

29 Sep 2025

UPSC Prelims Exam Based on Current Affairs Analysis – 29 Sept 2025

1. India Champions Global South and UNSC Reforms at 80th UNGA

Source: The Hindu, Indian Express, PIB

Context:

In a powerful address at the high-level general debate of the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly, India's External Affairs Minister articulated the nation's unwavering commitment to championing the cause of the Global South. The speech emphasized the need for a more inclusive and equitable global order, urging for fundamental reforms in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to reflect contemporary geopolitical realities.

Significance:

India's consistent advocacy for the Global South on the world stage reinforces its position as a leading voice for developing nations. The call for time-bound UNSC reforms gains significance in the context of the 80th anniversary of the UN, highlighting the growing impatience with the outdated structure of the Security Council. India's stance underscores the necessity of multilateral institutions being more representative and effective in addressing global challenges.

Analysis:

The External Affairs Minister's address critiqued the "gridlocked" state of the UN, attributing it to a resistance to reform from entrenched powers. By positioning itself as ready to assume greater responsibilities, India is making a strong claim for a permanent seat in an expanded UNSC. The speech also touched upon pressing global issues such as climate change, terrorism, and the need for a human-centric approach to development, aligning with India's foreign policy priorities of 'Atmanirbharta' (self-reliance) and

29 Sep 2025

'Atmaraksha' (self-protection). The emphasis on Africa's representation in the UNSC is a strategic move to garner support from the African continent, a crucial bloc in the UN. India's proactive diplomacy at the UNGA aims to build a broad coalition for a reformed multilateralism that is fit for the 21st century.

UPSC Syllabus Correlation:

GS Paper 2: Important International institutions, agencies, and fora, their structure, and mandate.

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

2. India-UK FTA Negotiations in Final Stages, Key Issues Remain

Source: The Economic Times, Hindustan Times

Context:

Negotiations for the highly anticipated India-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA) have entered their final and most crucial phase. Both sides are engaged in intensive discussions to resolve the remaining contentious issues, with a strong political will to conclude the deal in the coming weeks.

29 Sep 2025

Significance:

A successful India-UK FTA would be a landmark achievement for both countries, significantly boosting bilateral trade and investment. For India, it would provide enhanced market access for its goods and services in the UK, particularly in sectors like textiles, pharmaceuticals, and IT. For the UK, the FTA is a cornerstone of its post-Brexit "Global Britain" strategy, aiming to forge deeper economic ties with major economies.

Analysis:

While significant progress has been made, key sticking points remain, including issues related to intellectual property rights (IPR), rules of origin, and market access for British automobiles and Scotch whisky. India is seeking concessions on visas for its professionals, which remains a politically sensitive issue in the UK. The negotiations are a tightrope walk, balancing economic gains with domestic sensitivities. The final outcome will depend on the ability of both sides to find mutually acceptable compromises. A comprehensive and balanced agreement has the potential to create a win-win situation, fostering economic growth and strengthening the strategic partnership between India and the UK.

UPSC Syllabus Correlation:

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

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

29 Sep 2025

3. RBI Maintains Status Quo on Repo Rate Amid Inflationary Concerns

Source: The Economic Times, RBI Press Release

Context:

The Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has decided to keep the repo rate unchanged in its latest bi-monthly meeting. The decision comes amidst persistent inflationary pressures and a desire to support economic growth.

Significance:

The RBI's decision to hold the key policy rate provides a degree of stability for borrowers and the financial markets. It signals the central bank's cautious approach, prioritizing inflation control while being mindful of the growth momentum. The status quo will be closely watched by industries, as it impacts borrowing costs and investment decisions.

Analysis:

The MPC's decision reflects a delicate balancing act. While the recent moderation in headline inflation is a positive sign, the committee remains wary of the upside risks from volatile food and fuel prices. The RBI's commentary suggests that the "withdrawal of accommodation" stance will continue, indicating that the door is still open for future rate hikes if inflation does not moderate as expected. The central bank is likely to adopt a data-dependent approach in the coming months, closely monitoring domestic and global economic developments before making any changes to its monetary policy stance. The focus remains on anchoring inflationary expectations to ensure macroeconomic stability and sustainable growth.

29 Sep 2025

UPSC Syllabus Correlation:

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

GS Paper 3: Inclusive growth and issues arising from it.

4. India's Semiconductor Mission Gains Momentum with New Fab Approvals

Source: The Economic Times, PIB

Context:

The Government of India has given its approval for the establishment of four new semiconductor manufacturing projects, taking the total number of sanctioned projects to ten. These new plants will be set up in Odisha, Punjab, and Andhra Pradesh, with a combined investment of approximately INR 46 billion. This is a significant step forward for the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM), which aims to make India a global hub for semiconductor design, manufacturing, and assembly.

Significance:

The expansion of semiconductor manufacturing is crucial for India's economic and strategic autonomy. It will reduce the country's dependence on imports for this critical component, which is essential for a wide range of industries, including electronics, automotive, and telecommunications. The establishment of these fabs will also create a large number of skilled jobs and foster a domestic ecosystem for the semiconductor industry.

29 Sep 2025

Analysis:

While the approval of new fabs is a positive development, India still faces significant challenges in becoming a major semiconductor player. These include the high cost of setting up and operating fabs, the need for uninterrupted power and water supply, and a shortage of skilled manpower. The government's production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme is a key enabler, but attracting and retaining top talent remains a critical hurdle. To ensure the long-term success of the ISM, India needs to focus on building a robust R&D ecosystem, strengthening industry-academia linkages, and creating a business-friendly environment that encourages innovation and investment. The first "Made in India" chip is expected to be rolled out by the end of 2025, which will be a major milestone for the country's technological ambitions.

UPSC Syllabus Correlation:

GS Paper 3: Science and Technology- developments and their applications and effects in everyday life.

GS Paper 3: Indigenization of technology and developing new technology.

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

5. ISRO Prepares for Shukrayaan-1 Mission to Venus

Source: The Hindu, ISRO Website

Context:

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is in the advanced stages of preparation for its ambitious Venus orbiter mission, Shukrayaan-1. The mission, which is slated for a 2028 launch, aims to study the surface and atmosphere of Venus, often referred to as Earth's "twin sister" due to its similar size and mass.

Significance:

Shukrayaan-1 will be India's first mission to Venus and a significant step forward for its planetary exploration program. The mission will help scientists better understand the "runaway greenhouse effect" on Venus, which could provide valuable insights into climate change on Earth. The data collected by Shukrayaan-1 will also contribute to the global scientific community's understanding of the evolution of terrestrial planets.

Analysis:

The Shukrayaan-1 orbiter will be equipped with a suite of scientific instruments, including a synthetic aperture radar to map the Venusian surface, and sensors to study its dense and corrosive atmosphere. The mission presents significant technological challenges due to the harsh environment of Venus, with its high temperatures and pressures. ISRO's successful track record with its Mars Orbiter Mission (Mangalyaan) and Chandrayaan missions provides confidence in its ability to execute this complex interplanetary mission. Shukrayaan-1 is a testament to India's growing capabilities in space science and technology and its commitment to contributing to the global quest for knowledge.

29 Sep 2025

UPSC Syllabus Correlation:

GS Paper 3: Science and Technology- developments and their applications and effects in everyday life.

GS Paper 3: Achievements of Indians in science & technology; indigenization of technology and developing new technology.

6. Government Unveils 'Bharat 6G Vision' Document

Source: Indian Express, PIB

Context:

The government has officially released the 'Bharat 6G Vision' document, outlining a comprehensive roadmap for India to become a leader in the next generation of telecommunications technology. The document has been formulated by a 6G Technology Innovation Group (TIG) and sets the stage for research and development in this futuristic technology.

Significance:

The 'Bharat 6G Vision' is a proactive step to ensure that India is not just a consumer but also a key contributor to the development and deployment of 6G technology. By taking an early lead, India aims to shape global standards, foster domestic innovation, and create a vibrant ecosystem of startups and industry players in the 6G domain.

29 Sep 2025

Analysis:

The vision document focuses on key areas such as terahertz communication, satellite communication, and the use of artificial intelligence and machine learning in 6G networks. It emphasizes the need for a collaborative approach involving the government, industry, and academia. The government also announced the formation of a Bharat 6G Alliance to drive the initiative forward. While 5G is still being rolled out across the country, the focus on 6G reflects a long-term strategic vision. The success of this mission will depend on sustained investment in R&D, the development of a skilled workforce, and the creation of a conducive policy and regulatory environment.

UPSC Syllabus Correlation:

GS Paper 3: Science and Technology- developments and their applications and effects in everyday life.

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

7. Ministry of Defence Signs Major Deal for 97 Tejas Mk1A Jets

Source: Hindustan Times, PIB

Context:

In a major boost to the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' initiative in the defence sector, the Ministry of Defence has signed a contract worth over ₹62,370 crore with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for the procurement of 97 Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas Mk1A for the Indian Air Force (IAF). The order includes 68 fighter jets and 29 twin-seater aircraft.

29 Sep 2025

Significance:

This is the largest-ever order for the indigenous Tejas fighter jet and will significantly enhance the IAF's combat capabilities. It will also provide a major impetus to the domestic aerospace ecosystem, with a large number of Indian companies involved in the supply chain. The project is expected to generate thousands of direct and indirect jobs.

Analysis:

The Tejas Mk1A is an advanced version of the LCA with enhanced features such as an Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) radar, an electronic warfare suite, and the capability to fire a variety of beyond-visual-range missiles. The aircraft has an indigenous content of over 64%. The deal underscores the government's commitment to promoting indigenous defence manufacturing and reducing reliance on imported military hardware. The successful execution of this order will be a critical test for HAL's production capabilities and will pave the way for the development of more advanced versions of the Tejas and the fifth-generation Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA).

UPSC Syllabus Correlation:

GS Paper 3: Indigenization of technology and developing new technology.

GS Paper 3: Various Security forces and agencies and their mandate.

8. Progress on Theaterisation of Armed Forces Reviewed

Source: The Hindu, Indian Express

Context:

The Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) chaired a high-level meeting to review the progress on the creation of integrated theatre commands for the Indian armed forces. The meeting was attended by the chiefs of the Army, Navy, and Air Force, along with other senior military commanders.

Significance:

The creation of theatre commands is a major military reform aimed at enhancing jointness and operational synergy among the three services. It will lead to a more efficient utilization of resources and a more effective response to future security challenges. The CDS is tasked with facilitating the restructuring of military commands for optimal resource utilization.

Analysis:

The process of creating theatre commands is complex and involves a number of challenges, including issues related to command and control structures, asset allocation, and interoperability. The CDS, as the permanent chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee, is playing a crucial role in building consensus among the three services. The proposed theatre commands are likely to be a mix of integrated commands for land borders and a maritime theatre command. The successful implementation of this reform will be a landmark achievement for India's military and will significantly strengthen its war-fighting capabilities.

29 Sep 2025

UPSC Syllabus Correlation:

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

GS Paper 3: Various Security forces and agencies and their mandate.

9. Winter Session of Parliament to Take Up Key Legislation

Source: The Hindu, PRS India

Context:

The agenda for the upcoming Winter Session of Parliament is taking shape, with the government expected to introduce and push for the passage of several key bills. The Monsoon Session, which concluded in August, saw the passage of 12 bills in the Lok Sabha and 14 in the Rajya Sabha.

Significance:

The Winter Session will be crucial for the government to carry forward its legislative agenda. The bills that are likely to be taken up for consideration have significant implications for various sectors of the economy and society. The smooth functioning of Parliament will be essential for a productive session.

29 Sep 2025

Analysis:

Among the key bills that are expected to be on the agenda are the Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) Bill, which aims to replace the UGC and AICTE with a single regulator, and amendments to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code. The government is also likely to make another attempt to pass the Constitution (One Hundred and Thirtieth Amendment) Bill, 2025, which proposes a legal framework for the automatic removal of ministers if they are detained for a certain period. The session is also likely to witness debates on pressing national issues. The opposition will be looking to corner the government on various fronts, and the treasury benches will have to navigate these challenges to ensure the passage of its legislative business.

UPSC Syllabus Correlation:

GS Paper 2: Parliament and State legislatures—structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers & privileges, and issues arising out of these.

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

10. Implementation of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act in Focus

Source: Indian Express, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

Context:

The implementation of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, is gaining momentum, with the government in the final stages of notifying the rules under the Act. The establishment of the Data Protection Board of India is also underway.

Significance:

The Digital Personal Data Protection Act is a landmark legislation that establishes a comprehensive framework for the protection of personal data in India. It grants individuals greater control over their personal information and imposes significant obligations on entities that collect and process data. The effective implementation of the Act is crucial for safeguarding the privacy of citizens in the digital age.

Analysis:

The rules under the Act are expected to provide clarity on several key provisions, including the mechanisms for obtaining consent, the procedures for data breach notifications, and the functioning of the Data Protection Board. The success of the legislation will depend on the effective enforcement of its provisions and the ability of the Data Protection Board to act as an independent and impartial regulator. The implementation of the Act will have a significant impact on all sectors of the economy, as businesses will have to overhaul their data processing practices to ensure compliance. The transition to the new data protection regime will require a concerted effort from both the government and the industry.

UPSC Syllabus Correlation:

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

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