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VOCABULARY

1. Substantive: Having a firm basis in reality and therefore important or meaningful.
 - Synonyms: Significant, essential, meaningful, considerable
 - Antonyms: Insignificant, trivial, superficial, negligible
 - Sentence: The discussions at the Quad Summit were more substantive than initially anticipated, focusing on key regional issues.

2. Counter: To speak or act in opposition to something.
 - Synonyms: Oppose, resist, contradict, refute
 - Antonyms: Support, agree, concede, comply
 - Sentence: Several initiatives were introduced to counter Chinese influence in the Indo-Pacific region.

3. Ire: Intense anger.
 - Synonyms: Anger, wrath, fury, rage
 - Antonyms: Calmness, peace, tranquility, patience
 - Sentence: The Quad's maritime initiatives are likely to raise Beijing's ire due to their direct opposition to Chinese policies.

4. Lofty: Of a noble or elevated nature.
 - Synonyms: Grand, elevated, noble, ambitious
 - Antonyms: Lowly, modest, humble, base
 - Sentence: Mr. Modi's message at the UN Summit was filled with lofty ideals about global unity and peace.

5. Tardy: Delaying or delayed beyond the right or expected time
- Synonyms: Late, delayed, sluggish, slow
 - Antonyms: Prompt, early, timely, punctual
 - Sentence: The tardy waste management in Tier 2 and 3 cities has exacerbated pollution problems across the country.
6. Undermine: To weaken or damage something gradually.
- Synonyms: Weaken, sabotage, erode, diminish
 - Antonyms: Strengthen, bolster, reinforce, fortify
 - Sentence: Poor waste management systems continue to undermine the quality of life in smaller cities.
7. Abatement: The reduction or removal of something, especially something harmful or undesirable.
- Synonyms: Reduction, diminishment, alleviation, suppression
 - Antonyms: Increase, escalation, intensification, growth
 - Sentence: Long-term pollution abatement plans are necessary to tackle rising pollution levels effectively.
8. Chronic: Persisting for a long time or constantly recurring.
- Synonyms: Persistent, long-lasting, constant, enduring
 - Antonyms: Acute, short-lived, fleeting, temporary
 - Sentence: Chronic understaffing of pollution control boards has hindered efforts to curb environmental degradation.

9. Leverage: To use something to maximum advantage.
- Synonyms: Exploit, utilize, capitalize on, harness
 - Antonyms: Waste, misuse, neglect, underutilize
 - Sentence: The government could leverage the expertise of universities to strengthen environmental regulations.

IDIOMS AND PHRASES

10. A mare's nest: A false invention
11. A man of straw: A weak person
12. Call a spade a spade: Straight talks
13. Field day: An enjoyable day or circumstance
14. Doing the rounds: To be passed from one person to another

CURRENT AFFAIRS

25th September, 2024

1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly on September 23, 2024, in New York. He spoke on several important global issues, emphasizing India's role in the world.

Global Cooperation:

- Modi stressed the need for countries to work together and called for reforms in international organizations to make them more effective.

Climate Change:

- He talked about India's commitment to fighting climate change, focusing on renewable energy and reducing carbon emissions.

Terrorism:

- Modi condemned terrorism and called for a united effort to fight it globally.

Technology:

- He highlighted India's progress in digital technology and called for ethical guidelines on its use worldwide.

Health:

- Modi discussed India's contributions to vaccine production during COVID-19 and called for stronger global health systems.

Economic Growth:

- He promoted India's economic progress and invited global businesses to invest in India, showcasing its potential in manufacturing and innovation.
2. The foundation stone for India's first of its kind CO₂- to-Methanol pilot plant with an overall capacity of 1.4 Tons Per Day (TPD) was unveiled virtually by Prof. Abhay Karandikar, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, at Thermax Limited premises in Pune, Maharashtra.
Aim : To demonstrate CO₂ capture and utilization (CCU) technologies, playing a crucial role in India's journey towards achieving net-zero carbon emissions.
 3. Kaziranga National Park in Assam has achieved a remarkable 86% reduction in rhino poaching since 2016. This success was highlighted by Assam's Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma during World Rhino Day, showing that ongoing efforts to protect the one-horned rhinoceros are paying off.
 4. Jaipur will host the 25th edition of the IIFA Awards from March 7 to 9, 2025, at the JECC Sitapura. The Rajasthan government has allocated ₹100 crore to support the event, which aims to enhance the state's tourism and cultural sectors.

5. The Eknath Shinde-led Maharashtra government on Monday approved a proposal to rename Pune's Lohegaon International Airport as "Jagadguru Sant Tukaram Maharaj Pune International Airport".
- The decision was made during a state cabinet meeting, and the proposal will be forwarded to the Centre.
6. Union Minister of State for Social Justice & Empowerment Banwari Lal Verma presided over the Sign Language Day-2024 celebrations in New Delhi on 23 September 2024. The International Day of Sign Languages is celebrated all over the world on 23 September every year.
- The day is celebrated in India as the 'Sign Language Day'.
 - The International Day of Sign Languages was celebrated for the first time on 23 September 2018.
 - The United Nations General Assembly chose this date to commemorate the establishment of the World Federation of Deaf on 23 September 1951.
 - The day is celebrated to bring together stakeholders, citizens, service-providing agencies, schools for the deaf, NGOs, activists, deaf leaders, educators, researchers, etc., to create positive awareness about the utility of sign language for the deaf.
 - The Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has chosen 'Support Sign Language Rights' as the theme of the 2024 Theme of Sign Language Day.

7. The Amur falcon (*Falco Amurensis*), a migratory bird species, is preparing for its annual visit to parts of Northeast India, particularly Manipur's Tamenglong district and Nagaland.
 - These birds are known locally as 'Kahuaipuina' in Manipur and 'Molulem' in Nagaland.
8. Harini Amarasuriya was officially sworn in as Sri Lanka's new Prime Minister marking a historic moment as she became the first woman to hold the office since Sirimavo Bandaranaike in 2000.
9. Israeli strikes Monday (September 23, 2024) on Lebanon killed more than 490 people, including more than 90 women and children, Lebanese authorities said, in the deadliest barrage since the 2006 Israel-Hezbollah war. The Israeli military warned residents in southern and eastern Lebanon to evacuate ahead of its widening air campaign against Hezbollah.
10. The Indian women's roller derby team created history as they won the country's first-ever medal at the World Skate Games 2024 in Italy.
 - The Indian team, led by Shrutika Sarode, electrified the crowd with a commanding performance against China during a jaw dropping women's division bronze medal match.