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CURRENT AFFAIRS

13th September, 2024

1. The Union Cabinet has approved 'Mission Mausam' with a ₹2,000 crore investment over two years to enhance weather forecasting and management. The mission aims to improve accuracy in weather predictions through advanced technologies including AI and machine learning and will be implemented by the IMD.
2. The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday (September 11, 2024) approved health coverage to all the senior citizens aged 70 and above irrespective of income under the flagship scheme, Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PMJAY). This will benefit approximately 4.5 crore families, with six crore senior citizens, with ₹5 lakh free health insurance cover on a family basis.
 - PM Modi on Ayushman Bharat Health Insurance: We are committed to ensuring affordable, top-quality healthcare for every Indian.
3. Shri Piyush Goyal, as he inaugurated the Akurli bridge on the Western Express Highway in Mumbai on 10th September, and he stated that this will not just benefit North Mumbai but will benefit the entire city. He is also Member of Parliament from Mumbai North.

4. New Delhi hosted the 2nd Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation on 11 and 12 September 2024. The first Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation was held in Beijing, China, in 2018.
 - The economically dynamic Asia-Pacific region is a major contributor to global air traffic, with India being one of the world's fastest-growing passenger aviation markets.
5. The India Defence Aviation Exposition (IDAX-24) was officially inaugurated by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on September 12, 2024, at Jodhpur. This major event coincides with Exercise Tarang Shakti-24, one of the largest multinational air exercises hosted by the Indian Air Force (IAF).
6. Scientists have discovered a new virus in China called the Wetland Virus, which is carried by ticks. They are concerned about its potential effects on human health because it can lead to serious neurological (brain-related) complications.
7. Recently, India's first study on 'teal carbon' was undertaken at Keoladeo National Park (KNP) in Rajasthan's Bharatpur district.
 - Research has found elevated methane emissions, leading to a recommendation to use specialized biochar to reduce these levels.

- 8.** India's Chandrayaan-3 mission has detected over 250 seismic signals on the Moon's south polar region, including 50 unexplained ones possibly linked to Moonquakes. This marks the first seismic data collection from this area since the Apollo era. The findings were published by ISRO researchers in the scientific journal ICARUS.
- 9.** The United Kingdom and India have officially launched the United Kingdom-India Infrastructure Financing Bridge (UKIIFB), a new initiative designed to strengthen their financial and professional services collaboration, an official press release by the City of London stated.
- 10.** The International Academy of Television Arts & Sciences has announced Vir Das as the host for International Emmy Awards set to take place on November 25, in New York City. This marks a momentous occasion for Das, who won an International Emmy Award in 2023 for his acclaimed comedy special, Landing.

VOCABULARY

- 1. Modicum:** A small quantity of something.
 - Synonyms: Bit, small amount, iota
 - Antonyms: Abundance, lot, surplus
 - Sentence: The new policy provides a modicum of relief to senior citizens in need of healthcare.

- 2. Penetration:** The action or process of entering or infiltrating something.
 - Synonyms: Entry, infiltration, access
 - Antonyms: Withdrawal, exclusion, ejection
 - Sentence: The penetration of the PM-JAY scheme into rural areas has been slower than expected.

- 3. Laudable:** Deserving praise and commendation.
 - Synonyms: Praiseworthy, commendable, admirable
 - Antonyms: Disgraceful, shameful, unworthy
 - Sentence: The government's initiative to provide free healthcare to senior citizens is a laudable step.

- 4. Chronic:** Persisting for a long time or constantly recurring.
 - Synonyms: Persistent, long-term, continual
 - Antonyms: Acute, short-term, temporary
 - Sentence: Chronic diseases like diabetes and hypertension have become more common in older adults.

- 5. Foster:** To encourage the development or growth of something.
- Synonyms: Encourage, promote, support
 - Antonyms: Discourage, hinder, suppress
 - Sentence: The initiative aims to foster innovation and economic growth across the region.
- 6. Earmarked:** Designated or reserved for a specific purpose.
- Synonyms: Allocated, reserved, set aside
 - Antonyms: Unallocated, unassigned, unrestricted
 - Sentence: Funds were earmarked for rural healthcare development in order to improve access.
- 7. Waning:** Decreasing or diminishing in intensity, strength, or importance.
- Synonyms: Declining, diminishing, fading
 - Antonyms: Growing, increasing, strengthening
 - Sentence: There is waning enthusiasm among private hospitals regarding the PM-JAY scheme due to low treatment rates.
- 8. Evolve:** To develop gradually, especially from a simple to a more complex form.
- Synonyms: Develop, progress, transform
 - Antonyms: Regress, decline, deteriorate
 - Sentence: The aviation industry in India has evolved into a more inclusive sector over the last decade.

- 9. Tertiary:** Referring to the third level, often associated with advanced or specialized levels, especially in healthcare or education.
- Synonyms: Advanced, higher-level, specialized
 - Antonyms: Primary, basic, fundamental
 - Sentence: Most of the elderly population's healthcare needs fall under tertiary care due to chronic illnesses.

IDIOMS AND PHRASES

- 10.** Snowed under: To be busy.
- 11.** To break someone's bubble: To do or say something that proves someone else's beliefs are not true.
- 12.** Walk on eggshells: To be very careful with your actions and words.
- 13.** Bite the bullet: Finish something no matter how unsatisfying or unpleasant it is.
- 14.** Make two ends meet: To have just enough money for all your needs.