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## VOCABULARY

1. Escalation: A rapid increase; a rise.
  - Synonyms: Intensification, increase, expansion
  - Antonyms: Dwindle, Wane, Reduction, Decrease, Decline
  - Sentence: The escalation of violence has led to widespread fear and instability.
  
2. Haphazard: Lacking any obvious principle of organization.
  - Synonyms: Random, unplanned, disorganized
  - Antonyms: Methodical, organized, systematic
  - Sentence: The books were arranged in a haphazard manner on the shelves.
  
3. Retaliation: The action of returning a military attack; counterattack.
  - Synonyms: Revenge, retribution, reprisal
  - Antonyms: Mercy, Forgiveness, Pardon, clemency
  - Sentence: The government warned that any attack on its territory would lead to swift retaliation.
  
4. Resilience: The capacity to recover quickly from difficulties; toughness.
  - Synonyms: Durability, strength, flexibility
  - Antonyms: Fragility, weakness, vulnerability
  - Sentence: The resilience of the community after the disaster was remarkable.

5. **Deterring:** Discourage (someone) from doing something by instilling doubt or fear of the consequences.
- Synonyms: Preventing, discouraging, hindering
  - Antonyms: Encouraging, persuading, supporting
  - Sentence: The harsh penalties are aimed at deterring people from committing crimes.
6. **Provoked:** Stimulate or give rise to (a reaction or emotion, typically a strong or unwelcome one) in someone.
- Synonyms: Incited, instigated, aroused
  - Antonyms: Mollified, Assuaged, Calmed, Soothed, Pacified
  - Sentence: The leader's speech provoked a strong reaction from the crowd.
7. **Condemned:** Express complete disapproval of; censure.
- Synonyms: Denounced, criticized, censured
  - Antonyms: Eulogised, Applauded, Praised, Endorsed
  - Sentence: The government condemned the attack on the embassy.
8. **Perilous:** Full of danger or risk.
- Synonyms: Hazardous, Dangerous, Risky
  - Antonyms: Innocuous, Safe, Secure, Harmless
  - Sentence: They embarked on a perilous journey through the mountains.

- 9. Culmination:** The highest or climactic point of something, especially as attained after a long time.
- Synonyms: Acme, Zenith, Summit, Peak, Climax, Pinnacle
  - Antonyms: Beginning, start, nadir
  - Sentence: The meeting marked the culmination of years of negotiation.
- 10. Imminent:** About to happen.
- Synonyms: Impending, forthcoming, looming
  - Antonyms: Distant, far-off, remote
  - Sentence: The country is facing an imminent economic crisis.

### **IDIOMS AND PHRASES**

- 11.** Rain cats and dogs: Rain heavily, Torrential rain
- 12.** Big fish in a small pond: To have a lot of influence only over a small area.
- 13.** Be in a tight corner: In a very difficult situation
- 14.** Bring to light: Disclose, Reveal, Divulge, Unveil
- 15.** Chew the cud: Ponder over something,

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

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

1. INS Tabar, a frontline frigate of the Indian Navy, arrived in Saint Petersburg to participate in the 328th Russian Navy Day celebrations. The ship, part of the Indian Navy's Western Fleet based in Mumbai under the Western Naval Command, was warmly welcomed by the Russian Federation Navy (RuFN). The visit is set to strengthen maritime cooperation and interoperability between the two navies, aligning with India's policy of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam."
2. Nita Ambani inaugurated India House at the Paris 2024 Olympics, marking India's first country house at the Games. She emphasized it as a symbol of India's Olympic aspirations.
3. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on July 28 held "wide-ranging" talks with his American counterpart Antony Blinken against the backdrop of an unease in India-U.S. ties following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Russia three weeks back.
  - Both Mr. Jaishankar and Mr. Blinken are in Tokyo to attend a meeting of Foreign Ministers of the four-nation grouping Quad or Quadrilateral coalition.

4. Author, and Rajya Sabha member Sudha Murty is set to be honored with the Lokmanya Tilak National Award by the Lokmanya Tilak Memorial Trust. The award ceremony will take place on August 1 in New Delhi, commemorating the 104th death anniversary of Lokmanya Tilak.
5. Under Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, India is playing a global and regional leadership role in the field of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). India has taken a number of global initiatives in this direction, especially that of establishing an international Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).
  - As a representative of Government of India, Shri Rajendra Singh, Member & HoD, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), has taken over the Chair of Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC) from People Republic of China for the year 2024-25 in Bangkok, Thailand on Thursday, 25th July 2024.
  - ADPC is an autonomous International Organization for cooperation in and implementation of disaster risk reduction and building climate resilience in Asia and the Pacific region. India and eight neighbouring countries viz. Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand are the founding members of ADPC.

- India also chaired the 5th Board of Trustee (BoT) meeting of ADPC held on 25th July, 2024 in Bangkok, Thailand.
6. In a significant development for global biodiversity conservation, China's Migratory Bird Sanctuaries along the Yellow Sea-Bohai Gulf (Phase II) have been inscribed on the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage List.
  7. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will chair the 9th Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog on July 27, 2024, at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre, New Delhi. This year's theme is 'Viksit Bharat@2047', with a central focus on making India a developed nation.
  8. On July 29, 2024, the country's first sunken museum at the Humayun's Tomb complex, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, will be inaugurated in Delhi.
  9. In a bold move that could reshape the landscape of internet search, OpenAI, the company behind the revolutionary ChatGPT, has announced the development of an AI-powered search engine called SearchGPT. This initiative represents a significant challenge to Google's dominance in the \$200 billion search market and marks a new chapter in the ongoing AI revolution.

- 10.** World Hepatitis Day, observed on 28 July, raises awareness of viral hepatitis, an inflammation of the liver that causes severe liver disease and cancer.
- The hepatitis virus comes in five primary strains: A, B, C, D, and E. The most prevalent illnesses, hepatitis B and C combined, cause 2.2 million new infections and 1.3 million deaths annually.
  - The theme for 2024, It's Time for Action.

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