candidate for the presidency, while France won the copresidency in a contest with Grenada.
4. Indian and Vietnamese militaries have commenced 'VINBAX 2024', a joint exercise aimed at bolstering their capabilities in deploying engineering and medical teams for UN peacekeeping missions. This year's exercise, held in Haryana, India, marks the first time both countries' armies and air forces are participating, signifying a deepening of bilateral military cooperation.

5. Cairn Oil & Gas joins UN's methane reduction initiative. Cairn is the first Indian oil and gas company to join OGMP 2.0. The partnership aims to reduce methane emissions in the oil and gas sector. Cairn will set a five-year methane reduction target. The company will report its progress transparently to OGMP. Cairn aims to achieve net-zero emissions by 2030.
6. Singapore has retained its title as the world's most powerful passport, offering visa-free access to 195 countries, according to the October 2024 Henley Passport Index. France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and Spain tied for second place with access to 192 countries. The U.S. ranked 8th with 186 countries, while India placed 83rd, allowing access to 58 countries.
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7. Hindus observe Chhath as a sacred festival devoted to venerating Surya Dev, also known as the Sun God.
  - This age-old Hindu celebration has its historical origins in the Indian subcontinent, particularly in the states of Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal. This auspicious event is specially dedicated to Chhathi Maiya, the sister of Lord Surya and the sixth manifestation of Devi Prakriti. According to the Hindu calendar, Chhath Puja is observed on the sixth day of the Kartika lunar month in the Vikram Samvat, precisely six days after the festival of Deepawali.
8. The short film, Sunflowers Were the First Ones to Know, directed by Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) student Chidananda S Naik, has qualified for Oscars 2025 in the Live Action Short Film category. The film is produced by FTII.