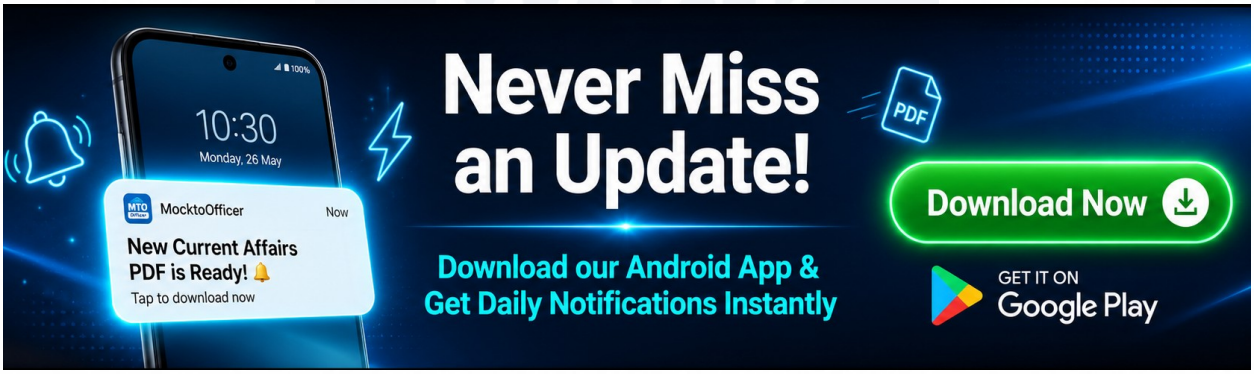
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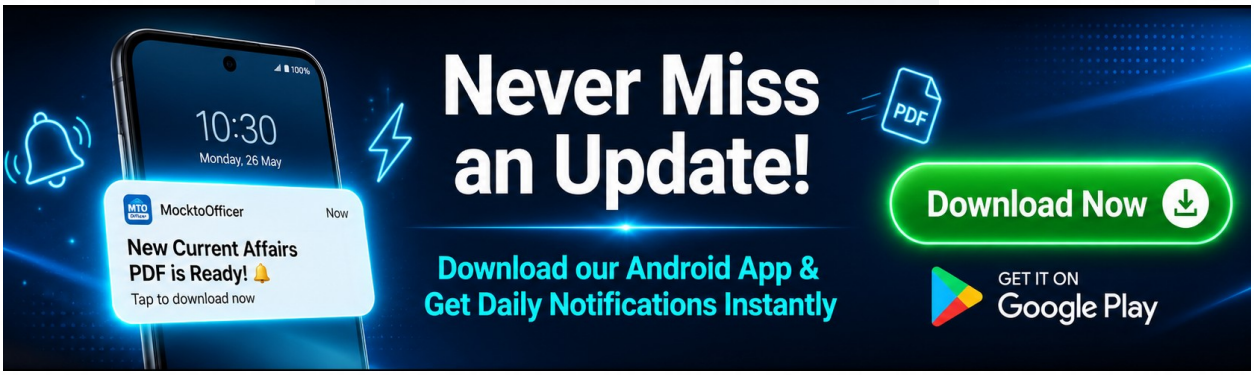
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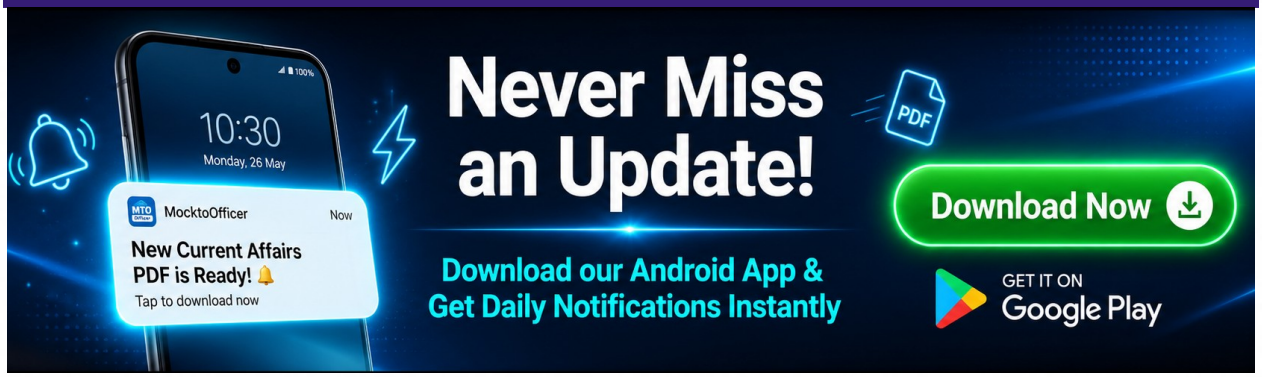
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Dear Aspirants,

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: 24-Sep-2026

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EDITORIAL 1: FREEZING DEMOCRACY: ON THE ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA AND WEST BENGAL

Source: The Hindu

[GS2/Polity] | [GS2/Constitutional Bodies] | [Banking Awareness] | [SSC GK]

Core Issue

The Election Commission of India's order freezing the name and symbol of the All India Trinamool Congress, after two rival groups claimed to be the real party, has raised serious questions about the Commission's neutrality and about protecting political parties as the working parts of a democracy.

Context

On September 17, 2026, nearly 28 years after Mamata Banerjee founded the All India Trinamool Congress and designed its 'grass and flowers' symbol, the ECI froze the party's name and symbol. Its 14-page order said that since two rival groups, one led by Ms. Banerjee and the other by Arup Roy, both claim to be the party, the matter needs a substantive determination; until then neither group may use the name or symbol, and both have been allotted new names and symbols. For almost three decades, voters have backed the party, electing Ms. Banerjee Chief Minister three times. In the April 2026 West Bengal Assembly polls, 41% of the electorate, over 2.60 crore voters, still voted for it, and the gap with the BJP was only about 32 lakh votes. Opposition parties, including the Congress, recalled a similar freeze in the Shiv Sena case and called such action 'party theft'. The editorial argues that parties are organic entities, and that if one must fade away, only the people should decide it. It also questions the ECI's record: it held the 2026 polls after a hurried Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the rolls that left lakhs of voters out, and is now freezing the symbol of the principal Opposition party. Since the State's BJP leaders had claimed the Trinamool would cease to exist after the polls, the editorial argues that the ECI's acts of omission and commission suggest it is acting in tandem with the BJP's interests.

UPSC Mains Lane

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

• Intro: The ECI's freezing of the All India Trinamool Congress's name and symbol, amid rival claims to the party, has triggered a debate on the Commission's neutrality and the health of India's multi-party democracy.

• Body 1: Political parties are the channels through which the will of the electorate is expressed; stripping a party that won 41% of the vote of its identity affects crores of voters, not just its leaders.

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• Body 2: Coming soon after a hurried SIR of the rolls that left lakhs of voters out, the order deepens doubts about whether the ECI is acting as an impartial referee.

• Counter/way forward: The ECI must decide the rival claims quickly and transparently, on clear and consistent criteria, so that a temporary freeze does not become a tool to weaken the Opposition.

• Conclusion: Free and fair elections are the bedrock of the republic, and the ECI cannot hide behind procedure when its actions erode public trust in that process.

Syllabus Anchor: GS2 — Salient features of the Representation of the People's Act; role and functions of the Election Commission of India

UPSC Prelims Lane

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

Q1. As per the editorial, on which date did the ECI freeze the name and symbol of the All India Trinamool Congress?

(A) September 7, 2026

(B) September 17, 2026

(C) September 27, 2026

(D) August 17, 2026

Answer: B

Q2. As per the editorial, roughly what share of the electorate voted for the Trinamool Congress in the April 2026 West Bengal Assembly polls?

(A) About 31%

(B) About 36%

(C) About 41%

(D) About 51%

Answer: C

Q3. As per the editorial, who leads the rival group that is also claiming to be the Trinamool Congress?

(A) Arup Roy

(B) Suvendu Adhikari

(C) Abhishek Banerjee

(D) Dilip Ghosh

Answer: A

Vocabulary

Vocabs	Simple Meaning	Synonym	Antonym

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Substantive	Having real importance or a firm basis	Significant	Trivial
Simple Example: *The panel wanted a substantive answer, not a formal reply.*			
Rival	A person or group competing with another	Competitor	Ally
Simple Example: *The two rival groups both claimed the party's name.*			
Allotted	Given or assigned as a share	Assigned	Withheld
Simple Example: *Each group was allotted a new election symbol.*			
Organic	Developing naturally rather than being forced	Natural	Artificial
Simple Example: *The movement grew in an organic way from local support.*			
Vibrant	Full of energy and life	Lively	Dull
Simple Example: *A vibrant opposition keeps a democracy healthy.*			
Dissolution	The formal ending or breaking up of an organisation	Disbandment	Formation
Simple Example: *The court refused to order the dissolution of the society.*			
Wither	To become weaker and gradually disappear	Decline	Flourish
Simple Example: *Without new members, a party will slowly wither.*			
Bedrock	The basic principle on which something rests	Foundation	Superstructure
Simple Example: *Trust is the bedrock of any public institution.*			
Dismantled	Taken apart or brought to an end	Demolished	Assembled
Simple Example: *The old committee was dismantled last year.*			
Absolve	To declare someone free from blame or duty	Exonerate	Blame
Simple Example: *The report did not absolve the officials of responsibility.*			

Idioms

Idiom	Actual Meaning	Simple Meaning
In tandem with	Working together with or alongside someone	Together with

Quick Recall: Election Commission · Party Symbol · Democratic Health

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EDITORIAL 2: WATER WEALTH: ON GROUNDWATER EXPLOITATION IN PUNJAB

Source: The Hindu

[GS3/Agriculture] | [GS1/Water Resources] | [Prelims/Environment] | [Banking Awareness] | [SSC GK]

Core Issue

Punjab's heavy over-extraction of groundwater, driven by the rice-wheat irrigation system, is not only draining aquifers but also widening the wealth gap between small and large farmers, so support should follow the cultivator rather than the pump.

Context

According to the 2025-26 Dynamic Groundwater Assessment, Punjab's groundwater extraction rate was 152%. Although the number of 'over-exploited' blocks fell by five over the last two assessments, 72% of its 153 blocks remain in the 'red zone', the highest among States. Irrigation for rice and wheat is the main consumer, using nearly 25 billion cubic metres a year, and the share of observation wells with water below 40 metres after the monsoon rose by two percentage points between 2022 and 2025. A strategy meant to improve food security produced a concentrated rice-wheat system, in which assured procurement, subsidised power and easy groundwater made intensive farming less risky than other crops, while uncertainty over storage, prices, processing and supply chains keeps farmers from switching. A study in the Economic and Political Weekly found that farmers with marginal holdings use water more efficiently, but wealthier farmers can reach deeper water tables and draw more; those who cannot afford tube wells must buy water, shifting wealth to larger landowners. Another study, in Discover Sustainability, found that in Sangrur and Barnala, larger farms earned more but had lower groundwater productivity for paddy. The 'Pani Bachao, Paisa Kamao' scheme, which pays farmers for unused electricity units below a threshold, is promising but has low enrolment. The editorial suggests using part of the power subsidy bill to support smallholders directly, pool irrigation infrastructure, and help farmers move to other crops, with benefits reaching cultivators, including tenants.

UPSC Mains Lane

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

• Intro: Punjab extracts 152% of its annual groundwater recharge, with 72% of its 153 blocks in the 'red zone', making it India's most stressed State for groundwater.

• Body 1: Assured procurement, free or subsidised power and cheap groundwater locked farmers into a water-intensive rice-wheat cycle, while weak storage, pricing and processing support for other crops discourages change.

• Body 2: Depletion is also an equity problem: richer farmers can drill deeper and draw more, while small farmers are forced to buy water, transferring wealth to larger landowners.

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• Counter/way forward: Schemes like 'Pani Bachao, Paisa Kamao' should be scaled up, and part of the electricity subsidy redirected to direct support for smallholders, shared irrigation and crop diversification.

• Conclusion: When benefits follow the cultivator rather than the owner of land or pumps, welfare can protect access to water instead of subsidising its overuse.

Syllabus Anchor: GS3 — Major crops and cropping patterns, irrigation systems; issues related to farm subsidies

UPSC Prelims Lane

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

Q1. As per the editorial, what was Punjab's groundwater extraction rate in the 2025-26 Dynamic Groundwater Assessment?

(A) About 102%

(B) About 122%

(C) About 152%

(D) About 172%

Answer: C

Q2. As per the editorial, what share of Punjab's 153 blocks are in the 'red zone'?

(A) 72%

(B) 52%

(C) 62%

(D) 82%

Answer: A

Q3. As per the editorial, which Punjab scheme pays farmers for unused electricity units below a threshold?

(A) PM-KUSUM

(B) Pani Bachao, Paisa Kamao

(C) Per Drop More Crop

(D) Jal Jeevan Mission

Answer: B

Vocabulary

Vocabs	Simple Meaning	Synonym	Antonym
Disincentivises	Discourages by removing a benefit or motive	Discourages	Encourages

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Simple Example: Falling water tables disincentivises small farmers from growing paddy.			
Procurement	The buying of goods, especially by the government	Acquisition	Sale
Simple Example: Assured procurement keeps farmers growing wheat and rice.			
Reluctance	Unwillingness or hesitation to do something	Hesitancy	Eagerness
Simple Example: Farmers showed reluctance to switch to pulses.			
Marginal	Small in size or amount	Small	Large
Simple Example: Marginal farmers often cannot afford deep tube wells.			
Requisite	Needed for a particular purpose	Necessary	Optional
Simple Example: He lacked the requisite funds to drill a new well.			
Unregulated	Not controlled by rules or authority	Uncontrolled	Regulated
Simple Example: Unregulated water sales create unfair dependencies.			
Depletion	A reduction in the amount or supply of something	Exhaustion	Replenishment
Simple Example: Groundwater depletion threatens the region's food security.			
Privileges	Gives an advantage to a particular group	Favours	Disadvantages
Simple Example: The policy privileges farmers with easy access to credit.			
Endeavour	To try hard to achieve something	Strive	Neglect
Simple Example: The State must endeavour to protect small farmers' incomes.			
Prohibitive	So high that it prevents use or purchase	Exorbitant	Affordable
Simple Example: The prohibitive cost of borewells hurts small farmers.			

Idioms

Idiom	Actual Meaning	Simple Meaning
In the same vein	In a similar way or style	In a similar way

Quick Recall: Groundwater Crisis · Rice-Wheat Cycle · Farmer Equity

EDITORIAL 3: IN IIT, STUDENT DEATH AND A RECKONING

Source: The Indian Express

[GS2/Education] | [GS1/Society] | [Banking Awareness] | [SSC GK]

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Core Issue

Two student deaths by suicide within a month at IIT-Bombay and IIT-Delhi show how premier campuses, now far more socially diverse, are struggling to balance accountability with compassion, and need an honest reckoning with caste, hierarchy and student wellbeing.

Context

At IIT-Bombay, a second-year BTech student died by suicide hours after he was allegedly found using unfair means in an examination. After student protests, the institute suspended the dean who had reported him, while faculty members rallied behind their colleague. A month earlier, the death by suicide of an MSc student at IIT-Delhi led to weeks of protest and questions about an institution's duty towards those in its care. The editorial warns against reading these tragedies as proof that bright students lack resilience, since clearing such examinations already shows great endurance. The deeper issue is an old idea of authority on campuses that are now more diverse than ever in class, caste, language and aspiration. The caste discrimination alleged by the student's family shows that diversity without a change in institutional culture can create new forms of exclusion, and that a counsellor's office alone cannot fix a system built mainly around teaching, testing and discipline. Professors and administrators must listen to students about isolation, stigma and fear, while faculty need clarity on what is expected of them in a crisis and assurance that they will not be scapegoated for decisions taken in good faith. Campuses need guidelines that protect academic integrity, strong counselling and grievance systems, a frank reckoning with caste and hierarchy, and real student representation. Between 2006 and 2026, there have reportedly been over 170 student deaths across IIT campuses.

UPSC Mains Lane

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

• Intro: Two student deaths by suicide within a month at IIT-Bombay and IIT-Delhi have forced a national conversation on how elite institutions care for their students.

• Body 1: IIT campuses are now far more diverse in class, caste and language, but institutional culture, built around testing and discipline, has not kept pace, creating new forms of exclusion and isolation.

• Body 2: Faculty, too, lack clear guidance on handling students in distress and fear being made scapegoats, which weakens both accountability and compassion.

• Counter/way forward: Clear guidelines that protect academic integrity, strong counselling and grievance cells, meaningful student representation and an open reckoning with caste and hierarchy are needed.

• Conclusion: An institution of excellence must be judged not only by its high performers but by whether it makes failure survivable and anchors achievement in student wellbeing.

Syllabus Anchor: GS2 — Issues relating to development and management of Education and Human Resources; GS1 — Social empowerment

UPSC Prelims Lane

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

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Q1. As per the editorial, whom did IIT-Bombay suspend following student agitation after a student's death?

(A) The director

(B) The dean who reported the student

(C) The registrar

(D) The hostel warden

Answer: B

Q2. As per the editorial, roughly how many student deaths have reportedly occurred across IIT campuses between 2006 and 2026?

(A) Over 70

(B) Over 120

(C) Over 170

(D) Over 270

Answer: C

Vocabulary

Vocabs	Simple Meaning	Synonym	Antonym
Storied	Famous and celebrated in history or stories	Renowned	Obscure
Simple Example: *The storied institute has produced many leading scientists.*			
Sobering	Making one serious and thoughtful	Grave	Cheering
Simple Example: *The report was a sobering reminder of the risks.*			
Ascent	A rise to a higher position or status	Rise	Descent
Simple Example: *Her ascent to the top post surprised many.*			
Agitation	Public protest to bring about change	Protest	Calm
Simple Example: *Student agitation forced the administration to act.*			
Resilience	The ability to recover quickly from difficulties	Toughness	Fragility
Simple Example: *Resilience helps students cope with academic pressure.*			
Endurance	The ability to bear a long and difficult process	Stamina	Weakness
Simple Example: *Clearing tough exams demands great endurance.*			
Stigma	A feeling of shame linked to something	Disgrace	Honour

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Simple Example: Stigma often stops students from seeking help.			
Scapegoat	To unfairly blame someone for others' faults	Blame	Exonerate
Simple Example: Officials should not scapegoat teachers who followed the rules.			
Aftermath	The period that follows a bad event	Consequence	Prelude
Simple Example: Tempers ran high in the aftermath of the incident.			
Insurmountable	Too great to be overcome	Overwhelming	Surmountable
Simple Example: No setback should feel insurmountable to a young student.			

Idioms

Idiom	Actual Meaning	Simple Meaning
Sound and fury	Loud, emotional reaction that achieves very little	Noisy reaction with little effect

Quick Recall: Campus Wellbeing · Caste and Hierarchy · Institutional Reform

EDITORIAL 4: THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A JOB AND A VOCATION IS LOVE

Source: The Indian Express

[Banking Awareness] | [SSC GK]

Core Issue

Former Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda's daily habit of handing out pamphlets at a local railway station shows the difference between a job and a vocation: staying true to the purpose that first drew one to a career.

Context

The editorial asks what happens to the winners of the rat race. Athletes often reach their peak while young and risk spending the rest of life recalling past glory, tech billionaires turn to martial arts, bodybuilding and missions to Mars, and most people simply hope to rest in retirement. Yoshihiko Noda, who served as Japan's finance minister and then Prime Minister in 2011-12, spends a few hours every morning handing out pamphlets at Minami-Funabashi Station in Chiba, on issues such as disaster insurance and governance reform. He began his career in Chiba's local politics and has returned to this routine despite rising to the top in Tokyo. The editorial notes that the trappings of success can hide what led to it: a writer can forget the joy of writing, a musician the harmonies that made her great, and a politician the need to make things better. Noda, it suggests, has not forgotten why he chose his career.

UPSC Mains Lane

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Mains use: intro anecdote only — former Japanese PM Yoshihiko Noda handing out pamphlets at a local station every morning, as a hook for GS4 answers on public service, humility and vocation.

UPSC Prelims Lane

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

Q1. As per the editorial, in which years did Yoshihiko Noda serve as Prime Minister of Japan?

(A) 2008-09

(B) 2011-12

(C) 2014-15

(D) 2019-20

Answer: B

Q2. As per the editorial, at which railway station does Yoshihiko Noda hand out pamphlets every morning?

(A) Shinjuku Station, Tokyo

(B) Minami-Funabashi Station, Chiba

(C) Umeda Station, Osaka

(D) Yokohama Station, Kanagawa

Answer: B

Vocabulary

Vocabs	Simple Meaning	Synonym	Antonym
Vocation	A strong sense that a certain career suits you	Calling	Drudgery
Simple Example: *Teaching was not just a job but a vocation for her.*			
Pinnacle	The highest or most successful point	Peak	Nadir
Simple Example: *She reached the pinnacle of her career at thirty.*			
Reminiscence	A story or memory of past events	Recollection	Forgetfulness
Simple Example: *His speech was a fond reminiscence of his school days.*			
Starkest	Most clear, obvious or harsh	Plainest	Subtlest
Simple Example: *The flood offered the starkest proof of poor planning.*			
Erodes	Gradually wears away or weakens	Weakens	Strengthens
Simple Example: *Constant criticism erodes public trust.*			
Devotion	Great love, loyalty or dedication	Dedication	Indifference

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Simple Example: His devotion to the local community never faded.			
Pamphlets	Small printed leaflets giving information	Leaflets	Tomes
Simple Example: Volunteers handed out pamphlets outside the station.			
Trappings	Outward signs of status or success	Paraphernalia	Essence
Simple Example: The trappings of power never impressed him.			
Obscure	To hide or make unclear	Conceal	Reveal
Simple Example: Success can obscure the reasons behind it.			
Discord	Disagreement or lack of harmony	Conflict	Harmony
Simple Example: Discord within the band delayed the new album.			

Idioms

Idiom	Actual Meaning	Simple Meaning
Rat race	Fierce, endless competition to get ahead in work	Endless struggle to get ahead
Glory days	A past period of great success	Best days of one's past

Quick Recall: Vocation · Public Service · Humility

EDITORIAL 5: SC'S MESSAGE: AN ILLEGAL ARREST CANNOT BE PAPERED OVER

Source: The Indian Express

[GS2/Polity] | [GS2/Judiciary] | [Banking Awareness] | [SSC GK]

Core Issue

Invoking Article 22(1), the Supreme Court has held that a person not told the grounds of arrest is entitled to immediate release, and has laid down strict safeguards for re-arrest, reaffirming that procedural due process cannot be set aside however serious the offence.

Context

On Monday, the Supreme Court invoked Article 22(1) to affirm that an arrested person who is not informed of the grounds of arrest is entitled to immediate release. It reiterated that stating the reasons in writing, in a language the arrestee understands, is 'non-negotiable' and applies to offences under the BNS as well as special laws, and that investigating agencies cannot brush aside such a breach, which violates the accused's fundamental rights. The two-judge bench, headed by Justice Ujjal Bhuyan, also laid down a strict procedure for re-arrest. The editorial notes that over the last three years the apex court has consistently rejected the argument that the gravity of an offence can justify a departure from Article 22(1);

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liberty does not become negotiable because a charge is serious. Under the ruling, an officer who violates the procedure must face a departmental inquiry, the case must go to a different officer, and any re-arrest needs approval from a superior officer and a magistrate's independent satisfaction within a week. The Court also said release after an unconstitutional arrest is not bail, since the detention was illegal from the start; bail can be revoked, but an unconstitutional act cannot be cured by fresh paperwork. Its direction to high courts to award 'suitable mandatory compensation' for violations of Article 22 makes the state accountable for unlawful action.

UPSC Mains Lane

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

• Intro: The Supreme Court has reaffirmed that informing an arrested person of the grounds of arrest, in writing and in a language they understand, is a mandatory constitutional safeguard under Article 22(1).

• Body 1: The Court held that a breach entitles the person to immediate release, and that the gravity of the offence, whether under the BNS or special laws, cannot justify bypassing this protection.

• Body 2: It set strict re-arrest conditions: a departmental inquiry for the erring officer, transfer of the case, and approval by a superior officer plus a magistrate's independent satisfaction within a week.

• Counter/way forward: Police training and station-level checklists must make these safeguards routine, while high courts award mandatory compensation so that violations carry real consequences.

• Conclusion: By treating release after an illegal arrest as a right rather than bail, the ruling signals that procedure is the substance of liberty, not mere paperwork.

Syllabus Anchor: GS2 — Fundamental Rights (Article 22); structure and functioning of the Judiciary; criminal justice reforms

UPSC Prelims Lane

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

Q1. As per the editorial, which constitutional provision did the Supreme Court invoke regarding informing an arrested person of the grounds of arrest?

(A) Article 21

(B) Article 22(1)

(C) Article 20(3)

(D) Article 32

Answer: B

Q2. As per the editorial, which judge headed the two-judge bench that delivered this ruling?

(A) Justice Ujjal Bhuyan

(B) Justice B.V. Nagarathna

(C) Justice J.B. Pardiwala

(D) Justice Surya Kant

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Answer: A

Q3. As per the editorial, within what period must a magistrate record independent satisfaction for a re-arrest?

(A) 24 hours

(B) A fortnight

(C) A week

(D) A month

Answer: C

Vocabulary

Vocabs	Simple Meaning	Synonym	Antonym
Invoked	Cited or appealed to as an authority	Cited	Ignored
Simple Example: *The lawyer invoked the right to a fair trial.*			
Reiterated	Said again for emphasis	Repeated	Retracted
Simple Example: *The minister reiterated his support for the scheme.*			
Gravamen	The most serious or essential part of a charge	Crux	Periphery
Simple Example: *The gravamen of the charge was misuse of funds.*			
Trite	Overused and lacking originality	Hackneyed	Original
Simple Example: *His trite advice did not help the students.*			
Sacrosanct	Too important to be interfered with	Inviolable	Violable
Simple Example: *The right to a fair hearing is sacrosanct.*			
Adumbrated	Outlined or indicated in a general way	Outlined	Obscured
Simple Example: *The plan adumbrated in the report needs more detail.*			
Curtailed	Reduced or restricted	Restricted	Expanded
Simple Example: *Liberty cannot be curtailed without due process.*			
Encroach	To intrude gradually on rights or territory	Intrude	Withdraw
Simple Example: *No law should encroach upon basic freedoms.*			
Vitiate	To spoil or make legally invalid	Invalidate	Validate
Simple Example: *A single lapse can vitiate the entire process.*			
Revoked	Officially cancelled	Cancelled	Granted
Simple Example: *The licence was revoked after the inspection.*			

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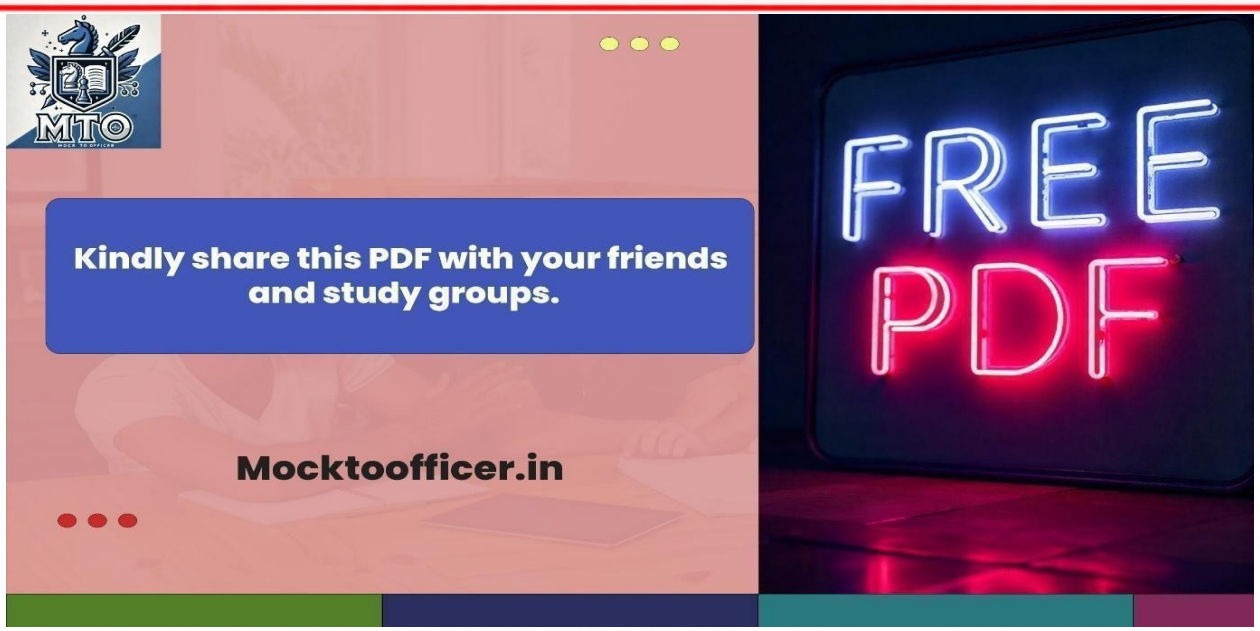
Idioms

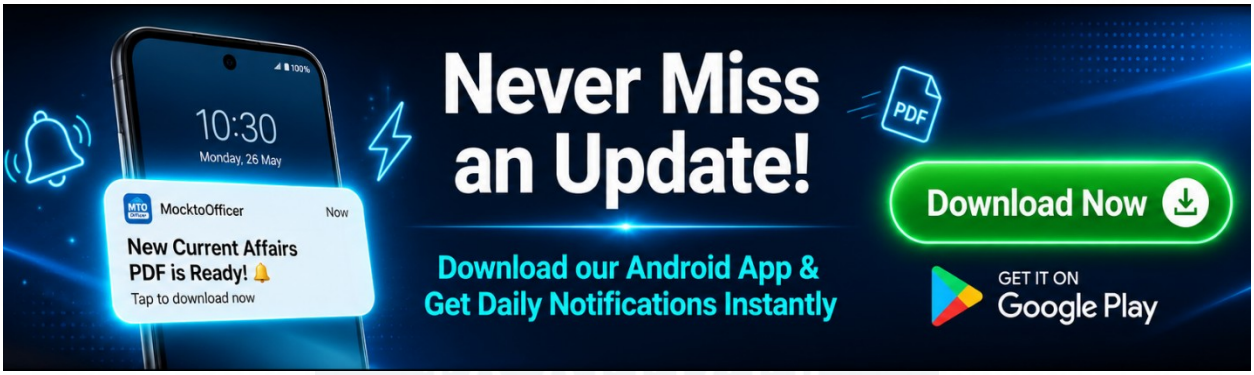
Idiom	Actual Meaning	Simple Meaning
Kept in the dark	Not told about something important	Not told the facts
Second nature	A habit so practised it feels automatic	An automatic habit
Paper over	To hide a problem instead of solving it	Hide a problem without fixing it

Quick Recall: Article 22(1) • Due Process • Personal Liberty



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