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## VOCABULARY

1. **Mandate:** An official order or commission to do something; the authority to carry out a policy.
  - Synonyms: Authorization, command, directive
  - Antonyms: Denial, prohibition, refusal
  - Sentence: The government received a strong mandate from the people to implement its reforms.
  
2. **Staked:** To assert or declare a claim or right.
  - Synonyms: Claimed, asserted, declared
  - Antonyms: Renounced, abandoned, surrendered
  - Sentence: The NFP immediately staked its claim to form the next government after winning the most seats.
  
3. **Deadlock:** A situation in which no progress can be made because the parties involved cannot agree.
  - Synonyms: Stalemate, impasse, gridlock
  - Antonyms: Agreement, breakthrough, resolution
  - Sentence: The political deadlock continued for months as no party could form a majority government.
  
4. **Sledgehammer:** Used to describe something that is unnecessarily forceful or heavy-handed.
  - Synonyms: Overpowering, forceful, heavy-handed
  - Antonyms: Subtle, gentle, restrained
  - Sentence: Critics argue that Macron's decision is a sledgehammer blow to democracy in France.

5. Admirably: In a manner that is worthy of admiration; commendably.
- Synonyms: Commendably, praiseworthily, respectably
  - Antonyms: Disgracefully, shamefully, poorly
  - Sentence: The government has admirably committed to eradicating tuberculosis by 2025.
6. Impulsive: Acting or done without forethought, driven by sudden urges.
- Synonyms: Spontaneous, hasty, rash
  - Antonyms: Cautious, deliberate, planned
  - Sentence: Mr. Macron's impulsive decision to call snap elections surprised many political analysts.
7. Frontline: The most important or leading position in a battle, activity, or group.
- Synonyms: Leading, principal, primary
  - Antonyms: Secondary, subordinate, backup
  - Sentence: Isoniazid and rifampicin were the frontline drugs in the fight against tuberculosis.
8. Endorse: To declare support or approval for something.
- Synonyms: Approve, support, back
  - Antonyms: Oppose, reject, criticize
  - Sentence: Medical experts widely endorse the government's decision to introduce the new TB regimen.

9. Supervised: Monitored or overseen by someone to ensure correct behavior or performance.
- Synonyms: Overseen, monitored, controlled
  - Antonyms: Unsupervised, neglected, ignored
  - Sentence: The Directly Observed Therapy Short-course program involved the supervised administration of tuberculosis drugs.

### IDIOMS AND PHRASES

10. A crushing blow: A hurtful action
11. A crying shame: A disgrace; something unfair that make us feel sorry for the victimised
12. A cushy job: An easy job that is not demanding or difficult
13. A cut above the average: Higher than normal
14. Add fuel to fire: To make matters worse

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

10<sup>th</sup> September, 2024

1. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will attend the first India-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Riyadh today. This historic gathering aims to strengthen ties between India and the Gulf nations.
  - The inaugural GCC Foreign Ministers meeting will focus on enhancing cooperation across various sectors, including trade, investment, and energy. With the GCC region housing nearly 8.9 million Indian expatriates and serving as a major trading partner, this diplomatic engagement holds significant importance for India's foreign policy.
  - During his visit, Dr. Jaishankar is also expected to hold bilateral talks with his counterparts from GCC member countries, further solidifying India's relationships in the region.
  - Dr. Jaishankar visited key cultural sites in Riyadh on the first day of his two-day tour to Saudi Arabia, emphasising the historical ties between India and the kingdom. The minister toured the Saudi National Museum, the King Abdulaziz Foundation for Research and Archives (DARAH), and Murabba Palace.

- 2.** Veteran sports administrator Randhir Singh on Sunday (September 8, 2024) became the first Indian to be elected as the president of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) during the 44th General Assembly of the continental body in New Delhi.

  - A five-time Olympic shooter, Mr. Singh was the lone eligible candidate for the OCA president's post. His tenure will run from 2024 till 2028, and his election was unanimous.
- 3.** External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar will on Sunday (September 8, 2024) embark on a six-day visit to Saudi Arabia, Germany and Switzerland with a larger aim to boost overall bilateral ties and deliberate on pressing regional and global challenges.

  - He will first travel to the Saudi capital Riyadh on a twoday trip primarily to attend the first India-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) foreign ministers' meeting, according to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).
- 4.** A new species of jumping spider, *Carrhotus piperus*, has been discovered in the lower Palani Hills of Tamil Nadu. This discovery highlights the rich biodiversity of the region and brings the total number of *Carrhotus* species in India to 10, with 37 known globally.

**5.** The Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board hosted the 5th International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies or Swach Vayu Diwas on 7 September 2024 in the pink city of Jaipur.

- Along with the 5th International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies or Swach Vayu Diwas, the 4th meeting of the Apex Committee of the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) was also held in Jaipur on 7 September. It was chaired by Bhupendra Yadav, the Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- The Theme of the 2024 International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies or the Swach Vayu Diwas is "Invest in clean air now."

**6.** National Security Advisor Ajit Doval is travelling to Russia this week against the backdrop of calls for India's possible role in finding a solution to the Ukraine conflict following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visits to Moscow and Kyiv.

- Mr. Doval is visiting Russia primarily to attend a conclave of National Security Advisors of the BRICS (Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa) grouping that is taking place amid a renewed push for peace talks between Moscow and Kyiv to end the conflict.

- 7.** Tuhin Kanta Pandey, a 1987-batch IAS officer from Odisha, has been appointed as India's new Finance Secretary as of September 7, 2024. He succeeds T.V. Somanathan, who has moved to the role of Cabinet Secretary. Pandey previously served as the Secretary of DIPAM.
- 8.** Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune has been re-elected for a second term with 95% of the vote, according to the country's electoral authority, ANIE.
- The official results indicate that Tebboune received 94.65% of the vote, while his opponents, Abdelaali Hassani Cherif and Youcef Aouchiche, garnered 3% and 2% respectively. Voter turnout was reported at 48%, with more than 24 million Algerians registered to vote.
  - Capital: Algiers
  - President: Abdelmadjid Tebboune (re-elected in September 2024 with 95% of the vote)
  - Prime Minister: Nadir Larbaoui
  - Official Language: Arabic, Berber (Tamazight)
  - Currency: Algerian Dinar (DZD)
  - Population: Approximately 45 million



9. The government has designated Galathea Bay in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands as a 'Major Port'. This Rs 44,000 crore project will be developed under a publicprivate partnership model and aims to capture transshipped cargo currently handled outside India. The first phase is expected to be operational by 2028.
10. Saturn's rings, famous for their distinct appearance, will 'disappear' in March 2025 due to the planet's axial tilt. This rare occurrence happens every 29.5 years, altering how Saturn is viewed.