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VOCABULARY

1. Hegemonic: Dominating or ruling, especially in a political or social context.
 - Synonyms: Dominant, controlling, ruling
 - Antonyms: Subordinate, secondary, powerless
 - Sentence: The company maintained a hegemonic position in the market for over two decades.

2. Upend: To turn something on its end or upside down; to affect dramatically.
 - Synonyms: Overturn, topple, invert
 - Antonyms: Stabilize, uphold, support
 - Sentence: The surprise election results could upend the current political landscape.

3. Wobbled: To move unsteadily from side to side; to show uncertainty.
 - Synonyms: Faltered, teetered, hesitated
 - Antonyms: Steadied, stabilized, fixed
 - Sentence: The cyclist wobbled as he tried to balance on the uneven road.

4. Euphoria: A feeling or state of intense excitement and happiness.
 - Synonyms: Elation, joy, ecstasy
 - Antonyms: Depression, sadness, despair
 - Sentence: The fans were in a state of euphoria after their team won the championship.

5. Manipulate: To handle or control in a skillful manner, often in a way that is unfair or unscrupulous.
- Synonyms: Influence, maneuver, exploit
 - Antonyms: Neglect, ignore, mismanage
 - Sentence: The politician was accused of manipulating public opinion to win votes.
6. Vigilance: The action or state of keeping careful watch for possible danger or difficulties.
- Synonyms: Watchfulness, alertness, attentiveness
 - Antonyms: Negligence, inattention, carelessness
 - Sentence: The guard maintained vigilance throughout the night to ensure no intruders entered the premises.
7. Draining: Causing someone to become very exhausted.
- Synonyms: Exhausting, tiring, depleting
 - Antonyms: Refreshing, energizing, invigorating
 - Sentence: The long hours of work were draining, leaving her with little energy at the end of the day.
8. Elusive: Difficult to find, catch, or achieve.
- Synonyms: Evasive, slippery, intangible
 - Antonyms: Accessible, tangible, reachable
 - Sentence: The solution to the problem has been elusive, despite the team's best efforts.

9. Skepticism: A skeptical attitude; doubt as to the truth of something.

- Synonyms: Doubt, disbelief, cynicism
- Antonyms: Belief, confidence, faith
- Sentence: There was widespread skepticism about the effectiveness of the new policy.

10. Bona fide: Genuine; real.

- Synonyms: Authentic, legitimate, true
- Antonyms: Fake, counterfeit, fraudulent
- Example: The document was confirmed to be bona fide by the legal experts.

IDIOMS AND PHRASES

11. The elephant in the room: a difficult situation that people do not want to talk about

12. Stealing someone's thunder: taking credit for someone else achievements

13. The last straw: the final source of irritation for someone to finally lose patience

14. Giving someone the cold shoulder: to ignore someone

15. Bite the bullet: to do something unpleasant

CURRENT AFFAIRS

2nd September, 2024

1. Cyclone Asna has formed over the Kutch coast in Gujarat and adjoining areas of Pakistan, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on August 30. The cyclonic storm – a rare landoriginating one in August and headed to the Arabian Sea –is expected to move further away from the western coast in the next 48 hours.
 - The name Asna, which means “the one to be acknowledged or praised”. Between 1891 and 2023, only three cyclonic storms formed in the Arabian Sea in August (in 1976, 1964, and 1944), according to the IMD.
 - Asna name has been given by Pakistan.
2. Blue Origin flew its latest group of six thrill-seekers to the edge of space and back again Thursday, including the youngest-ever woman to complete the feat.
 - Mission NS-26 marked the eighth human spaceflight for the company, founded by Jeff Bezos, as it presses ahead in the emerging suborbital tourism market.
 - Karsen Kitchen, a 21-year-old senior at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, became the youngest woman ever to cross the Karman Line, the internationally recognized boundary marking the edge of space, 100 kilometers (62 miles) above the Earth's surface.

- 3.** World Coconut Day 2024 is celebrated on September 2nd each year to recognize the importance of coconuts in our lives.
 - World Coconut Day was first celebrated in 2009 by the Asian and Pacific Coconut Community (APCC).
 - Coconut water was known to be used during World War II in tropical areas for emergency transfusions.
 - There are over 150 species of coconuts that can be found in 80 different countries throughout the world.
 - Coconut Development Board is celebrating World Coconut Day on the theme "Coconut for a circular economy, Building partnership for maximum value" on 2nd September 2024 at Town Hall, Ernakulam.

- 4.** The government has launched the She-Box portal to make workplaces safer for women. Women and Child Development Minister Annpurna Devi launched the portal in New Delhi today. She-Box portal is a centralized platform for registering and monitoring complaints of sexual harassment of women at the workplace.

- 5.** INS Tabar visited Malaga, Spain, and conducted a Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) with the Spanish Navy Ship Atalayain the Mediterranean Sea. The exercise marks a significant milestone in India-Spain maritime cooperation, showcasing advanced maneuvers and reinforcing bilateral naval ties.

- 6.** On the occasion of National Sports Day, Bihar took a significant leap forward in its commitment to sports development. Chief Minister Nitish Kumar inaugurated a trio of state-of-the-art facilities in Rajgir, marking a new chapter in the state's sporting history. These facilities, comprising a sports academy, a sports complex, and a sports university, are set to revolutionize the athletic landscape of Bihar and potentially influence sports development across India.
- 7.** The Indian Army launched the first phase of Project NAMAN, in presence of General Upendra Dwivedi, Chief of the Army Staff along with Mrs Sunita Dwivedi, President Army Wives Welfare Association (AWWA).
- 8.** India's Rubina Francis won a bronze medal in the women's air pistol SH1 event final to continue the strong show from the country's shooters in the Paris Paralympics on Saturday. She scored a total of 211.1 to finish third in the eight-woman final.
- 9.** Bollywood star Ayushmann Khurrana and Olympic gold medallist Neeraj Chopra were awarded the FICCI Young Leader's Youth Icon by Shashwat Goenka, Chairman, FICCI Young Leaders Forum.

- 10.** In the World U20 Athletics Championships, Aarti won a Bronze medal in the Women's 10000m race walk event with the National U20 record time to open India's medal account at Lima in Peru yesterday. She clocked 44 minutes 39.39 seconds to finish third in the gruelling event on the penultimate day of competitions.
- The 17-year-old Aarti broke her own earlier national record of 47 minutes 21.04 seconds which she had clocked in March this year in the National Federation Cup U20 Championships in Lucknow. Chinese race walkers Zhuoma Baima won the gold while Meiling Chen clinched silver.