

CURRENT AFFAIRS (27-10-2026)
FOR
COMPETITIVE EXAMS
(UPSC, APPSC, TGPSC)

[Study material by EKAM IAS Academy]



APPSC GROUP II
PRELIMS TEST SERIES

OFFLINE

ONLINE

₹1791

₹1591

FOR FIRST 5 TESTS

Top 5 Students

Get FREE

APPSC CLASSES

STARTING FROM 27 OCT 2026

LIMITED SEATS

ADMISSIONS OPEN

FOR OFFLINE STUDENTS

81210 27337

25 TOTAL TESTS

13 Sectional Tests

07 Revision Tests

05 Full Length Tests

Q1. With reference to drug trafficking and enforcement agencies in India, consider the following statements:

1. The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act was enacted in 1985.
2. The Directorate of Enforcement investigates money laundering under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.
3. The Golden Triangle comprises India, Myanmar and Bangladesh.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: A

Q2. Which one of the following options is correct with reference to Evolution of civil services in India?

- [A] Wellesley was the first to bring into existence and organize the civil services in India.
- [B] Cornwallis set up the Fort William college for training of new recruits.
- [C] Aitchison committee recommended for a Public Service Commission to be immediately established.
- [D] Lee commission recommended 50:50 parity between the Europeans and the Indians in direct recruitment of ICS.

Answer: D

Articles:

- CEC can be removed only like an SC judge, ECI says in affidavit
- Why inclusion is key to the RTE Act
- MLC elections
- Cyclone Arun
- Exercise Keen sword 27

CEC can be removed only like an SC judge, ECI says in affidavit

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission of India, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar, and the two Election Commissioners have filed a joint affidavit highlighting that any attempt to restrain the functioning of the CEC will be contrary to law.

The nearly 250-page document, filed in the top court late on Monday, said a CEC cannot be removed from office except in the manner and the grounds identical to ousting a Supreme Court judge.

The affidavit said a media report on the inner frictions and alleged unilateral or authoritarian functioning of the CEC was hardly evidence in court. Petitions basing itself on media reports should not be even maintainable in court.

Petitioners who have challenged the functioning of the CEC include the Leader of the Opposition

in the Lok Sabha and other INDIA bloc leaders.

The affidavit, which shows the CEC to be on the same page as both Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi, said the commission had "neither released nor authorised the release of any internal note or file to any news agency".

'Rule of majority'

They submitted that the multi-member commission, in case of any "difference of opinion" would follow the rule of majority to arrive at decisions in accordance with Section 18 of the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023. The affidavit indicated that there was no room for unilateral decision making in the ECI.

"Decisions are first sent to one Election Commissioner and then to the other Election Commissioner

and then finally to the CEC. Such approved decisions of the EC are duly noted in the files concerned of the EC and bear the signature of the Election Commissioners and the CEC. Thereafter, the decision is notified and implemented by the EC Secretariat," the affidavit said.

However, the ECI concedes that "when it is not feasible for the CEC or any of the Election Commissioners to be available in person", an approval of the members of the ECI is obtained through "electronic means" and recorded later in the official file.

The affidavit, however, indirectly confirmed that Mr. Sandhu and Mr. Joshi had written to the Cabinet Secretary about the conduct of Senior Deputy Election Commissioner Maneesh Garg, following a July 28 order affecting levels of IT oversight over electoral rolls. The order was passed without the knowledge of the two.

Context:

The Election Commission of India (ECI) filed a joint affidavit stating that the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) can be removed only through a process similar to that applicable to a Supreme Court judge.

Constitutional provisions

- Article 324: Provides for the Election Commission of India and its powers over elections.
- Article 324(5): Deals with the service conditions and removal of the CEC and Election Commissioners.
- CEC removal: The CEC can be removed only in the same manner and on the same grounds as a Supreme Court judge.
- Other Election Commissioners (ECs): They cannot be removed from office except on the recommendation of the CEC.

Under the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners Act, 2023, the Commission follows a majority-based decision-making process when members disagree.

Q1. With reference to the Election Commission of India, consider the following statements:

1. The CEC can be removed in the same manner and on the same grounds as a Supreme Court judge.
2. Other Election Commissioners can be removed only on the recommendation of the CEC.
3. All decisions of the ECI must be unanimous.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

A.P., Odisha step up evacuations as Cyclone Arnab nears coast

IMD issues red alerts for seven districts in Andhra Pradesh for today; 4,711 pregnant women will be shifted to safer healthcare facilities; Odisha readies 1,700 shelters in five southern districts

Nellore Sravani
Satyasundar Barik
VIJAYAWADA/BHUBANESWAR

The Andhra Pradesh government has directed officials to evacuate people from flood-prone areas, prioritise vulnerable residents, and deploy disaster response teams in the wake of Cyclone 'Arnab'. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has ordered heightened preparedness across the State, officials said, adding that 4,711 pregnant women will be shifted to safer healthcare facilities. They said 30,043 fishing boats have returned to the harbours.

With the cyclonic storm moving closer to land, the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Amaravati, has issued red alerts for seven of the 28 districts in Andhra Pradesh for Tuesday. Isolated extremely heavy rainfall, of 200 mm or more, is likely in the districts of Kakinada, East Godavari, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema, Eluru, West Godavari, Alluri Sitharama Raju, and Anaparthi, while heavy to very heavy rainfall of around 70 mm to 200 mm is likely in the districts of Vizianagaram,



A policeman alerts tourists at Kothapatnam beach in Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh on Monday. KOMMURI SRINIVAS

Visakhapatnam, NTR, Krishna, Guntur, Bapatla, Srikakulam, and Parvathipuram Manyam.

The storm is likely to cross the coast as a 'very severe cyclonic storm', with wind speed gusting to 140 kmph, close to Yanam or Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh around noon on Wednesday. The State has deputed seven National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and eight SDRF battalions to districts that are likely to be affected. For assistance, the public can contact 112, 1070, and 18004250101, the government said.

The Andhra Pradesh Eastern Power Distribution Company Limited has

opened 30 divisional control rooms, in addition to 11 circle-level control rooms, to monitor the situation and coordinate emergency response.

1,700 shelters ready

In neighbouring Odisha, the government said over 1,700 shelters are ready to accommodate people likely to be evacuated in the southern districts of Malkangiri, Koraput, Nabarangpur, Gajapati, and Rayagada, which will be impacted by the cyclone.

Addressing the media after a review meeting with Cabinet Secretary T.V. Somanathan through a video conference, Odisha Chief Secretary Anu Garg said,

"We have prepared district-specific plans to face an emergency situation. We are monitoring the condition of roughly 3,000 pregnant women. They will be shifted to safer places if the situation warrants."

The Centre has assured the State that it will send additional disaster response forces and provide assistance of the Army and the Navy if the situation worsens, she said. Special Relief Commissioner Rajesh Pravakar Patil said the State has 135 permanent cyclone shelters in the vulnerable districts and 1,600 temporary shelters have been made available.

Eight NDRF teams, 40 Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force teams, and fire services personnel have been deployed.

"We are in constant touch with the Chhattisgarh government. When the cyclone curves away to Chhattisgarh, it will trigger heavy rain. This will leave the Mahanadi River in spate. Since we are around the full moon day, discharge of water to the sea would not be that easy," Suresh Pujari, State Revenue and Disaster Management Minister said.

Context:

As of October 26, 2026, Cyclonic Storm Arnab has formed over the east-central and adjoining west-central Bay of Bengal after strengthening from a deep depression. It is moving towards the Andhra Pradesh coast and may intensify into a very severe cyclonic storm. The expected landfall is between Bapatla and Visakhapatnam by the forenoon of October 28.

Cyclone Arnab

The major details related to the Cyclone Arnab has been listed below:

- **Origin and development:** Cyclone Arnab evolved from a depression over the east-central and adjoining south-east Bay of Bengal. It subsequently strengthened into a deep depression and then a cyclonic storm, increasing the potential for severe weather.
- **Expected intensity:** The storm is forecast to strengthen into a severe and potentially very severe cyclonic storm.
- **Expected landfall:** The system is likely to cross the Andhra Pradesh and Yanam coasts between Bapatla and Visakhapatnam on October 28.
- **Wind speed:** Forecast sustained winds of 115-125 kmph, with gusts of up to 140 kmph.
- **The name "Arnab"** was proposed by Bangladesh and forms part of the official tropical cyclone naming list adopted in April 2020. The term "Arnab" means "Sea" or "Ocean" in Bengali. Naming of a cyclone helps authorities and the public identify weather systems and communicate warnings clearly.

Why inclusion is key to the RTE Act

Every morning, 10-year-old Ria walks from her working-class Delhi neighbourhood to a premium private school with quiet pride. As her friends head to a government school, Ria continues her longer walk, feeling lucky to have won a free seat under the Right to Education (RTE) Act quota.

Yet, inside the school gates, a transformation occurs. Her stride becomes subdued, and she quietly slips into a back-row seat. For the rest of the day, she and a fellow quota student operate in survival mode: meticulously copying notes while avoiding the teacher's gaze. After receiving a C minus on a math assignment and a harsh reprimand from her teacher, she carries the disappointment for days. Her immense effort remains unseen, and her teachers label her as 'struggling to meet grade expectations'.

Across the city, Sahil, admitted to another private school through the same provision, experiences a strikingly different day. His father works as an industrial labourer and his mother takes on local domestic work. Yet his school feels inviting. His engagement has attracted teachers and peers, and his sincerity is reflected in his grades, participation in sports and confidence on the stage.

Ria and Sahil (names changed to protect identities) secured free seats via Section 12(1)(c) of the RTE Act, 2009 to drive social cohesion. The provision provides access to 50 lakh disadvantaged students to private schools nationwide via a mandatory 25% classroom quota. However, mere entry alone



Mansi Middha
Lead at Indus Action



Apoorva Bhatia
Consultant, Indus Action

does not guarantee social integration. While many face low grades and class-based alienation, success stories such as Sahil's prove that intentional school practices can overcome superficial integration.

Lacking an institutional blueprint for diverse classrooms, private schools must actively innovate. A study of nine mid-to-high-cost Delhi private schools revealed that inclusion is rarely black-and-white; structural nourishment plays out differently for each child, but success stories consistently emerge where inclusion is a core institutional value.

In typical classrooms, RTE students often drift to the periphery, isolated by organic social segregation and low participation in collaborative tasks. Burdened and undertrained teachers frequently view them through a deficit lens, as demanding 'more effort', while ignoring their emotional distress.

Architecture of access
Conversely, schools with conscious structural intent cultivate an 'invisible inclusion'. In Sahil's school, the day begins with an empathy-driven learning circle where vulnerability is shared safely. Assigned mixed seating and a 'zero period' let peers collaborate on unfinished homework.

Lessons rely on collaborative learning with ample scope for the teacher ensuring that all students participate. While addressing an area problem, the math teacher encouraged an RTE student to share about his family's paddy fields, which validated his lived experience. By noon, teachers co-plan support strategies, preparing for monthly open houses where parents can also exchange

insights. Authentic inclusion does not require massive additional material or financial resources. It depends on consistent practices that promote equal participation, recognise diverse lived experiences, and build meaningful connections among students, teachers and families.

Under Section 12(1)(c), the responsibility of fostering an inclusive classroom falls entirely on schools and teachers. Navigating this structural support forces educators to rely solely on personal motivation. In a heavily burdened system, inclusion risks becoming an afterthought. An essential tenet of educational development is that what gets measured gets valued. Inclusion remains deeply undervalued because India lacks the metrics to track it. Unlike academic performance, it never appears on a report card, yet it shapes a student's entire journey. State governments and parent networks must collaborate to monitor benchmarks.

Schools must institutionalise inclusive values through collaborative learning, rotated leadership, dignified and equitable participation of RTE students, and by supporting teachers with specialised resources. For governments, the mandate is to create enabling conditions through financial reimbursements, public recognition of inclusive schools, and cross-state feedback loops.

To ensure that every Ria and Sahil can thrive, inclusion must be pursued with the same deliberate rigour, tracking, and daily practice that we dedicate to academic outcomes.



RIGHT TO EDUCATION ACT, 2009

Key Provisions | UPSC Prelims Revision



CONSTITUTIONAL BASIS

- **Article 21A** guarantees free and compulsory education for children aged 6–14 years.
- **Article 21A** was inserted by the **86th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2002**.
- The RTE Act was enacted in **2009** and came into force on **1 April 2010**.



KEY PROVISIONS

1. **Free and compulsory elementary education in a neighbourhood school (Sections 3–5).**
2. **25% entry-level seats** in private unaided non-minority schools for children from weaker sections and disadvantaged groups, subject to statutory conditions (Section 12(1)(c)).
3. **No capitation fee or screening test** for admission (Section 13).
4. Admission cannot be denied solely due to **lack of age proof** or because the child seeks admission **after the prescribed period** (Sections 14–15).
5. **Physical punishment and mental harassment** are prohibited (Section 17).
6. Schools must meet prescribed norms for **infrastructure, teachers and pupil-teacher ratio** (Sections 19, 25 and Schedule).
7. **School Management Committees and School Development Plans** (Sections 21–22).
8. **Qualified teachers** and rules governing their duties; teachers cannot engage in **private tuition** (Sections 23–28).
9. Out-of-school children can receive **special training** and **age-appropriate admission** (Section 4).
10. Curriculum should promote **all-round development**; elementary education **completion certificate** (Sections 29–30).



IMPORTANT EXAM POINTS

- **"Free"** means no fee or expense that prevents a child from pursuing elementary education.
- **"Compulsory"** means government and local authorities must ensure admission, attendance and completion.
- **2019 amendment:** regular examinations in Classes 5 and 8; states may allow holding back after re-examination according to law and rules.
- The Act covers elementary education, generally **Classes I–VIII**, for **ages 6–14**; it is not a universal education right for every age group.



REMEMBER —

ARTICLE 21A | AGE 6–14 | 25% ENTRY-LEVEL SEATS | NO CAPITATION FEE / SCREENING



Based on the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009.
Check state-specific rules for implementation.

Q2. With reference to the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, consider the following statements:

1. It provides free and compulsory education to children between 6 and 14 years of age.
2. Private unaided non-minority schools must reserve at least 25% of entry-level seats for children belonging to weaker sections and disadvantaged groups.
3. No child can be denied admission to a school due to lack of age proof.
4. The Act prohibits capitation fees and screening procedures for admission.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Graduate MLC polls: nearly five lakh voter enrolment applications pending verification

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Only 26,085 applications, or 4.98% for enrolment as voters for Graduate MLC elections in Telangana had been approved, while 4,96,112 applications, accounting for 94.72% of the total, were pending verification. Another 1,581 applications were rejected.

This is the story so far as the deadline for voter enrolment for the elections to two Graduate constituencies in Telangana ends on November 6. The two constituencies are Mahabubnagar-Rangareddy-Hyderabad and Warangal-Khammam-Nalgonda.

The applications received so far represented 50.56% of the 10.36 lakh electors on the 2021 rolls. At the prevailing rate of enrolment, the total could reach only about 7.7 lakh by the deadline, or roughly 74% of the previous electorate.

In the Mahabubnagar-Rangareddy-Hyderabad Graduates constituency,



The deadline for voter enrolment for the elections to two Graduate constituencies ends on November 6. REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE

2,29,937 applications were received, of which 4,695 were approved and 2,25,133 remained pending verification. In the Warangal-Khammam-Nalgonda constituency, 2,93,821 applications were received, with 21,390 approved and 2,70,979 pending.

Hyderabad district has seen very low response with just 17,165 applications received from the district as of October 15, accounting for 11.2% of the applications in the Mahabubnagar-Rangareddy-Hyderabad constituency,

despite Hyderabad having 169 of its 656 polling stations.

The reasons for slow enrolment may be due to inadequate awareness among existing electors, difficulties in obtaining gazetted officer attestation of educational certificates, insufficient field-level assistance and the overlap with the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

Such is the situation that many graduates were unaware that an earlier enrolment did not automatically carry forward to the new

rolls. The applicants were facing difficulties in getting their degree or diploma certificates attested, while online applications remained pending for want of field verification or submission of authenticated documents.

The BRS, which submitted a representation to the Chief Election Commissioner through the Chief Electoral Officer of Telangana, sought an extension of the November 6 deadline, for submission of Form 18, to December 6.

The contestants and the hopefuls are seeking a directive to all government departments, universities, colleges, hospitals and public sector undertakings to ensure that gazetted officers attest certificates free of cost.

The BRS also called for the use of digitally signed certificates available through DigiLocker and the National Academic Depository, along with electronic verification through universities, to reduce dependence on manual attestation.

About MLC Elections:

Indirect, quota-based elections conducted to elect Members of the Legislative Council (MLCs) to the upper house (Vidhan Parishad) of bicameral state legislatures in India. Currently, six states maintain bicameral legislatures: Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh.

- **Article 169:** Empowers Parliament to create or abolish a State Legislative Council by simple majority, provided the state's Legislative Assembly passes a resolution supported by a special majority.
- **Article 171:** Lays down the composition and election architecture. The total strength of a Legislative Council cannot exceed **one-third** of the total membership of the state's Legislative Assembly, and cannot be fewer than **40 members**.
- **Article 172(2) & 173:** Establishes the Council as a permanent chamber not subject to dissolution; MLCs serve **6-year terms** with one-third retiring every two years. The minimum age qualification is **30 years**.

Process & Composition Architecture (Article 171):

- 1/3 elected by electorates of local authorities (Municipalities, District Boards, etc.).
- 1/3 elected by Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) from non-members.
- 1/12 elected by registered University Graduates of at least 3 years' standing residing in the state.
- 1/12 elected by Teachers engaged for at least 3 years in educational institutions not lower than secondary schools.

- 1/6 nominated by the State Governor from individuals with special knowledge in literature, science, art, the co-operative movement, or social service.

Procedure of Elections:

- **Proportional Representation (PR-STV):** Elections follow the single transferable vote system, where voters rank candidates numerically according to preference, ensuring proportional representation through preferential voting.
- **Non-Symbol Balloting:** Ballot papers generally exclude official party symbols, although political parties endorse candidates and mobilise support, making party affiliations relevant to electoral competition.



Context: The United States and Japan launched Keen Sword 27, the largest joint field-training military exercise in their shared history, across the waters and islands of southwestern Japan.

About Exercise Keen Sword 27:

What it is?

A major biennial, multi-domain joint field training exercise (FTX) designed to increase combat readiness, tactical synchronization, and bilateral defense interoperability between the Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF) and the United States Armed Forces.

Host: Japan.

Member Nations: Japan and the United States.

Key Features of Keen Sword 27:

Historic Mobilisation Scale: Involves approximately 56,000 Japanese and US military personnel, supported by warships, submarines and combat aircraft, demonstrating extensive bilateral operational capabilities.

- **Forward Missile Deployments:** Deploys mobile anti-ship missiles and coastal defence systems on Yonaguni and Ishigaki islands, strengthening maritime surveillance and defensive capabilities near Taiwan.
- **First Island Chain Defence:** Rehearses Island defence, amphibious recapture, integrated air and missile defence, maritime security and civilian evacuation to strengthen regional operational readiness.
- **Confrontations with PLA Surveillance:** Features heightened Japanese fighter interceptions of Chinese reconnaissance aircraft and drones, alongside Chinese naval monitoring of allied operations near the Miyako Strait.
- **Confrontations with PLA Surveillance:** Features heightened Japanese fighter interceptions of Chinese reconnaissance aircraft and drones, alongside Chinese naval monitoring of allied operations near the Miyako Strait.
- **Multi-Domain Military Integration:** Synchronises land, naval, air, cyber, space and electronic warfare capabilities, improving joint command coordination and preparedness for high-intensity military contingencies.