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VOCABULARY

- 1. Moratorium: A temporary prohibition of an activity.
 - Synonyms: Suspension, halt, ban
 - Antonyms: Continuation, resumption
 - Sentence: The government declared a moratorium on debt repayments to stabilize the economy.
- 2. Ousting: Forcibly removing someone from a position or office.
 - Synonyms: Expulsion, displacement, overthrow
 - Antonyms: Instatement, appointment, induction
 - Sentence: The president's ousting was a result of widespread protests across the country.
- 3. Infuse: To fill something or someone with a particular quality
 - Synonyms: Imbue, instill, permeate
 - Antonyms: Drain, empty, exhaust
 - Sentence: The new leader aimed to infuse the administration with a sense of urgency and purpose.
- 4. Uncharted: Not mapped or surveyed; unknown or unfamiliar.
 - Synonyms: Unknown, unexplored, unfamiliar
 - Antonyms: Known, familiar, explored
 - Sentence: The world is entering uncharted territory with the current climate changes.

- **5.** Mitigation: The action of reducing the severity, seriousness, or painfulness of something.
 - Synonyms: Alleviation, reduction, relief
 - Antonyms: Aggravation, intensification, exacerbation
 - Sentence: Effective mitigation strategies are essential to combat the effects of climate change.
- **6.** Vagaries: Unexpected and inexplicable changes in a situation or in someone's behavior.
 - Synonyms: Fluctuations, whims, unpredictability
 - Antonyms: Stability, predictability, constancy
 - Sentence: The vagaries of the weather have made farming increasingly challenging.
- 7. Granular: Detailed, specific, and covering all parts or aspects.
 - Synonyms: Detailed, precise, specific
 - Antonyms: General, broad, vague
 - Sentence: The new system provides granular data on weather patterns, helping farmers plan better.
- 8. Deterioration: The process of becoming progressively worse.
 - Synonyms: Decline, degradation, worsening
 - Antonyms: Improvement, enhancement, recovery
 - Sentence: The deterioration of the economy led to widespread public discontent.

- 9. Unanimity: Agreement by all people involved; consensus.
 - Synonyms: Consensus, accord, unity
 - Antonyms: Disagreement, discord, dissent
 - Sentence: There is near unanimity among scientists that climate change is accelerating at an unprecedented rate.
- **10.** Incumbent: The current holder of a particular office or position.
 - Synonyms: Current, reigning, present
 - Antonyms: Challenger, successor, predecessor
 - Sentence: The incumbent president is running as an independent candidate in the upcoming election.

IDIOMS AND PHRASES

- 11. Rain cats and dogs: Rain heavily
- 12. No avail: Without any result
- **13.** Be in a tight corner: In a very difficult situation
- **14.** Bring to light: Disclose
- **15.** Chew the cud: Ponder over something

CURRENT AFFAIRS 19th – 20th AUGUST, 2024

- 1. Typhoon Ampil neared eastern Japan with strong winds on Friday and dumped heavy rain on the greater Tokyo area, flooding some streets, forcing evacuations and causing widespread disruptions to businesses and travel.
 - The Japanese authorities have warned that the storm could bring violent wind, high waves and the risk of landslides. Ampil had maximum sustained winds of 132 miles per hour on Friday morning, similar in strength to a Category 4 hurricane, the U.S. Navy's Joint Typhoon Warning Center said.
- 2. Seasoned diplomat Parvathaneni Harish was on Wednesday (August 14) appointed as India's next ambassador to the United Nations in New York.
 - Mr. Harish, a 1990-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, is presently serving as India's ambassador to Germany.
- 3. The Lok Sabha speaker on August 17, named the constituents of the six new Parliamentary Committees including the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) which examines government expenditure. Ganesh Singh, BJP MP from Satna, Madhya Pradesh has been appointed as the chairperson of the Committee on Welfare of Other Backward Classes.

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- **4.** A newly discovered orchid species, Gastrodia indica, was found in Fambonglho Wildlife Sanctuary in Sikkim, India, by botanist Madhusudan Khanal. This orchid is notable because it does not open its flowers, a rare trait among orchids, making it the first known cleistogamousorchid in India.
- **5.** A British adventurer has shattered the Guinness World Record by skiing off an 18,753-foot cliff in the Himalayas.
 - Joshua Bregmen, 34, accomplished the world's highest altitude ski jump by launching himself off a 5,716-metre-high cliff and safely parachuting to the ground.
- 6. A 15-year-old boy who created a soap that could "transform skin cancer treatment" has been chosen as the 2024 Kid of the Year by Time magazine and Time for Kids. Heman Bekele from Virginia, US, is a teen scientist "who could change how we treat skin cancer," the outlet stated in its announcement released Thursday. He was chosen after he created a soap that could be a "more accessible way to deliver medication to treat skin cancers, including melanoma.
- 7. Odisha became the third state after Kerala and Bihar to bring in a menstrual leave policy for working women amid a nationwide demand for such a paid leave for students and working women.

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- 8. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced the 'Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyam Vikas Abhiyan Yojana' to boost employment opportunities for the state's youth. The yojana was announced on 15 August 2024, on the occasion of the 78th Independence Day celebration in the state capital, Lucknow.
- **9.** Hockey India has retired jersey number 16 from the national senior men's team in honour of goalkeeper PR Sreejesh. The sports body said that no player from the senior team will wear jersey number 16. Sreejesh recently announced his retirement from Hockey after a successful Paris Olympics.
 - Sreejesh's decision to retire came after an 18-year-long career that included securing back-to-back Olympic bronze medals in 2020 and 2024. Hockey India has also decided to appoint Sreejesh as the coach of the junior men's hockey team.
- **10.** Director-General of Indian Coast Guard Rakesh Pal passed away in Chennai on Sunday. He was 59.
 - The Coast Guard chief, who was in Chennai to take part in an official function scheduled to be attended by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, died after suffering a cardiacarrest.

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