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## VOCABULARY

1. Endeavour: An attempt to achieve a goal.
  - Synonyms: Effort, attempt, strive
  - Antonyms: Neglect, idleness, inaction
  - Sentence: The astronauts' journey is part of the ultimate human endeavour to explore space.
  
2. Stubborn: Difficult to move, change, or deal with.
  - Synonyms: Obstinate, unyielding, inflexible
  - Antonyms: Compliant, flexible, yielding
  - Sentence: Despite numerous efforts, the prices of pulses remained stubborn, refusing to decrease.
  
3. Spike: A sharp increase in the level or amount of something.
  - Synonyms: Surge, increase, rise
  - Antonyms: Drop, decline, decrease
  - Sentence: The sudden spike in vegetable prices was driven by the surge in tomato costs.
  
4. Reprieve: A temporary relief or delay from something unpleasant.
  - Synonyms: Relief, postponement, suspension
  - Antonyms: Continuation, aggravation, intensification
  - Sentence: The monsoon rains might bring some reprieve to the farmers struggling with drought.

- 5. Complacency:** A feeling of smug or uncritical satisfaction with oneself or one's achievements.
- Synonyms: Smugness, self-satisfaction, contentment
  - Antonyms: Concern, dissatisfaction, anxiety
  - Sentence: The central bank warned against complacency despite the temporary drop in inflation.
- 6. Glitchy:** Having or experiencing sudden, usually temporary, malfunctions or irregularities.
- Synonyms: Faulty, malfunctioning, problematic
  - Antonyms: Smooth, flawless, efficient
  - Sentence: The mission was delayed due to glitchy thrusters that needed immediate repairs.
- 7. Excruciatingly:** Intensely painful or unbearable.
- Synonyms: Intensely, severely, unbearably
  - Antonyms: Mildly, gently, comfortably
  - Sentence: The wait for the spacecraft's return is excruciatingly long for the families of the astronauts.
- 8. Mundane:** Lacking interest or excitement; dull.
- Synonyms: Ordinary, routine, monotonous
  - Antonyms: Exciting, extraordinary, thrilling
  - Sentence: The astronauts' daily chores in space, like cleaning, are mundane but necessary for survival.

## IDIOMS AND PHRASES

9. Pull yourself together: Calm down
10. Give someone the cold shoulder: Ignore someone
11. Lead someone by the nose: To dominate someone
12. Butterflies in the stomach: Being nervous
13. Out of the woods: No longer in trouble

Odisha Career



## CURRENT AFFAIRS

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

1. Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, in a surprise move Wednesday (August 14, 2024), announced he will not run in the upcoming party leadership vote in September, paving the way for Japan to have a new prime minister.
  - Mr. Kishida was elected President of his governing Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) in 2021, and his three-year term expires in September. His drop out of the race means a new leader who wins the party vote will succeed him as prime minister because the LDP controls both houses of parliament.
2. A team of differently-abled mountaineers from the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute (HMI) made history by displaying a 7,800-square-foot Indian national flag atop Mt. Kilimanjaro, the highest peak in Africa, according to an HMI press release on Saturday.
  - The journey began on August 4 from Kanchenjunga National Park, led by Group Captain Jai Kishan, including Uday Kumar, Capt. Shruti, Sub Mahendra Kumar Yadav, Pawel Sharma, and Sulaxchana Tamang. After a challenging 10-hour climb, the group reached Uhuru Peak, standing at 5,895 meters (19,341 feet), at 1300 hours on Thursday, where they proudly displayed the massive flag.

- 3.** The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted the maiden flight test of the Long Range Glide Bomb (LRGB) named GAURAV on August 13, 2024. The test, carried out from the Su-30 MK-I platform of the Indian Air Force, took place off the coast of Odisha.
- GAURAV, an indigenously developed air-launched glide bomb weighing one thousand kilograms, accurately hit a target on Long Wheeler's Island. Designed by the Research Centre Imarat in Hyderabad, this successful test marks a significant milestone in India's efforts to enhance its indigenous defence capabilities. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh praised the achievement as a step forward in strengthening the Armed Forces.
- 4.** A team of researchers has uncovered an array of medicinal plants at Brahmayoni Hill in Gaya, Bihar, with *Gymnema sylvestre* (commonly known as Gurmar) making it one of the notable findings of a study published in the International Journal of Creative Research Thoughts (IJCRT).
- The country's premier research agency, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has already utilised this medicinal herb in developing the anti-diabetic drug BGR-34, the researchers noted.

- 5.** Union Minister for Jal Shakti CR Paatilon August 13 unveiled version 2.0 of 'FloodWatch India' mobile application, aimed at providing a more comprehensive and detailed overview of flood conditions across the country.
- The upgraded app, developed by the Central Water Commission (CWC), builds on its first version launched last year. The initial version offered flood forecasts from 200 monitoring stations.
  - In a statement, the Jal Shakti Ministry said that version 2.0 significantly expands this scope, integrating real-time data from 592 flood monitoring stations across the country. This expansion aims to provide users with a more extensive and detailed flood condition overview.
- 6.** The Maharashtra government has designated ancient geoglyphs and petroglyphs in Ratnagirias 'protected monuments.' These artifacts, which date back to the Mesolithic era, depict various animals and hold significant historical value. Ratnagirialone has over 1,500 such artworks across 70 sites, some of which are on Unesco's tentative World Heritage list.
- 7.** China has tested its largest unmanned cargo drone to date, marking a significant advancement in its lowaltitude economy. The country aims to build a \$279- billion drone industry by 2030, with developments including larger drones and expanding commercial use.

- 8.** Rana Ashutosh Kumar Singh has been appointed as Managing Director (MD) of SBI, overseeing risk compliance and stressed assets. Gajendra Singh Rana takes over as Deputy Managing Director for retail and real estate. These changes precede CS Setty's upcoming role as SBI Chairman.
- 9.** According to officials from the rural development ministry, around 45 "Lakhpati Didis" and around 30 "Drone Didis" have also been invited as special guests to attend the Independence Day celebrations.
- 10.** Hockey India (HI) has officially announced that retiring goalkeeper PR Sreejesh will be the new head coach for the Indian junior men's hockey team. This decision follows India's recent bronze medal victory at the 2024 Olympics.