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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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A region of rising intolerance

It is time for South Asia's political leadership to form a united front against all forms of religious extremism



SYED MUNIR KHASRU

This month, Durga Puja pavilions, Hindu temples and homes were attacked in Bangladesh. These attacks followed rumours that the Koran had been desecrated at a pandal. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's administration assured the Hindus of security and deployed additional security forces in districts which had witnessed attacks. A few hours after the Prime Minister's assurance, an ISKCON temple was attacked. At least five people have been killed in these attacks.

A legacy of conflict

Religious tension is not new in the Indian subcontinent. Conflicts often break out among different religious groups, and minorities are targeted. The 1992 Babri Masjid demolition in Ayodhya caused riots which led to the deaths of about 2,000 people. The 1993 Bombay bombings, the 2019 Easter attacks in Colombo, and the frequent terror attacks in Pakistan over the past decade are other examples. In the case of Bangladesh, where Hindus make up about 9% of the population and Muslims 90%, attacks against the Hindu minority are either retaliations to acts committed in the name of religion within the country or neighbouring India, or due to the extremist views of some Muslims. For instance, the demolition of the Babri Masjid in Ayodhya instigated a violent response in Bangladesh and mobs started demolishing multiple Hindu temples.

Faith-based conflicts take place both within and among countries. The India-Pakistan rivalry extends from the religious and political fields to sports – cricket matches between the two teams see a bigger audience than usual. The separation of Bangladesh from Pakistan in 1971 was an example of how culture too plays a pivotal role in separating or uniting a country.

In the recent past, right-wing parties have been ruling the subcontinent, gaining the support of the dominant religious population and undermining religious minorities. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in India and Tehreek-e-Insaaf (PTI) in Pakistan are examples. The controversial Citizenship (Amendment) Act passed in Indian Parliament in 2019 was a faith-based test of citizenship and instigated rallies and protests across the subcontinent. Ms. Hasina called the law “unnecessary”. The rise of the Taliban in Afghanis-

tan was supported by PTI leader and Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan. The subcontinent is evolving towards a polarisation of Hindus and Muslims.

Varying responses

In Bangladesh, what is appreciable is that the government takes strict action against religious extremist groups and also promotes the celebration of festivals of all religions by ensuring security at religious sites on festival days. Muslims visit Hindu temples on Durga Puja or celebrate Holi and invite Hindus on Eid. Bangladesh has developed a strong anti-terrorism wing from its security forces to tackle religious extremist attacks. The anti-terrorism unit has prevented countless planned attacks and jailed numerous extremist groups. Some have been sentenced to death, including those involved in the attack of the local café Holey Artisan in July 2016. Bangladesh has not only cracked down on terror groups since the café attack but also prevented gatherings of religious protesters to prevent violence. For example, a recent gathering of Muslim extremist groups in protest against France's anti-Islamic laws was disrupted by law enforcers.

In India, on the other hand, the government came under criticism first for not taking prompt action against cow vigilantes who were attacking poor Muslims and then for enacting the CAA. Protests against the law broke out across the nation and the administration responded to them with divisive rhetoric and heavy-handedness.

Unfortunately, the South Asian political leadership is bereft of a vision and the courage needed to rise to the occasion and stand together to send an unequivocal message of zero tolerance against all forms of religious extremism and bigotry. When religion becomes a tool for achieving political mileage, the resulting flames of hatred and intolerance quickly spread. This has the potential of becoming a wildfire that devours everything that comes along the way. Such fire and fury can only hurt this region's socioeconomic aspirations. The rise of the Taliban in Afghanistan is a wake-up call to South Asia's political leadership to form a united front against all forms of religious dogma and extremism. Seventy-five years after Partition, harmony, religious coexistence and tolerance are all under threat. Can the region afford such myopia when there are so many burning issues to resolve such as poverty alleviation, climate change and food security?

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The Perils of an Unresolved Boundary

Nirupama Rao looks at the India-China relationship of the 1950s-60s, the border issue, and negotiations on Tibet



NIRUPAMA RAO

The India-China relationship is in a difficult place, with the past shadowing the present. The period from 1949 to 1962 is crucial as Jawaharlal Nehru sought, albeit unsuccessfully, to establish a workable relationship with the Chinese. Nirupama Rao, former Foreign Secretary and Ambassador to China, traces the history of Tibet, the genesis of the McMahon Line, Communist China's military takeover and domination of Tibet, and the border row between India and China in her new book, The Fractured Himalaya. An excerpt from the book:

It was to be over a year before negotiations between India and China on relations between India and Tibet opened in Beijing. These commenced on December 31, 1953. Jawaharlal Nehru's approach to frontier questions between India and China was already well-entrenched by then. Tibet had become more a 'psychological' buffer from a political one during British rule – psychological because Nehru was convinced that any military attack on India from Tibet was not feasible. For him, while the status of Tibet and Tibetan autonomy, as also Indian interests in Tibet inherited from the British were issues for discussion with China, the frontier, as his biographer S. Gopal noted, 'was firm, well-known and beyond dispute'.

Loosely put, Nehru's attitude was that there was no room for controversy over the McMahon Line: 'Our maps show that the McMahon Line is our boundary and that is our boundary – map or no map. That fact remains and we stand by that boundary, and we will not allow anybody to come across that boundary.' Gopal notes

that this assertion of rights was more definite regarding the eastern sector of the boundary.

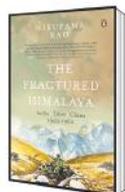
Flawed advice

The problem lay in the fact that, except for Sikkim, the border had not been demarcated – jointly with China – on the ground; the boundary in the western and middle sectors had not been defined in detail by treaty and only, as Nehru stated, by custom, usage and tradition. The McMahon Line was shown only on a map that the Chinese government had initiated in 1914 but not subsequently accepted. The Chinese would set their strategy in such a way subsequently, when the officials of the two sides met in 1960, to seek 'fresh acceptance of every stretch' of the boundary. K.M. Panikkar, without the benefit of hindsight, only had this advice to give Nehru: the issue would pose no difficulty. Could Panikkar [the first Indian Ambassador to China] have sensed the actual Chinese attitude? In retrospect, his advice to Nehru would have serious repercussions for India. As advice, it was fatally flawed.

Throughout his stay in China, Panikkar took the stand that the Tibetan issue was a simple one. Leaders like Zhou Enlai, in his view, recognised the 'legitimacy' of India's trade and cultural interests in Tibet and only suggested that the political office in Lhasa, 'an office of dubious legality' in Panikkar's words, should be regularised by its transformation into an Indian Consulate-General. Other posts and institutions like the telegraph lines set up in the British era, the military escort at Yadong in the Chumbi Valley, 'were to be abolished quietly in time', and the trade agents in Tibet and their subordinate agencies brought 'within the framework of normal consulate relations'. In his seeming obsession with the big picture of two big Asian nations forging deeper understanding and cooperation, Panikkar was content to say that he left 'no outstanding issue' pending at the time of his depart-



GETTY IMAGES/STOCKPHOTO



■ **The Fractured Himalaya: India, Tibet, China 1949-1962**
Nirupama Rao
Viking/Penguin
₹999

EXTRACT

ture. It was a strategic miscalculation which would have serious consequences.

When Zhou Enlai told Panikkar in September 1951 in a 'shrouded sentence' that the question of the stabilisation of the Tibetan frontier – a matter of common interest to India, Nepal and China – could be settled by discussion between the three countries, it was assumed, in diplomatic guesswork, that stabilisation meant that there was no territorial dispute between India and China.

'Cunning' move

Many records indicate that the view of the officials in the Ministry of External Affairs was that while negotiations for an agreement between India and China on Tibet were necessary, they should also include a border settlement. There should be a *quid pro quo* for India's recognition of Chinese sovereignty over Tibet. A note by the Foreign Secretary, K.P.S. Menon on April 11, 1952 observed that the

Chinese government's attitude was far from straightforward, and could, in fact, be termed 'cunning'. A child could see through the game, said Menon. Zhou Enlai had suggested in September 1951 that India's position in Tibet should be regularised and the 'boundary with Tibet stabilised'. India had said immediately that 'we were ready for discussions' but there had been no response from the Chinese. The latter were saying that 'they [the Chinese] have been in Tibet only for a short while and want more time to study the problem.' Menon was suspicious of Chinese irredentism, and a whispering campaign was already doing the rounds in Lhasa that not only Tibet, but Sikkim and Bhutan, and even the Darjeeling-Kalimpong area 'would soon be liberated.' This would encourage the Tibetans to lay their hands on Tawang and other disputed areas to the south of the McMahon Line. 'The Chinese have long memories; irredentism has always played a part in the policy of the Chinese government whether imperial, Guomindang or Communist.' India was clearly inviting trouble when it was decided that the border issue would not figure in the negotiations on Tibet. Responding positively to the Chinese move for an agreement on Tibet was seen essentially as a means of reducing Chinese pressure on the border, and as 'helping' the Tibetans within a larger policy framework of coaxing the Chinese out of their isolation.

Piecemeal solution

The 'knight-administrator' (called thus because of his British knight-hood and being a member of the Indian Civil Service) Sir Girija Shankar Bajpai was by now the Governor of Bombay. He continued to be in the picture regarding Tibet. He had noticed that the list of pending issues proposed for discussion with the Chinese did not include the question of the frontier with Tibet. His view, as expressed to the Foreign Secretary, was that 'This business of Sino-Ind-

ian relations over Tibet, would, in my judgement, be best handled comprehensively and not piecemeal', implying that the question of the border should not be left aside. Perhaps, as a result of Bajpai's letter, the Prime Minister in a note to the Foreign Secretary on 23 July, expressed his inclination that the frontier should be mentioned in the talks with the Chinese. Panikkar's reasons for not advancing this subject, be what they may, were appreciated but Nehru felt 'that our attempt at being clever might overreach itself' and that it was better to be absolutely straight and frank about the issue with the Chinese.

Nehru's misgivings

This was not the first time that Nehru had expressed some misgivings on the issue. In June of the same year, he had in a message to Panikkar said it 'was odd' that Zhou Enlai had made no reference to the frontier in his discussions with the Ambassador. He did not like Zhou's silence in the matter, he added, since the Indian government had made it clear in Parliament that not only the direct frontier with Tibet, but also the frontiers of Nepal, Bhutan and Sikkim, should remain unchanged. Panikkar's response was to state that the Chinese were aware of India's interest in the integrity of Nepal and had not raised any question about it. Neither had they objected to the PM's public statements on the issue. Panikkar said he did not want to make this a subject for further discussion. India should stick to the position that the frontier had been defined 'and there is nothing for us to discuss'. It would be legitimate 'to presume that Chou En Lai's silence on this point and his NOT having even once alluded to Sikkim or Bhutan at any time even indirectly during our conversation would mean acquiescence in, if NOT acceptance of our position.' The Prime Minister did not demur further.

Extracted with permission from Penguin Random House India

‘Indo-Pacific will become centre of the world’

Every country has to adapt to a more powerful and assertive China: U.K.'s High Commissioner to India

DENNIS S. JESUDASAN
CHENNAI

Last week, British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss said India was “essential” in ensuring a free, open, inclusive and prosperous Indo-Pacific. On Monday, British High Commissioner Alexander Ellis elaborated on the U.K.’s interest in the region, and underlined India’s role as a trusted supplier in the global supply chain. Excerpts from the interview:

The port stop of HMS Queen Elizabeth in Mumbai was termed the U.K.’s Indo-Pacific tilt in action. Could you elaborate on the need for ensuring an open Indo-Pacific?

■ The U.K. has significant interests in this part of the world. The Indo-Pacific will become ever more the centre of the world. That is why we have invested so much in the region in different ways. There are a few countries in the world that essentially determine the world’s climate. India is one of them, China is another – both in this region.

What is your response to the contention that multinational military

activities in the Indo-Pacific are primarily aimed against China?

■ They are aimed for something, which is having an open and secure Indo-Pacific. And you are right to refer to the fact that the Carrier Strike Group itself has more than one country. It has a Dutch destroyer. It has some American marines. So, this is working with a lot of countries – some old friends, some new partners. And we have all realised that a lot more of the future of the world sits here.

Is it possible to isolate China, which the global supply chains are heavily dependent on?

■ It is about working for something – which is having an open and secure Indo-Pacific. And a lot of this has a brand trust, building relationships with trust with India and with other partners – Japan, Australia and with others in the region. With China, we will always have a mix. Sometimes we will cooperate in what we are trying to do on climate change. Sometimes we will compete, and occasionally we may have to contest.



■ R. RAVINDRAN

This is not the Cold War. This is a different kind of world. But every country, I think, has to adapt to the consequences of both a powerful China and also a more assertive China. And we have had to adapt ourselves to this as well. And that is usually the result of Chinese behaviour. The facts change and we have to change with them.

But that is not just true for the U.K. India is going through exactly the same phenomena. So, we are always finding this blend of different approaches, according to the issue.

It requires an adaptation of our structures, which we’ve done in the U.K. And we’ve seen that over 5G,

● We would like to have electronic visas available for tourists and business people going from U.K. to India.

where, we’ve never ended at any one country. But you know, you have to have a degree of trust in your technology, suppliers, and avoid high-risk vendors. I will see terrific opportunities for India in that area as a trusted supplier, which is why I come back to where trust is so important between countries like the U.K. and India, because a lot flows from that trust.

What are the major issues

which the COP in Glasgow hopes to achieve?

■ We have a good agreement of Paris and we have to take a further step down that path. One important thing about this COP is that it is about everyone’s contribution. India has an incredibly important role to play. I think that India’s scale obviously makes it a huge actor in this area. But one great advantage India has is [that] to an extent it has the solutions in its own hands.

Certain decisions were made by the British and Indian Governments, which affected travellers and businessmen of these countries. They are resolved now. Do you think everything is back to normal now?

■ There are still restraints on the number of flights between U.K. and India, which we want to change. The demand is enormous with people wanting to travel between the two countries, which is a good sign. We would like to have electronic visas available for tourists and for business people going from U.K. to India.

Full interview at <https://bit.ly/3GdCjJU>

A 'bubbles of trust' approach

This offers a middle path between the extremes of technological sovereignty and laissez-faire globalisation

NITIN PAI

An asymmetric globalisation favouring China allowed Beijing to attain power. It is now using that power to undermine liberal democratic values around the world. The Chinese market was never open to foreign companies in the way foreign markets are to Chinese firms. This is particularly true in the information and communications technology sector. Meanwhile, Chinese firms rode on the globalisation bandwagon to secure significant market shares in open economies. President Xi Jinping now formally requires Chinese firms to follow the political agenda of the Chinese Communist Party. But even before this, it was not possible to tell where private ownership ended and the party-state began.

We are currently witnessing a global retreat from the free movement of goods, services, capital, people and ideas. But this should not be understood as a reaction to globalisation itself, but of its skewed pattern over the past four decades.

Quad's advantage

The Quad countries - Japan, India, Australia and the U.S. - have an opportunity to stop seeing engagement with China through the misleading prism of free trade and globalisation. The roots of every member's prosperity and power lie in international trade. It will be to their advantage to create a new form of economic cooperation consistent with their geopolitical interests. Indeed, without an economic programme, the Quad's geopolitical and security agenda stand on tenuous foundations.

The popular backlash against China is pushing Quad governments towards policies of self-reliance. But while reorienting and de-risking global supply chains is one thing, pursuing technological sovereignty is inherently self-defeating. When it comes to critical and emerging technologies, no single country can replicate the combined genius of the world. Worse, inward-looking policies often acquire a life of their own and contribute to geopolitical marginalisation.

There is a better way. A convergence of values and geopolitical interests means Quad countries are un-

iquely placed to envelop their economies inside bubbles of trust, starting with the technology sector. Complementarities in capabilities can power innovation and growth.

The U.S. is a global leader in intellectual property, Japan in high-value manufacturing, Australia in advanced niches such as quantum computing and cyber security, and India in human capital. This configuration of values, interests and complementary capabilities offers unrivalled opportunities.

The idea of 'bubbles of trust' offers a cautious middle path between the extremes of technological sovereignty and laissez-faire globalisation. Unlike trading blocs, which tend to be insular, bubbles tend to expand organically, attracting new partners that share values, interests and economic complementarities. Such expansion will be necessary, as the Quad cannot fulfil its strategic ambitions merely by holding a defensive line against authoritarian power.

The Quad's Critical and Emerging Technology Working Group is well placed to develop the necessary 'bubbles of trust' framework, which could be adopted at the next Quad summit. Such a framework would allow the scope of the cooperation to be limited to information industries avoiding the long and complex negotiations typical of trade agreements.

To be successful the Working Group must seek to strengthen geopolitical convergences, increase faith in each member state's judicial systems, deepen economic ties and boost trust in one another's citizens.

There are fundamental differences between authoritarian and liberal-democratic approaches to the information age. But there is no consensus among the latter. The Quad cannot allow differences of approach on privacy, data governance and the digital economy to widen.

This agenda cannot be about substituting China. Rather, the approach would allow Quad countries to manage their dependencies on China while simultaneously developing a new vision for the global economy.

Nitin Pai is the Director of the Takshashila Institution. This is an excerpt of his upcoming contribution to The Sydney Dialogue

Iran to host meet on Afghanistan

India is not included in the talks aimed at helping Kabul form an inclusive Government

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

Iran will hold the next round of regional discussion on the future of Afghanistan on Wednesday. Announcing the meeting, Iranian authorities on Monday affirmed that Afghanistan's sovereignty should be respected and its territory should not be used to export terrorism to other countries.

The meeting will be attended by the Foreign Ministers of China, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Russia, and is aimed at helping Afghanistan form an inclusive government with participation of

"all ethnic groups".

"This meeting will take place in continuation and as second round of the discussions which was virtually hosted by Pakistan on 8th September 2021... Iran strongly believes that a stable, secure and developed Afghanistan, with a flourishing and sustainable economy, will ensure the interests of all of its neighbours, in particular the Islamic Republic of Iran," said the press release from Iran.

The consultation is the biggest regional meet after the 10-nation Moscow dialogue of last week, which saw India's participation. The meeting in Tehran, ho-

wever, will not include India. Speculations have begun over this indicating that by excluding New Delhi, Iran is probably expressing its unhappiness over India's recent quadrilateral meet with Israel, UAE and the U.S. The Ministry of External Affairs refused to comment on the issue. Officials, however, dismissed any link between the timing of the Iran conference and Mr. Jaishankar's participation in the quadrilateral meet last Monday.

A senior official told *The Hindu* that the Tehran meeting had been planned prior to the quadrilateral meeting and India had been informed of the meeting "in advance".

The meeting is likely to seek further engagement with the Taliban. Special Russian Presidential Representative for Afghanistan, Zamir Kabulov, said on Monday that the Moscow dialogue will have a "positive effect" for building working relationship with the Taliban. The Tehran meeting is expected to bolster global demand on the Taliban to ensure that terrorism does not emanate from Afghanistan.

"The independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Afghanistan should be respected, and its territory should not be used for any threat or terror against other countries," it said.

A reminder that India still trails in the hunger fight

The Government's objection to the methodology of the Global Hunger Index is not based on facts



DIPA SINHA

The Global Hunger Report (GHR) has once again made headlines in India for the country's poor ranking in terms of the Global Hunger Index (GHI). The report ranks India at 101 out of 116 countries, with the country falling in the category of having a 'serious' hunger situation. The ranks are not comparable across years because of various methodological issues and so it is wrong to say that India's standing has fallen from 94 (out of 107) in 2020. However, it is true that year after year, India ranks at the lower end – below a number of other countries that are poorer in terms of per capita incomes. This in itself is cause for concern.

The indicators

The Government of India, through a press release, refuted the GHI, claiming that it is 'devoid of ground reality' and based on 'unscientific' methodology. The GHI is 'based on four indicators – percentage of undernourished in the population (PoU); percentage of children under five years who suffer from wasting (low weight-for-height); percentage of children under five years who suffer from stunting (low height-for-age), and percentage of children who die before the age of five (child mortality)'. The first and the last indica-

tors have a weight of one-third each and the two child malnutrition indicators account for one-sixth weightage each in the final GHI, where each indicator is standardised based on thresholds set slightly above the highest country-level values. Looking at each of these indicators separately, India shows a worsening in PoU and childhood wasting in comparison with 2012. It is the PoU figure of 15.3% for 2018-20 that the Government is contesting.

From official data sources

The Government's objection to the methodology, that "They have based their assessment on the results of a 'four question' opinion poll, which was conducted telephonically by Gallup", is not based on facts. The report is not based on the Gallup poll; rather, it is on the PoU data that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) puts out regularly (as has also been clarified by the publishing agencies). PoU, according to the FAO, "is an estimate of the proportion of the population whose habitual food consumption is insufficient to provide the dietary energy levels that are required to maintain a normal active and healthy life". PoU is estimated taking into account a number of factors such as food availability, food consumption patterns, income levels and distribution, population structure, etc. All the data used are from official data sources of respective national governments. In the absence of food consumption data in most countries, this indicator is an estimate based on a modelling exercise us-



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ing available data; therefore, there is some margin of error. Most of the criticism of the FAO's PoU data has been about how it underestimates hunger rather than over. Therefore, while there is scope for a valid discussion on the GHI methodology and its limitations, this objection by the Government is not warranted.

Slow rate of progress

The main message that the GHR gives is to once again remind us that India has not been very successful in tackling the issue of hunger and that the rate of progress is very slow. Comparable values of the index have been given in the report for four years, i.e., 2000, 2006, 2012 and 2021. While the GHI improved from 37.4 to 28.8 during 2006-12, the improvement is only from 28.8 to 27.5 between 2012-21. The PoU data show that the proportion of undernourished population showed a declining trend up to 2016-18 when it reached the lowest level of 13.8%, after which there is an increase to 14% for 2017-19 and 15.3% for 2018-20. Other data also broadly validate these findings. The partial results of the National Family Health

Survey-5 (2019-20) also show that stunting and wasting indicators have stagnated or declined for most States for which data is available. The leaked report of the consumption expenditure survey (2017-18) also showed that rural consumption had fallen between 2012-18 and urban consumption showed a very slight increase.

A period before the pandemic

It must also be remembered that all the data are for the period before the COVID-19 pandemic. There were many indications based on nationally representative data – such as from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy and various field surveys conducted by research organisations, academics and civil society groups – that the situation of food insecurity at the end of the year 2020 was concerning, and things are most likely to have become worse after the second wave. Many of these surveys find that over 60% of the respondents say that they are eating less than before the national lockdown in 2020. Services such as the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) and school mid-day meals continue to be disrupted in most areas, denying crores of children the one nutritious meal a day they earlier had access to. It would, therefore, not be surprising if national surveys (hopefully conducted soon) show a further slowdown in improvement in malnutrition.

The novel coronavirus pandemic has affected food security and nutrition across the world. In countries such as India – where the situation was also already poor to begin with – the impact is prob-

ably worse. The response cannot be one of denial; rather, what is needed are measures to ensure rapid recovery. It has been pointed out by many that the relief measures of the Government, so far, have been inadequate in comparison to the scale of the problem.

Cuts for schemes

The only substantial measure has been the provision of additional free foodgrains through the Public Distribution System (PDS), and even this has been lacking. It leaves out about 40% of the population, many of whom are in need and includes only cereals. Also, as of now, it ends in November 2021. At the same time, inflation in other foods, especially edible oils, has also been very high affecting people's ability to afford healthy diets. On the one hand, while we need additional investments and greater priority for food, nutrition and social protection schemes, Budget 2021 saw cuts in real terms for schemes such as the ICDS and the mid-day meal.

The argument that the GHI is an indicator of undernutrition and not hunger, is only diverting attention away from more substantial issues. Of course, malnutrition is affected by a number of factors (such as health, sanitation, etc.) other than food consumption alone, but that in no way means that healthy diets are not central. There is no denying that diverse nutritious diets for all Indians still remain a distant dream.

Dipa Sinha is faculty at Ambedkar University Delhi. The views expressed are personal

End the impasse

A solution is needed for core issues concerning farmers, and not merely for road blocks

The time may have come for a more concerted effort by the Government and the protesting farmers to find a solution to the prolonged impasse over the three agriculture-related laws enacted last year. The Supreme Court has emphasised that public roads cannot be blocked indefinitely by protesters. In an observation in the context of more petitions from members of the public, complaining that their right of free movement has been curtailed by the ongoing protests by farmers, the Court has said a solution has to be found, that roads cannot be blocked for long and there is no reason for it to lay down the law again and again. The reference was to last year's judgment on the Shaheen Bagh protest against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, wherein it was held that public ways and public spaces cannot be blocked indefinitely even during a peaceful protest. The observation can be seen either as a disapproval of the tactic of holding interminable protests or as an implicit criticism of the Government for being unable to find a solution to the farmers' grievances. Even while denying that they are responsible for the hardship faced by the public, and blaming the police for the blockade, the farmers say they should be allowed to continue their agitation at the Ramlila Maidan. However, the Government will have none of it, recalling the unsavoury incidents that took place on Republic Day when the protest rolled into the Capital.

The conflict between the two competing rights – freedom to protest and the right to free movement of the public – is not the only aspect that requires immediate attention. There seems to be no attempt to break the deadlock on the core issue, with the farmers demanding an outright repeal of the laws and statutory validation for the claim that the MSP regime will not come to an end. Late last year, the protesting farmers and Union Ministers did come to a partial agreement on decriminalising stubble-burning and safeguarding power subsidies, but the two core demands have not seen any breakthrough. It is not out of place to recall that an expert committee constituted by the Court has submitted its report, but nothing has been heard about it after that. To an extent, the fact that the Court has not taken it up again or made the report public may be a factor in the continuing impasse. An expedited hearing that involves further review of the panel's recommendations, or any such similar initiative from the Government, is needed to arrive at a solution. The objective must not be merely to resolve the incidental issue of blocked roads, but to reconcile or eliminate the deep differences over what the Government sees as necessary reforms in the farm sector. Any reform that seeks to eliminate distortions in the sector must also win the confidence of farmers, the principal stakeholders.

EDMC for bio-mining of legacy waste at Ghazipur

'We are trying to speed up the process'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

With an aim to "speed-up" the process of clearing the Ghazipur landfill site, the East Delhi Municipal Corporation on Monday passed a proposal to implement the bio-mining of "50 lakh tonnes" of legacy waste.

EDMC Commissioner Vikas Anand said that close to "8 lakh tonnes" of legacy waste had been "processed in the last two years" and that the civic body was looking to "increase the capacity of waste processed" by roping in a concessionaire.

Concessionaire's role

"There is close to 140 lakh tonnes of legacy waste at the

Ghazipur landfill and it will take a long time if we continue to process the waste at the current speed. Through the concessioner, we are trying to speed up the process and also address issues regarding disposal of the material that is processed. The concessioner will hold the responsibility of disposing the processed waste," said Mr. Anand, adding that the time of completion for the project was 27 months.

The House also resolved that no challans will be issued to any resident of east Delhi for not segregating dry and wet waste until the EDMC comes up with a full system to collect and dispose of such waste.

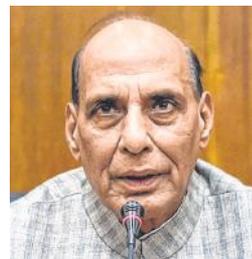
Defence exports up by 334% in 5 years: Rajnath

'Strong indicator of product quality'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

With collaborative efforts of entities from all over the world, the defence exports have grown by 334% in the past five years and India now is exporting to more than 75 countries, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Monday appreciating the efforts of the defence industry and thanking the foreign aerospace and defence companies for investing in the sector.

"Our export performance is a strong indicator of the quality and competitiveness of our defence products," Mr. Singh said at the Ambassadors' Round Table for DefExpo 2022 which saw the participation of more than 200 delegates, including



Rajnath Singh

Ambassadors, Heads of Missions and also Defence Attaches.

The Round Table was aimed at briefing the Ambassadors about the planning, arrangements and other details of DefExpo 2022, to be held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, between March 10 and 13, 2022, a Defence Ministry statement said.

India's expectations from COP26

Consensus on Paris Agreement, long-term climate finance are part of agenda

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

Ahead of the 26th meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP) next month in Glasgow, there have been several bilateral meetings between India and other countries including the U.S. and the European Union. The big push at the COP will be to have more countries commit to a "net zero" deadline by mid-century. This would mean ensuring that a country's emissions are balanced out by absorbing an equivalent amount either by carbon sinks (such as forests) or carbon capture and storage technologies. India, the world's third largest emitter, has not agreed to a net zero deadline.

Why has India not agreed to a net zero target?

■ India sees a mid-century target upon itself as opposed to the principle of "common but differentiated" responsibility that allows countries to eschew fossil fuel without compromising equitable development. Net zero means that a country must commit to a year beyond which its emissions won't peak and a point at which it will balance out its emissions by taking out an equivalent amount of greenhouse gas from the air. Even theoretically committing to a net zero by 2050 would require India to retire its coal plants and fossil fuel use overnight and even this will not guarantee that tem-



Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav has said COP should be about action and implementation.

perature-rise stays below 1.5 degrees Celsius by the end of the century. India avers most of the countries clamouring for a net zero target for India will continue to pollute on a per capita basis way beyond their fair share. India says countries responsible for the climate crisis have not made good on previous promises to fund mitigation and adaptation projects and so future net zero promises are therefore hollow.

What are India's expectations from COP26?

■ Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav, following a meeting last week with U.K. Foreign Minister Elizabeth Truss, said the upcoming COP should be "... the COP of action and implementation". He said the "huge expectations" in COP 26 include arriving at a consensus on unresolved issues of the Paris Agreement Rule

Book, long-term climate finance, market-based mechanisms. The COP26 should also be initiating the process of setting the long-term climate finance for the post-2025 period. India welcomed the U.K. COP26 Presidency's five key initiatives on sustainable land use, energy transition, low emission vehicle transition, climate finance and adaptation. India was also hoping to strengthen global climate initiatives including the International Solar Alliance, Coalition Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT Group), Call for Action on Adaptation and Resilience and Mission Innovation.

What are India's core demands?

■ India has said it is "open to all options" provided it gets assurances that commitments in previous COPs such as developing countries getting compensated to the

What do independent experts have to say about India's approach to COP26?

■ Analyst Vaibhav Chaturvedi of the Council for Energy Environment and Water opines that India needs to focus on three points for success at COP. First, if India should introduce equity in the net zero targets or at least present it as a proposal for discussion. India needs to go beyond the \$100-billion demand and focus on tangible deliverables. For the power, mobility and hydrogen sectors, India may only need \$12-15 billion per annum which should be given at 4% interest rate subvention. And lastly, India should focus on the development of technology, how to reduce the cost of technology for mitigation and co-development of technology.

Dhruba Purkayastha, Director, Climate Policy Initiative, said there has to be a mechanism by which CO2 is extracted. The world needs to set the price of carbon and it should not be a bilateral discussion point. Private market would put in money only if backed by public money. Only \$800 billion finance flows from the trillions of dollars which are talked about is highly inadequate. "If India is pushed to shut down a coal capacity there is a cost to it. Financial and social costs to it which cannot be solved not just with finance but price of carbon has to be linked with it."

EXPLAINER

tune of \$100 billion annually, the carbon-credit markets be reinvigorated and the countries historically affected by the climate crisis be compensated by way of "Loss and Damages," and clean development technologies be made available in ways that its industries can painlessly adapt to.

'CO2 emissions in 2020 above decadal average'

Pandemic had little impact on overall figures: WMO

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A report from the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) on Monday said the increase in CO2 from 2019 to 2020 was slightly lower than that observed from 2018 to 2019 but higher than the average annual growth rate over the past decade. This is despite the approximately 5.6% drop in fossil fuel CO2 emissions in 2020 due to restrictions related to the pandemic.

Ahead of the crucial talks in Glasgow next week, where the countries will attempt to negotiate ways to stem global greenhouse gas emissions, updated data shows that the pandemic disruption in 2020 didn't significantly dent overall greenhouse gas emissions.

Emissions on the rise

For methane, the increase from 2019 to 2020 was higher than that observed from 2018 to 2019 and also higher than the average annual growth rate over the past decade.

For nitrous oxides also, the increase was higher and also than the average annual growth rate over the past 10 years. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Annual Greenhouse Gas Index (AGGI) shows that from 1990 to 2020, radiative forcing by

Unclean air

Key greenhouse gas emissions rose faster in 2020 than the average for the previous decade. A comparison of the key trends to pre-industrial levels:



Parameter	CO ₂	CH ₄	N ₂ O
2020 global mean abundance	413.2 ± 0.2 ppm	1889 ± 2 ppb	333.2 ± 0.1 ppb
Pre-industrial levels	278 ppm	722 ppb	270 ppb
2020 abundance relative to 1750	149%	262%	123%
2019–2020 absolute increase	2.5 ppm	11 ppb	1.2 ppb
Mean annual absolute increase over past 10 years	2.4 ppm	8 ppb	0.99 ppb

ppm: parts per million | ppb: parts per billion

long-lived greenhouse gases (LLGHGs) increased by 47%, with CO2 accounting for about 80% of this increase.

Concentration of carbon dioxide (CO2), the most significant greenhouse gas, reached 413.2 parts per million in 2020 and is 149% of the pre-industrial level. Methane (CH4) is 262% and nitrous oxide (N2O) is 123% of the levels in 1,750 when human activities started disrupting earth's natural equilibrium.

Roughly half of the CO2 emitted by human activities today remains in the atmosphere. The other half is taken up by oceans and land ecosystems. The Bulletin, as the WMO report is called, flagged concern that the ability of land ecosystems and oceans to act as 'sinks'

may become less effective in future, thus reducing their ability to absorb CO2 and act as a buffer against larger temperature increase.

The Bulletin shows that from 1990 to 2020, radiative forcing – the warming effect on our climate – by long-lived greenhouse gases increased by 47%, with CO2 accounting for about 80% of this increase. The numbers are based on monitoring by WMO's Global Atmosphere Watch network.

"At the current rate of increase in greenhouse gas concentrations, we will see a temperature increase by the end of this century far in excess of the Paris Agreement targets of 1.5 to 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels," said WMO Secretary-General Prof. Petteri Taalas.

BSF jurisdiction: parties in Punjab oppose Centre's decision

Centre's move in the interest of country, says BJP which skipped all-party meet

VIKAS VASUDEVA
CHANDIGARH

At an all-party meeting convened by Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi on Monday, the Congress, the Shiromani Akali Dal and the Aam Aadmi Party passed a resolution against the Centre's decision on enhancing the jurisdiction of the Border Security Force (BSF).

The BJP, however, boycotted the meeting asserting the decision is in the interest of the country.

The meeting resolved to oppose the decision legally and politically and fight for the position which existed before the notification of October 11, 2021.

Special session

Mr. Channi said the State Government would soon convene a special session of the Assembly on the issue. It would also file a petition in the Supreme Court against the Centre's unilateral decision which he said amounts to infringement on the States' constitutional rights and is against the spirit of federalism.

On the ongoing farmers' agitation against the



BSF personnel patrolling near the Zero Line at the India-Pakistan border, Ferozepur, in Punjab. ■FILE PHOTO

Centre's three farm laws, he said they would be outrightly rejected in the forthcoming session of the Assembly.

Will meet PM

After detailed discussions, the political parties decided to seek an appointment with Prime Minister Narendra Modi so that the Chief Minister could lead a delegation to urge him to review the decision on the BSF and with-

draw the contentious notification.

The SAD (Sanyukt), the SAD (Amritsar), the CPI(M), the CPI, the Trinamool Congress and the Lok Insaaf Party also took part in the meeting.

Senior BJP leader Manoranjan Kalia said here at a press conference that the NDA government has extended the area of operation of the BSF in the country's

interest.

"The extension of the area of operation of the BSF is necessary due to the use of advanced technologies in illegal activities from across the border. In Punjab's border belt, drones with GPS coordinates from Pakistan are the new unseen enemy that keeps the security forces on their toes. Enhancement of the BSF's jurisdiction does not curtail the Punjab police jurisdiction," he said.

'No attack'

"The sole aim of the notification is to improve the operational efficiency of the BSF. After a suspect has been detained or a consignment seized within the specified area, the BSF can only conduct "preliminary questioning" and must hand over the suspect to the Punjab police in 24 hours. The BSF does not have the powers to prosecute crime suspects. Thus, it is going to complement and supplement the efforts of the Punjab police. The local police can also act within the jurisdiction of the BSF. Hence, there is no attack on the federal structure," Mr. Kalia added.

A festering crisis in the Palk Strait

A moratorium on bottom trawling and support to the fishermen is a good first step towards a solution



MEERA SRINIVASAN

Rajkiran, 30, from Tamil Nadu's coastal Pudukkottai district, is the fifth Indian fisherman to lose his life in the Palk Strait this year, after Samson Darwin, A. Mesiya, V. Nagaraj and S. Senthil Kumar from Ramanaathapuram, who died in January. The boat that Rajkiran was on, with two others, sank late on October 18 after reportedly colliding with a Sri Lankan Navy patrol vessel. The two other fishermen were remanded in Sri Lanka until November 1, while Rajkiran was reported "missing", until his body was recovered by the Navy a few days after the incident. Tamil Nadu fishermen's associations have accused the Sri Lankan Navy of brutally attacking Rajkiran, while Sri Lanka has denied the allegations.

In both instances this year, what we know is that the fishermen died while trying to earn a living. In both cases, they reportedly crossed the International Maritime Boundary Line, an invisible demarcation between India and Sri Lanka. They were intercepted in Sri Lankan waters by the Sri Lankan Navy for "illegal fishing", following which some of them returned dead.

New Delhi conveyed a "strong protest" to Colombo after the death of the four fishermen in January, allegedly at the hands of the Sri Lankan Navy. But there is no sign of a full inquiry since, let alone a credible one. The distressing incidents are neither peculiar to this year, nor inevitable.

Unresolved conflict

The fishermen's deaths serve as a stark reminder of the unresolved fisheries conflict festering in the barely 30-mile-wide (at its narrowest point) Palk Strait. The problem has existed for more than a decade now, from the time Sri Lanka's 30 year-long civil war ended in 2009. That was when the island's northern Tamil fishermen, who were displaced and barred access to the sea, began returning to their old homes, with hopes of reviving their livelihoods and resurrecting their lives. Their re-



SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

turn, however, marked the beginning of a new tension with Tamil fishermen on the other side of the sea. This has posed a serious threat to their livelihoods, fishing gear, and the marine resources they rely on.

In Tamil Nadu, daily wage fishermen are only too aware of the risks that come with working on mechanised fishing vessels used for 'bottom trawling'. Their wage depends on the catch they bring back. Using the bottom trawling fishing method, they drag large fishing nets along the seabed, scooping out a huge quantity of prawns, small fishes and virtually everything else at one go. The practice, deemed destructive the world over, has ensured sizeable profits for their employers – the vessel owners – and a small income for the fishermen taking the highest risk.

Incessant bottom trawling along the coast of Tamil Nadu over the years has meant that the fishermen are drawn to the relatively resource-rich Sri Lankan waters. This pushes them into a cycle of arrest, remand, release, or in some unfortunate cases, violence or death at sea.

The Sri Lankan state's response to the problem has been largely a military and legal one, tasking its Navy with patrolling the seas and arresting "encroachers", banning trawling, and levying stiff fines on foreign vessels engaged in illegal fishing in its territorial waters. Little support has been extended to war-affected, artisanal fishermen in the Northern Province by way of infrastructure or equipment. Despite accumulating big losses, the fishermen received no assistance even during pandemic-induced lockdown months.

The hefty penalty on foreign vessels proved a deterrent, at least temporarily. But over the last few

months, northern fishermen have sighted Indian trawlers frequently, especially when the Sri Lankan Navy relaxed its patrol, fearing import of COVID-19 infections.

Urgent solution

India and Sri Lanka have held many rounds of bilateral talks in the last decade between government officials as well as fisher leaders. The outcomes have mostly ranged from deadlocks, with Tamil Nadu refusing to give up bottom trawling, to template responses from the governments, with India seeking a "humanitarian response" from Sri Lanka. The closest that the two countries came to reaching a solution was in November 2016, following a meeting in New Delhi led by the Foreign and Fisheries Ministers from both sides, with other key interlocutors. A Joint Working Group was constituted to first and foremost, expedite "the transition towards ending the practice of bottom trawling at the earliest".

The Indian government's attempt to divert fishermen to deep sea fishing has not taken off as was envisaged, even as profit-hungry boat owners in Tamil Nadu stubbornly defend their trawler trade. Meanwhile, Tamil Nadu fishermen continue to allege that the Sri Lankan Navy is unleashing violence on them; Sri Lanka denies this. Five years since, we are at a rather low point in the fisheries conflict, with a rising human cost.

Meanwhile, this could be the biggest test yet to the solidarity that Tamil Nadu continues to express with Sri Lankan Tamils who bore the brunt of the civil war and still await justice and a political solution.

By now, it is evident that bottom trawling has maximised not only the profits made by vessel owners in Ta-

mil Nadu, but also the risk faced by poor, daily wage fishermen employed from the coastal districts. The rich owners and those employed by them for a meagre wage ought not to be clumped together simply as "Tamil Nadu fishermen", without recognising that their interests and risks differ enormously.

It is equally well known that the relentless trawling by Indian vessels has caused huge losses to northern Sri Lankan fishermen. Their catch has fallen drastically and they count vanishing varieties of fish. They are dejected as their persisting calls to end bottom trawling have not been heeded by their counterparts in Tamil Nadu, or "brothers" as they repeatedly call them.

For politicians and activists in Tamil Nadu, the death of fishermen is understandably the most outrageous, emotive dimension of this complex problem – especially since no past case has been probed or perpetrator held accountable. All the same, seeing the conflict merely through the prism of Tamil Nadu fishermen and the Sri Lankan Navy may not yield a solution to the problem, although that might keep its most deplorable symptom in focus.

At the heart of the conflict is a tale of competing livelihoods in a narrow stretch of the sea, amid a looming environmental threat, and a glaring asymmetry of power – be it in numbers, equipment, or political backing – between two Tamil-speaking fishing communities. The growing trust deficit between them does not augur well for the prospect of a solution.

India and Sri Lanka must urgently refocus their energies to address this crisis. As the first step, Tamil Nadu must consider a moratorium on bottom trawling in the Palk Strait. Such a move must be accompanied by both New Delhi and Colombo substantially supporting their respective fishing communities to cope with the suspension of trawling on the Tamil Nadu side and the devastating impact of the pandemic on both sides. The time must be used for evolving a lasting solution. Strong bilateral ties are not only about shared religious or cultural heritage, but also about sharing resources responsibly, in ways that the lives and livelihoods of our peoples can be protected.

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Thespian Rajinikanth given Dadasaheb Phalke Award

Dhanush and Manoj Bajpayee share best actor award

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Actor Rajinikanth was presented the Dadasaheb Phalke Award by Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu at the National Film Awards ceremony in Delhi. He dedicated the award to his family and associates.

Dhanush, for his lead role in *Asuran*, and Manoj Bajpayee, for *Bhonsle*, received the best actor award. Kangana Ranaut was awarded the best actor (female) award for her role in *Manikarnika-The Queen of Jhansi* (Hindi) and *Panga* (Hindi). Malayalam movie *Marakkar Arabikkadalinte Simham* received the best film award.

Speaking to presspersons after the ceremony, Mr. Rajinikanth said, "I am extremely happy to receive this award, and I am grateful to the Government for this prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award. I dedicate this award to my guru, my mentor K. Balachander sir, I thank my brother Sathyana-rayana Rao, who is a father figure in my life, for giving me great values."

He also thanked his friend, Raj Bahadur, who



In august company: Rajinikanth with Dhanush and Manoj Bajpayee at Vigyan Bhavan on Monday. ■R.V. MOORTHY

was his colleague from his days in the Bangalore Transport Service. "He spotted the acting talent in me and encouraged me to join cinema. I also dedicate this award to all my producers and directors, technicians, artists, distributors, media and all my fans, and more importantly the Tamil people..." the 70-year-old 'Superstar' stated.

Lauding Mr. Rajinikanth, a matinee idol, Mr. Naidu observed that the former was "one of the great sons of this great country". "The iconic thespian's unmatched acting skills have given a new dimension to the Indian film industry... He has shown how to maintain a perfect

balance between artistic expression and mass appeal."

Actors Pallavi Joshi and Vijay Sethupathi were given the best supporting actress and best supporting actor awards for their performances in *The Tashkent Files* and *Super Deluxe* respectively. The Nargis Dutt Award for best feature film on national integration was received by the makers of *Tajmahal* (Marathi), while the best movie on social issues' trophy went to *Anandi Gopal* (Marathi).

The Indira Gandhi Award for best debut film of a director was given to Mathukutty Xavier for *Helen* (Malayalam).

(With inputs from PTI)

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 th 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.
General Studies Paper IV	
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.