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VOCABULARY

1. Scrutinise: To examine or inspect closely and thoroughly.
 - Synonyms: Inspect, examine, analyze
 - Antonyms: Ignore, overlook, neglect
 - Sentence: The auditors will scrutinise the financial records to ensure accuracy.

2. Flagging: Becoming weaker or less dynamic.
 - Synonyms: Declining, weakening, diminishing
 - Antonyms: Improving, strengthening, increasing
 - Sentence: The team's flagging performance in the second half cost them the match.

3. Complacent: Showing smug or uncritical satisfaction with oneself or one's achievements.
 - Synonyms: Self-satisfied, smug, unconcerned
 - Antonyms: Anxious, concerned, dissatisfied
 - Sentence: Despite the team's recent success, the coach warned against becoming complacent.

4. Unscrupulous: Having or showing no moral principles; not honest or fair.
 - Synonyms: Unprincipled, unethical, dishonest
 - Antonyms: Ethical, principled, honest
 - Sentence: Unscrupulous traders often exploit inexperienced investors.

5. Optics: The way in which an event or course of action is perceived by the public.
- Synonyms: Perception, appearance, impression
 - Antonyms: Reality, substance, actuality
 - Sentence: The optics of the decision were bad, making the company look insensitive.
6. Reaffirmation: The act of confirming or asserting something again.
- Synonyms: Confirmation, validation, reiteration
 - Antonyms: Denial, contradiction, negation
 - Sentence: The president's speech was a reaffirmation of the country's commitment to peace.
7. Rapport: A close and harmonious relationship in which the people or groups concerned understand each other's feelings or ideas and communicate well.
- Synonyms: Harmony, understanding, affinity
 - Antonyms: Discord, disagreement, alienation
 - Sentence: The teacher quickly developed a good rapport with her students.
8. Reluctance: Unwillingness or disinclination to do something.
- Synonyms: Hesitation, unwillingness, aversion
 - Antonyms: Willingness, eagerness, enthusiasm
 - Sentence: Despite his reluctance, he agreed to help with the project.

9. Reeks: Strongly suggests something unpleasant or disreputable.

- Synonyms: Smells, stinks, suggests
- Antonyms: Indicates, signifies, implies (in a positive context)
- Example: The whole situation reeks of corruption and dishonesty.

IDIOMS AND PHRASES

10. Year in, year out: Happening consistently or repeatedly every year.
11. See eye to eye: Agree or have the same opinion as someone else.
12. Not a hair out of place: Immaculately neat and tidy.
13. Face the music: Accept the consequences.
14. Whole nine yards: The complete or full extent of something.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

13th July, 2024

- 1.** India's peak population is likely to be 1.701 billion, and the country is expected to reach that mark in 2062, according to the United Nations (UN) World Population Prospects report released on Thursday. This means it has 38 years before it hits its population peak.
 - Currently, India is the most populous country in the world and is likely to remain so until the end of the century.
- 2.** Sports brand PUMA India has announced a significant partnership with the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), becoming the Official Footwear Partner for the Indian contingent at the Paris Olympics 2024.
- 3.** In a significant recognition of its efforts in agricultural development, Nagaland has been awarded the title of best state in horticulture at the prestigious Agriculture Leadership Awards 2024.
- 4.** The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) and the Border Security Force (BSF) have reserved 10% of constable jobs for ex-Agniveers. Both forces play critical roles in safeguarding national security and maintaining law and order. By setting aside these positions, they recognize the contributions of ex-Agniveers and promote inclusivity in recruitment.

- Director General, CISF, Nina Singh and Director General, Border Security Force, Nitin Agrawal confirmed that as per the direction of Home Ministry, 10% of constable positions have been reserved for Agniveers .
 - Details of the Agniveer Scheme: Introduced in 2022, the scheme allows candidates to enroll in the Indian Armed Forces for four years. Up to 25% of Agniveers may be offered permanent positions based on performance and organizational needs.
5. The second part of building the Viraat Ramayan Mandir in East Champaran, Bihar, has begun. This is a big step toward building what will likely be the biggest Ramayan temple in the world. This phase began on July 09 and comes after the first phase, which was finished successfully in just 10 months.
6. According to the latest 2024 summer census figure released by the Forest Department of Uttar Pradesh on 10 July 2024, the total population of the state bird, the Sarus Crane, has increased to 19,918, an increase of 396 compared to last year.
- The summer census was conducted by the Forest Department with the help of 10,000 citizens in the state.
 - Uttar Pradesh has the largest Sarus crane population in India.

- 7.** Vizhinjam Port has welcomed its first mothership.
 - The San Fernando container ship owned by shipping giant Maersk, which set sail from Xiamen Port and which has a capacity of 8,000 to 9,000 twenty-foot equivalents (TEUs), arrived at the port in Kerala on Thursday.
- 8.** India TV chairman Rajat Sharma has been elected as the new president of the News Broadcasters & Digital Association, succeeding Avinash Pandey. Sharma emphasizes the need for unity in facing industry challenges and ensuring a free and fair news environment for media operations in India.
- 9.** Europe's Ariane 6 rocket successfully completed its maiden flight, launching satellites from Kourou, French Guiana, and restoring Europe's autonomous space access. Despite minor issues and a trajectory deviation, the launch marked a significant achievement after a four-year development delay.
- 10.** In a comprehensive study conducted by InterNations in 2024, Vietnam has once again secured its position as the most affordable destination for expatriates. This marks the fourth consecutive year that the Southeast Asian nation has topped the list, solidifying its reputation as a prime location for those seeking an economical lifestyle abroad.