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## **UPSC Prelims Exam Based on Current Affairs Analysis – 14 Oct 2025**

### **1. Third India-Africa Forum Summit Concludes with Focus on Digital Cooperation and Maritime Security**

**Source: The Indian Express**

**Context:** The Third India-Africa Forum Summit concluded in New Delhi with the adoption of the 'Delhi Declaration on Digital Partnership and Maritime Security'. Leaders from over 40 African nations and India pledged to enhance cooperation in areas like digital public infrastructure, fintech, cybersecurity, and combating piracy and illegal fishing in the Indian Ocean. India also announced a new line of credit of \$15 billion for development projects in Africa over the next five years.

**Significance:** This summit reinforces India's growing strategic and economic engagement with the African continent. The focus on digital cooperation and maritime security reflects the changing priorities of the India-Africa partnership. This engagement is crucial for India's foreign policy goals, including countering China's influence in the region and promoting a multipolar world order.

**Analysis:** The success of the partnership will depend on the timely and effective implementation of the announced initiatives. India needs to ensure that its development projects are sustainable, transparent, and aligned with the needs of African countries. The focus on a partnership model, based on mutual respect and shared values, distinguishes India's approach from that of other major powers in the region.

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**UPSC Syllabus Correlation:** 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.

**GS Paper 3:** Agriculture, Infrastructure & Security

## **2. High-Powered Committee on MSP Submits Report; Recommends Legally Guaranteed Price**

**Source:** Hindustan Times

**Context:** The high-powered committee, constituted to deliberate on making the Minimum Support Price (MSP) more effective, has submitted its report to the Union Agriculture Minister. Sources indicate that the report has recommended a legal guarantee for MSP for 23 crops, based on the C2+50% formula. The committee has also suggested several alternative models for the implementation of this legal framework to minimize the fiscal burden on the government.

**Significance:** A legal guarantee for MSP has been a long-standing demand of farmer unions. If implemented, it could provide a significant safety net for farmers, protecting them from price volatility and ensuring a stable income. This move could fundamentally alter the agricultural landscape of the country and address the persistent issue of agrarian distress.



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**Analysis:** The recommendation for a legally guaranteed MSP is a contentious one, with potential far-reaching economic implications. While it could benefit farmers, critics argue that it might distort market prices, lead to inflation, and place an unsustainable fiscal burden on the exchequer. The government will have to carefully weigh the pros and cons and build a political consensus before taking a final decision. The success of any such framework would depend on a robust procurement and storage infrastructure.

**UPSC Syllabus Correlation:** Issues related to direct and indirect farm subsidies and minimum support prices; Public Distribution System- objectives, functioning, limitations, revamping.

### **3. Review Meet on National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP): 75% of Projects on Track**

**Source: Economic Times**

**Context:** The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) held a high-level meeting to review the progress of the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP). The review indicated that approximately 75% of the projects under the ₹111 lakh crore NIP are on schedule. The meeting focused on resolving bottlenecks related to land acquisition and environmental clearances for the remaining projects, particularly in the energy and roads sectors.

**Significance:** The NIP is the cornerstone of the government's strategy to boost economic growth and create employment. Its timely implementation is crucial for improving India's global competitiveness, enhancing the ease of doing business, and improving the quality of life for citizens. The high percentage of projects on track is a positive indicator of an improving implementation environment.

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**Analysis:** Despite the progress, challenges remain in financing and inter-agency coordination. The government needs to continue its focus on creating a conducive environment for private investment in infrastructure. Innovative financing models like asset monetization and infrastructure investment trusts (InvITs) will be key to meeting the massive funding requirements of the NIP.

**UPSC Syllabus Correlation:** Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways, etc.

#### **4. Government Unveils National Strategy on Ethical AI**

**Source:** The Hindu

**Context:** The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has released the 'National Strategy on Ethical AI'. The strategy outlines a framework to guide the development and deployment of Artificial Intelligence in a manner that is responsible, transparent, and accountable. It focuses on principles of fairness, privacy, security, and human oversight, and proposes the establishment of an 'AI Ethics Council' to oversee its implementation.

**Significance:** As India rapidly adopts AI across various sectors, a guiding ethical framework is essential to prevent its misuse and mitigate potential risks like job displacement, algorithmic bias, and surveillance. This strategy positions India among the leading nations that are proactively addressing the ethical dimensions of AI.



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**Analysis:** The strategy paper is a crucial first step, but the real test lies in its translation into enforceable regulations and industry best practices. The proposed 'AI Ethics Council' must be an independent body with sufficient powers to conduct audits and impose penalties. Striking the right balance between promoting innovation and ensuring ethical safeguards will be a key challenge for policymakers.

**UPSC Syllabus Correlation:** Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nano-technology, bio-technology, and issues relating to intellectual property rights.

## **5. MHA Reports 40% Decline in Left-Wing Extremism Incidents**

**Source: PIB**

**Context:** The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), in its annual report, has stated that incidents of Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) have declined by 40% in the last two years. The report attributes this success to a multi-pronged strategy combining security operations, development initiatives, and ensuring the rights of local communities. The geographical spread of LWE influence has also reportedly shrunk significantly.

**Significance:** The decline in LWE violence is a major achievement for India's internal security. It indicates the effectiveness of the government's strategy in tackling one of the country's most persistent security challenges. This creates a more conducive environment for development and governance in the affected regions.

**Analysis:** While the decline in violence is a positive trend, the underlying issues that give rise to LWE, such as poverty, inequality, and lack of access to justice, still need to be addressed. The government must continue to focus on inclusive development and winning

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the trust of the local population to ensure a lasting solution to the problem. The threat of LWE ideology resurfacing remains if the root causes are not fully eradicated.

**UPSC Syllabus Correlation:** Linkages between development and spread of extremism;  
Role of external state and non-state actors in creating challenges to internal security.

## **6. NDMA Issues New Guidelines for Urban Flood Management**

**Source:** The Indian Express

**Context:** In the wake of recent flooding events in major cities, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has issued a new set of guidelines for urban flood management. The guidelines emphasize the need for a 'Sponge City' approach, focusing on rainwater harvesting, preservation of water bodies, and the creation of green infrastructure. They also call for better coordination between municipal corporations, state governments, and central agencies.

**Significance:** With rapid and often unplanned urbanization, Indian cities are becoming increasingly vulnerable to flooding. These new guidelines represent a paradigm shift from a purely relief-centric approach to one that focuses on prevention, mitigation, and preparedness. The 'Sponge City' concept is a sustainable and eco-friendly solution to urban flooding.

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**Analysis:** The implementation of these guidelines will require significant investment, political will, and a change in the mindset of urban planners and administrators. It will involve challenging tasks like reclaiming encroached water bodies and retrofitting existing infrastructure. Public awareness and community participation will be crucial for the success of this initiative.

**UPSC Syllabus Correlation:** Disaster and disaster management.

## **7. ASI Unearths Pre-Mauryan Settlement in Odisha**

**Source:** The Hindu

**Context:** The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has announced the discovery of a large, fortified settlement dating back to the Pre-Mauryan era (circa 400-500 BCE) near the Daya River in Odisha. Excavations have revealed a well-planned settlement with brick structures, pottery, iron implements, and punch-marked coins, shedding new light on the region's ancient history.

**Significance:** This discovery is of immense historical importance as it provides evidence of a sophisticated urban civilization in eastern India even before the Mauryan empire. It can help bridge gaps in our understanding of the period between the decline of the Indus Valley Civilization and the rise of the great Mahajanapadas.

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**Analysis:** The findings need to be further studied and corroborated with other historical and archaeological evidence. The preservation of the site is now a top priority for the ASI. This discovery highlights the need for continued exploration and research to uncover the rich and diverse history of the Indian subcontinent.

**UPSC Syllabus Correlation:** Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of Art Forms, literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times.

## **8. Labour Ministry Report Shows Rising Female Participation in Gig Economy**

**Source: Hindustan Times**

**Context:** A report released by the Union Ministry of Labour and Employment has revealed a significant trend of increasing female participation in India's gig economy. The report, titled 'Women in the Platform Economy', states that women now constitute nearly 35% of the workforce in sectors like ride-hailing, food delivery, and e-commerce, up from 20% five years ago.

**Significance:** The rising participation of women in the gig economy is a sign of changing social and economic dynamics. It offers women greater flexibility and opportunities for financial independence. This trend can contribute to women's empowerment and increase the overall female labour force participation rate in the country.

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**Analysis:** While the gig economy offers opportunities, it also presents challenges such as lack of job security, social security benefits, and income instability. The report calls for policy interventions to ensure decent working conditions and social protection for all gig workers, with a special focus on the needs of women, such as safety and prevention of workplace harassment.

**UPSC Syllabus Correlation:** Role of women and women's organization, population and associated issues, poverty and developmental issues, urbanization, their problems and their remedies.

## **9. Second ARC Report on Civil Service Reforms Discussed in Parliamentary Committee**

**Source: The Indian Express**

**Context:** A Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice today discussed the long-pending recommendations of the Second Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) concerning civil service reforms. The discussion focused on key issues such as performance-based incentives, lateral entry at senior levels, and strengthening ethical and accountability frameworks within the bureaucracy.

**Significance:** Civil service reform is crucial for improving governance and public service delivery. The recommendations of the Second ARC provide a roadmap for creating a more efficient, accountable, and citizen-centric bureaucracy. Renewed discussion on these reforms signals a potential push from the government to modernize the administrative machinery.

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**Analysis:** Implementing meaningful civil service reforms is a complex and politically sensitive issue. There is often resistance from within the bureaucracy to changes that affect the status quo. However, with the changing needs of the economy and society, it is imperative to move towards a more dynamic and performance-oriented administrative system. The committee's deliberations could pave the way for concrete legislative action.

**UPSC Syllabus Correlation:** Public/Civil service values and Ethics in Public administration: Status and problems; ethical concerns and dilemmas in government and private institutions.

## **10. Government Launches 'Digi-Seva Portal 2.0' for Integrated Service Delivery**

**Source:** PIB

**Context:** The Government of India has launched the 'Digi-Seva Portal 2.0', an upgraded and integrated platform for delivering all central and state government services to citizens. The new portal uses AI-powered chatbots and a unified interface to make it easier for citizens to access services, track applications, and submit grievances. It aims to fulfill the vision of 'Minimum Government, Maximum Governance'.

**Significance:** This is a major step towards enhancing e-governance and improving the ease of living for citizens. By bringing all services onto a single platform, the portal aims to reduce red tape, enhance transparency, and make the government more accessible and accountable. It is a key component of the 'Digital India' mission.



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**Analysis:** The success of the 'Digi-Seva Portal 2.0' will depend on its user-friendliness, robustness, and accessibility, especially for people in rural areas with limited digital literacy and internet connectivity. Ensuring the security and privacy of citizens' data on the portal will also be a critical challenge. Continuous feedback and improvement will be necessary to make the platform truly effective.

**UPSC Syllabus Correlation:** E-governance- applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential; Citizens charters, transparency & accountability, and institutional and other measures.