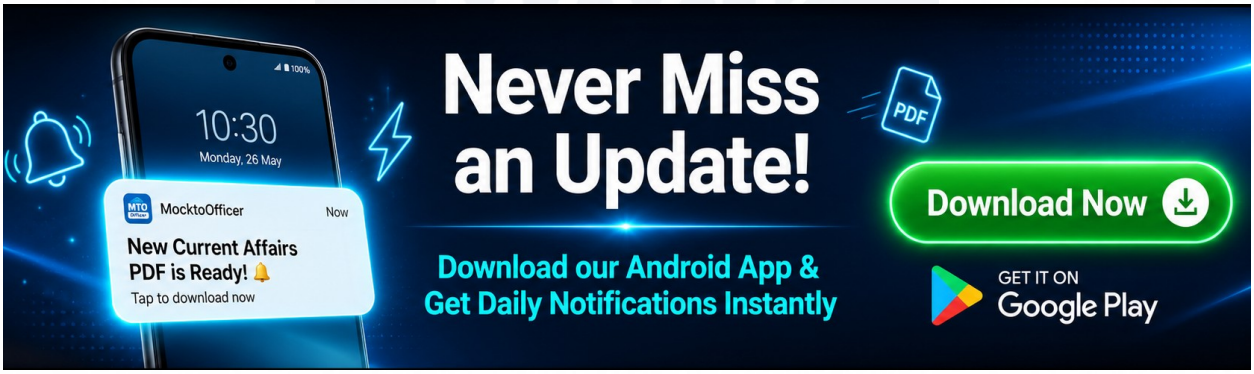
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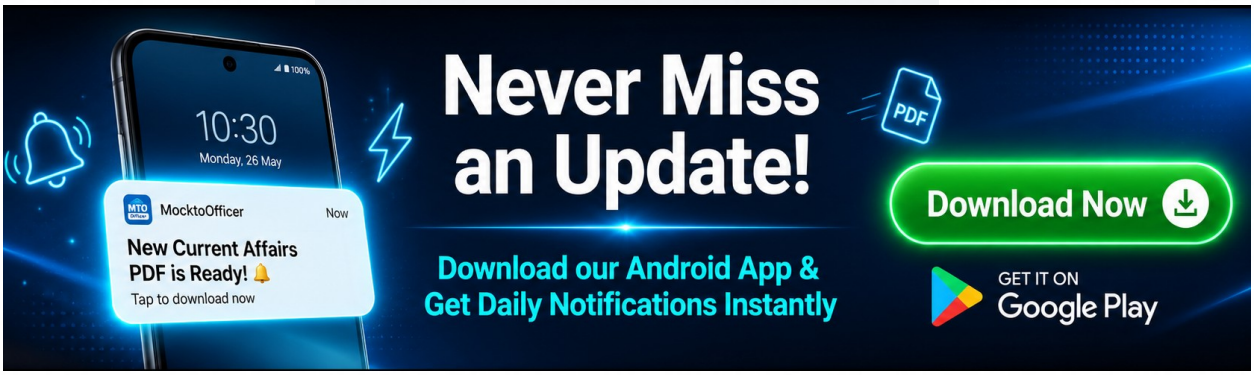
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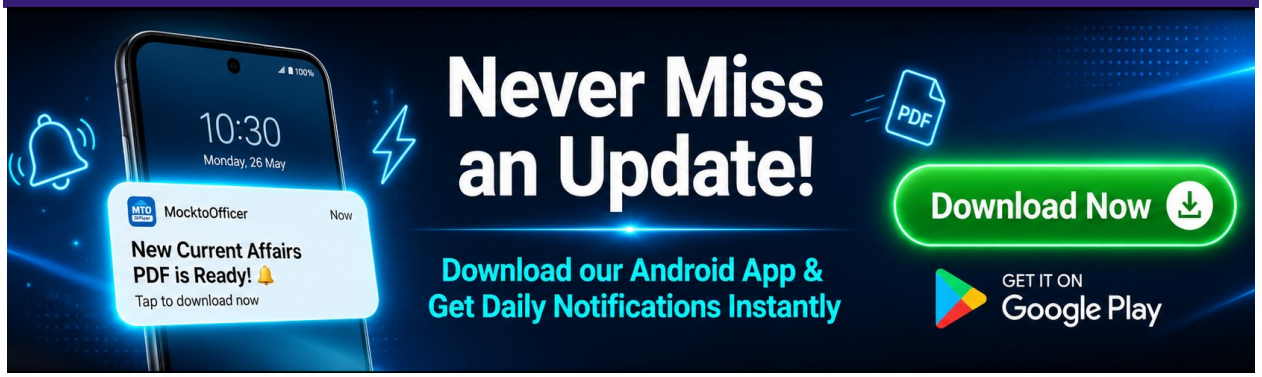
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Dear Aspirants,

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: 01-Oct-2026

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EDITORIAL 1: STATE OF ANTICIPATION: ON J&K STATEHOOD

Source: The Hindu

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

Core Issue

The Jammu and Kashmir Assembly has passed a resolution seeking the immediate restoration of full Statehood; the editorial argues that the long wait harms democracy and federalism and that the Centre should restore Statehood without further delay.

Context

On September 28, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah moved a resolution in the 90-member Assembly calling for the 'immediate and urgent restoration of full Statehood'. The erstwhile State was downgraded and split into two Union Territories in 2019, when the Centre ended its special constitutional status of nearly 70 years. The resolution recalled the greater autonomy resolution of June 26, 2000 and the special status resolution of November 6, 2024. Apart from the 29 BJP legislators, members across the ruling alliance and the Opposition, including the PDP, J&K Peoples Conference, AAP and Awami Ittehad Party, backed it. The Centre had itself laid down a three-step path of delimitation, election and Statehood; the Supreme Court sought restoration 'as soon as possible', and Prime Minister Narendra Modi promised it 'at the appropriate time'. The editorial points out that the 2024 elections saw 63.88% voting and were the most peaceful in three decades, and warns that tying Statehood to the end of militancy would give Pakistan's strategy of state-sponsored terrorism a say in the matter.

UPSC Mains Lane

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

• Intro: The conversion of J&K from a State into two Union Territories in 2019 was unprecedented; the Assembly's resolution of September 28 revives the question of federal balance.

• Body 1: The Centre's own three-step path (delimitation, election, Statehood) is two-thirds complete, and the Supreme Court has asked for restoration 'as soon as possible'.

• Body 2: The peaceful 2024 elections with 63.88% turnout show public faith in democracy; an empowered legislature, not the streets, should be the channel for dialogue with the Centre.

• Counter/way forward: Security concerns are real, but they can be handled alongside Statehood; a clear timeline and continued central support on security would balance both goals.

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• Conclusion: Restoring Statehood would heal a scarred region and strengthen India's democratic and federal credentials.

Syllabus Anchor: GS2 — Federalism and Centre-State relations; reorganisation of States and Union Territories (Articles 3 and 4)

UPSC Prelims Lane

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

Q1. As per the editorial, on which date did the J&K Assembly pass the resolution seeking restoration of full Statehood?

(A) September 21

(B) September 28

(C) November 6

(D) June 26

Answer: B

Q2. As per the editorial, what was the voter turnout recorded in J&K in the 2024 elections?

(A) 58.46%

(B) 61.20%

(C) 63.88%

(D) 66.10%

Answer: C

Q3. As per the editorial, which of the following is the correct sequence of the Centre's three-step path for J&K?

(A) Delimitation, election, Statehood

(B) Election, delimitation, Statehood

(C) Statehood, election, delimitation

(D) Delimitation, Statehood, election

Answer: A

Vocabulary

Vocabs	Simple Meaning	Synonym	Antonym
Erstwhile	Former; that existed earlier	Former	Current
Simple Example: *The erstwhile palace is now a museum.*			
Autonomy	The right to govern oneself	Self-rule	Dependence
Simple Example: *Universities want more autonomy in framing courses.*			

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Restoration	Bringing something back to its earlier state	Revival	Removal
Simple Example: *The restoration of the old fort took five years.*			
Unprecedented	Never done or known before	Unparalleled	Common
Simple Example: *The city saw unprecedented rainfall this week.*			
Tumultuous	Full of confusion, noise or disorder	Turbulent	Calm
Simple Example: *The country went through a tumultuous decade.*			
Shunned	Deliberately avoided or rejected	Avoided	Embraced
Simple Example: *Villagers shunned the harmful practice after the campaign.*			
Reciprocated	Returned a feeling or action in kind	Returned	Ignored
Simple Example: *She reciprocated his kindness with a warm letter.*			
Scarred	Left with lasting damage or pain	Wounded	Healed
Simple Example: *The town remains scarred by the old flood.*			
Predicate	To base something on a condition	Base	Detach
Simple Example: *Do not predicate your plans on a single loan.*			
Drift	To move slowly away without control	Stray	Anchor
Simple Example: *Old friends often drift apart after college.*			

Idioms

Idiom	Actual Meaning	Simple Meaning
Order of the day	Something that is common or usual at a particular time	Very common then
High time	The time by which something should already have been done	Long overdue
A say in the matter	The right to influence a decision	Right to decide

Quick Recall: Statehood · Federalism · Democracy

EDITORIAL 2: SILVER LINING: ON INDIA AT THE CHESS OLYMPIAD

Source: The Hindu

[Banking Awareness] | [SSC GK]

Core Issue

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India's men finished second and its women third at the Chess Olympiad; the editorial says the results fell short of high expectations but remain commendable and should not be dispiriting.

Context

The Chess Olympiad concluded at Samarkand, with more than 200 countries taking part. India retained the Gaprindashvili Trophy for the best country overall and won six individual medals, but could not defend the open and women's titles it had won two years ago in Budapest. The Indian men, seeded second, lost to host Uzbekistan in the sixth round, and Uzbekistan went on to win gold. The top-seeded Indian women were stopped by Poland in the fifth round and settled for bronze, while China won the women's event. Four of the five Indian women won individual medals; debutant B. Savitha Shri, a Chennai teenager who replaced D. Harika, won eight of her 10 games and drew two. D. Gukesh, playing on the fourth board, won an individual silver ahead of defending his world title against Uzbekistan's Javokhir Sindarov in Geneva from November 24.

UPSC Mains Lane

Mains use: intro anecdote only — debutant B. Savitha Shri's unbeaten Olympiad run (eight wins, two draws) is a strong opening for essays on youth, talent and building bench strength in sport.

UPSC Prelims Lane

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

Q1. As per the editorial, where was the Chess Olympiad held this year?

(A) Budapest

(B) Geneva

(C) Tashkent

(D) Samarkand

Answer: D

Q2. As per the editorial, which trophy, awarded to the best country overall, did India retain?

(A) Gaprindashvili Trophy

(B) Hamilton-Russell Cup

(C) Vera Menchik Cup

(D) Mikhail Tal Cup

Answer: A

Q3. As per the editorial, D. Gukesh will defend his world title against which player?

(A) Nodirbek Abdusattorov

(B) Javokhir Sindarov

(C) Ding Liren

(D) Magnus Carlsen

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Answer: B

Vocabulary

Vocabs	Simple Meaning	Synonym	Antonym
Dispiriting	Causing loss of hope or enthusiasm	Discouraging	Encouraging
Simple Example: *The team's early exit was dispiriting for fans.*			
Commendable	Deserving praise	Praiseworthy	Blameworthy
Simple Example: *Her honesty in the matter was commendable.*			
Feat	An achievement needing great skill or effort	Accomplishment	Failure
Simple Example: *Climbing the peak alone was a remarkable feat.*			
Seeded	Ranked in advance in a tournament	Ranked	Unranked
Simple Example: *The seeded player lost in the first round.*			
Anticipated	Expected or looked forward to	Expected	Unexpected
Simple Example: *The anticipated rain finally arrived in the evening.*			
Crucial	Extremely important; decisive	Vital	Trivial
Simple Example: *The last over proved crucial for the result.*			
Inched	Moved slowly and carefully	Crept	Rushed
Simple Example: *Prices inched up through the week.*			
Deserving	Worthy of reward or praise	Worthy	Unworthy
Simple Example: *The prize went to a deserving student.*			
Debut	A first public appearance	Launch	Farewell
Simple Example: *He scored a century on his debut.*			
Persistence	Continuing firmly despite difficulty	Perseverance	Surrender
Simple Example: *Persistence helped her clear the exam.*			

Idioms

Idiom	Actual Meaning	Simple Meaning
Live up to	To be as good as what was expected	Meet expectations
No small feat	A considerable achievement	Big achievement

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Top billing	The most prominent position or ranking	Top position

Quick Recall: Chess Olympiad · Talent · Expectations

EDITORIAL 3: FAT DOGS OF DELHI, UNITE

Source: The Indian Express

[Banking Awareness] | [SSC GK]

Core Issue

A light-hearted online poll to elect the 'fattest dog of Delhi' has become a community project, and the piece contrasts its good cheer with the divisive tone of human politics.

Context

Watching animal videos online was once seen as a waste of time, but as the internet has turned into an 'algorithmic nightmare', such content has become its silver lining. An Instagram page begun by a college student, who photographed overweight stray dogs, grew into a community project in which people sent in pictures of their favourite plump dogs. The poll began with 64 dogs and is now down to four: Googoo (Saket), Tara Khan (Khan Market), Hero (Malviya Nagar) and Gola (SDA Market, Hauz Khas), two of whom are contesting posthumously. The piece notes that, unlike people, dogs do not judge and are not self-conscious, and that this election has no negative campaigning or divisive rhetoric.

UPSC Mains Lane

Mains use: intro anecdote only — Delhi's online 'fattest dog' poll, an election with no negative campaigning or divisive rhetoric, is a light hook for essays on social media, community or polarised politics.

Vocabulary

Vocabs	Simple Meaning	Synonym	Antonym
Aeons	An extremely long period of time	Ages	Moment
Simple Example: *It felt like aeons before the results came.*			
Optimistic	Hopeful about the future	Hopeful	Pessimistic
Simple Example: *The coach is optimistic about the next match.*			
Elation	Great happiness and excitement	Joy	Gloom
Simple Example: *There was elation in the village after the win.*			
Phenomenon	A notable fact or event	Occurrence	Rarity
Simple Example: *Online shopping is now a global phenomenon.*			

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Innocuously	In a harmless, unremarkable way	Harmlessly	Harmfully
Simple Example: *The quarrel began innocuously over a small joke.*			
Portly	Rather fat or round	Plump	Slim
Simple Example: *A portly guard dozed near the gate.*			
Corpulent	Very fat	Obese	Thin
Simple Example: *The doctor advised the corpulent man to walk daily.*			
Posthumously	After a person's death	After death	In life
Simple Example: *The soldier was awarded the medal posthumously.*			
Divisive	Causing disagreement between people	Polarising	Unifying
Simple Example: *Leaders should avoid divisive speeches during festivals.*			
Rhetoric	Language meant to persuade, often insincere	Oratory	Plain speech
Simple Example: *Voters want action, not empty rhetoric.*			

Idioms

Idiom	Actual Meaning	Simple Meaning
Silver lining	A hopeful side of a bad situation	Hopeful side
Gear up for	To get ready for something	Get ready

Quick Recall: Internet · Community · Civility

EDITORIAL 4: US, IRAN AND THE MISSING ENDGAME

Source: The Indian Express

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

Core Issue

Iran has become more eager for talks as its hold over the Strait of Hormuz weakens and new US sanctions batter its economy, while the US prefers to wait; the editorial warns that without concessions from both sides, the conflict risks a prolonged stalemate.

Context

Early in the West Asia war, the US pressed for a deal while Iran played hardball; now Tehran is the more eager side. After threatening to 'annihilate' Iran at the UN General Assembly, President Donald Trump rejected an Iranian proposal for a seven-day roadmap to end hostilities, unwilling to let Iran use the approaching US midterms as leverage. Iran's other lever, the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, is also weakening: crude exports from West Asia rebounded in September, with shipments through the Strait and alternative routes reaching just under 80% of prewar flows, the highest since February. Saudi Arabia has repaired its drone-damaged East-West pipeline and resumed Red Sea oil exports, while Iran cannot

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export through Hormuz because of a US counterblockade. A wave of new US sanctions, called Operation Economic Outcast, has battered Iran's economy, causing inflation and shortages of goods, gasoline and electricity, though this has not yet translated into decisive pressure on the leadership.

UPSC Mains Lane

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

• Intro: The US-Iran conflict has shifted from Iran holding the Strait of Hormuz as leverage to Iran seeking talks under economic pressure.

• Body 1: Recovering oil flows (under 80% of prewar levels), Saudi Arabia's repaired East-West pipeline and the US counterblockade have weakened Iran's chokehold.

• Body 2: Sanctions such as Operation Economic Outcast hurt ordinary Iranians through inflation and shortages but have not yet forced the leadership to concede.

• Counter/way forward: A lasting settlement needs both sides to give up some leverage; for India, stable Hormuz flows matter for energy security and the rupee.

• Conclusion: Without a shared endgame, coercion alone may produce a prolonged stalemate rather than peace.

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

UPSC Prelims Lane

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

Q1. As per the editorial, what is the name given to the new wave of US sanctions against Iran?

(A) Operation Midnight Hammer

(B) Operation Maximum Pressure

(C) Operation Economic Outcast

(D) Operation Desert Shield

Answer: C

Q2. As per the editorial, shipments through the Strait of Hormuz and alternative routes reached roughly what share of prewar flows?

(A) Just under 50%

(B) Just under 80%

(C) About 95%

(D) About 60%

Answer: B

Q3. As per the editorial, which Saudi pipeline, allowing crude to bypass Hormuz, has been repaired after a drone strike?

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(A) Trans-Arabian pipeline

(B) Kirkuk-Ceyhan pipeline

(C) Habshan-Fujairah pipeline

(D) East-West pipeline

Answer: D

Vocabulary

Vocabs	Simple Meaning	Synonym	Antonym
Endgame	The final stage of a process or conflict	Conclusion	Beginning
Simple Example: *Neither side has a clear endgame for the talks.*			
Annihilate	To destroy completely	Obliterate	Preserve
Simple Example: *The storm threatened to annihilate the crops.*			
Leverage	Power to influence a situation	Advantage	Weakness
Simple Example: *The union used the strike as leverage.*			
Potent	Having great power or effect	Powerful	Weak
Simple Example: *Social media is a potent tool for change.*			
Rebounded	Recovered after a fall	Recovered	Slumped
Simple Example: *Sales rebounded after the festival season.*			
Chokehold	Complete control that restricts others	Stranglehold	Release
Simple Example: *A few firms have a chokehold on the market.*			
Battering	Heavy and repeated damage	Pounding	Protection
Simple Example: *The coast took a battering from the cyclone.*			
Concessions	Things given up to reach agreement	Compromises	Demands
Simple Example: *Both sides made concessions to end the strike.*			
Deadlock	A situation where no progress is possible	Standstill	Breakthrough
Simple Example: *The talks ended in deadlock again.*			
Stalemate	A situation where neither side can win	Impasse	Resolution
Simple Example: *The border dispute remains in a stalemate.*			

Idioms

Idiom	Actual Meaning	Simple Meaning

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Play hardball	To act tough and uncompromising to get what one wants	Act tough
Cut a deal	To reach an agreement, often after bargaining	Make a deal
Sooner or later	At some time in the future, certainly	Eventually

Quick Recall: Sanctions • Strait of Hormuz • Diplomacy

EDITORIAL 5: DELHI HAS A WINTER PLAN, BUT CLEAN AIR NEEDS MORE THAN BANS

Source: The Indian Express

[GS3/Environment] | [GS2/Governance] | [Banking Awareness] | [SSC GK]

Core Issue

Delhi has announced its winter anti-pollution plan in advance, which the editorial welcomes, but it argues that bans and restrictions alone cannot clear the smog without regional coordination and a year-round governance framework.

Context

The plan, effective from November 1, includes curbs on construction, tighter checks on vehicles and industries, higher parking charges, staggered office timings and work-from-home mandates, measures that have been in use for at least five years with only partial effect. Announcing it early gives agencies time to coordinate on waste management, air-quality monitoring, transport and enforcement. The editorial notes that municipal and even NCR boundaries are too narrow to tackle the winter crisis; the plan speaks of coordinated action on farm pollution, but stubble burning has already begun in Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. A Super El Nino could reduce the western disturbances that bring rain, and peak stubble burning may coincide with Diwali. It credits Delhi's new EV policy as a year-round step and says measures such as work from home should be framed around well-being, not coercion.

UPSC Mains Lane

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

• Intro: Delhi's advance winter plan is a welcome break from last-minute emergency measures against smog.

• Body 1: Most measures (construction curbs, vehicle checks, staggered timings) are old and only partly effective; a fragmented approach has undone past plans.

• Body 2: Pollution is regional — stubble burning in neighbouring States, a possible Super El Nino and Diwali can overlap, so city limits and even NCR boundaries are insufficient.

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• Counter/way forward: Inter-State coordination, reliable public transport, the EV policy and incentives for sustained reduction should replace reliance on bans.

• Conclusion: Public demand for clean air must be turned into year-round political and administrative action.

Syllabus Anchor: GS3 — Environmental pollution and degradation; GS2 — Government policies and inter-State coordination

UPSC Prelims Lane

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

Q1. As per the editorial, from which date will Delhi's winter anti-pollution plan come into effect?

(A) October 15

(B) November 1

(C) October 1

(D) November 15

Answer: B

Q2. As per the editorial, which climate phenomenon could reduce rain-causing western disturbances this year?

(A) La Nina

(B) Indian Ocean Dipole

(C) Super El Nino

(D) Madden-Julian Oscillation

Answer: C

Q3. As per the editorial, which recent Delhi policy is noted as a step towards year-long pollution control?

(A) EV policy

(B) Solar rooftop policy

(C) Parking policy

(D) Odd-even scheme

Answer: A

Vocabulary

Vocabs	Simple Meaning	Synonym	Antonym
Dreaded	Greatly feared	Feared	Welcome
Simple Example: *The dreaded exam results were finally out.*			

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Staggered	Arranged at different times to avoid overlap	Spaced out	Simultaneous
Simple Example: *Schools adopted staggered timings to reduce crowding.*			
Arsenal	A collection of tools or resources	Stockpile	Shortage
Simple Example: *Patience is the best weapon in a teacher's arsenal.*			
Mitigating	Making something less severe	Easing	Worsening
Simple Example: *Trees play a role in mitigating urban heat.*			
Fragmented	Broken into separate parts	Divided	Unified
Simple Example: *A fragmented opposition helped the ruling party.*			
Undoing	The cause of someone's failure or ruin	Downfall	Salvation
Simple Example: *Overconfidence proved to be his undoing.*			
Coincide	To happen at the same time	Concur	Diverge
Simple Example: *The sale will coincide with the festival.*			
Endeavour	A serious attempt or effort	Effort	Neglect
Simple Example: *Cleaning the river is a long-term endeavour.*			
Coercion	Using force or threats to make someone act	Compulsion	Persuasion
Simple Example: *The confession was taken under coercion.*			
Groundswell	A rapid build-up of public feeling	Surge	Decline
Simple Example: *There is a groundswell of support for the new park.*			

Idioms

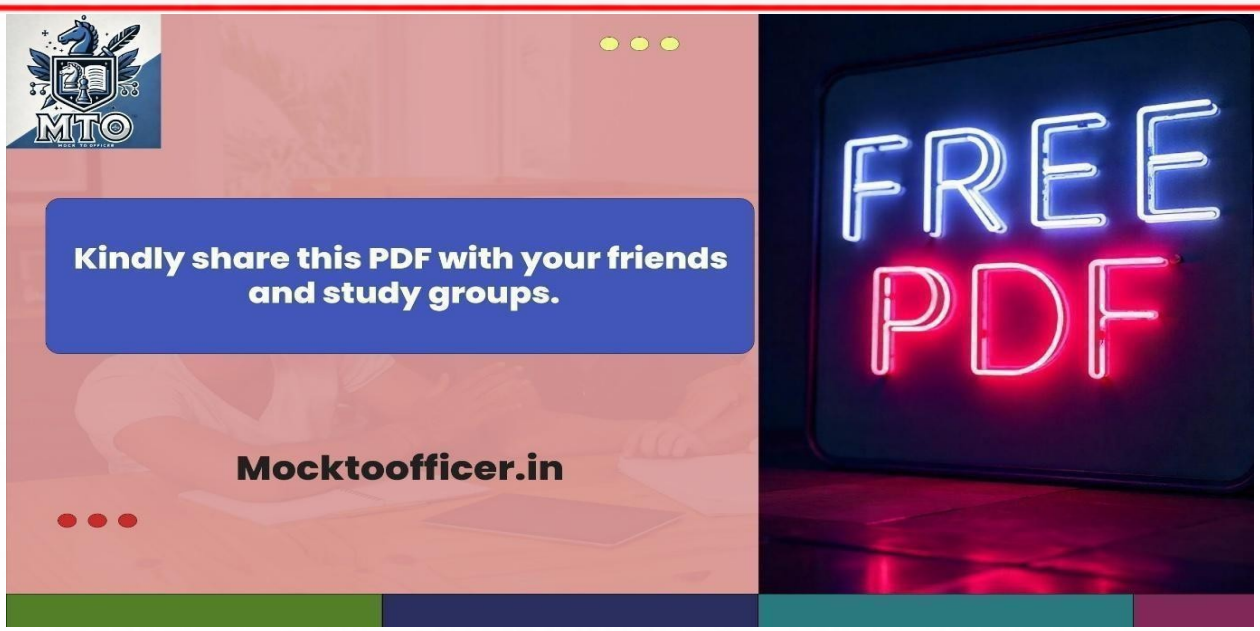
Idiom	Actual Meaning	Simple Meaning
Set the ball rolling	To start an activity or process	Get started
Have one's task cut out	To face a very difficult job	Face a hard task
In the same vein	In a similar style or manner	Similarly

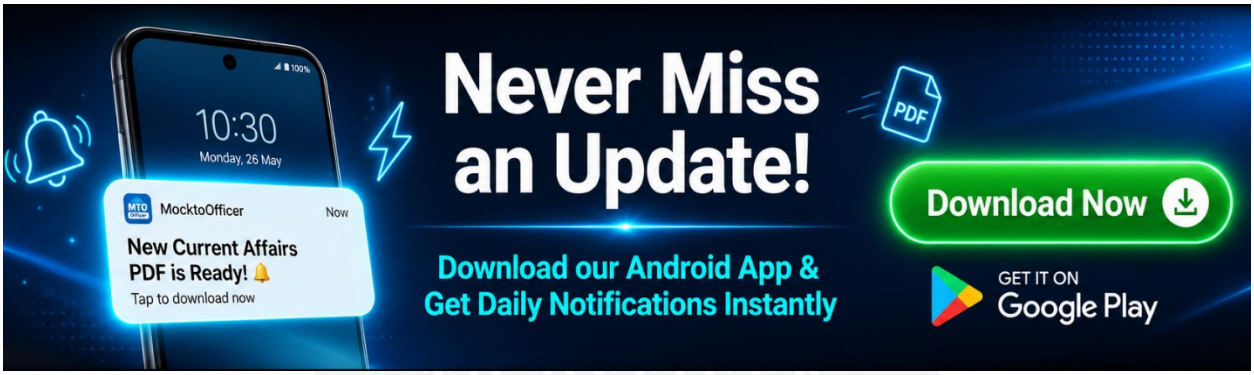
Quick Recall: Air Pollution · Coordination · Governance

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