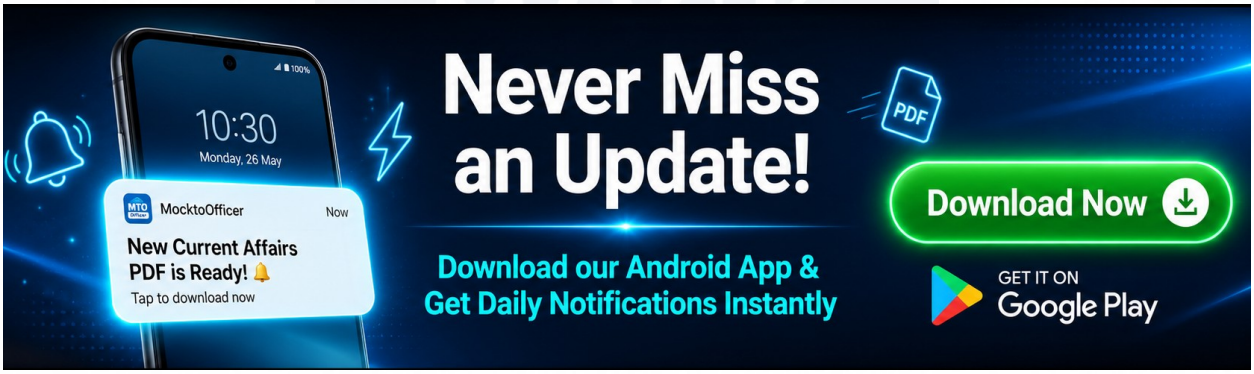
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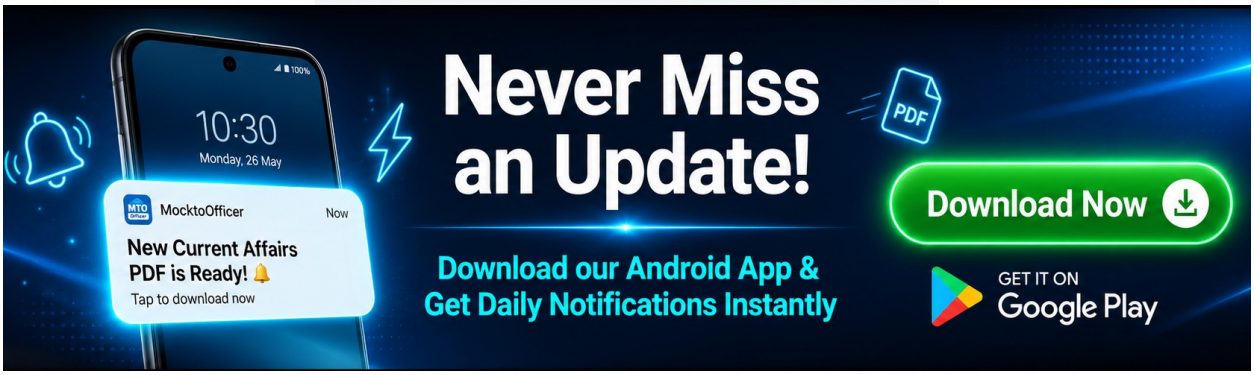
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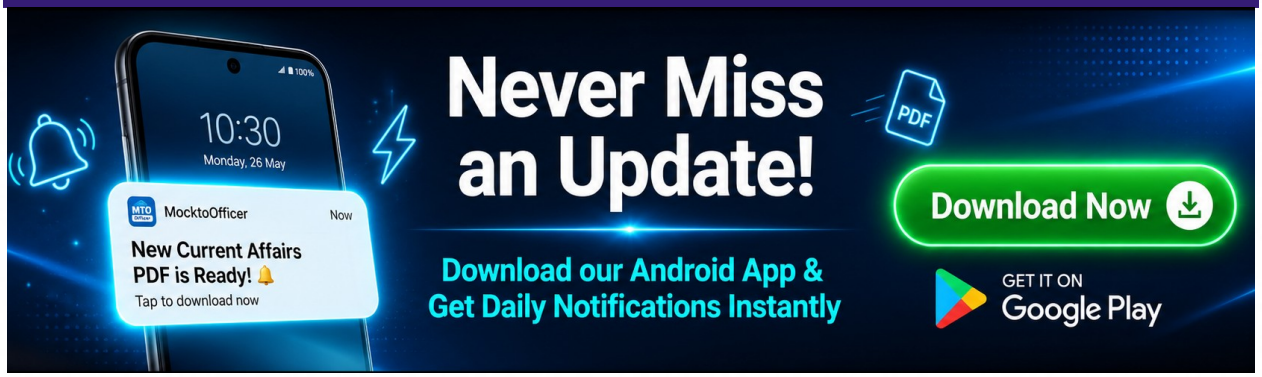
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Dear Aspirants,

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: 02-Oct-2026

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EDITORIAL 1: BITTER PILLS: ON THE SUPREME COURT AND DRUG PRICING BY RETAILERS

Source: The Hindu

[GS2/Health] | [GS3/Economy] | [Banking Awareness] | [SSC GK]

Core Issue

The Supreme Court has criticised the very large gaps between the price to retailer (PTR) and the maximum retail price (MRP) of some drugs, including cancer medicines; the editorial backs the intervention and suggests how trade margins should be capped.

Context

In some cases the PTR-MRP gap reaches 1,000%. Because these drugs are sold only on prescription, hospitals effectively choose the brand, so companies compete for hospitals rather than patients: they print high MRPs and offer hospitals low PTRs, letting the hospital keep the difference. This is not technically a kickback but works like one, and Competition Commission probes have found private hospitals forcing patients to buy from in-house pharmacies. Drug regulators in Karnataka and Maharashtra have also flagged the financial strain on patients. The gap lies in the Drug (Prices Control) Order, 2013, which caps the final price of scheduled drugs but not the markup on hospital deals: if the NPPA's average price is Rs 100, the ceiling is Rs 116, and a hospital buying at Rs 50 keeps Rs 66. In a 2019 proof-of-concept, the NPPA capped trade margins of 42 non-schedule anti-cancer drugs at 30%, and prices of 526 brands fell by up to 91%. The editorial supports the Court's idea of a fixed markup but wants a regressive margin, with a smaller percentage as prices rise. It also recalls that the Court had refused to intervene in Siddharth Dalmia (2025).

UPSC Mains Lane

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

• Intro: Affordable medicines are central to the right to health; the Court's scrutiny of PTR-MRP gaps exposes a hidden market failure in drug retail.

• Body 1: Patients do not choose prescription brands, so firms reward hospitals with wide margins on inflated MRPs, pushing out cheaper equivalent drugs.

• Body 2: The 2013 Drug (Prices Control) Order caps only the final price; the 2019 trade-margin cap on 42 anti-cancer drugs cut prices of 526 brands by up to 91%.

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• Counter/way forward: A fixed markup with a regressive slab, action against captive hospital pharmacies and wider price transparency can restore competition.

• Conclusion: Rationalising trade margins would cut out-of-pocket spending and help patients stick to long treatment regimens.

Syllabus Anchor: GS2 — Issues relating to development and management of Health; GS3 — Government policies on drug pricing

UPSC Prelims Lane

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

Q1. As per the editorial, the regulatory gap in drug pricing lies in which instrument?

(A) Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940

(B) Drug (Prices Control) Order, 2013

(C) Essential Commodities Act, 1955

(D) Competition Act, 2002

Answer: B

Q2. As per the editorial, at what level did the NPPA cap trade margins of 42 non-schedule anti-cancer drugs in 2019?

(A) 20%

(B) 25%

(C) 30%

(D) 35%

Answer: C

Q3. As per the editorial, prices of how many brands dropped after the 2019 trade-margin cap?

(A) 42

(B) 526

(C) 116

(D) 91

Answer: B

Vocabulary

Vocabs	Simple Meaning	Synonym	Antonym
Upbraided	Scolded or criticised sharply	Rebuked	Praised
Simple Example: *The coach upbraided the players for arriving late.*			

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Disparities	Large differences or gaps between things	Gaps	Similarities
Simple Example: *Income disparities between cities and villages are still wide.*			
Incentivise	To encourage by offering a reward	Motivate	Discourage
Simple Example: *Shops incentivise early buyers with small discounts.*			
Inflated	Raised to an unfairly high level	Exaggerated	Reduced
Simple Example: *The seller quoted an inflated price for the old car.*			
Kickback	An illegal payment for arranging a deal	Bribe	Penalty
Simple Example: *The officer was caught taking a kickback from a contractor.*			
Undermining	Gradually weakening something	Weakening	Strengthening
Simple Example: *Rumours are undermining trust in the new scheme.*			
Adherence	Sticking firmly to a rule or plan	Compliance	Violation
Simple Example: *Strict adherence to the diet improved his health.*			
Compressible	Able to be squeezed or reduced	Reducible	Fixed
Simple Example: *Travel costs are compressible if you book early.*			
Insidious	Harmful in a slow, hidden way	Stealthy	Obvious
Simple Example: *Plastic pollution is an insidious threat to rivers.*			
Counterbalance	To offset an effect with an opposite force	Offset	Aggravate
Simple Example: *Savings can counterbalance a sudden rise in expenses.*			

Idioms

Idiom	Actual Meaning	Simple Meaning
Shop around	To compare prices at different places before buying	Compare prices

Quick Recall: Drug Pricing · Trade Margins · Right to Health

EDITORIAL 2: GOOD FOUNDATION: ON INDIA'S INDUSTRIAL GROWTH

Source: The Hindu

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

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Core Issue

Growth in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) quickened to 8% in August 2026, extending a strong run since the start of the financial year and setting the economy up well for the festive season.

Context

August's 8% was the second fastest since April 2024, the earliest month with growth data in the new IIP series; the fastest, 8.8%, came in June 2026. IIP growth for April-August stood at 6.8%, ahead of the same period in each of the previous two years. The new series has an updated base year, more data sources and a better methodology, and it now largely tracks the Index of Core Industries (ICI): electricity grew 12.3% in the IIP against 11.6% in the ICI, construction goods grew 6.4% (8% in July), and cement grew 12.5% in the ICI (12.7% in July). Manufacturing grew nearly 9% in August and averaged 7.6% in April-August, against about 4.2% in the first five months of the previous year. Early in the year, manufacturing was driven by exports; it is now also supported by domestic demand, with consumer durables up 11.1% and non-durables back to growth of a little over 2% after a July contraction. With the effect of the September 2025 GST rate cuts likely faded, producers appear to expect a strong festive season, making the third quarter crucial.

UPSC Mains Lane

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

• Intro: IIP growth of 8% in August 2026, with 6.8% for April-August, points to sustained industrial momentum.

• Body 1: Manufacturing has accelerated to an average of 7.6%, despite input-cost pressures, signalling stronger production capacity.

• Body 2: Growth drivers are broadening from exports to domestic consumption, as consumer durables rose 11.1% in August.

• Counter/way forward: Non-durables growth is still weak at about 2%; sustaining demand beyond the festive season needs job and income growth.

• Conclusion: The new, better-aligned data series adds credibility, and the October-December quarter will test whether the groundwork holds.

Syllabus Anchor: GS3 — Indian economy: growth, development and industrial policy

UPSC Prelims Lane

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

Q1. As per the editorial, what was IIP growth in August 2026?

(A) 6.8%

(B) 8%

(C) 8.8%

(D) 12.3%

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Answer: B

Q2. As per the editorial, IIP data now largely match the trends of which other index?

(A) Wholesale Price Index

(B) Consumer Price Index

(C) Purchasing Managers' Index

(D) Index of Core Industries

Answer: D

Q3. As per the editorial, by how much did consumer durables grow in August 2026?

(A) 11.1%

(B) 2%

(C) 9%

(D) 12.5%

Answer: A

Vocabulary

Vocabs	Simple Meaning	Synonym	Antonym
Streak	A continuous run of success or failure	Run	Break
Simple Example: *The team extended its winning streak to six matches.*			
Quickened	Became faster	Accelerated	Slowed
Simple Example: *Her pace quickened as the bus came into view.*			
Robust	Strong and healthy	Sturdy	Weak
Simple Example: *The company posted robust sales this quarter.*			
Corresponding	Matching in time, position or purpose	Matching	Unrelated
Simple Example: *Sales rose compared with the corresponding month last year.*			
Accurate	Correct in every detail	Precise	Wrong
Simple Example: *Check that the figures in the bill are accurate.*			
Divergences	Differences or departures from a pattern	Differences	Agreements
Simple Example: *There were minor divergences between the two reports.*			
Alignment	Agreement or matching between things	Agreement	Mismatch
Simple Example: *There is close alignment between the two plans.*			

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Acceleration	An increase in speed or rate	Speed-up	Slowdown
Simple Example: *Economists welcomed the acceleration in factory output.*			
Supplemented	Added to something to make it stronger	Boosted	Reduced
Simple Example: *She supplemented her income with weekend tutoring.*			
Groundwork	Basic work done to prepare for something	Foundation	Conclusion
Simple Example: *Good groundwork made the final exam much easier.*			

Idioms

Idiom	Actual Meaning	Simple Meaning
Peter out	To gradually become weaker and come to an end	Slowly fade away

Quick Recall: IIP · Manufacturing · Festive Demand

EDITORIAL 3: AT NAGOYA, PROMISES KEPT, A WINNING ARC

Source: The Indian Express

[Banking Awareness] | [SSC GK]

Core Issue

Compound archers Chikitha Taniparthi and Sahil Rajesh Jadhav won mixed team gold at Nagoya, giving India its first Los Angeles Olympic quota from the Asian Games and rewarding years of persistence.

Context

India has developed compound archery since 2003, even though most sporting powerhouses ignored it because it was not an Olympic event. Recurve Olympian Sanjeeva Kumar Singh, drawn to the simpler bow, brought it to India 23 years ago. At Nagoya, the Indian pair beat Koreans Choi Eun-gyu and Jung Yoon-park for gold in the mixed team event. Over the next two years, talents such as multiple world champion Jyothi Surekha Vennam and last edition's winner Aditi Swami, along with archers from Punjab, Maharashtra and Telangana, will compete in trials for LA 2028; the men's team follows pioneer Abhishek Verma. Chikitha's parents sold their rice harvester and she lost Rs 1.5 lakh to a fraud over a bow, while Sahil shot with bent arrows after his father lost his job during Covid, until his mother sold her jewellery to refurbish his equipment.

UPSC Mains Lane

Mains use: intro anecdote only — two archers who overcame a family's lost harvester and bent arrows to win gold at Nagoya make a strong hook for essays on grit, grassroots talent and sports funding.

UPSC Prelims Lane

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

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Q1. As per the editorial, where did India win the compound archery mixed team gold?

(A) Nagoya

(B) Hangzhou

(C) Busan

(D) Tokyo

Answer: A

Q2. As per the editorial, who brought compound archery to India?

(A) Abhishek Verma

(B) Sanjeeva Kumar Singh

(C) Jyothi Surekha Vennam

(D) Limba Ram

Answer: B

Q3. As per the editorial, since which year has India been developing compound archery?

(A) 1998

(B) 2010

(C) 2014

(D) 2003

Answer: D

Vocabulary

Vocabs	Simple Meaning	Synonym	Antonym
Honing	Sharpening or improving a skill	Refining	Neglecting
Simple Example: *She spent years honing her public-speaking skills.*			
Powerhouses	People or groups with great strength or influence	Giants	Minnows
Simple Example: *Brazil and Germany are football powerhouses.*			
Smitten	Strongly attracted to someone or something	Captivated	Indifferent
Simple Example: *He was smitten by the hill town on his first visit.*			
Clinch	To win or settle something decisively	Secure	Lose
Simple Example: *A late goal helped the team clinch the title.*			
Vindication	Proof that someone was right	Justification	Condemnation

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Simple Example: The verdict was a vindication of her long fight.			
Elite	Belonging to the best or most skilled group	Top-class	Ordinary
Simple Example: Only elite athletes qualify for the national camp.			
Boasts	Has something impressive	Possesses	Lacks
Simple Example: The town boasts a fine old library.			
Tremendous	Very great in amount or level	Immense	Meagre
Simple Example: The volunteers did tremendous work after the flood.			
Pioneer	The first person to do something new	Trailblazer	Follower
Simple Example: He was a pioneer of solar power in the village.			
Refurbish	To repair and improve something	Renovate	Damage
Simple Example: The school plans to refurbish its old laboratory.			

Idioms

Idiom	Actual Meaning	Simple Meaning
Follow in the footsteps of	To do the same things someone did before you	Copy a predecessor
Keep at it	To continue working hard at something	Keep trying

Quick Recall: Archery · Grit · LA 2028

EDITORIAL 4: WITH CENTRAL VISTA, A LIBRARY WITHOUT A HOME AND A LARGER ABSENCE

Source: The Indian Express

[GS1/Culture] | [GS2/Governance] | [Banking Awareness] | [SSC GK]

Core Issue

The Central Secretariat Library (CSL), an archive of the Indian state, has no secure new home as Shastri Bhawan makes way for the Central Vista redevelopment, which the editorial calls a troubling statement of priorities.

Context

The CSL was set up in 1891 as the Imperial Secretariat Library in Calcutta, moved to Delhi with the capital and was renamed after Independence. It holds over 8.5 lakh books and documents, some dating back to 1702, and has been housed in Shastri Bhawan since 1969. As early as 2023, the Culture Ministry sought

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matching space in the new Common Central Secretariat. Debates over the demolition of the National Archives Annexe and the shift of the National Museum's collections to the Yuge Yugeen Bharat Museum in the North and South Blocks have stressed the need for cataloguing, conservation, climate-controlled storage, digitisation, trained staff and access. The editorial cites a warning from the CSL's own past: its regional languages section, the Tulsi Sadan Library, was temporarily shut in 2011 for the Mandi House Metro station, its contents moved to the National School of Drama, and it remains closed.

UPSC Mains Lane

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

• Intro: Libraries and archives hold a state's institutional memory; the CSL, older than the republic, is now left without a planned home.

• Body 1: Relocation was foreseeable in a long-term project, and the Culture Ministry had sought space in 2023, so the gap reflects poor planning.

• Body 2: Preserving national heritage needs inventories, conservation labs, climate-controlled storage, digitisation and trained staff built in from the start.

• Counter/way forward: Redevelopment can modernise administration, but heritage impact assessments and time-bound relocation plans must be part of such projects.

• Conclusion: The Tulsi Sadan precedent shows temporary displacement can become permanent loss; the government must secure the CSL's future.

Syllabus Anchor: GS1 — Indian culture: conservation of heritage and archives; GS2 — Government policies and their implementation

UPSC Prelims Lane

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

Q1. As per the editorial, in which year was the Central Secretariat Library established as the Imperial Secretariat Library?

(A) 1858

(B) 1891

(C) 1911

(D) 1947

Answer: B

Q2. As per the editorial, since which year has the CSL been housed in Shastri Bhawan?

(A) 1950

(B) 1962

(C) 1969

(D) 1975

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Answer: C

Q3. As per the editorial, the National Museum's collections are being moved to which museum?

(A) Yuge Yugeen Bharat Museum

(B) Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya

(C) National Gallery of Modern Art

(D) Indian Museum

Answer: A

Vocabulary

Vocabs	Simple Meaning	Synonym	Antonym
Predates	Existed earlier than something else	Precedes	Follows
Simple Example: *This temple predates the town around it.*			
Repository	A place where things are kept safely	Storehouse	Void
Simple Example: *The museum is a repository of local history.*			
Storied	Famous and much talked about	Celebrated	Obscure
Simple Example: *The storied stadium hosted its final match.*			
Unforeseen	Not expected or predicted	Unexpected	Predicted
Simple Example: *Unforeseen delays pushed the project back by months.*			
Commensurate	Matching in size or degree	Proportionate	Disproportionate
Simple Example: *Pay should be commensurate with experience.*			
Underscored	Emphasised or highlighted	Stressed	Downplayed
Simple Example: *The floods underscored the need for better drains.*			
Integral	Essential to make something complete	Essential	Peripheral
Simple Example: *Sport is an integral part of school life.*			
Cautionary	Serving as a warning	Warning	Encouraging
Simple Example: *His failure is a cautionary tale for investors.*			
Durable	Able to last a long time	Lasting	Fragile
Simple Example: *Steel makes the bridge more durable.*			
Befall	To happen to someone, usually something bad	Strike	Spare
Simple Example: *We hope no harm will befall the travellers.*			

Idioms

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Idiom	Actual Meaning	Simple Meaning
Make way for	To be removed so that something else can take its place	Give way to
From the outset	From the very beginning	From the start
To this day	Even now; up to the present time	Even now

Quick Recall: Heritage • Archives • Planning

EDITORIAL 5: NETANYAHU'S SURPRISE VISIT AND A GULF TOO WIDE

Source: The Indian Express

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

Core Issue

Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu's second visit to Abu Dhabi since the West Asia war began signals closer Israel-UAE ties, but without a political framework for regional disputes, the stability both seek will remain elusive.

Context

Israel and the UAE signed the Abraham Accords in September 2020, driven by the perceived threat from Iran and economic interests, and have since kept a low public profile. Netanyahu's trip, his second since the war began in late February, comes as Iran's grip on the Strait of Hormuz weakens and as the UAE and Saudi Arabia show signs of a thaw after tensions over economic rivalry and the civil wars in Yemen and Sudan. In Israel, a row has erupted before the October election over reports that UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan had warned Netanyahu of a Hamas attack days before October 7, 2023, which Netanyahu denies. Iran's drone and missile strikes on Gulf states, with the UAE hit hardest, exposed the limits of relying only on the U.S. security umbrella. With West Asian crude exports rising in September, Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf warned that if Iran cannot sell oil, no one will. The UAE has bought air-defence and counter-drone systems from Israel, but Israel's wars in Lebanon, Syria and Gaza and West Bank settlements continue to shape Arab opinion.

UPSC Mains Lane

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

• Intro: The Abraham Accords (2020) turned Israel-UAE ties from secret contacts into a strategic partnership; Netanyahu's visit shows it deepening in wartime.

• Body 1: Iran's strikes on Gulf states have pushed the UAE to seek partners that offer hard security, such as Israeli air-defence and counter-drone systems.

• Body 2: For Israel, an Arab partner across the Gulf gives strategic depth and diplomatic value while its Gaza war draws global criticism.

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• Counter/way forward: Arms ties cannot settle the Palestinian question or conflicts in Lebanon and Syria; a political framework is needed for lasting stability.

• Conclusion: Regional states are carving out their own paths as U.S.-Iran ties swing between talks and escalation, but security without politics stays fragile.

Syllabus Anchor: GS2 — Bilateral, regional and global groupings; effect of policies of other countries on India's interests (West Asia)

UPSC Prelims Lane

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

Q1. As per the editorial, when did Israel and the UAE sign the Abraham Accords?

(A) September 2018

(B) September 2020

(C) October 2023

(D) February 2026

Answer: B

Q2. As per the editorial, who is the Speaker of Iran's Parliament quoted on oil sales?

(A) Abbas Araghchi

(B) Ali Larijani

(C) Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf

(D) Masoud Pezeshkian

Answer: C

Q3. As per the editorial, which Gulf country was hit hardest by Iran's retaliation?

(A) Saudi Arabia

(B) Qatar

(C) Bahrain

(D) UAE

Answer: D

Vocabulary

Vocabs	Simple Meaning	Synonym	Antonym
Discreet	Careful and quiet, avoiding attention	Low-key	Conspicuous
Simple Example: *The minister held discreet talks with the rebels.*			

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Backdrop	The general situation in which something happens	Background	Foreground
Simple Example: *The talks took place against a backdrop of rising prices.*			
Thaw	An easing of tension between two sides	Warming	Freeze
Simple Example: *Trade talks signalled a thaw between the neighbours.*			
Deteriorated	Became worse	Worsened	Improved
Simple Example: *His health deteriorated during the long winter.*			
Impending	About to happen	Imminent	Distant
Simple Example: *Farmers were warned of an impending storm.*			
Retaliation	Hitting back in response to an attack	Reprisal	Forgiveness
Simple Example: *The new tariffs were seen as retaliation for the ban.*			
Pummelling	Hitting repeatedly and with force	Pounding	Sparing
Simple Example: *Heavy rain kept pummelling the coastal villages.*			
Destabilise	To make something unsteady or unsafe	Unsettle	Stabilise
Simple Example: *Fake news can destabilise a fragile peace.*			
Adventurism	Taking reckless risks, especially in war or politics	Recklessness	Caution
Simple Example: *Military adventurism often leaves nations poorer.*			
Elusive	Hard to find or achieve	Evasive	Attainable
Simple Example: *Peace in the region remains elusive.*			

Idioms

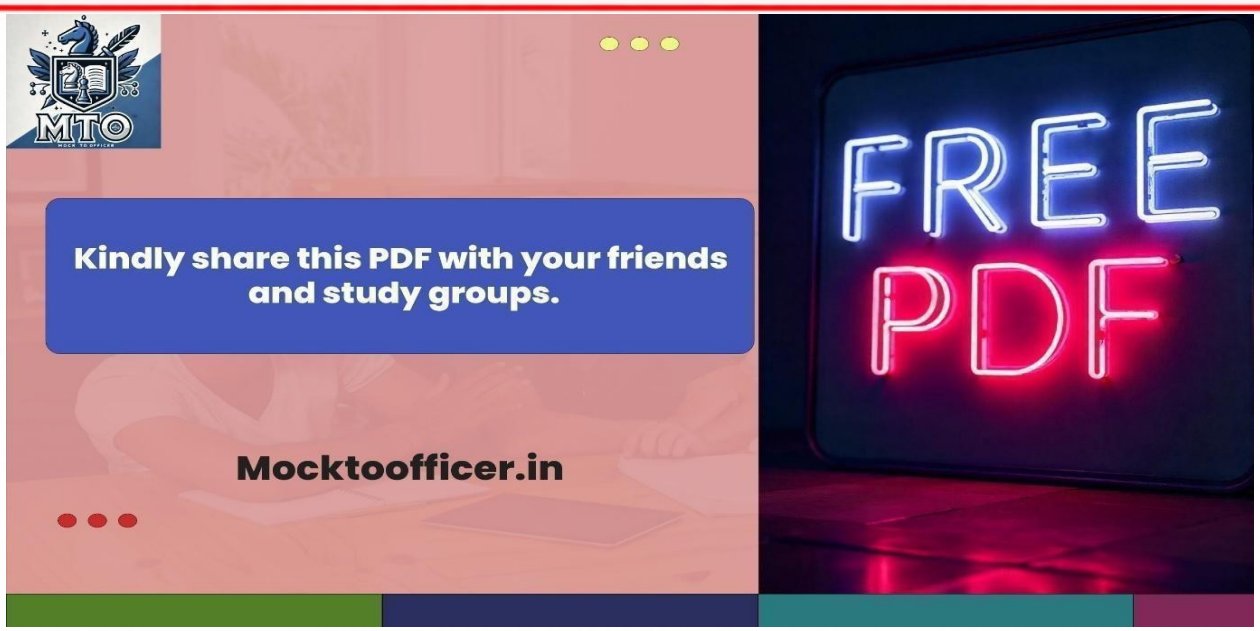
Idiom	Actual Meaning	Simple Meaning
Far from over	Not yet finished or settled	Not finished yet
Carve out	To create something for oneself through effort	Create for oneself

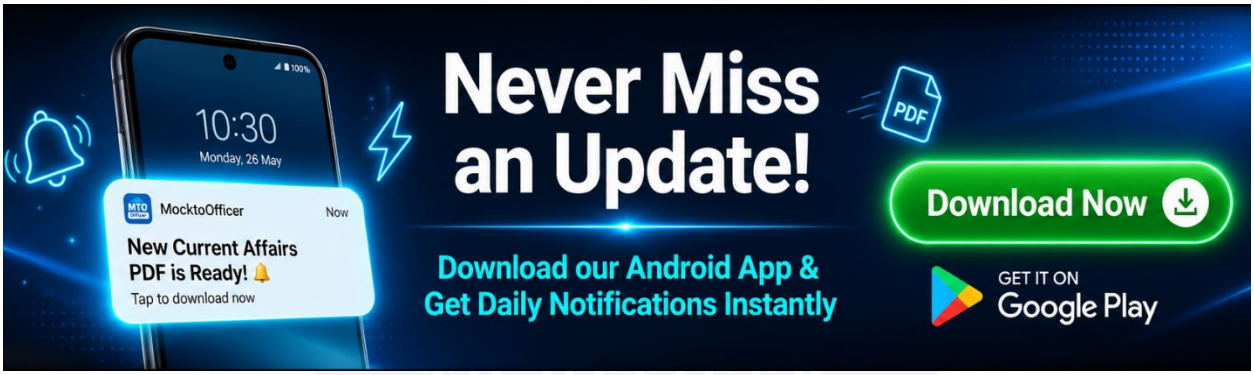
Quick Recall: Abraham Accords · Gulf Security · West Asia

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