



UPSC Prelims Exam Based on Current Affairs Analysis- 30 August 2025

1. India's Second Nuclear Submarine, INS Arighaat, Commissioned

Source: The Hindu

Context:

India has officially commissioned its second nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN), INS Arighaat, marking a significant enhancement of its strategic deterrence capabilities. The submarine was commissioned in a quiet ceremony, reflecting the classified nature of strategic assets. Arighaat, which means "destroyer of the enemy," is the second submarine of the Arihant-class, following the induction of INS Arihant in 2016. These submarines are capable of carrying nuclear-tipped ballistic missiles, completing India's nuclear triad—the ability to launch nuclear weapons from land, air, and sea. This capability is crucial for a credible second-strike option, a cornerstone of India's "No First Use" nuclear policy.

Significance:

The commissioning of INS Arighaat strengthens India's position in the elite club of nations with nuclear-powered submarines, which includes the US, UK, Russia, France, and China. It ensures a continuous at-sea deterrence, as one SSBN can be on patrol while another is undergoing maintenance. This development is particularly significant in the context of the evolving security dynamics in the Indo-Pacific region, providing India with a robust deterrent against potential adversaries and reinforcing its status as a major regional power. The submarine's indigenous development is a testament to the success of the 'Make in India' initiative in the defense sector.

Analysis:

The induction of a second SSBN is a critical step towards a more mature and resilient nuclear deterrent. While INS Arihant demonstrated the capability, Arighaat provides redundancy and ensures that India's sea-based nuclear assets are not just symbolic but operational and persistent. The challenge, however, lies in



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maintaining these highly complex platforms and ensuring the command and control systems are foolproof. The project showcases India's advanced technological capabilities in naval and nuclear engineering but also highlights the immense financial and technical resources required for such strategic programs. The secrecy surrounding the project underscores the sensitive nature of nuclear deterrence.

Correlation with UPSC Syllabus:

GS Paper 3: Science and Technology - Indigenization of technology and developing new technology.

GS Paper 3: Security - Various Security forces and agencies and their mandate; Security challenges and their management in border areas.

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

2. Government's Renewed Push for Semiconductor Manufacturing

Source - Economic Times

Context:

The Indian government has prepared a new \$15 billion blueprint to bolster its mission to establish a robust semiconductor manufacturing ecosystem. This initiative aims to attract global chipmakers to set up fabrication units (fabs) in the country and promote domestic players in chip design and assembly. This renewed push comes as the global semiconductor supply chain continues to face disruptions, and major economies are investing heavily to reduce their dependence on a few East Asian nations for critical chip supplies. The blueprint includes enhanced production-linked incentives (PLI), support for infrastructure development, and measures to foster a skilled workforce.



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Significance:

Semiconductors are the bedrock of the modern digital economy, powering everything from smartphones and cars to advanced medical equipment and defense systems. Establishing a domestic semiconductor industry is crucial for India's economic growth, national security, and technological self-reliance (Atmanirbharta). A successful semiconductor mission would create high-skilled jobs, attract significant foreign investment, and reduce the country's import bill. It would also position India as a key player in the global technology supply chain, aligning with its geopolitical and economic aspirations.

Analysis:

While the government's ambition is commendable, setting up a semiconductor ecosystem is a capital-intensive and technologically complex endeavor that requires a long-term strategy. Challenges include the need for massive and uninterrupted supplies of clean water and power, a highly skilled talent pool, and navigating the complex geopolitics of the chip industry. The new blueprint seems to address some of these by offering substantial financial incentives. However, success will depend on effective implementation, creating a stable policy environment, and fostering strong collaborations between industry, academia, and government.

Correlation with UPSC Syllabus:

GS Paper 3: Indian Economy - Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization of resources, growth, development, and employment; Manufacturing Infrastructure.

GS Paper 3: Science and Technology - Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nano-technology, bio-technology and issues relating to intellectual property rights.



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GS Paper 2: Governance - Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

3. Disempowerment of State Election Commissions (SECs)

Source: The Hindu

Context:

An editorial in The Hindu highlighted the systemic disempowerment of State Election Commissions (SECs) across India, leading to delays in local body elections and undermining grassroots democracy. Citing recent instances, such as the Karnataka SEC's contempt petition against the state government for delaying panchayat elections and a Supreme Court ruling striking down an ordinance in Andhra Pradesh that hindered local polls, the article underscores a growing trend of state governments interfering with the autonomy of SECs. Reports by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) have also pointed out that a large percentage of urban local bodies lacked elected councils due to such delays.

Significance:

The 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments envisaged local self-governance as the third tier of democracy. Timely and fair elections are the bedrock of this system. The disempowerment of SECs, which are constitutionally mandated to conduct these elections, strikes at the very root of democratic decentralization. It leads to a governance vacuum at the local level, affecting the delivery of essential public services and hindering participatory development. Strengthening the autonomy and independence of SECs is crucial for the health and vibrancy of India's democracy at the grassroots level.

Analysis:

The core issue is the lack of independence for SECs on par with the Election Commission of India (ECI). State Election Commissioners' appointments, tenure,



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and removal are often at the discretion of the state executive, making them vulnerable to political pressure. The article suggests reforms such as having a multi-member SEC appointed by a committee that includes the Chief Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, and the Chief Justice of the High Court. Such reforms are necessary to ensure that SECs can function as impartial and effective constitutional bodies, thereby safeguarding the principles of local self-governance.

Correlation with UPSC Syllabus:

GS Paper 2: Polity and Governance - Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the States, issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure, devolution of powers and finances up to local levels and challenges therein; Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies.

4. India's GDP Growth at 6.7% in Q1 of FY 2024-25

Source: Indian Express

Context:

According to official government data released, India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew by 6.7% in the first quarter (April-June) of the fiscal year 2024-25. This figure, while indicating a moderation compared to the previous quarter, positions India as one of the fastest-growing major economies in the world. The growth was primarily driven by the services sector and robust government capital expenditure. However, there are concerns regarding subdued consumption growth and the performance of the agricultural sector, which could be impacted by monsoon patterns.



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Significance:

The Q1 GDP data is a key indicator of the health of the Indian economy and sets the tone for the rest of the fiscal year. A growth rate of 6.7% provides a positive outlook amidst global economic uncertainties. It reinforces the narrative of India as a resilient economy and a bright spot in the global landscape. This data will be crucial for the Reserve Bank of India's monetary policy decisions, particularly concerning interest rates and managing inflation. For the government, it provides feedback on its economic policies and highlights areas that require further attention.

Analysis:

The 6.7% growth figure presents a mixed picture. On the one hand, strong public investment and a healthy services sector are positive signs. On the other hand, the slowdown in private consumption is a significant concern, as it is the largest component of GDP. This suggests that while the overall economy is growing, the benefits may not be trickling down to households to boost demand. The performance of the manufacturing and agricultural sectors will be critical in the coming quarters to ensure balanced and sustainable growth. The government may need to introduce measures to stimulate consumption and support rural incomes.

Correlation with UPSC Syllabus:

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

5. Launch of 'SHe-Box' Portal for Workplace Safety

Source: The Hindu

Context: The Union Minister of Women and Child Development launched a new and improved 'SHe-Box' (Sexual Harassment electronic Box) portal. This digital platform is designed to provide a centralized and streamlined mechanism for women in both the public and private sectors to file complaints of sexual harassment at the workplace. The revamped portal aims to be more user-friendly



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and efficient in tracking the status of complaints and ensuring timely action by the concerned authorities. The launch is part of the government's broader efforts to create safer and more secure working environments for women.

Significance:

The SHe-Box portal is a significant step towards the effective implementation of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013. By leveraging technology, it aims to make the complaint-filing process more accessible and less intimidating for victims. This initiative is crucial for promoting gender equality and ensuring that women can participate in the workforce without fear of harassment. A safe working environment is not only a legal right but also essential for the economic empowerment of women and for harnessing their full potential for national development.

Analysis:

While the SHe-Box portal is a positive initiative, its success will depend on its effective implementation and the responsiveness of the Internal Complaints Committees (ICCs) and Local Complaints Committees (LCCs) to which the complaints are forwarded. There is a need for greater awareness about the portal among working women. Furthermore, challenges such as digital literacy and the fear of reprisal still need to be addressed. The government must ensure that there is a robust mechanism for monitoring the disposal of complaints and holding organizations accountable for non-compliance with the law.

Correlation with UPSC Syllabus:

GS Paper 1: Social Issues - Role of women and women's organization, population and associated issues, poverty and developmental issues, urbanization, their problems and their remedies.

GS Paper 2: Governance - Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes;



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mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.

6. India Will Not Bow Down: Trade Minister's Response to U.S. Tariffs

Source & Date: Economic Times, 30 August 2025

Context: The U.S. has imposed a sweeping 50% tariff on a range of Indian exports—prompting Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal to declare that India “will not bow down” and reaffirm its intent to forge free trade agreements with willing global partners.

Significance: India's reaction reflects a balancing act between defending export-oriented industries and embracing strategic diversification amid rising protectionism. It highlights India's efforts to safeguard its economic interests and global supply chain positioning.

Analysis:

- The stance signals diplomatic resilience and readiness to explore multilateral and bilateral trade options, aligning with India's broader “Atmanirbhar Bharat” and economic self-reliance narratives.
- It may catalyse negotiations with major economies and regional blocs (e.g., EU, ASEAN), while bolstering measures such as export incentives and domestic supply chain strengthening.

UPSC Syllabus Correlation:

GS Paper-3 (Economy): International trade, WTO, GATS; trade policy and export houses.

GS Paper-2 (IR): India's trade diplomacy, geopolitics, and international economic relations.



7. India & Japan Seal 12 Agreements Under Vision Plan

Source & Date: Economic Times, 30 August 2025

Context: On 29 August 2025, India and Japan signed 12 pacts under a “Vision Plan,” aimed at deepening cooperation in defence industry, innovation, and reinforcing a free, open, peaceful, and rules-based Indo-Pacific.

Significance: This illustrates the strategic convergence between two Quad partners, boosting India’s defence manufacturing and technology landscape while bolstering regional security architecture.

Analysis:

- Expands India’s Make in India potential in high-tech defence sectors, promoting defence indigenisation.
- Strengthens the Indo-Pacific narrative—enhancing balance and stability against assertive regional powers.

UPSC Syllabus Correlation:

GS Paper-2 (IR): India-Japan strategic partnership, Quad, regional security architecture.

GS Paper-3 (Economy): Defence production, self-reliance, technology transfer.



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8. Banks Closed on 30 August 2025 Despite Being Fifth Saturday

Source & Date: Economic Times, 30 August 2025

Context: Although banks typically operate on first, third, and fifth Saturdays, August 30, 2025—being a fifth Saturday—has been declared a bank holiday, indicating a deviation from standard RBI scheduling.

Significance: A practical insight into how regulatory guidelines may be overridden by administrative or regional decisions—important for aspirants to understand bureaucratic flexibility and exceptions.

Analysis:

- Shows administrative discretion at state or central level can modify uniform operational norms.
- Highlights the growing dependence on digital banking and public advisories during sudden procedural changes.

UPSC Syllabus Correlation:

GS Paper-2 (Governance): Implementation of government policies, functioning of financial administration and regulatory bodies.



9. China Says Improving Ties with India Benefits Both

Source & Date: Economic Times, 30 August 2025

Context: China, referencing improvements since last year's meeting between Canadian President Xi and PM Modi, states that enhancing Sino-India relations serves mutual interests, indicating a strategic thaw.

Significance: A marked shift in bilateral diplomacy, potentially easing tensions along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), reopening trade dialogue, and stabilizing regional geopolitics.

Analysis:

- May be interpreted as diplomatic softening to mitigate border standoffs and economic standstill.
- Setting the stage for renewed engagement frameworks, such as border confidence-building measures and trade normalization.

UPSC Syllabus Correlation:

GS Paper-2 (IR): India-China relations, bilateral talks, border diplomacy, and regional strategic stability.



10. India to Send Over 700 Soldiers for ‘Exercise Bright Star 2025’

Source & Date: Economic Times, 30 August 2025

Context: India is deploying more than 700 personnel to participate in Exercise Bright Star 2025, a major tri-service multilateral military exercise hosted by Egypt from 28 August–10 September 2025.

Significance: India’s participation underscores its commitment to global military cooperation, projecting power and building interoperability in Western Asia and beyond.

Analysis:

- Provides exposure to joint warfare tactics, strengthens logistics and coordination capabilities.
- Reinforces India’s soft power, Sino-balancing posture, and cooperative footprint in the Global South.

UPSC Syllabus Correlation:

GS Paper-3 (Defence): Military exercises, national security strategy, India's defence engagements.

GS Paper-2 (IR): India’s strategic defense diplomacy and international alliances.