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## VOCABULARY

1. Fiasco: A complete failure, especially a humiliating or ludicrous one.
  - Synonyms: Debacle, disaster, catastrophe
  - Antonyms: Success, triumph, achievement
  - Sentence: The concert turned into a fiasco when the main performer failed to show up.
  
2. Solace: Comfort or consolation in a time of distress or sadness.
  - Synonyms: Comfort, consolation, relief
  - Antonyms: Distress, discomfort, aggravation
  - Sentence: He found solace in music during difficult times.
  
3. Proxy: The authority to represent someone else, especially in voting.
  - Synonyms: Substitute, representative, delegate
  - Antonyms: Principal, self, primary
  - Sentence: She appointed a proxy to vote on her behalf at the meeting.
  
4. Hot potato: A controversial or difficult issue that is hard to deal with.
  - Synonyms: Controversy, issue, predicament
  - Antonyms: Simple matter, easy task, straightforward issue
  - Sentence: The policy on immigration has become a political hot potato.

5. **Beleaguered:** Suffering or being subjected to constant or repeated trouble or harassment.
- Synonyms: Besieged, harassed, troubled
  - Antonyms: Supported, protected, aided
  - Sentence: The beleaguered company struggled to stay afloat amidst the financial crisis.
6. **De facto:** In fact, whether by right or not; existing in reality.
- Synonyms: Actual, real, effective
  - Antonyms: De jure, legal, official
  - Sentence: He became the de facto leader of the group after the previous leader resigned.
7. **Arsenals:** A collection of weapons and military equipment stored by a country, person, or group.
- Synonyms: Armory, stockpile, cache
  - Antonyms: Disarmament, demilitarization, reduction
  - Sentence: The country is known to have a large arsenal of nuclear weapons.
8. **Expedite:** Make (an action or process) happen sooner or be accomplished more quickly.
- Synonyms: Hasten, accelerate, speed up
  - Antonyms: Delay, hinder, slow down
  - Sentence: The manager promised to expedite the approval process for the project.

9. Testy: Easily irritated; impatient and somewhat bad-tempered.

- Synonyms: Irritable, grumpy, short-tempered
- Antonyms: Calm, patient, easygoing
- Sentence: The testy customer complained about every aspect of the service.

### **IDIOMS AND PHRASES**

10. Rain cats and dogs : Rain heavily
11. No avail : Without any result
12. Be in a tight corner : In a very difficult situation
13. Bring to light : Disclose
14. Chew the cud : Ponder over something

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2024

1. President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday appointed BJP MP Bhartruhari Mahtab as pro-tem speaker of Lok Sabha.  
"President is pleased to appoint Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab, Member, Lok Sabha as Speaker Protem under Article 95(1) of the Constitution to perform the duties of Speaker till election of the Speaker."
2. According to the 9th edition of the "Sustainable Development Report (SDR)" released by the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), the world is significantly behind schedule in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by the United Nations (UN) in 2015, such as poverty reduction, hunger eradication, and environment protection.
  - As per the SDR 2024 report, none of the 17 SDGs are on track to be achieved by 2030.
3. Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte is set to become the next secretary general of Nato after his only rival dropped out of the race.
  - Romanian President Klaus Iohannis informed the military alliance he was withdrawing his bid at the end of last week, his office said on Thursday.

4. According to "State of Global Air (SoGA) 2024," published by the US-based research organization Health Effects Institute (HEI), 464 children under the age of five are said to die in India every day as a result of factors associated to air pollution. According to the report, the total India toll in 2021 was 2.1 million, spanning all age categories.
- According to the report, diseases and ailments linked to air pollution claimed 8.1 million lives worldwide in 2021, with India accounting for one in four of these deaths. China (2.3 million deaths) and India (2.1 million deaths) shared 55% of the world's fatalities from air pollution in 2021.
5. The strange boulder nicknamed 'Atoco Point' measured roughly 18 inches across and 14 inches tall, was speckled and conspicuously light-toned. It was spotted among a field of darker boulders on the 'Mount Washburn' hill.
6. The Indian government has approved the construction of a new major port at Vadhavan in the Dahanu taluka of Palghar district, Maharashtra. This project, aligned with the PM Gatishakti programme, aims to boost India's foreign trade capabilities and local economy. The Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, sanctioned this on June 19, 2024.

- 7.** Patna High Court on Thursday set aside the Bihar government's notifications to raise reservation in government jobs and educational institutions from 50 percent to 65 per cent.
- On November 7, 2023, the Nitish Kumar-led Mahagathbandhan government had raised the Bihar quota slab to 65 per cent. With this, reservation in the state effectively became 75 per cent when the 10 per cent quota for economically weaker sections (EWS) is taken into consideration.
  - A division bench of HC Chief Justice K Vinod Chandan and Justice Harish Kumar set aside the government's notifications, saying that it is "infringing upon right to equality". This came after a petition by Nalanda resident Rakesh Kumar and others.
- 8.** In a major setback for Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, the Delhi High Court on Friday paused his bail order in a corruption case related to the Delhi Liquor Policy until a hearing on the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) petition. The ED challenged Kejriwal's bail hours before he was set to leave Tihar jail. The order is expected to be pronounced within two or three days.

- 9.** Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot of Karnataka inaugurated the National Yoga Olympiad 2024 in Mysuru, emphasizing yoga's integral role in Indian culture and its global significance. More than 400 students and 100 teachers from across the country are participating in this inaugural three-day event.
- 10.** Pat Cummins, the fast bowler, spearheaded the bowling attack by claiming a hat-trick, while David Warner's unbeaten fifty guaranteed a smooth chase as Australia comfortably defeated Bangladesh.

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