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VOCABULARY

1. Conciliatory: Intended to gain goodwill or reduce hostility.
 - Synonyms: Pacifying, appeasing, peacemaking
 - Antonyms: Provocative, antagonistic, confrontational
 - Sentence: The leader's conciliatory speech helped ease tensions between the two conflicting groups.
2. Sabotage: Deliberately destroy, damage, or obstruct something.
 - Synonyms: Undermine, wreck, disrupt
 - Antonyms: Assist, support, aid
 - Sentence: The rival company was accused of attempting to sabotage the launch of the new product.
3. Retaliated: Made an attack or response in return for a similar action.
 - Synonyms: Reprised, avenged, counterattacked
 - Antonyms: Forgave, pardoned, tolerated
 - Sentence: The army retaliated swiftly after the attack on its base.
4. Escalated: Increased in intensity, magnitude, or seriousness.
 - Synonyms: Intensified, aggravated, heightened
 - Antonyms: De-escalated, reduced, alleviated
 - Sentence: The disagreement between the two nations escalated into a full-blown diplomatic crisis.
5. Reprieve: A temporary relief from a difficult or unpleasant situation.
 - Synonyms: Respite, postponement, delay
 - Antonyms: Continuation, execution, enforcement
 - Sentence: The accused received a last-minute reprieve from the court.
6. Rebuffed: To reject someone or something in an abrupt or ungracious manner.
 - Synonyms: Rejected, dismissed, spurned
 - Antonyms: Accepted, embraced, welcomed
 - Sentence: The company rebuffed the takeover bid, insisting on remaining independent.

- 7. Skeptical:** Not easily convinced; having doubts or reservations.
- Synonyms: Doubtful, suspicious, wary
 - Antonyms: Trusting, convinced, certain
 - Sentence: The investors were skeptical about the startup's ambitious expansion plans.
- 8. Deterioration:** The process of becoming progressively worse.
- Synonyms: Decline, degradation, worsening
 - Antonyms: Improvement, enhancement, progress
 - Sentence: The economic deterioration forced the government to introduce new policies.
- 9. Impede:** To hinder or obstruct the progress of something.
- Synonyms: Hinder, obstruct, delay
 - Antonyms: Facilitate, assist, expedite
 - Sentence: The heavy traffic will impede our ability to arrive on time.
- 10. Adept:** Very skilled or proficient at something.
- Synonyms: Skilled, expert, proficient
 - Antonyms: Inept, unskilled, clumsy
 - Sentence: He is adept at solving complex mathematical problems quickly.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

10th March, 2025

1. The Ministry of Defence has signed a \$248 million contract with Russia's Rosoboron export to procure 1000 HP Engines for T-72 Tanks. This agreement includes the transfer of technology to Avadi's Heavy Vehicle Factory, enhancing the 'Make in India' initiative. Upgrading T-72 tanks from 780 HP to 1000 HP engines will significantly boost battlefield mobility and the Indian Army's offensive capabilities.
2. Indian scientists have developed a modern-day 'Brahmastra' with an astonishing speed of 12,144 km per hour.
 - This weapon, named the Long Range Anti-Ship Missile (LRAShM), is a hypersonic glide missile.
 - It was developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
 - It outperforms similar missiles like China's DF-17 in terms of range and technology.
3. Pakistan has become the second-most terrorism-affected country, according to the Global Terrorism Index 2025 report. The rise in terrorist activity is linked to the influence of the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan. In 2024, terrorism-related deaths increased by 45 per cent, with Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa being the worst-hit regions.
4. India's new Astra MK-III missile, renamed Gandiva, significantly increases its aerial combat capabilities with a range of 340 kilometers, surpassing rivals like China's PL-15 and the U.S. AIM-174. India's defense exports have also surged to a record high of Rs 21,083 crore for the fiscal year 2023-24.
5. India has reached a significant milestone in its legal and administrative history with the appointment of Anju Rathi Rana as the country's first woman law secretary. A distinguished Indian Legal Service (ILS) officer, Rana's appointment marks a historic moment in the Ministry of Law and Justice. The government issued an official notification regarding her appointment.
6. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday (March 9, 2025) hailed the development of India adding the 58th tiger reserve to its tally with Madhya Pradesh's Madhav Tiger Reserve, and said it was "amazing news for wildlife lovers".
 - Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav had on Saturday (March 8) said he was thrilled to announce that the country has added the 58th tiger reserve to its tally with the latest entrant being Madhav Tiger Reserve.

7. Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Saturday (March 8, 2025) said that the Delhi cabinet has approved a government scheme Mahila Samriddhi Yojnato give financial assistance of ₹2,500 per month to women. The government has also decided to set aside a budgetary allocation of ₹5,100 crore for the scheme.
 - The Chief Minister however did not specify who all will benefit from the scheme or the total number of beneficiaries. But the scheme is likely to benefit around 17 lakh women and beneficiaries will have to be 21-60 years of age and have a BPL (below poverty line) card among others, according to sources.
8. Andrew G. Barto and Richard S. Sutton of the United States of America have been selected for the prestigious 2024 ACM A.M. Turing Award. The winner of the prestigious A.M.Turner award, which is considered as a Nobel Prize in Computing, was announced by the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) in New York, United States of America.
9. Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah has announced that Bangalore City University will be renamed as Dr. Manmohan Singh Bengaluru University in tribute to the former PM. The government aims to transform it into a model university, integrating Government Arts College and Government RC College.