CURRENT AFFAIRS — 27 OCTOBER 2026

Tuesday, 27 October 2026 • Asia/Kolkata (IST) • Prelims + Mains GS-wise digest

StudyForGS.com

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR UPSC CSE

TODAY AT A GLANCE — 10 THINGS TO REMEMBER

- DAC grants AoN worth **₹2.12 lakh crore**; **~82%** from Indian industry
- **E100** allowed only in OEM-built **flex-fuel vehicles** (CMVR Rule 115)
- **RELIEF** export risk-cover scheme extended to **31 March 2027**
- Cyclone **Arnab** (name by **Bangladesh**) to cross AP coast near **Yanam** on 28 Oct
- WMO: **El Niño** may be among the strongest on record; effects into **2027**
- **5-nanobody** recombinant antivenom protects mice against Indian cobras & king cobras
- SC notice on **DNPA** plea against **DPDP Act, 2023** & RTI **Sec 8(1)(j)** change
- ECI: CEC removable only like an **SC judge** — **Art 324(5)**
- **Mecca pact** states (Saudi, Türkiye, Pakistan) hold first talks in **Tehran**
- China says it **strictly abides** by agreements with India amid LAC friction in Arunachal

SECTION A | GS-III: SCIENCE-TECH • ECONOMY • SECURITY • ENVIRONMENT

DAC, 26 Oct 2026 — Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) at a glance

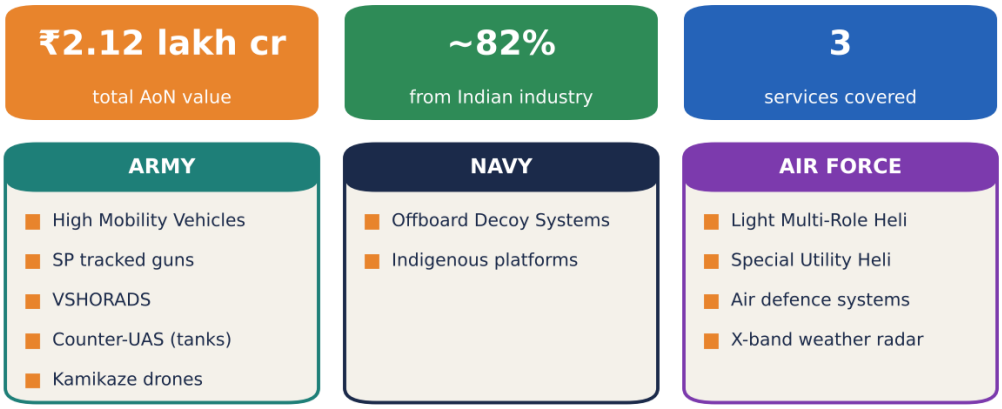


Fig: DAC approvals of 26 Oct 2026 — value, indigenous share and key systems

DAC clears ₹2.12 lakh crore capital acquisitions — drones, helicopters, air defence

[DEFENCE] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3 (Security)

Syllabus Linkage	**GS3** – Security forces & their mandate; defence indigenisation. **Prelims** – DAC, AoN, DAP-2020, VSHORADS.
Context	The **Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)** chaired by Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** on **26 October 2026** granted **Acceptance of Necessity (AoN)** to proposals worth **₹2.12 lakh crore** for the Army, Navy and Air Force, with a call for '**Aatmanirbharta 2.0**' in top-end defence technology.
Key Facts	■ About **82%** of the procurement to be sourced from **Indian industry**. ■ **Army**: High Mobility Vehicles, **self-propelled tracked guns**, **VSHORADS**, platform-based **counter-UAS**, long-range **kamikaze drones**. ■ **Navy**: **Active Offboard Decoy Systems** against anti-ship missiles + indigenous naval platforms. ■ **IAF**: **Light Multi-Role & Special Utility Helicopters**, air defence systems, **mobile X-band Doppler weather radars**.
Way Fwd	Convert AoNs into contracts on time, deepen the **private-sector & MSME** base and secure critical sub-systems (engines, seekers, chips) domestically.
Concept	**AoN** is the first step of capital procurement under **Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020**; categories rank **Buy (Indian-IDDM)** highest. **VSHORADS** = man-portable air defence for short-range aerial threats.

E100 notified as auto fuel for flex-fuel vehicles

[ECONOMY] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3 (Energy)

Syllabus Linkage	**GS3** – Infrastructure: energy; environment & pollution. **Prelims** – Ethanol blending, flex-fuel vehicles, National Policy on Biofuels.
Context	The **Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH)** amended the **Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989** via **G.S.R. 911(E)** dated **23 October 2026**, adding **E100** (near-pure ethanol) alongside **E85** for emission norms, fuel specs and testing.
Key Facts	■ Amendment is to **Rule 115**; **E85/E100** usable **only in OEM-designed flex-fuel vehicles** — not in normal or **E20**-calibrated cars. ■ Gross vehicle weight limit in the relevant table raised from **3,000 kg to 3,500 kg**; **B100** biodiesel parameters standardised. ■ Draft was published on **27 April 2026** for **30 days** of comments. ■ India has reached **E20** blending ahead of the original **2030** target; ethanol capacity is about **20 billion litres**.
Way Fwd	Build **E100 retail dispensing**, offer tax parity for **FFVs**, and diversify feedstock to **2G ethanol** to avoid a food-vs-fuel trade-off.
Concept	**Flex-fuel vehicle (FFV)** – engine that runs on petrol or any ethanol blend up to E100. **National Policy on Biofuels 2018** (amended **2022**) advanced the **E20** target to **ESY 2025-26**; **PM JI-VAN Yojana** supports **2G ethanol**.

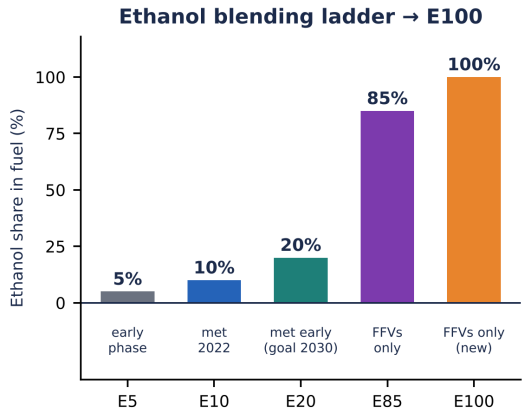


Fig: E100 notified as auto fuel for flex-fuel vehicles

RELIEF export risk-cover scheme extended till March 2027

[ECONOMY] **COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3 (External Sector)**

Syllabus Linkage	**GS3** – Indian economy: external sector, trade policy. **Prelims** – ECGC, Export Promotion Mission.
Context	With **West Asia** shipping still disrupted, the **Department of Commerce** extended the **RELIEF** (Resilience & Logistics Intervention for Export Facilitation) scheme by **six months to 31 March 2027**, easing pressure on **low-margin exporters**.
Key Facts	■ Launched on **19 March 2026** under the **Export Promotion Mission (EPM)**. ■ **Component I**: up to **100%** risk cover, at no extra cost, for ECGC-covered consignments shipped **14 Feb–15 Mar 2026**. ■ **Component II**: **95%** risk cover on fresh ECGC insurance for shipments to specified regions; premiums held at pre-disruption levels. ■ Covers **FCL, LCL and reefer** cargo; **energy shipments excluded**; **ECGC Ltd** is the nodal agency.
Way Fwd	Pair risk cover with **freight-cost support**, faster claim settlement and **market diversification** away from conflict-hit corridors.
Concept	**ECGC** (est. **1957**, Ministry of Commerce) provides **export credit insurance** against commercial & political risks. **EPM** – umbrella mission announced in **Budget 2025-26** to unify export-support schemes.

Five-nanobody 'cocktail' antivenom protects against Indian cobras

[HEALTH] **COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2/GS3 (Health, Biotech)**

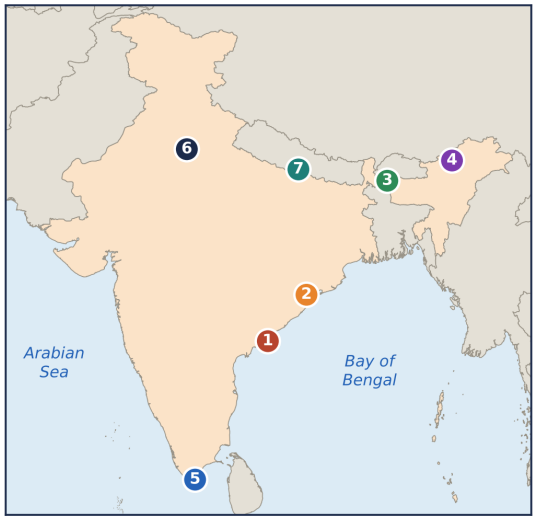
Syllabus Linkage	**GS2** – Health. **GS3** – Biotechnology. **Prelims** – Nanobodies, antivenom, Big Four snakes, NTDs.
Context	Researchers of **IISc Bengaluru** (Centre for Ecological Sciences) and the **Technical University of Denmark** reported in a **peer-reviewed international journal** a **recombinant, nanobody-based antivenom** that neutralised venoms of Indian **cobras and king cobras** in mice.
Key Facts	■ Cocktail of **five nanobodies** derived from **camelid** (alpaca/llama) antibodies. ■ Protected against **spectacled & monocled cobras** and **both Indian king cobra species**, even when given **30 minutes** after envenoming. ■ Made in **microbial expression systems** — no **horse plasma** needed; tiny doses effective. ■ India records nearly **50,000 snakebite deaths** a year — the **highest in the world**.
Way Fwd	Move to **human clinical trials**, expand coverage to **kraits and vipers**, and integrate with the national snakebite action plan for last-mile access.
Concept	Current Indian **polyvalent antivenom** (horse-derived) targets the **Big Four**: spectacled cobra, common krait, Russell's viper, saw-scaled viper. **WHO** listed snakebite envenoming as a **Neglected Tropical Disease** in **2017**; goal – halve deaths by **2030**.

Cyclone Arnab: AP, Odisha step up evacuations ahead of landfall

[ENVIRONMENT] **COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS1/GS3 (Disaster Mgmt)**

Syllabus Linkage	**GS1** – Important geophysical phenomena (cyclones). **GS3** – Disaster management. **Prelims** – Cyclone naming, IMD categories.
Context	Cyclone **Arnab** over the **Bay of Bengal** is forecast to cross the **Andhra Pradesh–Yanam** coast on the morning of **28 October 2026** as a **very severe cyclonic storm**, with sustained winds of **115–125 km/h** gusting to **140 km/h**.
Key Facts	■ Name **Arnab** was contributed by **Bangladesh** to the regional list. ■ **Red alert** (>**200 mm**/24 h) for **Kakinada, East & West Godavari, Eluru, Krishna, NTR**. ■ **Odisha**: Ganjam, Gajapati, Rayagada, Malkangiri, Koraput, Nabarangpur on alert. ■ **10 NDRF teams** in AP, **16** more on standby; armed forces & Coast Guard ready.
Way Fwd	Follow the **zero-casualty** model (Odisha), protect power & telecom, and plan **post-landfall flood** response in the Godavari–Krishna delta.
Concept	Names in the North Indian Ocean are assigned by **RSMC New Delhi** from a list by **13 WMO/ESCAP Panel members**. IMD scale: **VSCS 118–165 km/h**, **ESCS 166–220**, **Super Cyclone ≥222 km/h**.

India in News — 27 Oct 2026



1. Cyclone Arnab landfall (Yanam/AP)
2. Odisha districts on alert
3. Buxa TR – tigress T-138
4. Arunachal Pradesh – LAC face-offs
5. Kudankulam nuclear plant
6. New Delhi – SC: DPDP, ECI
7. Valmiki TR (Bihar)

Map not to scale; boundaries as per India's official position

Fig: Cyclone Arnab: AP, Odisha step up evacuations ahead of landfall

WMO: 'super' El Niño may be among the strongest on record

[ENVIRONMENT] **COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS1/GS3 (Climate)**

Syllabus Linkage	**GS1** – Climatology, monsoon. **GS3** – Climate change, food security. **Prelims** – ENSO, Niño 3.4, IOD.
Context	The **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)** expects record sea-surface temperatures in the central-eastern tropical Pacific during **October–December 2026**, peaking around **December**, with effects lasting into **early 2027**.
Key Facts	■ **Niño 3.4** anomaly rose from **+1.6°C (June)** to **+2.5°C (August)**; Oct–Dec forecast near **+3.7°C**. ■ Previous record: **+2.6°C** (Nov 2015–Jan 2016). ■ India's **2026 southwest monsoon** ended about **13% below normal** (IMD). ■ Below-normal **Oct–Dec rainfall** likely over central & southern peninsula; above-normal temperatures across South Asia.
Way Fwd	Prepare **rabi contingency plans**, protect **reservoir storage**, scale **heat action plans** for 2027 and keep buffer food stocks ready.
Concept	**El Niño** – warm phase of **ENSO**; weakens Walker circulation and usually the Indian monsoon. **Niño 3.4** index (5°N–5°S, 170°W–120°W) above **+0.5°C** signals El Niño; a positive **IOD** can offset it.

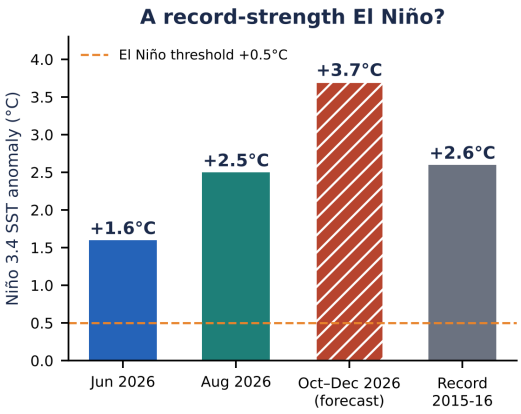


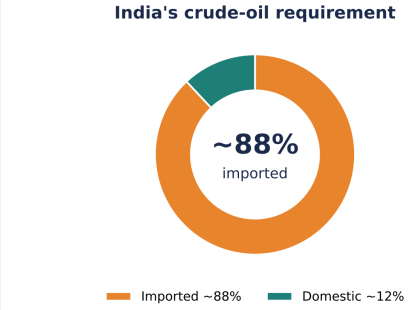
Fig: WMO: 'super' El Niño may be among the strongest on record

SECTION B | KEY ECONOMY DATA POINT OF THE DAY

INDIA'S CRUDE-OIL IMPORT DEPENDENCE

~88%

Roughly **88%** of India's crude-oil needs are met by imports — the core rationale behind **E20** (already achieved) and the new **E100** flex-fuel push; ethanol capacity now stands near **20 billion litres** a year.



SECTION C | GS-II: GOVERNANCE • POLITY • INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



Fig: The DPDP Act challenge — grounds and constitutional links

News publishers challenge DPDP Act in Supreme Court; Centre gets notice

[POLITY] **COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2 (Rights & Governance)**

Syllabus Linkage	**GS2** – Fundamental rights, transparency & accountability, RTI. **Prelims** – DPDP Act 2023, Data Protection Board, Art 19 & 21.
Context	On **27 October 2026**, a bench of **CJI Surya Kant** with Justices **Joymalya Bagchi** and **V. Mohana** issued notice to the Centre on a plea by the **Digital News Publishers Association (DNPA)** against provisions of the **Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023** and its Rules.
Key Facts	■ Plea: no **exemption for journalistic activity**; **consent** rules could make routine news-gathering unworkable and expose **sources**. ■ Challenges the Centre's power to **requisition information** from data fiduciaries. ■ Also challenges the amendment to **RTI Act Sec 8(1)(j)** that widens the **personal-information** exemption. ■ Interim stay sought; next hearing on **17 November 2026**.
Way Fwd	A narrowly tailored **journalistic exemption** with a public-interest test (as in the **GDPR** model) can balance **privacy** with **press freedom** and the **right to know**.
Concept	**K.S. Puttaswamy (2017)** declared privacy a fundamental right under **Art 21**. **DPDP Act 2023** creates the **Data Protection Board of India**; penalties up to **₹250 crore**; Rules notified in **2025**. Press freedom flows from **Art 19(1)(a)**, subject to **Art 19(2)**.

ECI tells SC: CEC can be removed only like a Supreme Court judge

[POLITY] **COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2 (Constitutional Bodies)**

Syllabus Linkage	**GS2** – Constitutional bodies, electoral reforms. **Prelims** – Art 324, CEC & ECs Act 2023, SIR.
Context	In a nearly **250-page** joint counter-affidavit filed on **26 October 2026**, the **Election Commission of India** defended CEC **Gyanesh Kumar** against petitions questioning his functioning, stating he can be removed only on the grounds and in the manner of an **SC judge**.
Key Facts	■ Signed by CEC **Gyanesh Kumar** and ECs **Sukhbir Singh Sandhu** and **Vivek Joshi**; approved **unanimously**. ■ Rejected claims of internal friction; said **news reports are not evidence**. ■ Three **SIR** orders (**24 June 2025, 27 Oct 2025, 14 May 2026**) were unanimous; **Form 6** was not amended. ■ On **5 October**, the SC had said it would examine EC decisions and **annul** any not in accordance with law.
Way Fwd	Institutional credibility needs **transparent decision records**, collegial functioning and equal **removal protection for ECs**, as suggested by electoral-reform panels.
Concept	**Art 324(5)**: CEC removed only like an **SC judge** (proved misbehaviour/incapacity; **special majority** in both Houses); **ECs** removable on the **CEC's recommendation**. The **2023 Act** set a selection panel of **PM, LoP (Lok Sabha) and a Union Cabinet Minister**.

Mecca pact states hold first de-escalation talks in Tehran

[IR] **COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2 (International Relations)**

Syllabus Linkage	**GS2** – Effect of policies of other countries on India's interests; West Asia. **Prelims** – Mecca pact members, Houthis, Red Sea geography.
Context	Senior officials of the **Mecca pact** — **Saudi Arabia, Türkiye and Pakistan** — met Iranian officials in **Tehran** on **26 October 2026** and agreed to continue talks, even as Yemen's **Houthis** escalated missile and drone strikes on Saudi Arabia.
Key Facts	■ Pact signed in **August 2026**: an attack on one member is an **attack on all**. ■ Attendees: Saudi Defence Minister **Khalid bin Salman**, Pakistan Army chief **Asim Munir**, Türkiye's intelligence chief **Ibrahim Kalin**; host – Iran's SNSC secretary. ■ **Pakistan** has ratified; **Türkiye's** parliament is still ratifying. ■ Houthi strikes hit near **Mecca** and **King Fahd Airport** in the past week.
Way Fwd	India must protect its **~9 million diaspora** in the Gulf, energy supplies and **Red Sea** shipping, while watching the **Pakistan–Saudi** security alignment closely.
Concept	**Collective defence** clause resembles **NATO Art 5**. **Houthis (Ansar Allah)** control north Yemen; the **Bab-el-Mandeb** strait links the **Red Sea** to the **Gulf of Aden** — a key route for India–Europe trade.

Mecca pact & the Iran talks



Fig: Mecca pact states hold first de-escalation talks in Tehran

China says it 'strictly abides' by border agreements amid LAC friction in Arunachal

[IR] **COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2/GS3 (India–China, Border Mgmt)**

Syllabus Linkage	**GS2** – India and its neighbourhood. **GS3** – Border management. **Prelims** – LAC sectors, ITBP, border agreements.
Context	Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson **Guo Jiakun** said on **26 October 2026** that China **strictly abides** by agreements and common understandings with India, responding to MEA's remark that the LAC is disturbed when Chinese troops deviate from **established patrol patterns**.
Key Facts	■ MEA spokesperson **Randhir Jaiswal** had flagged periodic disturbance along the LAC. ■ **ITBP DG Shatrujeet Kapur** said face-offs continue at **several points in Arunachal Pradesh**. ■ Beijing said both sides keep communication via **diplomatic and military channels**. ■ Arunachal lies in the **Eastern Sector** of the **~3,488 km** LAC.
Way Fwd	Use **WMCC** and **Corps Commander** talks to lock in patrol protocols, while speeding up **Vibrant Villages** and border road infrastructure.
Concept	Key pacts: **1993** Peace & Tranquillity Agreement, **1996** military CBMs, **2005** Protocol, **2012 WMCC**, **2013** BDCA; **Oct 2024** patrolling arrangement for **Depsang & Demchok**.

SECTION D | PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

1	SC Collegium recommends **Justice P. Sam Koshy** as **Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court**.	4	MoRTH holds a **Transport Mela** under the **PARIVARTAN** scheme in **Delhi-NCR** on **28 Oct 2026**.
2	Tigress **T-138**, moved from **Valmiki TR (Bihar)** to repopulate **Buxa TR (West Bengal)**, has strayed into **Assam**.	5	**GeM** promotes **'The AABHAR Collection'** of heritage products to support **local artisans**.
3	**Infantry Day (27 Oct)** marks the **1947** air-landing of **1 SIKH** at **Srinagar** to defend J&K.	6	**Kudankulam** (Tamil Nadu) – India's largest nuclear plant, built with **Russia** (**VVER** reactors); cybersecurity in focus.

SECTION E | PRACTICE CORNER

Q1. With reference to the recent notification permitting E100 fuel in India, consider the following statements:
1. It was issued by amending the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989.
2. E100 can be used in any petrol vehicle calibrated for E20.
3. The original target year for E20 under the National Policy on Biofuels, 2018 was 2030.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b) — E100 was added under **Rule 115 of CMVR, 1989** (G.S.R. 911(E)). It may be used **only in OEM-designed flex-fuel vehicles**, not in E20-calibrated cars, so statement 2 is wrong. The **2018** policy targeted E20 by **2030**; the 2022 amendment advanced it to ESY 2025-26.

Q2. Consider the following statements regarding the Election Commission of India:
1. The Chief Election Commissioner can be removed from office only in like manner and on like grounds as a judge of the Supreme Court.
2. An Election Commissioner can be removed from office only on the recommendation of the Chief Election Commissioner.
3. Under the 2023 Act, the Chief Justice of India is a member of the committee that selects the Chief Election Commissioner.
Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (b) — Statements 1 and 2 flow from **Article 324(5)**. The **2023 Act** constituted a panel of the **PM, the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha and a Union Cabinet Minister** nominated by the PM — the CJI is **not** a member, so statement 3 is wrong.

MAINS PRACTICE (GS-II)

The Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 seeks to secure informational privacy, but critics argue that it may chill journalism and dilute the Right to Information regime. Critically examine. (15 marks, 250 words)

Hint: Intro: **Puttaswamy (2017)** → DPDP Act. Body: gains (consent, Data Protection Board, penalties up to **₹250 crore**) vs concerns (no **journalistic exemption**, consent burden on reporting, state requisition power, **RTI Sec 8(1)(j)** change). Conclude: public-interest test, GDPR-style exemption, proportionality.

ONE-LINE REVISION: ₹2.12 lakh cr DAC AoN (**82%** desi) • **E100** under CMVR **Rule 115** • RELIEF till **31-3-2027** • Cyclone **Arnab** (Bangladesh) • DNPA vs **DPDP Act** • CEC removal = SC judge (**Art 324(5)**) • **Mecca pact**: Saudi–Türkiye–Pakistan

Compiled & simplified by the StudyForGS.com Research Team
▶ YouTube: @Study_ForGS • ➤ Telegram: t.me/studyforgeneralstudies