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VOCABULARY

1. Homogenise: To make uniform or similar.
 - Synonyms: Standardize, unify, blend
 - Antonyms: Differentiate, diversify, vary
 - Sentence: The policy was designed to homogenise the educational standards across the country.

2. Malpractices: Improper, illegal, or negligent professional activity or treatment.
 - Synonyms: Misconduct, wrongdoing, corruption
 - Antonyms: Good practice, proper conduct, ethics
 - Sentence: The lawyer was disbarred due to his involvement in malpractices.

3. Chary: Cautiously or suspiciously reluctant to do something.
 - Synonyms: Wary, cautious, circumspect
 - Antonyms: Reckless, heedless, unguarded
 - Sentence: She was chary of investing in the new business venture.

4. Threadbare: Becoming thin and tattered with age; poor or shabby in appearance.
 - Synonyms: Worn out, shabby, dilapidated
 - Antonyms: New, fresh, well-kept
 - Sentence: His old coat was threadbare after years of use.

5. Limpidity: The quality of being clear, transparent, or understandable.
- Synonyms: Clarity, transparency, lucidity
 - Antonyms: Opaqueness, obscurity, murkiness
 - Sentence: The limpidity of the water in the lake was breathtaking.
6. Proliferation: Rapid increase in the number or amount of something.
- Synonyms: Spread, expansion, multiplication
 - Antonyms: Reduction, decline, decrease
 - Sentence: The proliferation of smartphones has transformed communication globally.
7. Recurrent: Occurring often or repeatedly.
- Synonyms: Recurring, repeated, frequent
 - Antonyms: Rare, infrequent, occasional
 - Sentence: He suffered from recurrent headaches throughout his life.
8. Robust: Strong and healthy; vigorous.
- Synonyms: Sturdy, strong, resilient
 - Antonyms: Weak, fragile, frail
 - Sentence: The company's robust financial performance impressed the investors.

9. Hitherto: Until now or until the point in time under discussion.

- Synonyms: Previously, so far, until now
- Antonyms: Henceforth, from now on, hereafter
- Sentence: The scientist's discoveries hitherto unknown to the public were finally published.

10. Imperative: Of vital importance; crucial.

- Synonyms: Essential, crucial, vital
- Antonyms: Optional, unimportant, unnecessary
- Sentence: It is imperative to follow safety protocols in the laboratory.

IDIOMS AND PHRASES

11. Pitch in : to start to do something.

12. Cutting corners : to do something in the quickest or cheapest way.

13. Break the bank : to cost too much

14. Cash cow : a product or service that makes a lot of money.

15. Out of pocket : having lost money in a transaction.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

12th July, 2024

- 1.** Rajasthan will shortly become the first State in the country to adopt an action plan for road safety for the next 10 years. The action plan, to be accompanied by a government policy, will be aimed at reducing road accidents in the State by 50% till 2030.
 - Deputy Chief Minister Prem Chand Bairwasaid on July 8 that the policy would generate awareness among the public at large about road safety provisions and bring about behavioural changes for complying with road safety rules. The action plan, being formulated by the Transport Department's road safety cell, forms part of the 100-day blueprint of the BJP government.
- 2.** The Sixteenth Finance Commission on Tuesday constituted an advisory council with five members to advise the Commission on any of the Terms of Reference (ToR) or related subjects, a press statement said.
 - Poonam Gupta, Director General of the National Council of Applied Economic Research, has been appointed as the convenor of the Advisory Council. The other members include economists D.K. Srivastava, Neelkanth Mishra, Pranjul Bhandari, and Rahul Bajoria.

3. Two new species of litter-dwelling jumping spiders from the evergreen forests of the southern Western Ghats have been found by researchers from Christ College, Irinjalakuda.
 - The newly discovered species, Habrocestum swaminathan and Habrocestum benjamin, which have been added to the illustrious roster of the genus Habrocestum, have sparked scientific curiosity among arachnologists and nature enthusiasts.
4. Former Director General of Indian Council of Medical Research and World Health Organisation's Chief Scientist Dr. Soumya Swaminathan has been appointed as the Principal Adviser at the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) for the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP).
5. Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Austria on Wednesday, marking the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to the country in 41 years since Indira Gandhi's trip in 1983.
6. The Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) officially welcomed Bangladesh as its fifth member state during the 8th Deputy National Security Adviser (DNSA) level meeting, hosted virtually by Mauritius on July 10, 2024.
 - Existing members of the CSC are India, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, and the Maldives, with Seychelles participating as an observer state.

- The CSC was established in 2020 to expand the scope of trilateral maritime cooperation between India, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives. Mauritius joined in March 2022.
- NSA Ajit Doval represented India at the 6th NSA level meeting in Mauritius on December 7, 2023, which included delegates from Mauritius, Sri Lanka, Seychelles, and Bangladesh. The 7th NSA level meeting of the CSC will be held in India later this year.

7. The Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) will start “Exercise Pitch Black” on July 12, 2024. This is a major multinational aerial warfare practice that is held in Australia every two years.

- Over 140 planes from around the world are taking part in this year’s drill, which is the biggest one in the 43- year history of the event. The India Air Force (IAF) has said it will take part in the drill, which will run from July 12 to August 2, 2024, sending Su-30 MKI fighter jets.

8. Every year on July 10th, India celebrates National Fish Farmer's Day to honour the invaluable contributions of fish farmers, aquaculture professionals, and stakeholders in the fisheries sector.

- Every year on July 12th, the world celebrates Malala Day in honor of Nobel Peace Prize recipient Malala Yousafzai.

9. Ukraine's Yaroslava Mahuchikh set a new world record in the women's high jump, clearing 2.10 meters at the Paris Diamond League to break a mark that has stood since 1987.

10. The Supreme Court on July 10 ruled that a divorced Muslim woman is entitled to a claim of maintenance under Section 125 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1973, against her former husband — affirming that a parallel remedy under a secular law cannot be foreclosed by existing personal laws.

- A bench of Justices B.V. Nagarathna and Justice Augustine George Masih pronounced separate but concurring judgments upholding the rights of Muslim women after a Muslim man challenged a Telangana High Court direction to pay ₹10,000 interim maintenance to his former wife. He had contended that the maintenance claim in his case would instead be governed by the provisions of the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986 (1986 Act).