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## VOCABULARY

- 1. Catalyst:** Something that causes an important event to happen or accelerates a reaction.
  - Synonyms: Stimulus, spur, impetus
  - Antonyms: Hindrance, deterrent, obstacle

Sentence: The discovery of penicillin was a catalyst in the field of medicine.
- 2. Tangible:** Perceptible by touch; clear and definite; real.
  - Synonyms: Concrete, palpable, substantial
  - Antonyms: Intangible, abstract, unreal

Sentence: The success of the project was tangible, with clear improvements in performance metrics.
- 3. Panacea:** A solution or remedy for all difficulties or diseases.
  - Synonyms: Cure-all, universal remedy, elixir
  - Antonyms: Problem, ailment, affliction

Sentence: Many people mistakenly believe that technology is a panacea for all the world's problems.
- 4. Rejig:** To reorganize or rearrange something.
  - Synonyms: Restructure, reorganize, rearrange
  - Antonyms: Maintain, preserve, keep unchanged

Sentence: The company decided to rejig its management team to improve efficiency.

5. Disparity: A great difference.

- Synonyms: Inequality, discrepancy, imbalance
- Antonyms: Equality, similarity, likeness
- Sentence: The disparity in income levels between the rich and the poor has been widening.

6. Elude: Escape from or avoid (a danger, enemy, or pursuer), typically in a skillful or cunning way.

- Synonyms: Evade, escape, dodge
- Antonyms: Confront, encounter, face
- Sentence: The criminal managed to elude the police for several weeks.

7. Virtuoso: A person highly skilled in music or another artistic pursuit.

- Synonyms: Expert, maestro, prodigy
- Antonyms: Amateur, novice, beginner
- Sentence: The pianist was a virtuoso, dazzling the audience with his skill and technique.

8. Tenacity: The quality or fact of being able to grip something firmly; determination.

- Synonyms: Perseverance, determination, persistence
- Antonyms: Weakness, irresolution, laziness
- Sentence: Her tenacity in overcoming obstacles was admired by everyone.

9. Capped: Limited or set a maximum limit on something.
- Synonyms: Restricted, limited, confined
  - Antonyms: Unlimited, unrestricted, infinite
  - Sentence: The number of participants in the competition was capped at 100.

### IDIOMS AND PHRASES

10. Throw cold water on someone's pleasure: to be negative about someone's ideas or plans
11. To be in a fix: in a difficult or embarrassing situation
12. To build a castle in the air: unrealistic plans or hopes for the future
13. To beat around the bush: to avoid answering a question
14. Be all ears: ready and eager to listen

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

12<sup>th</sup> August, 2024

- 1.** The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) 2.0 in a meeting on 9 August 2024, which envisages an investment of Rs10 lakh crores.

  - The PMAY-U 2.0 will replace the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U), which was launched on 25 June 2015 and ended on 31 December 2024.
  - PMAY-U is part of the central government's Housing for All policy, which provides all-weather pucca houses to all eligible beneficiaries in urban areas.
- 2.** In his role as external affairs minister, Singh was involved in the negotiations that led to the India-US civil nuclear deal in July 2005

  - Diplomat-turned-politician Kunwar Natwar Singh, the external affairs minister during 2004-05, passed away at the age of 95 after being hospitalised for the past fortnight.

3. The Narendra Modi government appointed 1987 batch Indian Administrative Services (IAS) officer TV Somanathan as Cabinet Secretary for a tenure of two years.
  
4. The Indian Army and the Sri Lankan army will kick off the 10th edition of their joint exercise, "Mitra Shakti," at Maduruoya in Sri Lanka's Southern Province.
  - A unit of 120 soldiers from the Indian Army's Rajputana Rifles (Raj Rif) will join the Sri Lanka Army's Gajaba regiment in the exercise starting Aug 12, 2024.
  - The focus of this year's exercise is on joint operations in semi-urban environments aligning with Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, which deals with actions regarding threats to peace and security.
  - The previous edition of "Mitra Shakti" took place at the Aundh Military Station, Pune, India with troops from the Maratha Light Infantry Regiment participating.

- 5.** U.P. Minister Jaiveer Singh announces Kakori train incident centenary festival on August 9, 2024, to honor national heroes and spread their message.
- Commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Kakori train incident on August 9, 2024, U.P. tourism and culture minister Jaiveer Singh has announced the celebration of the Kakori train incident centenary festival.
  - The minister has also written a letter to all the Members of Parliament (MPs) and Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) in Uttar Pradesh for their cooperation during the festival. The Kakori train incident centenary festival will be celebrated from August 9, 2024, till August 9, 2025.
- 6.** World Elephant Day, marked worldwide on August 12, holds great importance as it aims to raise awareness about the critical issues confronting elephants and to advocate for their safeguarding and preservation.
- The World Elephant Day was co-founded on August 12, 2012, by Patricia Sims from Canada and the Elephant Reintroduction Foundation of Thailand, an initiative of HM Queen Sirikit of Thailand.
  - The official theme for World Elephant Day 2024 is "Personifying prehistoric beauty, theological relevance, and environmental importance".

**7.** President Droupadi Murmu was honoured with the highest civilian award of Timor Leste - Grand Collar of Order of Timor Leste, by Timor Leste President Jose Ramos Horta.

- The award was conferred to President Murmu on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2024 at a function in the Timor-Leste capital, Dili.
- President Murmu is on a three-nation tour of - Fiji, New Zealand and Timor Leste from 5 to 10 August 2024. First, she visited Fiji (5-7 August) then to New Zealand (8 & 9 August) and reached Timor Leste on 10 August.
- During her three-nation tour, President Murmu was accompanied by the Union Minister of State for Minority Affairs and Minister of State for the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, George Kurien and two Lok Sabha MPs, Saumitra Khan and Jugal Kishore.
- India and Timor Leste at present have no diplomatic missions in each other countries.

**8.** The Maharashtra government has approved the Logistics Policy 2024, aimed at revolutionizing the state's logistics infrastructure and generating approximately 500,000 job opportunities. The policy includes the development of over 200 logistics parks, complexes, and truck terminals equipped with advanced facilities.



9. A state of emergency has been declared in Kursk following a Ukrainian incursion into the Russian border region.
- Around 3,000 residents have been evacuated from the region in southwest Russia.
10. The Indian Air Force (IAF) has arrived in Kuantan, Malaysia, to participate in the bilateral exercise, Udara Shakti 2024. This joint military exercise aims to strengthen the existing ties between the Indian and Malaysian Air Forces, facilitating knowledge sharing on maintenance practices and enhancing operational coordination.
- As part of the exercise, the IAF's formidable Su-30 MKI fighter jets will engage in joint aerial maneuvers with the Royal Malaysian Air Force's (RMAF) Su-30 MKMs. This collaborative platform will provide an opportunity for both air forces to learn from each other's expertise and refine their combat capabilities.
  - The exercise is expected to be a cornerstone in solidifying the strategic partnership between India and Malaysia, contributing to regional security and stability.