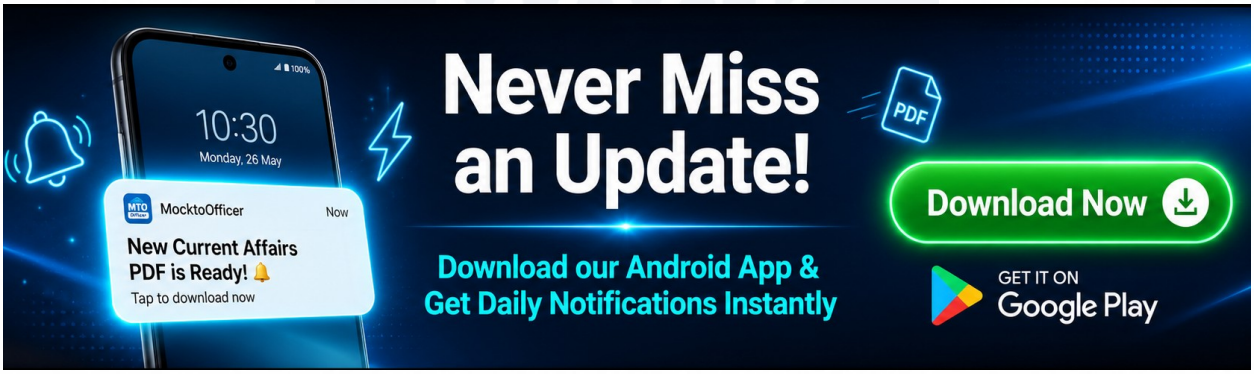
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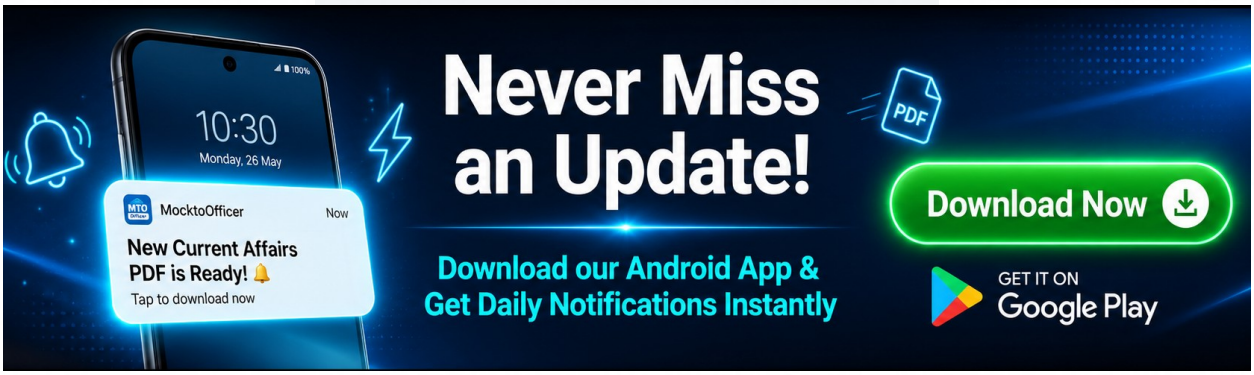
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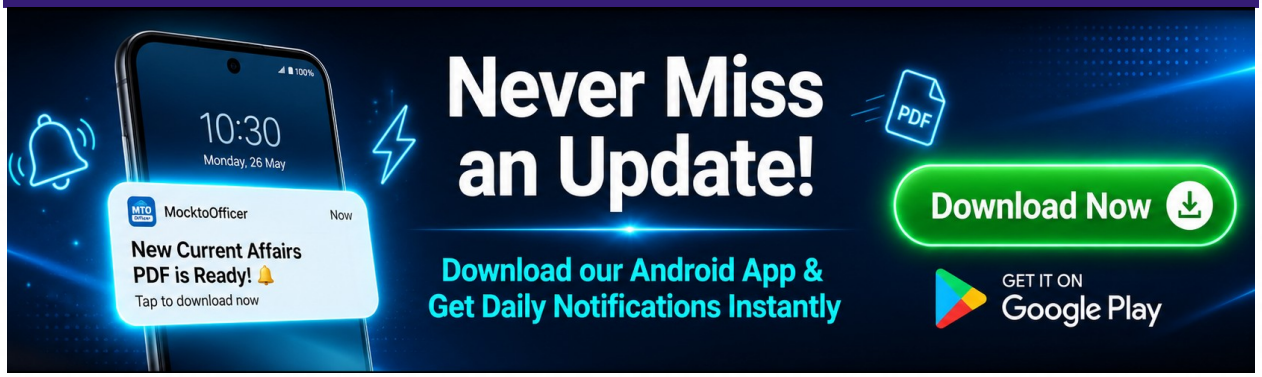
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Dear Aspirants,

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: 07-Oct-2026

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EDITORIAL 1: GOOD, NOT GOOD ENOUGH: ON INDIA AND THE AICHI-NAGOYA ASIAN GAMES 2026

Source: The Hindu

[Banking Awareness] | [SSC GK]

Core Issue

India finished fourth at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games with 85 medals, short of its own target of about 100; the editorial warns that without better sporting standards, India should not bid to host the 2036 Olympics.

Context

India won 85 medals from about 500 athletes, compared with 106 medals from a contingent of over 650 at Hangzhou. It laboured to 21 golds, seven fewer than before, after a late surge of 11 golds in the last two days. India tied with Uzbekistan on golds but kept fourth place on a bigger silver haul. Thirteen golds came from team events, but individual sports such as athletics, swimming, gymnastics, fencing and cycling remain weak; China won 341 medals, including 54 in swimming alone. On the bright side, India fielded 310 debutants, 17-year-old archer Kumkum Mohod ended Korean dominance, and the women's hockey team beat China to win gold after 44 years. Men and women won 38 medals each, but athletics and shooting fell by 12 medals and tennis returned empty-handed after 40 years. The editorial urges stricter scrutiny of athletes' funding and better implementation of the revamped Khelo India scheme.

UPSC Mains Lane

Mains use: intro anecdote only — India's 85-medal Asian Games finish against its Olympic 2036 ambition is a neat hook for essays on sports policy, talent pipelines or the gap between funding and results.

UPSC Prelims Lane

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

Q1. As per the editorial, how many medals did India win at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games?

(A) 85

(B) 106

(C) 100

(D) 21

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Answer: A

Q2. As per the editorial, with which country did India tie on gold medals at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games?

(A) Japan

(B) Uzbekistan

(C) South Korea

(D) China

Answer: B

Q3. As per the editorial, how many medals did China win in swimming alone?

(A) 24

(B) 38

(C) 54

(D) 169

Answer: C

Vocabulary

Vocabs	Simple Meaning	Synonym	Antonym
Laboured	Moved or worked with great effort and difficulty	Struggled	Cruised
Simple Example: *The old truck laboured up the steep hill.*			
Hegemony	Leadership or dominance of one group over others	Dominance	Subordination
Simple Example: *The young team ended the champions' hegemony.*			
Rookie	A beginner or new member in a field	Novice	Veteran
Simple Example: *The rookie pilot landed the plane smoothly.*			
Propelling	Driving or pushing something forward	Driving	Hindering
Simple Example: *Strong winds were propelling the boat ahead.*			
Postmortem	A detailed review after something has ended	Review	Forecast
Simple Example: *The coach held a postmortem after the lost match.*			
Embarrassment	A feeling of shame or awkwardness	Humiliation	Pride
Simple Example: *He blushed with embarrassment at his mistake.*			

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Debutants	People appearing in an event or field for the first time	Newcomers	Veterans
Simple Example: *Ten debutants joined the national squad this year.*			
Revamped	Improved by changing or renewing	Overhauled	Neglected
Simple Example: *The school library was revamped last summer.*			
Noticeable	Easy to see or observe	Marked	Negligible
Simple Example: *There was a noticeable change in her handwriting.*			
Outshone	Performed much better than others	Surpassed	Lagged
Simple Example: *The new batter outshone every senior player.*			

Idioms

Idiom	Actual Meaning	Simple Meaning
Reality check	A moment that shows the true situation	A wake-up call
Hog the limelight	To take all the public attention	Take all attention
Live up to one's billing	To perform as well as expected	Meet expectations

Quick Recall: Asian Games 2026 · 85 Medals · Olympics 2036

EDITORIAL 2: BIRD ISLANDS: ON INDIA'S BUSTARD CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

Source: The Hindu

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

Core Issue

Two male Great Indian Bustards were released at the Desert National Park in Jaisalmer, but the editorial argues that India's conservation policy is captive to symbolism and should protect landscapes, not just single species.

Context

The conservation plan now has 97 birds, with nine more awaiting release; 57 are captive-bred and produced 29 chicks this year. The species has teetered on the brink of extinction for about half a century, falling from around 1,260 in 1969 to a population of about 120 now. Ornithologist Salim Ali wanted it as the national bird, but the Indian Board for Wildlife chose the peacock. Hunting, irrigated fields and roads, and high-tension power lines, which the heavy, poor-sighted bird often collides with, are the main threats. In 2021 the Supreme Court ordered low-voltage lines in priority habitats to go underground, and later limited the order to the bird's 'critical' habitat after pushback from renewable energy companies. Nearly

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1,256 bird species, about 11.5% of the world's total, are threatened; skylark numbers have fallen nearly 80%. The editorial adds that cheetah enclosures and Gir's confined lions show a preference for islands, which overflow into villages and fields.

UPSC Mains Lane

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

• Intro: The release of two Great Indian Bustards highlights both the progress and the limits of India's species-based conservation.

• Body 1: Captive breeding, 97 birds under the plan and 29 new chicks show that recovery is possible for a bird once near extinction.

• Body 2: Power lines, irrigation and the loss of grasslands, once dismissed as 'wastelands', continue to threaten the bird's survival.

• Counter/way forward: Enclosures and island-style reserves have merits but cause human-wildlife conflict; landscape-level conservation is needed.

• Conclusion: Moving from symbolic species to protected landscapes will help many threatened birds, not just the bustard.

Syllabus Anchor: GS3 — Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment

UPSC Prelims Lane

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

Q1. As per the editorial, at which national park were two male Great Indian Bustards released?

(A) Ranthambore National Park

(B) Desert National Park

(C) Sariska National Park

(D) Kaziranga National Park

Answer: B

Q2. As per the editorial, which bird did the Indian Board for Wildlife choose as the national bird instead of the bustard?

(A) Peacock

(B) Sarus Crane

(C) Flamingo

(D) Great Hornbill

Answer: A

Q3. As per the editorial, in which year did the Supreme Court order low-voltage power lines in priority habitats to go underground?

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(A) 2018

(B) 2019

(C) 2021

(D) 2023

Answer: C

Vocabulary

Vocabs	Simple Meaning	Synonym	Antonym
Teetered	Stayed in an unsteady, risky position	Wobbled	Steadied
Simple Example: *The cup teetered at the edge of the table.*			
Brink	The edge of something, often a dangerous one	Verge	Centre
Simple Example: *The company was on the brink of closing.*			
Pomp	Grand and showy ceremony	Splendour	Simplicity
Simple Example: *The festival opened with great pomp and music.*			
Prized	Valued very highly	Treasured	Despised
Simple Example: *She kept her grandmother's prized silver ring.*			
Opprobrium	Harsh public criticism or disgrace	Disgrace	Praise
Simple Example: *The decision drew public opprobrium.*			
Straying	Wandering away from the proper place or path	Wandering	Staying
Simple Example: *Straying cattle blocked the village road.*			
Stoking	Fuelling or adding strength to something	Fuelling	Dousing
Simple Example: *His remarks were stoking fear among villagers.*			
Travails	Painful or difficult efforts	Hardships	Comforts
Simple Example: *The book describes the travails of migrant workers.*			
Overflow	To spill over beyond a limit	Spill	Contain
Simple Example: *Heavy rain made the river overflow its banks.*			
Symbolism	Use of symbols or token gestures instead of real action	Tokenism	Substance
Simple Example: *Critics said the plan offered symbolism, not results.*			

Idioms

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Idiom	Actual Meaning	Simple Meaning
On the brink of	Very close to something big, often bad	Very close to
Give way to	To be replaced by something else	Be replaced by

Quick Recall: Great Indian Bustard • Power Lines • Landscape Conservation

EDITORIAL 3: NOBEL PRIZE FOR MEDICINE: A SINGLE CELL, A FLASH OF LIGHT

Source: The Indian Express

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

Core Issue

The 2026 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine honours Peter Hegemann, Karl Deisseroth and Georg Nagel for channelrhodopsin and optogenetics, which opened a new era in understanding the brain.

Context

Studying the microscopic alga Chlamydomonas in the 1990s, German photobiologist Peter Hegemann asked how it responds to light faster than the human eye. Hegemann and biophysicist Georg Nagel discovered channelrhodopsin, a protein that lets the alga react to light in half a millisecond, compared with about 10 milliseconds for the human eye. American neuroscientist Karl Deisseroth then built a 'light switch' to control nerve cells, inaugurating optogenetics. Researchers can now identify the precise brain circuits that control behaviour: why some people prefer sugar, how the heart's rhythms affect emotions, and how the brain stores fear, anxiety and depression. The editorial says the work offers hope for understanding psychiatric and neurological disorders.

UPSC Mains Lane

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

• Intro: The 2026 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine rewards a discovery that began with a simple alga's response to light.

• Body 1: Channelrhodopsin, found by Hegemann and Nagel, lets cells respond to light within half a millisecond.

• Body 2: Deisseroth's 'light switch' created optogenetics, which maps the brain circuits behind behaviour, emotion and memory.

• Counter/way forward: Neural-circuit research must be matched by safe clinical trials and ethical oversight of brain-control tools.

• Conclusion: Curiosity-driven basic science, as here, can unlock answers to the brain's deepest mysteries.

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Syllabus Anchor: GS3 — Science and Technology: developments and their applications; achievements of Indians in science

UPSC Prelims Lane

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

Q1. As per the editorial, which microscopic alga did Peter Hegemann study in the 1990s?

(A) Chlamydomonas

(B) Chlorella

(C) Spirulina

(D) Volvox

Answer: A

Q2. As per the editorial, which protein did Hegemann and Nagel discover?

(A) Rhodopsin

(B) Channelrhodopsin

(C) Melanopsin

(D) Haemoglobin

Answer: B

Q3. As per the editorial, which field did Karl Deisseroth's 'light switch' inaugurate?

(A) Genomics

(B) Proteomics

(C) Optogenetics

(D) Epigenetics

Answer: C

Vocabulary

Vocabs	Simple Meaning	Synonym	Antonym
Instinctively	Naturally, without thinking	Intuitively	Deliberately
Simple Example: *She instinctively stepped back from the fire.*			
Inaugurating	Starting something new in a formal way	Launching	Concluding
Simple Example: *The mayor is inaugurating the new bridge today.*			
Illumination	Light or lighting of a place	Lighting	Darkness
Simple Example: *Lamps gave soft illumination to the hall.*			

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Intimidating	Making one feel scared or less confident	Daunting	Reassuring
Simple Example: *The tall gate looked intimidating to visitors.*			
Breakthrough	An important discovery or sudden advance	Advance	Setback
Simple Example: *Doctors announced a breakthrough in cancer treatment.*			
Precise	Exact and accurate	Exact	Vague
Simple Example: *Give me precise directions to the station.*			
Preference	A greater liking for one thing over another	Liking	Aversion
Simple Example: *My preference is tea over coffee.*			
Consciousness	The state of being aware	Awareness	Unawareness
Simple Example: *He regained consciousness after an hour.*			
Complexities	Many connected and difficult parts of a matter	Intricacies	Simplicity
Simple Example: *The lawyer explained the complexities of the case.*			
Reside	To live in a particular place	Dwell	Depart
Simple Example: *Many students reside in the hostel.*			

Idioms

Idiom	Actual Meaning	Simple Meaning
Shed light on	To explain or make something clearer	Make clearer

Quick Recall: Nobel 2026 · Optogenetics · Channelrhodopsin

EDITORIAL 4: DELHI IS NOW WORKING FOR PEACE IN RUSSIA-UKRAINE

Source: The Indian Express

[GS2/International Relations] | [Prelims/Current Affairs] | [Banking Awareness] | [SSC GK]

Core Issue

India has moved from calling for peace to working for it in the Russia-Ukraine war; the editorial says Delhi should build on this by focusing on specific issues such as grain and energy.

Context

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Ukraine's Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha called India's proposal the 'most comprehensive' that Kyiv received, while President Putin said PM Modi 'constantly raises the question' of ending the conflict. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said India has gone 'beyond advocacy' and is talking to both sides. Since February 2022 India has urged restraint; in September that year, PM Modi told Putin that 'this is not an era of war'. Strikes on ports and vessels by Russia and Ukraine, both major grain exporters, have disrupted farm exports and raised the risk of a global food shock. Jaishankar warned of a 'major food crisis' ahead, along with fertiliser shortages. The editorial urges Delhi to avoid sweeping questions of territory and security guarantees, and to show even-handed diplomacy that answers critics who see India as too close to Russia.

UPSC Mains Lane

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

• Intro: India's shift from calling for peace to active mediation marks a more proactive phase in its Russia-Ukraine diplomacy.

• Body 1: Both Kyiv and Moscow have praised India's ideas, showing it retains trust on both sides of the conflict.

• Body 2: Attacks on ports and vessels threaten grain, fertiliser and energy supplies, so peace efforts serve India's own interests.

• Counter/way forward: India has less leverage than the US or China, so it should focus on narrow, shared-interest issues like grain and energy.

• Conclusion: Even-handed, issue-specific diplomacy can raise India's standing as a credible peace partner.

Syllabus Anchor: GS2 — India and its neighbourhood; Effect of policies and politics of developed countries on India's interests

UPSC Prelims Lane

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

Q1. As per the editorial, who is Ukraine's Foreign Minister who called India's proposal the 'most comprehensive'?

(A) Dmytro Kuleba

(B) Sergey Lavrov

(C) Volodymyr Zelenskyy

(D) Andrii Sybiha

Answer: D

Q2. As per the editorial, what did PM Modi tell President Putin in September 2022?

(A) This is not an era of war

(B) Peace is the only path

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(C) India stands with Russia

(D) War is never the answer

Answer: A

Q3. As per the editorial, S Jaishankar warned of a major crisis in which area in the coming months?

(A) Energy

(B) Food

(C) Banking

(D) Water

Answer: B

Vocabulary

Vocabs	Simple Meaning	Synonym	Antonym
Restraint	Control over one's actions or feelings	Self-control	Recklessness
Simple Example: *Both sides showed restraint during the talks.*			
Advocacy	Public support for a cause or idea	Support	Opposition
Simple Example: *Her advocacy for clean water won wide praise.*			
Warring	Fighting or at war with each other	Fighting	Peaceful
Simple Example: *The warring tribes finally signed a truce.*			
Even-handed	Fair and treating everyone equally	Impartial	Biased
Simple Example: *The judge was even-handed with both parties.*			
Immediate	Happening at once or very urgent	Instant	Delayed
Simple Example: *The doctor gave the patient immediate care.*			
De-escalation	Reduction in the intensity of a conflict	Easing	Escalation
Simple Example: *The talks led to a de-escalation of tensions.*			
Constantly	Again and again without stopping	Continually	Rarely
Simple Example: *The phone was constantly ringing all morning.*			
Warned	Told of a possible danger or problem	Cautioned	Reassured
Simple Example: *The guide warned us about the slippery path.*			
Disrupted	Interrupted or thrown into disorder	Upset	Organised
Simple Example: *Heavy rain disrupted train services.*			

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Shortages	Situations where there is not enough of something	Scarcities	Surpluses
Simple Example: *Water shortages hit the city every summer.*			

Idioms

Idiom	Actual Meaning	Simple Meaning
Would do well to	Should do something, because it is wise	Should do
Build on	To use past success as a base for more	Use as a base
Step into	To begin taking part in a role or task	Begin a role

Quick Recall: Russia-Ukraine • India's Mediation • Grain and Energy

EDITORIAL 5: THE KNOCK ON THE SUPREME COURT'S DOOR

Source: The Indian Express

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

Core Issue

As the Supreme Court takes up cases on the Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls, the editorial says the Court too is now on test and must keep asking hard questions.

Context

An Indian Express investigation raised questions about the functioning of the Election Commission, a multi-member constitutional body that is, at times, shrinking into a one-man show. Justice Ujjal Bhuyan said that large-scale disenfranchisement caused by the SIR violates the Constitution, and that detaching citizens from the right to vote is like 'taking out the soul from the body'. Former judge Rohinton Fali Nariman said the SIR's removal of voters put the right to vote in 'great peril'. The editorial says the EC went back on its record of inclusiveness and shifted the burden of proof onto vulnerable voters, while the Court kept giving it the benefit of the doubt. It welcomes the Court's clarification that it did not approve the changes made to Form 6, which made registering new voters harder, and its wish to seek answers from the EC on internal decision-making.

UPSC Mains Lane

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

• Intro: The Supreme Court is now examining the SIR and the EC's functioning, issues that touch the citizen's right to vote.

• Body 1: Large-scale deletions and changes such as those to Form 6 shifted the burden of proof onto vulnerable voters.

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• Body 2: Justice Bhuyan and Nariman have warned that exclusion violates the Constitution's promise of universal adult franchise.

• Counter/way forward: The Court should keep questioning the EC while respecting the independence secured by Article 324.

• Conclusion: Protecting the citizen's right to vote, and the EC's collective decision-making, is vital for democratic legitimacy.

Syllabus Anchor: GS2 — Statutory, regulatory and quasi-judicial bodies; Salient features of the Representation of the People Act

UPSC Prelims Lane

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

Q1. As per the editorial, which Article of the Constitution secures the Election Commission?

(A) Article 280

(B) Article 315

(C) Article 324

(D) Article 356

Answer: C

Q2. As per the editorial, who said that detaching a citizen from the right to vote is like 'taking out the soul from the body'?

(A) Justice Ujjal Bhuyan

(B) Rohinton Fali Nariman

(C) Justice Surya Kant

(D) Gyanesh Kumar

Answer: A

Q3. As per the editorial, changes to which form did the Supreme Court say it did not approve?

(A) Form 7

(B) Form 8

(C) Form 17

(D) Form 6

Answer: D

Vocabulary

Vocabs	Simple Meaning	Synonym	Antonym
Gravity	Great seriousness or importance	Seriousness	Triviality

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Simple Example: The judge stressed the gravity of the crime.			
Peril	Serious danger	Danger	Safety
Simple Example: The climbers were in great peril.			
Sanctity	The quality of being sacred or deserving respect	Sacredness	Profanity
Simple Example: We must respect the sanctity of the vote.			
Affirming	Declaring something to be true or firm	Upholding	Denying
Simple Example: The court issued a judgment affirming her rights.			
Inclusiveness	Including everyone without leaving anyone out	Openness	Exclusivity
Simple Example: The school is known for its inclusiveness.			
Transformational	Causing a major change	Revolutionary	Minor
Simple Example: The new law brought transformational change.			
Detaching	Separating or disconnecting from something	Separating	Attaching
Simple Example: She is detaching the cable from the laptop.			
Burden	A heavy load or responsibility	Load	Relief
Simple Example: The loan became a burden on the family.			
Reassuring	Giving comfort and removing doubt	Comforting	Alarming
Simple Example: The doctor's reassuring words calmed the patient.			
Shifted	Moved from one place or position to another	Moved	Kept
Simple Example: The office shifted to a new building.			

Idioms

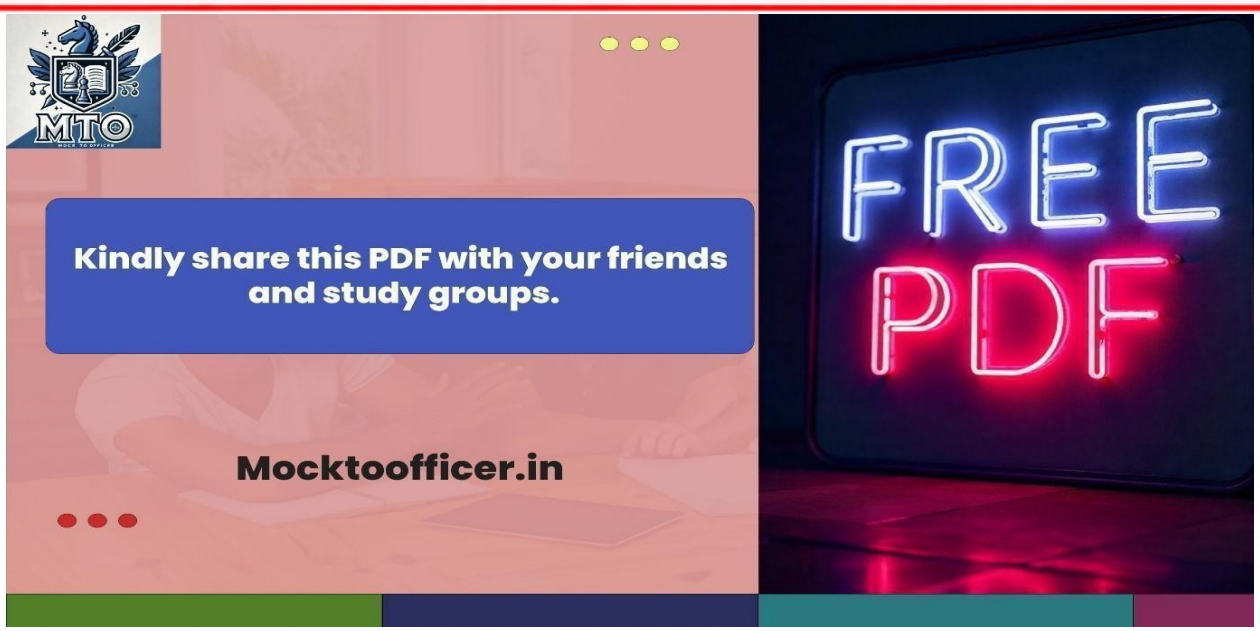
Idiom	Actual Meaning	Simple Meaning
Benefit of the doubt	Trusting someone when proof is unclear	Give trust
Go back on	To break a promise or earlier position	Break a promise
At all costs	No matter what it takes	No matter what

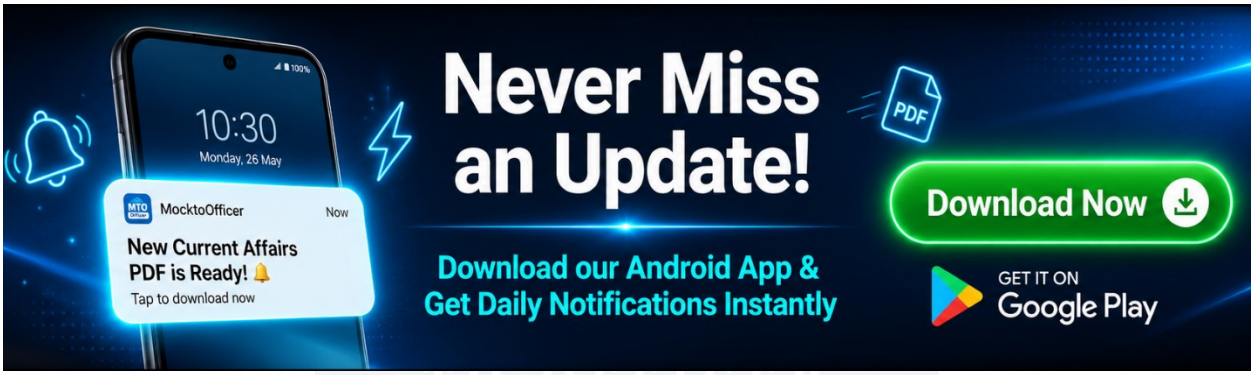
Quick Recall: SIR · Election Commission · Article 324

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