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VOCABULARY

1. Catastrophically: In a way that involves or causes sudden great damage or suffering.
 - Synonyms: Disastrously, ruinously, devastatingly
 - Antonyms: Beneficially, favorably, positively
 - Sentence: If action isn't taken, air quality in the city could deteriorate catastrophically during winter.
2. Punitive: Inflicting or intended as punishment.
 - Synonyms: Disciplinary, corrective, penalizing
 - Antonyms: Rewarding, beneficial, supportive
 - Sentence: Authorities have introduced punitive measures to reduce pollution caused by stubble burning.
3. Exacerbate: To make a problem, bad situation, or negative feeling worse.
 - Synonyms: Worsen, aggravate, intensify
 - Antonyms: Alleviate, improve, mitigate
 - Sentence: Stubble burning during the winter season exacerbates air pollution in the northern plains.
4. Granular: Characterized by a high level of detail or precision.
 - Synonyms: Detailed, precise, specific
 - Antonyms: General, vague, broad
 - Sentence: The labour survey provided granular data on employment trends in rural and urban areas.

5. Persist: Continue to exist; to be prolonged or prolonged beyond the usual time.
- Synonyms: Endure, continue, persevere
 - Antonyms: Discontinue, cease, stop
 - Sentence: Concerns over the lack of quality jobs continue to persist despite overall economic growth.
6. Remunerative: Financially rewarding; lucrative.
- Synonyms: Profitable, lucrative, rewarding
 - Antonyms: Unprofitable, unrewarding, unbeneficial
 - Sentence: The challenge lies in creating more remunerative employment opportunities for the youth.
7. Convene: To call people together for a meeting or gathering.
- Synonyms: Assemble, summon, gather
 - Antonyms: Disperse, dismiss, adjourn
 - Sentence: A high-level meeting was convened to address the rising air pollution in Delhi.
8. Reinforce: To strengthen or support an idea, feeling, or object.
- Synonyms: Strengthen, bolster, fortify
 - Antonyms: Weaken, undermine, lessen
 - Sentence: The new labor market data reinforces concerns over the lack of quality job creation in India.

9. Marginally: Slightly, to a small extent or degree.
- Synonyms: Slightly, minimally, insignificantly
 - Antonyms: Significantly, substantially, considerably
 - Sentence: The number of workers in informal firms has fallen only marginally over the past year.
10. Stagnant: Showing little or no activity or progress.
- Synonyms: Inactive, stationary, unchanging
 - Antonyms: Dynamic, active, progressive
 - Sentence: The share of the labor force employed in manufacturing has remained stagnant over the past few years.

IDIOMS AND PHRASES

11. On the back burner: in the position of something that will not receive immediate attention
12. In the same boat: in a similar situation
13. Get the ball rolling : to make something begin
14. At the helm : something is in charge or in command
15. Pig Out: to eat a lot or too much

CURRENT AFFAIRS

28th September, 2024

1. India will host the inaugural symposium of the new regional maritime initiative for Training in the Indo-Pacific (MAITRI) in 2025. This initiative aims to train Quad partners to monitor and secure their waters, enforce laws, and deter unlawful behavior, reflecting the Quad's commitment to regional security and capacity building.
2. India has signed the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement, which seeks to promote the conservation of marine genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits.
 - “India is proud to join the BBNJ Agreement, an important step towards ensuring that our oceans remain healthy and resilient,” external affairs minister S Jaishankar said in a post on X after signing the treaty at the United Nations headquarters in New York on Wednesday.
3. World Rabies Day 2024 will be commemorated on September 28, 2024, while focusing on the objective of raising awareness about rabies prevention and control. The theme for World Rabies Day 2024 is “Breaking Rabies Boundaries” to highlight the ongoing global efforts to overcome the barriers in the fight against rabies. Global efforts led by the Global Alliance for Rabies Control duly promote vaccination awareness and public education to reduce the cases of rabies worldwide.

- The World Rabies Day 2024 Theme is decided as “Breaking Rabies Boundaries.”
 - The rabies vaccine was first discovered by French scientist Louis Pasteur in 1885. The discovery of Pasteur was a remarkable moment in the history of medical science, which laid the foundation for rabies control efforts worldwide. After that, the creation and development of vaccines revolutionized the treatment and prevention of rabies, especially in high-risk areas.
4. India has climbed to the 39th position out of 133 economies in the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2024, according to the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). This marks an improvement from last year’s 40th rank.
 5. The IMD’s recent World Talent Ranking 2024 shows that Switzerland ranks first, followed by Singapore; India finds itself ranked 58th globally, with a talent score of 40.47. The IMD World Talent Ranking 2024 shows the overall ranking for 67 economies.
 6. The CM-SATH scheme has been launched to ensure that no student's education is interrupted due to a lack of funds. Rs1.20 crore would be spent on this project in the first year, Rs 2.40 crore in the second year, and Rs3 crore from the third year onward, Saha said.

7. The release of the India State of Forest Report (ISFR), which provides a detailed account of the country's forest cover, has been delayed for over a year.
- This delay has led to speculation, particularly among forestry officials. The ISFR is published by the Forest Survey of India (FSI), an organization under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC). Since its first edition in 1991, the ISFR has been an important publication, coming out every two years.
8. A Russian Soyuz capsule landed on the Kazakh steppe on Monday, bringing two Russian cosmonauts and a U.S. astronaut back to Earth after a stint on the International Space Station (ISS).
- The Soyuz MS-25 spacecraft with Roscosmos cosmonauts Nikolai Chub, Oleg Kononenko and NASA astronaut Tracy Dyson landed at 1159 GMT.
 - Kononenko and Chub had been part of the ISS crew since last September, completing a 374-day mission. Dyson's stay was shorter, lasting 184 days.
9. The Asian Development Bank, in its latest report, Asian Development Outlook, released in September 2024, has projected a growth rate of 7 per cent for the Indian economy in 2024-25 and 7.2 per cent in 2025-26.

- The ADB's forecast is in line with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund's forecast of 7 per cent growth for the Indian economy in 2024-25.
- The Reserve Bank of India(RBI) has projected the Indian economy's growth rate of 7.2 per cent in 2024-25.
- Headquarters of ADB: Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila, Philippines
- Members: 68 members
- President : Masatsugu Asakawa

10. Veteran lawmaker Shigeru Ishiba is set to become Japan's next prime minister after winning the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's leadership contest. Ishiba prevailed over Sanae Takaichi in a runoff vote. He faces challenges including rising living costs and a volatile security environment in East Asia. This was his fifth and final attempt.