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VOCABULARY

1. Peg: To fix or set a value or limit on something.
 - Synonyms: Set, fix, determine, establish
 - Antonyms: Unfix, unsettle, release
 - Sentence: The central bank pegged the interest rate to control inflation.

2. Scupper: To ruin or prevent something from happening.
 - Synonyms: Ruin, thwart, sabotage, wreck
 - Antonyms: Assist, support, facilitate, aid
 - Sentence: The sudden rainstorm scuppered our plans for a picnic.

3. Underwhelming: Failing to impress or make a significant impact.
 - Synonyms: Disappointing, unimpressive, mediocre, flat
 - Antonyms: Impressive, overwhelming, striking, spectacular
 - Sentence: The much-anticipated movie turned out to be underwhelming.

4. Divergence: The process or state of separating or becoming different.
 - Synonyms: Deviation, separation, disparity, difference
 - Antonyms: Convergence, agreement, similarity, alignment
 - Sentence: There is a growing divergence in opinions among the team members.

5. Bolster: To support or strengthen.

- Synonyms: Strengthen, support, reinforce, boost
- Antonyms: Undermine, weaken, impair, hinder
- Sentence: The new evidence helped bolster his case in court.

6. Propensity: An inclination or natural tendency to behave in a particular way.

- Synonyms: Tendency, inclination, predisposition, penchant
- Antonyms: Disinclination, aversion, unwillingness, reluctance
- Sentence: She has a propensity to talk fast when she is nervous.

7. Erratic: Not even or regular in pattern or movement; unpredictable.

- Synonyms: Unpredictable, inconsistent, irregular, unstable
- Antonyms: Predictable, consistent, regular, stable
- Sentence: The stock market has been highly erratic this year.

8. Ambit: The scope, extent, or bounds of something.

- Synonyms: Range, scope, extent, boundary
- Antonyms: Limitlessness, infinity
- Sentence: The new law falls within the ambit of environmental regulations.

9. Alleviate: To make something less severe or more bearable.
- Synonyms: Relieve, ease, mitigate, lessen
 - Antonyms: Aggravate, worsen, intensify, heighten
 - Sentence: The new policy is designed to alleviate poverty in urban areas.
10. Disparity: A great difference or inequality.
- Synonyms: Inequality, difference, discrepancy, gap
 - Antonyms: Equality, similarity, likeness, parity
 - Sentence: There is a significant disparity in income between urban and rural areas.

IDIOMS AND PHRASES

11. Doing the rounds: to be passed from one person to another
12. A damp squib: Complete failure
13. Put off: to delay doing something.
14. A dime a dozen Anything that is common and easy to get
15. A chip on your shoulder: Being upset for something

CURRENT AFFAIRS

1st September, 2024

- 1.** Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Thursday launched an indigenous Monkeypox(Mpox) RT PCR (reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction) kit here. The kit was developed at Andhra Pradesh Medtech Zone in Visakhapatnam by Transasia Diagnostics.
- 2.** On August 29, 2024, India launched its first indigenously developed Pollution Control Vessel, 'Samudra Pratap,' in Goa. Built by Goa Shipyard Limited, the vessel will address oil spillage along the coast.
- 3.** India has approved 12 new industrial smart cities and other infrastructure projects aimed at boosting India's manufacturing ecosystem. The smart city projects under the National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICDP) will entail an investment of INR 286.02 billion (US\$3.41 billion), while three railway projects across four states will seek to optimize logistics networks. Finally, a new hydro-power initiative seeks to upgrade power infrastructure in the Northeast region of the country.

4. The World Health Organization (WHO) has announced Kavrepalanchowk's tourism town, Dhulikhel, as the first 'healthy city' of Nepal.
 - Dhulikhel Municipality, which initiated a campaign to become a healthy city, has been monitored by the World Health Organisation since 2021 to achieve the feat of becoming Nepal's healthiest city. Dhulikhel scored 65.48 points on various indicators for healthy cities, joining the WHO Healthy City Network.

5. NASA engineers are developing underwater robot probes to measure the rate of ice shelf melting in Antarctica due to climate change.
 - These robots, developed by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, aim to provide accurate data to improve predictions of sea level rise.
 - The project involves deploying prototypes in harsh environments like the Arctic.

6. The Hurun India Rich List 2024 has unveiled a significant shift in the landscape of wealth distribution across Asia, with Mumbai emerging as the new "billionaire capital of Asia".
 - This development marks a pivotal moment in the economic narrative of India and Asia at large, showcasing the growing financial prowess of India's commercial hub.

7. Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on Monday inaugurated a 10m air pistol shooting range in Gwalior named after double Olympic medalist Manu Bhaker.

- While inaugurating the 10m air pistol shooting range in Gwalior, Scindiaspoke to Manu Bhaker on a video call and showed her the shooting range which was newly built.

8. Hockey India has announced that the Women's Asian Champions Trophy 2024 will begin at Rajgir in Bihar on November 11th this year. The event, a joint effort between Hockey India and the Bihar Government, will take place at the Rajgir Hockey Stadium between 11th November and 20th November.

- Asian Hockey Federation President Dato Fumio Ogura has announced that the 8th Women's Asian Champions Trophy will be held in India. Hockey India President Dr. Dilip Tirkey expressed enthusiasm and stated that it is a historic moment for hockey, marking the first time an international tournament will be held in the state.
- Last year, Hockey Jharkhand hosted the Women's Asian Champions Trophy in Ranchi, where India emerged as the champion. Besides the defending champions, India, reigning Olympic silver- medallists China, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, and Thailand are expected to participate in this tournament.

9. The US-India Strategic Partnership Forum announced the third edition of the India-US Defense Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS-X) Summit at Stanford University on Sept 9-10, 2024.
- The summit will focus on leveraging private investment to advance defense innovation and will feature top policymakers, panel discussions, and a tech expo.

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