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VOCABULARY

- 1. Shuttering:** The act of closing down or ceasing operations of something, especially a business or facility.
 - Synonyms: Closure, shutdown, cessation
 - Antonyms: Opening, launch, initiation
 - Sentence: The shuttering of coal-fired power plants marks a major shift in energy policy.

- 2. Depleting:** Diminishing or reducing in quantity.
 - Synonyms: Dwindling, exhausting, diminishing
 - Antonyms: Increasing, replenishing, augmenting
 - Sentence: The depleting coal reserves in Britain forced a shift to other energy sources.

- 3. Blight:** Something that causes harm or damage, often leading to a decline in prosperity or condition.
 - Synonyms: Ruin, decay, devastation
 - Antonyms: Prosperity, boon, benefit
 - Sentence: The closure of coal mines brought economic blight to former mining communities.

- 4. Retrofitting:** The process of adding new technology or features to older systems.
 - Synonyms: Modernizing, upgrading, refurbishing
 - Antonyms: Dismantling, downgrading, removing
 - Sentence: Retrofitting old coal plants for biomass energy is one way to repurpose them.

- 5. Holistic:** Taking into account the whole system, including all aspects rather than just individual parts.
- Synonyms: Comprehensive, all-encompassing, integrated
 - Antonyms: Fragmented, partial, incomplete
 - Sentence: A holistic approach to energy transition includes retraining workers and regional redevelopment.
- 6. Austerity:** Severe economic measures taken to reduce spending, typically by a government.
- Synonyms: Frugality, thrift, economy
 - Antonyms: Extravagance, luxury, excess
 - Sentence: The energy austerity measures in Europe were prompted by the Russia-Ukraine war.
- 7. Protracted:** Lasting for a long time or longer than expected or usual.
- Synonyms: Extended, prolonged, drawn-out
 - Antonyms: Brief, short, quick Example: The protracted process of transitioning from coal to renewable energy in the U.K. took decades.
- 8. Alleviate:** To make suffering, deficiency, or a problem less severe.
- Synonyms: Ease, mitigate, reduce
 - Antonyms: Aggravate, intensify, exacerbate
 - Sentence: Retraining programs can alleviate the fear of job loss in coal-dependent regions.

9. Retrenchment: The reduction of costs or spending in response to economic difficulty.

- Synonyms: Downsizing, cutback, economizing
- Antonyms: Expansion, enlargement, growth
- Sentence: Retrenchment in the coal sector led to widespread job losses during the 1980s.

10. Transparent: Open and honest; free from deceit or concealment.

- Synonyms: Clear, straightforward, accountable
- Antonyms: Opaque, secretive, hidden
- Sentence: The government's transparent approach to setting timelines for coal decommissioning is crucial for public trust.

PHRASAL VERBS

11. Break down: To stop working (for machinery or vehicles); to lose control of emotions.

12. Look up: To search for information (in a book, database, etc.); to improve (situation).

13. Run into: To meet someone by chance; to encounter problems or difficulties.

14. Take off: To leave the ground (for airplanes); to become successful suddenly; to remove (clothing).

IDIOMS AND PHRASES

- 15.** Play hardball : Act aggressively and ruthlessly
- 16.** Jack of all trades : A person who can do many different types of work.
- 17.** Gift of the gab : The ability to speak with eloquence and fluency.
- 18.** Man of his word : A man who keeps promises, who can be trusted.
- 19.** Top dog : The most important person or organization in a particular situation.

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CURRENT AFFAIRS

9th October, 2024

1. The inauguration of the new runway at Hanimadhoo International Airport and the launch of the RuPay card in the Maldives represent significant advancements in India-Maldives relations. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu emphasized these initiatives .
2. The Government of India has granted a one-year extension to RBI Deputy Governor M Rajeshwar Rao, starting from October 9, 2024.
 - The decision was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
 - RBI Deputy Governor M Rajeshwar Rao has been serving as Deputy Governor since October 2020 and was previously an Executive Director at the RBI from November 2016.
3. The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics 2024 to John J. Hopfield from Princeton University, USA, and Geoffrey E. Hinton from the University of Toronto, Canada.
 - They are being honored for their foundational discoveries and inventions that have advanced the field of machine learning, particularly through the development of artificial neural networks.

4. The National Anubhav Awards Scheme recognizes the contributions of retiring and retired government employees by encouraging them to share their valuable experiences and insights. The initiative is spearheaded by the Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW), under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions, Government of India.

- For the year 2025, the awards will recognize contributions in 15 categories:
- Accounts
- Admin work
- Good Governance
- Government process reengineering
- Information Technology
- Research
- Simplification of procedures
- Learning from Failures
- Public Dealing
- Contribution to field work
- Development of personal traits
- Disclosure of experiences
- Instances of strength, valor, bravery
- Constructive feedback or suggestions
- Any other category decided by the Committee

- Key Features of the 2025 Scheme
- Eligibility
- For the first time, the scheme allows employees from Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs), including Public Sector Banks, to submit their writeups.
- This expansion aims to enrich the Anubhav Portal with diverse experiences and best practices from the vibrant Public Sector.
- The time limit for pensioners to submit their write-ups has been extended from one year to three years postretirement, providing more flexibility for participation.

5. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has commenced its 77th Regional Committee session for Southeast Asia in New Delhi, marking a significant gathering of health leaders from across the region.

- This three-day conference, running from October 7 to 9, brings together health ministers and delegates from eleven member states to address critical public health challenges and forge collaborative solutions.

6. In a significant move to fight against child marriage in Assam, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma of Assam has initiated the disbursement of monthly financial assistance under the Nijut Moina scheme.

- This step marks a decisive phase in the government's ongoing battle against this social issue, aiming to provide crucial support to families and empower young girls to pursue their education and well-being.

7. India finished at the top of the medal tally at the 4th ISSF Junior World Championships 2024 with 24 medals -13 golds, three silvers, and eight bronzes. Italy, with 13 medals-five gold, four silver and five bronze, came second, while Norway came third with 10 medals-four gold, three silver and three bronze.

- The 2024 ISSF Junior World Championships, organised by the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) and hosted by Peru, was held in Lima, the capital of Peru, from 26 September to 7 October 2024.
- Five hundred fifty-three shooters from 53 countries participated in the 2024 ISSF Junior World Championship, with India sending the largest contingent, 61 shooters.

8. Union Health Minister JP Nadda has announced several key initiatives aimed at enhancing nutrition support for TB patients and their household contacts.

- Underscoring India's resolute commitment to eradicate TB, Mr Nadda informed that the monthly nutrition support under Ni-kshay Poshan Yojana has been doubled from the existing 500 rupees to 1000 rupees for all TB patients during the period of treatment.

9. 20-year-old American tennis star Coco Gauff defeated Karolina Muchová of the Czech Republic to win the 2024 WTA China Open Tennis tournament. The China Open was a WTA 1000 event held in Beijing, China. The final was played on 6 October 2024.
10. Retired IPS officer Sharad Kumar has been named the new head of the BCCI's Anti-Corruption Unit, succeeding KK Mishra. With a background in handling high-profile investigations, Kumar is set to address corruption issues in cricket.

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