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VOCABULARY

1. Vitiated: Spoil or impair the quality or efficiency of.
 - Synonyms: Corrupt, degrade, tarnish
 - Antonyms: Purify, improve, enhance
 - Sentence: The scandal vitiating the public's trust in the government.

2. Ostensibly: Apparently or purportedly, but perhaps not actually.
 - Synonyms: Seemingly, apparently, outwardly
 - Antonyms: Genuinely, truly, actually
 - Sentence: He was ostensibly studying all night, but his friends knew he was at the party.

3. Augean: Extremely difficult and unpleasant, especially related to tasks or places.
 - Synonyms: Filthy, Herculean, enormous
 - Antonyms: Clean, simple, easy
 - Sentence: The new manager faced the Augean task of reorganizing the company.

4. Impersonation: An act of pretending to be another person for the purpose of entertainment or fraud.
 - Synonyms: Imitation, mimicry, masquerade
 - Antonyms: Authenticity, genuineness
 - Sentence: The comedian's impersonation of the president was spot-on and hilarious.

5. Prolonged: Continuing for a long time or longer than usual; lengthy.

- Synonyms: Extended, lengthy, protracted
- Antonyms: Brief, short, abbreviated
- Sentence: The prolonged negotiations finally came to an end with a satisfactory agreement.

6. Unprecedented: Never done or known before.

- Synonyms: Unparalleled, unmatched, novel
- Antonyms: Common, ordinary, usual
- Sentence: The company achieved unprecedented success with its latest product launch.

7. Pore over: To read or study something very carefully.

- Synonyms: Examine, scrutinize, peruse
- Antonyms: Overlook, ignore, skim
- Sentence: She spent hours poring over the old family photographs.

8. Precedent: An earlier event or action that is regarded as an example or guide to be considered in subsequent similar circumstances.

- Synonyms: Example, model, pattern
- Antonyms: Subsequent, later, following
- Sentence: The ruling set a legal precedent that would influence future cases.

9. Assurances: A positive declaration intended to give confidence; a promise.

- Synonyms: Guarantee, promise, pledge
- Antonyms: Uncertainty, doubt, insecurity
- Sentence: The company gave assurances that the product was safe to use.

IDIOMS AND PHRASES

10. Doing the rounds: to be passed from one person to another
11. A damp squib: Complete failure
12. Put off: to delay doing something.
13. A dime a dozen: Anything that is common and easy to get
14. A chip on your shoulder: Being upset for something

CURRENT AFFAIRS

25th July, 2024

1. India celebrates the Income Tax Day, or Aaykar Divas, every year on July 24. This day commemorates the historical evolution of tax administration in India and the ongoing reforms that aim to enhance tax compliance and simplify the process for taxpayers.
 - On this day, Income tax was first levied as a duty in India in 1860. The department celebrated this day for the first time in 2010 marking 150 years of the introduction of Income tax in India. This year marks the 165th occasion of National Income Tax Day.
2. The city of Aizawl in Mizoram will be the fourth capital in Northeast India to have train service by July 2025. Currently, Guwahati, Agartala, and Naharlagun are all connected to the railway network. This makes it easier to get around the area.
3. Azerbaijan, hosting COP29 from November 11 to 22 this year, has announced the creation of a Climate Finance Action Fund (CFAF). This fund will be raised from fossil fuel producers to support green projects in developing countries and help member nations meet the 1.5°C temperature target.

- The CFAF aims to mobilize both public and private sectors, with Azerbaijan as the founding contributor. It plans to attract \$1 billion and secure at least 10 contributing countries.

4. According to Kirti Vardhan Singh, the Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, the country's total forest cover is 7,13,789 square kilometres or 21.71% of its geographical area. The minister gave this information in the Lok Sabha on 22 July 2024.

- The Minister gave this information by quoting the India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2021.
- The India State of Forest Report is prepared biennially by the Forest Survey of India, which is based in Dehradun, Uttarakhand.
- The Forest Survey of India comes under the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

5. Meghalaya becomes the first State to launch an OTT platform that monetizes youth passion. To cater for the huge youth population base, Government of Meghalaya introduced Hello Meghalaya OTT platform that intends to engage them in productive activities and enable economic growth.

6. In an effort to increase green cover and improve ground water level in the state, the UP government has implemented two schemes -- Upvan Yojna and Heritage Tree Adoption Scheme -- across the state.
 - Under the Upvan Yojna, saplings and cuttings of tree are being provided by the state government for plantation in parks, along the road and other spaces right from cities to tovillages.
7. Singapore has reclaimed its title as the world's most powerful passport, offering visa-free access to a record 195 global destinations according to the Henley Passport Index. India ranks 82nd, allowing visa-free entry to 58 countries.
8. NASA's Curiosity rover has stumbled upon an extraordinary find on Mars: pure sulfur crystals. The discovery occurred when the 1-ton rover accidentally cracked open a rock, revealing yellowish-green sulfur crystals that had never been seen before on the red planet.
9. Harmanpreet Kaur has now become the top run-scorer in women's T20I cricket for India, overtaking Smriti Mandhana. This milestone was achieved during India's Women's Asia Cup T20 match against the UAE in Dambulla on July 21. The UAE won the toss and chose to bowl first, Smriti Mandhana getting out on 13 runs.

10. Andy Murray has confirmed that he will retire from professional tennis after the Paris Olympics, saying it will be his "last ever tennis tournament."
- The 37-year-old, a three-time grand slam champion, will be appearing at his fifth Games and is the only man in history to win two Olympic singles gold medals.

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