

UPSC Prelims Current Affairs Analysis: 4th September 2025

1. Supreme Court Directs Centre to Frame Policy on Absconding Foreign Nationals

Context: The Supreme Court of India has directed the Central Government to formulate a comprehensive policy to prevent foreign nationals from absconding after being involved in criminal cases or overstaying their visas. This directive came during the hearing of a case involving a foreign national who had disappeared after getting bail.

Significance: This move highlights the legal and security challenges posed by the disappearance of foreign nationals within the country. It underscores the need for a robust mechanism to track and monitor foreigners, especially those with a criminal record.

Analysis: The apex court's directive points towards a gap in the existing legal framework. While the Foreigners Act, 1946, and the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939, provide for the regulation of the entry, presence, and departure of foreigners, their implementation has often been found wanting. The new policy would likely involve greater inter-agency coordination between the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs, and state police forces. It might also suggest amendments to bail conditions for foreign nationals, such as depositing their passports with the court and regular reporting to a designated authority. The policy will need to balance national security concerns with the rights of individuals.

Correlation with UPSC Syllabus:

GS Paper 2: Indian Constitution—fundamental rights, separation of powers between various organs, structure, organization, and functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary.

GS Paper 3: Security challenges and their management in border areas; linkages of organized crime with terrorism.

2. National Green Tribunal (NGT) Takes Suo Motu Cognizance of Illegal Scrap Units in Mayapuri

Context: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has taken suo motu cognizance of a newspaper report on the rampant environmental violations by illegal scrap units in Delhi's Mayapuri area. These units are engaged in dismantling end-of-life vehicles in a hazardous and unregulated manner.

Significance: This action by the NGT highlights the critical issue of waste management and environmental pollution in urban areas. The unregulated dismantling of vehicles leads to the release of harmful pollutants into the air, water, and soil, posing a severe threat to public health.

Analysis: The Mayapuri case is a stark reminder of the challenges in implementing environmental laws in India. Despite previous orders by the NGT to shut down these illegal units, they continue to operate with impunity. This points to a failure of enforcement by the concerned authorities, including the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) and the municipal corporations. The NGT's intervention is expected to lead to stricter action against the violators and a more comprehensive plan for the management of end-of-life vehicles. This could include the development of designated scrapping zones with proper infrastructure for scientific dismantling and waste disposal.

Correlation with UPSC Syllabus:

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

GS Paper 2: Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies.

3. Yogi Adityanath Urges IIT-Kanpur to Lead India's Deep Tech Mission

Context: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has called upon the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur, to take a leading role in driving India's ambitions in deep technology under the 'Deep Tech Bharat 2025' initiative.

Significance: This announcement underscores the government's increasing focus on developing indigenous capabilities in emerging technologies like artificial intelligence, quantum computing, and semiconductors. It also highlights the crucial role of academic institutions in fostering innovation and research.

Analysis: The 'Deep Tech Bharat 2025' initiative aims to position India as a global leader in cutting-edge technologies. IIT-Kanpur, with its strong research base and talent pool, is well-positioned to contribute significantly to this mission. The establishment of a MedTech Centre of Excellence at the institute is a step in this direction. The success of this initiative will depend on strong collaboration between academia, industry, and the government. It will require sustained investment in research and development, as well as the creation of a supportive ecosystem for deep tech startups.

Correlation with UPSC Syllabus:

GS Paper 3: Science and Technology- developments and their applications and effects in everyday life; Achievements of Indians in science & technology; indigenization of technology and developing new technology.

4. India Needs to Reduce Import Tariffs to ASEAN Levels: EAC-PM Member

Context: A member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM), Rakesh Mohan, has advocated for a reduction in India's import duties to bring them in line with the levels of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Significance: This statement is significant as it comes from a high-level government advisory body and points towards a potential shift in India's trade policy. Lowering import tariffs could make Indian industries more competitive and better integrated with global value chains.

Analysis: India has historically maintained relatively high import tariffs to protect its domestic industries. However, this has also been criticized for making Indian products less competitive in the global market. Lowering tariffs to ASEAN levels would mean a significant reduction in import duties on a wide range of products. This could lead to an increase in imports, which might adversely affect some domestic industries in the short term. However, in the long run, it is expected to boost competition, improve efficiency, and benefit consumers through lower prices and a wider choice of goods. The move would also be in line with India's efforts to strengthen its economic ties with the ASEAN region.

Correlation with UPSC Syllabus:

GS Paper 3: Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization of resources, growth, development, and employment; Effects of liberalization on the economy, changes in industrial policy and their effects on industrial growth.

5. Government Scraps 12% and 28% GST Slabs in Major Revamp

Context: The Central Government has undertaken a major reform of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime by scrapping the 12% and 28% tax slabs. Most items in these slabs will be moved to the 5% and 18% slabs, respectively. A new 40% slab has been introduced for sin and super-luxury items.

Significance: This is one of the most significant reforms in India's indirect tax structure since the implementation of GST. It aims to simplify the tax system, reduce the tax burden on consumers, and boost economic growth.

Analysis: The move to a two-slab GST structure (5% and 18%) for most goods and services is a welcome step towards simplification. It will reduce compliance costs for businesses and minimize classification disputes. The reduction in tax rates on many essential items is likely to increase household savings and boost consumption. The introduction of a 40% slab for sin and super-luxury goods is aimed at maintaining revenue neutrality and discouraging the consumption of these items. The success of this reform

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will depend on its effective implementation and the ability of the GST Council to address any transitional challenges.

Correlation with UPSC Syllabus:

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

6. SEMICON India 2025: Government's Push for a Resilient Semiconductor Ecosystem

Context: The SEMICON India 2025 event is being held in New Delhi, bringing together global leaders from the semiconductor industry to discuss and collaborate on building a robust semiconductor ecosystem in India. The government has reiterated its commitment to making India a global hub for semiconductor design, manufacturing, and assembly.

Significance: The development of a domestic semiconductor industry is crucial for India's economic and strategic autonomy. It will reduce the country's dependence on imports for critical electronic components and create a large number of skilled jobs.

Analysis: The Indian government's India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) is a multi-billion dollar initiative aimed at attracting global semiconductor companies to set up manufacturing facilities in the country. The SEMICON India 2025 event is a platform to showcase the opportunities available in India and to facilitate partnerships between Indian and international companies. The government is offering a range of incentives, including financial subsidies and tax breaks, to attract investment in this sector. The success of this mission will depend on several factors, including the availability of skilled manpower, reliable infrastructure, and a stable policy environment.

Correlation with UPSC Syllabus:

GS Paper 3: Science and Technology- developments and their applications and effects in everyday life; Achievements of Indians in science & technology; indigenization of technology and developing new technology; Effects of liberalization on the economy, changes in industrial policy and their effects on industrial growth.

7. Tata Electronics Partners with MeitY and Merck to Bolster Semiconductor Capabilities

Context: Tata Electronics has announced strategic partnerships with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and the global science and technology company Merck to strengthen India's semiconductor ecosystem.

Significance: This collaboration between a leading Indian conglomerate, the government, and a global technology giant is a significant step towards building indigenous capabilities in the semiconductor sector. It will focus on joint research, technology development, and the use of advanced materials.

Analysis: The partnership between Tata Electronics, MeitY, and Merck is a prime example of the public-private partnership model that is essential for the development of a high-tech industry like semiconductors. Tata's entry into semiconductor manufacturing is a major boost for the 'Make in India' initiative. The collaboration with Merck will provide access to cutting-edge materials and technologies, while the partnership with MeitY will ensure policy support and alignment with national priorities. This initiative is expected to contribute to the development of a skilled workforce and a robust R&D ecosystem in the semiconductor domain.

Correlation with UPSC Syllabus:

GS Paper 3: Science and Technology- developments and their applications and effects in everyday life; Achievements of Indians in science & technology; indigenization of technology and developing new technology.

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8. India and Singapore to 'Double Down' on Critical Ties in a Turbulent World

Context: Ahead of his meeting with Prime Minister Modi, Singapore's Prime Minister Lawrence Wong stated that in a turbulent world, there is even more reason for India and Singapore to "double down" on their critical relationship.

Significance: This statement highlights the shared understanding between the two countries on the need to work together to address global challenges and uncertainties. It reflects the high degree of trust and convergence of interests that characterizes the India-Singapore relationship.

Analysis: The world is currently facing a number of challenges, including geopolitical tensions, economic slowdown, and the impact of climate change. In this context, strong partnerships between like-minded countries like India and Singapore are more important than ever. Prime Minister Wong's statement indicates that both countries are keen to expand their cooperation in areas of strategic importance, such as supply chain resilience, cybersecurity, and maritime security. The focus will be on concrete actions and outcomes that can contribute to regional stability and prosperity.

Correlation with UPSC Syllabus:

GS Paper 2: India and its neighborhood- relations; Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests; Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests.

9. SCO Summit: A Shift in Indian Foreign Policy?

Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's participation in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit in person after a gap of three years is being seen by some analysts as a potential shift in India's foreign policy approach.

Significance: India's active engagement with the SCO, a Eurasian grouping that includes China and Russia, is significant in the context of the current geopolitical landscape. It

reflects India's commitment to a multi-aligned foreign policy and its desire to engage with all major global powers.

Analysis: India's decision to participate at the highest level in the SCO summit, despite its ongoing border tensions with China, suggests a pragmatic approach to its foreign policy. The SCO provides a platform for India to engage with Central Asian countries, which are important for its energy security and connectivity projects. It also allows India to voice its concerns on issues like terrorism and regional security. While India has been strengthening its ties with the West, its engagement with the SCO demonstrates that it is not abandoning its traditional partners. This balancing act is a key feature of India's contemporary foreign policy.

Correlation with UPSC Syllabus:

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

**10. Alarms Raised for Sundarbans' Severe Erosion and Rising Sea Levels at COP-30
Curtain Raiser**

Context: At a curtain-raiser event for the upcoming COP-30 climate conference, experts and activists have raised alarms about the severe erosion and rising sea levels in the Sundarbans delta.

Significance: The Sundarbans, a UNESCO World Heritage site and a critical mangrove ecosystem, is facing an existential threat from climate change. The rapid erosion and sea-level rise are leading to the loss of land, livelihoods, and biodiversity.

Analysis: The Sundarbans delta is one of the most vulnerable regions in the world to the impacts of climate change. The combination of rising sea levels, increased frequency of cyclones, and reduced freshwater flow is leading to the rapid degradation of this unique ecosystem. The curtain-raiser for COP-30 has brought this issue to the forefront of the global climate discourse. There is an urgent need for international cooperation and



financial assistance to help the communities in the Sundarbans adapt to the changing climate and to protect this vital ecosystem. This includes measures such as mangrove afforestation, construction of climate-resilient infrastructure, and livelihood diversification.

Correlation with UPSC Syllabus:

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

GS Paper 1: Salient features of world's physical geography; Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone etc.