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VOCABULARY

- 1. Strain:** A force or influence that puts pressure on something or someone, often leading to stress or tension.
 - Synonyms: Pressure, tension, burden
 - Antonyms: Relief, ease, relaxation
 - Sentence: The labour arrangement came under strain due to a glaring skill mismatch between workers' abilities and expectations.

- 2. Redeploy:** Assign workers or resources to a different role or function.
 - Synonyms: Reassign, reallocate, reposition
 - Antonyms: Retain, withhold, stagnate
 - Sentence: Due to the skill mismatch, some workers were redeployed to other sectors.

- 3. Encompassing:** Surrounding or including a wide range or scope of elements.
 - Synonyms: Including, covering, embracing
 - Antonyms: Excluding, omitting, limiting
 - Sentence: The focus should be on encompassing the entire training ecosystem to ensure the right skills are imparted.

- 4. Advocate:** Publicly recommend or support a particular cause or policy.
- Synonyms: Support, promote, recommend
 - Antonyms: Oppose, condemn, criticize
 - Sentence: Some in the western world advocate for temporary work contracts to meet labour shortages.
- 5. Standoff:** A situation in which neither side in a conflict can gain an advantage.
- Synonyms: Deadlock, impasse, stalemate
 - Antonyms: Agreement, resolution, settlement
 - Sentence: The India-China standoff at the Line of Actual Control has lasted for four years.
- 6. Escalation:** A rapid increase or intensification of a situation, often referring to conflict or tensions.
- Synonyms: Intensification, amplification, aggravation
 - Antonyms: De-escalation, reduction, decrease
 - Sentence: The conflict is far from stable, with ominous signs of escalation from both sides.
- 7. Plug:** To fill a gap or need, often by providing a solution to a problem.
- Synonyms: Fill, cover, close
 - Antonyms: Empty, expose, open
 - Sentence: Indian workers were sent to Israel to plug the labour shortage in its construction sector.

- 8. Impart:** To give or communicate something, such as knowledge or information.
- Synonyms: Communicate, convey, bestow
 - Antonyms: Withhold, conceal, suppress
 - Sentence: Training institutes must impart the right skills to workers before sending them abroad.
- 9. Ominous:** Giving the impression that something bad is going to happen; threatening.
- Synonyms: Threatening, foreboding, inauspicious
 - Antonyms: Promising, hopeful, auspicious
 - Sentence: There are ominous signs of escalation in the conflict between Ukraine and Russia.
- 10. Reversion:** The return to a previous state, condition, or behavior.
- Synonyms: Regression, return, reversal
 - Antonyms: Progression, advancement, continuation
 - Sentence: There is little hope of a full reversion to the situation at the LAC prior to 2020.

IDIOMS AND PHRASES

- 11.** When pigs fly: something that will never happen.
- 12.** A piece of cake: something is very easy.
- 13.** See eye to eye: this means agreeing with someone.
- 14.** Blue in the face: To be exhausted due to strain or anger.
- 15.** Time is money: To work quickly

CURRENT AFFAIRS

16th September, 2024

1. UPI Users can now send 5 Lakh for some transactions:

- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has increased the transaction limits for tax payments using UPI (Unified Payment Interface), by allowing people to send 5 lakh in a single transaction.
- Earlier, the transaction limit for UPI was Rs 1 lakh except for certain categories of payments which have higher transaction limits.
- It has now been decided to enhance the limit for tax payments through UPI from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 5 lakh per transaction.

2. AU Small Finance Partners with UIIC:

- AU Small Finance Bank Limited (AU SFB) has partnered with United India Insurance Company Limited (UIIC) to offer a wide range of general insurance solutions to AU SFB's customers.
- It includes motor insurance, personal accident insurance, crop insurance, property insurance, shopkeeper insurance, cyber incident insurance.

3. India's Foreign reserve Jumps to Fresh Time High at 689.24bn

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced that India's forex reserves jumped USD 5.248 billion to a new all-time high of USD 689.235 billion till 6th September, 2024.
- Forex reserves or foreign exchange reserves are assets that are held by a nation's central bank or monetary authority. It is generally held in reserve currencies, usually the US Dollar and to a lesser degree the Euro, Japanese Yen, and Pound Sterling.

4. Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal, launched the 'Jan Sunwai portal', which is an online platform of the Department of commerce, designed to streamline communication between stakeholders and authorities.

- Providing a direct and transparent channel for addressing trade and industry related issues.

5. India took part in the BRICS Literature Forum 2024, which began in Kazan, Russia

- Theme "World Literature in the New Reality: Dialogue of Traditions, National Values, and Cultures."

6. Amit Shah Inaugurated National Security Strategies Conference:

- Union Home Minister of India Amit Shah inaugurated 2 days National Security Strategies Conference 2024 in New Delhi.
- This conference will discuss different solutions to emerging national security challenges that will be chalked out with the top police leadership of states, UTs (Union Territories), CAPFs (Central Armed Protection Forces), and CPOs (Central Police Organization).

7. Union Minister Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Minister for Communications and Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) has officially launched the website for the Ashtalakshmi Mahotsav.

- The launch highlights the government's dedication to showcasing Northeast India's cultural and economic richness on both national and international platforms.
- The Ashtalakshmi Mahotsav is set to take place from December 6th to 8th, 2024 , at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi . The festival celebrates the eight Northeastern states —Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura —collectively known as the "Ashtalakshmi , " symbolizing eight forms of prosperity . The official website, www.ashtalakshmi-mahotsav.com, will provide updates, event schedules, and participation details .

8. The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Swiggy Limited and launched 'Swiggy Skills', an initiative which offers employment opportunities within Swiggy's food delivery and quick commerce network.

- It provides internship and training opportunities for people in restaurant operations, and various aspects of retail management.

9. **NTPC Green Energy & Suzlon Partnered for India's Largest Wind Energy Order of 1,166 MW:**

- Suzlon Group has won the order from NTPC Green Energy Limited for India's largest wind energy order of 1166 Mega Watt (MW).
- The project will be executed across 3 sites – at two projects of NTPC Renewable Energy Limited, a subsidiary of NGEL, and one project of IndianOil NTPC Green Energy Pvt. Ltd, a group company of NGEL- in Gujarat.

10. Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL), the corporate entity of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, has once again achieved excellence in energy efficiency and conservation by winning the prestigious National Energy Leader Award from the Confederation of Indian Industry – Green Business Centre (CII -GBC) . This marks the sixth consecutive year that RINL has received this accolade, demonstrating its steadfast commitment to sustainable energy practices .

- 11.** Exercise Kakadu 2024, the 16th edition of the biennial exercise led by Royal Australian Navy and supported by the Royal Australian Air Force is being held in Darwin, Australia.
- The Indian Navy's P8I aircraft, led by Captain Ajay Kanwar, has arrived in Darwin, Australia, to participate in Ex Kakadu 2024.
 - Ex Kakadu 2024 is being held under the theme "Regional Cooperation through Trusted and Proven Partnerships".
 - Exercise Kakadu, incepted in 1993, is a flagship regional international engagement activity of RAN.
 - The 15th edition of Exercise Kakadu was held in 2022 at Darwin and the Northern Australian Exercise Area (NAXA), Australia.
- 12.** The Subroto Cup International Football Tournament, a premier inter-school football competition, celebrated its 63rd edition in 2024.
- The tournament for the under-17 boys category took place in New Delhi, spanning from September 2 to September 11, 2024.
 - The 2024 edition saw participation from school teams representing Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka in the U-17 Boys category
 - Winners (Manipur's TG English School)
 - Runners-up (Meghalaya's Myngken Christian Higher Secondary School)
 - The tournament has a rich history dating back to 1960 Named in memory of Air Marshal Subroto Mukerjee