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VOCABULARY

1. Underwhelming: Failing to impress or make a strong impact.
 - Synonyms: Disappointing, unimpressive, mediocre
 - Antonyms: Impressive, overwhelming, outstanding
 - Sentence: The movie's performance at the box office was underwhelming, despite the hype around its release.

2. Exuberant: Filled with or characterized by a lively energy and excitement.
 - Synonyms: Enthusiastic, energetic, lively
 - Antonyms: Gloomy, apathetic, subdued
 - Sentence: The fans showed exuberant support for their team throughout the match.

3. Belied: Failed to give a true impression of something; contradict.
 - Synonyms: Contradicted, disproved, misrepresented
 - Antonyms: Confirmed, validated, supported
 - Sentence: Her calm demeanor belied the anxiety she was feeling inside.

4. Ramifications: A consequence of an action or event, especially when complex or unwelcome.
 - Synonyms: Consequences, outcomes, results
 - Antonyms: Causes, sources, reasons
 - Sentence: The new law had significant ramifications for businesses across the country.

- 5. Malfeasance:** Wrongdoing, especially by a public official.
- Synonyms: Misconduct, wrongdoing, corruption
 - Antonyms: Integrity, honesty, righteousness
 - Sentence: The mayor was accused of malfeasance after evidence of bribery came to light.
- 6. Incendiary:** Designed to cause fires; tending to stir up conflict.
- Synonyms: Inflammatory, provocative, agitational
 - Antonyms: Calming, soothing, pacifying
 - Sentence: The leader's incendiary remarks ignited protests across the city.
- 7. Rebuttal:** A refutation or contradiction.
- Synonyms: Refutation, counter-argument, denial
 - Antonyms: Confirmation, endorsement, agreement
 - Sentence: The lawyer's rebuttal effectively dismantled the opposing counsel's argument.
- 8. Errant:** Straying from the proper course or standards; guilty of an error.
- Synonyms: Misguided, wayward, delinquent
 - Antonyms: Obedient, well-behaved, correct
 - Sentence: The errant student was reprimanded for his disruptive behavior in class.

9. Scrutiny: Critical observation or examination.

- Synonyms: Inspection, examination, investigation
- Antonyms: Neglect, oversight, cursory glance
- Sentence: The project was subject to intense scrutiny before it received approval.

10. Elusive: Difficult to find, catch, or achieve.

- Synonyms: Evasive, slippery, difficult to pin down
- Antonyms: Accessible, obtainable, straightforward
- Sentence: The elusive thief managed to escape the police once again.

IDIOMS AND PHRASES

- 11.** Let bygones be bygones: to decide to forget disagreements or arguments that happened in the past
- 12.** A blessing in disguise: Something seemingly unlucky or bad at first results in good
- 13.** Cast in the same mold: to be very similar in character to someone else
- 14.** Spill the beans: to reveal a secret
- 15.** Take with a grain of salt: to not completely believe something that you are told

CURRENT AFFAIRS

14th August, 2024

1. The Wainganga-Nalganga (Purna Tapi) River linking project will irrigate 3.7 lakh hectare of agricultural land in six districts in Vidarbha region.
 - Under the project, excess water from Gosikhurd dam in Bhandara district will be diverted to Nalganga dam in Buldhana district in western Vidarbha by constructing 426.52km of link canals.
 - The National Water Development Agency (NWDA) presented the detailed project report in 2018 and the project has since received approval from the Central Water Commission.
 - It will supplement the National River Linking Project (NRLP).
2. India's population is projected to reach 152.2 crore by 2036, with an increase in the female percentage to 48.8% from 48.5% in 2011.
 - The sex ratio is expected to rise from 943 in 2011 to 952 by 2036, indicating progress in gender equality.
 - Fertility rates have decreased in younger women but increased for those aged 35-39, and adolescent fertility is significantly lower among literate women.

- 3.** The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is equipping India with a formidable new weapon: the Pinaka-MK3, which is currently under development.
- This is the third iteration of India's indigenous air defence system, which is set to greatly enhance the Indian Army's ability to neutralise aerial threats and counter enemy forces positioned on remote highlands.
 - About Pinaka-MK3:
 - The advanced version follows in the footsteps of the original Pinaka system.
 - DRDO is working on two variants of the Pinaka MK3 rocket launcher.
 - The first variant is expected to have a range of 120 kilometres or even more.
 - The range of the subsequent variants will be 300 kilometers.
- 4.** Tokyo gold medallist para shuttler Pramod Bhagat has been suspended for a period of 18 months due to whereabouts failure and will miss the Paris Paralympic Games, the Badminton World Federation (BWF).
- 5.** India's Sard Joe created history after winning the first ever breakdancing match at the Paris Olympics 2024 on Friday. She finished her impressive campaign after a heartbreaking loss in the semi-final of the debut sport on Saturday.

- 6.** The first PM JANMAN house in the country was constructed in Kalothra Gram Panchayat of Shivpuri Block for Bhaghchandra. The first 500 PM JANMAN houses in the country were also completed in Shivpuri Block, and now the first PM JANMAN Colony in the country has come up also in Shivpuri Block.
- 7.** Recently, three underwater structures in the Indian Ocean were named as Ashoka, Chandragupt, and Kalpataru, which reflect India's growing influence in marine science and its commitment to exploring and understanding the Indian Ocean.

 - This naming was proposed by India and approved by the International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO) and UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC).
- 8.** The Bihar government on August 8, mandated registration of temples, mutts and trusts, and directed all District Magistrates in the State to ensure that the bodies are registered and details of their immovable assets are submitted to the Bihar State Board of Religious Trusts (BSBRT) soon.

 - The BSBRT operates under the State's Law Department and its records say there are about 2,512 unregistered temples and mutts across the State owning 4,321.64 acres of land.

- 9.** External Affairs Minister, Dr S Jaishankar, and his Maldivian counterpart, Moosa Zameer has renewed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for capacity building of one thousand Maldives civil services officers during the period 2024-2029. The MoU was renewed on 9th of this month in the capital of Maldives.
- This renewed partnership will continue to enhance the capabilities of Maldives civil servants in public policy, governance, and field administration. It will further strengthening the ties between India and the Maldives.
- 10.** Scientists at Agharkar Research Institute discovered India's first indigenous methane-mitigating agents, methanotrophs, in Western Ghats and Vetat Tekdi rice fields and wetlands. Named Methylocucumis oryzae, these bacteria reduce methane, a potent greenhouse gas, and boost rice yield. Their findings, crucial for climate change mitigation, were published in the Indian Journal of Microbiology.