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VOCABULARY

- 1. Prestigious:** Inspiring respect and admiration; having high status.
 - Synonyms: Esteemed, respected, distinguished.
 - Antonyms: Inferior, insignificant, disreputable.
 - Sentence: Winning the prestigious award was the highlight of her career.

- 2. Outlay:** The amount of money spent for a particular purpose.
 - Synonyms: Expenditure, spending, cost.
 - Antonyms: Income, savings, revenue.
 - Sentence: The company's outlay on research and development has increased significantly.

- 3. Penetration:** The action or process of making a way into or through something.
 - Synonyms: Infiltration, access, entry.
 - Antonyms: Blockage, obstruction, exclusion.
 - Sentence: The penetration of electric vehicles in the market is increasing gradually.

- 4. Catalyse:** To cause or accelerate a process.
 - Synonyms: Stimulate, spark, initiate.
 - Antonyms: Hinder, delay, inhibit.
 - Example: The new policy is expected to catalyse the growth of renewable energy in the country.

- 5. Shepherd:** To guide or direct a process or people carefully.
- Synonyms: Guide, lead, direct.
 - Antonyms: Neglect, abandon, ignore.
 - Sentence: The government will shepherd the country's transition to clean energy.
- 6. Endeavour:** An attempt to achieve a goal.
- Synonyms: Effort, attempt, strive.
 - Antonyms: Inactivity, idleness, neglect.
 - Sentence: The scientist's lifelong endeavour was to find a cure for the disease.
- 7. Setbacks:** A reversal or check in progress.
- Synonyms: Obstacles, hindrances, difficulties.
 - Antonyms: Progress, breakthroughs, advances.
 - Sentence: Despite some early setbacks, the team managed to finish the project on time.
- 8. Dominant:** Having power or influence over others.
- Synonyms: Leading, powerful, controlling.
 - Antonyms: Submissive, weak, inferior.
 - Sentence: The team was dominant throughout the tournament, winning every match.

- 9.** Triumph: A great victory or achievement.
- Synonyms: Victory, success, accomplishment.
 - Antonyms: Defeat, failure, loss.
 - Sentence: Their triumph in the championship was celebrated by fans all over the country.
- 10.** Broadening : To increase the range or scope of something.
- Synonyms: Expanding, widening, enlarging.
 - Antonyms: Narrowing, restricting, shrinking.
 - Sentence: The government is focused on broadening access to education for all children.

IDIOMS AND PHRASES

- 11.** At eleventh hour: last moment or almost late
- 12.** Rain on someone's parade: to spoil someone's plans or Joy
- 13.** Talk a blue streak: to talk rapidly and without stopping
- 14.** Thick in the head: someone is stupid or lacks the ability to absorb ideas easily
- 15.** To be off base Meaning: not being in agreement with what is true

CURRENT AFFAIRS

24th September, 2024

1. India's Chandrayaan-3 mission has identified a 160-kmwide crater near its landing site on the Moon. The discovery, made by the Pragyan rover, provides crucial insights into the Moon's early geological evolution. This ancient crater, older than the Aitken basin, offers a rare opportunity to study one of the earliest lunar formations.
2. The Union Ministry for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupendra Yadav, led the country in this year's Clean the Beach Campaign on the occasion of the International Coastal Clean-up Day on 21 September 2024. The minister participated in an event to clean the beach at Juhu in Mumbai.
3. The Union Government appointed Justice Tashi Rabstan as Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. The Supreme Court Collegium, while reconsidering its earlier decision a few days ago, had recommended that Justice Tashi Rabstan be appointed as Chief Justice of the High Courts of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.
 - Now, the Union Government has approved the recommendation. Justice Tashi Rabstan is the senior judge of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. He was appointed as a judge on March 8, 2013, and is due to retire on April 9, 2025.

4. In Sri Lanka, Anura Kumara Dissanayake, leader of the National People's Power party, won the Presidential election on September 22, 2024. He defeated Sajith Premadasa from the SamagiJana Balawegaya party. The current President, Ranil Wickremasinghe, lost the election.
- Dissanayake received 5.6 million votes (42.3%), which is a big improvement from the 3% he got in the 2019 election. Premadasa came second with 32.8% of the votes.
 - It was the first time in the Sri Lank History history that the presidential race was decided by a second tally of votes after the top two candidates failed to win the mandatory 50% of votes to be declared winner. Under the electoral system, voters cast three preferential votes for their chosen candidates. If no candidate wins 50% in the first count, a second tally determines the winner between the top two candidates, using the preferential votes cast.
5. Russian cosmonauts Oleg Kononenko and Nikolai Chub have set a new record for the longest single mission aboard the International Space Station (ISS), surpassing the previous record held by cosmonauts Sergei Prokopyev, Dmitry Petelin, and NASA astronaut Francisco Rubio, who spent 370 days onboard from September 2022 to September 2023.
- Kononenko and Chub arrived at the ISS on September 15, 2023, via the Soyuz MS-24 spacecraft and are scheduled to return to Earth on the Soyuz MS-25 on September 23, 2024, totalling 374 days in space.

6. Kiran Rao's piquant Laapataa Ladies has been selected as India's official submission to Oscars 2025. The announcement was made by the jury of the Film Federation of India (FFI), the apex body that annually selects the Indian official entry for the Academy Award for Best International Feature Film, on Monday, September 23.
- Released in theatres in March, Laapataa Ladies is Rao's sophomore directorial after the acclaimed Dhobi Ghat (2011). The satirical comedy-drama tells the story of a young man whose bride gets accidentally swapped with someone else's. The film stars Sparsh Shrivastava along with Nitanshi Goel, Pratibha Ranta, Chhaya Kadam and Ravi Kishan. It is based on Biplab Goswami's prize-winning screenplay, Two Brides.
7. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, held a bilateral meeting with the Bhutan Food and Drug Authority (BFDA) during the Global Food Regulators Summit at Bharat Mandapam. The meeting focused on implementing the "Agreement" signed on March 21, 2024, during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Bhutan.
- The Agreement aims to enhance food safety, align regulatory frameworks, simplify food import procedures, and foster technical cooperation between the two nations. It also seeks mutual recognition of the BFDA's control over Bhutanese food business operators (FBOs) by the FSSAI.

8. Indian badminton prodigy Anmol Kharb won the women's singles title at the Polish International Badminton Championships. 17-year-old Anmol Kharb won her first senior international title last week by winning the Belgian International Badminton Championships singles title.
- The USD 3000 prize money 2024 Polish International Badminton Championship was held in Lublin, Poland, from 19-22 September 2024.
9. In a momentous achievement for Union Territory (UT) Ladakh, Nazira Banoo from the Line of Control (LOC) village of Lato won the Gold Medal in the Individual Poomsae Under-30 Category at the 1st Khelo India Women's Taekwondo League Phase 1, held in Vadodara, Gujarat