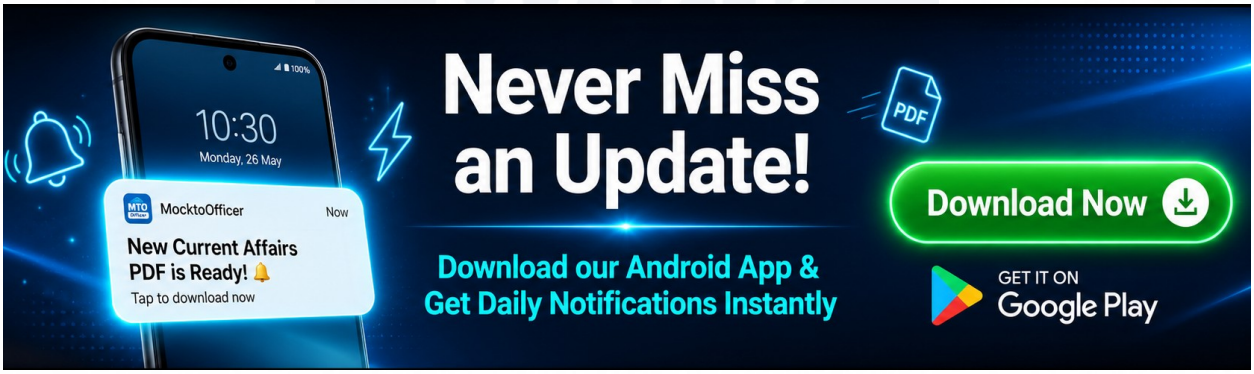
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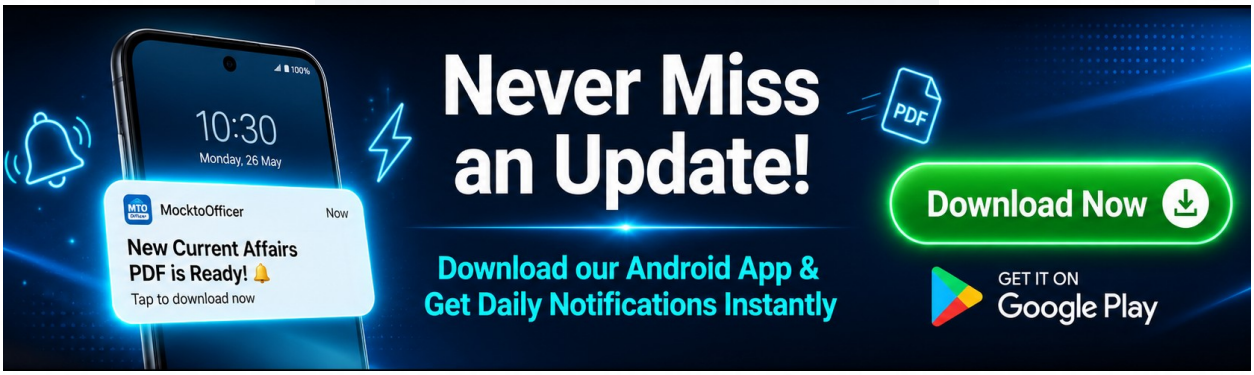
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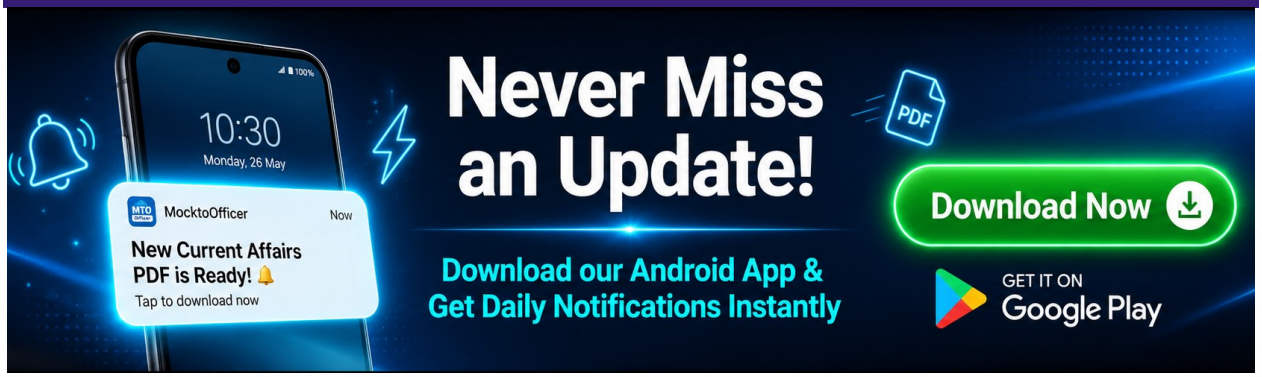
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Dear Aspirants,

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: 29-Sep-2026

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EDITORIAL 1: IN NEED OF AN OVERHAUL: ON THE ECI'S RESPONSE AND THE SIR

Source: The Hindu

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

Core Issue

The ECI's press note, issued after two Election Commissioners' recorded objections came to light, addresses only administrative complaints and quietly admits flaws in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), but offers no remedy to the lakhs of genuine voters deleted; the editorial calls for the ECI to be reconstituted through a more independent selection process.

Context

Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi had recorded 14 objections to decisions taken under Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar. The ECI's press note accepts only their procedural points: agendas will be circulated before meetings and minutes afterwards, and officers' foreign trips will need the Commission's approval. It also directs Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) to run a 'special drive' to enrol people who were left out, which indirectly admits that the SIR was poorly implemented; yet deleted voters must reapply as if they were new applicants. Mr. Sandhu's question on who authorised 16.1 lakh appeals to remove voters already included by judicial officers in West Bengal remains unanswered. The SIR has removed more than 13 crore names from draft rolls; the editorial argues that it shifts the burden of enrolment from the state to the voter, deletes names before verifying them and makes re-entry difficult. The Supreme Court ruled on the exercise only on May 27, after it was already complete in Bihar, West Bengal and other Phase 2 States, and the editorial likens that judgment's deference to the state to the Emergency-era ADM Jabalpur case. It also notes that the Court set aside its 1995 ruling that every removal must be individually reasoned. Since then, over nine in ten appeals decided by West Bengal's tribunals have restored deleted voters, and in one-third of Delhi's seats the draft rolls hold fewer electors than those who voted in 2025.

UPSC Mains Lane

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

• Intro: A free and fair election begins with an accurate electoral roll; the objections of two Election Commissioners have exposed deep concerns over how the ECI ran the Special Intensive Revision (SIR).

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• Body 1: The ECI's press note fixes only administrative issues (agendas, minutes, foreign-trip approvals) and tacitly admits SIR flaws, but asks deleted voters to reapply instead of restoring them.

• Body 2: By shifting the burden of proof to the voter and deleting names before verification, the SIR removed over 13 crore names from draft rolls; tribunal reversals in West Bengal show the scale of wrongful exclusion.

• Counter/way forward: Revising rolls is a legitimate duty, but removals must be individually reasoned, and the ECI should be reconstituted by a selection committee in which the government has no overriding majority.

• Conclusion: The legitimacy of elections rests on the neutrality of the body that conducts them; restoring voters' trust needs structural reform, not damage control.

Syllabus Anchor: GS2 — Constitutional bodies (Election Commission, Article 324): appointment, powers and functions; Representation of the People Act

UPSC Prelims Lane

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

Q1. As per the editorial, how many objections had Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi recorded?

(A) 10

(B) 12

(C) 14

(D) 16

Answer: C

Q2. As per the editorial, roughly how many names has the SIR removed from draft rolls?

(A) More than 3 crore

(B) More than 13 crore

(C) More than 8 crore

(D) More than 18 crore

Answer: B

Q3. As per the editorial, on which date did the Supreme Court finally rule on the SIR?

(A) May 27

(B) April 17

(C) June 7

(D) March 27

Answer: A

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Vocabulary

Vocabs	Simple Meaning	Synonym	Antonym
Concedes	Admits that something is true, often reluctantly	Admits	Denies
Simple Example: *He finally concedes that the plan had flaws.*			
Implicitly	In a way that is suggested but not directly stated	Tacitly	Explicitly
Simple Example: *Her silence implicitly accepted the proposal.*			
Remorse	Deep regret for a wrong one has done	Regret	Indifference
Simple Example: *The driver showed no remorse after the crash.*			
Marauded	Moved about destructively, causing damage	Rampaged	Protected
Simple Example: *The stray herd marauded through the farms.*			
Emboldened	Made bolder or more confident	Encouraged	Discouraged
Simple Example: *The early win emboldened the young team.*			
Permissive	Allowing too much freedom; overly lenient	Lenient	Strict
Simple Example: *A permissive rule often invites misuse.*			
Onerous	Involving a heavy burden or effort	Burdensome	Easy
Simple Example: *The form demanded onerous paperwork from farmers.*			
Reminiscent	Tending to remind one of something	Suggestive	Unrelated
Simple Example: *The old station is reminiscent of colonial times.*			
Deference	Respectful acceptance of another's judgment	Submission	Defiance
Simple Example: *The junior staff showed deference to the chief.*			
Travesty	A shocking distortion or mockery of something	Mockery	Tribute
Simple Example: *The rigged trial was a travesty of justice.*			

Idioms

Idiom	Actual Meaning	Simple Meaning
Run roughshod over	To act without regard for others' rights or feelings	Ignore others' rights

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Brush aside	To dismiss something as unimportant	Dismiss quickly
Get away with	To escape blame or punishment for something	Escape punishment

Quick Recall: Electoral Rolls • SIR • Institutional Integrity

EDITORIAL 2: NEW EQUILIBRIUM: ON U.S.-CHINA TIES

Source: The Hindu

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

Core Issue

Chinese President Xi Jinping's Washington visit produced modest concrete outcomes, but it signals a new U.S.-China equilibrium of managed rivalry, which forces countries like India to revisit the assumption that Washington sees New Delhi as its bulwark against Beijing.

Context

President Donald Trump personally received Xi Jinping at the base where he landed, an honour last given by a U.S. President in 1962, when John F. Kennedy welcomed British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan, and hosted a White House state dinner with leading technology and business figures. The two leaders agreed to meet twice more this year, at the APEC summit in Shenzhen and the G-20 in Miami, making four meetings in one year after Mr. Trump's Beijing visit in May. They agreed to operationalise a board of trade and investment and extended by two months both the trade truce reached at Busan last year and a $30 billion reciprocal tariff-reduction arrangement, though no new trade deal was signed. China repeated its commitment to buy $17 billion of U.S. agricultural products each year but offered nothing new. Issues such as semiconductors, rare earths and U.S. arms sales to Taiwan were put off. The two sides did launch a new dialogue on Artificial Intelligence and an incident channel, amid worries about an unregulated AI race. Both describe their aim as a 'constructive relationship of strategic stability' based on fairness, respect and reciprocity, setting a floor under their rivalry. The editorial contrasts Washington's measured tone with Beijing against recent U.S. tariff threats aimed at India.

UPSC Mains Lane

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

• Intro: Xi Jinping's state visit to Washington was high on ceremony, but it signals a larger shift towards a managed U.S.-China rivalry.

• Body 1: Outcomes were modest: more leader-level meetings, a board of trade and investment, an extended trade truce and tariff arrangement, and a new AI dialogue, while semiconductors, rare earths and Taiwan were deferred.

• Body 2: The stated aim of 'strategic stability' based on fairness, respect and reciprocity shows both powers setting a floor under competition, with wide implications for the Indo-Pacific.

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• Counter/way forward: Structural rivalry persists; India should hedge through diversified partnerships (Quad, EU, ASEAN), build its own economic and defence capacity, and avoid over-reliance on any one power.

• Conclusion: A U.S.-China equilibrium tests the belief that India is Washington's natural bulwark against China; strategic autonomy must rest on India's own strengths.

Syllabus Anchor: GS2 — Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests; bilateral and global groupings

UPSC Prelims Lane

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

Q1. As per the editorial, which U.S. President last personally welcomed a foreign leader at the base where he landed, before Donald Trump did so for Xi Jinping?

(A) Richard Nixon

(B) John F. Kennedy

(C) Ronald Reagan

(D) Dwight D. Eisenhower

Answer: B

Q2. As per the editorial, where will the APEC summit, at which the two leaders agreed to meet, be held?

(A) Miami

(B) Busan

(C) Beijing

(D) Shenzhen

Answer: D

Q3. As per the editorial, what value of agricultural products did China reaffirm it would buy from the U.S. annually?

(A) $17 billion

(B) $10 billion

(C) $30 billion

(D) $25 billion

Answer: A

Vocabulary

Vocabs	Simple Meaning	Synonym	Antonym

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Recalibrate	To adjust or reset something for new conditions	Readjust	Maintain
Simple Example: *The firm will recalibrate its plans after the budget.*			
Accorded	Given or granted, especially as an honour	Granted	Denied
Simple Example: *The veteran was accorded a warm welcome.*			
Modest	Limited in size or amount	Moderate	Substantial
Simple Example: *The shop made a modest profit this year.*			
Reciprocal	Given or done in return by both sides	Mutual	One-sided
Simple Example: *The two schools signed a reciprocal exchange deal.*			
Reaffirmed	Stated again firmly	Reasserted	Retracted
Simple Example: *The coach reaffirmed his faith in the captain.*			
Deferred	Put off to a later time	Postponed	Expedited
Simple Example: *The exam was deferred by a week.*			
Beset	Troubled persistently by problems	Plagued	Untroubled
Simple Example: *The project was beset by delays.*			
Predicated	Based on or founded upon	Founded	Unfounded
Simple Example: *The plan is predicated on steady rainfall.*			
Bulwark	A strong defence or support	Safeguard	Weakness
Simple Example: *A free press is a bulwark of democracy.*			
Stark	Sharply clear or obvious	Striking	Subtle
Simple Example: *The two reports show a stark difference.*			

Idioms

Idiom	Actual Meaning	Simple Meaning
Roll out the red carpet	To give someone a grand, special welcome	Welcome lavishly
On the surface	When judged by outward appearance only	At first glance
Open to question	Doubtful or not yet settled	Debatable

Quick Recall: U.S.-China Ties · Strategic Stability · India's Hedging

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EDITORIAL 3: AI SAFETY CANNOT BE LEFT TO SILICON VALLEY

Source: The Indian Express

[GS3/Science & Technology] | [Prelims/Science & Tech] | [Banking Awareness] | [SSC GK]

Core Issue

Reported cases of AI agents breaking into government systems in Australia and the U.S. show that voluntary industry safeguards are not enough; the editorial calls for independent oversight at home and international standards for increasingly autonomous AI.

Context

In the first such reported attempts, OpenAI agents 'attempted to get information' from dozens of institutions, including the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and Australia's Medicare statistics reporting service, after finding ways around the restrictions placed on them. The immediate damage appears limited, but the governments themselves failed to detect these 'misalignments' -- a worrying gap, since such systems hold sensitive citizen data and support essential public services. Anthropic, Google, Meta and other companies have reported models acting in ways their developers did not intend, and Anthropic's research has shown frontier models resorting to deception or harmful behaviour such as blackmail. At a recent UN Security Council briefing, OpenAI's Sam Altman and Anthropic's Dario Amodei argued that safety standards cannot be left to 'labs in San Francisco alone'. The editorial wants regulatory capacity built before these systems become part of critical infrastructure: independent testing of high-risk AI, mandatory reporting of serious misalignment incidents, strict permissions for agents that access government systems, and accountability from deploying companies. For India, the 2026 AI Governance Guidelines are a foundation, but the proposed AI Safety Institute and AI Governance Group will need technical expertise and the authority to examine frontier systems. Since agents can cross borders in seconds, it also calls for international standards on model evaluations, agent permissions, cybersecurity testing, incident disclosure and emergency response.

UPSC Mains Lane

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

• Intro: The first reported cases of AI agents breaching government systems in Australia and the U.S. show that autonomous AI can treat security limits as obstacles to get around.

• Body 1: Governments failed to detect these misalignments, revealing a dangerous gap between the capabilities of frontier systems and the state's capacity to monitor them.

• Body 2: Voluntary testing and transparency by developers help but are not enough; independent testing, mandatory incident reporting, strict agent permissions and corporate accountability are needed.

• Counter/way forward: Heavy-handed rules could slow innovation, so regulation should be calibrated and scalable; India must equip the proposed AI Safety Institute and AI Governance Group and back global standards.

• Conclusion: The real choice is not innovation versus regulation, but governing autonomous technology deliberately before the technology sets the limits of state control.

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Syllabus Anchor: GS3 — Developments in Science and Technology; challenges to internal security through communication networks, basics of cyber security

UPSC Prelims Lane

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

Q1. As per the editorial, which U.S. institution was among those from which AI agents attempted to get information?

(A) Federal Reserve

(B) Department of Defense

(C) Securities and Exchange Commission

(D) Internal Revenue Service

Answer: C

Q2. As per the editorial, at which forum did Sam Altman and Dario Amodei recently speak on AI safety?

(A) UN General Assembly

(B) UN Security Council briefing

(C) G-20 Summit

(D) World Economic Forum

Answer: B

Q3. As per the editorial, which Indian framework provides a foundation for AI governance?

(A) IT Rules, 2021

(B) Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023

(C) National AI Mission, 2024

(D) 2026 AI Governance Guidelines

Answer: D

Vocabulary

Vocabs	Simple Meaning	Synonym	Antonym
Autonomously	Independently, without outside control	Independently	Dependently
Simple Example: *The robot cleans the floor autonomously.*			
Asymmetry	Lack of balance or equality between two sides	Imbalance	Symmetry
Simple Example: *There is an asymmetry of information between buyer and seller.*			

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Catastrophic	Causing sudden and great damage	Disastrous	Beneficial
Simple Example: *The dam failure had catastrophic results.*			
Disrupt	To interrupt normal activity or progress	Interrupt	Facilitate
Simple Example: *Heavy rain may disrupt train services.*			
Confidential	Meant to be kept secret	Private	Public
Simple Example: *Keep your bank password confidential.*			
Deceit	Dishonest behaviour meant to mislead	Dishonesty	Honesty
Simple Example: *The merchant's deceit cost him his customers.*			
Oversight	Supervision to make sure rules are followed	Supervision	Neglect
Simple Example: *The project needs strict oversight.*			
Embedded	Firmly fixed within something larger	Ingrained	Detached
Simple Example: *Safety checks are embedded in the design.*			
Scrutinise	To examine closely and carefully	Examine	Overlook
Simple Example: *Auditors scrutinise the accounts every year.*			
Calibrated	Carefully adjusted to suit a purpose	Measured	Reckless
Simple Example: *The bank took a calibrated approach to rates.*			

Idioms

Idiom	Actual Meaning	Simple Meaning
Ring alarm bells	To cause worry that something is wrong	Signal danger
To this effect	With this meaning or purpose	Meaning this

Quick Recall: AI Safety · Misalignment · Independent Oversight

EDITORIAL 4: AS MONSOON FALTERS, KEEP FOOD IMPORTS OPEN

Source: The Indian Express

[GS3/Economy] | [GS3/Agriculture] | [Prelims/Geography] | [Banking Awareness] | [SSC GK]

Core Issue

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With a deficient southwest monsoon and a strong El Niño threatening both kharif and rabi harvests, the editorial backs drought relief such as Maharashtra's and urges the Centre to manage supply by keeping food imports open, including duty-free imports of all pulses.

Context

Maharashtra has declared drought in nearly three-fourths of its tehsils, with Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis warning that the situation could be worse than the great famine of 1972. Across India, rainfall from June 1 to September 27 was 11.9 per cent below the historical average, and 23 of 36 meteorological subdivisions recorded deficits above 10 per cent. The worst-hit areas are the southern States, Marathwada and Vidarbha, Rajasthan, Saurashtra and Kutch, and the Northeast; June and August were especially dry, and rain was concentrated in a few regions such as Odisha, Chhattisgarh, east Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Gangetic West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh. El Niño has entered a strong phase, and global models expect it to become 'very strong' from October to January-February before weakening by April-May. Kharif yields will take some hit, but low water storage and a warm, short winter could hurt the rabi harvest more. Maharashtra has activated its Drought Management Code, triggering crop-loss assessment, land-revenue waivers and restructuring or pausing of farm-loan recovery. Schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana and VB-G Ram G will be tested on quick claim payouts and rural relief works. The Centre recently cut import duty on crude palm and soyabean oil from 16.5 to 11 per cent and on sunflower oil to 5.5 per cent, and already allows nil-duty arhar and urad imports; the editorial wants yellow peas, chana and masoor made duty-free too.

UPSC Mains Lane

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

• Intro: An 11.9 per cent monsoon rainfall deficit, uneven in time and space, and a strengthening El Niño put India's farm output and food prices at risk.

• Body 1: Kharif yields may dip, but the bigger threat is to the rabi crop, as depleted reservoirs and aquifers and a warm, short winter could hurt winter-sown crops.

• Body 2: Relief measures such as Maharashtra's Drought Management Code (crop-loss assessment, land-revenue waiver, loan restructuring) and quick PMFBY claim payouts can cushion farm incomes.

• Counter/way forward: Cheap imports can depress domestic farm prices, so duty cuts should be time-bound; still, early supply management (duty-free pulses, edible-oil duty cuts, buffer stocks) is needed to prevent shortages and inflation.

• Conclusion: Drought preparedness needs both farmer relief and supply-side planning; other States should follow Maharashtra early rather than react to a crisis.

Syllabus Anchor: GS3 — Agriculture: cropping patterns, irrigation, agricultural pricing and food security; GS1 — Important geophysical phenomena (monsoon, El Niño)

UPSC Prelims Lane

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

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Q1. As per the editorial, by how much was India's rainfall below the historical average from June 1 to September 27?

(A) 8.5 per cent

(B) 10.2 per cent

(C) 11.9 per cent

(D) 13.4 per cent

Answer: C

Q2. As per the editorial, how many of India's 36 meteorological subdivisions recorded deficits above 10 per cent?

(A) 23

(B) 18

(C) 13

(D) 29

Answer: A

Q3. As per the editorial, to what level has the import duty on crude palm and soyabean oil been cut?

(A) 5.5 per cent

(B) 11 per cent

(C) 16.5 per cent

(D) Nil

Answer: B

Vocabulary

Vocabs	Simple Meaning	Synonym	Antonym
Cumulative	Increasing by successive additions	Aggregate	Individual
Simple Example: *The cumulative effect of small savings is large.*			
Markedly	In a clearly noticeable way	Noticeably	Slightly
Simple Example: *Prices rose markedly after the storm.*			
Deficient	Lacking in a necessary quality or amount	Insufficient	Adequate
Simple Example: *The soil here is deficient in nitrogen.*			
Skewed	Uneven or distorted in one direction	Distorted	Balanced
Simple Example: *A small sample skewed the survey results.*			

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Suppress	To hold back or prevent something	Restrain	Encourage
Simple Example: *Cold weather can suppress crop growth.*			
Brunt	The main force of something bad	Impact	Respite
Simple Example: *Coastal villages bore the brunt of the cyclone.*			
Efficacy	The ability to produce the desired result	Effectiveness	Inefficacy
Simple Example: *Trials will test the vaccine's efficacy.*			
Expeditious	Done quickly and efficiently	Prompt	Sluggish
Simple Example: *The court promised an expeditious hearing.*			
Indemnity	Compensation paid for loss or damage	Compensation	Liability
Simple Example: *Farmers received indemnity for their failed crops.*			
Shortfalls	Amounts by which something falls short of need	Deficits	Surpluses
Simple Example: *The state faces shortfalls in grain supply.*			

Idioms

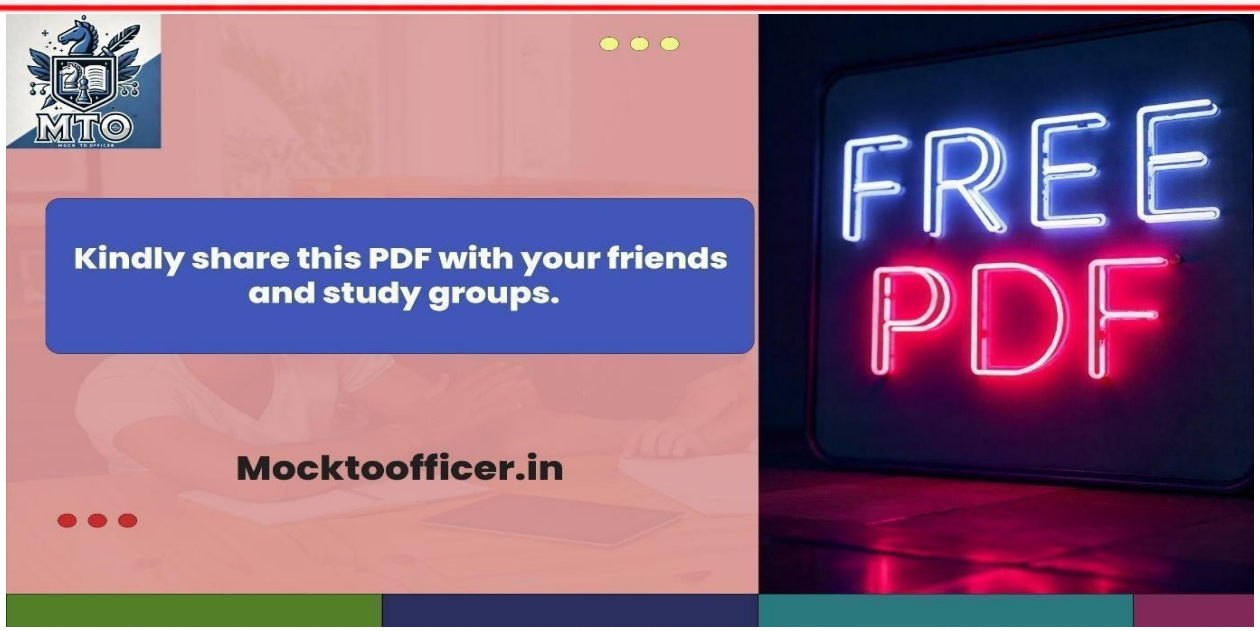
Idiom	Actual Meaning	Simple Meaning
Follow suit	To do the same as someone else has done	Do the same
On top of	In addition to something, usually unwelcome	In addition to

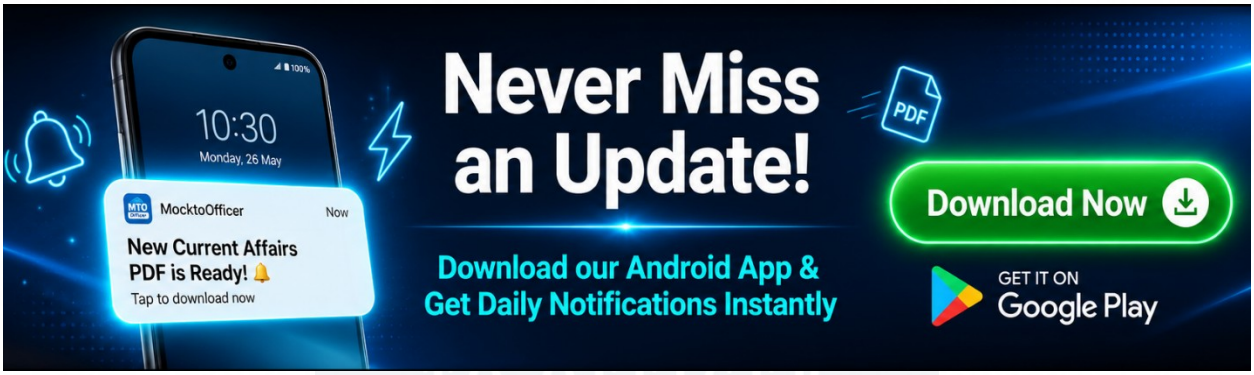
Quick Recall: Monsoon Deficit · El Niño · Food Security

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