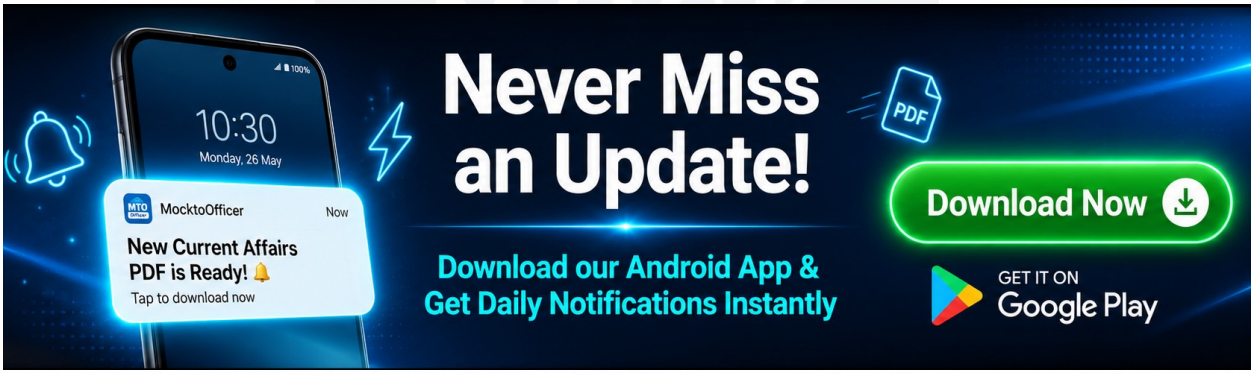
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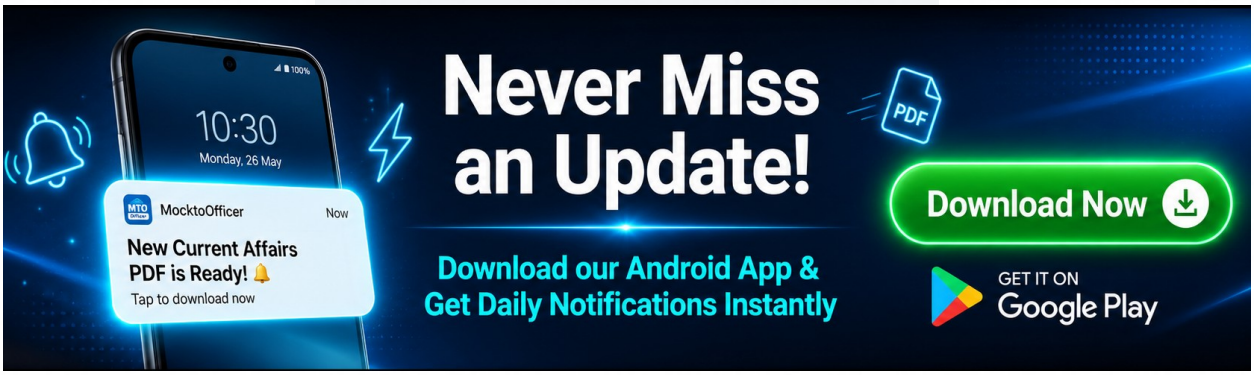
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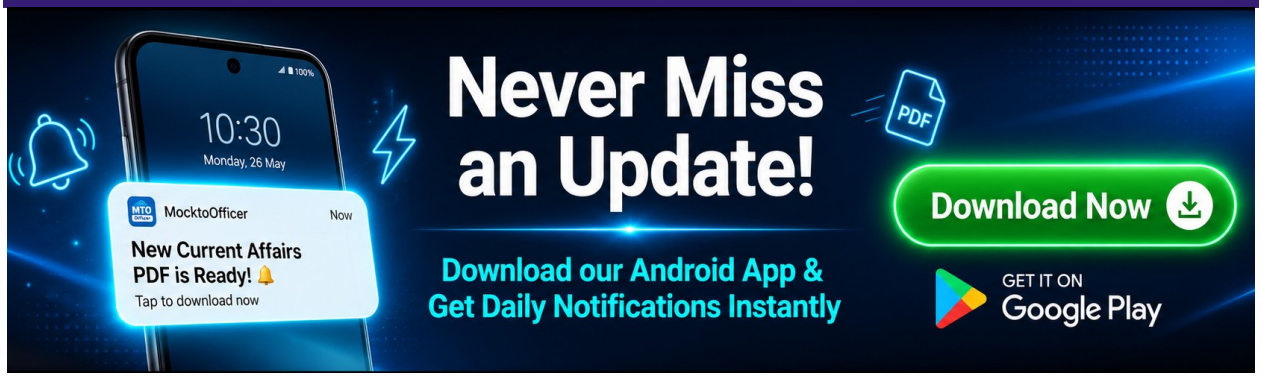
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Dear Aspirants,

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: 25-Sep-2026

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EDITORIAL 1: DEEP ROT: ON THE ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA'S FUNCTIONING DURING ITS SIR

Source: The Hindu

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

Core Issue

An investigation into the Election Commission of India's working during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls shows that two Election Commissioners repeatedly objected to decisions taken without their knowledge, and the editorial argues that the flawed exercise has struck off lakhs of genuine voters.

Context

An investigation by The Indian Express found that Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi objected on record at least 14 times between October 2025 and August 2026 to decisions by the ECI under Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, many allegedly taken without their knowledge. In May, Mr. Joshi warned that Form 6, the application for new electors, could not be changed without the government amending the rules; yet by July the form asked whether applicants or their parents or grandparents figured in the 'electoral roll of the last SIR', which Mr. Sandhu called unauthorised and illegal. The two also flagged the centralisation of the electoral roll database, sought an audit, and noted that field officials lacked full access to the ERONet portal, echoing local officials' complaints that changes were made centrally, overriding Electoral Registration Officers. The impact was deepest in West Bengal: about 60 lakh electors were flagged for software-generated 'logical discrepancies' and 27 lakh names were deleted. Of 38 lakh appeals pending before tribunals, 16.1 lakh sought to remove voters that judicial officers had included, while over nine in 10 appeals against deletion decided so far have restored the electors. The Hindu's analysis found that 24 of Delhi's 70 seats now have fewer electors in draft rolls than actually voted a year and a half ago. On Wednesday, Justice Dipankar Datta held that the 2023 Act's replacement of the CJI with a Union Minister on the selection panel fails the 'perception test'. The editorial calls for the CEC's resignation and for the Supreme Court to halt further deletions until the roll database is audited.

UPSC Mains Lane

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

• Intro: Recorded objections by two Election Commissioners to the SIR show that concerns about the exercise came from within the ECI itself, not only from the Opposition and civil society.

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• Body 1: Changing Form 6 without amending the rules and centralising the roll database weakened the statutory role of Electoral Registration Officers and the collegial functioning of the Commission.

• Body 2: In West Bengal, 27 lakh deletions and a very high rate of successful appeals suggest that lakhs of genuine voters were struck off, shifting the burden of proving eligibility onto citizens.

• Counter/way forward: An independent audit of the roll database, a pause on further deletions, and a transparent, verification-first process are needed; the selection panel for Election Commissioners also needs review.

• Conclusion: Universal adult franchise is the foundation of Indian democracy, and the ECI's credibility depends on protecting every legitimate voter's right to be on the roll.

Syllabus Anchor: GS2 — Salient features of the Representation of the People's Act; appointment to and functions of Constitutional bodies (Election Commission)

UPSC Prelims Lane

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

Q1. As per the editorial, at least how many times did the two Election Commissioners object on record between October 2025 and August 2026?

(A) 10 times

(B) 12 times

(C) 14 times

(D) 16 times

Answer: C

Q2. As per the editorial, roughly how many names were deleted from the rolls in West Bengal during the SIR?

(A) 27 lakh

(B) 38 lakh

(C) 16 lakh

(D) 60 lakh

Answer: A

Q3. As per the editorial, how many of Delhi's 70 Assembly seats now have fewer electors in draft rolls than actually voted a year and a half ago?

(A) 14

(B) 24

(C) 34

(D) 44

Answer: B

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Q4. As per the editorial, which judge held that the 2023 Act's change to the Election Commission selection panel fails the 'perception test'?

(A) Justice Surya Kant

(B) Justice Ujjal Bhuyan

(C) Justice B.V. Nagarathna

(D) Justice Dipankar Datta

Answer: D

Vocabulary

Vocabs	Simple Meaning	Synonym	Antonym
Disquiet	A feeling of worry or unease	Unease	Calm
Simple Example: *The new rules caused disquiet among the staff.*			
Dissent	Disagreement with an official view or decision	Disagreement	Consent
Simple Example: *Two members recorded their dissent in the minutes.*			
Unauthorised	Done without official permission	Unsanctioned	Authorised
Simple Example: *The officer made an unauthorised change to the form.*			
Centralisation	Bringing control under one central authority	Concentration	Decentralisation
Simple Example: *Centralisation of data left local officers without access.*			
Overriding	Setting aside someone's decision by using higher authority	Overruling	Upholding
Simple Example: *The head office kept overriding the local manager's decisions.*			
Statutory	Required or fixed by law	Legal	Discretionary
Simple Example: *The registrar is the statutory authority for this task.*			
Anomalies	Things that differ from what is normal or expected	Irregularities	Norms
Simple Example: *The audit found several anomalies in the accounts.*			
Dubious	Not to be relied on; doubtful	Doubtful	Reliable
Simple Example: *Many of the flagged cases were dubious.*			
Genuine	Real and truly what it is said to be	Authentic	Fake
Simple Example: *Genuine voters should never be removed from the list.*			

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Confronting	Facing and dealing with a problem directly	Facing	Avoiding
Simple Example: *The report avoided confronting the real design flaw.*			

Idioms

No idioms found in the editorial.

Quick Recall: Election Commission · SIR · Voters' Rights

EDITORIAL 2: TRADING SMART: ON THE INDIA-NEW ZEALAND FTA

Source: The Hindu

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

Core Issue

The India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement shows how smaller trade deals can complement big agreements by opening new channels for Indian exporters, while protecting sensitive sectors such as dairy.

Context

The India-New Zealand FTA is set to come into force on October 20. Bilateral goods trade is only about $1.1 billion, less than 1% of India's total goods trade, and even the doubling envisaged by 2030 would remain small. The editorial argues that trade is also a source of livelihood for lakhs of businesses, nearly half of them MSMEs, and that nimble rerouting of trade to countries where Indian exporters get an advantage can soften shocks from tariffs or closed trade routes. With 100% U.S. tariffs looming and a deal with Washington still elusive, India needs as many alternative channels as possible. Under the FTA, India gets duty-free access on 100% of its exports to New Zealand. Textiles are about 14% of India's exports there and pearls and semi-precious stones about 5%, while about one-third are capital-intensive goods such as pharmaceuticals, nuclear reactor parts, vehicle parts, mineral fuels, electrical machinery, and iron and steel. India kept dairy, a major New Zealand demand, out of the deal, and kept nearly 30% of its import lines outside tariff concessions. It also won concessions on visas for workers and students, and a commitment from New Zealand to facilitate $20 billion of investment in India over 15 years, along the lines of the EFTA agreement.

UPSC Mains Lane

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

• Intro: The India-New Zealand FTA, coming into force on October 20, shows that smaller trade deals can complement big-bang agreements with major economies.

• Body 1: Though bilateral trade is only about $1.1 billion, 100% duty-free access for Indian exports gives MSMEs and labour-intensive sectors like textiles a new market at a time of looming U.S. tariffs.

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• Body 2: India protected sensitive sectors by excluding dairy and keeping nearly 30% of import lines out of tariff cuts, while gaining visa access for workers and students and a $20 billion investment commitment.

• Counter/way forward: The small trade base means gains will be modest; India must pair such deals with export promotion, logistics support and quick use of the new market access.

• Conclusion: Used well, a network of smaller FTAs can diversify export markets, attract investment and strengthen India's hand in larger negotiations.

Syllabus Anchor: GS2 — Bilateral agreements involving India; GS3 — Effects of liberalisation on the economy, external sector

UPSC Prelims Lane

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

Q1. As per the editorial, on which date is the India-New Zealand FTA set to come into force?

(A) October 2

(B) October 10

(C) October 20

(D) November 1

Answer: C

Q2. As per the editorial, which sector did India exclude from the FTA despite it being a major demand of New Zealand?

(A) Dairy

(B) Wine

(C) Timber

(D) Kiwifruit

Answer: A

Q3. As per the editorial, how much investment has New Zealand committed to facilitate in India, and over what period?

(A) $10 billion over 10 years

(B) $20 billion over 15 years

(C) $50 billion over 20 years

(D) $100 billion over 15 years

Answer: B

Vocabulary

Vocabs	Simple Meaning	Synonym	Antonym

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Simultaneously	At the same time	Concurrently	Separately
Simple Example: *The firm pursued two deals simultaneously.*			
Dismiss	To treat something as not worth considering	Disregard	Consider
Simple Example: *Do not dismiss a small market too quickly.*			
Minuscule	Extremely small	Tiny	Enormous
Simple Example: *The profit margin on each item was minuscule.*			
Adverse	Harmful or unfavourable	Unfavourable	Favourable
Simple Example: *Adverse weather delayed the shipment.*			
Mitigated	Made less severe or serious	Eased	Aggravated
Simple Example: *The loss was mitigated by quick action.*			
Nimble	Quick and light in movement or thought	Agile	Clumsy
Simple Example: *Small firms can be nimble in finding new buyers.*			
Looming	About to happen, often in a threatening way	Impending	Receding
Simple Example: *Traders worried about the looming price hike.*			
Elusive	Difficult to find, achieve or catch	Unattainable	Attainable
Simple Example: *A lasting peace deal remains elusive.*			
Concession	Something granted to settle a demand or dispute	Allowance	Imposition
Simple Example: *The company won a tax concession for exporters.*			
Heft	Influence or importance	Clout	Weakness
Simple Example: *The minister used his political heft to push the bill.*			

Idioms

Idiom	Actual Meaning	Simple Meaning
Hold firm	To refuse to change one's position under pressure	Stand one's ground
Clamp down on	To take strict action to restrict or stop something	Act strictly to stop something

Quick Recall: India-NZ FTA · Export Diversification · Dairy Protection

EDITORIAL 3: NEW CAT IN HABITAT, AND SOME GLIMMER OF HOPE

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Source: The Indian Express

[Prelims/Environment] | [Banking Awareness] | [SSC GK]

Core Issue

A wave of new species discoveries, including the first new wild cat species in a century, offers a small sign of hope for biodiversity and a reminder to look beyond a human-centred view of the natural world.

Context

The editorial celebrates a run of new species discoveries. A new species of wild cat, Leopardus tilcayo, found in Bolivia's cloud forests, is the first new feline species identified in 100 years. Scientists have also identified a new penguin species on remote subantarctic islands, also the first in a century, a snake species in New Guinea named after guitarist Slash, and a golf ball-sized blue octopus in the waters around the Galapagos Islands. A University of Arizona study published last year found that the effort to name every species, which began three centuries ago with Swedish naturalist Carl Linnaeus, has sped up: 15% of all known species were discovered in the last 20 years alone. The editorial notes that such finds offer hope at a time when conservation is struggling to keep pace with habitat destruction driven by climate instability and pollution. Because people favour photogenic animals, most discoveries, which are dominated by arthropods like insects, spiders, millipedes and centipedes, get little attention outside scientific circles, though the whole biosphere deserves more wonder.

UPSC Mains Lane

Mains use: intro anecdote only — the first new wild cat species in a century (Leopardus tilcayo, Bolivia) as a hook for GS3 answers on biodiversity, species discovery and conservation.

UPSC Prelims Lane

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

Q1. As per the editorial, in which country's cloud forests was the new wild cat species Leopardus tilcayo discovered?

(A) Peru

(B) Colombia

(C) Ecuador

(D) Bolivia

Answer: D

Q2. As per the editorial, what share of all known species were discovered in the last 20 years?

(A) 5%

(B) 15%

(C) 25%

(D) 35%

Answer: B

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Q3. As per the editorial, which Swedish naturalist began the effort to identify and name every species about three centuries ago?

(A) Carl Linnaeus

(B) Charles Darwin

(C) Alfred Russel Wallace

(D) Gregor Mendel

Answer: A

Vocabulary

Vocabs	Simple Meaning	Synonym	Antonym
Myriad	A very large number of	Countless	Few
Simple Example: *The forest is home to a myriad of insects.*			
Colonise	To take over or occupy a place	Occupy	Vacate
Simple Example: *Fear can colonise the mind if left unchecked.*			
Abandon	To give up completely	Discard	Retain
Simple Example: *We must not abandon hope for the tiger.*			
Remote	Far away from towns and people	Distant	Nearby
Simple Example: *The penguins live on remote islands.*			
Glimmer	A faint sign of something	Flicker	Blaze
Simple Example: *The report offered a glimmer of hope for the forests.*			
Unchecked	Not controlled or restrained	Unrestrained	Controlled
Simple Example: *Unchecked logging destroyed the valley's trees.*			
Destruction	The act of damaging something so badly it cannot survive	Devastation	Construction
Simple Example: *The flood caused widespread destruction of crops.*			
Instability	A state of being likely to change suddenly	Volatility	Stability
Simple Example: *Climate instability threatens many species.*			
Predilection	A strong liking for something	Preference	Aversion
Simple Example: *Children have a predilection for colourful animals.*			
Photogenic	Looking attractive in photographs	Picturesque	Unsightly
Simple Example: *The photogenic tiger gets far more attention than beetles.*			

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Idioms

No idioms found in the editorial.

Quick Recall: New Species · Biodiversity · Conservation

EDITORIAL 4: TWO ECS STAND UP TO ASK; CEC MUST ANSWER, SUPREME COURT MUST NOT TURN AWAY

Source: The Indian Express

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

Core Issue

Recorded objections by two Election Commissioners to the conduct of the SIR point to a breach of trust inside the ECI, and the editorial argues that the Chief Election Commissioner must answer them point by point, with the Supreme Court stepping in if needed.

Context

The editorial accepts that electoral rolls must be revised periodically and that the SIR is the ECI's responsibility, and says linking the deletion of 13 crore names from draft rolls across States to election results is more a political argument than an empirical one. But The Indian Express investigation reveals a disturbing picture from inside the institution: all three members of the Commission were chosen by the NDA government, yet two Election Commissioners, Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi, objected on record 14 times in 10 months, and their concerns went unaddressed. They said they were kept in the dark in a body meant to work by consensus or majority, that changes to Form 6 for new voters went against the rules, and that centralising the voter database undercut the ECI's claims of decentralised functioning. When their objections made no headway, they appealed to the Cabinet Secretary, while CEC Gyanesh Kumar made no attempt to address them. The editorial says these concerns echo what was seen on the ground: the scramble among the poor and undocumented in Bihar, the disenfranchisement of nearly 27 lakh voters in West Bengal, and clashes between officials and party workers in Godda, Jharkhand. By shifting the burden of proof onto voters, demanding hard paperwork on tight deadlines and running open-ended appeals, the SIR, it argues, broke with the ECI's own tradition of inclusion and began to resemble an opaque citizenship test.

UPSC Mains Lane

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

• Intro: Fourteen recorded objections by two Election Commissioners in ten months reveal internal dissent over the SIR at the highest level of the ECI.

• Body 1: The Commissioners' concerns, including being kept out of decisions, rule-breaking changes to Form 6 and centralisation of the voter database, strike at the ECI's collegial and decentralised design.

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• Body 2: These concerns match problems seen on the ground, from the scramble for documents in Bihar to nearly 27 lakh voters disenfranchised in West Bengal, as the burden of proof shifted onto citizens.

• Counter/way forward: Periodic roll revision is necessary, but it must be inclusive and time-bound; the CEC should answer the objections point by point, with the Supreme Court ensuring accountability if needed.

• Conclusion: The ECI's strength lies in reaching out to the last voter, and restoring that tradition is essential to public trust in free and fair elections.

Syllabus Anchor: GS2 — Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of Constitutional bodies; Representation of the People's Act

UPSC Prelims Lane

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

Q1. As per the editorial, roughly how many names were struck off the draft voter rolls across States during the SIR?

(A) 3 crore

(B) 8 crore

(C) 13 crore

(D) 18 crore

Answer: C

Q2. As per the editorial, to whom did the two Election Commissioners appeal when their objections within the ECI made no headway?

(A) The President

(B) The Cabinet Secretary

(C) The Chief Justice of India

(D) The Union Law Minister

Answer: B

Q3. As per the editorial, in which district of Jharkhand were face-offs between election officials and party workers reported?

(A) Godda

(B) Ranchi

(C) Dhanbad

(D) Dumka

Answer: A

Vocabulary

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Vocabs	Simple Meaning	Synonym	Antonym
Empirical	Based on observation or evidence rather than theory	Evidence-based	Theoretical
Simple Example: *The claim needs empirical data, not guesswork.*			
Betrayal	The act of breaking someone's trust	Treachery	Loyalty
Simple Example: *Voters saw the leak as a betrayal of trust.*			
Compelling	Convincing and demanding attention	Persuasive	Unconvincing
Simple Example: *The report made a compelling case for reform.*			
Handpicked	Carefully chosen for a special purpose	Selected	Rejected
Simple Example: *All the panel members were handpicked by the minister.*			
Unheeded	Heard or noticed but ignored	Ignored	Heeded
Simple Example: *Their warnings went unheeded for months.*			
Abide	To accept or act according to a rule or decision	Obey	Defy
Simple Example: *Every member must abide by the majority view.*			
Heartening	Giving hope or encouragement	Encouraging	Disheartening
Simple Example: *The rise in turnout was heartening.*			
Tortuous	Long, complicated and difficult	Convoluted	Straightforward
Simple Example: *The tortuous process left many applicants exhausted.*			
Implicit	Suggested without being directly stated	Implied	Explicit
Simple Example: *There was an implicit threat in his words.*			
Opaque	Not clear or transparent; hard to understand	Unclear	Transparent
Simple Example: *An opaque process breeds public distrust.*			

Idioms

Idiom	Actual Meaning	Simple Meaning
Thrust and parry	A lively exchange of attacks and counter-attacks in argument	Back-and-forth argument
Red flag	A warning sign that something may be wrong	A warning sign

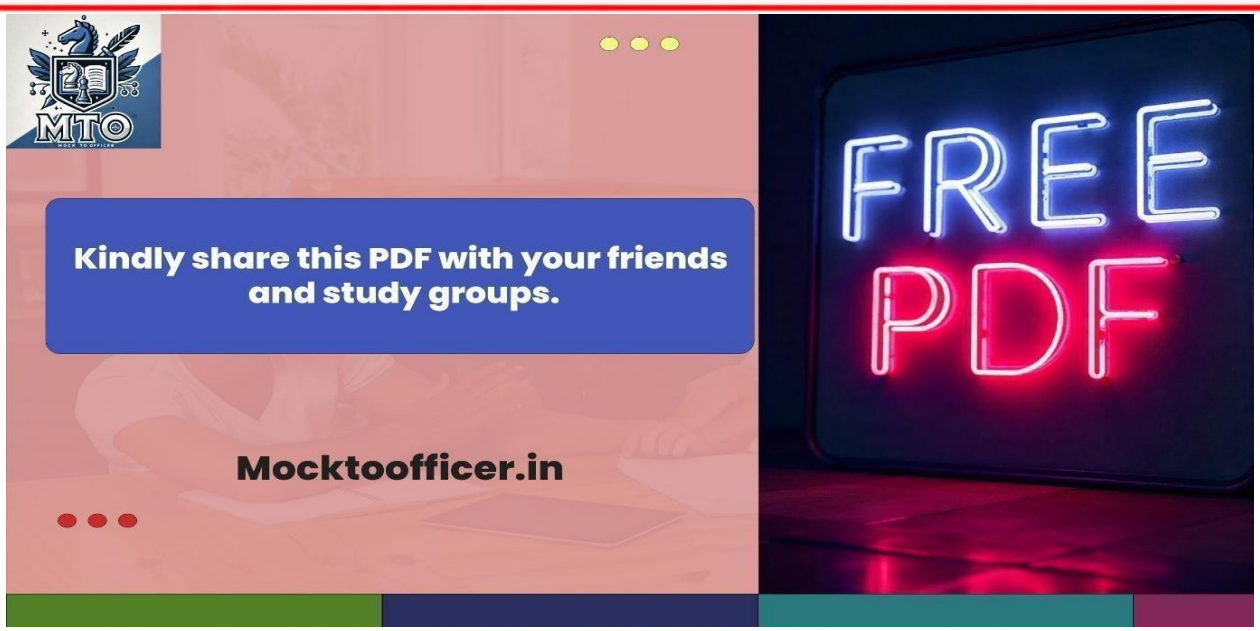
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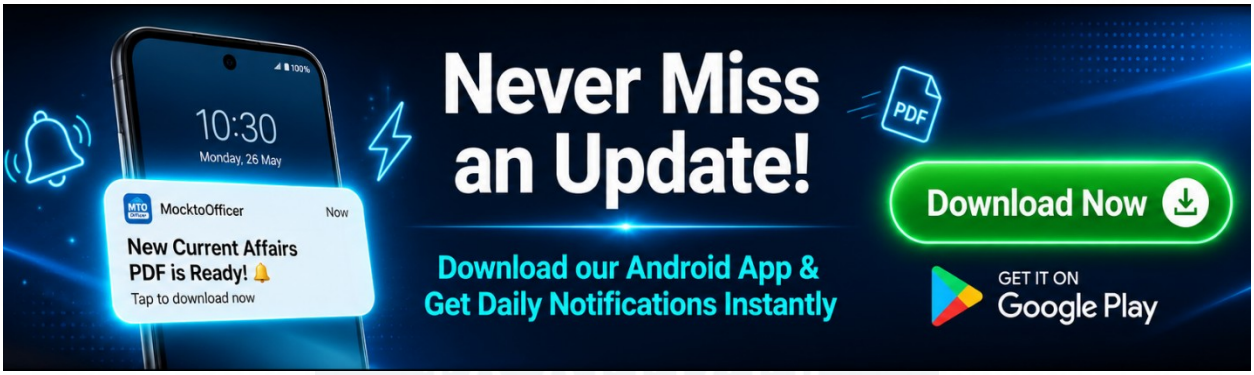
Connect the dots	To link separate facts to see the full picture	Link facts to understand the whole
Fly in the face of	To go directly against something accepted or expected	Go directly against

Quick Recall: ECI Accountability · Internal Dissent · Inclusive Rolls



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