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## VOCABULARY

1. Pander: To gratify or indulge an immoral or distasteful desire or habit.
  - Synonyms: Cater, gratify, indulge
  - Antonyms: Ignore, neglect, abstain
  - Sentence: Politicians often pander to public fears during election campaigns.
  
2. Envisage: Contemplate or conceive of as a possibility or a desirable future event.
  - Synonyms: Imagine, envision, foresee
  - Antonyms: Ignore, disregard, neglect
  - Sentence: The policy envisaged a future where local workers had priority in job placements.
  
3. Quash: Reject or void, especially by legal procedure.
  - Synonyms: Annul, void, overturn
  - Antonyms: Uphold, validate, support
  - Sentence: The court decided to quash the law as it violated constitutional rights.
  
4. Parochialism: A limited or narrow outlook, especially focused on a local area; narrow-mindedness.
  - Synonyms: Narrow-mindedness, insularity, provincialism
  - Sentence: Parochialism in policymaking can prevent a country from benefiting from global opportunities.

5. Resentment: Bitter indignation at having been treated unfairly.

- Synonyms: Bitterness, anger, displeasure
- Antonyms: Contentment, satisfaction, happiness
- Sentence: There was a lot of resentment among the local workers towards the new migrants.

6. Temptation: The desire to do something, especially something wrong or unwise.

- Synonyms: Allurement, lure, enticement
- Antonyms: Repulsion, deterrence, aversion
- Sentence: The temptation to break the diet was strong, but she resisted.

7. Uproar : A loud and impassioned noise or disturbance.

- Synonyms: Commotion, chaos, turmoil
- Antonyms: Calm, order, silence
- Sentence: The decision to close the park caused an uproar among the residents.

8. Proficiency: A high degree of skill; expertise.

- Synonyms: Competence, skill, expertise
- Antonyms: Ineptitude, incompetence, inability
- Sentence: Her proficiency in multiple languages made her an asset to the company.

9. Inevitably: As is certain to happen; unavoidably.

- Synonyms: Unavoidably, inescapably, predictably
- Antonyms: Avoidably, uncertainly, unpredictably
- Sentence: Inevitably, the project was delayed due to unforeseen circumstances.

### **IDIOMS AND PHRASES**

10. Ant in Your Pants : to be very restless or impatient.
11. Dropping like Flies: die or collapse in large numbers.
12. Hold your horses : wait, slow down.
13. In the dog house: in trouble with another person
14. Until the cow comes home: for an indefinitely long time.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

20<sup>th</sup> July, 2024

1. Space scientists Prahlad Chandra Agrawal and Anil Bhardwaj were honoured by the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) at its biannual meeting in Busan, South Korea, for their contributions to space research.
  - The 45th COSPAR scientific assembly is being held in Busan, South Korea, from 13 -21 July 2024.
2. India have named Suryakumar Yadav as the captain of their men's T20I team for the tour of Sri Lanka later this month with Shubman Gill named as the vice-captain of the T20I and ODI sides.
  - Suryakumar Yadav, the No.2 ranked India batter in the ICC Men's T20I Batting Rankings, has been named as the T20I captain ahead of the Sri Lanka series.
3. Shaurya Bawa had to settle for a bronze medal after his defeat in the semifinals of the WSF World Junior Squash Championships 2024, which were played in Houston, Texas, the United States of America, on July 17, 2024.
  - Two-time Asian Games medallist, young Indian female Squash player Anahat Singh missed a medal by losing her quarter-final match against Nadien Elhammamy of Egypt.
  - This is the second medal won by an Indian male player in the World Junior Squash Championships.

4. In 2024, this year, it will be observed on July 20, Saturday.
  - The day was later recognised by UNESCO in 1966 as a way to celebrate chess as a game that promotes intellectual development, cultural exchange, and mutual understanding among nations.
5. Indian Navy's frontline frigate, INS Tabar arrived at Hamburg, Germany on 17 July 24 for a three day visit. It will participate in a exercise. During the visit, activities will include professional exchanges between the Indian and German Navies, tours of the German Naval Academy, and public visits to the ship. The crew of INS Tabar will also engage in community service.
6. India, languishing at the 124th spot in the FIFA men's rankings, released on Thursday, failed to make any progress despite the recent success of Copa America winners Argentina, who consolidated their position at the top.
  - The Indian men's national football team had dropped three places in the June rankings after failing to qualify for the third round of the 2026 World Cup Qualifiers, following defeats against Qatar and Afghanistan.

- 7.** Two coal mines in Chhattisgarh, Gevra and Kusmunda, have been included in WorldAtlas.com's top ten coal mines of the world. These two coal mines in Chhattisgarh account for about 10 % of the country's annual coal production, and their combined coal production was more than 100 million tons in 2023-24.
- Indonesia dominates the top ten coal mines list, with four mines, and the United States Black Thunder Mine has been ranked the world's largest coal mine.
  - China is the world's largest producer and consumer of coal, and India is the second largest producer.
  - The United States of America has the largest known coal reserves in the world.
- 8.** Union Minister for the Development of the North East Region Jyotiraditya Scindia on Friday launched the North East Region Agri Commodity E-Connect (NERACE) designed to benefit the farmers of the region and help position it as a hub of high-value horticultural products in the international market.
- 9.** The newly recognised microcontinent exists on a tectonic plate boundary between Canada and Greenland which has formed the Davis Strait. This strait connects the Labrador Sea and Baffin Bay.

- Scientists have identified a 19–24-kilometre-thick fragment of continental crust about 400km long in the ocean off the west coast of Greenland which has been dubbed the Davis Strait proto-microcontinent.

**10.** Nasa has announced the discovery of six new worlds, pushing the total number of confirmed planets beyond our solar system to 5,502.

- This new milestone marks a significant advancement in our understanding of the universe and the potential for life beyond Earth and the Solar System.

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