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VEDHIK

DAILY NEWS ANALYSIS

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FOREWORD

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

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

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

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Bangladesh, India, Nepal to move ahead on MVA pact

Bhutan has not endorsed the plan for now

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

With Bhutan continuing to sit out the Motor Vehicles Agreement (MVA) of the sub-regional Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal (BBIN) grouping, a meeting of the other three countries was held to discuss the next steps in operationalising the agreement for the free flow of goods and people between them.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to travel to Colombo at the end of March to attend the summit of another sub-

regional grouping, BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation), which includes Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan as well.

The BBIN meeting was the first such in-person meeting since February 2020 to discuss the MVA since the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak, and officials finalised the wording of two separate protocols on passenger and cargo movement with an “enabling” agreement.

“During the meeting, an enabling MoU to be signed by India, Bangladesh and Nepal for implementation of the BBIN MVA by the three countries, pending ratification of the MVA by Bhutan, was finalised,” the Ministry

Operationalising the MVA will help realise the full potential of trade and people-to-people connectivity

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

of External Affairs statement said.

“Operationalising the MVA by concluding the Passenger and the Cargo Protocol will help realise the full potential of trade and people to people connectivity between the BBIN countries by fostering greater sub-regional cooperation,” it added.

According to the MEA statement, Bhutan sent an “observer team” led by an Embassy official to the meet-

ing held on March 7 and 8 in Delhi, while delegations of Bangladesh, India and Nepal were led by Director General or Joint Secretary level officers.

The original BBIN MVA was signed by all four countries in June 2015, but after objections in Bhutan over sustainability and environmental concerns, the Bhutaneese Parliament decided not to endorse the plan, and the then Tobgay Tshering government agreed to allow the other three countries to go ahead with the project for vehicular movement (BIN-MVA) in 2017.

In 2020, Prime Minister Lotay Tshering told *The Hindu* in an interview that given Bhutan’s “current infrastruc-

ture” and top priority to remaining a “carbon-negative” country, it would not be possible to consider joining the MVA.

Officials said that while India remained “hopeful” that Bhutan could change its position on the project, it was decided at a meeting in November 2021 to go ahead for now, given that there are no new signals from Thimphu on the project.

Progress on the seven-year-old project has been slow, despite several trial runs being held along the Bangladesh-India-Nepal road route for passenger buses and cargo trucks. There are still some agreements holding up the final protocols.

India, China to hold fresh round of talks

Both sides will now focus on achieving resolution of balance friction areas, say defence sources

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India and China have mutually decided to hold a fresh round of Corps Commander talks at the Indian side of Chushul Moldo Meeting Point on March 11.

The two sides have so far held 14 rounds of talks, with disengagement undertaken on the north and south banks of Pangong Tso (lake), Galwan and Gogra areas.

“Both sides will now focus on achieving the resolution of the balance friction areas. Recent statements by both sides to find a mutually acceptable solution have been encouraging and positive in



So far, disengagement has been undertaken in the Pangong Tso, Gogra and Galwan areas. ■ FILE PHOTO

nature,” defence sources said.

Like in the earlier round, the focus is on disengagement from Patrolling Point

15 in Hot Springs, while taking forward the comprehensive disengagement and de-escalation efforts forward.

Since the stand-off began

in May 2020, the two sides have held a series of talks at different levels – political, diplomatic and military – and as a part of the agreements reached, undertook disengagement from both sides of Pangong Tso in February 2021, and from Patrolling Point 17 in the Gogra area in August, in addition to Galwan. The other areas yet to be resolved are Hot Springs, Demchok and Depsang.

Reluctant to discuss

India has been insisting on comprehensive disengagement and de-escalation of the situation in eastern La-

dakh, while China has been reluctant to discuss Depsang and Demchok, maintaining that they were not a part of the current stand-off, officials stated.

Army chief Gen Manoj Naravane said in January that there had been partial disengagement in eastern Ladakh but the threat had by no means reduced.

A number of rounds would be required to deal with the situation and resolve them one at a time. Once the remaining issues at Hot Springs were resolved they would “look at other issues which predate the current standoff,” he added.

Clear signals

India and China must take on board global currents that could reshape ties

China's claim that the U.S. Indo-Pacific strategy is aiming to create "an Indo-Pacific version of NATO", as the Chinese Foreign Minister, Wang Yi, put it on March 7, is not new. Indeed, even as long as 15 years ago, during the first iteration of the now revived India, Australia, Japan, U.S. Quad, Beijing warned of an impending "Asian NATO", which, of course, never materialised. The latest statement does, however, assume significance in the current global context and amid the crisis in Ukraine. Mr. Wang, speaking in Beijing during the National People's Congress, accused the U.S. of "stoking geopolitical rivalry" by "forming exclusive clubs". He said by "strengthening the Five Eyes" intelligence alliance and "peddling the Quad, piecing together AUKUS and tightening bilateral military alliances", the U.S. was leading what he called a "five-four-three-two" formation in the region. The broader goal, he said, was "to establish an Indo-Pacific version of NATO".

In recent weeks, Beijing has repeatedly blamed NATO for the crisis in Ukraine. While claiming to stay neutral, it has moved to reaffirm ties with Russia, which Beijing on Monday described as "rock solid". When the two countries' leaders met for a summit on February 4, China backed Russia on its concerns on NATO's eastward expansion in Europe, and Russia returned the favour with both criticising the U.S. Indo-Pacific strategy. Beyond their already deep political and economic linkages, these mirrored concerns on U.S. alliances are emerging as a powerful binding glue in the China-Russia axis. New Delhi will need to consider how this will impact its close relations with Russia. By explicitly equating the Quad, which is not a military pact, with other security agreements, China now also appears to be clearly situating India as a part of the U.S. "exclusive club". New Delhi has rejected that notion. Only last month, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said "interested parties" were making a "lazy analogy of an Asian NATO" and India was not a U.S. treaty ally. Indeed, some in New Delhi have come to view Beijing's aggressive moves along the LAC in 2020 as a warning sign to deter India-U.S. relations. India's firm, and correct, response has been to hold the line, and continue deepening ties not only with the U.S. and the Quad but also other Indo-Pacific partners to underline it will not be swayed. The other message from India has been that sensitivity to concerns has to be mutual, and cannot be demanded from one side when ignored by the other; China's relations with Pakistan being a case in point. Mr. Wang did acknowledge that recent "setbacks" in ties suited neither India nor China – a view New Delhi shares. The two sides will meet on March 11 for the next round of military talks to take forward LAC disengagement. As India and China continue to seek a much-needed *modus vivendi* to restore ties from the lowest point in decades and ensure peace on the border, they will also need to have a broader conversation about global currents that are reshaping their bilateral relations.

Ukraine drops pitch for NATO

Zelensky says open to compromise on breakaway regions

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON/LONDON

President Volodymyr Zelensky said he was no longer pressing for NATO membership for Ukraine, a delicate issue that was one of Russia's stated reasons for invading its pro-Western neighbour.

In another apparent nod aimed at placating Moscow, Mr. Zelensky said he was open to "compromise" on the status of two breakaway pro-Russian territories that President Vladimir Putin recognised as independent just before unleashing the invasion on February 24.

"I have cooled down regarding this question a long time ago after we understood that ... NATO is not prepared to accept Ukraine," Mr. Zelensky said in an interview aired on Monday night on ABC News.

"The alliance is afraid of controversial things, and confrontation with Russia," the President added.

Referring to NATO membership, Mr. Zelensky said through an interpreter that



Rescue mission: Ukrainian soldiers evacuating civilians in the city of Irpin, northwest of Kyiv, on Tuesday. ■ AFP

he did not want to be President of a "country which is begging something on its knees". Russia has said it does not want neighbouring Ukraine to join NATO, the transatlantic alliance created at the start of the Cold War to protect Europe from the Soviet Union.

However, in a virtual speech to lawmakers in the U.K. on Tuesday, Mr. Zelensky vowed to "fight to the end". "We will not give up

and we will not lose," he said, giving a day-by-day account of Russia's invasion.

"We will fight to the end, at sea, in the air. We will continue fighting for our land, whatever the cost.

"We will fight in the forests, in the fields, on the shores, in the streets," he said invoking the wartime defiance of British Prime Minister Winston Churchill.

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Ukraine drops pitch for NATO membership

Russia sees NATO enlargement as a threat, as it does the military posture of these new Western allies on its doorstep. In more recent years the alliance has expanded further and further east to take in former Soviet bloc countries, infuriating the Kremlin.

Shortly before he shocked the world by ordering the invasion of Ukraine, Mr. Putin recognised as independent two separatist pro-Russian "republics" in eastern Ukraine – Donetsk and Luhansk – that have been at war with Kyiv since 2014. Mr. Putin now wants Ukraine, too, to recognise them as sovereign and independent.

When ABC asked him about this Russian demand, Mr. Zelensky said he was

open to dialogue. "I'm talking about security guarantees," he said.

He said these two regions "have not been recognised by anyone but Russia, these pseudo republics. But we can discuss and find the compromise on how these territories will live on".

"What is important to me is how the people in those territories are going to live who want to be part of Ukraine, who in Ukraine will say that they want to have them in," Mr. Zelensky said.

"This is another ultimatum and we are not prepared for ultimatums. What needs to be done is for President Putin to start talking, start the dialogue instead of living in the informational bubble without oxygen," Mr. Zelensky said.

War, demand to ensure steel prices keep rising: SteelMint

Govt.'s large infra plan to boost local steel demand: ICRA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The price of steel will continue to move upwards on 'good demand' and as the supply chain remains affected amid the Ukraine-Russia conflict, according to industry consultancy SteelMint.

The prices in the international market have risen by about \$135 a tonne and are moving up since the conflict started in the last week of February, SteelMint founder and CEO Dhruv Goel told PTI on Tuesday.

"In the domestic market, prices of hot-rolled coil (HRC) in the first week of March were in the range of ₹68,000-69,000 a tonne against ₹65,500-66,500 a



tonne in the previous week; while for cold-rolled coil, at ₹73,000-74,000 a tonne compared with ₹71,000-72,000 a tonne in the preceding week," Mr. Goel said.

"The conflict has impacted the movement of raw materials as well as goods. There is a good demand for steel. We anticipate these two factors will further im-

prove the prices," he said.

According to industry figures, before the conflict between Russia and Ukraine began, oil prices stood at \$90 a barrel. Crude is now trading near \$120 a barrel and there is a projection that it would reach \$180 a barrel in a few days.

As oil prices have gone up, freight rates of cargo ships, which currently stand at \$20,000 a day, are likely to reach \$30,000 per day.

As per ICRA, domestic steel demand is expected to grow by 7-8% in FY2023 on the back of an estimated growth of 11-12% in FY2022, supported by the government's large infrastructure spending plans.

Social revolution takes time: SC

Court declines to take up petition seeking caste-based reservation in NDA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Social revolution does not come overnight and takes time, the Supreme Court said on Tuesday while refusing to deal at this stage with the issue of caste-based reservation in the National Defence Academy (NDA).

The top court gave the Centre time till July to study the implication of induction and deployment of ex-National Defence Academy (NDA) women cadets in the armed forces.

"Social revolution does not come overnight and it takes time," a Bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and M.M. Sundresh told an intervener, who is seeking to reserve seats for Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, and Other Backward Classes in



the NDA. The Bench said that at present it would only go into the issue of admission of women in the defence education institutions.

The court listed the matter for further hearing on July 19.

The Bench noted the details of the affidavit filed by the Centre, which said that in respect of the number of women to be inducted for "NDA-II 2021" and "NDA-I

2022", each course has 370 vacancies for the three services. Out of these, 208 will get commissioned in the Army, 120 cadets in the Air Force (IAF) and 42 in the Navy.

Centre seeks time

"The respondents need sufficient time for deliberating implications in the long-term for induction and deployment of ex-NDA women cadets in the Indian armed forces. It is, therefore, submitted that the respondents require at least three months additional time towards this," the Centre has said in its affidavit.

The affidavit was filed pursuant to the top court's direction on a plea filed by advocate Kush Kalra on the number of women who have

appeared for the NDA-2021 examination and the number of women inducted.

The Centre said, "It is submitted that a total of 5,75,854 candidates applied for the exam and 3,57,197 candidates took the examination. A total of 8,009 candidates, including 1002 women candidates passed the NDA written examination held during November 2021.

The Service Selection Board (SSB) is scheduled with effect from March-April 2022".

On January 18, the apex court had asked the Centre to explain why, despite its orders, the intake of women candidates in the National Defence Academy (NDA) for the year 2022 has been restricted to 19, the figure same as last year.

Global stagflation risk

India will have to cut fuel taxes or risk both faster inflation and slower growth

As Russia's invasion of Ukraine is set to enter the third week, the economic costs of the conflict in Eastern Europe threatens to stall the shaky global recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. While the expansive financial sanctions imposed on Russia by the U.S. and its western allies have sent the value of the rouble plunging by more than 60% against the dollar since the start of the conflict, the war-led disruptions to supply and the sanctions have sent the prices of several key commodities soaring: from wheat and corn, to metals including nickel and aluminium, and, most crucially, crude oil and gas. Brent crude futures surged to a high not seen since July 2008, and are currently about 29% higher than before the invasion began on February 24. The price of natural gas has also risen sharply in Europe amid concerns that supplies from Russia could be hit either on account of European nations agreeing to a U.S. proposal to shut the tap on Russian energy exports or by retaliatory sanctions by Moscow. Russia supplies Europe about 40% of its gas requirements, roughly a quarter of its oil and almost half its coal needs, and an embargo on energy supplies from Russia could send already high electricity costs in the countries comprising the eurozone skyrocketing. That in turn would hit consumers, as well as businesses and factories, forcing them to either raise prices or possibly even temporarily shut operations.

Inflation in the euro area had accelerated to 5.8% in February, mainly on account of a more than 31% surge in energy prices, and with the uptrend in oil prices steepening sharply this week, the outlook for price gains in Europe and worldwide is not encouraging. The IMF, which had in January cut its forecast for global growth in 2022 to 4.4% citing the Omicron variant, rising energy prices and supply disruptions, on March 5 warned that the war in Ukraine posed grave risks to the global recovery. With analysts projecting that crude prices will cross \$180 and some traders punting on prices surpassing \$200 a barrel, India too can hardly be sanguine, its diplomatic fence-sitting notwithstanding. In a 2019 paper on 'The Impact of Crude Price Shock on India's Current Account Deficit, Inflation and Fiscal Deficit', two senior RBI researchers posited that a \$10 increase in the price of oil from a \$65 level would raise headline inflation by about 49 basis points (bps) or widen the Government's fiscal deficit if it decided to absorb the entire oil price shock. India's policymakers face a tough choice: bear the cost of lower revenue by cutting fuel taxes or risk both faster inflation and slower growth.

Revive tax increases, stub out tobacco product use

The Government must stop the increasing affordability of tobacco items and also rationalise their taxation under GST



RIJO M. JOHN

Despite a relatively high degree of societal attention and debate spurring on the pace of COVID-19 vaccine development, the novel coronavirus pandemic has continued to remain a serious public health concern worldwide. India is reported to have lost half a million of its people to the pandemic over the past two years.

Another epidemic

But there is a silent killer in our midst that kills an estimated 1.35 million Indians every year. It is the use of tobacco as a result of which more than 3,500 Indians die every single day, as estimated by scientific studies. It also comes at a heavy cost: an annual economic burden of ₹1,77,340 crore to the country or more than 1% of India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Although not a communicable disease like SARS-CoV-2, the tobacco epidemic – as the World Health Organization characterises it – has some definitive solutions that can reduce the death toll. Research

from many countries around the world including India shows that a price increase induces people to quit or reduce tobacco use as well as discourages non-users from getting into the habit of tobacco use. There is overwhelming consensus within the research community that taxation is one of the most cost-effective measures to reduce demand for tobacco products.

Nevertheless, ever since the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) legislation in 2017, there has been no significant tax increase on any tobacco product barring a minor increase in the National Calamity Contingent Duty (NCCD) during the Union Budget 2020-21 which only had the effect of increasing cigarette prices by roughly 5%.

Lost opportunity

In short, there has been no significant tax increase on any tobacco product for four years in a row which is quite unlike the pre-GST years where the Union government and many State governments used to effect regular tax increases on tobacco products. As peer-reviewed studies show, the lack of tax increase over these years has made all tobacco products increasingly more affordable.

The Union Budget 2022-23 was an excellent opportunity for the



GETTY IMAGES/STOCKPHOTO

Government of India to buck this trend (of not effecting a significant price increase for the longest time in a row) and significantly increase either excise duties or NCCDs on tobacco products. Needless to say, the tobacco industry and the public health community did expect such a move. This year, when the Finance Minister began her Budget speech, it was interesting to note that the movement of ITC stock was stable in contrast to most other stock indices, which were generally moving up. Just as the Budget speech concluded, and having realised that there were no tax hike proposals whatsoever on any tobacco product, ITC stocks gained by more than 6% and outperformed most other stocks in the next couple of hours. The market was just pricing in an unreal-

ised negative prospect for the company. The reason is this: despite the claims of a business diversification away from the tobacco business, close to 85% of ITC's profits are still derived from its cigarette segment.

While the lack of tax hikes has helped the bottomline of ITC, the Budget has dealt a significant blow to tobacco control efforts in India in particular. The absence of a tax increase on tobacco has the potential to reverse the reduction in tobacco use prevalence that India saw during the last decade and now push more people into harm's way. It is known that more affordable tobacco products could attract new users especially among the youth. It would also mean foregone tax revenues for the Government especially at a time when the Government of India is looking forward to increasing the share of public spending on health; in the recent Union Budget, it has budgeted 2.2% of the total expenditures towards health.

GST Council should act

The Union Budget exercise, however, is not the only opportunity to initiate a tax increase on tobacco products. The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council could well raise either the GST rate or the compensation cess levied on to-

bacco products especially when the Government is looking to rationalise GST rates and increase them for certain items. For example, there is absolutely no public health rationale why a very harmful product such as the *bidi* does not have a cess levied on it under the GST while all other tobacco products attract a cess.

Similarly, there is no rationale why the specific cess applied on cigarettes (which is currently the largest component of overall cigarette taxes) has remained unchanged for four years in the face of increasing inflation. Since specific cess is applied as a fixed amount per stick of cigarette, increasing inflation will decrease the significance of this particular tax component making cigarette prices more affordable and reducing its effective tax burden. GST Council meetings must strive to keep public health ahead of the interests of the tobacco industry and significantly increase either the GST rates or the GST compensation cess rates applied on all tobacco products. The aim should be to arrest the increasing affordability of tobacco products in India and also rationalise tobacco taxation under the GST.

Rijo M. John is a health economist and Adjunct Professor at the Rajagiri College of Social Sciences, Kochi, Kerala

Oil price increase will certainly impact on economy, says FM

‘Govt. examining if there are alternative sources from where India can get crude’

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BENGALURU

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday expressed concern over rising crude oil prices due to the Ukraine crisis and indicated that the central government was looking to tap alternative sources.

At an interactive session organised by the BJP’s Karnataka unit, she was asked about the impact of rising crude prices and the war in Ukraine on the Indian economy. “It will certainly have an impact on Indian economy”, the Minister said. “How much we are going to be prepared to take it as a challenge and mitigate the im-



Future tense: Budgetary provisions were based on historical oil prices; we are now beyond that, says the Minister. ■PTI

pact is something which we will have see as we go [along],” she added.

Noting that India imports more than 85% of its crude oil requirements, she said when oil prices go up, it is a

matter of concern and “now we will have to see how it pans out.”

She pointed out that oil marketing companies fix pump prices based on 15-day average. “But now averages

and beyond averages are the numbers that we are talking about.” The government was looking to see if there were alternative sources from where it could get crude, she said but hastened to add, “Obviously global markets are all equally unthinkable at various sources”.

“It [rising crude prices] will have a bearing. We have made some provisions for it in the Budget. But that provision is only based on some average prevailing earlier but now it is beyond that. So, we will have to see how we can work it out,” she noted.

Global benchmark Brent was trading at about \$127 per barrel on Tuesday.

‘War’s impact on credit market may be limited’

Ind-Ra sees bigger impact if it drags on

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MUMBAI

The direct impact of the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war on the domestic credit markets appears to be limited as the banking system has adequate liquidity but not the market as a whole, as per a credit ratings report.

According to India Ratings, overall, the duration and intensity of the war will be the key determinant for the macro and micro risks.

Although the direct impact seems to be limited on the credit market, based on the escalation from the ongoing situation, the ripple effect will be disproportionately higher in case the war continues for long.

From a financing point of view, the agency said the



domestic banking system had adequate liquidity. But, this did not ensure market and balance-sheet liquidity for the system as a whole.

Given the rising uncertainties, high energy prices and cautious sentiment in the capital markets, entities with a weak financial profile may face financing challenges in case the situation worsens, India Ratings said in the report.

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-drawing 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.