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VOCABULARY

1. **Wrangling:** To argue or dispute persistently over a matter, often in a noisy or angry way.
 - Synonyms: Disputing, quarreling, bickering
 - Antonyms: Agreeing, reconciling, collaborating
 - Sentence: The board members were wrangling over the details of the new policy.

2. **Endeavour:** A purposeful or industrious undertaking, especially one that requires effort or determination.
 - Synonyms: Attempt, effort, venture
 - Antonyms: Inactivity, idleness, laziness
 - Sentence: His endeavour to create a sustainable solution to the plastic problem is commendable.

3. **Elicit:** To draw out or bring forth a response, feeling, or answer.
 - Synonyms: Evoke, draw out, extract
 - Antonyms: Suppress, withhold, hide
 - Sentence: The detective's questioning helped elicit the truth from the suspect.

4. **Baulk:** To hesitate or refuse to proceed or act in a certain way.
 - Synonyms: Hesitate, resist, recoil
 - Antonyms: Proceed, agree, accept
 - Sentence: Many countries baulked at the idea of cutting down their plastic production.

5. **Impasse:** A situation in which no progress is possible, especially because of disagreement.
 - Synonyms: Stalemate, deadlock, standstill
 - Antonyms: Breakthrough, progress, resolution
 - Sentence: The negotiations reached an impasse when neither side could agree on the terms.

6. Evoke: To bring or recall a feeling, memory, or image to the conscious mind.
- Synonyms: Provoke, conjure
 - Antonyms: Repress, ignore
 - Sentence: The old photographs evoked fond memories of his childhood.
7. Ruminates: To think deeply about something, often for a prolonged period.
- Synonyms: Contemplate, ponder, reflect
 - Antonyms: Disregard, ignore, neglect
 - Sentence: He tended to ruminate on his mistakes, which prevented him from moving forward.
8. Indispensability: The quality of being absolutely necessary or essential.
- Synonyms: Necessity, essentiality, requirement
 - Antonyms: Nonessential, dispensability, redundancy
 - Sentence: The indispensability of clean water to human survival cannot be overstated.
9. Averse: Having a strong feeling of opposition or dislike.
- Synonyms: Opposed, reluctant, hostile
 - Antonyms: Favorable, inclined, sympathetic
 - Sentence: She was averse to the idea of working overtime during the holiday season.
10. Overwhelmed: To be affected with too much emotion, stress, or work.
- Synonyms: Stressed, overloaded, burdened
 - Antonyms: Unburdened, relaxed, calm
 - Sentence: She felt overwhelmed with the amount of work piling up on her desk.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

5th December, 2024

1. Nurse Maria Victoria Juan from Philippines, a Consultant at Philippines Army Health Services and Colonel, Reserve Force of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, has been announced as the winner of Aster Guardians Global Nursing Award 2024 and awarded with INR 2 Crore at a prestigious award ceremony held in Bengaluru, India.
2. World Soil Day was officially recognised by the United Nations General Assembly in 2014 to highlight the importance of soil health. It is celebrated every year to focus on the sustainable management of soil resources. This event was established under the guidance of the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) and supported by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
3. The New Pamban Bridge, India's first vertical lift railway sea bridge, is replacing the 105-year-old Pamban Bridge to enhance connectivity between the Indian mainland and Rameswaram in Tamil Nadu. This state-of-the-art bridge is a leap in railway infrastructure, designed for speed, safety, and modern train compatibility.
4. South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol declares emergency martial law, accusing the opposition of paralyzing the government and sympathizing with North Korea. The opposition claims this move is a tactic to sidestep impeachment, deepening political polarization and raising concerns about democratic stability.
5. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah has become Namibia's first female president, securing 57% of the vote and continuing the SWAPO party's 34-year rule. Her election signifies a momentous development in Namibian politics, despite challenges from the IPC, which plans to contest the election results, citing procedural issues.

6. The World Blind Cricket Council (WBCC) has decided to start a Women's T20 World Cup for the blind. India will host the inaugural tournament in November 2025, and it will be held at a neutral venue or in a hybrid model to ensure that the Indian and Pakistani teams continue to play each other.
7. The American multinational ride-hailing app Uber has launched its first water transport service in India with the onboarding of the Shikaras at the iconic Dal Lake in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir.
 - For the first time, a ride-hailing app in India has launched a booking service for water transport in India.
 - Shikaras are houseboats that resemble the gondolas of Venice but are smaller in size and are tastefully decorated.
 - Uber offers water transport services in some European countries, including Venice, Italy.
 - However, the service introduced in Srinagar was the first such service launched by the company in Asia.
8. Devendra Fadnavis has been unanimously elected as the BJP's legislative leader in Maharashtra and will take oath as Chief Minister for the third time on December 5.
 - The BJP secured a historic victory with 132 seats in the state elections, supported by allies and independents.
 - BJP leader Ashish Shelar was appointed as the chief whip, with a grand oath-taking ceremony scheduled.
9. Belgium made history on Sunday as the first country in the world to allow sex workers to sign formal employment contracts — granting them access to sick days, maternity pay and pension.
 - The new law also guarantees fundamental rights for sex workers, including the ability to refuse clients, set the conditions of an act, and stop an act at any moment.