

**UPSC prelims Exam Based on Current Affairs Analysis – 29 August 2025**

**1. Government Launches 'Dharti Aba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyaan' for Tribal Welfare**

**Context:** The Union Government has launched a comprehensive flagship program, the 'Dharti Aba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyaan', aimed at the holistic development of tribal villages across the country. This mission seeks to ensure the last-mile delivery and saturation of government welfare schemes in these regions. A key component of this initiative is the 'Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan', which is being touted as the world's largest tribal grassroots leadership program.

**Significance:** With a significant tribal population that has historically faced socio-economic marginalization, this mission represents a concerted effort to bring them into the mainstream of national development. The focus on participatory governance, by involving tribal communities in identifying local challenges and formulating solutions, marks a shift towards a more empowered and community-centric development model. The establishment of 'Adi Seva Kendras' as single-window service centers is expected to streamline access to various welfare schemes, reducing bureaucratic hurdles.

**Analysis:** The success of this Abhiyaan will depend on its effective implementation and the genuine empowerment of tribal communities. The 'Adi Karmayogi' initiative, which aims to train 20 lakh tribal "change leaders," is a novel approach to building capacity at the grassroots level. These trained individuals can act as crucial links between the government and the community, ensuring that the benefits of the schemes reach the intended beneficiaries. The emphasis on creating "Village Vision 2030" documents encourages long-term planning and a sense of ownership among the tribal populace. However, challenges such as geographical remoteness, cultural barriers, and the need for sustained funding will need to be addressed for the mission to achieve its objectives. The convergence of various schemes and the involvement of multiple ministries will be critical for its success.

**UPSC Syllabus Correlations:**

**GS Paper 1:** Social empowerment, Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India.

**GS Paper 2:** Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes; mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.

### **3. Report on Migration and Urbanization Highlights Policy Gaps**

**Context:** A recent analysis of "The Migration in India (2020-2021)" report by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation underscores the significant role of migrants in India's economy and the persistent challenges they face. The report estimates that migrants constitute nearly one-third of India's total population and 34.6% of the urban population. By 2030, migration is expected to contribute to a 40% urbanization rate, with the urban population reaching around 607 million.

**Significance:** Migrant workers are the backbone of several key sectors, including construction, manufacturing, and the burgeoning gig economy, particularly in urban centers that are the engines of economic growth. Despite their immense contribution, they often remain "invisible" in urban planning and policy frameworks, leading to their marginalization and a denial of basic rights and social security. The mass exodus of migrant workers during the COVID-19 lockdown in 2020 starkly exposed their vulnerability and the systemic gaps in urban governance.

**Analysis:** The analysis points to the urgent need for a comprehensive national policy on migration that ensures the social and economic inclusion of migrants. While a National Migration Policy was proposed in 2021, its implementation has been lagging.[1] The concept of "epistemic violence" is relevant here, where the lack of recognition and data on migrants in official discourse and planning leads to their exclusion.[1] To address this, urban planning needs to shift from a purely infrastructure-focused approach to one that is more inclusive and people-centric. This includes providing affordable housing, access to healthcare and education, and social safety nets for migrant workers and their families. Integrating migrants into the urban fabric is not just a matter of social justice but is also crucial for sustainable and equitable urban development.

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**UPSC Syllabus Correlations:**

**GS Paper 1:** Urbanization, their problems and their remedies.

**GS Paper 2:** Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population; Issues relating to poverty and hunger.

**GS Paper 3:** Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment.

**3. India-Fiji Relations Deepen with Focus on Indo-Pacific Security**

**Context:** The official visit of Fiji's Prime Minister, Sitiveni Ligamamada Rabuka, to India has marked a significant step in the evolution of bilateral relations. The discussions have moved beyond traditional cultural and diaspora ties to a more strategic and security-focused partnership in the Indo-Pacific region.

**Significance:** Fiji's strategic location in the South Pacific makes it a crucial partner for India in its Indo-Pacific outreach. The growing strategic partnership is a reflection of India's increasing engagement with the Pacific Island Countries (PICs) as part of its 'Act East' policy. This collaboration is mutually beneficial, with India providing development assistance and capacity-building support to Fiji, while Fiji's partnership helps India in expanding its footprint in a region of growing geopolitical competition.

**Analysis:** The key areas of cooperation highlighted during the visit include defense cooperation, cyber training, healthcare, and climate change projects. The focus on enhancing Fiji's maritime security capabilities, including the protection of its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), aligns with India's vision of a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific. This deepening of ties can be seen as a counter to China's increasing influence in the region. For the relationship to be sustainable, India needs to ensure timely and effective delivery of its development projects and continue to engage with Fiji as an equal partner. The strong Indian diaspora in Fiji can continue to be a bridge between the two nations, fostering goodwill and strengthening people-to-people connections.

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**UPSC Syllabus Correlations:**

**GS Paper 2:** India and its neighborhood- relations; Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.

**4. First Human Case of New World Screwworm in the US in Decades**

**Context:** The United States Department of Health and Human Services has confirmed the first human case of New World Screwworm since the 1960s. This has raised concerns among health officials and the livestock industry.

**Significance:** The New World screwworm (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*) is a parasitic fly larva that feeds on the living tissue of warm-blooded animals, including humans. An infestation can be debilitating and even fatal if not treated promptly. The re-emergence of this parasite after decades of successful eradication efforts in the US is a significant public health concern. It also poses a serious threat to the livestock industry, as screwworm infestations can cause significant economic losses.

**Analysis:** This incident highlights the importance of continuous surveillance and control measures for zoonotic diseases. The fact that this parasite has re-emerged underscores the challenges of completely eradicating such pests, especially in a globalized world where there is constant movement of people and goods. The immediate priority for US health authorities will be to determine the source of the infestation and prevent its spread. For a country like India, with a large livestock population and tropical climate, this development serves as a reminder to strengthen its own animal and public health surveillance systems to prevent the entry and spread of such exotic and dangerous pests.

**UPSC Syllabus Correlations:**

**GS Paper 3: Science and Technology** - developments and their applications and effects in everyday life; Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nano-technology, bio-technology and issues relating to intellectual property rights.

**GS Paper 2:** Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health.

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### **5. India Establishes National Authority for Carbon Markets**

**Context:** The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has finalized the establishment of a National Designated Authority (NDA) for Carbon Emissions Trading. This is a crucial step to enable India to participate in carbon trading under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.

**Significance:** The formation of the NDA will allow Indian companies to generate and trade carbon credits in international markets. This can attract significant green investments into the country for projects in renewable energy, energy efficiency, and afforestation. By participating in the global carbon market, India can achieve its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) more cost-effectively and also contribute to global efforts to mitigate climate change.

**Analysis:** The NDA, a 21-member committee headed by the Environment Secretary, will be responsible for assessing and recommending projects for generating carbon credits under Article 6.4 of the Paris Agreement. The success of this mechanism will depend on the transparency and robustness of the project approval and verification processes. It is also essential to ensure that the benefits of carbon trading are shared equitably and contribute to sustainable development at the local level. The establishment of the NDA is a clear signal of India's commitment to its climate goals and its readiness to leverage market-based mechanisms to achieve them. This move is in line with India's updated NDCs, which include reducing the emissions intensity of its GDP by 45% by 2030 from 2005 levels and achieving Net Zero emissions by 2070.

#### **UPSC Syllabus Correlations:**

**GS Paper 3:** Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.

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## **6. Government Suspends 11% Cotton Import Duty Amidst Production Crisis**

**Context:** The Union Government has suspended the 11% import duty on cotton until September 30, 2025.[2] This decision comes in response to a significant drop in domestic cotton production, which has fallen to a 15-year low of 294 lakh bales in the 2024-25 season, against a requirement of 318 lakh bales.

**Significance:** The suspension of the import duty is a major relief for the textile industry, which has been grappling with high raw material prices and a supply shortage. This move is expected to stabilize cotton prices and ensure the availability of this crucial raw material for textile mills, thereby protecting employment in this labor-intensive sector. It also reflects the government's proactive approach to addressing supply-side constraints and controlling inflation.

**Analysis:** The 11% import duty was initially imposed in the 2021 budget when India had a surplus in cotton production. However, the current production crisis, attributed to factors like adverse weather conditions and pest attacks, has necessitated a policy reversal. While the duty suspension is a welcome short-term measure, it also underscores the need for long-term strategies to enhance the productivity and resilience of cotton farming in India. This includes promoting the adoption of climate-resilient crop varieties, improving irrigation facilities, and providing better price support to farmers. The government also needs to strike a balance between the interests of cotton farmers and the textile industry to ensure the sustainable growth of the entire cotton value chain.

### **UPSC Syllabus Correlations:**

**GS Paper 3:** Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment; Major crops cropping patterns in various parts of the country.

## **7. Report on Coal Operations Highlights Need for Stricter Regulation**

**Context:** A new report titled "Regulating Coal Operations: Environmental and Social Impacts through the Lens of the NGT" was released, highlighting the continued centrality of coal in India's energy mix for the foreseeable future. The report emphasizes the inevitable environmental and health challenges and calls for greater involvement of local communities and the institutionalization of Health Impact Assessments in project approvals.

**Significance:** Coal currently accounts for over 70% of India's power generation, providing energy security and supporting key industries. However, its environmental and health impacts, including air and water pollution, biodiversity loss, and public health issues in mining regions, are severe. The report's findings are significant as they call for a more holistic and people-centric approach to regulating coal operations, moving beyond mere environmental clearances.

**Analysis:** The report's recommendations, such as the creation of a Just Transition Fund to support coal workers, empowering the National Green Tribunal (NGT) and Pollution Control Boards, and promoting a circular economy for coal waste, are crucial for a sustainable energy future. The concept of "path dependency" due to existing investments in coal infrastructure poses a major challenge to a rapid transition to cleaner energy sources. Therefore, the focus should be on mitigating the negative impacts of coal while simultaneously accelerating the deployment of renewable energy. The call for community oversight and Health Impact Assessments can help in ensuring greater accountability and social justice in the coal sector.

### **UPSC Syllabus Correlations:**

**GS Paper 3: Infrastructure:** Energy; Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.

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## **8. Government Announces 'Next-Generation' GST Reforms**

**Context:** The government has announced that "next-generation GST reforms" will be rolled out by Diwali 2025. The focus of these reforms will be on simplifying the tax slabs, reducing the tax burden on households, and easing compliance for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

**Significance:** The Goods and Services Tax (GST), introduced in 2017, was a landmark indirect tax reform. However, its implementation has faced several challenges, including a complex multi-slab structure, compliance issues for small businesses, and technical glitches in the GST Network (GSTN). The proposed reforms are significant as they aim to address these long-standing issues and make the GST regime more efficient and user-friendly.

**Analysis:** The simplification of GST slabs has been a key demand from both industry and experts. A three-rate structure is often suggested to reduce classification disputes and bring down the tax burden on essential goods and services. Easing compliance for MSMEs is crucial for their survival and growth, as they are the backbone of the Indian economy. The success of these reforms will depend on a consultative approach, involving all stakeholders, and ensuring that the technological infrastructure is robust enough to handle the changes. The "next-generation" reforms are an opportunity to realize the full potential of GST as a "Good and Simple Tax" that can boost economic growth and formalization.

### **UPSC Syllabus Correlations:**

**GS Paper 3:** Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment; Government Budgeting.

### **9. The Rise of 'Shadow Schooling' and its Implications**

**Context:** A recent analysis has brought to light the growing phenomenon of "shadow schooling," or private coaching, in India. The data reveals that a significant percentage of students at all levels are dependent on private tuitions, with the expenditure on coaching increasing with the level of education.

**Significance:** The proliferation of private coaching centers across the country points to the perceived inadequacies of the formal education system in meeting the learning needs of students and preparing them for competitive examinations. This has significant implications for equity and access to education, as students from economically weaker sections may not be able to afford expensive coaching. It also raises concerns about the quality of education in schools and the increasing commercialization of education.

**Analysis:** The issue of shadow schooling needs to be addressed from multiple perspectives. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, with its focus on conceptual understanding and reduced curriculum content, is a step in the right direction. However, its effective implementation is key. There is also a need to regulate the private coaching industry to ensure quality and prevent malpractices. The ethical dilemma of privatization versus equitable education is at the heart of this issue.[6] Strengthening the public education system by investing in teacher training, improving infrastructure, and making the curriculum more engaging can help in reducing the reliance on private coaching and ensuring a level playing field for all students.

#### **UPSC Syllabus Correlations:**

**GS Paper 2:** Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Education, Human Resources.

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### **10. India to Bid for 2030 Commonwealth Games in Ahmedabad**

**Context:** The Union Cabinet has given its approval for India to bid for the hosting of the 2030 Commonwealth Games, with Ahmedabad being proposed as the host city. India is also positioning Ahmedabad as a potential candidate for the 2036 Olympics.

**Significance:** Hosting a major multi-sport event like the Commonwealth Games can have several benefits for the country, including boosting sports infrastructure, promoting tourism, and enhancing the country's soft power. It can also provide a platform for Indian athletes to showcase their talent on a global stage and inspire a sporting culture in the country. India's best performance at the Commonwealth Games was in 2010 when it hosted the event in Delhi and won 101 medals.

**Analysis:** The choice of Ahmedabad as the host city is significant, given the world-class sports infrastructure that has been developed there in recent years. However, the experience of the 2010 Delhi Games also serves as a cautionary tale, with issues of corruption and delays in construction tarnishing the event. Therefore, it is crucial that the planning and execution of the 2030 Games are done in a transparent and efficient manner. The government's approval of the Host Collaboration Agreement with the Gujarat government is a step towards ensuring a coordinated effort. A successful hosting of the Commonwealth Games can be a stepping stone for the more ambitious bid for the 2036 Olympics.

#### **UPSC Syllabus Correlations:**

**GS Paper 2:** Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability.

