

VEDHIK
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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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China issues names for 15 places in Arunachal

The law was proposed in March, a year into the Line of Actual Control (LAC) crisis, and was seen as an attempt to legitimise the Chinese military's transgressions in Eastern Ladakh.

It calls for various Chinese civilian and military agencies to take steps to "safeguard" Chinese territory, and has coincided with stepped-up plans by China to bolster its control along disputed areas, including by constructing "frontier" villages and civilian settlements.

Using standardised maps across different levels of government is part of the broader effort. The 15 places named on Thursday included eight residential areas, four mountains, two rivers and one mountain pass, the Communist Party-run *Global Times* reported.

The paper quoted Zhang Yongpan, an expert on border issues at the influential Chinese Academy of Social Sciences as saying that "since the Zangnan area has

been illegally occupied by India, the Indian government has also established some illegal names in the area."

"The right to name places in the region should belong to China," he told the paper, adding that the naming, as well as the border law, were "important moves made by the country to safeguard national sovereignty, better maintain national security and manage border-related matters at the legal level amid regional tensions, including frictions with India."

The eight towns on the list were Sengkezong and Daglungzong in Cona county of Shanann prefecture, Man'gang, Duding and Mig-pain in Medog county of Nyingshi, Goling, Damba in Zayu county of Nyingchi, and Mejag in Lunzuo county of Shannan; the mountains were Wamo Ri, Deu Ri, Lunzhubu Ri and Kumingxingzong; the two rivers were Xenyogmo He and Dulain He, and the mountain pass on the list was Se La.

China Minister to visit Maldives, Sri Lanka

The trip by Wang Yi underlines Beijing's growing economic and security stakes in the Indian Ocean Region

ANANTH KRISHNAN
MEERA SRINIVASAN
HONG KONG/COLOMBO

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi will begin the new year visiting five littoral countries in the Indian Ocean Region, including the Maldives and Sri Lanka, underlining China's growing economic and security stakes in the neighbourhood.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry said on Thursday Mr. Wang would on January 4 begin his five-nation trip in eastern Africa, visiting Eritrea and Kenya, before travelling to the island nation of Comoros, followed by the Maldives and Sri Lanka. "The upcoming visit to the three countries in Africa is keeping up the Chinese Foreign Ministers' 32-year tradition of choosing Africa for their first overseas visit every year," spokesperson Zhao Lijian said, adding that the visit to the Maldives and Sri Lanka "comes at the 50th anniversary of China-Maldives diplomatic relations, the 65th anniversary of China-Sri Lanka diplomatic relations, and the 70th anniversary of the Rubber-Rice Pact" between China and Sri Lanka.

"China and the two coun-



Finding solutions: Foreign Minister Wang Yi's visit to Colombo comes after bouts of tension between China and Sri Lanka.

tries are traditional friendly neighbours and important partners with close high-level exchange, deep practical cooperation, broad common interests, and the same of similar positions on many regional and international issues," he said.

"We will work together with the two countries to build on the momentum generated by commemorating the anniversaries of diplomatic relations to deepen traditional friendship, enhance political mutual trust, strengthen solidarity against COVID-19, upgrade practical cooperation, including under the Belt and Road Initiative framework, and increase coordination and cooperation

in international and regional affairs."

Official sources in Colombo indicated that the visit would focus on ongoing projects and investments, while Colombo and Beijing try to iron out some differences. It would entail a possible MoU in the maritime sector, sources said. A senior official at the Beijing-based Sri Lankan Embassy told *The Hindu* that "it is a courtesy visit".

During the pandemic, China has provided substantial assistance to Sri Lanka by way of emergency loans, totalling over \$1 billion, a currency swap for \$1.5 billion, and vaccines with Sino-pharm accounting for more than 80% of the vaccines ad-

ministered in Sri Lanka.

Beijing has maintained regular, high-level engagement with Colombo since the pandemic struck. In October 2020, a "high-powered" Chinese delegation led by Polit Bureau member and top foreign policy official Yang Jiechi was in Colombo, while China's Defence Minister General Wei Fenghe visited Sri Lanka in April this year.

Points of difference

Mr. Wang's visit to Sri Lanka assumes particular significance, coming after rare bouts of tension between the partners who otherwise share very strong ties, evident in three recent points of difference.

In February 2021, Sri Lanka cleared a Chinese energy project in three islands off Jaffna peninsula, not far from the Tamil Nadu coast, following an international bid. However, Colombo suspended it after India raised concern and offered an alternative grant for the same. Further, the Colombo-based Chinese Ambassador's recent visit to Jaffna has drawn criticism from the Tamil leadership. In May, the passage of the Colombo Port City

Economic Commission Bill, governing the China-backed Colombo Port City project worth \$1.4 billion, triggered considerable resistance, with government critics describing the project as a "Chinese enclave" within the island nation.

The most recent controversy involved Sri Lanka rejecting a shipment of organic fertilizer imported from China due to reported "contamination". The Chinese side responded by blacklisting Sri Lanka's state-owned People's Bank, while the Chinese company has sought \$8 million in compensation and sued Sri Lanka in a Singapore court over the deal. Colombo has maintained that this was a "commercial dispute" that did not impact diplomatic ties. It is, however, likely to figure on the agenda during the Minister's trip.

Mr. Wang's visit to Maldives, meanwhile, coincides with a heightening "India out" campaign being mounted by the political Opposition, accusing President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih's government of "allowing Indian military presence" in the island nation, a charge that the ruling administration has denied.

Amid Ukraine crisis, Biden, Putin to hold another call

U.S. President to press for a diplomatic path

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN

U.S. President Joe Biden and his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, will hold a phone call on Thursday — their second in December.

The call, which will take place as tensions continue between Russia and Ukraine, was requested by Mr. Putin, according to the Biden administration officials, and will focus on several dialogues the two countries are scheduled to participate next month.

During Thursday's interaction, "President Biden will make clear that there is a diplomatic path to de-escalating tensions in the region if President Putin is interested in taking it", a senior administration official, who did not want to be named, told reporters on a Wednesday briefing call.

The U.S. and Russia are scheduled to hold a bilateral Strategic Stability Dialogue on January 10 in Geneva. However, Mr. Biden and Mr. Putin will not personally partici-



Way forward: President Joe Biden with his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, in Geneva, in this June 16 photo. •AP

cipate in those discussions, the official said.

A NATO-Russia Council meeting is scheduled for January 12, and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe for January 13.

Russia has massed about 1,00,000 troops along the border with Ukraine, according to Ukraine and the West's estimates.

Mr. Biden would tell Mr. Putin that the U.S. and its allies were "prepared for diplomacy and for a diplomatic path forward, but we are also prepared to respond if Russia advances with a further invasion of Ukraine", the official said.

Ukraine had proposed

short-term confidence-building measures with Russia, including a recommitment to a 2020 ceasefire, the official said. The U.S. was also "prepared to discuss security and strategic matters" that have been the topic of private and public discussion recently.

Russia had published on December 17 a draft security agreement, in which it had proposed that NATO should not accept Ukraine and former Soviet countries as members (a demand rejected by the West).

It also suggested that NATO refrain from sending weapons and troops to countries that joined the alliance after May 1997.

'India-Australia interim FTA talks to close soon'

Final pact by end-2022, says Ministry

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

India and Australia are expected to complete negotiations for an interim free trade agreement (FTA) soon, a move aimed at boosting economic ties between the two countries, the Commerce Ministry said on Thursday.

It said that the final agreement, which is officially dubbed as the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA), is expected to be completed by the end of 2022.

The pact covers areas such as goods, services, investment, rules of origin,

customs facilitation, legal and institutional issues.

The Ministry also said that a similar agreement with the UAE is likely to be signed in March 2022.

"This new strategic economic agreement is expected to increase bilateral trade in goods to \$100 billion within five years of the signed agreement and increase trade in services to \$15 billion," the Ministry elaborated.

On the export target of \$400 billion for this fiscal year, the Ministry said India's merchandise exports had reached 65.9% of the target till November.

Iran announces new space launch amid nuclear talks

The Simorgh satellite launcher carried three research cargoes into space, the Defence Ministry said

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TEHRAN

Iran announced on Thursday it has carried out a new space launch, in a move likely to irk Western powers amid tough talks on reviving a 2015 nuclear deal.

Tehran successfully put its first military satellite into orbit in April 2020, drawing a sharp rebuke from Washing-

ton. Western governments worry that satellite launch systems incorporate technologies interchangeable with those used in ballistic missiles capable of delivering a nuclear warhead.

‘Civilian purposes’

Iran insists its space programme is for civilian and defence purposes only, and

does not breach the nuclear deal or any other international agreement.

UN Security Council Resolution 2231 of 2015, endorsing the nuclear deal, imposed no blanket ban on Iranian rocket or missile launches.

Iran’s state broadcaster aired footage of a rocket rising from a desert launchpad,

but gave no details of its location.

“The Simorgh (Phoenix) satellite launcher carried three research cargoes into space,” said Defence Ministry spokesman Ahmad Hosseini.

“The research goals foreseen for this launch have been achieved,” he added, quoted by state television.

Earlier this month, the U.S. media reported that preparations for a launch were under way at Iran’s space centre in Semnan, 300 kilometres east of Tehran.

Mr. Hosseini did not elaborate on the nature of the research, but he said the latest operation was a “preliminary launch” and that more would follow.

In NFHS report card, the good, the sober, the future

Its fifth edition has encouraging news but addressing discriminatory social norms must remain top priority



SRIRAM HARIDASS

The health system in India has been facing unprecedented stress during the COVID-19 pandemic which includes the looming Omicron threat now on the horizon. Against this backdrop, the recently released fifth edition of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-5 brings some positive news. NFHS-5, which presents a bird’s eye view of the state of the nation’s health and related development indicators, looks encouraging on several fronts: population growth is stabilising, family planning services have improved, and health systems are delivering better.

However, it also highlights the need for further improvement to address gender-based violence and harmful practices against women and girls, such as child marriage and gender-biased sex selection. These have been exacerbated by discriminatory social norms and practices hindering the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2030 Agenda and India’s development goals.

Population is stabilising

The good news is that India’s population growth appears to be stabilising. The Total Fertility Rate – the average number of children born per woman – has declined from 2.2 to 2.0 at the national level. A total of 31 States and Union

Territories (constituting 69.7% of the country’s population) have achieved fertility rates below the replacement level of 2.1.

The main reasons for decline in fertility include: Increase in adoption of modern family planning methods (from 47.8% in 2015-16 to 56.5% in 2019-21) and a reduction in unmet need for family planning by 4% points over the same period. This indicates significant improvements in access to family planning related information and services.

Increased reach of the health system to more non-user couples with information about family planning (from 18% in 2015-16 to 24% in 2019-21). Further, 62% of current users have received information about the side-effects of contraceptives – a crucial indicator of the improved quality of family planning services.

Significant improvements in female literacy, with 41% women having received 10 or more years of schooling (compared to 36% in 2015-16). Girls who study longer have fewer children, and are also more likely to delay marriage and find employment. In other Asian countries too, fertility decline has taken place alongside notable improvements in access to quality education, especially girls’ education.

Improved health delivery

Maternal health services are steadily improving. Antenatal care in the first trimester has increased by 11.4% points (from 2015-16 to 2019-21) to reach 70%; the recommended four antenatal care check-ups have increased by 7% points to reach 58.1% and postnatal care visits have gone up by 15.6% points



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

to reach 78%. Institutional births were accessed by 88.6% of women in 2019-21, marking an increase of 9.8% points from 2015-16. There has also been an increase in institutional deliveries in public health facilities (52.1% to 61.9%), demonstrating an improvement in quality of services.

The survey indicates a worrisome figure of 11% of pregnant women who were still either unreached by a skilled birth attendant or not accessing institutional facilities. Further analysis reveals an institutional delivery rate of under 70% in 49 districts of India. Over two-thirds (69%) of these districts are from five States (Nagaland, Bihar, Meghalaya, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh), indicating the need for an area-specific approach to improving maternal health services. Teenage pregnancy has declined marginally by 1% point, and 7.9% of women in the age group of 15-19 years who were already mothers or pregnant at the time of the survey. This highlights the need to invest in comprehensive sexuality education as a key component of life-skills education for both in school and out-of-school adolescents, and ensuring access to quality sexual and re-

productive health services for them. A very small segment of the population is currently accessing the full range of sexual and reproductive health services such as screening tests for cervical cancer (1.9%) and breast examinations (0.9%). These services should be included while expanding the basket of reproductive health services.

Discriminatory social norms

Evidence indicates significant progress where women have the right to bodily autonomy and integrity, and the ability to take decisions about their lives. It is heartening to see that the proportion of women (aged 15-24 years) who use menstrual hygiene products has increased by almost 20% points between 2015-16 and 2019-21 and currently stands at 77.3%. The proportion of women who have their own bank accounts has gone up by 25.6% points over the same time period to reach 78.6%. Around 54% of women have their own mobile phones and about one in three women have used the Internet. This, coupled with the increase in the proportion of women with more than 10 years of schooling, lays the building blocks for women’s empowerment. In the next few years, the combination of mobile technology, banking, education and women’s economic empowerment will be significant drivers to address informal discriminatory norms.

To empower women and ensure gender justice, it is imperative to address harmful practices, such as child marriage and gender-biased sex selection. The prevalence of child marriage has gone down marginally from 26.8% in

2015-16 to 23.3% in 2019-21. Similarly, sex ratio at birth has shown slight improvement (from 919 to 929 over the same time period). One in three women continue to face violence from their spouse. Hence, there is a need to enhance the value of women and girls by working on transforming unequal power relations, structural inequalities and discriminatory norms, attitudes and behaviours.

Promote gender-equal values

Women’s participation in the economy continues to remain low (only 25.6% women engaged in paid work, a meagre increase of 0.8% point). Women still bear a disproportionate burden of unpaid domestic and care work, hindering their ability to access gainful employment. This points to the need for engaging with men and boys, particularly in their formative years, to promote positive masculinities and gender-equal values.

The pace of progress between one NFHS and the next should be accelerated by devising targeted strategies based on specific indicators and regions that are currently lagging. Convergence among multiple stakeholders is critical to bring about the desired change. Together, we must challenge discriminatory social norms that drive gender-based violence and harmful practices, and empower women to exercise agency and autonomy in all spheres of life. Women and girls having agency and bodily autonomy is not only the foundation for a better future; it is a fundamental human right.

Sriram Haridass is UNFPA Representative India and Country Director Bhutan a.i.

Decision on vaccine for ‘precaution’ dose soon

The definitive study so far on booster doses is the COVBOOST study, led by the University of Southampton in the United Kingdom that tested seven different vaccines as a booster dose in groups of those who had received either two doses of the Oxford vaccine (Covishield) or the Pfizer vaccine. The third dose was administered at least 70-84 days after the second shot. The second shots were either of Novavax (same as Covavax), Valneva (an inactivated whole virion similar to Covaxin), Janssen, Moderna, Curevac or repeat doses of either Pfizer or Oxford vaccine.

The overall conclusion of the study was that while all combinations boosted antibody levels, the increase was highest for Moderna as a third dose. The inactivated vaccine induced the least

spikes. Were the mRNA vaccines to be excluded, as India doesn't have them yet, Novavax induced a much greater spike in antibodies after the mRNA vaccines. Antibody levels alone weren't the sole metric of comparison as the trial also noted instances of adverse reaction or post-immunisation side effects.

Covaxin has not been tested anywhere as a booster except during an accidental mix-up during a vaccination drive earlier this year when some recipients got a second dose of Covaxin instead of Covishield. An analysis suggested that this was safe and in fact boosted their antibody levels higher than two doses of the same vaccine. The Christian Medical College, Vellore is in the middle of a trial to evaluate Covaxin and Covishield as third doses.

Third dose vaccine to be decided soon

NTAGI and other bodies assessing safety of all jabs available, says ICMR chief

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

The “precaution” dose to be given to healthcare workers, frontline workers and those over 60 with co-morbidities may not necessarily be a repeat dose, senior Union Health Ministry officials said on Thursday.

“A decision will be taken this week. The National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI) as well as other bodies are assessing the available data on the safety and efficacy of all the vaccines globally and there are meetings every day. Before January 10, we will have a set of clear-cut guidelines on what the recommended vaccine would



Safe journey: Train passengers waiting for RT-PCR test in Bhopal on Thursday. • A.M. FARUQUI

be,” Balram Bhargava, Director-General, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), said at a press briefing.

The debate on third doses comes amid a spike in infec-

tions in India with the number of daily cases crossing 10,000 and several States suggesting that it is due to the Omicron variant.

Registrations for the third

dose and also Covaxin for those in the 15-17 age group is set to commence on January 1, according to guidelines issued by the Health Ministry this week. The key factors under consideration are the intended recipients and the supply of the vaccine, Dr. Bhargava said. The vaccine expansion programme plans to give the “precaution dose” 39 weeks (nine months) after the second dose.

India has approved, under emergency use authorisation, Covishield, Covaxin, Sputnik V, Corbevax and Covavax.

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'New GST rates to push up garment prices'

'Prices may rise up to 7% from Jan. 1'

M. SOUNDARIYA PREETHA
COIMBATORE

Prices of garments will climb by 7% from January 1 as the GST rates are set to increase from 5% to 12%, industry sources said.

Clothing Manufacturers Association of India (CMAI) chief mentor Rahul Mehta said the industry was not in a position to absorb the increase in rates that would take effect on January 1. "Garments will become expensive by 7% at the consumer level immediately, and [prices] may go up further in the future with the increase in other prices," he said.

According to the South Indian Hosiery Manufacturers' Association in Tiruppur, garments across price rang-

es, from basic wear to branded products, will be hit by higher GST from January 1. The direct and immediate impact would be a rise of 7% in prices, said sources in the association.

Citing a recent study, Mr. Mehta said the clothing and textiles sector has different GST rates for different products. With uniform 12% duty, 85% of the market is expected to be affected.

While the Centre may see higher revenue of ₹7,000 to ₹10,000 crore, the overall industry compliance is expected to be reduced. The government should look at uniform 5% duty, instead.

Textiles and clothing manufacturers have been urging the Centre to review the decision to raise GST to 12%.

'NTPC Renewable Energy to float tender for 3 GW by Feb.'

₹15,000-crore project includes battery storage system

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd. (NREL) will float a global engineering procurement and construction tender to set up a 3 GW renewable energy project with a battery storage system worth about ₹15,000 crore by February 2022, according to a senior official.

"The NREL has decided to float a global tender or RFP (request for proposal) for a 3GW renewable energy project (such as solar and wind) with battery energy storage system in the next two



months (by February 2022). This entails an investment of about ₹15,000 crore," the senior official told PTI.

The development assumes significance given India's ambitious target of having 175 GW of renewable energy by 2022, including

100 GW of solar and 60 GW of wind energy.

According to a Central Electricity Authority report, as of November 30, 2021, India's renewable energy capacity – excluding large hydro plants – is 104 GW, including 49 GW solar and 40 GW of wind energy.

NREL, a 100% subsidiary of NTPC Ltd, currently has a renewable project portfolio of 3,850 MW, of which 970-MW projects are under construction and 2,880-MW projects have been won and are in different phases of implementation.

AFSPA extended by six months in Nagaland

The Act, which has been in force in the northeast since 1958, gives unbridled powers to the armed forces and the Central Armed Police Forces deployed in “disturbed areas” to kill anyone acting in contravention of law, arrest and search any premises without a warrant and protection from prosecution and legal suits without the Central government’s sanction.

Both the Central and State governments have concurrent powers to issue a notification under Section 3 of the Act.

The Manipur government on December 8 issued a notification to extend the Act, excluding the municipal areas of Imphal, for another year. The order said “the Governor of Manipur is of

the opinion that due to violent activities of various extremist/insurgent groups, the entire State of Manipur is in such a disturbed condition that the use of Armed Forces in aid of civil power is necessary.”

Right from the 1980s, the notification extending the AFSPA has been issued by the State government. In the last 40 years, the Centre has not issued any notification under the Act for Manipur.

Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio on December 26 announced that the MHA had constituted a committee to look into the withdrawal of the Act.

Protests are on since December 4, when 13 civilians were killed in a botched operation by the Army in Mon district.

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.