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VOCABULARY

1. Pragmatically: In a way that deals with things sensibly and realistically based on practical considerations.
 - Synonyms: Realistically, practically, sensibly.
 - Antonyms: Theoretically, idealistically, unrealistically.
 - Sentence: The manager pragmatically addressed the issues to find an effective solution.

2. Stymie: To prevent or hinder the progress of something.
 - Synonyms: Block, obstruct, impede, thwart.
 - Antonyms: Assist, facilitate, promote, enable.
 - Sentence: The sudden lack of funding stymied the project's development, causing significant delays.

3. Trajectory: The path or progression of something over time.
 - Synonyms: Course, route, development.
 - Antonyms: Stagnation, regression, deviation.
 - Sentence: The company is on an upward trajectory after its successful product launch.

4. Assertiveness: The quality of being confident and self-assured without being aggressive.
 - Synonyms: Confidence, decisiveness, boldness.
 - Antonyms: Timidity, hesitation, submissiveness.
 - Sentence: Her assertiveness during the meeting impressed her colleagues.

5. Scrutinised: Examined closely and thoroughly.
 - Synonyms: Inspected, analyzed, reviewed.
 - Antonyms: Ignored, overlooked, neglected.
 - Sentence: The auditor scrutinised the financial records for any discrepancies.

6. Assuage: To lessen the intensity of something unpleasant.
 - Synonyms: Alleviate, ease, mitigate.
 - Antonyms: Aggravate, intensify, worsen.
 - Sentence: The government announced relief measures to assuage the concerns of the public.

7. Reciprocity: The practice of exchanging things with mutual benefits.
 - Synonyms: Mutuality, cooperation, exchange.
 - Antonyms: Unilateralism, isolation, imbalance.
 - Sentence: Trade agreements are often based on the principle of reciprocity.

8. Ambiguity: Uncertainty or lack of clarity in meaning or intention.
 - Synonyms: Vagueness, uncertainty, obscurity.
 - Antonyms: Clarity, transparency, precision.
 - Sentence: The ambiguity in the instructions caused confusion among the participants.

9. Rampant: Spreading or growing quickly and uncontrolled, especially in a way that is harmful or unwelcome.
 - Synonyms: Uncontrolled, unrestrained, widespread.
 - Antonyms: Controlled, restrained, limited.
 - Sentence: Corruption was rampant in the organization, affecting its efficiency and public trust.

10. Abrogate: To officially end a law, agreement, or practice.
 - Synonyms: Repeal, annul, revoke, abolish.
 - Antonyms: Enact, establish, validate.
 - Sentence: The government decided to abrogate the outdated law, replacing it with modern regulations.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

14th December, 2024

1. Cow protection and welfare have always been a key focus in Uttar Pradesh, especially under the leadership of Yogi Adityanath, both as the Chief Minister and the Peethadheeshwar of Gorakshapeeth.
 - The state has seen significant efforts to promote indigenous cow breeds, enhance milk production, and provide welfare to cows. These initiatives, supported by infrastructure developments such as veterinary colleges, are set to transform Uttar Pradesh into a leader in cow milk production.
2. A stakeholders' coordination meeting aimed at reintroducing rhinoceroses to the D. Ering Wildlife Sanctuary (DEWS) in East Siang District was convened at the Siang Guest House under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner of Pasighat.
 - The meeting brought together key stakeholders, including local legislators, government officials, NGOs such as Aaranyak, Wildlife Trust of India (WTI), WWF, EcoDevelopment Committees, and the Community Surveillance and Monitoring Team of DEWS.
3. Donald Trump, named Time's 2024 Person of the Year, will ring the New York Stock Exchange's opening bell on Thursday. This marks a dual recognition for the former president, who has often viewed the stock market as a barometer of public approval and cherished symbols of business success.
4. President Droupadi Murmu conferred the honorary rank of 'General of Indian Army' on Nepal's Army chief General Ashok Raj Sigdel at a ceremony in New Delhi on Thursday (December 12, 2024).
 - The honour was given to him for his commendable military prowess and immeasurable contribution to further fostering Nepal's long and friendly association with India, according to a statement issued by the President's office.

5. The 10th World Ayurveda Congress (WAC 2024) and Arogya Expo were inaugurated in Dehradun, in the august presence of the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Ayush Prataprao Jadhav and Chief Minister, Uttarakhand, Pushkar Singh Dhami, said Ministry of Ayush in a statement.
6. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has launched a new scheme, an extension of the Smart Cities Mission, with an allocation of Rs8,000 crore to develop 8 new smart cities. The scheme aims to address rapid urbanization pressures, with 23 states submitting 28 proposals.
7. Smriti Mandhana made history, becoming the first woman cricketer to score four ODI centuries in a calendar year. She achieved this milestone during the third ODI against Australia in Perth, reaching her century off 103 balls. Despite her impressive 14-boundary, onesix innings, India lost the match. This feat surpasses the previous record of three centuries, shared by seven players.
8. Shaheen Afridi etched his name in cricket history, becoming the first Pakistan bowler to reach 100 wickets in all formats. His 3/22 helped him achieve the T20I milestone during Pakistan's match against South Africa. Despite his record-breaking performance, Pakistan fell short of the 184-run target, losing by 11 runs. Shaheen also became the third Pakistani bowler to claim 100 T20I wickets, joining Haris Rauf and Shadab Khan.