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VOCABULARY

1. Apprehension: Anxiety or fear that something bad or unpleasant will happen.
 - Synonyms: Anxiety, fear, worry
 - Antonyms: Confidence, calmness, certainty
 - Sentence: There was a sense of apprehension in the room as the results were about to be announced.
2. Triumph: A great victory or achievement.
 - Synonyms: Victory, success, conquest
 - Antonyms: Defeat, failure, loss
 - Sentence: Spain's triumph in the European Championship was celebrated across the country.
3. Frenzied: Wildly excited or uncontrolled.
 - Synonyms: Hectic, frantic, chaotic
 - Antonyms: Calm, orderly, composed
 - Sentence: The frenzied celebrations after the match lasted well into the night.
4. Astute: Having or showing an ability to accurately assess situations or people and turn this to one's advantage.
 - Synonyms: Shrewd, sharp, perceptive
 - Antonyms: Foolish, naive, inept
 - Sentence: The team's success was largely due to the coach's astute strategies.

5. Mesmerised : Capture the complete attention of (someone); transfix.

- Synonyms: Captivated, entranced, spellbound
- Antonyms: Disenchanted, bored, indifferent
- Sentence: The audience was mesmerised by the stunning performance.

6. Rousing : Exciting and inspiring.

- Synonyms: Stimulating, stirring, thrilling
- Antonyms: Dull, boring, uninspiring
- Sentence: The team's rousing comeback inspired fans across the nation.

7. Disconcertingly: In a manner that causes one to feel unsettled or disturbed.

- Synonyms: Unsettlingly, disturbingly, worryingly
- Antonyms: Comfortingly, reassuringly, soothingly
- Sentence: The disconcertingly high inflation rates caused concern among the policymakers.

8. Unpredictability: The quality of being unpredictable or difficult to foresee.

- Synonyms: Uncertainty, volatility, inconsistency
- Antonyms: Predictability, consistency, stability
- Sentence: The unpredictability of food prices makes budgeting a challenge for many households.

9. Deficient: Not having enough of a specified quality or ingredient.

- Synonyms: Insufficient, lacking, inadequate
- Antonyms: Sufficient, abundant, adequate
- Sentence: The region's deficient rainfall has adversely affected the crop yield.

IDIOMS AND PHRASES

10. Snowed under: To be busy.
11. To break someone's bubble To do or say something that proves someone else's beliefs are not true.
12. Walk on eggshells : To be very careful with your actions and words.
13. Bite the bullet : Finish something no matter how unsatisfying or unpleasant it is.
14. Make two ends meet : To have just enough money for all your needs.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

17th July, 2024

- 1.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to attend the UN General Assembly's high-level meeting in New York in September, according to the preliminary programme released by the Assembly President Dennis Francis' office.
- 2.** The U-WIN portal, a replication of the Covid-19 vaccine management system Co-WIN, is set for a pan-India launch likely by the end of August, aiming to maintain an electronic registry of routine immunisations.
 - Currently, U-WIN is in pilot mode across all states and Union Territories, except for West Bengal, which is yet to start uploading data, the sources told PTI, adding that it is still under consideration in the state.
 - The U-WIN platform captures every vaccination event for pregnant women and children under the Universal Immunization Programme (UIP).
- 3.** After years of legal battles, controversies and debates, the Ratna Bhandar, the sacred treasury of Shree Jagannath Temple, Puri was opened after 46 years on July 14.
 - "In accordance with the divine will of Lord Shree Jagannath, the Ratna Bhandar was opened today after 46 long years. I sincerely hope for the success of this monumental endeavour," informed Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on X.

4. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) will launch its 'One Scientist-One Product' programme on July 16 to improve research in the field of agriculture and animal husbandry.
 - It will also formally announce the release of 323 varieties of 56 crops, including cereals, oilseeds, forage crops, and sugarcane, at a function in Delhi on Tuesday as part of the 96th foundation day of the institution. These crops include 289 climate-resilient varieties and 27 bio-fortified varieties
5. Three unidentified militants have been killed in an ongoing anti-militancy operation near the Line of Control (LoC) in north Kashmir's Kupwara on July 14.
 - "Three terrorists have been eliminated in the ongoing anti-infiltration operation on the LoC in Keran Sector, along with recovery of weapons and other war-like stores," an Army spokesman said.
6. The 2024 World Heritage Young Professionals Forum meeting commenced in New Delhi on 15 July 2024. It is being organised as part of the United Nations Education Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) World Heritage Committee Meeting.
 - New Delhi will host the 46th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee meeting from 21 to 31 July 2024.

- 50 Young heritage professionals from across the world will participate in the Forum, meeting with 20 professionals from India and 30 from around the world.
7. The Indian government has made a significant move in the telecommunications sector by appointing Robert Jerard Ravi as the new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited.
 8. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the INS Towers at the Indian Newspaper Society (INS) Secretariat in Mumbai's Bandra Kurla Complex. This new facility is set to serve as a modern hub for the newspaper industry in Mumbai, addressing the evolving needs of INS members.
 9. In a significant move to strengthen bilateral relations, India and the Republic of the Marshall Islands have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that will facilitate the implementation of four community development projects in the Marshall Islands.
 - This announcement was made by Indian Foreign Minister S Jaishankar, who highlighted the agreement as a symbol of India's dedication to supporting the Marshall Islands' development path, thereby solidifying the enduring friendship between the two countries.

- The projects, which will be funded through the MoU, include the construction of a community sports centre in Ailuk Atoll, an airport terminal on Mejit Island, and community centres in both Arno and Wotje Atolls. These initiatives are designed to improve infrastructure and enhance the quality of life for the residents of the Marshall Islands.

10. Captain Avhilash Rawat and his crew of an oil tanker have been named among the winners of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) 2024 Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea for their "extraordinary courage" shown in a Red Sea rescue mission.

- Captain Rawat and his crew were declared winners by the IMO on July 10 for the "determination and endurance" demonstrated while coordinating firefighting and damage control efforts to combat a fire that broke out after an antiship missile reportedly fired by Iranian-backed Houthi rebels struck their vessel 'Marlin Luanda' earlier this year.

11. The Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) arrested two men near the China border in Eastern Ladakh on July 9 for allegedly smuggling 108 kg of gold biscuits from China. While smuggling of smaller items was common, it was the first time ever that an alleged gold smuggling racket was exposed in the area with the arrest of two locals. Another person has been detained, an ITBP official said.

- The accused were intercepted by an ITBP team that was out on a Long Range Patrolling in the border areas in Southern Sub Sector (SSS) in Eastern Ladakh to check infiltration and smuggling amid specific inputs of smuggling in the area near Sirigaple, Ladakh.

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