

VEDHIK  
**DAJLY NEWS**  
**ANALYSIS**  
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## **FOREWORD**

We, at Team Vedhik is happy to introduce a new initiative - "Daily Current Affairs\_The Hindu" compilations to help you with UPSC Civil Services Examination preparation. We believe this initiative - "Daily Current Affairs\_The Hindu" would help students, especially beginners save time and streamline their preparations with regard to Current Affairs. A content page and an Appendix has been added segregating and mapping the content to the syllabus.

It is an appreciable efforts by Vedhik IAS Academy helping aspirants of UPSC Civil Services Examinations. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Dr. Babu Sebastian, former VC - MG University in extending all support to this endeavour. Finally I also extend my thanks to thank Ms. Shilpa Sasidharan and Mr. Shahul Hameed for their assistance in the preparing the compilations.

We welcome your valuable comments so that further improvement may be made in the forthcoming material. We look forward to feedback, comments and suggestions on how to improve and add value for students. Every care has been taken to avoid typing errors and if any reader comes across any such error, the authors shall feel obliged if they are informed at their Email ID.

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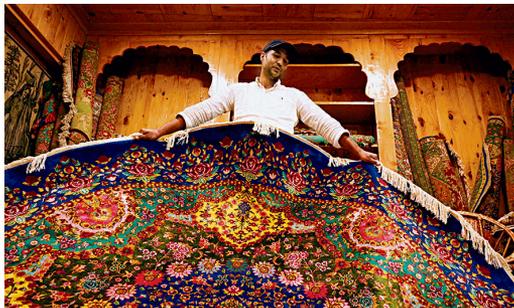
# UNESCO picks Srinagar as creative city

It is a fitting recognition for its vibrant cultural ethos, says Narendra Modi

**PEERZADA ASHIQ**  
SRINAGAR

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has picked Srinagar among 49 cities as part of the creative city network under the Crafts and Folk Arts category.

“It is a proud moment for all of us. The process of nomination of Srinagar under the UNESCO ‘Creative City Network’ was undertaken and funded under the World Bank-funded Jhelum Tawi Flood Recovery Project. This is the recognition of the historical crafts and arts of the city,” said Chief Executive Officer, Jhelum Tawi Flood Recovery Project (JTFRP), Abid Rashid Shah.



A carpet getting ready at a factory in Srinagar. ■AFF

The inclusion is likely to pave way for the city to represent its handicrafts on the global stage through UNESCO. “It’s a major recognition for Jammu and Kashmir,” Dr. Shah said.

The network involves folk art, media, film, literature, design, gastronomy

and media arts. Srinagar was among one more city from India competing for the coveted recognition this year. The dossier for its nomination was filed first in 2019 and then again in 2021.

Only Jaipur (Crafts and Folk Arts) in 2015, Varanasi

and Chennai (Creative city of Music) in 2015 and 2017 respectively have so far been recognised as members of the UCCN for creative cities.

Mahmood Ahmad Shah, Director, Industries, said Srinagar has made it to the elite list. “This nomination is the global recognition to the rich craft legacy of Srinagar,” Mr. Shah said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in a tweet, said, “Delighted that beautiful Srinagar joins the UNESCO Creative Cities Network with a special mention for its craft and folk art. It is a fitting recognition for the vibrant cultural ethos of Srinagar. Congratulations to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.”

## Regional NSAs to hold talks on Afghanistan

Pakistan, China decline New Delhi’s invite; meet to share a ‘common understanding of concerns’

**SUHASINI HAIDAR**  
NEW DELHI

Security czars of Russia, Iran and five Central Asian countries will arrive in Delhi on Tuesday ahead of the “Delhi regional security dialogue” on Afghanistan, chaired by National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval, who will also meet his counterparts bilaterally.

Officials involved in the dialogue said the meeting, in which Pakistan and China have declined to participate, would seek to share a “common understanding of concerns” shared by Afghanistan’s neighbours due to the Taliban takeover on August 15, and build consensus on the way forward to deal with threats.

“The high-level dialogue will review and deliberate upon measures to address relevant security challenges and support the people of Afghanistan in promoting peace, security and stability. India has called for a unified



Ajit Doval

international response to address the security and humanitarian challenges facing Afghanistan,” said a statement by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), referring to India’s traditional “close and friendly ties” with the people of Afghanistan.

Officials said the Chinese security chief had stated that he could not attend due to “scheduling difficulties”, ostensibly due to the CPC Central Committee plenum this week as well as strict quarantine regulations in China. Pakistan’s NSA had publicly

declined the invitation. It had also refused to attend previous iterations of the regional NSA dialogue held in Iran in 2018 and 2019 as it did not want to share the forum with India, the officials said.

No invitations were sent to the Taliban or to former leaders like Hamid Karzai and Abdullah Abdullah, the officials said, when asked.

In the past few months, Mr. Doval has engaged with each of the other security chiefs at various bilateral and multilateral summits, and these common threats include terrorism inside Afghanistan and its cross-border spread, worries of the Taliban ideology, radicalism and extremism being exported, the problems emanating from the large cache of military equipment left behind by U.S. and NATO forces when they left Afghanistan, cross-border migration and refugees, as well as the growing concerns over

the production and export of drugs from the country, the officials noted.

In addition, sources said the countries participating had not “legitimised” the Taliban regime, and shared a common perception of Pakistan as one of the “sources of the problems” in Afghanistan with a “serious credibility gap” between its actions and intentions.

Following the establishment of the Taliban’s “interim government” with Pakistan’s backing, it was felt that New Delhi’s role as a major development and trade partner to Kabul shrunk, but officials said that all participating countries had been “keen” for India to host the conference, to reinforce its “importance” in dealing with the challenges.

“Each of these countries bilaterally say there is convergence on worries, points of concern are very similar. Also our objectives in Afghanistan- we speak of diver-

sity, respecting minority rights, culture of moderation and rational thought, all these other countries share with us,” the sources said. However, officials conceded there are some differences between the participants, given that Russia and Iran maintain embassies in Kabul, while countries like Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan have held bilateral talks with Taliban Ministers on issues like connectivity.

The conference will be held on Wednesday morning in Delhi, but officials said plans for the visiting delegations were being made for their stay Tuesday-Thursday. Mr. Doval will meet his counterparts from Tajikistan and Uzbekistan on Tuesday itself, and the others after the Regional Dialogue plenary session on Wednesday morning. Some of the delegations would travel to Amritsar and Agra for sightseeing, the officials said.

# It's time to engage in 'lawfare'

India has failed to fully appreciate the usage of international law as a means to advance its national security interests



PRABHASH RANJAN

Military experts, international relations academics, and practitioners like retired diplomats dominate the debates on global security in India. International lawyers are largely absent in these debates despite security issues being placed within the framework of international law. Today, international law covers a wide array of security issues ranging from terrorism to maritime security. Article 1(1) of the UN Charter recognises the maintenance of "international peace and security" as a principal objective of the UN. Notwithstanding the central role that international law plays in security matters, India has failed to fully appreciate the usage of international law to advance its national security interests.

## Several misses

In recent times, several examples demonstrate India's failure to use an international law-friendly vocabulary to articulate its security interests. First, India struck the terror camps in Pakistan in February 2019, days after a dastardly act of terrorism in Pulwama was carried out by a Pakistan-based terror outfit. In justifying the use of force, India did not invoke the right to self-defence since Pakistan was unable or unwilling to act against the terrorist groups operating from its soil; rather, it relied on a contested doctrine of 'non-military pre-emptive action'.

Second, after the Pulwama attack, India decided to suspend the most favoured nation (MFN) status of Pakistan. Under international law contained in the General Agreements on Tariffs and Trade, countries can deviate from their MFN obligations on grounds of national security. Instead of suspending the MFN obligation towards Pakistan along these lines, India used Section 8A (1) of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975, to increase customs duties on all Pakistani products to 200%. The notification on this decision did not even mention 'national security'.

Third, India wishes to deport the Rohingya refugees who, it argues, pose a security threat. However, India's argument to justify this deportation is that it is not a signatory to the Refugee Convention. This is a weak argument since India is bound by the principle of non-refoulement (a customary international law principle that prohibits a country from returning refugees to countries where they face a clear threat of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, political opi-

nion, among others). National security is one of the exceptions to the non-refoulement principle in international refugee law. If India wishes to deport the Rohingya, it should develop a case on these lines showing how they constitute a national security threat.

Fourth, to put pressure on the Taliban regime to serve India's interest, India has rarely used international law. For instance, India could have made a case for the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) using its implied powers under international law to temporarily suspend Afghanistan from SAARC's membership.

That being said, there have been some instances where India has ably used international law for its national security objectives, such as in the Kulbhushan Jadhav case when it dragged Pakistan to the International Court of Justice and also in developing international law to counter terrorism.

## At the margins

There are several reasons for international law remaining at the margins of foreign policymaking in India. First, there is marginal involvement of international lawyers in foreign policymaking. B.S. Chimni, a leading Indian international lawyer, argues, "the Legal and Treaties Division of the Ministry of External Affairs, which advises the government on international law matters, is both understaffed and largely ignored on policy matters". Moreover, an international law expert has far greater incentive to join the government as a generalist diplomat than as an international lawyer. Second, apart from the External Affairs Ministry, there are several other Ministries like Commerce and Finance that also deal with different facets of international law. They have negligible expertise in international law. Third, there has been systemic neglect of the study of international law. Institutions created to undertake cutting-edge research in this discipline have institutionalised mediocrity and university centres mandated to develop the stream suffer from uninspiring leadership and systemic apathy. Fourth, many of the outstanding international law scholars that India has produced prefer to converse with domain experts only. Thus, they have failed in popularising international law among the larger public. If India wishes to emerge as a global power, it has to make use of 'lawfare' i.e., use law as a weapon of national security. To mainstream international law in foreign policymaking, India should invest massively in building its capacity on international law.

*Prabhash Ranjan is Professor and Vice Dean, Jindal Global Law School, OP Jindal Global University. Views are personal*

# Communist Party plenum opens in China

The four-day conclave is expected to pass a resolution that will cement President Xi's grip on power

ANANTH KRISHNAN  
HONG KONG

China's Communist Party on Monday began a key four-day conclave in Beijing, which is expected to pass a resolution this week that will further tighten General Secretary and President Xi Jinping's grip on power and likely ensure his dominance remains unchallenged as he begins a third term next year.

The 370 members of the Central Committee gathered in Beijing on Monday, and Mr. Xi "delivered a work report" and "made explanations on a draft resolution on the major achievements and historical experience of the CPC's 100 years of endeavours", the official Xinhua news agency said.

The focus of the gathering this week, an annual meeting called a plenum, is passing what will be only the third such resolution on the party's history in the past 100 years, following those passed by Mao Zedong in 1945 and Deng Xiaoping in 1981.

The resolution, expected to be made public on Thursday, is likely to largely hail the party's achievements. It,



**In control:** Chinese President Xi Jinping at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, in this file photo. • AP

is, however, not only about questions of history. It will likely emphasise Mr. Xi's contributions and establish his status in the party as a "core" leader on a par with Mao and Deng. This will translate into even greater political control for Mr. Xi in the months ahead, and leave his position unchallenged ahead of next October's once-in-five-year party congress, where he is expected to begin a third five-year term and appoint new officials to replace those retiring.

A meeting last month that announced the plenum noted that "Chinese Commu-

nists, with Mao Zedong, Deng Xiaoping, Jiang Zemin, and Hu Jintao as chief representatives, led the whole Party and people of all ethnic groups in achieving vital progress in the revolution, construction and reform, with precious experience accumulated".

#### At the core

"Since the 18th CPC National Congress in 2012," the announcement said, "the CPC Central Committee with Xi Jinping at the core has led the whole Party and people of all ethnic groups in making new notable achievements and accumulating

new precious experience".

Mr. Xi, who took over in 2012, has abolished term limits and ended the collective leadership model, and has declared the start of a "new era" for China, which the resolution will also likely mention, marking a phase of the country's "rejuvenation".

The document will "look back at key events in the Party's 100-year history, reinforce unity among the Party and strengthen the authority and leadership of the CPC Central Committee with Xi at its core, as well as determine the Party's direction for the next few decades", the Party-run *Global Times* reported on Monday.

Wang Junwei, a research fellow at the Institute of Party History and Literature of the CPC Central Committee, told the paper the two previous resolutions on history in 1945 and 1981 had "profound and long-term effects on unifying the thoughts and concentrating the strengths of the whole Party", adding that this resolution would have a similar effect. The 1945 resolution established Mao's ideology as the party's

dominant guiding philosophy, while Deng's in 1981 launched China's reform era.

"The third one will be similar in its significance and functions – to have a clear and authoritative conclusion on a series of questions or issues in history, and pave the way for the 20th CPC National Congress next year," Wu Xinwen of Fudan University in Shanghai told the paper, adding that "this one will cover more content compared to the previous two, as it aims to review and sum up the Party's 100-year history". He added it would provide an "authoritative conclusion" on debates about the party's history. Mr. Xi has sought to clamp down on precisely such debates during his term, for instance between neo-Maoists and those favouring greater reforms. Party scholars have recently called for putting an end to debates that contested the legacies of Mao and Deng, with the current emphasis firmly on party unity, ideological discipline, and, not to mention, unquestioningly following the current "core" leader at the helm, Mr. Xi.

# 'Inclusive maritime region must'

## Defence Secretary warns against unprecedented expansion of Navies

DINAKAR PERI  
GOA

Stating that a free, open and inclusive maritime region, where legitimate interests of all nations must be respected, is imperative to achieving high growth, Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar said on Monday that India hoped that its maritime neighbours understood, and were sensitive to, India's "legitimate maritime security concerns".

"Unprecedented expansion" of conventional Navies could start a "new genre" of arms race, he said at the third edition of the Goa Maritime Conclave hosted by the Navy,

"While we talk of non-traditional threats, we cannot ignore the impact of expansion at an unprecedented speed of conventional Navies in the Pacific. We are also witnessing enhancement of certain maritime presence and passages in our region, which may not be always be innocent. The negative effects of such rapid expansion are felt far beyond the Pacific," Mr. Kumar said without naming any country.

China has not only increased its forays into the In-



**New strategy:** Foreign Secretary Harsh V. Shringla at the Goa Maritime Conclave in Goa on Monday. ■PTI

dian Ocean Region but has also set up a base in Djibouti and is expanding its Navy at an unprecedented rate.

The Navy chiefs and heads of maritime agencies of Bangladesh, Comoros, Indonesia, Madagascar, Malaysia, the Maldives, Mauritius, Myanmar, the Seychelles, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand are taking part in the conclave. The theme for this year's edition is "Maritime security and emerging non-traditional threats: a case for proactive role for IOR Navies".

Addressing the conclave, Foreign Secretary Harsh V. Shringla highlighted the joint coastal radar surveillance systems in coordina-

tion with countries in the region and other cooperative efforts. "We have worked and are willing to work with our partners on improving Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) surveillance," he said.

India has supplied equipment, vessels and aircraft to friends like Vietnam, Mozambique, the Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles, Comoros, Bangladesh and Myanmar, he said. "We are willing to work with partners in upgrading maritime hardware and software."

Navy chief Admiral Rambir Singh laid emphasis on common efforts on information exchange for maritime domain awareness in the region and capacity

building. India's efforts are spearheaded by the Information Fusion Centre for IOR (IFC-IOR) located in Gurugram which also has several international liaison officers.

Mr. Kumar said that for a secure and prosperous future, it was important to adhere to international rules and laws and understand each other's interests and sensitivities and act accordingly.

### Disaster relief

While seas open the doors for economic progress, Mr. Kumar said, the region is one of the most disaster-prone areas causing enormous destruction. Listing out several instances where the Navy was the first responder in case of natural disasters, Mr. Kumar said the Navy would continue to work for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief as first responder and net security provider.

Mr. Kumar said India was in the process of making a Standard Operating Procedure for dealing with disasters in the Asia-Pacific which would be shared with all nations concerned. "We hope this will benefit our collective preparedness to deal with these calamities."

# Pakistan Taliban agree to ‘complete ceasefire’, says govt.

Month-long truce to be extended if both sides agree: TTP

REUTERS  
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan and local Taliban militants have agreed to a “complete ceasefire”, Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry said on Monday, after negotiations which the Taliban government in neighbouring Afghanistan helped to arrange.

The Pakistani Taliban aim to overthrow the government and govern the South Asian nation of 220 million by enforcing their own brand of harsh Islamic law.

The militants, also known as Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan, or TTP, are separate from the Afghan Taliban.

“The ceasefire will keep on extending with the progress in the negotiations,” Mr. Chaudhry said in a statement.

“The government of Pakistan and banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan have

agreed on a complete ceasefire.”

The negotiations would follow the law and Constitution of Pakistan, he said.

The militant group said the ceasefire would begin on Tuesday and run until December 9 unless both sides agreed to an extension.

The TTP is an umbrella organisation of al-Qaeda-linked Sunni militant groups that has waged a war against the state, in which tens of

thousands of Pakistanis have been killed in the last two decades.

The Taliban’s takeover of Afghanistan, where they ruled with an iron fist from 1996 to 2001, has emboldened Islamist militants in the region.

The TTP is now seeking concessions. According to sources, it has given the government a list of a number of its imprisoned leaders that it wants released.

## No quota without quantifiable data

There is lack of recent data on the representation of various communities in education and employment



T. RAMAKRISHNAN

The Madras High Court’s recent verdict of quashing the 10.5% special reservation for Vanniyakula Kshatriyas within the overall 20% quota for Most Backward Classes (MBC) and Denotified Communities (DNC) has again highlighted the importance of quantifiable data as a prerequisite for reservation in education and employment.

Adopted on the last day of the previous State Assembly in February when the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) was in power, the special quota law, which envisaged 10.5% special reservation for the Vanniyakula Kshatriyas comprising seven sub-castes; 7% for 25 MBCs and 68 DNCs; and 2.5% for 22 MBCs, triggered controversy from the word go. Expectedly, the legislation was challenged before the High Court, which held it unconstitutional for a host of reasons. Even though the Court described the submission that the law was enacted only on the basis of “adequate authenticated data on population” of the MBCs and DNCs enumerated by the second Backward Classes (BC) Commission as the “main thrust” of arguments of Tamil Nadu’s Advocate General, it concluded that “there is no data, much less quantifiable data, available with the State government before the introduction” of the law.

### No exhaustive study

It is a fact that no exhaustive study has been done to collect quantifiable data on the representation of different communities in education and employment since the second BC Commission, popularly known after its chairman, J.A. Ambasankar, carried out one during its existence (1982-1985). Even the State BC Commission, in its report of July 2011 to the State government in justification of 69% reservation for BC, MBC/DNCs and Scheduled Castes (SC)/Scheduled Tribes (ST) under the 1994 Act, did not give any community-wise break up of representation in government services. It furnished



PMK cadres attend a rally by leader Anbumani Ramadoss demanding 20% reservation for the Vanniyar community in education and employment, in Salem. \*SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

only the numbers of candidates belonging to the BCs and MBC/DNCs, who were chosen for the State Services and Subordinate Services during 2005-09, quoting the data furnished by the Tamil Nadu Public Services Commission, apart from those from SC/ST and Other Backward Classes selected by the Railway Recruitment Board, Chennai. Even though the mandate given to the BC panel was to come out with its defence of the 69% quota, the Commission could have provided the community-wise break up of recruitments made by the State government.

At least, now, with the High Court pointing to the absence of data as a reason to annul the 10.5% quota law, the State government should commission a study to compile the data on the way the benefits of reservation got distributed among BCs, MBCs and the DNCs. The study can be carried out either by the present BC Commission or by an exclusive panel, as decided by the previous AIADMK government in December

2020. When the existing BC Commission was set up in July 2020, one of the terms of reference was to examine the demand for internal reservation within the reservation provided for MBCs and make a recommendation on the matter. As made clear by the Court, the quantifiable data are required for providing any form of quota in favour of any community because the Constitutional stipulation of adequate representation in the services has to be met along with that of social and educational backwardness for any community to become eligible for reservation in employment.

### Internal reservation

The need for internal reservation has been felt for more than one reason. Even in the 1970s and 1980s, two BC Commissions found certain sections of the communities more backward than others. The situation has got compounded in the absence of application of the creamy layer rule in reservation, a concept that is being opposed by political parties including

the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and the AIADMK. Ironically, the first BC Commission (1969-70), headed by A.N. Sattanathan, talked of having a device for “skimming off periodical-ly” top layers of the communities. The Ambasankar Commission advocated compartmental reservation, by grouping the BCs on the basis of backwardness. It went to the extent of saying that the words, “any backward class of citizens” in Article 16(4) of the Constitution “contemplates [sic] a plurality of backward classes and consequent separate reservation for these classes.”

The concept of quota within quota is nothing new to Tamil Nadu. In March 1989, a new category – Most Backward Classes and De-notified Communities – was carved out of the BCs and given 20% exclusively from the then quantum of 50%. In September 2007, Muslims in the BCs were provided with 3.5% and in January 2009, 3% for Arunthathiyars out of 18% quota for the SCs.

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# A vital cog in Bongaigaon's response to malnutrition

Project Sampoorna's success in reducing child malnutrition is a model that can be easily implemented anywhere



M.S. LAKSHMI PRIYA

Let food be thy medicine and medicine be thy food'. This statement is often attributed to Hippocrates, the Father of Medicine, and quite literally sums up Project Sampoorna which was conceptualised and successfully implemented in Bongaigaon district of Assam.

## An interlink

The project has resulted in the reduction of malnutrition in children using near zero economic investment. Sampoorna is in tandem with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals and those set by the UN Secretary General António Guterres in the Food Systems Summit (September 2021) including the need to have food systems and social protection that support resilience and food security. Prime Minister Narendra Modi also had identified health and nutrition as priority areas and reiterated the need for a 'Kuposhan mukt Bharat' (Malnutrition Free India) while launching the Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment (POSHAN Abhiyaan) (National Nutrition Mission) in 2017-18.

It was during Poshan Maah (Nutrition Month) in September 2020 that 2,416 children were identified to be malnourished in the lush green Brahmaputra valley district of Bongaigaon. The National Fami-

ly Health Survey (NHFS-5) has documented that the number of children under five who are stunted, wasted, underweight and the number of anaemic women and children in the district are higher than the national average – anaemia being a major determinant of maternal and child health.

These were corroborated by Project Saubhagya that was designed to reduce the maternal mortality rate and infant mortality rate of the district. A real time data sheet is updated by field-level doctors as and when a high risk pregnancy is identified, which is then followed up till safe delivery. The project has yielded encouraging results; maternal deaths for six months (April 1, 2020 to September 30, 2020 compared to April 1, 2021 to September 30, 2021) have fallen from 16 to three and infant deaths from 130 to 63.

## Addressing child nutrition

The highest risk factor for high risk pregnancy is anaemia which is usually nutritional. The vicious cycle of a malnourished child growing into an unhealthy adolescent, and then further into an anaemic pregnant young woman giving birth to an asphyxiated low birth weight baby; this baby then facing possible developmental delays, only to grow into a malnourished child; and this child who struggles further for nutrition and appropriate care while the world around her barely makes ends meet is the one that sucks in all possibilities of a healthy society.

This portrays the worst-case scenarios, but truth is indeed stranger than fiction. In order to break out of this vicious cycle, the



low-hanging fruit had to be targeted – children's nutrition.

## Malnutrition, patriarchy

Bongaigaon has 1,116 Anganwadis with a total of 63,041 children below five. The massive exercise of plotting their weights and heights in World Health Organization growth charts revealed a total of 2,416 malnourished children; 246 cases of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and 2,170 instances of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM).

District Nutritional Rehabilitation Centres, or NRCs, usually have up to 20 beds; and a monthly intake of 200 SAM children is not practical. Also, parents of the children who are admitted forgo their daily wages (which to an extent is compensated by the Government) and abandon their farmlands for 10 days. Back home, siblings of the SAM child are not taken care of and may become malnourished. The treated child could also slip back to a SAM state after being discharged and if not cared for.

We needed to innovate now. Based on the success of the community-based COVID-19 management model (Project Mili Juli), we launched Project Sampoorna targeting the mothers of SAM/MAM

children, the tagline being 'Empowered Mothers, Healthy Children'. In addition, we identified the mother of a healthy child of the same Anganwadi Centre (AWC) and paired her with the target mother; they would be 'Buddy Mothers' (2,416 pairs). They were usually neighbours and shared similar socio-economic backgrounds. The pairs were given diet charts to indicate the daily food intake of their children; they would have discussions about this on all Tuesdays at the AWC. Local practices related to nutrition would also be discussed.

The major hindrance to the project was patriarchy. Mothers had to be empowered financially for sustained results. Therefore, they were enrolled in Self Help Groups (SHGs) under the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM). By the end of three months, 74.3% of mothers were enrolled in SHGs; by the end of six months, enrollment went up to 75.6% and by the end of a year, it was 90%. Meanwhile, we arranged for 100 millilitres of milk and an egg on alternate days for all 2,416 children for the first three months, giving time for their mothers to stabilise themselves in the newly found jobs. The large hearted people of Bongaigaon adopted Anganwadis and filled the tiny stomachs with the much needed proteins and their hearts with love.

## A sea change

After three months of Project Sampoorna, out of 246 SAM children, 27 (11%) continued to be SAM, 28 (11.4%) improved to MAM and a whopping 189 (76.8%) became normal. Out of 2,170 MAM chil-

dren, 12 (0.6%) deteriorated to SAM, 132 (6.08%) stayed MAM and an unbelievable 2,015 (92.8%) became normal. The best was yet to come. Milk and eggs were stopped after three months but we continued to follow up to see how our Buddy Mothers Model and Women Empowerment Model were working. Mothers had done what institutions could not do for years. By March 2021, 84.96% of SAM children and 97.3% MAM children were normal; and by September 2021, 92.3% SAM and 98.9% MAM children were normal. Project Sampoorna had stood the test of time. Children who had not improved were checked and treated by doctors under the Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK). UNICEF, IIT Guwahati, Tezpur University and the Social Welfare Department lent their support in periodic course correction.

Project Sampoorna had prevented at least 1,200 children from becoming malnourished over the last year. The National Nutrition Mission and the State government recognised our project in the 'Innovation Category'. The Chief Minister of Assam, Himanta Biswa Sharma, has written an encouraging message for the project report which will be released soon. The model can easily be implemented anywhere in the world. We believe children everywhere have the right to stay healthy, and hope that the vicious cycle is broken sooner rather than later.

*Dr. M.S. Lakshmi Priya, District Collector, Bongaigaon district, Assam, is a medical doctor turned IAS officer (2014 batch), from Kerala. The views expressed are personal*

# 'Pharma study to help CCI take steps to raise drug affordability'

Currently, competition is based on brands, not price: Gupta

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW DELHI

Fair trade regulator CCI will identify measures to enhance competition in the country's pharmaceutical sector for ensuring affordability of drugs after analysing findings of its market study, which is likely to be completed within a month, according to its chief Ashok Kumar Gupta.

The Competition Commission of India (CCI), which keeps a tab on unfair, initiated the study after observing issues such as lack of "effective consumer choice".

"Currently, it appears that, when it comes to medicines, competition is primarily on the basis of brands and not prices. The study



will identify measures to increase competition for ensuring affordability of drugs," the CCI chairperson said. Market studies had been initiated in pharmaceuticals and telecom, given their significance in the "new COVID-19-induced socio-economic milieu".

Mr. Gupta noted that the pharma sector study was in-

itiated "because of observable demand-side issues, such as lack of effective consumer choice".

## 'Imbalance in e-com'

In 2020, the CCI study of the e-commerce space revealed bargaining power imbalance and information asymmetry between platforms and their businesses as emerging issues.

"Exercising the advocacy mandate, CCI nudged e-commerce platforms to institute a set of self-regulatory measures over certain areas such as search ranking, collection/ use / sharing of data, user preview mechanisms, revision of contract terms and discount policy," Mr. Gupta said.

## EXPLAINER

# Why are U.S. COVID-19 vaccines still out of reach in India?

How is the indemnity clause issue being handled? What are the manufacturers saying? Will this affect the pricing and availability of doses?

**K. VENKATARAMANAN**

**The story so far:** More than six months after the Government announced it would fast-track clearances for foreign COVID-19 vaccines to India, the indemnity clause is still holding up the import of all American vaccines to India, including those manufactured by Pfizer, Johnson & Johnson and Moderna. Without specifying a timeline, a senior Health Ministry official said talks are on and that the "indemnity clause is also being discussed."

## What is indemnity?

Indemnity is a form of contract. Indemnity granted to any company in respect of a particular drug or vaccine can only be in the form of an indemnity bond executed on behalf of the Government of India, or a clause or set of clauses in any contract that the Government may sign with the supplier. There appears to be no precedent for any company getting such indemnity in India. Section 124 of the Indian Contract Act, 1872, defines a contract of indemnity as one by which one party promises to save the other from any loss caused to the latter. This would mean that if a particular vaccine is perceived to have caused death or any lasting damage to a



recipient, any claim of compensation arising from it will have to be met by the Government, and not by the company. In the event of a court ordering payment, the company could recover the amount from the government.

**Is the demand for or grant of indemnity a standard practice?** Indemnity is essentially a contractual matter between the supplier and recipient, and therefore, a good deal of

confidentiality is attached to such agreements. Pfizer's global media relations head for Asia, Roma Nair, said the company had shipped more than two billion doses so far to 152 countries where the clause has been accepted and that indemnity talks with India were ongoing without a breakthrough yet.

Normally, it is the company applying for approval of a new drug or vaccine that submits itself to various conditions. Approvals in most countries come with

stringent conditions regarding conformity to national guidelines, quality standards, safety assessments and requirements regarding various phases of clinical trials. For imported drugs, a local clinical trial may not be required to do this if it has been approved and marketed in countries specified by the Central Licensing Authority and if no major adverse events have been reported.

However, given the peculiar situation arising out of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the shortage of vaccines faced by countries such as India, some suppliers may be in a position to set conditions.

## What have the overseas companies got so far?

The Drugs Controller-General of India has already taken a big step towards fast-tracking the import of vaccines by dispensing with the need for local trials. Earlier, the Centre had decided that foreign-produced vaccines that had been granted emergency approval for restricted use by the regulators in the U.S., the U.K., the European Union and Japan, or those included in the WHO's Emergency Use Listing, would be granted Emergency Use Authorisation in India. The condition was that there would be a post-approval parallel bridging trial. However, this condition has been waived.

The significance of this exemption is that both the delay attached to such trials and the risk of adverse events to participants in those trials has been avoided.

The New Drugs and Clinical Trial Rules, 2019 set down stringent regulations for grant of approval as well as for trials. Exemption from these trials has reduced the risk to overseas manufacturers. However, the companies probably fear that they would still be liable under the ordinary law of tort, arising from future claims by anyone adversely affected after receiving the shot.

## What does India gain by giving indemnity?

In the absence of indemnity, overseas manufacturers may load the risk onto the price of the vaccines, making each dose more expensive. By indemnifying the companies in respect of these vaccines, the Government of India may be able to negotiate lower prices and higher volumes. It may help accelerate its national vaccination drive. On the flip side, the government may be forced to make it a level playing field for local makers too, by extending the indemnity to them, and thereby inviting upon itself the entire risk associated with more than a billion vaccine shots.

## THE GIST

■ A contract of indemnity is where one party promises to save the other from any loss caused to the latter.

■ Indemnity is essentially a contractual matter between the supplier and recipient, and therefore, a good deal of confidentiality is attached to such agreements.

■ India has already taken a big step towards fast-tracking the import of vaccines by dispensing with the need for local trials.

## Zydus Cadila to supply one crore doses

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Drug firm Zydus Cadila on Monday said it had received an order to supply one crore doses of its COVID-19 vaccine, ZyCoV-D, to the Government of India at ₹265 a dose.

“Zydus Cadila has received an order to supply one crore doses of ZyCoV-D, the world’s first plasmid DNA vaccine, to the Government of India at ₹265 per dose and the needle-free applicator being offered at ₹93 per dose, excluding GST,” the pharma firm said in a regulatory filing. The pricing has been decided in consultation with the Central Government, it added. The vaccine will be administered using a needle-free applicator as opposed to traditional syringes.

### Painless delivery

PharmaJet is a needle-free applicator to ensure painless intradermal vaccine delivery which also leads to a significant reduction in major side effects.

“We are happy to support the Government’s vaccination programme with ZyCoV-D. The needle-free application of the vaccination, we hope, will motivate many more to vaccinate and safeguard themselves from COVID-19, especially children and young adults in the age group of 12 to 18,” Zydus Cadila Managing Director Sharvil Patel said.

ZyCoV-D is the first vaccine cleared by India’s drug regulator for inoculation of those aged 12 and above. Three doses of ZyCoV-D are to be administered 28 days apart.

The company has also sought approval for the two dose regimen of the vaccine.

## ‘FPIs can invest in debt issued by InvITs, REITs’

Investments can be under MTF, VRR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank on Monday said FPIs had been permitted to invest in debt securities issued by Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs) and Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs).

Necessary amendments to Foreign Exchange Management (Debt Instruments) Regulations, 2019, had been notified in October. An announcement was made in the Union Budget 2021-22 that debt financing of InvITs and REITs by Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) will be enabled by making suitable amendments in the relevant legislations.

Accordingly, it has been

Amendments to Foreign Exchange Management (Debt Instruments) Regulations, 2019, have been notified

decided to permit FPIs to invest in debt securities issued by InvITs and REITs, the RBI said in a circular.

“FPIs can acquire debt securities issued by InvITs and REITs under the Medium-Term Framework (MTF) or the Voluntary Retention Route (VRR),” it said.

Such investments shall be reckoned within the limits and shall be subject to the terms and conditions for investments by FPIs in debt securities under the respective regulations.

## ‘India now ahead of China in financial inclusion metrics’

Need to fine-tune the Business Correspondent model: SBI Research report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI

India is now ahead of China in financial inclusion metrics, with mobile and Internet banking transactions rising to 13,615 per 1,000 adults in 2020 from 183 in 2015 and the number of bank branches inching up to 14.7 per 1 lakh adults in 2020 from 13.6 in 2015, which is higher than in Germany, China and South Africa, as per a report.

States with higher financial inclusion / more bank accounts have also seen a perceptible decline in crime along with a meaningful drop in consumption of alcohol and tobacco, according to the report pencilled by Soumya Kanti Ghosh, group



**Added benefit:** States with higher financial inclusion have also seen a perceptible decline in crime, says Ghosh. ■ K. R. DEEPAK

chief economic adviser at State Bank of India (SBI), on the fifth anniversary of the note ban. Under the no-frills accounts scheme, the number of persons with deposit accounts at banks has significantly increased, becoming

comparable with emerging economy peers and even some of the advanced economies, he said. In the use of digital payments also, there has been noteworthy progress. The number of no-frills bank accounts opened

has reached 43.7 crore with ₹1.46 lakh crore in deposits as of October 20, 2021. Of these, almost two-thirds are operational in rural and semi-urban areas and more than 78% of these accounts are with state-owned banks, 18.2% with regional rural banks, and 3% are opened by private sector banks.

Mr. Ghosh called for fine-tuning the banking correspondent (BC) model by making it uniform across all banks for, there is a need to make the BCs interoperable. The number of banking outlets in villages / BCs had risen from 34,174 in March 2010 to 12.4 lakh in December 2020, the report showed.

# Breaking down the hype around Metaverse

Its commodification in the hands of one corporation could be detrimental to the Web 3.0 decentralisation movement



KAIF SIDDIQUI & SHIFA QURESHI

The race between technology companies to build the 'metaverse' has officially started. On October 28, 2021, Facebook Inc. announced that it was restructuring and assuming the corporate name, Meta Platforms Inc., announcing that 'from now on, we're going to be metaverse-first, not Facebook-first'. 'Metaverse' is a broad term encompassing interconnected 3D virtual worlds made possible through advancements in technologies such as augmented reality (AR)/virtual reality (VR), artificial intelligence (AI) and blockchains, originating from Neal Stephenson's 1992 speculative science fiction novel, *Snow Crash*.

## The metaverse space

Web 3.0 is the name given to the next generation of Internet architecture that will supposedly be free from the centralisation that is a part of today's Web 2.0 Internet systems, which are largely controlled by tech giants such as Google, Facebook and Amazon. Web 3.0 proponents advocate the use of technologies such as blockchains and tokens to create a decentralised Internet for online interaction and online payments, and a hypothetical metaverse run on these platforms could be a good example of what an ideal future digital environment could look like; hence the push for an 'Open Metaverse' by some organisations.

In an ideal world, the metaverse would be a truly open and inclu-

sive space for empowerment, expression and exploration. However, these are not likely to be the corporation's goals in the world we live in. If the corporation's previous products are anything to go by, the aim is likely to get to the next level of commodification of human interaction, where every single action, down to the tiniest levels, is tracked and surveilled for profits, and designed in a way to maximise data collection and keep the user coming back for more.

Facebook/Meta is not the only company that has been pushing for the idea of the metaverse to become a reality lately; although the branding exercise that has just begun will likely make millions believe so. The chosen name reflects an attempt to associate the idea of the metaverse with one particular corporation and turn it into a household name. Other companies that have similar metaverse-building goals, such as Epic Games, now face a huge disadvantage.

However, the metaverse in the hands of one corporation would surely be detrimental to the entire Web 3.0 decentralisation movement. Competitors are likely to pop up with their own versions of the technology, leading to a number of 'closed' metaverses, which would basically be the Web 2.0 system all over again. Oligopolies or monopolies in something as revolutionary as the metaverse space is a cause for concern and competition law regulators might have to look into them someday.

## What could be on offer

What kind of economic systems would exist in Facebook/Meta's metaverse? Interoperability, or the ability to seamlessly transfer data between different virtual worlds is being promised, which allows for rich social and economic possibili-



REUTERS

ties. One phrase that has been regularly coming up is the 'creator economy' that will become a reality in the metaverse thanks to the popularity of NFTs (non-fungible tokens) over the past year. NFTs will allow proof of ownership of digital assets, for example, virtual goods, paintings and memorabilia. However, the most common criticism of NFTs is that they are an attempt to create value and scarcity where there should not be – that they are nothing more than another new avenue for capitalist expansion. The arguments are that nothing in the virtual world is actually scarce, and any scarcity is actually by design. Artificially created scarcity helps drive profits and money-making. The debate continues. Metaverses have great potential to revolutionise fields such as education and health care, but as long as they are run purely from a profit motive, the benefits would likely be lesser.

Virtual economies might also develop around the customisation of metaverse 'avatars'. Recent whistle-blower revelations have unveiled that the corporation was well aware of the psychological effects Instagram was having on teenagers. One can therefore assume that metaverse 'avatars' will be the new version of showing off glamorous social media profiles – both masking who the person real-

ly is behind-the-scenes, perpetuating narcissism, mental health issues and insecurities.

## Regulatory concerns

Privacy and security are, of course, significant concerns, and indeed, Facebook/Meta has acknowledged this, declaring its commitment to creating secure platforms. Yet, rampant health and biometric data collection are expected to continue in the metaverse, as real world identities will be more connected to the system than ever before. Data breaches and theft, thus, could prove even costlier. While Web 3.0 systems are supposed to give more power to users over their personal data, it still remains to be seen if corporations such as Facebook/Meta will follow Web 3.0 standards or come up with their own standards in closed corporate metaverses. Cybercrimes could also take on new forms in these new virtual worlds.

Facebook's role in promoting violent and hateful content to drive user engagement has been well documented. If left unregulated, something similar could happen on an even larger scale in immersive virtual worlds, through targeted advertising and propaganda. The corporation cannot be trusted to moderate its platforms properly if it goes against their economic incentives, as has been proven time and time again. Regulators need to step in right from the start when it comes to the metaverse, following a precautionary rather than a permissive approach instead of taking too long and allowing certain problematic and dangerous practices to get entrenched and difficult to deal with. The tussle between lawmakers around the world and Facebook still continues today.

Finally, metaverses will bring

up challenging questions of jurisdiction and governance. In the distant future, virtual worlds could even someday grow into alternatives to the nation state itself, as the rise of blockchain-based DAOs (decentralized autonomous organisations) seems to suggest. Big Tech firms already have GDPs higher than several small countries – if they all get to operate full virtual worlds of their own, it could necessitate large-scale rethinking of the very foundations of technology law.

## Real world costs, impact

The metaverse, as it is promised, will combine the technologies of cloud computing, big data, advanced AI systems, AR/VR, blockchains, NFTs and much more. Each of these technologies requires tremendous processing power and, consequently, would lead to a great cost in terms of the environment. The level of resource extraction required to run such a huge system smoothly is too gigantic to comprehend. And that is not even taking into account the exploitation of millions of underpaid workers upon which a lot of the critical infrastructure and supply chains of Big Tech depend. This stark reality behind our everyday conveniences is unknown to many, and this could only intensify with a corporate project as huge as the metaverse. Ultimately, a corporation is beholden to its investors and not to the public at large. With the metaverse, possibilities are aplenty. But so are the dangers.

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## Chinese finish space walk outside future station

### Woman scripts history with manoeuvre

REUTERS  
BEIJING

Two Chinese astronauts completed a space walk on Monday outside the core module of a future space station, with 41-year-old Wang Yaping becoming the first Chinese woman to perform the manoeuvre, state media reported.

Zhai Zhigang, 55, mission commander of Shenzhou-13, opened the hatch of the core cabin Tianhe at 18:51 p.m. (10:51 GMT) on Sunday, and was joined by Ms. Wang for a space walk that lasted 6-1/2 hours.

The duo returned to the module at 1:16 a.m. (17:16 GMT Sunday) on Monday, CCTV said. A third astronaut, Ye Guangfu, assisted

the pair from inside the core module.

Crewed space exploration would be incomplete without the participation of women, Yang Yuguang, vice chair of the Space Transportation Committee for the International Astronautical Federation, told state-controlled *Global Times*.

Shenzhou-13 is the second of four crewed missions needed to complete China's space station by the end of 2022.

During the first such mission that ended in September, three other astronauts stayed on Tianhe for 90 days.

The current mission, launched on October 16, will last for six months.

## EXPLAINER

# The long road to net zero

What does net zero mean? Can India achieve the goal by 2070? What are the interventions that can be taken to achieve it? Where does the country stand with regard to today's global emissions?

G. ANANTHAKRISHNAN

## THE GIST

- Net zero can be achieved only through a structured programme that relies on sharp emissions reduction, wide support for clean energy innovation and adoption of green technologies.

- India needs to create a legal mandate for climate impact assessment of all activities. This can facilitate investment by dedicated green funds.

- Net zero will involve industrial renewal using green innovation, green economy support and supply chains yielding new jobs

**The story so far:** With the announcement of a net zero emissions target for 2070 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Glasgow, India has joined a high-profile group of countries. Others with net zero goals include major emitters such as the United States, the United Kingdom and the European Union with a 2050 target, and China aiming for 2060. A dozen countries besides the EU have a legal enactment towards the goal.

### How can net zero be achieved?

Net zero, which means balancing out man-made national greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by removing an equal amount from the atmosphere, can be achieved only through a structured programme that relies on sharp emissions reduction, wide support for clean energy innovation and adoption of green technologies.

### India's well-founded argument against committing itself to strict emissions goals is that it has historically been one of the lowest emitters of GHGs

India's well-founded argument against committing itself to strict emissions goals is that it has historically been one of the lowest emitters of GHGs, and the impetus has to come from the developed economies that had the benefit of carbon-intensive development since the Industrial Revolution. The country represents about 7% of today's global emissions, and has committed itself to a net zero deadline 49 years away. According to the World Bank, in 2018, India had per capita emissions of 1.8 tonnes, which is markedly lower than 15.2 for the U.S., 5.4 for the U.K. and even the middle-income countries' average of 3.7 tonnes. A projected per capita emissions figure in 2030 for India is 2.4 tonnes under the Paris Agreement. India's absolute emissions volume stands third, after China and the U.S.

Mr. Modi's net zero plan, which he described as "panchamrit", or the five nectar elements, includes raising renewables capacity to 500 gigawatt (GW) by 2030,



**Future course:** An aerial view of a solar park in Karnataka. ©GETTY IMAGES

share of power from renewables to 50%, and reducing carbon intensity of the economy by 45%. These represent a rise from the Paris Agreement pledge of 175 GW from renewables, 40% share of power, and reduction of emissions intensity of GDP by 33-35%.

### What is the outlook for India's emissions?

Analysis of India's growth path points to rising GDP per capita, with a rise in carbon emissions in the short term, primarily from energy. There is pressure from absolute increase in population and consumption, but population growth is slowing. A greater share for services in GDP is positive for emissions cuts, but there is no indication of when India's emissions, heavily influenced by coal and other fossil fuel use, will peak.

In terms of sectoral GHG emissions, data from 2016 show that electricity and heat account for the highest share (1.11 billion tonnes), followed by agriculture (704.16 million tonnes), manufacturing and construction (533.8 million tonnes), transport (265.3 million tonnes), industry (130.61 million tonnes), land use change and forestry (126.43 million tonnes), other fuel use (119.04 million tonnes), buildings (109.2 million tonnes), waste (80.58 million

tonnes), fugitive emissions (54.95 million tonnes), and aviation and shipping (20.4 million tonnes).

### What are the immediate interventions that can be made?

To align all national economic activity with emissions reduction with the aim of containing global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius or even 1.5 degrees Celsius (Paris Agreement goals), India needs to create a legal mandate for climate impact assessment of all activities. This can facilitate investment by dedicated green funds. Public sector institutions promoted by the government, co-operatives and even market mechanisms will participate.

The 500 GW renewables target needs a major boost, such as channelling more national and international climate funding into decentralised solar power. Rooftop solar, estimated at 7,701 megawatt (MW) installed capacity as of June 2021, could be scaled up by modernising unattractive State-level regulation. The problem with expansion of rooftop solar, which registered 53% year-on-year growth in 12 months, is resistance from State electricity utilities, although costs are reducing.

Another emerging sector is green hydrogen production because of its potential

as a clean fuel. India has a National Hydrogen Mission now in place. The fuel can cover major sectors such as power and steel production (shifting from coal) and automotive (fuel cell vehicles), while green ammonia, with potential uses in energy storage, shipping, and as a base for hydrogen production, are promising areas. This can steadily decarbonise big sources of emissions as industry leaders explained at COP 26. Since renewables will be at the core of green hydrogen production, India's solar power potential will help in exporting it to global steelmakers, for instance.

India's urban solid waste management will need to modernise to curb methane emissions from unscientific landfills.

These plans need a political consensus and support from State governments. Net zero will involve industrial renewal using green innovation, green economy support and supply chains yielding new jobs. It also needs low carbon technologies, zero emission vehicles, and renewed cities promoting walking and cycling. Industry will need to make highly energy-efficient goods that last longer, and consumers should be given a legal right to repair goods they buy. Preventing the release of stored carbon in the environment, such as trees and soil, has to be a net zero priority.

General Studies Paper I	
A	History of Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of art forms, literature and architecture from ancient to modern times;
B	Modern Indian history from about the middle of the eighteenth century until the present-significant events, personalities, issues;
C	Freedom struggle-its various stages and important contributors / contributions from different parts of the country;
D	Post-independence consolidation and reorganization within the country;
E	History of the world will include events from 18 <sup>th</sup> century such as industrial revolution, world wars, re-drawal of national boundaries, colonization, decolonization,
F	Political philosophies like communism, capitalism, socialism etc.-their forms and effect on the society
G	Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India;
H	Effects of globalization on Indian society;
I	Role of women and women's organization;
J	Social empowerment, communalism, regionalism & secularism
K	Salient features of world's physical geography;
L	Geographical features and their location- changes in critical geographical features (including water bodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes;
M	Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone etc.
N	Distribution of key natural resources across the world (including South Asia and the Indian subcontinent);
O	Factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary, and tertiary sector industries in various parts of the world (including India);
P	Population and associated issues;
Q	Urbanization, their problems and their remedies
General Studies Paper II	
A	India and its neighbourhood- relations;
B	Important International institutions, agencies and fora- their structure, mandate;
C	Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests;
D	Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.
E	Indian Constitution, historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure;
F	Comparison of the Indian Constitutional scheme with other countries;
G	Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the States, issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure, devolution of powers and finances up to local levels and challenges therein; Inclusive growth and issues arising from it;
H	Parliament and State Legislatures - structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers & privileges and issues arising out of these;
I	Structure, organization and functioning of the executive and the judiciary, Ministries and Departments;

J	Separation of powers between various organs dispute redressal mechanisms and institutions;
K	Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional bodies;
L	Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies;
M	Mechanisms, laws, institutions and bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections;
N	Salient features of the Representation of People's Act;
O	Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance- applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential;
P	Citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures;
Q	Issues relating to poverty and hunger,
R	Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States, Performance of these schemes;
S	Issues relating to development and management of social sector / services relating to education and human resources;
T	Issues relating to development and management of social sector / services relating to health
General Studies Paper III	
A	Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization of resources, growth, development and employment;
B	Effects of liberalization on the economy, changes in industrial policy and their effects on industrial growth;
C	Inclusive growth and issues arising from it;
D	Infrastructure Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc. Government budgeting;
E	Land reforms in India
F	Major crops, cropping patterns in various parts of the country, different types of irrigation and irrigation systems;
G	Storage, transport and marketing of agricultural produce and issues and related constraints;
H	e-technology in the aid of farmers; Technology Missions; Economics of Animal-Rearing.
I	Issues of buffer stocks and food security, Public Distribution System- objectives, functioning, limitations, revamping;
J	Food processing and related industries in India – scope and significance, location, upstream and downstream requirements, supply chain management;
K	Issues related to direct and indirect farm subsidies and minimum support prices
L	Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nano-technology, bio-technology;
M	Indigenization of technology and developing new technology;
N	Developments and their applications and effects in everyday life;
O	Issues relating to intellectual property rights
P	Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment
Q	Disaster and disaster management
R	Challenges to internal security through communication networks, role of media and social networking sites in internal security challenges, basics of cyber security;
S	Money-laundering and its prevention;

T	Various forces and their mandate;
U	Security challenges and their management in border areas;
V	Linkages of organized crime with terrorism;
W	Role of external state and non-state actors in creating challenges to internal security;
X	Linkages between development and spread of extremism.
<b>General Studies Paper IV</b>	
A	Ethics and Human Interface: Essence, determinants and consequences of Ethics in human actions;
B	Dimensions of ethics;
C	Ethics in private and public relationships. Human Values - lessons from the lives and teachings of great leaders, reformers and administrators;
D	Role of family, society and educational institutions in inculcating values.
E	Attitude: Content, structure, function; its influence and relation with thought and behaviour;
F	Moral and political attitudes;
G	Social influence and persuasion.
H	Aptitude and foundational values for Civil Service , integrity, impartiality and non-partisanship, objectivity, dedication to public service, empathy, tolerance and compassion towards the weaker sections.
I	Emotional intelligence-concepts, and their utilities and application in administration and governance.
J	Contributions of moral thinkers and philosophers from India and world.
K	Public/Civil service values and Ethics in Public administration: Status and problems;
L	Ethical concerns and dilemmas in government and private institutions;
M	Laws, rules, regulations and conscience as
N	sources of ethical guidance;
O	Accountability and ethical governance; strengthening of ethical and moral values in governance; ethical issues in international relations and funding;
P	Corporate governance.
Q	Probity in Governance: Concept of public service;
R	Philosophical basis of governance and probity;
S	Information sharing and transparency in government, Right to Information, Codes of Ethics, Codes of Conduct, Citizen's Charters, Work culture, Quality of service delivery, Utilization of public funds, challenges of corruption.
T	Case Studies on above issues.