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VOCABULARY

1. Subdued: Quiet and controlled; lacking intensity or strength.
 - Synonyms: Restrained, muted, softened
 - Antonyms: Intense, vibrant, energetic
 - Sentence: The colors of the painting were subdued, creating a calm and serene atmosphere.

2. Pragmatic: Dealing with things sensibly and realistically based on practical considerations.
 - Synonyms: Practical, sensible, realistic
 - Antonyms: Idealistic, impractical, unrealistic
 - Sentence: Her approach to the project was pragmatic, focusing on achievable goals rather than lofty ideals.

3. Corpus: A collection of written texts or the principal sum of money in an investment fund.
 - Synonyms: Fund, reserve, capital
 - Antonyms: Liability, debt, deficit
 - Sentence: The pension corpus grew significantly over the years, providing a comfortable retirement for many.

4. Tenure: The period during which someone holds a position or office.
 - Synonyms: Term, period, duration
 - Antonyms: Interruption, discontinuation
 - Sentence: Her tenure as CEO was marked by significant growth and transformation within the company.

- 5. Empirical:** Based on observation or experience rather than theory or pure logic.
- Synonyms: Observational, experiential, practical
 - Antonyms: Theoretical, hypothetical
 - Sentence: The study relied on empirical data to support its conclusions about consumer behavior.
- 6. Contingent:** Subject to chance or dependent on certain conditions.
- Synonyms: Dependent, conditional, possible
 - Antonyms: Unconditional, definite
 - Sentence: The approval of the project was contingent upon receiving the necessary permits from the local authorities.
- 7. Defer:** To postpone or delay something to a later time.
- Synonyms: Postpone, delay, put off
 - Antonyms: Expedite, advance, hasten
 - Sentence: The board decided to defer the decision on the new policy until the next meeting.
- 8. Deficit:** The amount by which something, especially a sum of money, is too small.
- Synonyms: Shortfall, deficit, lack
 - Antonyms: Surplus, excess, abundance
 - Sentence: The government worked to reduce the budget deficit through various fiscal reforms.

- 9. Perennial:** Lasting or existing for a long or apparently infinite time.
- Synonyms: Everlasting, enduring, constant
 - Antonyms: Temporary, fleeting, short-lived
 - Sentence: The perennial problem of traffic congestion required a long-term solution from city planners.
- 10. Consolidate:** To make something physically stronger or more solid; to combine into a single more effective or coherent whole.
- Synonyms: Strengthen, merge, unite
 - Antonyms: Divide, weaken, disperse
 - Sentence: The company decided to consolidate its operations into fewer locations to improve efficiency.

IDIOMS AND PHRASES

- 11.** Rome wasn't built in a day: achieving something great takes time and effort
- 12.** A penny for your thoughts: asking someone to share their thoughts
- 13.** Cat got your tongue?: asking why someone is not speaking or suddenly became quiet
- 14.** Put the best foot forward: start impressively
- 15.** Bear the palm: to win or take the prize

CURRENT AFFAIRS

20th September, 2024

1. The Union Minister of State for External Affairs, Kirti Vardhan Singh, was on an official tour of Armenia and Malaysia from 9-15 September 2024. This was his first official visit to the Eurasian country of Armenia and the Southeast Asian Nation of Malaysia.
2. Seiyhamavillage in Nagaland celebrated its third annual Naga king chilli festival on showcasing the raja mircha, one of the world's hottest chillies.
 - This festival, which combines agriculture, culture, and community spirit, highlights the significance of the king chilli, known for its extreme heat and cultural value.
 - Certified by Guinness World Records and granted a Geographical Indication tag, the king chilli is central to Naga cuisine and cultural practices.
 - The Naga king chilli, also known as raja mircha, is one of the world's hottest chillies, notable for its extreme spiciness, which exceeds 1 million Scoville Heat Units (SHU).
 - It is a key feature of the Naga cuisine and holds significant cultural and economic value in Nagaland, India.

3. The 4th Global Renewable Energy Investors Meet and Expo was held in Gujarat, making it the first time the event took place outside Delhi. Gujarat stood out as the top-performing state, winning the most awards for its contributions to renewable energy.
4. The Union Cabinet, in a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and held on 18 September 2024, has approved a new scheme, Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan (PMJUGA), to improve the socio-economic condition of the country's tribal majority villages and aspirational districts.
 - The scheme seeks to utilise the existing central government scheme to achieve the objectives of the Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan (PMJUGA) scheme.
 - Union Finance Minister Niramala Sitharaman proposed the scheme in her 2024-25 Union Budget speech.
5. While the southern states have emerged as major contributors to India's GDP, states like West Bengal, once economically strong, have witnessed a puzzling decline, according to a working paper released by the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister.

6. Chennai celebrated the 146th birth anniversary of Periyar E.V. Ramasamy, on September 17, 2024, a famous social reformer and rationalist from Tamil Nadu. The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, M.K. Stalin, led the tributes, honoring Periyar for his significant contributions to social justice and equality.
7. The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the development of Next Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV), that will be a significant step towards the Government's vision of establishing & operating the Bharatiya Antariksh Station and towards developing capability for Indian Crewed Landing on the Moon by 2040.
- The NGLV aims to strengthen India's position in the global space industry by lowering the cost of launches by reusing recovered components and offering enhanced capacity for carrying heavier payloads into orbits.
 - NGLV will have 3 times the present payload capability with 1.5 times the cost compared to LVM3, and will also have reusability resulting in low-cost access to space and modular green propulsion systems.
 - Next Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV) is taken up which is designed to have a maximum payload capability of 30 tonnes to Low Earth Orbit, which also has a reusable first stage.

8. The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has accepted the recommendations of the High-Level Committee on Simultaneous Elections (One Nation One Election - ONOE) under the chairmanship of former President Shri Ram Nath Kovind.
9. Scotland has rescued the Commonwealth Games that were in jeopardy after Australia's Victoria state backed out of plans to host the 2026 sporting event.
 - Glasgow, which hosted the event 10 years ago, will do so again, though some sports will need to be dropped as the Commonwealth Games Federation aims to reduce costs to make the competition more sustainable in the future.
10. The Union cabinet on Wednesday has extended the PMAASHA price support scheme in agriculture till 2025-26 that will involve an outlay of ₹35,000 crore and is meant to provide farmers with better prices and manage price volatility of essential commodities.
 - The Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA) merges the price support scheme (PSS) and price stabilization fund (PSF).