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FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

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1. Industrial Output Growth in India – August 2024

Key Highlights

- India's **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)** growth slowed to **4% in August 2024**, down from 4.3% in July.
- The slowdown was primarily driven by weak performance in **consumer durables, non-durables, manufacturing, capital goods, and infrastructure sectors**.
- Positive growth was recorded in **mining, primary goods, and electricity sectors**, marking a turnaround.
- Mining sector** grew at a **14-month high of 6%**, ending four months of contraction.
- Primary goods sector** achieved a **seven-month high of 5.2%**, while **electricity sector** grew at a **five-month high of 4.1%**.

Definitions & Key Concepts

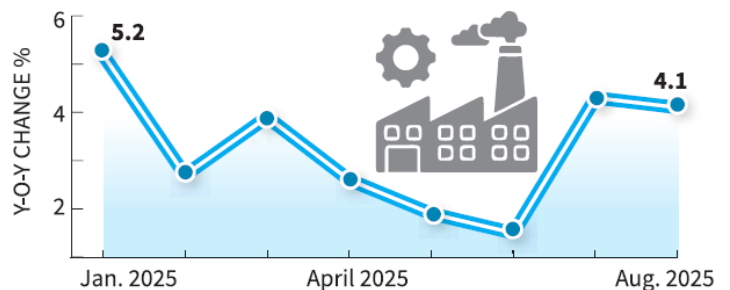
- Index of Industrial Production (IIP):** A composite indicator measuring the volume of production of various sectors of the economy, expressed as an index. Published monthly by the **National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)**. Base Year: 2011-12.
- Primary Goods:** Items used as raw materials in further production (e.g., coal, crude oil).
- Consumer Durables:** Goods with a long lifespan (e.g., appliances, vehicles).
- Consumer Non-Durables:** Goods consumed immediately or in a short time (e.g., food, beverages).

Constitutional & Legal Provisions

- Concurrent List (Seventh Schedule):** Both Union and States can legislate on industries, but **Parliament** holds primacy under **Article 246**.
- Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951:** Provides a framework for regulation and development of industries by the Union Government.
- Economic Surveys & IIP Data:** Provide inputs for policy decisions under Article 38 (Directive Principles – State to secure a social order for the welfare of people).

Slowing growth

The year-on-year change (in %) in the Index of Industrial Production. The index saw 0% growth in August last year



SOURCE: CENTRE FOR MONITORING INDIAN ECONOMY

Additional Key Points

- Experts caution that August data does not fully capture the impact of **tariff changes** (from August 27) and **GST benefits** (kicked in late September).
- Compared to **August 2023 (0% growth)**, the August 2024 performance still shows a significant improvement.



- Weak consumer demand reflected in contraction of **consumer non-durables (-6.3%)**, worst in eight months.

Conclusion

Industrial growth in India slowed in August 2024 due to weak consumer sectors, though mining, primary goods, and electricity saw strong recovery. The IIP data indicates uneven growth trends, highlighting the need for policy support to revive manufacturing and consumer demand.

UPSC Relevance

- **Prelims:** Definitions of IIP, base year, key sectors, responsible ministry.
- **Mains (GS-III – Economy):** Industrial growth trends, factors influencing IIP, link between consumer demand and manufacturing, impact of policy measures like GST and tariffs.
- **Essay/Interview:** Industrial sector as a driver of economic growth; policy implications for balanced development.

2. T.N. Government to Frame Rules & Guidelines for Public Events

Key Highlights

- After the **Karur stampede incident** at actor-politician Vijay's rally which killed **41 people**, Tamil Nadu CM M.K. Stalin announced that **rules and guidelines** will be framed for political parties and organisations to hold public events.
- The **Justice Aruna Jagadeesan Commission of Inquiry** is investigating the incident; rules will be finalised after the Commission submits its report and consultations are held with all stakeholders.
- CM Stalin appealed to the public to **avoid spreading fake news, rumours, or malicious comments** on social media about the incident.
- A **solatium of ₹10 lakh** has been announced for the families of the deceased; free medical treatment is being provided to the injured.
- Police have filed cases against organisers, including TVK functionaries, for violations such as defying police orders at the rally.



Definitions & Key Concepts

- **Commission of Inquiry:** A statutory body set up under the **Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952**, to investigate matters of public importance. It submits reports to the government with recommendations but does not itself enforce penalties.
- **Public Event Safety Norms:** Administrative or statutory guidelines issued to ensure public safety at mass gatherings, including crowd control, emergency response, and coordination with law enforcement.
- **Solatium:** Compensation or ex gratia relief granted by the government to victims or their families after accidents, disasters, or violence.

Constitutional & Legal Provisions



- **Article 21 (Right to Life):** It is the State's duty to protect the life and safety of citizens during public events.
- **State List – Police, Public Order (Seventh Schedule):** States have primary responsibility for maintaining law and order and public safety.
- **Disaster Management Act, 2005:** Although framed for disasters, its principles of risk reduction, planning, and emergency response are relevant to large public gatherings.
- **Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952:** Empowers governments to set up commissions for fact-finding on issues of public concern.

Additional Key Points

- Tamil Nadu has historically been a **pioneer in social welfare measures**; CM Stalin stressed the **collective duty** of political parties and citizens to prevent such tragedies.
- Guidelines are likely to include **mandatory safety audits**, crowd management plans, coordination with police, and penalties for violations.
- The CM's emphasis on **responsible social media usage** reflects the increasing role of digital platforms in shaping public perception during crises.

Conclusion

The Karur incident underscores the urgent need for **comprehensive, enforceable guidelines** for mass gatherings to ensure public safety and accountability. Tamil Nadu's proposed framework could become a **model for other states** in India.

UPSC Relevance

- **Prelims:** Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952; Disaster Management Act, 2005; definitions of "solatium," "public order."
- **Mains (GS-II – Polity & Governance):** Role of state governments in public safety, legal frameworks for commissions of inquiry, crowd management in India.
- **Mains (GS-III – Internal Security):** Risk management at mass gatherings; importance of social media responsibility during crises.
- **Essay/Interview:** Balancing democratic freedoms (public meetings) with safety norms; the role of the state in preventing avoidable tragedies.

3. Kerala Assembly Resolution Against 'Hasty' Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of Electoral Rolls

Key Highlights

- The **Kerala Legislative Assembly** unanimously passed a resolution urging the **Election Commission (EC)** to desist from implementing the **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** of electoral rolls in a "hasty" manner.
- Both ruling **LDF** and opposition **UDF** stressed that voter rolls must be updated **fairly and transparently** to protect citizens' rights.



- The resolution expressed concern over using **2002 electoral rolls as the base document** and new **eligibility conditions**, which could adversely affect **minorities, women, poor families, SCs/STs, and overseas electors**.
- It linked the SIR to concerns over the **National Register of Citizens (NRC)**, calling the Bihar SIR a “politics of expulsion.”
- The resolution highlighted the **timing issue**, noting the SIR was being rolled out just before elections in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal, while its constitutional validity is pending before the **Supreme Court**.

Definitions & Key Concepts

- **Special Intensive Revision (SIR):** A focused, large-scale exercise undertaken by the EC to verify and update electoral rolls beyond the routine annual revision.
- **Electoral Roll:** The official list of eligible voters in a constituency, prepared and updated by the EC under the **Representation of the People Act, 1950**.
- **Overseas Electors:** Indian citizens residing abroad who are eligible to be registered in the constituency of their residence in India under Section 20A of the Representation of the People Act, 1950.
- **National Register of Citizens (NRC):** A register intended to identify genuine Indian citizens; its linkage to voter lists is controversial and under legal scrutiny.



Constitutional & Legal Provisions

- **Article 324:** Vests the superintendence, direction, and control of elections in the **Election Commission of India (ECI)**.
- **Article 326:** Guarantees **universal adult suffrage**; every citizen 18 years and above has the right to vote unless disqualified by law.
- **Representation of the People Act, 1950:** Provides for preparation and revision of electoral rolls.
- **Supreme Court Oversight:** Any change impacting voting rights or eligibility can be reviewed under **Article 32** or **Article 226**.

Additional Key Points

- Kerala's **Chief Electoral Officer** recommended postponing the SIR until after local body elections; EC's response is pending.
- The resolution frames SIR as a potential **voter suppression risk**, especially for marginalized groups, highlighting **political neutrality and timing** as critical for electoral integrity.
- The issue underscores tensions between **administrative efficiency** (clean voter lists) and **constitutional guarantees** (non-discrimination and fair process).

Conclusion

The Kerala Assembly's unanimous resolution reflects a strong political and constitutional pushback against perceived “hasty” electoral roll revisions. It underscores the need for **transparent, legally sound, and inclusive processes** in maintaining voter lists to protect the fundamental right to vote.



UPSC Relevance

- **Prelims:** Definitions of SIR, NRC, relevant provisions of the Representation of the People Act, Articles 324 & 326.
- **Mains (GS-II – Polity & Governance):** Role and powers of the Election Commission; balancing electoral integrity with citizens' rights; impact of voter roll revisions on marginalized groups.
- **Essay/Interview:** Electoral reforms, voter rights, and administrative impartiality; lessons from states' resistance to controversial electoral processes.

4. Pakistan's Role in Global Terrorism and its Leadership in UN Counter-Terrorism Committees

Key Highlights

- Pakistan's involvement in **harbouring and supporting terrorist organisations** like Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) is well documented — from Osama bin Laden's presence near its military academy to the 2008 Mumbai attacks, the 2019 Pulwama bombing, and the **2025 Pahalgam attack**.
- Despite these links, Pakistan has been given leadership roles in **critical UN counter-terrorism bodies** — chairing the Taliban Sanctions Committee and serving as vice-chair of the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the **UN Security Council (UNSC)**; it also assumed the UNSC presidency in July 2025.
- This decision raises concerns about the **UN's credibility and impartiality**, similar to past controversial appointments (Libya in UNHRC, Saudi Arabia in UN Women's Rights Commission).
- Pakistan has simultaneously offered **financial compensation to families of terrorists**, highlighting its internal policies which glorify militants.
- The **IMF's approval of a \$1 billion loan** to Pakistan after the Pahalgam attack and Pakistan's removal from the FATF grey list in 2022 exemplify global leniency toward Pakistan despite ongoing terror-financing concerns.



Definitions & Key Concepts

- **State-Sponsored Terrorism:** When a government provides support (financial, logistical, training) to terrorist groups either overtly or covertly.
- **Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC):** A UNSC body established by Resolution 1373 (2001) to monitor implementation of measures to combat terrorism globally.
- **FATF Grey List:** A watchlist of countries with deficiencies in countering money laundering and terror financing but which have committed to address them.
- **Taliban Sanctions Committee (UN 1988 Committee):** Monitors sanctions on individuals and entities associated with the Taliban.

Constitutional & Legal Provisions (India & International)



- **Article 51(c) of the Indian Constitution:** Directs the State to foster respect for international law and treaty obligations in dealings between nations.
- **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967:** India's primary anti-terror law empowering the government to designate individuals and organisations as terrorists.
- **UN Charter (Chapter VII):** Empowers UNSC to take measures to maintain international peace and security, including sanctions against states or groups sponsoring terrorism.
- **International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism (1999):** Mandates signatories to prevent and criminalise terror financing.

Additional Key Points

- Pakistan's elevated role in UN counter-terrorism bodies could allow it to **influence narratives**, derail India's efforts to sanction Pakistan-based terrorists, and project itself as a responsible global actor.
- India failed to block Pakistan's appointments despite outreach to UNSC members post-Pahalgam attack — reflecting a **diplomatic challenge**.
- India's counter-strategies include leveraging alliances with UNSC members, engaging the Taliban regime directly to reduce Pakistan's influence, strengthening its intelligence networks, and **launching global media campaigns** exposing Pakistan's duplicity.
- The situation underscores the **geopolitical bargaining** within international organisations where security and ethics are sidelined for strategic interests.

Conclusion

Pakistan's leadership in UN counter-terrorism mechanisms, despite its documented history of sponsoring terrorism, represents a **paradox that undermines the UN's integrity and global counter-terrorism efforts**. It challenges India's diplomatic outreach and signals the need for proactive, coalition-based strategies to safeguard its security interests and narrative at the global stage.

UPSC Relevance

- **Prelims:** Functions of the UNSC, Counter-Terrorism Committee, FATF grey list, key UN sanctions committees, UAPA provisions.
- **Mains (GS-II – International Relations):** Role of international organisations in counter-terrorism; challenges of state-sponsored terrorism; India's diplomatic strategies at the UN.
- **Mains (GS-III – Internal Security):** Cross-border terrorism; India's counter-measures and intelligence preparedness.
- **Essay/Interview:** Ethical dimensions of global governance; balancing geopolitical interests with international security; lessons for India in multilateral diplomacy.

5. South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC): A Pathway to a More Equitable and Sustainable Future

1. Concept and Evolution

- **Definition:** South-South Cooperation involves the exchange of resources, knowledge, and technology among developing countries; **Triangular Cooperation** adds a developed country or international organisation as a supportive partner.



- **Origin:** Formalised under the **1978 Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA)**; commemorated annually on **12 September as UN Day for SSTC**.
- **Importance:** Complements traditional aid; cost-effective, replicable, and context-relevant approach to achieving **2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**—notably in climate change, inequality, and humanitarian crises.

2. India's Role and Philosophy

- **Guiding Principle:** *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* (“the world is one family”) underscores India’s inclusive approach.
- **Key Initiatives:**
 - **Voice of the Global South Summit** to articulate developing nations’ concerns.
 - Support for **African Union’s permanent G-20 membership**.
 - Establishment of **Development Partnership Administration (DPA)** and **ITEC programme** in 160+ countries.
 - **India-UN Development Partnership Fund** financing 75+ projects in 56 countries.
 - Export of **Digital Public Infrastructure** (Aadhaar, UPI) and low-cost innovations in digital transformation, climate resilience, health and sustainable finance.



3. India–WFP Partnership: A Model

- **Historical Engagement:** India has been a long-term testing ground for **World Food Programme (WFP)** innovations.
- **Notable Initiatives:** Annapurta (Grain ATM), food supply chain optimisation, women-led **Take-Home Ration** programmes, and **national rice fortification** projects.
- **Significance:** Strengthens food security and provides **replicable models** for other developing nations.

4. Redefining Partnerships and Triangular Cooperation

- **Triangular Cooperation:** Links developing countries with traditional/emerging donors to amplify good practices, mobilise resources and enhance accountability.
- **Beyond Governments:** Inclusion of civil society, private sector, and grassroots actors ensures **people-centric development**.
- **Current Scope:** SSTC projects benefit **155 countries**; **47 governments** contribute to the UN Fund for South-South Cooperation; India-WFP collaborations extend to Nepal, Laos etc. under **SDG-2 (Zero Hunger)**.

5. Constitutional and Legal Provisions Relevant for India

- **Article 51(c) of the Constitution:** Directs the State to foster respect for international law and treaty obligations.
- **SDG Framework Integration:** India mainstreams UN SDGs into national policies, monitored by **NITI Aayog**.



- **Development Cooperation Policy:** Although not codified in a single statute, assistance is channelled through MEA's **Development Partnership Administration** ensuring transparency and accountability.

6. Conclusion

SSTC has evolved from a diplomatic idea into a **transformational tool** empowering developing nations to co-create solutions, share best practices, and build resilience. India's leadership, innovations, and inclusive philosophy demonstrate how such cooperation accelerates SDGs—particularly in food security, nutrition, and climate resilience—creating a more **equitable and sustainable global order**.

UPSC Relevance

- **Prelims:** UN Day for SSTC (12 September); Buenos Aires Plan of Action (1978); India-UN Development Partnership Fund; SDG-2 Zero Hunger; Role of WFP.
- **Mains (GS-II – International Relations):** India's South-South diplomacy; Triangular cooperation as a development model; Evaluation of India's development assistance.
- **Mains (GS-III – Economy/Environment):** Sustainable financing, food security innovations, climate-resilient agriculture.
- **Essay/Interview:** "South-South Cooperation as an Alternative Model for Global Development" or "India's Role in Reshaping Global Partnerships."

6. Bridging the Generation Gap: India at a Demographic Crossroads

1. Concept and Key Definitions

- **Generation Gap:** The perceived difference in attitudes, values, lifestyles, and aspirations between different age groups, often leading to misunderstandings or conflict.
- **Demographic Shift in India:** India's population above 60 years is now over 10%, projected to reach nearly 20% (one in five Indians) by 2050, transforming family structures, support systems, and intergenerational dynamics.
- **Importance:** This transition affects social identity, caregiving arrangements, digital inclusion, and economic security of both young and elderly populations.

2. Major Findings from HelpAge India Study

- Survey of 5,700 respondents across 10 cities shows a **paradoxical landscape**: youth associate elders with "wisdom" (51%) and "respect" (43%), but also "lonely" (56%) and "dependent" (48%).
- **Emotional Disconnect:** Over 54% of elders report negative feelings about ageing, rooted in invisibility and lack of involvement ("We are told the plan, not asked").
- **Digital Divide:** 78% of youth assume elders lack interest in digital tools, while 71% of elders cite impatience and lack of support from youth as obstacles to learning.

'YOUTH IN INDIA 2022' REPORT			
State/Union Territory	% of youth in total population of State/UT		
	2021	2031	2036
Bihar	28.8	27.7	25.5
Himachal Pradesh	25.1	21.4	19.5
Kerala	22.1	20	19.2
Madhya Pradesh	27.7	25.3	24.7
Maharashtra	26.1	22.5	21
Rajasthan	28.7	25.8	24.6
Tamil Nadu	23.2	20.4	19.1
Uttar Pradesh	29.9	26.3	25.1
India	27.2	24.1	22.7

Source: Youth in India 2022 Report, MoSPI
Report of the Technical Group on Population Projections for India and States 2011-2036, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, 2020



3. Shared Concerns and Converging Aspirations

- **Loneliness as Common Anxiety:** Cited by 69% of youth and 68% of elders, along with health and financial insecurity.
- **Family-Centred Living Remains Strong:** 88% of youth expect to live with family in old age; 83% of elders currently do or plan to live with family.
- **Mutual Support:** Elders offer wisdom and childcare; youth provide technological guidance. This reciprocity proved crucial during crises like the COVID-19 pandemic.

4. Challenges and Policy Imperatives

- **Digital Inclusion:** Must go beyond access to include patient, tailored learning for elders.
- **Changing Family Structures:** 30% of youth consider care homes as an alternative to family care, compared to 19% of elders, indicating the need for well-designed intergenerational spaces.
- **Education and Empathy:** Building awareness about ageing and combating ageism through curricula can help prepare society for demographic transformation.
- **Policy Frameworks:** India lacks a unified elder-care law but operates schemes like **National Policy on Older Persons (1999)** and **Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act (2007)**. Constitutional directives under **Article 41** urge the State to provide public assistance in old age, while **Article 38** calls for social order based on justice.

5. Constitutional and Legal Provisions Relevant for India

- **Article 41:** State to make effective provision for securing the right to public assistance in cases of old age.
- **Article 38:** State to promote welfare of the people and minimise inequalities.
- **Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007:** Legal obligation for children to provide maintenance to parents; provisions for old-age homes.
- **National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP):** Provides pensions for elderly, widows, and disabled persons.

6. Conclusion

India's demographic shift presents both **peril and promise**. The intergenerational bond—rooted in tradition, family, and shared responsibility—remains a vital social asset but is under strain from urbanisation, migration, and the digital divide. Strengthening these ties requires deliberate policy support, community models, and education that fosters empathy and age literacy. Ageing should be seen not just as a challenge but as an **opportunity to reaffirm and reinvent intergenerational solidarity**.

UPSC Relevance

- **Prelims:** India's demographic trends; Article 41; Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act (2007); National Policy on Older Persons; HelpAge India study findings.
- **Mains (GS-I – Indian Society):** Changing family structures; generation gap and its impact on social cohesion.
- **Mains (GS-II – Welfare Schemes):** Evaluation of government policies for senior citizens; role of community-based models.



- **Mains (GS-III – Social Justice/Inclusive Development):** Digital inclusion, urbanisation's impact on elder care.
- **Essay/Interview:** "Ageing India: Challenge or Opportunity?" or "Bridging the Generation Gap in a Digital Society."

7. Women in Agriculture: Unpaid Workforce and Pathways to Empowerment

1. Concept and Key Definitions

- **Feminisation of Agriculture:** The growing proportion of women in the agricultural workforce due to men's migration to non-farm jobs; in India, women now make up over 42% of the sector's workforce.
- **Unpaid Family Workers:** Individuals (often women) who work on family farms or enterprises without direct wages; in India, nearly half of women in agriculture fall into this category.
- **Women-led Development:** Recognised in India as a structural game-changer to accelerate economic ambitions but remains underutilised in the agriculture sector.

2. Current Situation and Challenges

- Women's employment in agriculture surged by **135%** in the past decade, with two-thirds of working women now in this sector.
- **Unpaid Work Crisis:** Number of unpaid women workers rose from 23.6 million to 59.1 million in eight years; one in three working women in India is unpaid.
- **Structural Inequities:** Women own only 13–14% of landholdings, earn 20–30% less than men for the same work, and lack official recognition as farmers, limiting access to credit, insurance, and government support.
- Agriculture's share in national **GVA fell from 15.3% in 2017–18 to 14.4% in 2024–25**, showing that increased participation has not led to proportional income gains.



3. Opportunities from Global Trade and Technology

- **Trade Agreements:** The India–UK FTA is expected to boost agricultural exports by 20% within three years, benefitting women-heavy value chains (spices, tea, millets, dairy, processed foods).
- **Value Addition:** Moving women from unpaid, low-value tasks to higher-margin activities (processing, packaging, branding, exports) can transform them into agri-entrepreneurs.
- **Digital Innovations:** Platforms like **e-NAM**, mobile-based advisories, **BHASHINI**, **Jugalbandi**, and **L&T Finance's Digital Sakhi** are connecting women to markets, financial services, and government schemes.
- **Successful Models:** Odisha's Swayam Sampurna FPOs, Rajasthan's Jhalawari Mahila Kisan Producer Company, and Assam's tea sector training programmes show scalable pathways to empower women farmers.

4. Policy and Reform Imperatives

- **Land and Labour Reforms:** Promote joint/individual land ownership to officially recognise women as farmers and strengthen eligibility for credit, insurance, and institutional support.



- **Targeted Measures:** Embed gender-responsive provisions in trade and export policies, support for Geographical Indications (GIs), branding initiatives, and export-standard compliance.
- **Bridging the Digital Divide:** Invest in digital literacy, affordable devices, multilingual interfaces, and patient training to ensure inclusive access to technology.
- **Multi-Stakeholder Action:** Government, private sector, NGOs, SHGs, and Farmer Producer Organisations must collaborate to formalise women's labour and expand market linkages.

5. Constitutional and Legal Provisions Relevant for India

- **Article 15(3):** Permits the State to make special provisions for women.
- **Article 39(a) & (d):** Directs the State to ensure adequate livelihood and equal pay for equal work for both men and women.
- **Article 43:** Directs the State to secure a living wage and decent conditions of work.
- **Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act, 2005:** Grants daughters equal rights in ancestral property, strengthening women's land ownership.
- **National Policy for Farmers (2007):** Advocates recognising women as farmers.
- **PM-KISAN and Kisan Credit Card Schemes:** Potential to include women more formally if land ownership and documentation barriers are addressed.

6. Conclusion

The feminisation of agriculture in India has not yet translated into women's economic empowerment due to structural barriers, unpaid work, and limited access to assets. However, global trade opportunities, digital innovations, and land reforms present a unique window to reposition women from unpaid labourers to agri-entrepreneurs. Recognising women as equal partners in agricultural transformation is essential for inclusive growth, higher productivity, and achieving the SDGs.

UPSC Relevance

- **Prelims:** Data on women in agriculture; India-UK FTA provisions; platforms like e-NAM, BHASHINI, Digital Sakhi; Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act, 2005.
- **Mains (GS-I – Indian Society):** Feminisation of agriculture; structural gender inequalities in rural livelihoods.
- **Mains (GS-II – Governance):** Women-centric policies; recognition of women as farmers; institutional reforms.
- **Mains (GS-III – Economy/Agriculture):** Women's role in agricultural value chains; digital agriculture; trade agreements and rural employment.
- **Essay/Interview:** "Women-led Development in Agriculture: From Unpaid Labour to Agri-Entrepreneurship."

8. Karnataka High Court Ruling on Sahyog Portal

1. Background and Context

- **Case:** Karnataka High Court dismissed X Corp's (formerly Twitter) petition challenging the Union government's **Sahyog portal**, calling it an "instrument of public good."



- **Portal Purpose:** Centralised platform to issue takedown orders to internet intermediaries – telecom operators, ISPs, social media, web-hosting services.
- **Operator:** Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C), under Ministry of Home Affairs.
- **Legal Basis:** Section 79 of the **IT Act, 2000** grants intermediaries “safe harbour” protection from liability for user-generated content; Section 79(3)(b) makes this protection conditional on timely removal of unlawful content after government notification.

2. Functioning of Sahyog Portal

- Launched in **October 2024** to automate and streamline notices under Section 79(3)(b).
- Enables real-time coordination between intermediaries and law enforcement, especially for time-sensitive issues (e.g., missing persons cases).
- Already adopted by **38 major intermediaries** (Microsoft, Amazon, Google, Telegram etc.); X Corp is the only major holdout.

3. X Corp’s Challenge and Arguments

- Claimed Sahyog is a “censorship portal” bypassing **Section 69A** of the IT Act, which lays out stricter procedural safeguards and grounds mirroring **Article 19(2)** (sovereignty, security, public order etc.).
- Cited **Shreya Singhal v. Union of India (2015)**: Supreme Court upheld Section 69A as sole valid mechanism for blocking content; takedowns under 79(3)(b) must follow court/government orders tethered to Article 19(2).
- Argued Sahyog created a parallel, unlawful regime lacking committee review, written orders, or judicial oversight.
- Supported by **DigiPub** (digital news outlets), alleging disproportionate impact on press freedom.



4. Government’s Defence

- **Safe Harbour is a statutory privilege, not a right** – platforms lose it if they fail to act on unlawful content notices.
- **Sections 79 and 69A operate independently**: Sahyog is an administrative tool, not direct censorship.
- X, as a foreign corporation, cannot invoke **Article 19 rights**, which are guaranteed only to citizens of India.
- Pointed out X complies with stricter takedown laws abroad (e.g., U.S. Take It Down Act, 2025) but resists Indian obligations.

5. High Court Verdict & Reasoning

- Dismissed X’s petition as “devoid of merit.”
- Upheld Sahyog as a “beacon of cooperation” and “instrument of public good” essential for regulating India’s digital space.
- Held that **Article 19 protections apply only to citizens**, not foreign corporations like X.



- Rejected X's reliance on Shreya Singhal, noting that the **2021 IT Rules** represent a fresh legal framework distinct from the 2011 regime.
- Emphasised platforms cannot treat India as a "playground" for lawless dissemination while complying with laws abroad.

6. Implications and Concerns

- Risk of **expansion of state control** over online content due to absence of clear and narrow criteria for "unlawful content."
- May lead to **broadier censorship** of politically sensitive information and selective enforcement.
- Highlights tension between **platform accountability** and **free expression** in India's digital governance.
- X plans to appeal, possibly before a larger Bench or the Supreme Court.

Key Constitutional & Legal Provisions

- **Article 19(1)(a)**: Freedom of speech & expression (available only to citizens).
- **Article 19(2)**: Reasonable restrictions (sovereignty, security, public order, decency, etc.).
- **Section 79, IT Act (Safe Harbour)**: Immunity for intermediaries, conditional under 79(3)(b).
- **Section 69A, IT Act**: Government power to block content with procedural safeguards.
- **Shreya Singhal (2015)**: Landmark judgment striking down Section 66A and upholding procedural safeguards under 69A.

Conclusion

The Karnataka High Court ruling reinforces the government's regulatory authority over online intermediaries while curtailing foreign platforms' challenges to India's digital laws. It underscores the evolving tension between **safe harbour protections** and **content moderation obligations**, especially in light of new IT Rules.

UPSC Relevance

- Important for **GS-II (Governance, Constitution, Transparency & Accountability)** and **GS-III (Cyber Security, IT, Media Ethics)**.
- Illustrates interplay between **fundamental rights**, **statutory privileges**, and **digital regulation frameworks** in India.
- Case law significance: **Shreya Singhal (2015)**, Article 19 jurisprudence, Section 79 & 69A of IT Act.
- Useful for topics like **media regulation**, **freedom of speech**, **digital governance**, and **intermediary liability**.

9. India Re-elected to ICAO Council: Strengthening Global Aviation Leadership

1. Concept and Key Definitions

- **International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)**: A specialized UN agency established under the **Chicago Convention, 1944**, responsible for setting global standards and regulations for safe, secure, efficient, and sustainable international civil aviation.



- **ICAO Council Part II:** Comprises states making the largest contribution to the provision of facilities for international civil air navigation; acts as the governing body for a three-year term.
- **No Country Left Behind Initiative (NCLB):** ICAO program aimed at assisting developing nations to achieve global aviation safety, security, and sustainability standards.

2. India's Re-election and Mandate

- India was **re-elected to Part II of the ICAO Council** for the 2025–2028 term during the 42nd ICAO Assembly Session held in Montreal on 27 September 2025.
- India secured **more votes than in 2022**, reflecting strong confidence among member states in its leadership, policy expertise, and commitment to international civil aviation.
- India has been a **founding member of ICAO since 1944**, maintaining **81 years of uninterrupted Council presence**.

3. India's Diplomatic and Strategic Efforts

- Ministry of Civil Aviation and Ministry of External Affairs actively **engaged in diplomatic outreach**, hosting receptions for ambassadors and engaging with member states ahead of elections.
- Indian representatives and the Civil Aviation Minister held **bilateral meetings** with member states and aviation industry stakeholders to highlight India's growing aviation market and leadership role.
- Key global interests include **aircraft manufacturing, MRO (Maintenance, Repair, Overhaul), and skill development**.



4. India's Commitments on the ICAO Council

- **Aviation Safety, Security, and Sustainability:** Promote high global standards for air transport safety and environmental sustainability.
- **Equitable Air Connectivity:** Support growth of international air routes to underserved regions, especially under NCLB initiative.
- **Technology and Innovation:** Encourage adoption of modern aviation technologies, regulatory frameworks, and digital solutions.
- **Gender Inclusion:** Promote equal participation and leadership opportunities for women in civil aviation.

5. Constitutional and Legal Relevance

- **International Obligations:** India's ICAO membership reinforces commitments under **Article 51(c) of the Constitution**, directing the State to foster respect for international law and treaty obligations.
- Supports **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG-9: Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure; SDG-13: Climate Action)** through aviation safety, technology, and environmental sustainability initiatives.
- Strengthens India's role in **multilateral aviation governance** and contributes to regulatory harmonization under international law.

6. Conclusion



India's re-election to the ICAO Council demonstrates its credibility, leadership, and active participation in shaping global civil aviation standards. The mandate reinforces India's commitment to **safe, secure, sustainable, and inclusive aviation**, advancing both national interests and international cooperation.

UPSC Relevance

- **Prelims:** ICAO, Chicago Convention 1944, ICAO Council structure, NCLB initiative, India's 2025–28 term.
- **Mains (GS-II – International Relations):** India's role in multilateral aviation governance, global diplomacy, and international standards.
- **Mains (GS-III – Economy/Infrastructure/Technology):** Aviation sector growth, MRO industry, skill development, adoption of innovation and sustainable practices.
- **Essay/Interview:** "India's Leadership in Global Aviation Governance" or "International Cooperation for Sustainable Civil Aviation."

10. India-EU Relations Amid the 'Russia Question'

1. Context and Background

- **Issue:** European envoys raised concerns over India's engagement with **Russia**, specifically its **purchase of Russian oil** and participation in the **Zapad-2025 military exercises**.
- **Event:** Remarks made by **EU Ambassador to India Herve Delphin** and diplomats from Germany, Lithuania, Estonia, Switzerland, Italy, and the Czech Republic during a launch of "India's World" publication in Delhi.
- **Zapad-2025 Exercise:** Conducted by **Russia and Belarus** from 12–16 September 2025; India sent a contingent.

2. Strategic and Diplomatic Dimensions

- India maintains a **strategic partnership with Russia** while aiming to **deepen ties with the European Union**.
- EU diplomats highlighted the need for India to **"square" its Russia partnership with its desire to strengthen EU relations**, reflecting concerns over Russia's war in Ukraine and hostile actions, including **violation of European airspace by drones**.
- EU Foreign Policy Chief **Kaja Kallas** questioned India's participation in military exercises perceived as **existential threats to the EU**.



3. India's Response

- **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** rejected criticism, noting that NATO countries (U.S., Turkey, Hungary) **observed Zapad-2025**, and that several European nations continue to **purchase Russian energy**.
- Emphasized India's consistent position **for peace** and strategic autonomy in foreign policy.
- Highlighted that India-EU relations are **multi-faceted**, including trade, technology, and investment, with **strategic convergence "never greater"**.



4. Key Concepts and Definitions

- **Strategic Partnership:** Long-term bilateral relationship emphasizing political, economic, and security cooperation.
- **Strategic Autonomy:** India's foreign policy principle of **independent decision-making** without being bound to a single bloc or alliance.
- **Zapad Exercise:** Large-scale military drills by Russia and Belarus, demonstrating defense preparedness and power projection.
- **Free Trade Agreement (FTA):** Ongoing India-EU trade negotiations aiming for **tariff reduction, market access, and investment facilitation** by end of 2025.

5. Constitutional and Policy Relevance

- **Article 51(c) of Indian Constitution:** Directs India to foster respect for **international law and treaty obligations**.
- Supports India's **non-aligned and multi-aligned foreign policy**, balancing relations with major powers while safeguarding national interests.
- Reflects India's approach to **energy security**, trade diplomacy, and defense cooperation.

6. Conclusion

India's engagement with Russia, including military exercises and energy imports, presents a **diplomatic balancing act** with the EU. While strategic autonomy guides India's decisions, there is a need for **sensitivity to European concerns** to sustain and deepen **India-EU ties**, including trade, technology, and strategic cooperation.

UPSC Relevance

- **Prelims:** Zapad-2025 exercises, India-EU FTA, EU Foreign Policy, India-Russia strategic partnership.
- **Mains (GS-II – International Relations):** Balancing relations with major powers, strategic autonomy, India-EU-Russia triangle.
- **Mains (GS-III – Economy/Trade/Technology):** Trade negotiations, energy security, technology transfer, investment opportunities.
- **Essay/Interview:** "India's Strategic Autonomy in a Multipolar World" or "Balancing Relations Between Russia and the European Union."

11. Ministry of Coal Launches Special Campaign 5.0 for Enhanced Governance

1. Overview and Objectives

- **Special Campaign 5.0:** Launched by the **Ministry of Coal** in collaboration with **Coal India Limited (CIL)** and all Coal PSUs.
- **Aim:** Accelerate efficiency, streamline administrative processes, strengthen citizen-centric governance, and dispose of pending matters.
- **Key Focus Areas:** Cleanliness, file management, grievance redressal, parliamentary assurances, process simplification, and record management.



2. Cleanliness and Workplace Efficiency

- **Sites Covered:** 1,439 identified sites across Coal PSUs targeted for cleaning and organization.
- **Objective:** Improve workplace environment, dispose of **unserviceable items**, free office space, and generate revenue from obsolete materials.

3. Parliamentary and Administrative Matters

- **Parliamentary References:** 4 cases earmarked for prompt resolution.
- **Cabinet Proposals and Assurances:** 2 IMC (Cabinet) proposals and 9 Parliamentary Assurances targeted for expeditious disposal.
- **Citizen-Centric Focus:** 166 public grievances and 61 PMO references prioritized for resolution, reflecting commitment to **responsive governance**.



4. File and Record Management

- **File Management Targets:** Close obsolete files, enable faster record retrieval, and free up office space.
- **Record Review:** 1,23,830 physical files and 32,182 e-files reviewed to improve administrative efficiency.
- **Outcome:** Ensures streamlined workflow and operational transparency.

5. Process Simplification

- Focus on **reducing procedural bottlenecks** by reviewing rules and simplifying at least one key rule under the campaign.
- Emphasis on **citizen-first governance**, making administrative processes more accessible and efficient.

6. Constitutional and Policy Relevance

- **Article 14 (Equality before Law)** and **Article 19(1)(a) (Right to Information indirectly linked to transparency)** support principles of citizen-centric governance.
- Aligns with **Mission Karmayogi** and **Good Governance initiatives** of the Government of India for efficient public administration.
- Supports **SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions** through transparency, accountability, and effective grievance redressal.

7. Conclusion

Special Campaign 5.0 is a **comprehensive administrative initiative** aimed at improving efficiency, transparency, and citizen-focused governance within the Ministry of Coal. Through systematic cleanliness drives, file and record management, grievance resolution, and process simplification, the Ministry reinforces the government's vision of **effective, accountable, and service-oriented governance**.

UPSC Relevance

- **Prelims:** Special Campaign 5.0, Coal India Limited, citizen grievance redressal mechanisms, PMO references.



- **Mains (GS-II – Governance):** Administrative efficiency, transparency, public grievance redressal, Mission Karmayogi.
- **Mains (GS-III – Economy/Infrastructure):** Coal sector administration, efficiency in PSUs, procedural simplification.
- **Essay/Interview:** “Strengthening Citizen-Centric Governance Through Administrative Reforms” or “Efficiency and Transparency in Public Sector Administration.”

12. Ladakh Groups Reject Government Talks Amid Rising Tensions

1. Background and Stakeholders

- **Leh Apex Body (LAB) and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA):** Leading the movement for constitutional safeguards in Ladakh.
- **Context:** Proposed talks with the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** in Delhi were called off by LAB and KDA citing lack of trust and accusations against Ladakhis as “anti-nationals.”
- **High-Powered Committee (HPC):** Government platform intended for dialogue on Ladakh issues, with a scheduled session on October 6.

2. Trigger for Protest and Rejection of Talks

- **Death of Four Protesters:** During September 24 protests in Leh, CRPF opened fire without District Magistrate approval; four people, including a retired soldier from the 1999 Kargil war, were killed.
- **Judicial Inquiry Demand:** LAB insists on a judicial probe before engaging in talks.
- **Restrictions on Cremations:** Government prevented public participation in cremation processions, escalating public anger.



3. Allegations and Political Sensitivities

- LAB claims **baseless allegations** by government/media labeling Ladakhis as anti-national, colluding with foreign elements, and having links with Pakistan.
- Climate activist **Sonam Wangchuk** detained under **National Security Act (NSA)**, allegedly as retaliation for raising local issues.

4. Government Position

- **Ministry of Home Affairs** maintains it is **open to dialogue** with LAB and KDA through HPC or other platforms.
- Stressed that talks are possible **anytime**, but highlighted the need for **lawful and peaceful engagement**.

5. Constitutional and Legal Context

- **Article 14:** Equality before the law, relevant to addressing citizen grievances.
- **Article 19(1)(a):** Freedom of speech and expression, invoked by activists like Sonam Wangchuk.



- **National Security Act, 1980:** Allows preventive detention for security concerns, but its use must balance civil liberties and public order.
- **Judicial Inquiry:** Under **Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952**, government can order investigations into public grievances or incidents of excess force.

6. Conclusion

The Ladakh protest movement highlights the **delicate balance between security, constitutional rights, and dialogue-based governance**. The deadlock reflects **deep distrust**, underlining the importance of **judicial transparency, respect for civil liberties, and timely government engagement** to prevent escalation of unrest. Dialogue is contingent on **removal of anti-national labeling and assurance of impartial inquiry**.

UPSC Relevance

- **Prelims:** Ladakh administrative structure, Leh Apex Body (LAB), Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), National Security Act (NSA).
- **Mains (GS-II – Governance and Internal Security):** Centre-State relations, public order, citizen grievances, judicial inquiry mechanisms, preventive detention laws.
- **Mains (GS-II – Social Justice):** Rights of regional communities, freedom of expression, peaceful protest management.
- **Essay/Interview:** “Balancing Security and Civil Liberties in Sensitive Regions” or “Dialogue as a Tool for Conflict Resolution in India.”

13. Sanchar Saathi Initiative: Recovery of Over 6 Lakh Lost and Stolen Mobile Handsets

1. Overview and Objective

- **Sanchar Saathi** is a **citizen-centric digital safety platform** launched by the **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** in May 2023 under the **Digital India initiative**.
- The platform facilitates **blocking, tracing, and recovery of lost or stolen mobile handsets** through real-time collaboration between **DoT, Telecom Service Providers (TSPs), and State/UT police**.
- The initiative has successfully **recovered over 6 lakh mobile handsets**, reinforcing citizens' trust in **digital governance**.

2. Features and Functionality

- **Block Your Lost/Stolen Mobile Handset:** Enables citizens to report and block devices nationwide to prevent misuse.
- **Automated Traceability:** When a blocked handset is used with any SIM, alerts are sent to the **registered citizen and local police**.
- **Citizen Empowerment:** Provides details of concerned **police stations** and allows easy recovery of devices.
- **Other Modules:** Includes Chakshu (report fraud calls), Device Authenticity Verification, Know Your Mobile Connections, International Call Reporting, and Trusted Contact Details.





3. Technological and Operational Aspects

- Built on **AI-powered automation** and real-time integration with telecom networks and law enforcement agencies.
- **Recovery Efficiency:** Increased from 28,115 devices in January 2025 to 45,243 in August 2025, showing a **61% improvement over eight months**.
- Mobile app is available in **Hindi, English, and 21 regional languages**, enhancing accessibility and inclusion.

4. Legal and Governance Context

- **Cybersecurity and Digital Safety:** Aligns with provisions of the **Information Technology Act, 2000** to prevent digital fraud and unauthorized access.
- **Jan Bhagidari (Citizen Participation):** Illustrates participatory governance in achieving **Digital India** objectives.
- Enhances **accountability and transparency** in law enforcement collaboration.

5. Impact and Significance

- Prevents **financial fraud and misuse** of stolen devices.
- Strengthens **public confidence** in government-led digital initiatives.
- Promotes **secure and citizen-friendly digital ecosystem**, directly contributing to **Digital India** vision.
- Serves as a model for **public-private collaboration** in cybercrime prevention.

6. Conclusion and UPSC Relevance

The Sanchar Saathi initiative exemplifies the effective use of **technology for governance, citizen empowerment, and digital safety**. It highlights the importance of **AI-driven platforms, real-time law enforcement collaboration, and multilingual accessibility** in enhancing public trust.

UPSC Relevance:

- **Prelims:** Digital India initiatives, DoT, Sanchar Saathi app, IT Act provisions.
- **Mains (GS-II – Governance & Technology):** Digital governance, e-governance, citizen-centric services, cybercrime prevention.
- **Mains (GS-III – Science & Technology):** AI applications in public service, digital security measures.
- **Essay/Interview:** “Leveraging Technology for Citizen Empowerment” or “AI in Governance and Public Service Delivery.”

14. Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS) – 2025 Campaign: Cleaning and Hygiene Activities

1. Overview and Objective

- **Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS)** is an annual **cleanliness campaign** under the **Swachh Bharat Mission**, aimed at promoting **hygiene, sanitation, and civic responsibility** among citizens and government offices.



- The 2025 edition saw active participation from **Ministry of Textiles, NIFT, Jute Corporation of India (JCI), National Jute Board (NJB), Central Silk Board (CSB), and Office of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts).**
- The campaign integrates **citizen engagement, environmental sustainability, and workplace cleanliness** to foster awareness about hygiene practices.

2. Key Activities Undertaken

- **Poster Making Competition:** Conducted by Ministry of Textiles at Udyog Bhawan, promoting awareness on cleanliness.
- **Tree Plantation Drive:** “Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam” initiative by JCI, with over **500 saplings** planted across India.
- **Weeding of Files:** Organized by NIFT for improved office management and efficiency.
- **Distribution of Hygiene Items:** NJB and Office of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) distributed **masks, sanitizers, gloves, dusters, and jute bags** to Safai Mitras and the public.
- **Health and Medical Camps:** CSB conducted **medical check-ups** for scientists, staff, PGDS students, farm workers, and Safai Mitras.



3. Governance and Legal Context

- Promotes **citizen-centric governance** and aligns with **Article 51A (Fundamental Duties)** of the Constitution, which mandates citizens to protect and improve the natural environment.
- Reinforces **Swachh Bharat Mission Guidelines** under the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs**, emphasizing public participation in cleanliness and sanitation.
- Encourages sustainable practices such as **tree plantation and eco-friendly materials** (e.g., jute masks and bags), contributing to environmental conservation and waste management.

4. Significance and Impact

- Enhances **public awareness** on personal hygiene and environmental cleanliness.
- Strengthens **employee engagement** in government offices through participatory activities.
- Supports **sustainable development goals (SDGs)**, including SDG 3 (Good Health & Well-being) and SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities & Communities).
- Encourages **inclusive participation**, particularly of Safai Mitras and grassroots workers, ensuring equitable outreach.

5. Conclusion

The SHS 2025 campaign exemplifies the integration of **environmental stewardship, public health, and civic responsibility** in government initiatives. By combining cleanliness drives, hygiene promotion, and environmental activities, it fosters **holistic community engagement and sustainable development**.

6. UPSC Relevance



- **Prelims:** Swachh Bharat Mission, Ministry of Textiles, National Jute Board, CSB, NIFT initiatives.
 - **Mains (GS-II – Governance & Policy):** Citizen-centric governance, public health initiatives, environmental management.
 - **Mains (GS-III – Environment & Technology):** Waste management, eco-friendly practices, sustainable development goals.
 - **Essay/Interview:** “Role of Government Campaigns in Promoting Civic Responsibility” or “Public Participation in Environmental Conservation.”
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