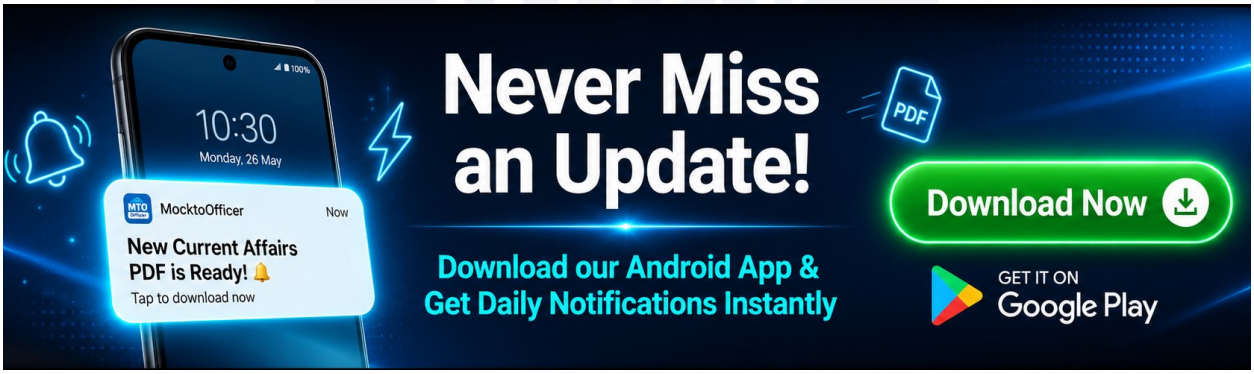
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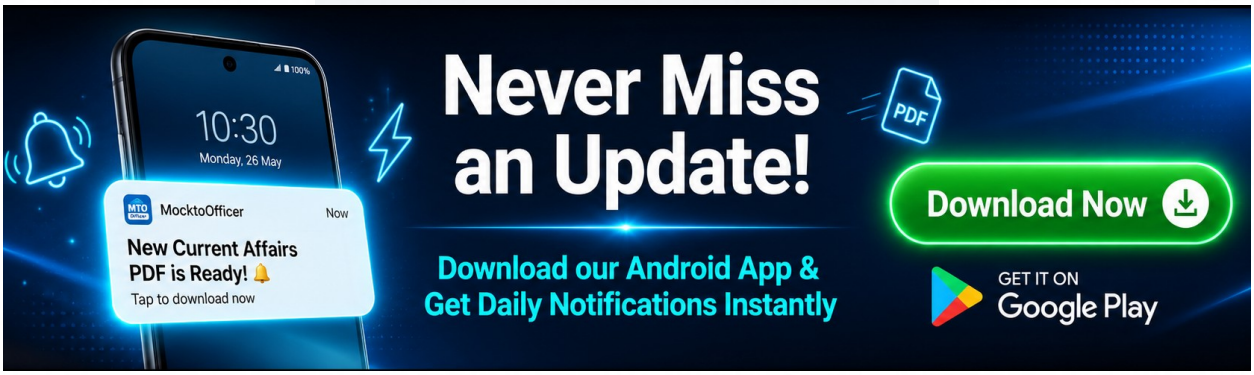
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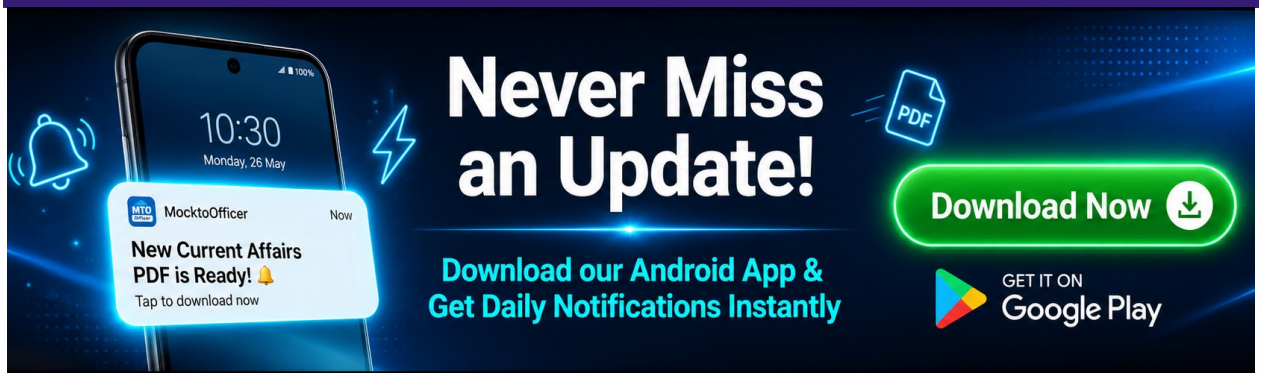
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Dear Aspirants,

Please note that our editorials are now being published with a one-day delay.

For example, if today's date is 9th July 2026, the editorial you read will be from 8th July 2026 (from The Hindu and Indian Express).

This delay is due to a process upgrade on our end. We are working to improve our system, and this change will help us serve you better in the long run.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

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Daily Vocabulary PDF

Date: 22-Sep-2026

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EDITORIAL 1: SERIOUS ESCALATION: ON THE U.S., RUSSIA SANCTIONS ACT AND INDIA

Source: The Hindu

[GS2/International Relations] | [GS3/Economy] | [Banking Awareness] | [SSC GK]

Core Issue

The U.S. Russia Sanctions Act, now signed into law, lets the American President levy tariffs of up to 100% on countries that import large quantities of Russian oil and gas, creating a far more durable and serious threat to India than the earlier executive-order tariffs.

Context

The new Act, signed by President Donald Trump, marks a substantially different escalation in U.S.-India tensions. The earlier 50% reciprocal tariff on India's purchases of Russian oil rested on an Executive Order and could be withdrawn by the same route; the new Act has been passed by the U.S. Congress, so it carries greater legal permanence, and any waiver must be justified to Congress in writing. Indian exporters absorbed part of the earlier 50% tariff by sharing costs with American buyers, but a 100% tariff would be impossible for India's micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) exporters to share, particularly as it would sit over and above a 10% 'forced labour' tariff and 50% Section 232 duties on steel and aluminium. India has three options: cut Russian oil imports, keep buying and bear the tariffs, or persuade Washington to apply a low rate within the 'up to 100%' limit. The U.S. accounts for about 20% of India's goods exports, and history shows India has usually complied when pressed to cut oil purchases from a given country. Alternatives are hard to find: Russia supplied over 51% of India's oil imports as of July 2026, supplies through the Strait of Hormuz remain constrained, and oil trades well above $100 a barrel. With about 30 days before the tariffs can be levied, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal's planned U.S. visit for the G-20 Trade Ministerial will be an early test of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's rapport with Mr. Trump.

UPSC Mains Lane

Also useful for: Banking/SSC reading comprehension & vocabulary-in-context practice

• Intro: The U.S. Russia Sanctions Act gives the American President statutory authority to impose tariffs of up to 100% on buyers of Russian oil and gas, sharply raising the stakes for India's energy and trade policy.

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• Body 1: Unlike the earlier 50% tariff imposed by Executive Order, the Act has been passed by Congress, so it cannot be reversed by a single decision and any waiver must be justified in writing, making it far more durable.

• Body 2: A 100% tariff, stacked over the 10% 'forced labour' levy and 50% Section 232 duties, would make Indian exports to its largest market, about 20% of goods exports, uncompetitive and hit MSME exporters hardest.

• Counter/way forward: India can cut Russian oil imports, absorb the tariffs, or negotiate a lower rate within the 'up to 100%' limit, while diversifying suppliers and speeding up alternative ports, as Russia supplies over 51% of its oil.

• Conclusion: India's ability to secure a low rate in the coming 30 days will test its claim of strategic autonomy and the strength of the Modi-Trump relationship.

Syllabus Anchor: GS2 — Effect of policies and politics of developed countries on India's interests; GS3 — Energy security and international trade

UPSC Prelims Lane

Also counts as: Banking Awareness / SSC GK — same fact, same format

Q1. As per the editorial, the new U.S. Act allows tariffs of up to what percentage on countries importing large quantities of Russian oil and gas?

(A) 50%

(B) 75%

(C) 100%

(D) 150%

Answer: C

Q2. As per the editorial, Russia accounted for what share of India's oil imports as of July 2026?

(A) More than 51%

(B) More than 41%

(C) More than 31%

(D) More than 21%

Answer: A

Q3. As per the editorial, the U.S. accounts for roughly what share of India's total goods exports?

(A) About 10%

(B) About 20%

(C) About 30%

(D) About 40%

Answer: B

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Vocabulary

Vocabs	Simple Meaning	Synonym	Antonym
Impending	About to happen; approaching soon	Imminent	Distant
Simple Example: *The impending storm forced fishermen to return to the harbour.*			
Substantially	To a large extent; considerably	Considerably	Marginally
Simple Example: *Fuel prices have risen substantially since last year.*			
Rescinded	Officially cancelled or taken back	Revoked	Enforced
Simple Example: *The college rescinded its order after students objected.*			
Mitigated	Made less severe or serious	Alleviated	Aggravated
Simple Example: *Good drainage mitigated the damage caused by the floods.*			
Unsustainable	Not able to be continued at the same level	Untenable	Viable
Simple Example: *Spending beyond income is unsustainable for any household.*			
Waiver	An official decision to give up a rule or claim	Exemption	Imposition
Simple Example: *The student received a fee waiver for the course.*			
Uncompetitive	Not able to compete well, usually because of high cost	Unviable	Competitive
Simple Example: *High costs made the local product uncompetitive in export markets.*			
Complied	Followed a rule, order or request	Obeyed	Defied
Simple Example: *The shop complied with the new safety rules.*			
Constrained	Limited or restricted by circumstances	Restricted	Unrestricted
Simple Example: *Supplies remained constrained because of the port strike.*			
Hasten	To make something happen sooner or faster	Accelerate	Delay
Simple Example: *Better roads will hasten the delivery of goods.*			

Idioms

Idiom	Actual Meaning	Simple Meaning
Over and above	In addition to; on top of	Apart from; besides

Quick Recall: Russia Sanctions Act · Tariffs · Energy Security

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EDITORIAL 2: ANTIDOTE TO DRUGS: ON THE COUNTERFEIT MEDICINE RACKET IN BENGALURU, KARNATAKA

Source: The Hindu

[GS2/Governance] | [GS2/Health] | [Banking Awareness] | [SSC GK]

Core Issue

The bust of a counterfeit medicine racket that supplied relabelled and fake drugs to over 90 hospitals and clinics in Karnataka exposes weak monitoring of drug quality, and the government must tighten oversight of drug production and supply.

Context

Raids near Bidadi on August 18 found suspected fake and expired drugs at an unlicensed farmhouse unit, with a consignment carrying a label value of ₹5 crore. Investigators said fake and expired drugs, including cancer medicines and ICU injections, were repacked with altered expiry dates, passed off as expensive imported brands and sold at steep discounts. The State has formed a Special Investigation Team, which found that the network had supplied more than 90 hospitals and clinics, working with a pharmacy in Bengaluru, which suggests it had been operating well before the bust. A few persons have been arrested and police are pursuing another who is abroad, while inter-State links and the possible complicity of private hospitals are under scrutiny. The biggest worry is patient safety, since these are life-saving, time-sensitive drugs. The editorial notes that India, which aspires to be the 'pharmacy of the world', regularly faces cases of spurious or expired drugs, and that contaminated cough syrups have caused deaths in India and abroad; drugs made in the country must meet the highest quality standards.

UPSC Mains Lane

Also useful for: Banking/SSC reading comprehension & vocabulary-in-context practice

• Intro: The exposure of a Bengaluru-centred racket selling relabelled, fake and expired drugs to over 90 hospitals and clinics raises serious questions about drug regulation and patient safety in Karnataka.

• Body 1: The racket operated through an unlicensed farmhouse, altering expiry dates and repackaging drugs as costly imported brands, and reached hospitals through a Bengaluru pharmacy, showing how long weak quality checks allowed it to thrive.

• Body 2: The supply of fake cancer and ICU drugs endangers lives, and the scrutiny of inter-State links and possible complicity of private hospitals points to gaps in the entire supply chain, not only at the point of manufacture.

• Counter/way forward: Tighter monitoring of drug production, stricter licensing, batch-level traceability and regular audits of hospital procurement, along with strong punishment for offenders, are needed to restore confidence.

• Conclusion: If India wants to be seen as the 'pharmacy of the world', its domestic quality-control systems must match that ambition, as contaminated cough syrups have already dented its credibility.

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Syllabus Anchor: GS2 — Issues relating to development and management of the health sector; regulatory mechanisms and governance

UPSC Prelims Lane

Also counts as: Banking Awareness / SSC GK — same fact, same format

Q1. As per the editorial, the raids that exposed the counterfeit medicine racket took place near Bidadi on which date?

(A) August 8

(B) August 18

(C) August 28

(D) September 8

Answer: B

Q2. As per the editorial, the network had supplied fake or relabelled drugs to how many hospitals and clinics in the State?

(A) More than 50

(B) More than 70

(C) More than 90

(D) More than 120

Answer: C

Q3. As per the editorial, the consignment found at the unlicensed farmhouse had a label value of about how much?

(A) ₹5 crore

(B) ₹10 crore

(C) ₹15 crore

(D) ₹25 crore

Answer: A

Vocabulary

Vocabs	Simple Meaning	Synonym	Antonym
Ramifications	Complicated consequences that follow an action	Consequences	Causes
Simple Example: *The ramifications of the ban were felt across the industry.*			
Elaborate	Involving many carefully arranged parts; detailed	Intricate	Simple

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Simple Example: Police uncovered an elaborate plot to sell fake tickets.			
Illicit	Forbidden by law or rules	Unlawful	Legal
Simple Example: Customs officers seized illicit goods at the port.			
Impunity	Freedom from punishment or bad consequences	Immunity	Accountability
Simple Example: Corrupt officials acted with impunity for years.			
Spurious	Not genuine; false	Counterfeit	Genuine
Simple Example: He was cheated by a spurious certificate.			
Woefully	To a very bad or disappointing degree	Dismally	Admirably
Simple Example: The hospital was woefully short of trained nurses.			
Stringent	Strict and demanding	Strict	Lenient
Simple Example: The bank introduced stringent checks on large transfers.			
Scrutiny	Close and careful examination	Inspection	Neglect
Simple Example: The contract came under close scrutiny by auditors.			
Thriving	Growing and doing very well	Flourishing	Declining
Simple Example: A thriving market surrounds the old bus stand.			
Complicity	Involvement in a wrongdoing	Collusion	Innocence
Simple Example: Officials denied any complicity in the fraud.			

Idioms

Idiom	Actual Meaning	Simple Meaning
In cahoots with	Secretly working together, usually for a dishonest purpose	Secretly teaming up to do wrong
Blow the lid off	To reveal something shocking that was being kept secret	To expose a hidden scandal

Quick Recall: Fake Drugs · Drug Quality Control · Patient Safety

EDITORIAL 3: PUNJAB'S DRUG SCOURGE NEEDS POLICY, NOT SLOGANS

Source: The Indian Express

[GS2/Governance] | [GS3/Internal Security] | [Banking Awareness] | [SSC GK]

Core Issue

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Punjab's drug menace has outlived a dozen crackdowns and three governments, and with elections approaching, the political class must turn a recurring election promise into sustained policy rather than another slogan.

Context

Ahead of the 2027 election, drugs are again at the centre of Punjab's politics. The BJP, which says it will contest all 117 seats on its own, flagged off the first of four 'Nasha Mukt Punjab' yatras, to cover nearly 4,000 km and end in Jalandhar on September 30, where Union Home Minister Amit Shah is expected to speak. The Congress has responded with a protest in Chandigarh led by Sachin Pilot over the death of labourer Gulzar Singh, and Akali Dal (Waris Punjab De) leaders promised a white paper on the problem at the Rakhar Puniya rally. Geography, with Punjab at the edge of the Golden Crescent and sharing a border of roughly 550 km with Pakistan, is often cited, but the trade has outgrown the border: drones ferry consignments, other states act as relay points, and cheaper, harder-to-trace pharmaceutical drugs are now a major part of it. The AAP government's 'Yudh Nasheyan Viruddh', launched in March 2025, has produced many arrests and seizures but no visible slowdown in supply. The editorial argues that the state must dismantle the networks, prosecute financiers and suppliers, follow the money trails, and provide accessible treatment and rehabilitation, as families are destroyed and many young Punjabis leave the state.

UPSC Mains Lane

Also useful for: Banking/SSC reading comprehension & vocabulary-in-context practice

• Intro: Punjab's drug problem resurfaces before every election, and the current round of yatras and protests by rival parties risks repeating slogans without delivering lasting change.

• Body 1: The trade has outgrown geography, as drones, relay points in other states and cheaper pharmaceutical drugs make supply harder to trace, so border control alone cannot solve it.

• Body 2: The AAP government's 'Yudh Nasheyan Viruddh' has produced arrests and seizures, yet the contraband flow has not visibly slowed, showing that enforcement figures are not a measure of success.

• Counter/way forward: The state must dismantle the networks controlling the trade, prosecute financiers and suppliers, examine money trails, and provide accessible treatment, rehabilitation and opportunities for young people.

• Conclusion: As the 2027 election nears, the real test for Punjab's political class is to convert a recurring promise into sustained, accountable policy.

Syllabus Anchor: GS3 — Linkages of organised crime with terrorism; border management; GS2 — Governance and welfare schemes

UPSC Prelims Lane

Also counts as: Banking Awareness / SSC GK — same fact, same format

Q1. As per the editorial, the BJP says it will contest how many seats in Punjab on its own?

(A) 90

(B) 100

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(C) 117

(D) 125

Answer: C

Q2. As per the editorial, the first 'Nasha Mukt Punjab' yatra is set to culminate in Jalandhar on which date?

(A) September 15

(B) September 20

(C) September 25

(D) September 30

Answer: D

Q3. As per the editorial, Punjab shares a border of roughly how many kilometres with Pakistan?

(A) About 350 km

(B) About 550 km

(C) About 750 km

(D) About 950 km

Answer: B

Vocabulary

Vocabs	Simple Meaning	Synonym	Antonym
Menace	A person or thing that is a threat or danger	Threat	Safeguard
Simple Example: *Stray dogs became a menace on the busy road.*			
Outlived	Lasted longer than something else	Survived	Succumbed
Simple Example: *The old temple has outlived three generations of caretakers.*			
Scourge	Something that causes great suffering or trouble	Plague	Blessing
Simple Example: *Corruption remains a scourge on public life.*			
Culminating	Reaching a final high point or ending	Concluding	Beginning
Simple Example: *The festival ends with a grand parade culminating in fireworks.*			
Contraband	Goods that are illegally imported or exported	Smuggled goods	Legal goods
Simple Example: *Officers seized contraband hidden inside the truck.*			
Abdicate	To give up a duty or responsibility	Relinquish	Assume

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Simple Example: A government cannot abdicate its duty to protect citizens.			
Dismantle	To take apart or break down completely	Demolish	Assemble
Simple Example: Police moved to dismantle the smuggling ring.			
Rehabilitation	Help given to return to a normal, healthy life	Recovery	Relapse
Simple Example: The centre offers rehabilitation to people recovering from addiction.			
Recurring	Happening again and again	Repeated	One-off
Simple Example: Recurring power cuts upset the shopkeepers.			
Persistence	Continued existence or firm continuation	Continuance	Cessation
Simple Example: The persistence of poverty worries economists.			

Idioms

No idioms found in the editorial.

Quick Recall: Punjab Drug Trade · Nasha Mukt Punjab · Policy over Slogans

EDITORIAL 4: DIVIDED TATA HOUSE DOES NOT INSPIRE CONFIDENCE

Source: The Indian Express

[GS3/Economy] | [Banking Awareness] | [SSC GK]

Core Issue

A bitter power struggle between the Tata Sons board and Tata Trusts over the chairman's reappointment and a public listing could precipitate an institutional crisis at a group that cannot afford uncertainty and instability.

Context

Barely a month after N Chandrasekaran, chairman of Tata Sons, announced that he would not seek an extension, the Tata Sons board approved another five-year term for him, even as Noel Tata, chairman of Tata Trusts, opposed the decision. The board has thus gone against its largest shareholder, as Tata Trusts hold about 66 per cent of Tata Sons, and a protracted legal battle may follow. Differences between Mr. Tata and Mr. Chandrasekaran have been simmering, and the trustees themselves have been at loggerheads. The editorial recalls earlier power struggles, such as Ratan Tata easing out powerful old loyalists and the bitter ouster of Cyrus Mistry. The board has also decided to pursue a public listing after the RBI rejected Tata Sons' application to surrender its registration as a core investment company; Mr. Tata opposes this and wants the company to stay private. Both decisions are likely to be tested at the annual general meeting. The editorial says the questions of leadership, succession, governance structure and the relationship between the trusts, holding company and operating entities must be clearly answered, with greater transparency and accountability.

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UPSC Mains Lane

Also useful for: Banking/SSC reading comprehension & vocabulary-in-context practice

• Intro: A public split between the Tata Sons board and Tata Trusts over the chairman's reappointment and a stock-market listing has turned a governance question into a potential institutional crisis.

• Body 1: The board approved a fresh five-year term for the chairman a month after he said he would not seek one, against the wishes of Tata Trusts, which holds about 66 per cent of Tata Sons.

• Body 2: The RBI's rejection of Tata Sons' bid to surrender its core investment company registration pushed the board towards a public listing, which Noel Tata opposes, so both issues may reach the AGM.

• Counter/way forward: The group needs clarity on succession, the limits of control and the relationship between the trusts, the holding company and operating entities, along with greater transparency and accountability.

• Conclusion: A group engaged in areas of national importance cannot afford a long period of ambiguity, and the Tatas must put their house in order.

Syllabus Anchor: GS3 — Indian Economy: corporate governance, regulation of the financial sector

UPSC Prelims Lane

Also counts as: Banking Awareness / SSC GK — same fact, same format

Q1. As per the editorial, Tata Trusts hold about what share of Tata Sons?

(A) About 26 per cent

(B) About 46 per cent

(C) About 66 per cent

(D) About 86 per cent

Answer: C

Q2. As per the editorial, the Tata Sons board approved another term of how many years for N Chandrasekaran?

(A) Three years

(B) Five years

(C) Seven years

(D) Ten years

Answer: B

Q3. As per the editorial, the RBI rejected Tata Sons' application to surrender its registration as which type of entity?

(A) Core investment company

(B) Payments bank

(C) Small finance bank

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(D) Asset reconstruction company

Answer: A

Vocabulary

Vocabs	Simple Meaning	Synonym	Antonym
Precipitate	To cause something to happen suddenly or sooner	Trigger	Avert
Simple Example: *Heavy rain can precipitate landslides on steep slopes.*			
Protracted	Lasting longer than expected	Prolonged	Brief
Simple Example: *The protracted dispute finally ended in court.*			
Simmering	Existing quietly but likely to burst out	Brewing	Subsiding
Simple Example: *Simmering anger among workers finally led to a strike.*			
Ouster	Removal from a position of power	Removal	Appointment
Simple Example: *The ouster of the manager shocked the staff.*			
Machinations	Secret plans made to gain an advantage	Intrigues	Candour
Simple Example: *Political machinations delayed the project.*			
Ambiguity	Uncertainty in meaning or position	Vagueness	Clarity
Simple Example: *Ambiguity in the rules caused confusion among applicants.*			
Delineated	Described or marked out clearly	Outlined	Blurred
Simple Example: *The rulebook clearly delineated each member's duties.*			
Accountability	Being answerable for one's actions	Answerability	Irresponsibility
Simple Example: *Public officials must accept accountability for their decisions.*			
Finality	The quality of being settled and not open to change	Conclusiveness	Indecision
Simple Example: *The judge's ruling brought finality to the long dispute.*			
Instability	Lack of steadiness or security	Volatility	Stability
Simple Example: *Political instability scared away foreign investors.*			

Idioms

Idiom	Actual Meaning	Simple Meaning

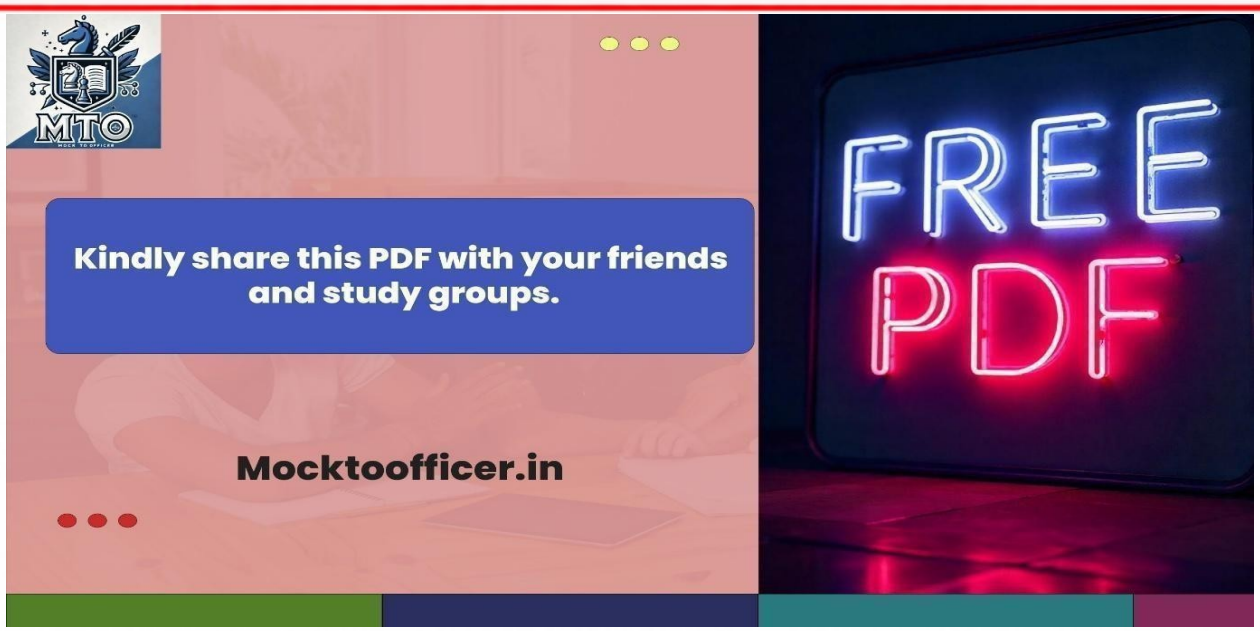
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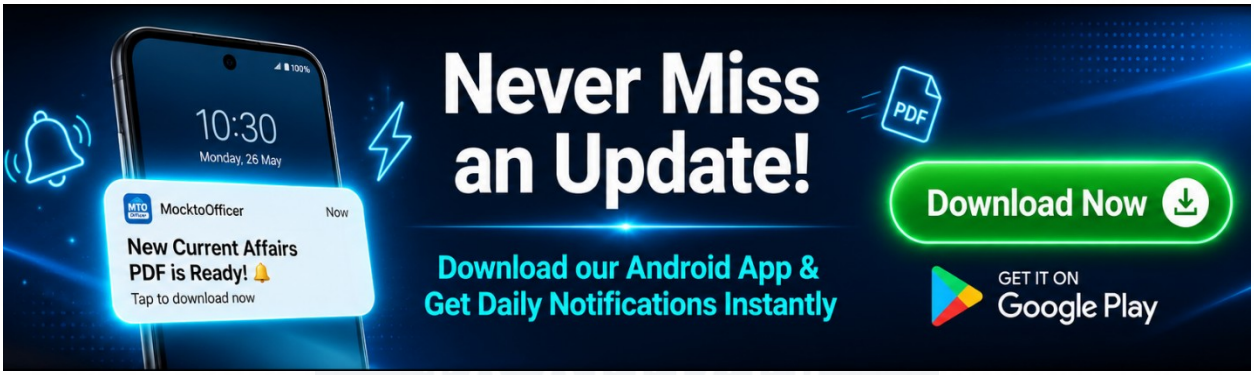
At loggerheads	In strong disagreement or dispute	Disagreeing strongly
Put their house in order	To fix one's own problems and disorganisation	To fix one's own mess first

Quick Recall: Tata Sons • Governance • Public Listing



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