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VOCABULARY

1. Deficit: The amount by which something, especially a sum of money, is too small.
 - Synonyms: Shortfall, deficiency, insufficiency
 - Antonyms: Surplus, excess, abundance
 - Sentence: The government is taking measures to reduce the budget deficit.

2. Concessional: Offered at a reduced rate or on favorable terms.
 - Synonyms: Discounted, preferential, reduced
 - Antonyms: Full-priced, non-discounted
 - Sentence: Students can avail of concessional tickets for the movie.

3. Discretionary: Available for use at the discretion of the user.
 - Synonyms: Optional, voluntary, elective
 - Antonyms: Mandatory, obligatory, compulsory
 - Sentence: The manager has discretionary power to approve small expenses.

4. Corollary: A direct or natural consequence or result.
 - Synonyms: Consequence, result, outcome
 - Antonyms: Cause, origin, source
 - Sentence: Higher inflation is often a corollary of increased consumer spending.

5. Remission: The cancellation of a debt, charge, or penalty.
- Synonyms: Pardon, absolution, cancellation
 - Antonyms: Imposition, charge, penalty
 - Sentence: The company received a remission of taxes from the government.
6. Extremism: The holding of extreme political or religious views.
- Synonyms: Radicalism, fanaticism, zealotry
 - Antonyms: Moderation, centrism, pragmatism
 - Sentence: The government is implementing measures to combat political extremism.
7. Dissenters: A person who opposes a widely accepted opinion or belief.
- Synonyms: Opponents, objectors, protesters
 - Antonyms: Supporters, adherents, proponents
 - Sentence: The dissenters voiced their opposition to the new policy.
8. Draconian: Excessively harsh and severe.
- Synonyms: Harsh, severe, stringent
 - Antonyms: Lenient, gentle, mild
 - Sentence: The new law has been criticized as draconian by human rights activists.

9. Waning: Decreasing in size, extent, or degree.

- Synonyms: Diminishing, declining, fading
- Antonyms: Waxing, increasing, growing
- Sentence: The waning interest in traditional crafts is a concern for cultural preservation.

IDIOMS AND PHRASES

10. Over the hill: Something is old and no longer fit, attractive, or capable of doing useful work.

11. Hit the books: To study

12. Hit the sack: To go to bed in order to sleep

13. Through thick and thin: Through difficult times and situations

14. Off the chain: Extremely good

CURRENT AFFAIRS

19th July, 2024

1. The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways recently announced that the ministry has decided to carry out feasibility studies to use the National Waterways-101 on the Tizu Zunki River for the transportation of cargo and passengers.
2. Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Wednesday announced a new scheme called the 'Ladla Bhai Yojana' for youths who have passed the 12th examination in the state.
 - Under this scheme, students who have completed their 12th grade will receive Rs 6,000 per month. Additionally, those with a diploma will be given Rs8,000 monthly, while graduates will be provided with Rs10,000 each month.
3. After Punjab, West Bengal, and Delhi refused participation in the Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India (PM-SHRI) scheme, the Education Ministry has stopped funds to the three states under Centre's flagship Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)— a school education programme.
4. The Railway Protection Force (RPF) has rescued 84,119 Children at risk in stations and trains, preventing them from falling into harm's way from the various zones of the Indian railways in the past seven years.

- 5.** In a groundbreaking achievement, NASA has transmitted Missy Elliott's 1997 hit song "The Rain (Supa Dupa Fly)" to Venus, marking the first time a hip-hop song has been beamed into deep space.
- The transmission was made possible through NASA's Deep Space Network (DSN), from their Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Southern California. Traveling at the speed of light, the song covered the vast distance of 158 million miles to Venus, taking approximately 14 minutes to reach its destination.
- 6.** India's elite dog squad and the renowned 'K-9' team have been deployed to bolster the security for the Paris Olympics 2024. It is being understood that a 10-member K-9 team will be stationed in Paris for a month to assist in providing security for the upcoming Olympics.
- The two Indian K9 (canine) teams from the CRPF will undertake sniffing and patrolling duties at various venues that will hold events for the Paris Olympics. The deployment will last until the completion of the Summer Olympic Games 2024, which will feature athletes from 196 nations.
- 7.** Tim Walker, an award-winning designer-turned author, has recently published a historical fiction novel titled "The Prisoner of Bhopal." This book, aimed at young readers, commemorates the 40th anniversary of one of India's most devastating industrial disasters – the Bhopal gas tragedy.

- 8.** External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar inaugurated the India -Mauritius Maitree Udyan in Port Louis and planted a tree there. The Foreign Minister of Mauritius, Maneesh Gobin was also present during the groundbreaking ceremony on 16 July 2024. Dr S Jaishankar is on a two-day visit to Mauritius on July 16 and 17, 2024.
- 9.** In its latest World Economic Outlook, the IMF has increased India's GDP growth forecast for the ongoing fiscal year to 7%, up by 20 basis points from earlier projections. This upward revision reflects improved consumption prospects, particularly in rural areas, supporting India's economic trajectory. However, the IMF retained a slower growth rate of 6.5% for the following fiscal year.
- 10.** Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh recently inaugurated Asia's inaugural health research-related "Pre-clinical Network Facility" at Faridabad's Translational Health Science & Technology Institute (THSTI). This facility, selected by the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), is notable as Asia's first and the 9th globally to handle BSL3 pathogens.