

UPSC Chairperson Manoj Soni Resigns

Why In News

- Amid the ongoing controversy regarding the use of fake caste and disability certificates by UPSC candidates for selection, news has emerged that Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) **Chairperson Manoj Soni has resigned**. Due to “**personal reasons**,” almost five years before his tenure ends in 2029. Manoj Soni had submitted his resignation to the President a month ago, but the government has yet to decide on it.



Manoj Soni

- The official joined the **commission as a member in 2017**. He was sworn in as the Chairperson of the **commission on May 16, 2023**. Soni’s tenure was supposed to end in 2029.



- **Dr Soni served three terms** as Vice-Chancellor; two consecutive terms as Vice-Chancellor of Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University (BAOU) from August 1, 2009, to July 31, 2015, and one term as Vice-Chancellor of The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda (MSU of Baroda) from April 2005 to April 2008.



- **Mr. Soni is considered** close to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who had picked him as the Vice-Chancellor of Vadodara's famous MS University in 2005 when he was 40 years old.



- At the time of his joining MSU of Baroda, Dr Soni was the **youngest ever Vice-Chancellor in India**.
- According to sources, **he wants to devote more time to Anoopam Mission**, a branch of Swaminarayan Sect in Gujarat. He became a monk or nishkam karmayogi (selfless worker) in the Mission after receiving diksha or initiation in 2020.

- Sources added that the **resignation was not linked to the controversy** regarding trainee Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer Puja Khedkar, who allegedly forged identity papers and presented a disability certificate to get into the service.



UPSC

- **UPSC is a constitutional body** as mandated under Article 315-323 Part XIV Chapter II of the Constitution of India. The Commission conducts several examinations on behalf of the Union government.



- **It also conducts civil services examinations** every year and recommends candidates for appointment to the IAS, Indian Foreign Service (IFS), Indian Police Service (IPS) and Central Services - Group A and Group B.
- The Commission is headed by a Chairperson and can have a maximum of 10 members. There were seven members besides the Chairperson.

Member	Lt. Gen. Raj Shukla (Retd.) 27/03/1962	18/07/2022 (FN)	26/03/2027
Member	Mrs. Preeti Sudan 30/04/1960	29/11/2022 (FN)	29/04/2025
Member	Ms. Suman Sharma 30/07/1967	25/05/2023 (FN)	24/05/2029
Member	Sh. Bidyut Behari Swain 05/09/1963	01/06/2023 (FN)	04/09/2028
Member	Dr. Dinesh Dasa 29/03/1974	29/09/2023 (FN)	28/09/2029
Member	Shri Sheel Vardhan Singh 26/08/1963	15/01/2024(FN)	25/08/2028
Member	Shri Sanjay Verma 28/01/1965	01/02/2024(FN)	27/01/2030

