

CURRENT AFFAIRS (28-10-2026)
FOR
COMPETITIVE EXAMS
(UPSC, APPSC, TGPSC)

[Study material by EKAM IAS Academy]



**APPSC GROUP II
PRELIMS TEST SERIES**

OFFLINE

₹1791

FOR FIRST 5 TESTS
**Top 5 Students
Get FREE**

APPSC CLASSES

STARTING FROM **27 OCT 2026**

LIMITED SEATS
FOR OFFLINE STUDENTS

ONLINE

₹1591

25 TOTAL TESTS
13 Sectional Tests
07 Revision Tests
05 Full Length Tests

ADMISSIONS OPEN
81210 27337

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

Answer: B

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

Answer: D

Articles

- India's next investment cycle will shape its carbon future
- Kuno national park
- Bad loans & NPA
- Essential Commodities act 1955

India's next investment cycle will shape its carbon future

The United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) recent warning that the world could cross the 1.5°C warming threshold within the next few years is likely to renew calls for faster decarbonisation. India, too, will face this pressure, but its choices are still open. Much of the housing, industrial infrastructure, power networks and urban development needed for its next phase of growth is yet to be built.

NITI Aayog estimates that 86% of the building stock that India will have in 2070 is yet to be built. Total floor space will more than double, from about 18 billion square metres in 2020 to 42 billion by 2070. India's crude-steel capacity, at about 200 million tonnes in 2024-25, is targeted to reach 300 million tonnes by 2030-31. Cement output is projected to rise from about 427 million tonnes in 2024 to 660 million tonnes by 2030.

The advantage of choice

The usual reading of these numbers is that India's infrastructure deficit makes decarbonisation harder. Demand for steel, cement and electricity will continue to rise even as India tries to reduce emissions. True, but only partly. The other side of the development deficit is that much of India's future capital stock remains a choice rather than an inheritance. Its future emissions will depend on what it chooses to build now and the technologies and standards that are embedded in that investment.

Nature economies face the opposite problem. The International Energy Agency (IEA) estimates that around 80% of the building stock that advanced economies will use in 2050 already exists. In the European Union, 85% of buildings predate 2000, around three-quarters perform poorly in terms of energy efficiency, and only about 1% are renovated each year. India has legacy problems too, but has more room to avoid creating them. It can build in efficiency from the outset and reduce the risks of stranded assets, premature retirements, or expensive retrofits.



Amarendra Nandy

An Associate Professor in the economics and public policy area at the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ranchi, Jharkhand



Ayush Anand

A GARP Certified Sustainability and Climate Risk Professional and works with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)

Its future emissions will depend on what it chooses to build now and the technologies and standards incorporated into those investments

later. In buildings, India need not wait for technology to catch up. The know-how is there, and so is the regulatory framework. The gap is in implementation.

The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)'s State Energy Efficiency Index reports that the Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC) 2017 has been notified by 27 States, but legally incorporated in only 21. BEE has since issued the Energy Conservation and Sustainable Building Code (ECSBC) 2024 for commercial and office buildings and the Eco-Nivasa Samhita (ENS) 2024 for residential buildings. States should embed these standards in building permits, occupancy certificates, and grid connections, where non-compliance can carry a cost.

The issue in the power sector

Dover presents a different problem. India has added renewable generation quickly, but the network to move it has not kept pace. The IEA estimates that transmission bottlenecks have held back around 60 GW of renewable capacity. The Ministry of Power's plan envisages roughly 590 GW of generation additions between 2023 and 2032. So, an unresolved transmission gap will become more serious as generation expands. As transport, cooling and parts of industry electrify, the gains from cleaner generation will depend on whether that power can be reliably moved to where it is needed. Transmission and storage, therefore, must be planned alongside, and in some cases ahead of, new generation and demand.

In steel and cement, the low-carbon transition is harder. The Ministry of Steel acknowledges that hydrogen-based green steel is not yet viable in India, while NITI Aayog places large-scale carbon capture in cement further down the transition path. Mandating technologies could raise costs and, worse, lock firms into processes that later prove uneconomic.

Public procurement could be a better instrument. The Union and State governments,

Indian Railways, the National Highways Authority of India, and other public agencies buy large quantities of steel and cement and can help create an early market for lower-emission materials.

India already has a green-steel taxonomy, and the Ministry of Steel has proposed aggregated procurement through competitive bidding. Tenders could set emissions-intensity thresholds without prescribing the production route. Competitive bidding would then reveal the green premium while rewarding producers who find the most efficient ways to meet the thresholds. As the premium narrows with economies of scale and technological advances, the thresholds could be tightened. They could also be aligned with the emissions-intensity targets under the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS), ensuring consistent policy signals.

Costs and risks

Finance can also skew these choices. The IEA estimates that India's cost of capital for grid-scale renewables is about 80% higher than in advanced economies. Since clean infrastructure is front-loaded in cost, that gap can make an otherwise viable project uneconomic. Targeted instruments such as payment-security mechanisms, partial credit guarantees, or concessional debt can ease financing or off-taker risk. But where the technology is still unproven, cheaper public finance will simply shift more risk onto the public balance sheet.

India cannot avoid the investment required to build the economy it still needs. What matters is what kind of capital the investment leaves behind. Where technology is mature, there is little reason to build inefficiency into assets that will last for decades. Where it is still evolving, preserving flexibility has value. Getting those choices right now can spare the country costlier corrections later.

The views expressed are personal

NITI Aayog estimates that 86% of the building stock that India will have in 2070 is yet to be built. Total floor space will more than double, from about 18 billion square metres in 2020 to 42 billion by 2070. India's crude-steel capacity, at about 200 million tonnes in 2024-25, is targeted to reach 300 million tonnes by 2030-31. Cement output is projected to rise from about 427 million tonnes in 2024 to 660 million tonnes by 2030.

Key arguments

Growing infrastructure needs: India requires major investments in buildings, roads, power networks, cement and steel to support economic growth and urbanisation.

Rising emissions: Infrastructure development can lock India into high-carbon pathways if fossil-fuel-intensive technologies are adopted.

Long lifespan of assets: Buildings, power plants and transport infrastructure operate for decades, making early investment choices crucial.

Economic efficiency: Choosing cleaner technologies at the beginning can be cheaper than modifying existing infrastructure later.

Need for policy support: Green standards, public procurement, competitive bidding and carbon-intensity benchmarks can encourage cleaner investments.

Balanced transition: India must balance climate objectives with affordability, energy security, industrial competitiveness and development needs.

Way forward

- **Green public procurement:** Government agencies and public-sector enterprises should create demand for low-emission steel and cement.
- **Stronger building standards:** Improve implementation of the Energy Conservation and Sustainable Building Code (ECSBC) 2024 and Eco-Niwas Samhita (ENS) 2024.
- **Renewable energy infrastructure:** Expand transmission networks, battery storage and other grid-balancing solutions alongside renewable generation.
- **Carbon-intensity benchmarks:** Establish progressively stricter emissions standards for industrial products.
- **Innovative financing:** Use concessional loans, partial credit guarantees and payment-security mechanisms to reduce investment risks.
- **Research and development:** Support green hydrogen, carbon capture, energy-efficient industrial processes and other emerging technologies.
- **Policy certainty:** Ensure predictable regulations and incentives so investors can make long-term, low-carbon decisions.
- **Just transition:** Protect workers and vulnerable communities while maintaining affordable energy and industrial competitiveness.

'New bad loans may rise in FY27; private banks to face pressure'

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

Fresh non-performing assets (NPA) in the banking sector are likely to increase in the current fiscal, with private sector banks expected to face relatively higher pressure due to their exposure to unsecured retail and micro, small and medium enter-

prise loans, according to a report.

Ratings agency Icra expects the trend of relatively higher loan slippages at private sector banks to continue in the second half of FY27, even as credit costs are projected to stay favourable and significantly below historical levels.

According to the rating agency's estimates, the

fresh NPA generation rate for public sector banks is projected at 0.8% in FY27, while that for private sector banks is estimated at 2.5%.

In absolute terms, fresh NPA is estimated at ₹1 lakh crore in FY27 for State-owned banks and ₹1.3 lakh crore for private banks, according to the report released on Tuesday.

What is a Bad Loan?

A bad loan is that which has not been 'serviced' for a certain period.

Servicing a loan is paying back the interest and a small part of the principal depending on the agreement between bank and borrower.

Bad loans are where there is less certainty that the loan would be paid back in full.

What is NPA?

A non performing asset (NPA) is a loan or advance for which the principal or interest payment remained overdue for a period of 90 days.

Types of NPA:

- **Sub Standard:** A sub-standard asset is one that is classified as an NPA for a period not exceeding twelve months.
- **Doubtful:** A doubtful asset is one that has remained as an NPA for a period exceeding twelve months.
- **Loss:** A loss asset is one where loss has already been identified by the bank or an external institution, but it is not yet completely written off, due to its recovery value, however little it may be.

Naidu orders subsidised sale of essential commodities

The Hindu Bureau
VJAYAWADA

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has directed officials to ensure that essential commodities, including rice, pulses, edible oil, wheat flour and onions, are available to consumers at affordable prices.

During a review meeting on the prices and supply of essential commodities on Tuesday, the Chief Minister instructed officials to strengthen the supply network, expand subsidised sales and ensure that government interventions directly benefited consumers.

Mr. Naidu directed officials to extend the sale of Dharani brand super fine

rice beyond Rythu Bazaars to municipalities and mandal headquarters. The rice should also be made available through mobile vehicles to improve accessibility. Fine rice and super fine rice should be sold at ₹49 and ₹50 a kg, respectively.

Officials informed the Chief Minister that rice millers and wholesale traders had agreed to keep the prices of certain varieties under control following discussions initiated by the government. BPT steam rice would be sold at a maximum price of ₹66 a kg, while ordinary steam rice would be priced at ₹47 a kg.

The Chief Minister called for stepped-up surveillance at inter-State border checkpoints and toll

gates to prevent the illegal transportation of paddy to neighbouring States. He also asked officials to examine measures to reduce the burden of market cess on paddy and rice.

Mr. Naidu directed the Civil Supplies Department to make toor dal, palm oil and wheat flour available through ration shops by Deepavali to provide relief to consumers amid rising prices.

He instructed officials to supply one kg of toor dal a month to each ration cardholder at ₹100 through the public distribution system.

He directed officials to strengthen the supply chain and ensure the availability of quality essential commodities at reasonable prices.

Context:

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has directed officials to ensure that essential commodities, including rice, pulses, edible oil, wheat flour and onions, are available to consumers at affordable prices.

ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES ACT, 1955

UPSC PRELIMS • KEY PROVISIONS & AMENDMENTS

OBJECTIVE

- Control production, supply, distribution and trade of **essential goods**.
- Prevent **hoarding, black-marketing** and **artificial scarcity**.
- Protect **consumers** and ensure availability at **fair prices**.

KEY PROVISIONS

- 1 Section 2A – Essential commodity**
 - Means a commodity in the Schedule.
 - Centre may add/remove commodities by Gazette notification, subject to the Act.
- 2 Section 3**
 - Centre may regulate or prohibit production, supply, distribution, storage, transport, pricing and trade through control orders.
- 3 Sections 4–5**
 - Duties may be imposed on authorities.
 - Centre may delegate powers to State Governments/authorities.
- 4 Section 6**
 - Orders under the Act override inconsistent provisions of other enactments to the extent specified by law.
- 5 Sections 6A–6E**
 - Confiscation procedures, show-cause notice and appeal.
- 6 Section 7**
 - Penalties for contravention; offences are cognizable under Section 10A.
- 7 Enforcement**
 - State Governments and UT administrations implement control orders.

SCHEDULED COMMODITIES

(7 categories as per Department of Consumer Affairs)

- 1 Drugs**
Medicines and pharmaceutical products.
- 2 Fertilisers**
Chemical and organic fertilisers.
- 3 Foodstuffs**
Including edible oilseeds and oils.
- 4 Hank yarn**
Wholly made from cotton.
- 5 Petroleum and petroleum products**
Crude, fuels and related products.
- 6 Raw jute and jute textiles**
Raw jute, jute yarn and fabrics.
- 7 Specified seeds**
Food crops, fruits and vegetables, cattle fodder, jute and cotton.

IMPORTANT AMENDMENT TIMELINE

2020 Amendment Act (Act 22 of 2020) (effective 5 June 2020)

- Inserted **Section 3(1A)**.
- Foodstuffs such as cereals, pulses, potatoes, onions, edible oilseeds and oils could be regulated only under extraordinary circumstances – **war, famine, extraordinary price rise or natural calamity** of grave nature.
- Stock limits tied to price-rise thresholds:
 - **100% rise** for horticultural produce.
 - **50%** for non-perishable agricultural foodstuffs. (Measured against the lower of preceding 12-month price or 5-year average.)
- Exemptions for qualifying processors/value-chain participants/exporters and PDS.

2021

- **Farm Laws Repeal Act, 2021** repealed the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020.

! IMPORTANT

The 2020 special restrictions and thresholds (Section 3(1A)) are **NOT** part of the current law.

UPSC TAKEAWAY

Current core law is the **Essential Commodities Act, 1955**, as amended over time. The special Section 3(1A) regime introduced in 2020 was repealed in 2021.

Check current Gazette notifications and control orders for commodity-specific regulation.

Sources: India Code; Department of Consumer Affairs; Farm Laws Repeal Act, 2021.

Q2. With reference to the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020, consider the following statements:

It introduced special conditions for regulating certain foodstuffs under extraordinary circumstances.

These special provisions included specified price-rise thresholds.

The special provisions introduced through Section 3(1A) remain part of the current law.

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

Cheetah cub dies of gunshot injuries in M.P.; probe launched

Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL

A male cheetah cub that was found with gunshot injuries outside the boundaries of the Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh died on Tuesday during treatment in Jabalpur. This is the first such attack on a cheetah since the beginning of the reintroduction programme for the species in September 2022.

A four-member special task force has been formed to investigate the killing of the cub, KNG22, after a human angle was confirmed with the recovery of five firearm pellets from the body, Chief Wildlife Warden Samita Rajora told *The Hindu*.

The special task force, which consists of police personnel and forest officers from the region, has been deployed in the Sheopur Forest Division, where the cub was found on Sunday, along with the State Tiger Strike Force teams that were dispatched on Monday night, Ms. Rajora, a Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, said.

"We had brought the cub to Jabalpur on Monday where veterinarians led by expert surgeon Dr. Shobha Jawre performed an emergency surgery on him," she



A special task force has been formed to probe the killing.
REPRESENTATIVE PHOTO

said, adding that the cub was found in an unconscious state, without any movement.

Population down to 58
Born to a female cheetah named Nirva, the 19-month-old male cub was under observation but died of injuries on Tuesday morning.

"We are probing all possibilities. Whether it is a case of poaching or someone killed the cub thinking it was a leopard, the persons responsible will be caught soon," the forest official said.

With the latest death, the country's total cheetah population is down to 58, of which 52 are at Kuno, four at the Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary, and two at Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve.

Context:

A male cheetah cub that was found with gunshot injuries outside the boundaries of the Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh died on Tuesday during treatment in Jabalpur. This is the first such attack on a cheetah since the beginning of the reintroduction programme for the species in September 2022.

With the latest death, the country's total cheetah population is down to 58, of which 52 are at Kuno, four at the Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary, and two at Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve.

About Kuno National Park:

- Kuno National Park is a premier wildlife destination and the site of the world's first intercontinental big cat relocation project.
- Originally established as a sanctuary of 350 sq. km in 1981, it was upgraded to a National Park in 2018 to meet the conditions for hosting Asiatic Lions. It now spans 748 sq. km of pristine forest within a larger 1,235 sq. km wildlife division.
- State: Madhya Pradesh, India (Sheopur and Morena districts).
- Region: It is part of the Vindhyan hill range and was historically part of the Gwalior princely state.

Project Cheetah (2022): Prime Minister of India launched the modern reintroduction project in September 2022 with cheetahs from Namibia, followed by batches from South Africa and Botswana.

Key Features:

- **Kuno River:** The spine of the park, this river bisects the forest, ensuring a constant water supply and giving the protected area its name.
- **Flora (The Never Say Die Forest):** The park is dominated by Kardhai, Khair, and Salai trees. The Kardhai tree is unique for its ability to turn green just from atmospheric humidity even before the first monsoon rains.
- **Vast Grasslands:** Kuno features expansive meadows and grasslands, some of which are larger than those found in famous reserves like Kanha or Bandhavgarh, making it ideal for high-speed predators like cheetahs.
- **Terrain:** A mix of sparse forests, rocky hills, and wide river valleys typical of the Central Indian highlands.

Significance:

- Kuno is at the heart of the world's most ambitious big cat relocation effort, successfully reintroducing cheetahs to Asia after 70 years of extinction.
- The park serves as a vital laboratory for restoring the grassland-forest ecosystem and provides a potential future home for the Asiatic Lion, aiming to create a second population outside of Gir, Gujarat.

