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VOCABULARY

- 1. Dismal:** Depressing or dreary; of poor quality or a low standard.
 - Synonyms: Gloomy, bleak, depressing
 - Antonyms: Cheerful, bright, hopeful
 - Sentence: This dismal saga should not deter talented individuals from joining regulatory bodies.

- 2. Jinx:** A person or thing that brings bad luck.
 - Synonyms: Curse, hex, bad luck
 - Antonyms: Blessing, luck, fortune
 - Sentence: The 20-year jinx of American men in Grand Slam tennis finals might finally be broken.

- 3. Calibre:** The quality of someone's ability or level of competence.
 - Synonyms: Ability, competence, quality
 - Antonyms: Incompetence, mediocrity, ineptitude
 - Sentence: It took the calibre of players like Andy Murray and Stan Wawrinka to challenge the dominance of the Big 3.

- 4. Heralded:** To signal the arrival or start of something; to be recognized for achievements.
 - Synonyms: Announced, proclaimed, recognized
 - Antonyms: Ignored, neglected, overlooked
 - Sentence: Jessica Pegula and Emma Navarro, though less heralded, have made it to the US Open semifinals.

- 5. Disclosure:** The action of making new or secret information known.
- Synonyms: Revelation, declaration, announcement
 - Antonyms: Concealment, secrecy, suppression
 - Sentence: Buch stated that she has made all necessary disclosures as required by the regulator.
- 6. Stymie:** To prevent or hinder the progress of something.
- Synonyms: Thwart, obstruct, impede
 - Antonyms: Assist, promote, facilitate
 - Sentence: The controversy should not be used to stymie the entry of private individuals into high-ranking positions.
- 7. Surge:** A sudden or powerful forward or upward movement or increase.
- Synonyms: Increase, rise, escalation
 - Antonyms: Decline, decrease, drop
 - Sentence: There has been a sharp surge in stock market investors over the past few years.
- 8. Unrestrained:** Not controlled or limited; free and unrestricted.
- Synonyms: Uncontrolled, unchecked, excessive
 - Antonyms: Restrained, limited, moderate
 - Sentence: Shouting and unrestrained criticism have become common in the meetings at the regulator's office.

- 9. Obscure:** Not well-known; uncertain or not clearly expressed
- Synonyms: Unclear, unknown, ambiguous
 - Antonyms: Clear, obvious, famous
 - Sentence: The funds were traced to obscure offshore companies in Mauritius.

IDIOMS AND PHRASES

- 10.** Wool over the eyes: to trick or deceive someone.
- 11.** Jump through hoops: to do a complicated things in order to get or achieve something
- 12.** Up in the air: (of a plan or issue) still to be settled; unresolved.
- 13.** By the book: exactly according to the rules.
- 14.** To get down to business: to start the work that has to be done.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

7th September, 2024

1. China's National Meteorological Centre (NMC) today issued a red alert for Typhoon Yagi, which is expected to bring strong winds and heavy rain to the country's southern regions. The China Meteorological Administration has upgraded the emergency response for the typhoon from level IV to level II.
2. The first International Solar Festival is being held in New Delhi on September 5-6, 2024, organized by the International Solar Alliance (ISA) to promote international cooperation for a solar-powered future.
 - The event features immersive activities, such as a solar city tour and virtual reality experiences, and showcases advancements in solar technology. It emphasizes sustainable energy sources, encourages domestic manufacturing, and aims to accelerate global solar energy adoption.
 - In his virtual address, Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted India's commitment to a green future and the importance of raising awareness about sustainable energy.
3. The 20th edition of the India-US joint military exercise, known as Yudh Abhyas, will see the participation of 600 soldiers from each country, marking a new milestone in the defence partnership between the two nations.

4. The Indian Coast Guard attended the 20th Heads of Asian Coast Guard Agencies Meeting (HACGAM) in Incheon, South Korea. The 20th HACGAM was hosted by the South Korean Coast Guard at Incheon, South Korea, from 2 - 6 September 2024.
- On this occasion, the Indian Coast Guard also held its 12th annual bilateral meeting with the South Korean Coast Guard on 4 September 2024.
 - During the Incheon meeting, the member nation's Coast Guard discussed issues related to maritime law enforcement, the safety and security of life at sea, marine environment protection, and the illicit trafficking of humans, drugs, weapons, etc.
5. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh presided over the first Joint Commander's Conference of the Armed Forces at Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, on 5 September. The two day first Joint Commander's Conference was held in Lucknow on 4- 5 September 2024 to discuss the various issues of the armed forces and integration of the three armed forces and the integrated theatre command.
- The defence minister also launched e-Museum and eGranthalaya applications and one book titled 'Colonial Practices and the Armed Forces - A Review'.

6. The Himachal Pradesh government has passed a bill to stop pensions for MLAs disqualified under the anti-defection law. Introduced by Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, the bill aims to curb defection among legislators. This move follows the disqualification of six Congress MLAs who defied the party whip during budget discussions.
 7. The central government recently approached the Supreme Court, alleging that inadequate arrangements were made for the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel deployed at RG Kar Hospital in Kolkata.
 8. PM Modi launched the 'Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari' initiative in Gujarat, aiming to boost water conservation through community participation, supporting rainwater harvesting and sustainable water management efforts.
 9. The Drugs Controller General of India has approved Entod Pharmaceuticals' PresVu eye drops, which is said to be a breakthrough in the treatment of presbyopia. The pharmaceutical company has already received approval for the eye drop from the Subject Expert Committee of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO).
- PresVu is India's first eye drop, specially made for individuals suffering from presbyopia who are forced to read with glasses.

- 10.** The young 19-year-old, Jyoti Berwal became the U20 world champion in women's 76 kg freestyle wrestling at the U20 World Wrestling Championships in Pontevedra, Spain.

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