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VOCABULARY

1. Undermine: To weaken or damage something, especially gradually.
 - Synonyms: Diminish, Sabotage, Damage, Weaken, Impair
 - Antonyms: Improve, Strengthen, Support, Enhance
 - Sentence: She undermined him and destroyed his confidence in his own talent.

2. Delinking: To make independent; Separate; Dissociate.
 - Synonyms: Detach, Divorce, Alienate, Dissociate, Disconnect
 - Antonyms: Link, Attach, Bind, Connect, Associate
 - Sentence: The proposal suggested delinking the performance bonuses from overall company profits to ensure fairness.

3. Truism: A statement that is obviously true and says nothing new or interesting.
 - Synonyms: Cliche, platitude, axiom
 - Antonyms: Paradox, anomaly, innovation
 - Sentence: The statement that "hard work leads to success" is a truism often repeated in motivational speeches.

4. Complacency: A feeling of uncritical satisfaction with oneself or one's achievements, often without awareness of potential dangers or deficiencies.
- Synonyms: Self-satisfaction, smugness, contentment
 - Antonyms: Vigilance, concern, awareness
 - Sentence: The company's complacency in ignoring customer feedback eventually led to its downfall.
5. Tenuous: Very weak or slight; insubstantial.
- Synonyms: Weak, flimsy, fragile
 - Antonyms: Strong, solid, substantial
 - Sentence: The connection between the two events is tenuous at best, with little evidence to support it.
6. Contentious: Likely to cause an argument; controversial.
- Synonyms: Disputable, debatable, controversial
 - Antonyms: Agreeable, uncontested, peaceful
 - Sentence: The proposed law became a contentious issue, dividing opinions across the country.
7. Emphatic: Expressing something forcibly and clearly.
- Synonyms: Forceful, assertive, vigorous
 - Antonyms: Hesitant, unsure, weak
 - Sentence: The coach was emphatic that the team needed to improve its defense if they wanted to win the match.

- 8. Spillover:** The effect or impact of something that spreads beyond its original area or situation.
- Synonyms: Overflow, repercussion, spread
 - Antonyms: Containment, isolation, limitation
 - Sentence: The spillover effects of the economic crisis were felt across various industries, not just in banking.
- 9. Reiterate:** To say something again or a number of times, typically for emphasis or clarity.
- Synonyms: Repeat, restate, emphasize
 - Antonyms: Withdraw, retract, cancel
 - Sentence: The teacher had to reiterate the instructions to ensure all the students understood the assignment.

IDIOMS AND PHRASES

- 10.** Every Nook and Corner: every part or aspect of something
- 11.** Chicken- Hearted: timid; fearful; cowardly
- 12.** Laugh in Their Sleeves: to laugh quietly and secretly at others' mistakes
- 13.** While Away: spend time idly or pleasantly
- 14.** Throw Cold Water on Someone's Pleasure: to be negative about someone's ideas or plans

CURRENT AFFAIRS

10th August, 2024

1. The states of Punjab, Telangana, West Bengal, and Kerala have not implemented the Right to Education Act. The Union Minister of State for Education, Jayant Chowdhary, gave this information in the Rajya Sabha in reply to a question on 7 August 2024.
 - The minister said that education is on the concurrent list, and the state government has the power to make rules under the Right to Education Act. These state governments have not yet framed such rules.
2. Hockey legend PR Sreejesh has been named a joint flag-bearer alongside shooter Manu Bhaker at the Paris2024 Olympics Closing Ceremony, which is scheduled to be held on August 11.
 - The Indian men's hockey team bagged their second-straight Olympic bronze medal.
 - Manu Bhaker bagged two medals at Paris 2024, becoming the second Indian woman after PV Sindhu to win two Olympic medals.
3. The Indian women's national volleyball team has won the 4th CAVA(Central Asian Volleyball Association) Women's Volleyball Nations League by defeating the host Nepal by 3-2 sets in the final. The final was played at the Dasharath Stadium in Kathmandu, Nepal, on 7 August 2024. This was the second CAVA title for the Indian women.

4. The Andhra Pradesh government on Wednesday decided to abolish a rule that barred individuals having more than two children from contesting local body elections amid concerns over the low fertility rate in the state.
- The decision to scrap the two-child norm for people contesting local body polls was made by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu during a state Cabinet meeting. According to reports, the fertility rate in Andhra Pradesh is 1.5.
5. Kailashnathan took the oath as the 25th Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry. The oath was administered by the Acting Chief Justice of the Madras High Court, D. Krishnakumar. Kailashnathan, a retired Gujarat cadre IAS officer, is the first full-time Lt. Governor of Puducherry since Kiran Bedi left in 2021.

About Puducherry

- Formation- July 1, 1963
- Capital- Pondicherry
- Chief Minister- N. Rangasamy

6. World Lion Day 2024 is celebrated on August 10th. As the lion population continues to decline, this day calls for immediate action to ensure their survival. Lions are a symbol of strength and courage and play a crucial role in maintaining the balance of nature.
7. The International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples was initiated by the United Nations General Assembly in 1994. It is observed annually on August 9th to raise awareness of the rights and needs of Indigenous peoples around the world. This day also focuses on Indigenous Peoples' right to make their own culturally appropriate decisions.
8. Tunisian President Kais Saied has dismissed Prime Minister Ahmed Hachani and appointed Kamel Maddouri ahead of the October election. This change, the sixth prime ministerial shift under Saied, occurs amid economic turmoil and social unrest.
9. A new flowering plant species, "Ceropegia shivrayiana," was discovered at Vishalgad Fort by researchers from New College in Kolhapur and Shivaji University.
 - The species was named in honor of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, highlighting the fort's historical & ecological significance.
 - The research was published in the international journal Phytotaxa, emphasizing rich biodiversity of the region.

- 10.** India has commenced preparations for the World Bank's new Business-Ready (B-Ready) Index, which will replace the previous Doing Business Index.
- This report will assess various aspects of business environments, including digital trade and taxation.
 - Digital trade encompasses transactions that facilitate access to cross-border digital markets and increase consumer participation.
 - The B-Ready index, the World Bank's latest flagship report, will benchmark the business environment and investment climate across global economies, succeeding the Doing Business Index.

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