UPSC Prelims Exam Based on Current Affairs Analysis – 13 Oct 2025

1. PM GatiShakti National Master Plan Completes Four Years of Integrating Infrastructure

Source – Economic Times

Context: The GatiShakti platform digitally brings together 16 central government departments for integrated planning and coordinated implementation of infrastructure connectivity projects. It aims to break down inter-ministerial silos and streamline the project approval process, thereby reducing time and cost overruns.

Significance: The PM GatiShakti plan is a game-changer for India's infrastructure sector. By adopting a holistic and data-driven approach, it seeks to create a world-class, multi-modal transport network that will boost economic growth, enhance competitiveness, and create employment opportunities. The platform's use of geospatial technology and real-time data allows for better planning and monitoring of projects.

Analysis: In the past four years, the GatiShakti National Master Plan has made significant strides in improving infrastructure planning and execution. The platform has been instrumental in identifying critical gaps in connectivity and in prioritizing projects that have a high economic impact. However, the success of the initiative will depend on its effective implementation at the state and local levels. There is a need for greater coordination between the central and state governments to ensure that the benefits of the master plan reach every corner of the country.

UPSC Syllabus Correlation:

GS Paper 3 (Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc.).

2. India's Blue Economy: Government to Unveil Strategy for Harnessing Deep-Sea Resources

Source – Economic Times

Context: The 'Blue Economy' refers to the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods, and jobs while preserving the health of the ocean ecosystem. India, with its long coastline and extensive Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), has immense potential in this sector.

Significance: The unveiling of a national strategy for the blue economy is a significant step towards unlocking the potential of India's marine resources. The strategy is expected to focus on key sectors such as fisheries, aquaculture, renewable ocean energy, maritime transport, and marine tourism. It will also emphasize the need for research and development, technology adoption, and skill development in the marine sector.

Analysis: A well-defined blue economy strategy can be a major driver of India's economic growth in the coming years. It can help in creating new employment opportunities, enhancing food security, and promoting sustainable development. However, the government will need to ensure that the pursuit of economic growth does not come at the

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cost of environmental degradation. A strong regulatory framework and effective monitoring mechanisms will be essential to ensure the sustainable management of marine resources. The strategy should also address the challenges of marine pollution, climate change, and overfishing.

UPSC Syllabus Correlation:

GS Paper 3 (Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment)

GS Paper 1 (Salient features of world's physical geography; Distribution of key natural resources across the world (including South Asia and the Indian sub-continent)).

3. Decriminalization of Minor Offenses and Repeal of Obsolete Laws to Boost Ease of Doing Business

Source – Economic Times

Context: The government has been focusing on streamlining processes and eliminating unnecessary regulations to create a more business-friendly environment. The decriminalization of minor offenses means that violators will now have to pay fines instead of facing criminal charges. The government has also set up a Deregulation Commission for the non-financial sector to review all regulations.

Significance: These reforms are a significant step towards reducing "regulatory cholesterol" and making the Indian economy more competitive. The decriminalization of minor offenses will reduce the fear of prosecution for small mistakes and encourage entrepreneurship. The repeal of obsolete laws will simplify the legal framework and reduce confusion. These measures will also help in reducing corruption and harassment at the lower levels of the bureaucracy.

Analysis: The government's focus on deregulation and simplification of laws is a welcome move. However, the success of these reforms will depend on their effective implementation. There is a need to create awareness about these changes among businesses and citizens. The government should also ensure that the process of paying fines for minor violations is simple and transparent. The Deregulation Commission should be given a clear mandate and the necessary resources to carry out its work effectively. These reforms, coupled with the use of technology for governance, can go a long way in improving the business climate in the country.

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 (Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization of resources, growth, development, and employment).

4. Shift in Disease Burden: Non-Communicable Diseases Now the Leading Cause of Death in India

Source – The Indian Express

Context: The "Global Burden of Disease Study 2023" highlights a steep rise in mental health disorders as well, adding another layer of complexity to the public health landscape. NCDs, also known as chronic diseases, are of long duration and generally slow progression. The four main types of NCDs are cardiovascular diseases, cancers, chronic respiratory diseases, and diabetes.

Significance: This shift in the disease burden requires a reorientation of India's health policies and programs. The focus needs to move from solely controlling infectious diseases to also preventing and managing NCDs. This will require a multi-pronged approach that includes promoting healthy lifestyles, strengthening primary healthcare services, and ensuring the availability of affordable medicines and diagnostics for chronic conditions.

Analysis: The rise of NCDs in India is driven by a combination of factors, including rapid urbanization, changing lifestyles, and an aging population. The government has launched several initiatives to tackle the NCD burden, such as the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS). However, the implementation of these programs needs to be strengthened, particularly at the grassroots level. There is also a need for greater public awareness about the risk factors for NCDs and the importance of preventive measures.

UPSC Syllabus Correlation:

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

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5. China's Military Activities Continue to Escalate Tensions in the Taiwan Strait

Source – Economic Times

Context: This is the latest in a series of similar incursions by the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) into Taiwan's Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ). Beijing considers Taiwan a renegade province and has not ruled out the use of force to achieve "reunification."

Significance: The repeated military provocations by China are a cause for serious concern in the region and beyond. They increase the risk of a miscalculation or an accident that could escalate into a full-blown conflict. These actions are also a form of "grey zone" warfare, designed to intimidate Taiwan and wear down its military.

Analysis: China's military pressure on Taiwan is part of a broader strategy to assert its dominance in the Indo-Pacific region. The international community, including the United States and its allies, has been closely monitoring the situation and has been vocal in its support for Taiwan's self-defense. The escalating tensions in the Taiwan Strait have significant implications for regional security and the global economy, given Taiwan's crucial role in the semiconductor industry.

UPSC Syllabus Correlation:

GS Paper 2 (India and its neighborhood- relations; Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests).

6. Delhi's Air Quality Nears 'Poor' Category Ahead of Winter

Source – The Hindu

Context: The deterioration in air quality is attributed to a combination of factors, including stubble burning in the neighboring states of Punjab and Haryana, vehicular emissions, and dust from construction activities. The government has been taking various measures to combat air pollution, but the problem persists.

Significance: Poor air quality has serious health implications for the residents of Delhi-NCR, leading to an increase in respiratory illnesses and other health problems. It also has a negative impact on the economy, affecting productivity and tourism. The recurring problem of air pollution highlights the need for a more concerted and long-term effort to address the issue.

Analysis: Tackling air pollution in Delhi-NCR requires a multi-pronged and multi-stakeholder approach. There is a need for stricter enforcement of emission norms for vehicles and industries. The problem of stubble burning needs to be addressed through a combination of incentives for farmers to adopt alternative methods of crop residue management and disincentives for burning. Public awareness and participation are also crucial for bringing about a behavioral change. A coordinated effort between the central and state governments, along with active participation from civil society and the private sector, is the need of the hour.

UPSC Syllabus Correlation:

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

7. India Formally Recognizes the Taliban Government in Afghanistan

Source – Indian Express

Context: This move comes more than four years after the Taliban seized power in Afghanistan in August 2021. India had been engaging with the Taliban on a limited basis, primarily on issues related to humanitarian aid and the security of its citizens. The formal recognition marks a new chapter in India-Afghanistan relations.

Significance: India's recognition of the Taliban government is a pragmatic move that acknowledges the reality on the ground in Afghanistan. It will allow for a more structured and official engagement between the two countries on a range of issues, including trade, connectivity, and counter-terrorism. The decision is also likely to have a significant impact on the regional security dynamics.

Analysis: While India has formally recognized the Taliban government, it is likely to proceed with caution. New Delhi will continue to have concerns about the Taliban's human rights record, particularly its treatment of women and minorities. India will also be closely monitoring the security situation in Afghanistan to ensure that the country does not become a safe haven for terrorist groups that pose a threat to India's security. The recognition is a calculated step aimed at protecting India's strategic interests in the region.

UPSC Syllabus Correlation:

GS Paper 2 (India and its neighborhood- relations).

8. Ministry of New and Renewable Energy Recognizes Three Major Ports as Green Hydrogen Hubs

Source - Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)

Context: The National Green Hydrogen Mission, launched in January 2023, aims to make India a global hub for the production, utilization, and export of green hydrogen and its derivatives. The development of green hydrogen hubs at major ports is a key component of this mission.

Significance: The recognition of these three ports as green hydrogen hubs is a major step towards realizing India's green hydrogen ambitions. These ports will be developed as centers for the production, storage, and export of green hydrogen. This will not only help in decarbonizing the port and shipping sector but also in creating a new and sustainable source of energy for the country.

Analysis: The development of green hydrogen hubs at these ports will require significant investment in infrastructure, such as electrolysers for producing green hydrogen, storage facilities, and bunkering facilities for ships. The government will need to create a supportive policy and regulatory framework to attract private investment in this sector. The success of this initiative will depend on the ability to produce green hydrogen at a competitive cost.

UPSC Syllabus Correlation:

 GS Paper 3 (**Infrastructure:** Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways, etc.; Conservation, environmental pollution, and degradation).

9. NITI Aayog Unveils 'Roadmap for Job Creation in the AI Economy'

Source - PIB

Context: The roadmap, developed by NITI Aayog's Frontier Technologies Hub in collaboration with NASSCOM and Boston Consulting Group, recommends the launch of a National AI Talent Mission to prepare the workforce for the jobs of the future.

Significance: This report is a timely intervention that provides a strategic direction for harnessing the potential of AI for economic growth and job creation. It acknowledges the disruptive nature of AI while also highlighting the new opportunities that it will create. The recommendation for a National AI Talent Mission is a crucial step towards building a skilled workforce that can thrive in the AI-driven economy.

Analysis: The success of India in the AI era will depend on its ability to re-skill and up-skill its workforce. The education system will need to be reformed to incorporate AI and other emerging technologies into the curriculum. The government will also need to create a conducive ecosystem for AI innovation and entrepreneurship. The roadmap provides a good starting point, but its effective implementation will require a concerted effort from all stakeholders, including the government, industry, and academia.

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).

10. Ahoi Ashtami Being Celebrated with Fervour in North India

Source – Hindustan Times

Context: The festival is observed on the eighth day of the Krishna Paksha (waning phase of the moon) in the Hindu month of Kartik. Mothers keep a day-long fast and break it only after sighting the stars in the evening. They worship Ahoi Mata and offer prayers for the prosperity of their children.

Significance: Ahoi Ashtami is a celebration of the mother-child bond. It is a day when mothers express their unconditional love and pray for the happiness and long life of their children. The festival also has a social significance, as it brings families and communities together.

Analysis: Festivals like Ahoi Ashtami are an integral part of India's rich cultural heritage. They play an important role in preserving our traditions and values. In today's fast-paced world, these festivals provide an opportunity for people to connect with their roots and to strengthen their family and social bonds. They are also a reminder of the importance of selfless love and sacrifice.

UPSC Syllabus Correlation:

GS Paper 1 (Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of Art Forms, literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times).