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VOCABULARY

1. **Tangible:** Perceptible by touch or clearly understandable.
 - Synonyms: Palpable, concrete, perceptible
 - Antonyms: Intangible, abstract, vague
 - Sentence: The tangible benefits of the new policy were immediately visible to all employees.

2. **Sanguine:** Optimistic or positive, especially in a bad or difficult situation.
 - Synonyms: Hopeful, confident, upbeat
 - Antonyms: Pessimistic, gloomy, doubtful
 - Sentence: Despite the challenges, the CEO remained sanguine about the company's future.

3. **Laudable:** Deserving praise and commendation.
 - Synonyms: Praiseworthy, commendable, admirable
 - Antonyms: Blameworthy, condemnable, disreputable
 - Sentence: The team's efforts to help the underprivileged were truly laudable.

4. **Expedite:** Make (an action or process) happen sooner or be accomplished more quickly.
 - Synonyms: Accelerate, hasten, quicken
 - Antonyms: Delay, hinder, slow down
 - Sentence: The company needs to expedite the approval process to meet the project deadlines.

5. Sway: Control or influence (a person or course of action).
- Synonyms: Influence, control, dominance
 - Antonyms: Impotence, weakness, submission
 - Sentence: The politician's speech had the power to sway the opinion of the undecided voters.
6. Sweep: Having a broad or all-encompassing impact or influence.
- Synonyms: Comprehensive, extensive, far-reaching
 - Antonyms: Limited, narrow, restricted
 - Sentence: The new policy changes had a sweep impact on the entire industry.
7. Remission: The cancellation of a debt, charge, or penalty.
- Synonyms: Absolution, forgiveness, cancellation
 - Antonyms: Penalty, imposition, charge
 - Sentence: The remission of taxes provided relief to the struggling businesses.
8. Underpin: Support, justify, or form the basis for.
- Synonyms: Support, reinforce, bolster
 - Antonyms: Weaken, undermine, destabilize
 - Sentence: The theory is underpinned by extensive research and data.

9. Curtail: Reduce in extent or quantity; impose a restriction on.
- Synonyms: Reduce, limit, shorten
 - Antonyms: Expand, increase, extend
 - Sentence: The company decided to curtail its spending in response to the economic downturn.

IDIOMS AND PHRASES

10. Hit the hay: Go to bed
11. Bite the bullet: Decide to do something difficult
12. Cry over spilled milk: To feel sorry or sad about something
13. Jump on the bandwagon: To join in a popular activity
14. Feel under the weather: Feeling ill or unwell

CURRENT AFFAIRS

16th August, 2024

1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi begins his 11th Independence Day address in Red Fort. He unfurls the national flag for the 11th time in a row from the ramparts of the Red Fort .
2. The World Health Organization on Wednesday declared mpoxa global public health emergency for the second time in two years, following an outbreak of the viral infection in the Democratic Republic of Congo that has spread to neighboring countries in Africa.
3. In 1969, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) was formed, superseding INCOSPAR, and under Dr. Sarabhai's guidance, it set ambitious goals. The decade witnessed the launch of Aryabhata, India's first satellite, on April 19, 1975.
4. Wing Commander Vernon Desmond Keane VM was awarded the Shaurya Chakra for his exceptional bravery and skill during a critical in-flight emergency on July 24, 2023.
 - Facing dual engine failure in a Jaguar fighter aircraft, Keane safely recovered the plane after a near-catastrophic situation, preventing potential loss of life and damage to civilian areas.

- 5.** Thailand's top Constitutional Court has dismissed the country's Prime Minister, Srettha Thavisin, from office for violating ethics. In a 5-4 majority ruling delivered on 14 August 2024, the Court held the Prime Minister guilty of violating ethics by appointing a minister Pichit Chuenban, who had served a jail sentence. After the verdict, Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin resigned from his post.
- Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin is the fourth Prime Minister of Thailand in the past 16 years to be removed from office by a verdict of Thailand's Constitutional Court.
 - Srettha Thavisin became the prime minister in August 2023 after the May general election. His party Pheu Thai party, emerged as the second largest party in the election. He formed a coalition of 11 parties to form the government.
- 6.** In an effort to strengthen the India-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, India and Australia hosted two important bilateral meetings.
- Australia hosted the 6th India-Australia Maritime Security Dialogue in its capital city of Canberra to strengthen cooperation in ensuring maritime security. India hosted the 14th meeting of the India-Australia Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism in New Delhi.
 - Cooperation in counter-terrorism is an important pillar of the India-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

- 7.** The Minister for Minority Affairs Kiren Rijiju on Tuesday (August 13, 2024) launched the Jiyo Parsi Scheme portal, a Central Sector Scheme to arrest the population decline of the Parsi community in India.

 - Emphasising on the rich heritage and culture of the community, the Minister said the Parsi population is decreasing and this needs to be addressed. He added that the government's intervention in the form of the Jiyo Parsi Scheme is expected to help the community in the future.

- 8.** A sambar and a barking deer will get to roam free in the wild when they will be released in the Chandaka wildlife sanctuary here on Independence Day.

 - As a part of prey augmentation, Chandaka authorities brought 12 sambars from Taptapani zoo and 11 barking deer from Nandankanan.

- 9.** Former South Africa international Morne Morkel has been appointed the bowling coach of India's men's cricket team.

- 10.** Wrestler Aman Sehrawat who has bagged bronze medal at the Paris Olympics has been made the brand ambassador of the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC). Sehrawat, who scripted history by becoming India's youngest Olympic medalist, was felicitated by Delhi Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena on Tuesday.