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#### **VOCABULARY**

- **1.** Lacuna: An unfilled space or gap, especially a missing portion in a manuscript, text, or idea.
  - Synonyms: Gap, omission, void, deficiency
  - Antonyms: Continuity, completeness, fullness
  - Sentence: The lacuna in the policy left many citizens confused about their rights.
- 2. Abrogation: The repeal or abolition of a law, right, or agreement.
  - Synonyms: Repeal, annulment, cancellation, termination
  - Antonyms: Enactment, establishment, approval, validation
  - Sentence: The abrogation of the outdated law was welcomed by the public.
- **3.** Despondency: A state of low spirits caused by loss of hope or courage.
  - Synonyms: Depression, dejection, despair, gloom
  - Antonyms: Cheerfulness, optimism, hopefulness, encouragement
  - Sentence: After losing the match, the team was filled with despondency.

- **4.** Diminution: A reduction in the size, extent, or importance of something.
  - Synonyms: Decrease, reduction, decline, lessening
  - Antonyms: Increase, expansion, enlargement, augmentation
  - Sentence: The diminution of the company's profits worried the investors.
- **5.** Muzzling: Preventing someone from expressing their opinions freely.
  - Synonyms: Suppressing, silencing, stifling, restraining
  - Antonyms: Liberating, encouraging, freeing, allowing
  - Sentence: The government was accused of muzzling the media to control public opinion.
- **6.** Reiterated: Say something again or a number of times, typically for emphasis or clarity.
  - Synonyms: Repeated, restated, emphasized, reaffirmed
  - Antonyms: Retracted, revoked, rescinded
  - Sentence: The CEO reiterated the company's commitment to sustainability.
- 7. Articulate: To express (an idea or feeling) fluently and coherently.
  - Synonyms: Express, communicate, convey, enunciate
  - Antonyms: Mumble, mutter, stammer, suppress
  - Sentence: She was able to articulate her thoughts clearly during the meeting.

- **8.** Flawed: Having or characterized by a fundamental weakness or imperfection.
  - Synonyms: Defective, imperfect, faulty, blemished
  - Antonyms: Perfect, flawless, impeccable, sound
  - Sentence: The study was flawed due to its small sample size.
- 9. Imperative: Of vital importance; crucial.
  - Synonyms: Essential, necessary, urgent, critical
  - Antonyms: Optional, nonessential, trivial, minor
  - Sentence: It is imperative to address the issue before it escalates.
- **10.** Expedite: Make (an action or process) happen sooner or be accomplished more quickly.
  - Synonyms: Accelerate, hasten, quicken, facilitate
  - Antonyms: Delay, hinder, slow, obstruct
  - Sentence: The company is looking for ways to expedite the delivery process.
- 11. Conundrum: A confusing and difficult problem.
  - Synonyms: Puzzle, riddle, dilemma
  - Antonyms: Solution, answer, clarity
  - Sentence: The development of the hydropower project presented a conundrum that the engineers struggled to solve.

- **12.** Quiescent: In a state of inactivity or dormancy.
  - Synonyms: Inactive, dormant, still
  - Antonyms: Active, lively, dynamic
  - Sentence: The volcano had been quiescent for decades before the recent eruption.
- **13.** Deluge: A severe flood or an overwhelming amount of something.
  - Synonyms: Flood, inundation, torrent
  - Antonyms: Drought, trickle, scarcity
  - Sentence: The heavy rains caused a deluge that swept away entire villages.
- **14.** Conflate: To combine two or more things into one.
  - Synonyms: Merge, fuse, combine
  - Antonyms: Separate, divide, distinguish
  - Sentence: The article tends to conflate the issues of climate change and economic policy.
- 15. Skepticism: An attitude of doubt or disbelief.
  - Synonyms: Doubt, mistrust, disbelief
  - Antonyms: Faith, trust, belief
  - Example: There was widespread skepticism about the effectiveness of the new policy.

- **16.** Lucid: Expressed clearly; easy to understand.
  - Synonyms: Clear, articulate, coherent
  - Antonyms: Confused, unclear, obscure
  - Sentence: The professor's explanation was so lucid that even complex concepts became understandable.
- 17. Surreal: Beyond what is real or believable; dreamlike.
  - Synonyms: Dreamlike, fantastical, bizarre
  - Antonyms: Realistic, ordinary, mundane
  - Sentence: The artwork had a surreal quality, making it seem like a scene from a dream
- 18. Devastating: Causing great damage or destruction.
  - Synonyms: Destructive, ruinous, catastrophic
  - Antonyms: Constructive, beneficial, advantageous
  - Sentence: The hurricane had a devastating effect on the coastal towns, leaving many homes in ruins.
- 19. Envisage: To contemplate or conceive of as a possibility or a desirable future event.
  - Synonyms: Imagine, foresee, predict
  - Antonyms: Ignore, overlook, disregard
  - Sentence: The architect envisaged a futuristic design for the new city hall.

- **20.** Gist: The main or essential part of a matter; the essence.
  - Synonyms: Essence, summary, core
  - Sentence: The gist of the report was that the project was significantly under budget and ahead of schedule.
- 21. Flaccid: Lacking firmness or stiffness.
  - Synonyms: Limp, weak, slack
  - Antonyms: Firm, stiff, rigid
  - Sentence: The plant's leaves became flaccid due to the lack of water.
- 22. Attenuated: Reduced in force, effect, or value; weakened.
  - Synonyms: Weakened, diluted, reduced
  - Antonyms: Strengthened, intensified, potent
  - Sentence: The vaccine uses an attenuated form of the virus to stimulate an immune response.
- 23. Deterrent: A thing that discourages or is intended to discourage someone from doing something.
  - Synonyms: Obstacle, hindrance, discouragement
  - Antonyms: Encouragement, inducement, incentive
  - Sentence: The severe penalties acted as a deterrent against illegal activities.

- 24. Accredited: Officially recognized or authorized.
  - Synonyms: Authorized, certified, approved
  - Antonyms: Unrecognized, uncertified
  - Sentence: The laboratory is accredited by international health organizations.
- 25. Punitive: Intended as punishment; very harsh
  - Synonyms: Penal, retributive, disciplinary
  - Antonyms: Rewarding, compensatory
  - Sentence: The court imposed punitive damages to deter others from similar offenses.
- 26. Rash: Acting without consideration of possible consequences; reckless.
  - Synonyms: Reckless, hasty, impulsive
  - Antonyms: Cautious, deliberate, thoughtful
  - Sentence: The rash decision to cut corners led to the safety violations.
- 27. Plausible: Seemingly reasonable or probable.
  - Synonyms: Credible, believable, likely
  - Antonyms: Implausible, unlikely, unbelievable
  - Sentence: The explanation provided by the witness was plausible and consistent with the evidence.

- 28. Repercussion: An unintended consequence occurring some time after an event or action.
  - Synonyms: Consequence, effect, fallout
  - Antonyms: Cause, origin
  - Sentence: The environmental repercussions of the industrial spill were severe and long-lasting.
- 29. Extrapolate: To estimate or infer unknown values or outcomes based on known data.
  - Synonyms: Infer, deduce, project
  - Antonyms: Misinterpret, ignore
  - Sentence: The researchers extrapolated future trends based on current data.
- 30. Delineate: To describe or portray something precisely.
  - Synonyms: Describe, outline, define
  - Antonyms: Obscure, blur
  - Sentence: The architect delineated the design plan in great detail.
- 31. Unrelenting: Not yielding in strength, severity, or determination.
  - Synonyms: Incessant, relentless, persistent
  - Antonyms: Ceasing, yielding, merciful
  - Sentence: The unrelenting rain caused severe flooding in the region.

- 32. Spate: A large number of similar things or events appearing or occurring in quick succession.
  - Synonyms: Surge, rush, outpouring
  - Antonyms: Drought, scarcity, paucity
  - Sentence: There was a spate of new constructions in the city following the economic boom.
- 33. Abdicate: To renounce a throne, high office, dignity, or function.
  - Synonyms: Relinquish, renounce, resign
  - Antonyms: Assume, claim, accept
  - Sentence: The king decided to abdicate his throne in favor of his son.
- 34. Vagaries: An unexpected and inexplicable change in a situation or in someone's behavior.
  - Synonyms: Quirks, whims, caprices
  - Antonyms: Predictability, constancy, steadiness
  - Sentence: Farmers are always at the mercy of the vagaries of the weather.
- 35. Resilience: The capacity to recover quickly from difficulties; toughness.
  - Synonyms: Durability, elasticity, fortitude
  - Antonyms: Fragility, weakness, vulnerability
  - Sentence: The community showed remarkable resilience in the aftermath of the disaster.

- 36. Imperative: Of vital importance; crucial.
  - Synonyms: Essential, urgent, obligatory
  - Antonyms: Optional, trivial, unnecessary
  - Sentence: It is imperative to take immediate action to mitigate the effects of the flooding.
- 37. Abstaining: Restraining oneself from doing or enjoying something.
  - Synonyms: Refraining, withholding, forgoing
  - Antonyms: Indulging, participating, engaging
  - Sentence: The country has been abstaining from voting on resolutions regarding the conflict.
- 38. Imperil: To put at risk of being harmed, injured, or destroyed.
  - Synonyms: Endanger, jeopardize, risk
  - Antonyms: Protect, safeguard, secure
  - Sentence: Pollution can imperil marine life.
- 39. Incongruity: The state of being out of harmony or not matching; inconsistency.
  - Synonyms: Discrepancy, inconsistency, mismatch
  - Antonyms: Harmony, consistency, agreement
  - Sentence: The incongruity between his words and actions made it hard to trust him.

- 40. Averse: Having a strong dislike or opposition to something.
  - Synonyms: Opposed, reluctant, unwilling
  - Antonyms: Inclined, willing, eager
  - Sentence: She was averse to changing her plans at the last minute.
- 41. Anomaly: Something that deviates from what is standard, normal, or expected.
  - Synonyms: Abnormality, irregularity, deviation
  - Antonyms: Normality, conformity, regularity
  - Sentence: The scientist noted an anomaly in the test results that required further investigation.
- 42. Prudence: The quality of being cautious and wise in handling practical matters.
  - Synonyms: Caution, discretion, sagacity
  - Antonyms: Recklessness, imprudence, carelessness
  - Sentence: He always showed prudence in managing his finances, avoiding risky investments.
- 43. Compliance: The act of conforming to or following rules, standards, or laws.
  - Synonyms: Obedience, adherence, conformity
  - Antonyms: Noncompliance, defiance, disobedience
  - Example: The company ensures compliance with environmental regulations to avoid penalties.

- 44. Exchequer: A government's or a financial institution's treasury or funds.
  - Synonyms: Treasury, coffers, fiscal reserves
  - Sentence: The exchequer is under strain due to increased public spending on healthcare.
- 45. Defer: To put off to a later time; to delay.
  - Synonyms: Postpone, delay, put off
  - Antonyms: Expedite, hasten, advance
  - Sentence: They decided to defer the decision until more information was available.
- 46. Ballooning: Rapidly increasing in size, amount, or importance.
  - Synonyms: Expanding, swelling, escalating
  - Antonyms: Decreasing, shrinking, diminishing
  - Sentence: The ballooning costs of healthcare are a concern for many governments worldwide.
- 47. Robust: Strong and healthy; vigorous.
  - Synonyms: Sturdy, resilient, strong
  - Antonyms: Weak, fragile, feeble
  - Sentence: The economy showed robust growth despite the global downturn.

- 48. Embarking: To begin a course of action, especially one that is important or demanding.
  - Synonyms: Commencing, starting, initiating
  - Antonyms: Concluding, finishing, ending
  - Sentence: The company is embarking on a new project that aims to revolutionize renewable energy.

#### **IDIOMS AND PHRASES**

- **49.** Every nook and corner: every part or aspect of Something.
- **50.** Cast in the same mold: to be very similar in character to someone else
- **51.** To err is human: it's normal for people to make mistakes
- **52.** To make mountain of the mole hill: to cause something unimportant to seem important
- **53.** Add fuel to fire: to make an argument or bad situation Worse
- **54.** A piece of cake: Something that is easy to understand or do
- **55.** Every cloud has a silver lining: Every bad situation has some good aspect
- **56.** Feel a bit under the weather: Feeling slightly ill
- **57.** Get out of hand: To lose control.
- 58. Jump on the bandwagon: Join a popular activity
- 59. Smell a rat: to sense that someone has caused something wrong

- 60. Stick one's neck out: to take a risk
- 61. At eleventh hour: last moment or almost late
- 62. To spin one's wheels: waste one's time or efforts
- 63. A slap on the wrist: a mild reprimand or punishment
- 64. Play hardball: Act aggressively and ruthlessly
- 65. Jack of all trades: A person who can do many different types of work.
- 66. Gift of the gab: The ability to speak with eloquence and fluency.
- 67. Man of his word : A man who keeps promises, who can be trusted.
- 68. Top dog: The most important person or organization in a particular situation.
- 69. Break the ice: To start a conversation with a new person.
- 70. Cat got your tongue: Asking why someone is not speaking or suddenly became quiet
- 71. A picture is worth a thousand words: An image can sometimes express more than words can
- 72. On cloud nine: To be very happy or joyful
- 73. Hit the jackpot: To achieve great success or win a large prize

## CURRENT AFFAIRS 21<sup>st</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> AUGUST, 2024

- 1. World Humanitarian Day, established by the United Nations, is observed on August 19 annually to honour humanitarian workers who risk their lives to provide aid and assistance to people in need. The day is also an occasion to raise awareness of global humanitarian efforts.
  - 8 The day also aims to encourage global action to support those affected by crises, such as natural disasters, conflicts and other emergencies.
  - 9 The theme for World Humanitarian Day 2024 is Act For Humanity.
- 2. India's National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) developed a 'Kamikaze' drone with an indigenously-built engine, offering a range of 1,000 km. These drones carry 30-40 kg of explosives and can operate without GPS. Deployed for precision strikes, they enhance India's security forces' capabilities. Hoverbee drones, previously used in counterterror operations, have lower explosive carrying capacity.
- 3. In Nepal, people of Hindu and Buddhist communities celebrated the festival Janai Purnima on Monday (19th August 2024) which is also called as Shrawani Purnima, Kwati Purnima or Rishi Purnima. According to the Nepali Calendar, this festival falls on the full moon day of Shrawan month.

- 4. India and Malaysia decided to upgrade ties to a 'Comprehensive Strategic Partnership' on Tuesday, during talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, as part of a visit aimed at moving beyond several years of tensions over a number of issues.
  - The two leaders announced the decision to upgrade the 2010 Strategic Partnership, that had been made an 'Enhanced Strategic Partnership' in 2015, along with a number of agreements and MoUs signed in their presence., including on workers' mobility, digital technology, culture, tourism, sports, and education. India will also work with Malaysia on its request to join the BRICS grouping that Mr. Ibrahim has been pushing for, officials said. The two Prime Ministers also discussed geopolitical challenges, including the current conflicts and tensions in the Indo-Pacific region.
- **5.** RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das has been ranked as the top central banker globally for the second consecutive year, receiving an 'A+' grade from Global Finance magazine. This recognition highlights his success in managing inflation, economic growth, currency stability, and interest rates.

- **6.** In a significant development in India's aviation sector, M Suresh has been appointed as the interim Chairman of the Airports Authority of India (AAI). This appointment, effective Tuesday, marks a crucial transition in the leadership of one of India's most important aviation bodies.
- 7. Amul has been named the world's strongest food brand in Brand Finance's Global Food & Drinks Report 2024. With a Brand Strength Index (BSI) score of 91 and a valuation of \$3.3 billion, Amulachieved an 11% increase in brand value from 2023.
  - The company's dominance in India's dairy market and strong metrics in familiarity, consideration, and recommendation contributed to its AAA+ rating. Hershey's, which shared the AAA+ rating with Amul, saw a slight dip in its brand value, placing it second.
- 8. Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) made a significant announcement regarding the leadership of the Indian contingent for the upcoming Paris Paralympics. Satya Prakash Sangwan, the vice president of PCI, has been appointed as the Chef de Mission (CDM) for the Indian team.

- **9.** The Hurun India Rich List 2024 has unveiled a significant shift in the landscape of wealth distribution across Asia, with Mumbai emerging as the new "billionaire capital of Asia".
  - This development marks a pivotal moment in the economic narrative of India and Asia at large, showcasing the growing financial prowess of India's commercial hub.
- other infrastructure projects aimed at boosting India's manufacturing ecosystem. The smart city projects under the National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICDP) will entail an investment of INR 286.02 billion (US\$3.41 billion), while three railway projects across four states will seek to optimize logistics networks. Finally, a new hydro-power initiative seeks to upgrade power infrastructure in the Northeast region of the country.
- 11. The World Health Organization (WHO) has announced Kavrepalanchowk's tourism town, Dhulikhel, as the first 'healthy city' of Nepal.
  - Dhulikhel Municipality, which initiated a campaign to become a healthy city, has been monitored by the World Health Organisation since 2021 to achieve the feat of becoming Nepal's healthiest city. Dhulikhel scored 65.48 points on various indicators for healthy cities, joining the WHO Healthy City Network.

- **12.** NASA engineers are developing underwater robot probes to measure the rate of ice shelf melting in Antarctica due to climate change.
  - These robots, developed by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, aim to provide accurate data to improve predictions of sea level rise.
  - The project involves deploying prototypes in harsh environments like the Arctic.
- 13. On August 29, 2024, India launched its first indigenously developed Pollution Control Vessel, 'Samudra Pratap,' in Goa. Built by Goa Shipyard Limited, the vessel will address oil spillage along the coast.
- 14. On August 30, PM Modi will visit Maharashtra to lay the foundation for the ₹76,000 crore Vadhvan Port and address the Global Fintech Fest in Mumbai. The port aims to boost maritime trade, while GFF 2024 will feature fintech innovations and discussions with 800 speakers from various sectors.
- 15. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Thursday launched an indigenous Monkeypox(Mpox) RTPCR (reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction) kit here. The kit was developed at Andhra Pradesh Medtech Zone in Visakhapatnam by Transasia Diagnostics.

- **16.** Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on Monday inaugurated a 10m air pistol shooting range in Gwalior named after double Olympic medalist Manu Bhaker.
  - While inaugurating the 10m air pistol shooting range in Gwalior, Scindiaspoke to Manu Bhaker on a video call and showed her the shooting range which was newly built.
- 17. Hockey India has announced that the Women's Asian Champions Trophy 2024 will begin at Rajgir in Bihar on November 11th this year. The event, a joint effort between Hockey India and the Bihar Government, will take place at the Rajgir Hockey Stadium between 11th November and 20th November.
  - Asian Hockey Federation President Dato Fumio Ogura has announced that the 8th Women's Asian Champions Trophy will be held in India. Hockey India President Dr. Dilip Tirkeyexpressed enthusiasm and stated that it is a historic moment for hockey, marking the first time an international tournament will be held in the state.
  - Last year, Hockey Jharkhand hosted the Women's Asian Champions Trophy in Ranchi, where India emerged as the champion. Besides the defending champions, India, reigning Olympic silver- medallists China, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, and Thailand are expected to participate in this tournament.

- 18. Former India left-arm fast-bowler Zaheer Khan has been appointed as mentor of Lucknow Super Giants (LSG), in a formal event held at the RPSG Group Headquarters in Kolkata on Wednesday. Zaheer will be filling in the mentor role left vacant at LSG after Gautam Gambhir's exit post IPL 2023.
- 19. The Himachal Pradesh State Assembly on Tuesday (August 27, 2024) passed a Bill increasing the minimum age of marriage for women from 18 to 21 years in order to support gender equality and higher education.
  - The Prohibition of Child Marriage (Himachal Pradesh Amendment) Bill, 2024 was introduced by Women Empowerment Minister Dhani Ram Shandil in the State Assembly during its ongoing monsoon session. The Bill was passed by voice vote.
- 20. Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech Ltd on Monday launched oral cholera vaccine (OCV) Hillchol, made in collaboration with Hilleman Laboratories, the University of Gothenburg and Gotovax AB.
  - The company's facilities in Hyderabad and Bhubaneswar with a capacity of 200 million doses will manufacture Hillchol, a novel single-strain OCV. Global demand for OCVs is over 100 million doses a year, and given that only one manufacturer supplies them, there is a deficit of approximately 40 million doses every year.

- **21.** The Ministry of Defence has signed a repeat order for 73,000 SIG716 rifles from Sig Sauer of the U.S. and deliveries are expected to completed by end-2025.
  - "The contract was signed in June 2024 and delivery is within 18 months of contract," a defenceofficial said. The Army has earlier procured and inducted 72,400 SIG-716 rifles from Sig Sauer of the U.S. through fast track procurement under a ₹700 crore contract signed in February 2019.
- 22. The Baloch Liberation Army launched 'Operation Herof,' claiming responsibility for killing 102 Pakistani soldiers in targeted attacks on an army camp and military checkpoints across Balochistan. The operation involved suicide attackers, explosives, and strategic blockades, resulting in significant control over the Bela army camp and key highways.
- 23. The Himachal Pradesh Cabinet, in a meeting at Shimla chaired by Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, has approved a new scheme, "Mukhya Mantri Sukh Shiksha Yojana". The scheme aims to provide financial support to identified socially and economically vulnerable women and parents of disabled children so as to enable the education and well-being of their children.

- 24. National Sports Day is celebrated annually on August 29th in India. This date marks the birth anniversary of Major Dhyan Chand, one of the most iconic figures in Indian sports history.
- 25. India's first civilian space tourist Gopichand Thotakura returned to the country on Monday (August 26, 2024) to witness a warm welcome in New Delhi. He has set the record of being the second-ever Indian citizen to travel to space after Rakesh Sharma, a former Indian Air Force pilot, who travelled to space in 1984.
- 26. SpaceX plans to make spaceflight history later this year by launching the first crewed mission to explore Earth's polar regions.
  - That four-person flight, which SpaceX announced today (Aug. 12), is called Fram2, in honor of the Norwegian ship that made pioneering voyages to the Arctic and Antarctic between 1893 and 1912.
- 27. August 26, 2024, marks the 114th birth anniversary of Mother Teresa, celebrated for her boundless love and compassion. Born in Albania in 1910, she earned global recognition and prestigious awards, including the Nobel Peace Prize, for her selfless humanitarian work.

- 28. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) launched an afforestation project in Bihar called 'Aranya.' This initiative aims to plant 1,00,000 seedballs over 50 hectares in three forest regions using drone technology. In collaboration with the Bihar government and an NGO, BPCL's project seeks to restore forest cover and boost economic opportunities for local communities.
- 29. The Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) is organisingthe next World Water Week on 25-29 August 2024. World Water Week is the leading conference on global water issues, held every year since 1991.
- 30. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated Udaipur's new GST Bhawan, which will serve 13 districts. The facility includes essential amenities and aims to streamline GSTrelated processes. Sitharaman emphasized reducing grievances and launched ICETAB 2.0 for improved customs operations.
- 31. India's first civilian space tourist Gopichand Thotakura returned to the country on Monday (August 26, 2024) to witness a warm welcome in New Delhi. He has set the record of being the second-ever Indian citizen to travel to space after Rakesh Sharma, a former Indian Air Force pilot, who travelled to space in 1984.

- He was one of the six crew members of New Shephard-25 (NS-25) mission by Amazon founder Jeff Bezos' space company Blue Origin.
- **32.** Vice President Jagdeep Dhankar stressed that the imposition of emergency was a sacrilege of Dharma that can not be countenanced, condoned, overlooked or forgotten.
  - Addressing the 8th International Dharma Dhamma
     Conference at Gujarat University on Friday, Dhankhar
     stated, "This great nation was bled in 1975 with the
     proclamation of draconian emergency by the then Prime
     Minister Indira Gandhi, who in blatant and outrageous
     disregard of dharma acted dictatorially to cling to power
     and self-serve interest. It was sacrilege of Dharma."
- 33. Pakistan is set to host the CHG meeting on October 15-16, as it currently holds the rotating chairmanship of the council, the second most important decision-making body within the SCO, following the Council of Heads of State. While Modi regularly attends the heads of state summits, he skipped the recent one in Kazakhstan due to a scheduling conflict with a Parliament session in early July.

- 34. The government of Nepal has decided to allow the use of social networking site Tiktok with conditions. According to the Minister for Communications and Information Technology Prithvi Subba Gurung, a meeting of the Council of Ministers held Thursday decided on lifting the ban on TikTok.
  - The Ministry of Communications and Information
    Technology had prepared a proposal following the
    directive of the Prime Minister, KP Sharma Oli, to treat all
    social networking sites on equal footing and prepare
    needed laws. The government had imposed a ban on
    Tiktok in November 2023 stating that social ills were
    fuelled through the usage of Tiktok.
- 35. Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi on his visit to Jodhpur addressed the closing ceremony of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations of the Rajasthan High Court here. He also inaugurated the Rajasthan High Court Museum.
- 36. South India's first adivasi library, 'Kaanu', will be inaugurated at BR Hills in Chamarajanagar district on August 25.'Kaanu' means evergreen forest in Soliga language. It will be the first South Indian Adivasi Knowledge Centre.

- 37. Legendary Indian all-rounder Yuvraj Singh is reportedly in discussions with Delhi Capitals about taking up a coaching role for the IPL 2025 season. Yuvraj, known for his pivotal role in India's 2007 T20 World Cup and 2011 ODI World Cup victories, could be stepping into coaching for the first time in the IPL.
- 38. India gifted four Bhishm cubes, mobile hospitals designed for emergency medical care, to Ukraine as part of Project Aarogya Maitri. These cubes, featuring essential medicines and equipment, can handle various trauma situations and support basic surgeries. The cubes are portable for multi-mode transportation and can be individually carried, each weighing up to 20 kg.
- 39. India launched its first reusable hybrid rocket 'RHUMI- 1', developed by the Tamil Nadubased start-up Space Zone India with Martin Group, from Thiruvidandhai in Chennai on Saturday (August 24, 2024).
  - The rocket, carrying 3 Cube Satellites and 50 PICO
     Satellites, was launched into a suborbital trajectory using a
     mobile launcher. These satellites will be collecting data for
     research purposes on Global warming and Climate change.

- **40.** The Bharatiya Antariksh Station will have as many as five modules, and the first base module will be launched by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) by 2028, said chief S Somanath. The entire station with mass of about 52-tonne is likely to be completely assembled in space by 2035.
- **41.** Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Majhi announced the Subhadra scheme, which will provide ₹50,000 to one crore women aged 21 to 60 over five years, with a total budget of ₹55,825 crore. Payments of ₹10,000 annually will be made in two installments each year.
- **42.** Mumbai and Delhi are at the second and third positions, respectively, among 44 cities globally in annual price rise of prime residential properties during the June quarter, Knight Frank said in a report.
- **43.** NASA, in collaboration with several organizations, has recently launched Tanager-1, a satellite designed to monitor methane and carbon dioxide emissions from space. This launch, which took place aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket, highlights the growing focus on tracking greenhouse gases to combat climate change.

- **44.** The Indian Navy's warship, INS Mumbai, will arrive in Colombo on August 26, 2024, for a three-day visit. The Sri Lanka Navy will ceremonially receive the ship.
  - INS Mumbai, commissioned into the Indian Navy on January 22, 2001, is the third of the Delhi-class destroyers and was built at Mazagon Dock Limited in Mumbai. The ship recently completed a mid-life upgrade and rejoined the Eastern Naval Command in Visakhapatnam on December 8, 2023. This marks INS Mumbai's first visit to a Sri Lankan port and the eighth visit by an Indian Navy ship to Sri Lanka in 2024.
- **45.** Croatia will reintroduce a two-month compulsory military service starting January 1 next year, the country's Defense Minister Ivan Anusic announced late Thursday (August 15, 2024).
  - The move comes amid heightened tensions in Europe following the Russian aggression against Ukraine as well as an apparent arms race and military buildup in the Balkans which went through a bloody war in the 1990s.
- 46. Listed FMCG company GRM Overseas has roped in Bollywood actor Salman Khan as its brand ambassador for its basmati rice and wheat flour(atta) which is sold under the brand name 10X. The contract is for two years with Salman Khan.

- 47. The Environmental Strategic Partnership between India and Denmark has launched a Smart Laboratory on Clean Rivers (SLCR) with initial funding of Rs16.8 crore from the Jal Shakti Ministry and an additional Rs5 crore from Denmark. This collaboration aims to revitalize the Varuna River using advanced technologies and a comprehensive river management plan over a 2-3-year period.
- **48.** Diana Pundole has become the first Indian woman to win a national car racing championship, clinching the saloon category title at the MRF Indian National Car Racing Championship 2024.
- **49.** For India, Mansi Lather (women's freestyle 73 kg), Pulkit (women's freestyle 65 kg), Neha Sangwan (women's freestyle 57 kg) and Aditi Kumari (women's freestyle 43 kg) secured gold medals, as per Olympics.com.
- 50. Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra finished in the second spot at the 2024 Diamond League in Lausanne, Switzerland, on Friday, August 23, with his season's best throw of 89.49m in his sixth and final attempt.