

# THE DAILY UPSC BRIEF

HIGH-YIELD DAILY SOURCES & ANALYSIS | WEDNESDAY, 28 OCTOBER 2026

## TODAY'S COVERAGE

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#### PRELIMS POINTERS — TODAY IN ONE LINE EACH

1. **Article 324(5)** — the CEC's removal protection is analogous to that of a Supreme Court judge; other ECs require the CEC's recommendation for removal.
2. **Senior citizen** — the 2007 central maintenance and welfare law defines a senior citizen as an Indian citizen aged 60 years or above.
3. **Drug pricing** — the National List of Essential Medicines is an important reference for prioritising public-health interventions.
4. **Double-fortified salt** — FSSAI standards specify iron and iodine levels; fortification is subject to food-safety quality controls.
5. **NCIIPC** — the national nodal agency for critical information infrastructure protection under IT Act Section 70A.

#### HOW TO READ THIS BRIEF

• Why in News • Target Prelims MCQ • How to Use in UPSC Mains • Mains Practice / Case Study Question

GENERAL STUDIES PAPER II

Election Commission Decisions and Institutional Accountability

GS2 · ELECTION COMMISSION & GOVERNANCE

**WHY IN NEWS**

The Election Commission told the Supreme Court that decisions on the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls were taken unanimously, responding to petitions alleging unilateral decision-making within the three-member Commission.

Key Details:

- **Statutory rule:** Section 18 of the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners Act, 2023 provides for Commission business to be transacted under its rules; where members differ, the majority view prevails.
- **ECI’s position:** In its counter-affidavit, the Commission said the SIR decisions were unanimous and that individual suggestions or queries did not themselves constitute a Commission decision.
- **Petitioners’ claim:** Petitioners rely on reported written objections by two Election Commissioners and challenge the decision-making process. These are contested claims; the affidavit is the Commission’s response, not a judicial finding.
- **Constitutional context:** Article 324 vests the superintendence, direction and control of elections in the Election Commission, subject to the Constitution and laws made by Parliament.
- **Removal safeguards:** Article 324(5) protects the CEC through a removal process like that of a Supreme Court judge; other Election Commissioners can be removed only on the CEC’s recommendation.

Data/Facts/Example:

- **Institutional design:** The Election Commission is a multi-member constitutional body. The 2023 Act sets statutory provisions for the appointment and service conditions of the CEC and Election Commissioners.
- **Status:** The dispute is before the Supreme Court; the reported affidavit does not settle the legal questions.



**PRELIMS ANGLE**

Article 324 concerns election superintendence; Section 18 of the 2023 Act addresses transaction of Commission business and majority decisions.

**HOW TO USE IN UPSC MAINS**

For GS2, connect Article 324 with institutional independence, internal procedure and accountability. In a pending case, distinguish the parties’ positions from law declared by a court.

**ANSWER SKELETON**

|             |                                                                                                 |
|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Intro       | Independent election administration is central to representative democracy.                     |
| Body        | Constitutional mandate; statutory procedure; contested facts; judicial review and transparency. |
| Way forward | Publish reasoned decisions, maintain clear records and protect deliberative independence.       |

**Mains value-add:** Use the distinction between constitutional mandate and statutory procedure: Article 324 states the institution’s role, while legislation and rules structure its functioning.

TARGET PRELIMS MCQ · MODERATE

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

1. Article 324 vests the superintendence, direction and control of elections in the Election Commission.
2. The Constitution itself specifies that every Commission decision must be unanimous.
3. Section 18 of the 2023 Act provides for decisions by majority where members differ.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANSWER: (c) 1 and 3 only**

Article 324 establishes the Commission’s constitutional role. Unanimity is not a constitutional requirement; Section 18 provides for a majority view when members differ.

• **[Abbreviations & Terminology]:** CEC: Chief Election Commissioner | ECI: Election Commission of India | SIR: Special Intensive Revision

## Kerala's Senior Citizens' Bill: Care, Rights and Ageing in Place

GS2 · SOCIAL JUSTICE & VULNERABLE SECTIONS

### WHY IN NEWS

The Keralam Assembly passed the Keralam Senior Citizens (Care and Protection of Rights) Bill, 2026 on 26 October; the Bill was reported on 27 October as awaiting the Governor's assent.

### Key Details:

- **Status matters:** It has passed the State Assembly but should be described as a Bill until it receives assent and is brought into force.
- **Proposed framework:** The Bill proposes a rights-based framework for senior citizens, regulation of care centres and caregivers, and standards for care and protection.
- **Ageing in place:** Its approach seeks to support older people to live with dignity in familiar homes and communities, with institutional care where required.
- **Implementation test:** Effective delivery will depend on accessible services, trained personnel, grievance redress, safeguards against neglect and coordination with health and social-protection systems.

### Data/Facts/Example:

- **Central law:** The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 provides a national statutory framework for maintenance and welfare.
- **Government support:** Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana supports senior citizens through shelter, food, healthcare and active-ageing interventions.



### PRELIMS ANGLE

The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act is a 2007 central law; an Assembly-passed Bill is not yet an operative Act.

### HOW TO USE IN UPSC MAINS

For GS2, assess the Bill through ageing, social justice and cooperative federalism. Evaluate whether legal rights are backed by affordable, accessible and accountable services.

### ANSWER SKELETON

|                    |                                                                                                        |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Intro</b>       | Ageing policy must protect dignity, autonomy and social participation.                                 |
| <b>Body</b>        | Proposed legal safeguards; family and community care; health and income security; implementation gaps. |
| <b>Way forward</b> | Accessible geriatric care, trained caregivers, accountable facilities and stronger local support.      |

**Mains value-add:** The National Programme for Health Care of the Elderly links geriatric care with primary and district-level health services; use it to connect legal protection with actual service access.

### TARGET PRELIMS MCQ · MODERATE

**Q.** With reference to senior-citizen welfare in India, consider the following statements:

1. The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act was enacted in 2007.
2. The Keralam Senior Citizens Bill passed by the Assembly is automatically in force without assent.
3. Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana is a Union government scheme for senior citizens.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

### ANSWER: (c) 1 and 3 only

The central Act dates to 2007, and AVYAY is a Union scheme. A Bill passed by a State Assembly ordinarily requires the Governor's assent before becoming law.

### RELATED PYQ

UPSC CSE Mains 2020, GS Paper II: "In order to enhance the prospects of social development, sound and adequate health care policies are needed particularly in the fields of geriatric and maternal health care. Discuss."

- **[Abbreviations & Terminology]:** AVYAY: Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana

## Medicine Price Regulation: Affordability, Access and Incentives

GS2 • HEALTH GOVERNANCE & SOCIAL JUSTICE

### WHY IN NEWS

On 27 October, the Supreme Court questioned the Union's approach to medicines outside the stricter price-control schedule and reserved its order in a petition seeking wider price safeguards.

### Key Details:

- **Existing framework:** Under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013, scheduled formulations are subject to ceiling prices; non-scheduled formulations are subject to a limit on annual price increases.
- **Issue before the Court:** The petition seeks broader intervention, including scrutiny of initial prices and trade margins. The Union defended a calibrated approach that also considers availability, competition and innovation.
- **Hearing status:** The Court's questions and the parties' arguments are not a final decision. The order was reserved, so the policy's legal position remains unchanged pending judgment.
- **Policy trade-off:** Price regulation can improve affordability, but design must also consider supply, quality, innovation and incentives against market concentration.

### Data/Facts/Example:

- **Regulator:** The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority implements and monitors price controls under the Department of Pharmaceuticals.
- **Public-interest power:** The DPCO provides a mechanism for the government to intervene in prices in extraordinary circumstances and in public interest.



### PRELIMS ANGLE

The DPCO 2013 distinguishes scheduled formulations subject to ceiling prices from non-scheduled formulations under a separate price-increase limit.

### HOW TO USE IN UPSC MAINS

For GS2, analyse medicines as an essential component of public health and social justice. Evaluate price controls alongside availability, quality assurance, competition and the regulator's transparency.

### ANSWER SKELETON

|                    |                                                                                                             |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Intro</b>       | Affordable medicines are central to the right to health and effective public health systems.                |
| <b>Body</b>        | Present controls; gaps in coverage; affordability and hospital mark-ups; supply and innovation concerns.    |
| <b>Way forward</b> | Transparent evidence-based inclusion, monitoring, generic competition and patient-facing price information. |

**Mains value-add:** The National List of Essential Medicines informs prioritisation of medicines for public-health and price-policy purposes; affordability debates also require attention to uninterrupted supply and quality.

### TARGET PRELIMS MCQ • MODERATE

**Q.** With reference to drug price regulation in India, consider the following statements:

1. The Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 provides for ceiling prices for scheduled formulations.
2. The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority is associated with implementation and monitoring of drug price controls.
3. The Supreme Court's 27 October hearing resulted in a final judgment expanding price control to all medicines.

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) 1 and 2 only

The DPCO provides the price-control framework, and NPPA implements and monitors it. The Court reserved its order; no final expansion was decided at the hearing.

- **[Abbreviations & Terminology]:** DPCO: Drugs (Prices Control) Order | NPPA: National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority

## Double-Fortified Salt: A Promising but Not Standalone Anaemia Tool

GS2 • HEALTH & NUTRITION | GS3 • FOOD SECURITY

### WHY IN NEWS

A 27 October Hindu editorial urged wider use of double-fortified salt (DFS), including through the Public Distribution System, as one preventive component of India's anaemia response.

### Key Details:

- **What it is:** DFS combines iodine and iron in edible salt, using an existing food vehicle and salt-iodisation infrastructure.
- **Potential:** It may add a population-level preventive measure and complement iron supplementation, dietary diversification, screening and treatment.
- **Evidence caveat:** A Cochrane review found possible benefits for some outcomes, but evidence certainty varies; it called for better real-world studies. Anaemia also has causes other than iron deficiency.
- **Delivery safeguards:** Scale-up would require reliable fortification quality, State participation, consumer acceptance and alignment with sodium-reduction goals; it should not replace diagnosis or treatment.

### Data/Facts/Example:

- **FSSAI standard:** India's food-safety standards specify iodine and iron levels for double-fortified salt.
- **Programme link:** Anaemia Mukh Bharat uses a multi-pronged approach spanning prevention, screening, treatment, dietary practices and behaviour change.



### PRELIMS ANGLE

FSSAI standards for double-fortified salt specify both iodine and iron content; fortification does not make salt a treatment for all forms of anaemia.

### HOW TO USE IN UPSC MAINS

For GS2 and GS3, assess food fortification as a delivery tool within nutrition policy. Balance scale and affordability against evidence quality, dietary diversity, salt reduction and the need to diagnose non-nutritional causes.

### ANSWER SKELETON

|                    |                                                                                                              |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Intro</b>       | Anaemia control needs prevention as well as diagnosis and treatment.                                         |
| <b>Body</b>        | DFS potential; existing delivery channels; evidence limits; multi-causal anaemia; implementation safeguards. |
| <b>Way forward</b> | Use monitored pilots and quality assurance, integrate with AMB, and track health outcomes and sodium intake. |

**Mains value-add:** The Cochrane 2022 review found potential improvements in some iron and anaemia outcomes but highlighted limitations in study quality and the need for real-world evidence.

### TARGET PRELIMS MCQ • MODERATE

**Q.** With reference to double-fortified salt (DFS), consider the following statements:

1. It is fortified with both iodine and iron.
2. It can address every cause of anaemia and replace clinical screening.
3. Quality assurance and monitoring are relevant to food-fortification programmes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

### ANSWER: (c) 1 and 3 only

DFS supplies iron and iodine, but anaemia has multiple causes and may require screening and treatment. Fortification needs quality assurance and monitoring.

- **[Abbreviations & Terminology]:** DFS: Double-fortified salt | FSSAI: Food Safety and Standards Authority of India | PDS: Public Distribution System

GENERAL STUDIES PAPER III

Renewable Energy Needs Storage and Transmission Flexibility

GS3 · INFRASTRUCTURE & ENERGY

**WHY IN NEWS**

A 27 October Indian Express analysis highlighted the gap between daytime solar generation and evening demand, renewing attention to storage and transmission as India expands renewable power.

- Key Details:**
- **Timing mismatch:** Solar generation is concentrated in daylight hours, while electricity demand and supply needs vary across the day and season.
  - **System flexibility:** Storage can shift energy across time; stronger transmission can move electricity from resource-rich areas to load centres. Both can reduce curtailment and improve reliability.
  - **Technology mix:** Pumped-storage hydropower and battery energy storage have different siting, duration, cost and response characteristics; they can complement each other.
  - **Planning challenge:** Generation, transmission, storage, flexible demand and market design must be planned together to avoid stranded capacity and ensure affordable power.

- Data/Facts/Example:**
- **CEA plan:** The Central Electricity Authority’s National Electricity Plan identifies storage as important for integrating variable renewable energy and balancing supply.
  - **Grid principle:** Electricity must be balanced in real time; storage shifts energy, while transmission expands where it can be delivered.



**PRELIMS ANGLE**

Pumped-storage hydropower stores energy by moving water between reservoirs; batteries store energy electrochemically.

**HOW TO USE IN UPSC MAINS**

For GS3, treat the energy transition as a system-integration challenge. Assess storage, transmission, flexible demand and market incentives alongside renewable capacity additions.

| ANSWER SKELETON |                                                                                                  |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Intro           | Renewable growth requires a grid capable of balancing variable supply and demand.                |
| Body            | Temporal and spatial mismatch; storage options; transmission; cost and environmental trade-offs. |
| Way forward     | Integrated planning, competitive procurement, flexible demand and timely grid investment.        |

**Mains value-add:** The CEA’s National Electricity Plan 2022–32 describes energy storage as a means of time-shifting excess electricity and supporting real-time supply quality as variable renewables grow.

**TARGET PRELIMS MCQ · MODERATE**

**Q.** With reference to electricity storage and renewable integration, consider the following statements:

1. Storage can shift electricity from periods of surplus generation to periods of higher demand.
2. Transmission expansion can connect renewable-resource regions with load centres.
3. Battery storage and pumped-storage hydropower have identical siting and operating characteristics.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**ANSWER: (a) 1 and 2 only**

Storage shifts electricity over time and transmission moves power across locations. Battery and pumped-storage systems have distinct characteristics and constraints.

• **[Abbreviations & Terminology]:** CEA: Central Electricity Authority

## India's Biodiversity Commitments at CBD COP17

GS3 · BIODIVERSITY & INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

### WHY IN NEWS

India's National Statement at the 17th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Yerevan on 27 October emphasized national implementation, predictable support and benefit-sharing from digital sequence information.

### Key Details:

- **Global framework:** The Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, adopted under the CBD, sets four goals for 2050 and 23 targets for 2030.
- **National translation:** India said its updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan maps the global framework into 23 national targets and 142 indicators.
- **Digital sequence information:** India supported benefit-sharing through the multilateral mechanism and Cali Fund concerning digital sequence information on genetic resources.
- **Implementation equity:** India stressed alignment with national circumstances and the need for finance, capacity-building and technology transfer, especially for developing countries.

### Data/Facts/Example:

- **CBD objectives:** Conservation of biological diversity; sustainable use of its components; and fair and equitable sharing of benefits from genetic resources.
- **Cali Fund:** The CBD's multilateral mechanism concerns benefit-sharing from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources.



### PRELIMS ANGLE

CBD has three objectives: conservation, sustainable use, and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources.

### HOW TO USE IN UPSC MAINS

For GS3, connect international biodiversity commitments with domestic planning, conservation and community participation. Discuss finance and technology as implementation conditions, not substitutes for national action.

### ANSWER SKELETON

|                    |                                                                                           |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Intro</b>       | Biodiversity governance requires global cooperation and domestic implementation.          |
| <b>Body</b>        | GBF goals and targets; national plans; benefit-sharing; finance and capacity constraints. |
| <b>Way forward</b> | Science-based monitoring, community participation and equitable international support.    |

**Mains value-add:** The Nagoya Protocol provides the CBD framework for access to genetic resources and fair and equitable benefit-sharing; DSI is addressed through a separate multilateral mechanism under COP decisions.

### TARGET PRELIMS MCQ · MODERATE

**Q.** With reference to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), consider the following statements:

1. The Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework has four goals for 2050 and 23 targets for 2030.
2. The Cali Fund relates to benefit-sharing from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources.
3. The CBD has only one objective: conservation of biological diversity.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

### ANSWER: (a) 1 and 2 only

The CBD also covers sustainable use and fair and equitable benefit-sharing; it therefore has three objectives. The GBF and Cali Fund statements are correct.

• **[Abbreviations & Terminology]:** CBD: Convention on Biological Diversity | GBF: Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework | NBAP: National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan | DSI: Digital sequence information

## Critical-Infrastructure Cybersecurity Extends to Vendors

GS3 • INTERNAL SECURITY & CYBERSECURITY

### WHY IN NEWS

A 27 October Hindu editorial revisited the Kudankulam-related data leak to highlight cybersecurity risks in contractor and data-centre supply chains around critical infrastructure.

### Key Details:

- **Incident scope:** In July, Reliance Infrastructure acknowledged a partial data breach involving a third-party-hosted server. NPCIL said the material reported publicly related to conventional balance-of-plant facilities, not nuclear safety or security systems.
- **Important distinction:** The reported leak concerned contractor-held project information; it was not evidence that reactor controls were compromised. The alleged files' authenticity was not independently established in reporting.
- **Supply-chain exposure:** Contractors, cloud and data-centre providers, remote access and removable media can widen the security perimeter beyond an operator's own network.
- **Policy response:** Critical-infrastructure protection should include vendor-risk standards, access controls, incident reporting, independent audits and coordination with NCIIPC and CERT-In.

### Data/Facts/Example:

- **NCIIPC:** Established under Section 70A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 to protect critical information infrastructure.
- **Cyber-physical risk:** Operational technology controls physical processes; information technology handles data and business systems. Safe segmentation and controlled data transfer matter across their interfaces.



### PRELIMS ANGLE

NCIIPC is the national nodal agency for protection of critical information infrastructure under Section 70A of the IT Act.

### HOW TO USE IN UPSC MAINS

For GS3 internal security, use the incident to explain why critical-infrastructure security includes third parties and information confidentiality, not only operational continuity. Separate confirmed facts from ransomware-group claims.

### ANSWER SKELETON

|                    |                                                                                                                 |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Intro</b>       | Critical infrastructure now depends on connected contractors and digital services.                              |
| <b>Body</b>        | Third-party exposure; information versus operational compromise; IT-OT interfaces; national cyber institutions. |
| <b>Way forward</b> | Map suppliers, restrict privileged access, audit vendors and test incident response.                            |

**Mains value-add:** The IT Act's Section 70A framework identifies critical information infrastructure as systems whose incapacitation or destruction can have a debilitating impact on national security, economy, public health or safety.

### TARGET PRELIMS MCQ • MODERATE

**Q.** With reference to cybersecurity of critical infrastructure, consider the following statements:

1. The National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre is established under Section 70A of the Information Technology Act, 2000.
2. A breach of contractor-held data necessarily proves that the facility's operational control systems were compromised.
3. Vendor access and data-transfer controls are part of supply-chain cybersecurity.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

### ANSWER: (b) 1 and 3 only

NCIIPC is established under Section 70A. A contractor-data incident does not by itself prove compromise of operational controls; vendor access and data transfer are relevant security controls.

• **[Abbreviations & Terminology]:** NCIIPC: National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre | CERT-In: Indian Computer Emergency Response Team | NPCIL: Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited | OT: Operational technology

## Defence Procurement: AoN Is a Capability Step, Not a Contract

GS3 • DEFENCE & SELF-RELIANCE

### WHY IN NEWS

The Defence Acquisition Council accorded Acceptance of Necessity to capital-acquisition proposals estimated at INR 2.12 lakh crore on 26 October; the announcement was published by PIB the same day.

### Key Details:

- **Scope:** The proposals span the Army, Navy and Air Force, including mobility and artillery systems, air defence and surveillance, naval platforms and aircraft-related systems.
- **Indigenous sourcing:** The Ministry of Defence said approximately 82% of the approved proposals would be procured from Indian industry.
- **Stage of procurement:** Acceptance of Necessity is an in-principle administrative approval to pursue an identified acquisition need; it is not a signed contract, delivery, or immediate expenditure.
- **Capability and execution:** Procurement can address operational gaps and support domestic industry, but outcomes depend on transparent competition, timely contracting, testing, lifecycle maintenance and cost control.

### Data/Facts/Example:

- **Decision body:** The Defence Acquisition Council is chaired by the Defence Minister and considers major capital-acquisition proposals.
- **Strategic lens:** Aatmanirbharta in defence includes domestic design, production, maintenance and supply-chain resilience, while retaining access to critical capabilities where needed.



### PRELIMS ANGLE

AoN is an in-principle approval stage; it should not be confused with contract signing or equipment delivery.

### HOW TO USE IN UPSC MAINS

For GS3, assess defence procurement through operational readiness, indigenisation and fiscal value. Distinguish a proposal's estimated value from contracted expenditure and examine how domestic sourcing builds capability over time.

### ANSWER SKELETON

|                    |                                                                                           |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Intro</b>       | Defence procurement links national security with industrial and fiscal policy.            |
| <b>Body</b>        | Capability gaps; AoN stage; indigenous sourcing; procurement delays and lifecycle costs.  |
| <b>Way forward</b> | Competitive contracting, realistic timelines, testing and long-term maintenance planning. |

**Mains value-add:** Use the audit distinction between approvals, commitments and actual expenditure: an AoN authorises procurement processing but does not equal a completed contract or a budget outturn.

### TARGET PRELIMS MCQ • MODERATE

**Q.** With reference to defence procurement in India, consider the following statements:

1. Acceptance of Necessity is an in-principle administrative approval in the acquisition process.
2. An AoN announcement by itself means that a contract has been signed and the equipment delivered.
3. The Defence Acquisition Council is chaired by the Defence Minister.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

### ANSWER: (c) 1 and 3 only

AoN is an early administrative approval; contract award, manufacture, testing and delivery follow later. The DAC is chaired by the Defence Minister.

- **[Abbreviations & Terminology]:** AoN: Acceptance of Necessity | DAC: Defence Acquisition Council

GENERAL STUDIES PAPER IV

Acid-Attack Prevention and Survivor-Centred Rehabilitation

GS4 · COMPASSION, DIGNITY & ACCOUNTABILITY

**WHY IN NEWS**

On 27 October, the Supreme Court urged the Union to revisit acid-sale guidelines after concerns that incidents continue despite existing restrictions, and asked authorities to examine a survivor-centred rehabilitation framework.

Key Details:

- **Hearing, not final judgment:** The Court’s observations came during pending proceedings; they are not a final ruling that changes the law.
- **Enforcement gap:** The bench questioned whether guidelines are being implemented by States and called for coordination, accountability and scrutiny of incident data.
- **Survivor support:** The Court asked the Union and NALSA to examine a proposed standard operating procedure and seek input from survivors and other stakeholders.
- **Existing safeguards:** Earlier Supreme Court directions and criminal-law provisions address acid attacks, treatment and compensation; the present proceedings revisit prevention and rehabilitation implementation.

Data/Facts/Example:

- **State role:** Police and public order are State subjects; effective prevention requires Union-State coordination on regulation and enforcement.
- **Rights framework:** The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 and victim-compensation mechanisms are relevant to long-term rehabilitation and equal participation.



**HOW TO USE IN UPSC MAINS**

For GS2 and GS4, connect bodily integrity and dignity with prevention, timely treatment, compensation and long-term inclusion. Distinguish the Court’s hearing-stage observations from final directions.

| ANSWER SKELETON |                                                                                                    |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Intro           | Acid-attack response must protect dignity, bodily integrity and equal citizenship.                 |
| Body            | Prevention and enforcement; emergency treatment; compensation; disability support; rehabilitation. |
| Conclusion      | Coordinate departments, consult survivors and monitor outcomes with time-bound accountability.     |

**Mains value-add:** In *Laxmi v. Union of India* (2015), the Supreme Court addressed regulation of acid sales and victim treatment and rehabilitation; use it as the precedent for linking prevention with survivor support.

**MAINS CASE STUDY EXERCISE**

MAINS CASE STUDY EXERCISE A survivor of an acid attack reports delays in compensation and difficulty accessing long-term treatment and disability support. As the district officer coordinating the response, identify the ethical and administrative issues. What immediate and longer-term steps would you take? (150 words)

• **[Abbreviations & Terminology]:** NALSA: National Legal Services Authority