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VOCABULARY

1. **Rigidity:** Inability to be changed or adapted.
 - Synonyms: Inflexibility, strictness, firmness
 - Antonyms: Flexibility, adaptability, pliability
 - Sentence: The rigidity of the old rules discouraged innovation among students.

2. **Viable:** Capable of working successfully; feasible.
 - Synonyms: Practical, workable, feasible
 - Antonyms: Impractical, unworkable, unrealistic
 - Sentence: The engineers debated whether the proposed rocket design was viable for the mission.

3. **Exponential:** Becoming more and more rapid.
 - Synonyms: Rapid, escalating, accelerating
 - Antonyms: Gradual, slow, linear
 - Sentence: The exponential growth of technology has revolutionized space exploration.

4. **Affiliated:** Officially attached or connected to an organization.
 - Synonyms: Associated, connected, allied
 - Antonyms: Independent, unaffiliated, separate
 - Sentence: Most colleges in the state are affiliated with the central university.

5. **Ambitious:** Having or showing a strong desire and determination to succeed.
 - Synonyms: Aspiring, determined, enterprising
 - Antonyms: Unmotivated, unambitious, indifferent
 - Sentence: The ambitious goals of the space program reflect India's growing capabilities.

- 6. Revolutionize:** To bring about a significant change in something.
- Synonyms: Transform, innovate, modernize
 - Antonyms: Preserve, maintain, stagnate
 - Sentence: The introduction of reusable rockets has revolutionized the global space industry.
- 7. Insipid:** Lacking flavor, interest, or excitement.
- Synonyms: Bland, dull, uninteresting, lifeless
 - Antonyms: Flavorful, exciting, interesting, engaging
 - Sentence: The professor's insipid lecture made it difficult for the students to stay attentive.
- 8. Trivial:** Of little value or importance.
- Synonyms: Insignificant, unimportant, petty, minor
 - Antonyms: Significant, important, meaningful, substantial
 - Sentence: The manager asked the team not to waste time on trivial issues during the meeting.
- 9. Permissive:** Allowing or characterized by great freedom or leniency.
- Synonyms: Lenient, tolerant, indulgent, liberal
 - Antonyms: Strict, restrictive, rigid, authoritarian
 - Sentence: The permissive attitude of the new administration allowed students to explore a wider range of academic disciplines.
- 10. Chaos:** Complete disorder and confusion.
- Synonyms: Disorder, confusion, turmoil, havoc
 - Antonyms: Order, organization, structure, harmony
 - Sentence: The sudden change in policy caused chaos among the students, as they were unsure about the new rules.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

11th December, 2024

1. Syrian rebels toppled President Bashar alAssad's 24-year regime in a swift offensive, forcing the 59-year-old leader to flee to Moscow, where he was granted asylum.
 - The Islamist-led opposition declared the end of the 13-year civil war as Syrians celebrated by exploring and looting Assad's presidential palaces, marking "the end of a dark era."
2. Bird enthusiasts recently spotted a marbled duck — an unusual winter migrant at Sultanpur National Park after 30 years.
 - The Marbled Duck, also known as marbled teal, is a relatively small duck characterized by its black bill, palespotted gray-brown plumage, dark eye patch, and the absence of a speculum.
 - Scientific Name: *Marmaronetta angustirostris*
3. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh commissioned INS Tushil, an upgraded Krivak III class frigate, in Kaliningrad, Russia. The warship, a collaboration between India and Russia, boasts advanced technology and enhanced stealth features. INS Tushil will join the Indian Navy's Western Fleet, strengthening its capabilities.
4. Two Indian heritage conservation projects—the Abathsahayeswarar Temple Conservation Project in Thukkatchi, Tamil Nadu, and the BJPCI Conservation Project of Mumbai, Maharashtra—have won UNESCO's Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation 2024.
 - These two heritage conservation projects were among eight from the Asia Pacific region that won the 2024 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation.
 - UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) announced the award winners at its regional office in Bangkok, Thailand, on 6 December 2024.

About UNESCO

- UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) is a United Nations Agency set up 16 November 1945.
- Members: 195 Members and 8 Associate Members
- Headquarters: Paris, France

5. "SIPRI TOP 100 ARMSPRODUCING AND MILITARY SERVICES COMPANIES, 2023" released by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) on 2nd December 2024, The three companies are - Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)(43rd), Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) (67th), and Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL) (94th) are placed among the world's 100 largest arms producers in 2023.
6. UNICEF Foundation Day is observed on 11th December every year, 2024 being the 78th anniversary year of the United Nations Children Fund. UNICEF has been known to be the global organisation, always in the front protecting the rights of children worldwide. The organisation has made various contributions for reducing child mortality, improving education and supporting underprivileged communities.
7. The 'International Mountain Day' is celebrated every year on 11 December. It is an annual festival organised by the United Nations General Assembly. This day creates awareness about the importance of mountains in people's lives.
 - The theme of this year's celebration is "Mountain solutions for a sustainable future –innovation, adaptation and youth", an opportunity to promote the contribution of the Geoparks towards territorial heritage management and sustainable development for mountainous communities!

- 8.** Somanahalli Mallaiiah Krishna (1932-2024) served as Karnataka's 10th Chief Minister (1999-2004) and India's Minister of External Affairs (2009-2012).
 - He was also Governor of Maharashtra (2004-2008), Speaker of Karnataka Vidhan Sabha, and a member of both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.
 - He was honored with the Padma Vibhushan in 2023 for his exceptional contributions to Indian politics.

- 9.** Former Chinara Corps Commander Lieutenant General (retd) KJS Dhillon's memoir 'Kitne Ghazi Aaye Kitne Ghazi Gaye: My Life Story' has won the Crossword Book Award for best non-fiction title in the popular choice category.

- 10.** Filmmaker Payal Kapadia has made history as the first Indian director nominated for Best Director (Motion Picture) at the 82nd Golden Globe Awards for her film All We Imagine As Light. The film has also been nominated for Best Motion Picture –(Non-English Language).
 - An Indo-French co-production, the film stars Kani Kusruti, Divya Prabha, and Hridhu Haroon, portraying the struggles of two women during a transformative trip to a beach town. It previously won the Grand Prix at the Cannes Film Festival, becoming the first Indian film in the competition section in 30 years.