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VOCABULARY

1. Confluence: the way in which two or more things come together to become one single thing.
 - Synonyms: Convergence, meeting, junction
 - Antonyms: Divergence, separation
 - Sentence: The confluence of different cultures at the festival was a sight to behold.

2. Constricting: Making narrower, especially by encircling pressure.
 - Synonyms: Tightening, squeezing, compressing
 - Antonyms: Expanding, loosening, freeing
 - Sentence: The constricting deadlines made it difficult for the team to be creative.

3. Vest: Confer or bestow (power, authority, property, etc.) on someone.
 - Synonyms: Empower, invest, endow
 - Antonyms: Divest, deprive, strip
 - Sentence: The constitution vests the power to declare war to the president.

4. Emanating: Originate from; be produced by.
 - Synonyms: Emitting, radiating, issuing
 - Antonyms: Absorbing, withholding, containing
 - Sentence: A sense of calm was emanating from the peaceful garden.

5. Allure: The quality of being powerfully and mysteriously attractive or fascinating.
- Synonyms: Attraction, charm, appeal
 - Antonyms: Repulsion, unattractiveness, detraction
 - Sentence: The allure of the ancient ruins drew tourists from around the world.
6. Jostling: the action of knocking or pushing roughly against someone
- Synonyms: Shoving, pushing, bumping
 - Antonyms: Avoiding, dodging, sidestepping
 - Sentence: The crowd was jostling to get a glimpse of the famous singer.
7. Tempestuous: Characterized by strong and turbulent or conflicting emotion.
- Synonyms: Turbulent, stormy, tumultuous
 - Antonyms: Calm, peaceful, serene
 - Sentence: The tempestuous debate continued late into the night.
8. Zest: Great enthusiasm and energy.
- Synonyms: Enthusiasm, gusto, fervor
 - Antonyms: Apathy, indifference, lethargy
 - Sentence: She performed with zest and vigor that captivated the audience.

9. Harrowing: Acutely distressing or painful.
- Synonyms: Distressing, traumatic, agonizing
 - Antonyms: Comforting, pleasant, soothing
 - Sentence: The harrowing tale of survival moved everyone to tears.
10. Vociferous: Expressing feelings or opinions in a very loud or forceful way.
- Synonyms: Clamorous, outspoken, vocal
 - Antonyms: Quiet, silent, mute
 - Sentence: The vociferous protests made it clear that the community was not in favor of the new policy.

IDIOMS AND PHRASES

11. Put something on ice: to postpone something
12. Cut corners: to save money or time when doing something.
13. Rain on someone's parade: to spoil someone's plans
14. Spill the beans: to reveal a secret
15. Take with a grain of salt: to not completely believe something that you are told.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

26th July, 2024

- 1.** The International Olympic Committee named the French Alps as the host for the 2030 Winter Games on July 24, though the decision is subject to certain conditions. While presenting the bid to IOC members in Paris, French President Emmanuel Macron assured the committee that the government formed after the 2024 Summer Games in Paris would handle all outstanding organisational and financial guarantees.
- 2.** Ahead of the opening ceremony of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games scheduled to begin this weekend, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) on Wednesday announced that Nita Ambani, Founder of Reliance Foundation has been re-elected unanimously as the IOC from India at the 142nd IOC session in Paris that is currently underway, winning unanimously with 100 per cent of the vote.
- 3.** President Droupadi Murmu has renamed two important halls at Rashtrapati Bhavan, with the Durbar Hall now to be called Ganatantra Mandap — which translates to Republic Hall — and Ashok Hall to be called Ashok Mandap.

- The Durbar Hall is the venue of key ceremonies and celebrations such as the presentation of national awards. “The term ‘Durbar’ refers to courts and assemblies of Indian rulers and the British. It lost relevance after India became a Republic, that is ‘Ganatantra’. The concept of ‘Ganatantra’ is deeply rooted in Indian society since the ancient times, making ‘Ganatantra Mandap’ an apt name for the venue,” said a Rashtrapati Bhavan statement.
4. The Sangameswara temple submerged in the backwaters of Srisaïlam project in Nandyal district on Wednesday following copious inflow. The temple, located in Kothapalli mandal, witnesses such submergence every year this time when water in the Krishna river flows from the upland areas and water level at Srisaïlam reaches 842 ft. Ahead of the submergence, priests perform special ‘Abhishekam’ and ‘Jaladhivasa’ ritual to the ancient ‘Shivalinga’. The temple will remain submerged till the water level drops and no worship is offered to the shrine during the period. As such, visitors will also be not allowed till the water recedes.
 5. On July 24, 2024, the Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) of India achieved a significant milestone in its ongoing efforts to enhance national security. The organization successfully conducted a flight test of the Phase-II Ballistic Missile Defence System, demonstrating India’s growing capabilities in defending against longrange ballistic missile threats.

6. Telangana's Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy announced in July 2024 that he would address unemployment by collecting data on job openings in all government offices every year by March.

- The goal of the project is to make hiring notices and processes easier. The State government will make a job calendar to make sure that every year by June 2, job notices are sent out.
- The process of hiring people should be over by December 9. The goal of this structured method is to make the hiring process for state jobs more open and accountable.

7. Kargil Vijay Diwas, celebrated every July 26, marks a significant moment in India's history—the victory over Pakistan in the 1999 Kargil War.

- This day honors the courage and sacrifice of Indian soldiers who defended the nation's sovereignty. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Drass in Ladakh on July 26, 2024, to commemorate the 25th anniversary of this historic event.

- 8.** The first of two advanced frigates, which is underconstruction by the Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) with technology transfer from Russia for the Indian Navy, was launched into water on Wednesday. India had contracted four frigates from Russia in October 2016, two of them to be built in Russia and two at the GSL.
- “In keeping with maritime tradition, the ship was launched by Rita Sreedharan, to the invocation from Atharva Veda, in the presence of P.S. Sreedharan Pillai, Governor of Goa. The ship has been named Tripud, after the mighty arrow, representing the indomitable spirit of Indian Navy and its ability to strike far and deep,” the Navy said in a statement on the launch.
 - Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited is located in Mumbai, Maharashtra. It constructs Scorpene Submarines, Missile Destroyers, and Stealth Frigates for the Indian Navy.
 - Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited, Kolkata
 - Hindustan Shipyard Ltd, Visakhapatnam
- 9.** India has made great progress in protecting forests. From 2010 to 2020, 266,000 hectares of new forest will be added each year. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), this makes India the third country in the world in terms of forest area growth.

- China and Australia lead the rankings, having increased their forest areas by 1,937,000 and 446,000 hectares respectively. Other countries in the top ten include Chile, Vietnam, Turkey, the United States, France, Italy, and Romania.

10. The Bihar Assembly passed the Anti-Paper Leak Bill, imposing strict penalties, including a 10-year minimum prison sentence and a ₹1 crore fine, to combat malpractices in government exams.

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