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VOCABULARY

1. Angst-ridden: Filled with deep anxiety or dread.
 - Synonyms: Anxious, troubled, worried
 - Antonyms: Calm, untroubled, relaxed
 - Sentence: The angst-ridden message from the country's unemployed youth was loud and clear.

2. Palpable: So intense as to be almost touched or felt.
 - Synonyms: Tangible, perceptible, noticeable
 - Antonyms: Intangible, imperceptible, unclear
 - Sentence: There was a palpable lack of jobs that was agitating young voters.

3. Redress: Remedy or set right.
 - Synonyms: Rectify, correct, amend
 - Antonyms: Aggravate, worsen, exacerbate
 - Sentence: The Minister was keen to redress matters ahead of the State elections.

4. Quell: Suppress or put an end to.
 - Synonyms: Suppress, subdue, pacify
 - Antonyms: Incite, provoke, agitate
 - Sentence: Ms. Sitharaman has sought to quell the strident Opposition charge.

5. Leverage: Use something to maximum advantage.
- Synonyms: Utilize, exploit, harness
 - Antonyms: Misuse, waste, ignore
 - Sentence: The skilling programme leverages the existing network of ITIs.
6. Lynchpin: A person or thing vital to an organization or system.
- Synonyms: Keystone, cornerstone, backbone
 - Antonyms: Nonessential, peripheral, trivial
 - Sentence: Address some of the challenges faced by the lynchpin MSME sector.
7. Entice: Attract or tempt by offering pleasure or advantage.
- Synonyms: Tempt, lure, attract
 - Antonyms: Repel, deter, discourage
 - Sentence: In a bid to entice more taxpayers to embrace the new Income-Tax regime.
8. Consolidation: The action or process of combining a number of things into a single more effective or coherent whole.
- Synonyms: Unification, merging, strengthening
 - Antonyms: Fragmentation, separation, disintegration
 - Sentence: The Budget sticks to the government's fiscal consolidation path.

9. Egregious: Outstandingly bad; shocking.

- Synonyms: Appalling, atrocious, flagrant
- Antonyms: Marvelous, wonderful, admirable
- Sentence: The most egregious reduction is the cut in share of spending on MGNREGA.

IDIOMS AND PHRASES

10. Donkey's year: a very long time
11. Leave no stone unturned: to try every possible way
12. Pull a fast one: to successfully deceive someone
13. Grease the palm: to secretly give someone money
14. Strain every nerve: work very hard

CURRENT AFFAIRS

24th July, 2024

1. The budget proposed a total expenditure of ₹47.65 trillion for FY 2024-25. Ministry-wise allocation in 2024-25:
 - Defence: Rs6,21,940 cr
 - Rural: Rs2,65,808 cr
 - Agriculture: Rs1,51,851 cr
 - Home affairs: Rs 1,50,983 cr
 - Education: Rs1,25,638 cr
 - IT & Telecom: Rs1,16,342 cr
 - Health: Rs89,287 cr
 - Energy: Rs68,769 cr
 - Socia welfare: Rs56,501cr
2. Olympic gold medalist shooter Abhinav Bindra was awarded the Olympic Order by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) on 22 July 2024 for his outstanding services to the Olympic Movement.
 - The award will be officially handed over during the 142nd IOC Session in Paris on August 10, the day before the Paris Olympics closing ceremony. The Olympic Order is the highest IOC award, recognizing distinguished contributions to the Olympic Movement.
 - Bindra became India's first individual Olympic gold medalist by winning the men's 10m air rifle event at the 2008 Beijing Games.

3. Manolo Marquez was appointed as the new head coach of the Indian men's football team by the All India Football Federation (AIFF) on July 20. Marquez will take over as the full-time national team head coach after ISL 2024-25.
4. India's Kush Maini won his maiden Formula 2 Sprint Race at the Hungarian Grand Prix after initial winner Richard Verschoor's was disqualified due to a technical infringement. Following the top of podium finish, the 23-year-old Invicta racing driver added 10 points to his season tally.
5. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Monday successfully carried out a second experimental flight for the demonstration of air breathing propulsion technology.
 - The propulsion systems were symmetrically mounted on either side of a RH-560 sounding rocket and launched from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, the Bengaluruheadquartered national space agency said in a statement.
6. The Department of School Education and Literacy is observing Shiksha Saptah from July 22 to July 28, 2024, to celebrate the fourth anniversary of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. This week-long event focuses on promoting collaboration and highlighting the educational reforms introduced by NEP 2020.

7. Researchers from the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) have identified a new plant species, *Phlogacanthus sudhansusekharii*, in the Itanagar Wildlife Sanctuary, Arunachal Pradesh. This find brings attention to the area's wide range of plants and animals.
8. Captain Supreetha C.T., hailing from Mysuru, has made history by becoming the second Indian Army woman officer and the first from the Corps of Army Air Defence to be operationally deployed at Siachen.
9. Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced India's contribution of one million dollars to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre to support heritage conservation globally, particularly in the Global South. This announcement was made during the inauguration of the 46th session of the World Heritage Committee at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.
10. BBVA will issue a total amount of \$50 million and the resources will be used to finance projects focusing on reforestation, the regeneration of natural forests on degraded land, mangrove conservation or restoration, climate-smart agriculture, and wildlife habitat restoration, among others.

- Colombia is the world's most biodiverse country per square kilometer. It is home to 14 percent of known plant species in the world, only surpassed by Brazil; and close to 4,500 bird species. This represents one third of all bird species in the world, making it the country with the greatest bird diversity on the planet.
- In 2023, BBVA in Colombia channeled 3 billion pesos for environmental conservation initiatives, which represents growth of nearly 40 percent compared to the resources allocated to this purpose in 2022.

11. The Houthis, an Iran-backed Islamist group based in Yemen, have played a role in the Gaza conflict, targeting shipping in the Red Sea in solidarity with Gaza and seeking a permanent end to Yemen's civil war.

- Yemen is a country in West Asia, located at Horn of Africa.
- Located in southern Arabian Peninsula, it borders Saudi Arabia, Oman & Indian Ocean.
- Capital: Sana'a.
- Currency: Yemeni Rial.