

UPSC Prelims Exam Based on Current Affairs Analysis- 8th September 2025

1. India-Iran Foreign Office Consultations in Tehran

Context: India and Iran are holding Foreign Office Consultations in Tehran to review bilateral ties. The discussions are centered on enhancing cooperation on the Chabahar Port, the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), and regional security issues. This meeting is followed by a trilateral dialogue with Armenia, focusing on connectivity.

Significance: This engagement underscores India's continued strategic balancing in West Asia. Chabahar Port is crucial for India's connectivity to Afghanistan and Central Asia, bypassing Pakistan. The INSTC is a key multimodal transport route that aims to connect the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf to the Caspian Sea via Iran, and then onward to Russia and Northern Europe. Strengthening these corridors is vital for India's trade and strategic outreach. The inclusion of Armenia in a trilateral format signals a new dimension to India's engagement in the Caucasus region, aiming to create alternative connectivity routes.

Analysis: The talks are significant as they come at a time of geopolitical flux in the region. For India, operationalizing Chabahar and INSTC is a strategic imperative to counter China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). However, the project has faced delays due to US sanctions on Iran. India has so far managed to secure a waiver for the Chabahar port, citing its importance for Afghanistan's development. The trilateral with Armenia opens up a new front for India's connectivity ambitions, potentially linking the INSTC with the Black Sea region. This move showcases India's proactive diplomacy in building new partnerships to secure its economic and strategic interests.

UPSC Syllabus Correlation:

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



2. Bengaluru to House India's First Quantum City

Context: The Karnataka government has approved the establishment of India's first 'Quantum City' in Hessarghatta, Bengaluru. The project, for which 6.17 acres have been sanctioned, aims to create a dedicated ecosystem for quantum technology research, development, and innovation.

Significance: This initiative is a significant step towards achieving the goals of the National Quantum Mission. By creating a dedicated hub with state-of-the-art laboratories, incubation facilities, and infrastructure for academic-industry collaboration, Karnataka aims to position Bengaluru as a global leader in quantum technology. The project is expected to attract global talent and investment, fostering startups and creating a skilled workforce in this niche and strategic sector. The state aims to build a USD 20 billion quantum economy by 2035.

Analysis: Quantum technology is a disruptive field with far-reaching implications for various sectors, including healthcare, finance, defense, and communications. Developing indigenous capabilities in quantum computing, quantum communication, and quantum sensing is crucial for India's technological sovereignty and economic growth. The establishment of a 'Quantum City' provides a focused approach to nurturing this ecosystem. It will facilitate the much-needed synergy between academia, research institutions, and the private sector. However, challenges such as the high cost of research, the need for a highly skilled workforce, and competition from other global players will need to be addressed for the project to be successful.

UPSC Syllabus Correlation:

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.

3. BRICS Virtual Summit Addresses Global Economic Headwinds

Context: The BRICS nations held a virtual summit to discuss the current global economic situation and coordinate their approaches. India's External Affairs Minister represented the country in the leaders' level meeting. The summit's agenda included discussions on strengthening intra-BRICS trade, promoting the use of local currencies for trade settlement, and addressing the challenges posed by unilateral economic sanctions.

Significance: The summit highlights the growing importance of BRICS as a platform for emerging economies to articulate their collective interests on the global stage. In a world facing economic uncertainties, the focus on de-dollarization and enhancing trade in national currencies is a significant trend. For India, BRICS provides a crucial platform to engage with China on economic issues while also strengthening its partnerships with Russia, Brazil, and South Africa.

Analysis: The call for a common approach to deal with tariff tussles and the push for trade in local currencies can be seen as a move to reduce dependency on the US dollar and Western-dominated financial systems. This aligns with the broader goal of BRICS to promote a more multipolar world order. However, the diverse economic and political interests of the member countries can sometimes pose challenges to a unified stance. India needs to carefully navigate these complexities to advance its own interests while contributing to the collective goals of the grouping. The expansion of BRICS to include new members like Iran and the UAE adds another layer to the dynamics of the bloc.

UPSC Syllabus Correlation:

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

4. India and Israel to Sign Bilateral Investment Treaty

Context: India and Israel are set to sign a Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) during the visit of the Israeli Finance Minister. The treaty is aimed at promoting and protecting investments between the two countries by providing a legal framework for fair and equitable treatment of investors.

Significance: The signing of the BIT is expected to boost investor confidence and increase capital flows between India and Israel. It will provide a mechanism for settling investment disputes and ensure non-discriminatory treatment for investors from both sides. This is a significant step in strengthening the economic partnership between the two strategic partners, who already have robust cooperation in defense, agriculture, and technology.

Analysis: India has been cautiously signing new investment treaties after facing several international arbitration cases under the old BITs. The new Model BIT, on which this treaty is likely based, includes provisions to protect the host state's right to regulate in the public interest. The treaty with Israel is expected to further deepen collaboration in high-tech sectors, including fintech, cybersecurity, and innovation. For Israel, India is a large and growing market, and the BIT will provide greater security for its investments. For India, it can attract more Israeli investment and technology, particularly in areas like water management and defense manufacturing under the 'Make in India' initiative.

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.

5. SEMICON India 2025: India's Push for Semiconductor Self-Reliance

Context: At the SEMICON India 2025 conference, India showcased its growing capabilities in the semiconductor sector. A key highlight was the unveiling of 'Vikram-32', an indigenously developed 32-bit microprocessor. The event saw major announcements of collaborations and investments aimed at building a robust semiconductor ecosystem in the country.

Significance: The conference underscores India's ambitious push to become a global hub for semiconductor design, manufacturing, and assembly. The launch of the 'Vikram-32' processor by ISRO's Semiconductor Laboratory is a testament to India's growing prowess in chip design. The significant investments and collaborations announced at the event are expected to create jobs, reduce import dependency, and enhance India's strategic autonomy in a critical technology sector.

Analysis: The global semiconductor supply chain is highly concentrated in a few countries, making it vulnerable to disruptions. The COVID-19 pandemic and recent geopolitical tensions have highlighted the need for diversification. India, with its large market and talent pool, is well-positioned to play a significant role in this realignment. The government's Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for semiconductors has been instrumental in attracting global players. However, establishing a complete semiconductor ecosystem is a capital-intensive and technologically complex endeavor. Challenges such as the need for uninterrupted power and water supply, and the development of a skilled workforce will be crucial to address.

UPSC Syllabus Correlation:

GS Paper 3: Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization of resources, growth, development and employment; Science and Technology- developments and their applications and effects in everyday life; Indigenization of technology and developing new technology.

08 Sep 2025

6. Sample Registration System (SRS) Bulletin 2023: Declining Fertility and Mortality Rates

Context: The Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner of India has released the Sample Registration System (SRS) Bulletin for 2023. The report highlights a significant decline in India's birth and death rates over the past five decades. The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) has also shown a downward trend.

Significance: The SRS data is a crucial indicator of the demographic transition in India. The declining birth and death rates suggest improvements in healthcare, sanitation, and education. A lower TFR indicates a move towards population stabilization. This demographic dividend, with a larger proportion of the population in the working-age group, can be a major driver of economic growth if harnessed effectively.

Analysis: While the declining trend in fertility and mortality is a positive development, it also brings its own set of challenges. A declining TFR will eventually lead to an aging population, which will have implications for the pension and healthcare systems. Regional disparities in demographic indicators also need to be addressed. Some states have already achieved replacement-level fertility, while others still have high TFRs. Policy interventions need to be tailored to the specific demographic context of each region. The focus should now shift to providing quality education, healthcare, and employment opportunities to the youth to fully realize the demographic dividend.

UPSC Syllabus Correlation:

GS Paper 1: Population and associated issues, poverty and developmental issues, urbanization, their problems and their remedies;

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

7. Great Nicobar Mega-Infrastructure Project: Environmental and Tribal Concerns

Context: The mega-infrastructure project in the Great Nicobar Island continues to face opposition from environmentalists and tribal rights groups. Concerns have been raised about the project's potential impact on the fragile ecosystem of the island, which is a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, and the rights of the indigenous Shompen and Nicobarese tribes.

Significance: The Great Nicobar project, which includes a transshipment port, an international airport, a power plant, and a township, is of immense strategic and economic importance for India. It aims to enhance India's maritime presence in the Indian Ocean and promote economic development in the region. However, the project's environmental and social costs are a major cause for concern.

Analysis: The debate over the Great Nicobar project highlights the classic conflict between development and conservation. While the project's proponents emphasize its strategic benefits, its critics point to the irreversible damage it could cause to the island's unique biodiversity, including the nesting sites of the Giant Leatherback turtle. The project also raises questions about the rights of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) like the Shompen, and the adequacy of the environmental impact assessment process. A balanced approach that gives due consideration to environmental sustainability and the rights of indigenous communities is essential. The government needs to ensure that the project adheres to the highest environmental standards and that the concerns of the local communities are addressed through a transparent and consultative process.

UPSC Syllabus Correlation:

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

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

8. Supreme Court to Hear Pleas on Bihar's Electoral Roll Revision

Context: The Supreme Court is set to hear a series of petitions challenging the Election Commission of India's (ECI) decision to conduct a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar. Political parties have raised concerns about the process, alleging that it could lead to the disenfranchisement of a large number of voters.

Significance: The case raises important questions about the process of electoral roll revision and the powers of the ECI. A clean and accurate electoral roll is the foundation of free and fair elections. The ECI has maintained that the SIR is necessary to remove duplicate and ineligible voters. However, the opposition parties have argued that the process is flawed and could exclude genuine citizens.

Analysis: The Supreme Court's hearing will be crucial in determining the future course of the electoral roll revision in Bihar. The court will have to balance the ECI's mandate to ensure the purity of the electoral rolls with the fundamental right of every eligible citizen to vote. The case also highlights the need for a more robust and transparent process for voter registration and verification. The use of technology and better coordination between various government agencies can help in creating a more accurate and inclusive electoral roll. The outcome of this case will have significant implications for the conduct of elections not just in Bihar, but across the country.

UPSC Syllabus Correlation:

GS Paper 2: Salient features of the Representation of People's Act; Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies.

9. New Censorship Mechanism 'Sahyog' Platform Raises Concerns

Context: A new government platform named 'Sahyog' has been launched, which expands the power to issue takedown notices to social media companies to all federal and state government agencies, and even district-level officers. This move has raised concerns among experts about the potential for increased censorship and a chilling effect on free speech.

Significance: This development marks a significant shift in the regulatory landscape for social media in India. Until now, such takedown orders were primarily issued by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (IT) and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The decentralization of this power could lead to a surge in content removal requests, potentially without adequate checks and balances.

Analysis: The government's rationale for the 'Sahyog' platform is likely to be the need for a more efficient mechanism to deal with unlawful content at the local level. However, critics argue that it could be misused to suppress dissent and criticism of the government. The lack of a clear and transparent process for issuing and reviewing these takedown orders is a major concern. This move could also lead to a further confrontation between the government and social media companies over the issue of content regulation. It will be important to see how the judiciary interprets this new mechanism in light of the fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression guaranteed by the Constitution.

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: Role of media and social networking sites in internal security challenges, basics of cyber security.

10. Angikaar 2025 Campaign to Boost PMAY-U 2.0

Context: The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has launched the 'Angikaar 2025' campaign, a last-mile outreach initiative to accelerate the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban 2.0 (PMAY-U 2.0).

Significance: The campaign aims to create widespread awareness about the scheme and fast-track the verification of applications and the completion of sanctioned houses. It focuses on community mobilization and convergence with other central government schemes to ensure that the benefits of PMAY-U 2.0 reach the intended beneficiaries, particularly those from vulnerable sections of society.

Analysis: The 'Housing for All' mission is a flagship program of the government, and PMAY-U is its key component in urban areas. The 'Angikaar 2025' campaign is a timely intervention to address the implementation challenges at the grassroots level. By focusing on awareness and beneficiary participation, the campaign can help in improving the uptake of the scheme and ensuring its successful completion. The convergence with other schemes like PM Ujjwala Yojana and Ayushman Bharat will also help in providing a more holistic and integrated solution to the housing needs of the urban poor. The success of the campaign will depend on the effective participation of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and state governments.

UPSC Syllabus Correlation:

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.