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VOCABULARY

1. Pit stop: A brief stop during a journey for rest or refreshment.
 - Synonyms: Break, halt, pause
 - Antonyms: Continuation, non-stop, marathon
 - Sentence: The family made a pit stop at a roadside diner during their long drive.

2. Underpin: Support, justify, or form the basis for.
 - Synonyms: Support, strengthen, reinforce
 - Antonyms: Undermine, weaken, destabilize
 - Sentence: The theory is underpinned by extensive research.

3. Lucrative: Producing a great deal of profit.
 - Synonyms: Profitable, gainful, remunerative
 - Antonyms: Unprofitable, loss-making, costly
 - Sentence: The new venture proved to be highly lucrative for the investors.

4. Panacea: A solution or remedy for all difficulties or diseases.
 - Synonyms: Cure-all, universal remedy, elixir
 - Antonyms: Poison, problem, harm
 - Sentence: Many people view technology as a panacea for all social issues.

5. Unleashed: Released from restraint; set free.
- Synonyms: Released, let loose, freed
 - Antonyms: Restrained, confined, controlled
 - Sentence: The storm unleashed its fury on the coastal town.
6. Chilling effect: A discouraging or deterring effect, often due to fear of legal or other negative consequences.
- Synonyms: Deterrent, discouraging, inhibiting
 - Antonyms: Encouraging, motivating, stimulating
 - Sentence: The new regulations had a chilling effect on free speech.
7. Omission: Someone or something that has been left out or excluded.
- Synonyms: Exclusion, oversight, neglect
 - Antonyms: Inclusion, addition, insertion
 - Sentence: The omission of her name from the list was a glaring oversight.
8. Deliberated: Engaged in long and careful consideration.
- Synonyms: Considered, contemplated, pondered
 - Antonyms: Ignored, disregarded, overlooked
 - Sentence: The jury deliberated for hours before reaching a verdict.

9. Invariably: In every case or on every occasion; always.
- Synonyms: Always, constantly, perpetually
 - Antonyms: Occasionally, sometimes, intermittently
 - Sentence: She invariably arrives at the office early.
10. Disseminate: Spread or disperse (something, especially information) widely.
- Synonyms: Distribute, spread, propagate
 - Antonyms: Conceal, suppress, hide
 - Sentence: The organization aims to disseminate information about healthy living.

IDIOMS AND PHRASES

11. Break the ice: To start a conversation with a new person.
12. Cat got your tongue: Asking why someone is not speaking or suddenly became quiet
13. A picture is worth a thousand words: An image can sometimes express more than words can
14. On cloud nine: To be very happy or joyful
15. Hit the jackpot: To achieve great success or win a large prize

CURRENT AFFAIRS

2nd August, 2024

1. Union Minister for Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav, launched the Ideas4LiFE portal at the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi.
 - This initiative seeks to gather innovative ideas related to products and services that promote environment-friendly lifestyles. The launch event was also attended by Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Kirti Vardhan Singh, and other dignitaries.
2. Kashmir City received the Certificate of World Craft City from the World Crafts Council International in a ceremony held in Srinagar, capital of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, on 31 July 2024. The ceremony was attended by Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Sa'ad Hani Al-Qaddumi, President of the World Crafts Council, and other prominent Council personalities. Earlier in June 2024, the World Craft Council announced its decision to include Kashmir in its World Craft City list.
3. Swapnil Kusale has become the first Indian shooter to secure a medal in the 50m Rifle 3 Position (3P) event at the Paris Olympics.
 - Gold: Y.K. Liu
 - Silver: Serhiy Kulish
 - Bronze: Swapnil Kusale

4. Rapido has become a unicorn as the ride-hailing startup raised around \$120 million (₹1,000 crore) in its latest Series E funding round led by its existing investor WestBridge Capital. This comes as Rapido may expand its auto and cab offerings in newer cities across India.
5. In 2012, the Forum of International Respiratory Societies (FIRS) and the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer (IASLC) decided that every year, August 1 will be observed as World Lung Cancer Day to raise awareness about the disease and the unhealthy lifestyle habits that we must change to stay safe.
 - The theme for this year's World Lung Cancer Day is - Close the care gap: Everyone deserves access to cancer care.
6. IIT-Kharagpur awarded Sundar Pichai, CEO of Alphabet, an honorary Doctor of Science degree for contributions to digital transformation. Anjali Pichai was honored with the Distinguished Alumnus Award. Pichai thanked IIT-KGP for its impact on his career, acknowledging the institute's growing role in technology.

7. Former Indian cricket player and coach of the Indian men's cricket team Anshuman Gaekwad died on 31 July 2024. He was 71 years old and suffering from blood cancer. He was undergoing treatment for blood cancer at King's College London, England, and had recently returned to Vadodara, Gujarat. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) gave Rs 1 crore to Anshuman Gaikwad for his treatment in London.
8. Eleven new sites have been added to UNESCO's World Heritage List in recognition of their natural or cultural significance.
 - A Pacific archipelago, a Chinese desert and an ancient Indian burial ground have been added after a meeting of the World Heritage Committee in India.
 - Other locations include a monastery in the Gaza Strip.
9. India will host the prestigious International Conference of Agricultural Economists after a 66-year gap. NITI Aayog Member Prof. Ramesh Chand gave this information in New Delhi on 30 July 2024.
 - India will host the 32nd International Conference of Agricultural Economists at the Pusa Institute New Delhi from 2 to 7 August 2024. After a gap of 66 years, India will be hosting this prestigious Conference again, which it hosted in 1958.

- The International Conference on Agricultural Economics is held every three years. The 2021 conference was held in a virtual format due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

10. India has been elected as vice-chair of the supply chain council, one of the three bodies set up by the 14-member Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) bloc, the commerce and industry ministry.

- The council was set up under the IPEF Supply Chain Resilience Agreement, which aims to help mitigate risks of economic disruptions from supply chain shocks, improve crisis coordination, and reduce the member countries' dependence on China.
- The council aims to pursue targeted, action oriented work to strengthen the supply chains for those sectors and goods most critical to national security, public health, and economic well-being.