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VOCABULARY

1. Parleys: Discussions or conferences between parties, especially to resolve a dispute.
 - Synonyms: Negotiations, talks, discussions
 - Antonyms: Silence, conflict, confrontation
 - Sentence: The leaders held parleys to address the ongoing trade disputes.

2. Acrimonious: Angry and bitter, especially in speech.
 - Synonyms: Hostile, bitter, harsh
 - Antonyms: Amicable, friendly, mild
 - Sentence: The debate turned acrimonious as the candidates began attacking each other's past decisions.

3. Nudge: To encourage or persuade someone to take action or make a decision.
 - Synonyms: Prompt, prod, push
 - Antonyms: Discourage, ignore, deter
 - Sentence: The manager gave a nudge to the team to meet the project deadline.

4. Finesse: Skillful handling or cleverness in dealing with a situation.
 - Synonyms: Skill, delicacy, expertise
 - Antonyms: Clumsiness, awkwardness, incompetence
 - Sentence: She handled the negotiations with great finesse, securing a deal that benefited both parties.

5. **Skeptical:** Doubtful or uncertain about something.
- Synonyms: Doubtful, dubious, cynical
 - Antonyms: Trusting, confident, assured
 - Sentence: Despite the promises, she remained skeptical about the new policy's effectiveness.
6. **Revamp:** To improve or renovate something, especially to make it more modern or effective.
- Synonyms: Overhaul, renovate, update
 - Antonyms: Neglect, ignore, deteriorate
 - Sentence: The company decided to revamp its marketing strategy to better reach its target audience.
7. **Arouse:** To evoke or stir up an emotion or feeling.
- Synonyms: Elicit, provoke, stimulate
 - Antonyms: Calm, soothe, dampen
 - Sentence: The speech aroused a sense of urgency among the attendees.
8. **Stalemate:** A situation in which no progress can be made, often because neither side will back down.
- Synonyms: Deadlock, impasse, standstill
 - Antonyms: Breakthrough, progress, resolution
 - Sentence: The negotiations reached a stalemate when neither side was willing to compromise.

9. Aggravate: To make a situation worse or more severe.

- Synonyms: Exacerbate, worsen, intensify
- Antonyms: Alleviate, ease, mitigate
- Sentence: The new policy may aggravate the existing issues rather than solve them.

IDIOMS AND PHRASES

10. Zip your lip: shut up or stop talking
11. Miss the boat: miss an opportunity or chance
12. Devil's advocate: one who presents a counter-argument
13. White elephant: something that is expensive
14. Water under the bridge: something that happened in the past and cannot now be changed

CURRENT AFFAIRS

3rd September, 2024

1. Vietnamese professor and doctor Nguyen Thi Ngoc Phuong has become a laureate of the 2024 Ramon Magsaysay Award, internationally regarded as the Asian version of the Nobel Prize, for dedicating her life to studying the harmful health impact of Agent Orange (AO) and helping seek justice for victims of this toxic defoliant.
2. The groundbreaking clinical trials for an innovative mRNA-based lung cancer vaccine, known as BNT116, have begun across seven countries.
 - It is developed by BioNTech, the company behind one of the leading COVID-19 vaccines.
 - BNT116 is designed to target and eliminate cancer cells, with the aim of preventing them from returning.
 - This vaccine is specifically intended to treat non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), which is the most common form of lung cancer.
3. Vice Admiral Rajesh Dhankhar NM, assumed duties of the Director General Project Seabird, with a charter to oversee the largest defence infrastructure project currently progressing at the Karwar Naval Base, from Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti.
 - VAdm Rajesh Dhankhar was commissioned into the Indian Navy on 01 July 1990 and is a specialist in Navigation & Direction.

- 4.** World Wide Fund(WWF)-India has started a new project called "Vulture Count 2024," which will take place from September 7 to October 6, 2024.
- This initiative is timed to coincide with International Vulture Awareness Day. The goal is to count and evaluate the number of vultures in India, particularly focusing on species that are critically endangered. The project also aims to raise public awareness about the importance of vultures in our ecosystems.
- 5.** In a ceremony that underscored his exceptional contributions to the Olympic movement, President Emmanuel Macron of France was awarded the Olympic Order in gold.
- This prestigious distinction was bestowed upon him by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in recognition of his unwavering support for the Olympic Games Paris 2024 and his commitment to the Olympic ideals championed by Pierre de Coubertin. Macron's involvement was pivotal in making the Paris 2024 edition a resounding success, symbolizing global unity and the enduring power of sport.

6. The Ministry of Finance has added 4 new companies to the list of Navratna Companies of India. The ministry renewed the list on August 30, upgrading four publicsector enterprises, SJVN, Solar Energy Corporation, NHPC, and RailTel Corporation of India to the status of 'Navratna' companies.
7. President Droupadi Murmu unveiled the new flag and insignia of the Supreme Court of India to commemorate its 75th anniversary. The ceremony took place during the valedictory session of the National Conference of District Judiciary, attended by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud and Union Minister of State for Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal.
 - The newly designed flag and insignia, created by the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) New Delhi, symbolize the core values of justice and democracy. The flag prominently features the Ashok Chakra, the iconic Supreme Court building, and a book representing the Constitution. The insignia incorporates the Court's motto, a phrase from the Mahabharata meaning "Where there is Dharma, there is victory."

- 8.** An Indian Navy P8I aircraft has arrived in France for 'Exercise Varuna' with the French Navy, marking its first deployment in Europe. The bilateral naval exercise, scheduled from September 2 to 4 in the Mediterranean Sea, will feature advanced tactical maneuvers, highlighting growing coordination between the two navies. INS Tabar will also participate.
- 9.** NorthEast United FC won the 133rd Indian Oil Durand Cup by defeating defending champions Mohun Bagan Super Giant on penalties on 31 August 2024 at Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan in West Bengal.
- 10.** India's Preethi Pal created history as she became the first-ever Indian woman track and field athlete to win two medals at the Paralympics while clinching the bronze in the 200m T35 category with a personal best time of 30.01 seconds.