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VOCABULARY

1. **Dark Horse:** A candidate or competitor about whom little is known but who unexpectedly wins or succeeds.
 - Synonyms: Underdog, sleeper, surprise entry
 - Sentence: The small, unknown candidate turned out to be a dark horse in the election, surprising everyone with a strong performance.

2. **Ascendancy:** Occupation of a position of dominant power or influence.
 - Synonyms: Dominance, supremacy, control
 - Antonyms: Decline, subordination, inferiority
 - Sentence: The ascendancy of the new political party has changed the dynamics of the region.

3. **Stalling:** To delay or obstruct the progress of something.
 - Synonyms: Hindering, obstructing, delaying
 - Antonyms: Advancing, expediting, facilitating
 - Sentence: The negotiations have been stalling due to disagreements over key issues.

4. **Belie:** To fail to give a true impression of something; to contradict.
 - Synonyms: Contradict, disprove, debunk
 - Antonyms: Confirm, affirm, support
 - Sentence: His calm demeanor belied the stress he was feeling internally.

5. **Beleaguered:** Experiencing difficulties, harassment, or being surrounded by trouble.
- Synonyms: Besieged, troubled, harassed
 - Antonyms: Supported, untroubled, comforted
 - Sentence: The beleaguered manager struggled to maintain his team's morale amid the crisis.
6. **Languish:** To lose or lack vitality; grow weak or feeble.
- Synonyms: Deteriorate, weaken, fade
 - Antonyms: Thrive, flourish, prosper
 - Sentence: The proposal continued to languish in the legislative committee, awaiting further discussion.
7. **Enlightened:** Having or showing a rational, modern, and well-informed outlook.
- Synonyms: Informed, aware, sophisticated
 - Antonyms: Ignorant, unenlightened, naive
 - Sentence: An enlightened approach to management can improve employee satisfaction and productivity.
8. **Resonance:** The quality of being deeply meaningful or significant; the ability to evoke or suggest images, memories, and emotions.
- Synonyms: Echo, significance, impact
 - Antonyms: Insignificance, inconsequence, unimportance

- Sentence: The new policy found resonance among the workforce, who had been advocating for better work-life balance.

9. Fanatical: Filled with excessive and single-minded zeal or enthusiasm, especially for an extreme religious or political cause.

- Synonyms: Zealous, obsessive, fervent
- Antonyms: Indifferent, moderate, dispassionate
- Sentence: The fanatical supporters of the movement were willing to go to extreme lengths to achieve their goals.

IDIOMS AND PHRASES

10. Cut to the chase: to get to the point without wasting time.
11. Give someone the cold shoulder: to ignore or treat someone with indifference.
12. Jump on the bandwagon: to join or support something that is already popular.
13. A dime a dozen: very common and easy to find.
14. In hot water: in trouble or facing difficulties

CURRENT AFFAIRS

4th September, 2024

1. The Supreme Court on Monday (September 2, 2024) constituted a high-powered committee chaired by former Punjab and Haryana High Court judge, Justice Nawab Singh, to amicably resolve the grievances of farmers agitating at the Shambhu border between Punjab and Haryana.
 - A Bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan directed the five-member committee to convene its first meeting within a week.
2. Air Marshal Tejinder Singh took over as Deputy Chief of the Air Staff of the Indian Air Force in New Delhi. After the assumption of his new appointment, he paid homage to the bravehearts who gave the supreme sacrifice by laying a wreath at the National War Memorial.
3. Russian troops recently hit Kharkiv, Ukraine, with a Grom-E1 hybrid missile.
 - It is a sophisticated weapon created from the Soviet-era Kh-38 "air-to-surface" missile.
 - It was developed by Russia and officially unveiled for the first time in 2018.
 - It combines the features of both a missile and an aerial bomb.

4. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has started a two-day visit to Brunei and Singapore aimed at strengthening diplomatic ties. In Brunei, he will meet Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah to enhance bilateral relations. In Singapore, discussions with top leaders will focus on the India-Singapore Strategic Partnership, including sectors such as advanced manufacturing and sustainable development.
5. The 7th Rashtriya Poshan Maah was launched today at Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, marking a significant step towards enhancing nutrition awareness and well-being across the nation.
 - The event featured prominent figures such as Union Minister Smt. Annpurna Devi, Chief Minister of Gujarat Shri Bhupendrabhai Patel, and Gujarat's Minister of Women and Child Development Smt. Bhanuben Babariya, alongside senior officials from both the Government of India and the State Government of Gujarat.
6. The Union Cabinet, in a meeting held in New Delhi on 2 September 2024 and chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the proposal of the Kaynes Semicon Pvt Ltd to establish a semiconductor unit in Sanand, Gujarat.
 - Since the announcement of India's Semiconductor Mission in 2022, this is the fifth proposal by a company to set up a semiconductor plant in India.

- 7.** Recently, the Union Cabinet Committee chaired by the Prime Minister Shri of India approved the Digital Agriculture Mission with an outlay of Rs. 2817 Crore, including the central share of Rs. 1940 Crore.
- 8.** President Droupadi Murmu has sanctioned the 23rd Law Commission of India, set to function from September 2024 to August 2027. The commission will include a Chairperson, four members, and additional ex-officio and part-time members. It is mandated to review and suggest legal reforms, address obsolete laws, streamline judicial processes, and promote gender equality.
- 9.** The 14th Hockey India Congress was held in Lucknow with the participation of representatives from all 31 state member units. Hockey India President Dr. Dilip Tirkey, Secretary General Bholu Nath Singh, and Treasurer Sekar J. Manoharan were present in this congress to discuss shaping the future of Indian hockey and reinforcing the collective vision for the sport's growth and development.
- 10.** Indian duo of Sheetal Devi and Rakesh Kumar claimed the bronze medal in the mixed team compound archery competition at the Paralympics 2024 on September 2nd. Their victory was secured with a nail-biting 156-155 win over Italy's Eleonora Sarti and Matteo Bonacina, marking only the second time that India has won a medal in archery at the Paralympics.