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VOCABULARY

- 1. Ascent:** A rise to an important position or a higher level.
 - Synonyms: Rise, advancement, elevation
 - Antonyms: Decline, descent, fall
 - Sentence: His ascent to the top of the company was rapid and impressive.

- 2. Indomitable:** Impossible to subdue or defeat.
 - Synonyms: Unconquerable, invincible, resilient
 - Antonyms: Vulnerable, weak, fragile
 - Sentence: His indomitable spirit kept him going despite the many obstacles.

- 3. Veiled:** Not openly expressed or revealed.
 - Synonyms: Hidden, concealed, covert
 - Antonyms: Open, overt, explicit
 - Sentence: He made a veiled reference to his opponent's shortcomings during the debate.

- 4. De-risk:** To reduce or eliminate the risks involved in something.
 - Synonyms: Mitigate risk, safeguard, protect
 - Antonyms: Risk, endanger, expose
 - Sentence: The company decided to de-risk the project by partnering with a more experienced firm.

- 5. Entreaties:** An earnest or humble request.
- Synonyms: Please, appeals, petitions
 - Antonyms: Demands, orders, commands
 - Sentence: Despite their entreaties for help, the authorities remained unmoved.
- 6. Predatory:** Seeking to exploit or oppress others.
- Synonyms: Exploitative, rapacious, aggressive
 - Antonyms: Protective, benevolent, nurturing
 - Sentence: The predatory lending practices of some banks caused many people to lose their homes.
- 7. Defray:** Provide money to pay (a cost or expense).
- Synonyms: Cover, finance, pay for
 - Antonyms: Owe, charge, withhold
 - Sentence: The grant helped defray the costs of the students' education.
- 8. Impairments:** A condition in which part of a person's mind or body is damaged or does not work well.
- Synonyms: Disabilities, deficiencies, limitations
 - Antonyms: Abilities, strengths, aptitudes
 - Sentence: Despite their impairments, the athletes performed exceptionally well at the Paralympics.

9. Underscore: To emphasize or show the importance of something.

- Synonyms: Highlight, stress, underline
- Antonyms: Downplay, ignore, diminish
- Sentence: The report underscores the need for urgent action on climate change.

10. Ramp up : To increase or cause something to increase in speed, size, or amount.

- Synonyms: Boost, enhance, escalate
- Antonyms: Decrease, diminish, reduce
- Sentence: The company is planning to ramp up production to meet growing demand.

IDIOMS AND PHRASES

11. Every Nook and Corner: every part or aspect of something

12. Chicken- Hearted: timid; fearful; cowardly

13. Laugh in Their Sleeves: to laugh quietly and secretly at others' mistakes

14. While Away: spend time idly or pleasantly

15. Throw Cold Water on Someone's Pleasure: to be negative about someone's ideas or plans

CURRENT AFFAIRS

9th September, 2024

1. Since 1967, International Literacy Day (ILD) has been observed annually on September 8th across the globe. This day serves as a crucial reminder to policymakers, practitioners, and the public about the critical importance of literacy in creating a more literate.
 - Theme: "Promoting Multilingual Education: Literacy for Mutual Understanding and Peace"
2. India successfully launched the Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile, Agni-4, from Chandipur, Odisha on 6 September 2024. The launch was conducted under the Strategic Forces Command (SFC), marking another milestone in India's defence capabilities.
 - In April 2024, India successfully tested the nuclearcapable Agni-Prime ballistic missile from Abdul Kalam Island. The Agni missiles are long-range, nuclear weapons-capable surface-to-surface ballistic missiles developed by India. The Strategic Forces Command and DRDO were involved in both tests.
3. Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in India processed nearly Rs81 lakh crore in transactions from April to July 2023, a 37% increase YoY. UPI has surpassed major global digital payment platforms. With 117.6 billion transactions in 2023, India leads in digital transactions. RBI is focused on expanding UPI and RuPay internationally for broader adoption.

4. Shri Giriraj Singh, unveiled the 'VisioNxt Fashion Forecasting Initiative' developed by the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT).

- This launch event, which also saw the introduction of a bilingual web portal and the India-specific Fashion Trend Book 'Paridhi 24×25', marks a pivotal moment in India's fashion and textile sector.

5. In Kerala, Atham is being celebrated today, marking the beginning of the ten-day Onam festivities. At several places, floral carpets, or pookkalam, were laid out, symbolically welcoming King Mahabali, who was sent to the netherworld by Vamana, an incarnation of Lord Vishnu.

- Many people visited temples across the state. The famous Athachamayam procession, which features various cultural displays and traditional art forms, will be held at Thripunithura this morning. The event is a throwback to the traditional procession once led by the rulers of Kochi to attend the temple festival at Thrikkakara.
- The 10-day festival at Thrikkakara Temple, connected with the legend of King Mahabali, will begin this evening with kodiyaattam, or hoisting of the temple flag. The state government has cancelled its programs associated with the Onam festival in the wake of the massive landslide that hit Wayanad recently, which claimed many lives and displaced several others.

6. The Assam Cabinet has decided to implement 80 per cent of the recommendations given by the Justice Biplab Sarma committee on Clause 6 of the Assam Accord to protect and safeguard the land, language and culture of the indigenous people of the state.

- Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma briefing the media informed that 57 of the 67 recommendations given by the Justice Biplab Sarma committee are to be implemented by April 15 next year.
- In another cabinet decision, the employees of the state government will get insurance coverage of one crore Rupees for death and permanent disability due to accidents. 80 lakh Rupees of insurance coverage will be given for partial disability. The cabinet also approved the distribution of new ration cards to 20 lakh people in the state.

7. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated the Jatayu Conservation and Breeding Centre in the Bharivaisi, Campierganj Range of the Gorakhpur Forest Division on 6 September 2024. It is the world's first conservation and breeding centre for the Asian King Vulture or the red-headed vulture.

- There are other conservation and breeding centres of vultures named Jatayu in the country, but they cater to all breeds of vultures.

- During the ceremony, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath instructed the state Forest Department to establish a forestry college in Gorakhpur.
- 8.** The British government has announced plans to erect a national memorial for Queen Elizabeth II in St James's Park, London. This site was chosen due to its historical significance and its close connection to the late monarch, who passed away on September 8, 2022, after over seven decades on the throne.
- The memorial will be situated near The Mall, Marlborough Gate, and the Blue Bridge, reflecting the Queen's enduring legacy and providing a space for public reflection.
- 9.** To honor Hockey Legend Major Dhyan Chand and coincide with National Sports Day 2024, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting hosted "Khel Utsav2024" from August 27 to 30, 2024, at Major Dhyan Chand and Jawaharlal Nehru Stadiums in New Delhi.
- 10.** Cristiano Ronaldo became emotional after netting his milestone 900th career goal during Portugal's UEFA Nations League win over Croatia. The moment highlighted his incredible journey, solidifying his status as one of football's all-time greats.