



**VEDHIK**  
IAS ACADEMY

*The New Learning Mantra*

# **VEDHIK** DAILY NEWS ANALYSIS

07 - M A R C H 2 0 2 2

## **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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# EU tightens sanctions on Russia, blacklists lawmakers

## Three Belarusian banks cut off from the SWIFT system

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
BRUSSELS

The EU agreed on Wednesday to add 160 Russian business people and lawmakers to its sanctions blacklist, target crypto-assets and hit the maritime sector over Moscow's war in Ukraine, officials said.

The 27-nation bloc also gave the go-ahead to cut three Belarusian banks from the global SWIFT messaging system over Minsk's support for the Kremlin's attack.

The EU is looking to close off loopholes in the unprecedented barrage of sanctions it unleashed along with Western allies after Russian President Vladimir Putin launched the invasion.

"We are further tightening the net of sanctions responding to Russia's military aggression against Ukraine,"



Ursula von der Leyen

European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen tweeted.

A statement said 146 members of Russia's Upper House of Parliament and 14 Kremlin-linked business people and their relatives would be added to the assets freeze and visa ban blacklist.

The names are set to be unveiled shortly, when the sanctions are formally published in the EU's official

journal. The bloc will also broaden restrictions to cover cryptocurrencies in a bid to prevent sanctioned individuals and companies using the encrypted digital systems to circumvent the sanctions.

Kremlin ally Belarus has been used as a key launchpad for Moscow's offensive and the EU is also stepping up measures against the country.

That includes cutting three banks – Belagroprombank, Bank Dabrabyt, and the Development Bank of the Republic of Belarus – from the SWIFT system.

Furthermore the bloc will "prohibit transactions with the Central Bank of Belarus related to the management of reserves or assets" and limit financial inflows from Belarus into the EU.

# 'Labour Codes to take care of most compliance hassles'

## DPIIT Secretary asks start-ups to use single window system

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

About 70% of compliance-related hassles faced by businesses pertain to labour laws and will be resolved once States notify the four Labour Codes approved by Parliament, a top Industry Ministry official said.

The government has reduced 25,000 compliances in the past year but is conscious that many more need to be reduced to improve the ease-of-doing business, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) Secretary Anurag Jain said. The department



has examined reports of 27,000 laws under which persons can be jailed for doing business and is ready to engage with firms flagging such problem areas to resolve them.

"On studying (them), we found that almost about 70%

pertain to labour laws, for which the Parliament has enacted four Labour Codes to simplify these laws. So a major concern is already addressed, but we still need to work together to ensure that most of the States come on board and we are able to notify these changes," Mr. Jain said in his address at the annual conclave of the Indian Venture and Alternate Capital Association.

Urging start-ups to register on the new single window clearance system, Mr. Jain said that close to 1,000 approvals had already been granted.

# Cabinet nod for new firm to monetise land assets

## Govt. eyes substantial revenues

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the setting up of a new government-owned firm for pooling and monetising sovereign and public sector land assets.

The National Land Monetisation Corporation (NLMC) is being formed with an initial authorised share capital of ₹5,000 crore and paid-up capital of ₹150 crore.

### Chairman to head NLMC

The government will appoint a chairman to head the NLMC through a “merit-based selection process” and hire private sector professionals with expertise.

The NLMC will undertake monetisation of surplus

land and building assets of Central public sector enterprises (CPSEs) as well as government agencies.

“The government would be able to generate substantial revenues by monetising unused and under-used assets,” an official statement said.

The proposal is in pursuance of the Budget announcements for 2021-22, which included an ambitious National Monetisation Pipeline to garner revenues from public assets.

The new corporation will also help carry out monetisation of assets belonging to public sector firms that have closed or are lined up for a strategic sale.

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# Cabinet nod for firm to monetise land assets

As per the plan, the surplus land and building assets of such enterprises may be transferred to the NLMC, which will then manage and monetise them.

Apart from executing

the monetisation plan, the NLMC will advise other government entities to identify their non-core surplus assets and ‘generate maximum value’ by monetising them ‘in a professional and efficient manner’.

# ‘Food inflation may force RBI hand on rates’

**REUTERS**  
NEW DELHI

The RBI could raise interest rates if food prices spike on the back of a rally in commodities due to the Ukraine crisis, Moody’s Analytics’ Steve Cochrane said on Wednesday.

The conflict in Ukraine is threatening global grain production, sending basic commodity prices rocketing. Last month, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) stuck to its accommodative policy stance to help the economy recover from pandemic lows, keeping the key lending rate at record lows. Food prices rose 5.43% year-on-year in January, compared with 4.05% a month earlier. Prices of edible oil rose almost one-fifth from a year earlier.

# Soaring energy prices could hurt growth, consumption, warns S&P

It says large net energy importers like India could face 'terms of trade' shock

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

The surge in energy prices due to the Russia-Ukraine conflict could trigger a 'terms-of-trade' shock for large net energy importers like India, resulting in a hit on current account balances and domestic consumption and investment, S&P Global Ratings said on Wednesday.

Higher retail inflation would also strain monetary policy and may dampen economic growth and stress some bank borrowers in countries like India, the rating agency said in a note on the conflict's impact on Asia.

"For Asia-Pacific, the biggest risk of the Ukraine con-



**Oil shock:** 'Countries like India face a hit on current account balances, which in turn could lead investors to exit'. ■ REUTERS

flict is market volatility and higher commodity prices; emerging economies with large energy imports are most at risk," it said, noting that the continent had limited 'direct exposure' to Rus-

sia or Ukraine in terms of revenues, investments or supply chains.

A widening of the conflict or further sanctions, however, could 'seriously damage investor sentiment' and

push them to seek haven options, resulting in capital outflows from emerging markets, and hitting assets and currencies, S&P said.

"These risks emerge as the U.S. Federal Reserve leads several major central banks to raise policy interest rates," S&P observed. "Traders would likely react unfavourably to large current account deficits in emerging markets. Obvious examples are India and the Philippines," it added.

Higher energy prices can trigger a terms-of-trade shock, where import prices rise faster than export prices, for net energy importers like India, S&P noted.

## EXPLAINER

# Reviving the inland water transport system for the Northeast

How is the transport of cargo services through waterways in Bangladesh possible?

## THE GIST

- The docking of the MV Lal Bahadur Shastri carrying 200 MT of food grains for the FCI has rekindled hope for the inland water transport system in the Northeast.

- The vessel passed through Bhagalpur, Manihari, Sahibganj, Farakka, Tribeni, Kolkata, Haldia, Hemnagar in India, Khulna, Narayanganj, Sirajganj and Chilmari in Bangladesh and again to India on the NW2, through Dhubri and Jogighopa covering 2,350 km.

- Transportation of cargo service through waterways in Bangladesh is possible because of the Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade signed between the two countries.

RAHUL KARMARKAR

**The story so far:** A month after setting sail on the Ganga from Patna, the MV Lal Bahadur Shastri carrying 200 metric tonnes of food grains for the Food Corporation of India (FCI), docked at Guwahati's Pandu port on the southern bank of the Brahmaputra on March 6. The occasion is believed to have taken inland water transport, on two of India's largest river systems, to the future.

**Why is a Ganga-Brahmaputra cargo vessel in focus?** There is nothing unusual about a cargo vessel setting sail from or docking at any river port. But a host of VIPs lined up to receive MV Lal Bahadur Shastri, a cargo vessel operated by the IWAI (Inland Waterways Authority of India), at Guwahati's Pandu port on March 6. They included Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, Guwahati MP Queen Oja and IWAI chairperson Sanjay Bandoopadhyay.

The vessel had on February 5 started sailing from Patna on National Waterway-1 (NW1, river Ganga).

It passed through Bhagalpur, Manihari, Sahibganj, Farakka, Tribeni, Kolkata, Haldia, Hemnagar in India, Khulna, Narayanganj, Sirajganj and Chilmari in Bangladesh and again to India on National Waterway-2 (NW2, river Brahmaputra) through Dhubri and Jogighopa covering 2,350 km. The docking of the vessel carrying 200 MT of food grains for the FCI has rekindled hope for the inland water transport system which the landlocked northeast depended on heavily before India's independence in 1947.

**Is this the first such shipping of cargo?** The shipping of cargo from Patna to Pandu via Bangladesh was FCI's pilot project. A similar experiment was carried out in 2018 when two 1,000-tonne barges carrying 1,233 tonnes of bagged fly ash travelled 2,085 km from Bihar's Kahaigaon to Pandu for more than a month. A private firm had procured the fly ash from the National Thermal Power Corporation's plant in Bihar for use in its cement factories in Assam and Meghalaya. But the FCI cargo is expected to lead to



regular services between NW1 and NW2 "heralding a new age of inland water transport" for the northeast. According to the IWAI, the process has already started with a 252 MT cargo destined for eastern Assam's Numaligarh bio-refinery having reached central Assam's Silghat from Haldia in West Bengal on February 15. Another vessel, MV Ram Prasad Bismil with two barges named Kalpana Chawla and APJ Abdul Kalam started its voyage from Haldia on February 17 and is expected to reach Pandu soon.

**How would regular inland water service impact the northeast?**

Around independence, Assam's per capita income was the highest in the country primarily because of access for its tea, timber, coal and oil industries to seaports on the Bay of Bengal via the Brahmaputra and the Barak River (southern Assam) systems. Ferry services continued sporadically after 1947 but stopped after the 1965 war with Pakistan, as Bangladesh used to be East Pakistan then.

The scenario changed after the river routes were cut off and rail and road through

the "Chicken's Neck", a narrow strip in West Bengal, became costlier alternatives. "The start of cargo movement through the Indo-Bangladesh Protocol (IBP) route is going to provide the business community a viable, economic and ecological alternative. Seamless cargo transportation has been a necessity for the northeast," Mr Sonowal said.

**India has invested 80% of ₹305.84 crore to improve the navigability of the two stretches of the IBP (Indo-Bangladesh Protocol) routes**

He attributed the rejuvenation of the historical trade routes via Bangladesh to the PM Gati Shakti initiative envisaged to slowly convert the northeast into a connectivity hub and ramp up the swift movement of cargo on the Brahmaputra, which meets the Ganga in Bangladesh. These rivers are called Jamuna and Padma in that country.

**How did the water cargo service through Bangladesh come about?**

The resumption of cargo transport service

through the waterways in Bangladesh has come at a cost since the Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade was signed between the two countries.

India has invested 80% of ₹305.84 crore to improve the navigability of the two stretches of the IBP (Indo-Bangladesh Protocol) routes – Sirajganj-Daikhowa and Ashuganj-Zakiganj in Bangladesh.

The seven-year dredging project on these two stretches till 2026 is expected to yield seamless navigation to the north-eastern region.

IWAI officials said the distance between NW1 and NW2 will reduce by almost 1,000 km once the IBP routes are cleared for navigation.

The Government has also undertaken the Jal Marg Vikas project with an investment of ₹4,600-crore to augment the capacity of NW1 for sustainable movement of vessels weighing up to 2,000 tonnes.

A few issues remain, though. Sailors who made the cargo trips possible have had difficulties steering clear of fishing nets and angry fishermen in Bangladesh.

These hiccups will get sorted out with time, officials say.

**No more landlock:** The MV Lal Bahadur Shastri. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

## EXPLAINER

# UPI23Pay: Payment solution for feature phone users

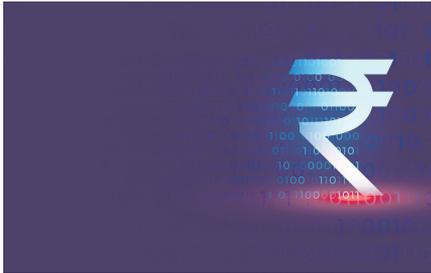
What is the latest RBI initiative 'UPI23Pay'? How will it facilitate financial transactions without internet connectivity?

ISHAN PATRA

**The story so far:** On March 8, the Reserve Bank of India launched a new Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payments solution for feature phone users dubbed 'UPI23Pay'. UPI, which was introduced in 2016, has become one of the most used digital payments platforms in the country. The volume of UPI transactions has already reached ₹76 lakh crore in the current year, compared to ₹41 lakh crore in FY21, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said. However, at present, efficient access to UPI is available largely via smartphones, the Central bank noted.

### How does the new solution work?

The new UPI-based service is designed to bring the digital payments platform closer to a significant number of feature phone mobile subscribers in the country, which is estimated to be more than 40 crore. UPI23Pay will materially improve the options for such users to access UPI, who could earlier access the digital transactions platform through the USSD-based process, using the short code of \*99#, which according to RBI is not popular. The USSD-based process is



considered cumbersome, with users required to send multiple messages and charged for the same, and not supported by all mobile service providers, T Rabi Shankar, RBI Deputy Governor, noted.

With the UPI23Pay, feature phone users will be required to go through an onboarding process where they have to link their bank account to their feature phone and then set a UPI PIN using their

debit card for authenticating transactions. Once they have completed this initial process, users will be able to use the new UPI facility for person-to-person as well as merchant transactions, among others, through one of the four distinct payment options that don't require an internet connection.

"The launch of UPI23Pay makes facilities under UPI accessible to that

section of society which was so far been excluded from the digital payments landscape. In that way, it is promoting great amount of financial inclusion in our economy," Mr. Das said.

### How will users make payments without internet?

The new UPI payments system offers users four options to make payments without internet connectivity: Interactive Voice Response (IVR), app-based functionality, missed call facility and proximity sound-based payments. Using the IVR option, users would be required to initiate a secured call from their feature phones to a predetermined IVR number and complete UPI on-boarding formalities to be able to start making financial transactions like money transfer, mobile recharge, EMI repayment, balance check, among others.

The missed call facility will allow users to access their bank account and perform routine transactions such as receiving, transferring funds, regular purchases, bill payments, etc., by giving a missed call on the number displayed at the merchant outlet. The customer will receive an incoming call to authenticate the

transaction by entering UPI PIN.

They could also install an app on their feature phone through which several UPI functions, available on smartphones, will be available on their feature phone, except scan and pay feature which is currently not available. Finally, they could utilise the proximity sound-based payments option, which uses sound waves to enable contactless, offline, and proximity data communication on any device.

### Do other countries have something similar?

Mobile payment systems that do not rely on internet connectivity like the ones based on USSD or SMS technology were introduced many years ago and are still being used in some developing countries. In fact, one of the major mobile payment systems globally was introduced by Vodafone's Kenyan associate, Safaricom in 2007. M-PESA, which is Africa's leading mobile money service, operates across the Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Mozambique and Tanzania, with 51 million customers making over \$314 billion in transactions per year through the service, according to Vodafone.

## THE GIST

■ The new UPI-based service is designed to bring the digital payments platform to a significant number of feature phone mobile subscribers in the country, which is estimated to be more than 40 crore.

■ Feature phone users can avail four options to make payments without internet connectivity: Interactive Voice Response (IVR), app-based functionality, missed call facility and proximity sound-based payments

■ M-PESA, Africa's leading mobile money service, is one of the few mobile service providers who do not use internet for financial transactions.

# Man who received pig's heart dies after 2 months

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**

The first person to receive a heart transplant from a pig has died, two months after the groundbreaking experiment, the Maryland hospital that performed the surgery announced on Wednesday.

David Bennett, 57, died on Tuesday at the University of Maryland Medical Center. Doctors didn't give an exact cause of death, saying only that his condition had begun deteriorating several days earlier. Mr. Bennett's

son praised the hospital for offering the last-ditch experiment, saying the family hoped it would help further efforts.

At first the pig heart was functioning, and the Maryland hospital issued periodic updates that Mr. Bennett seemed to be slowly recovering.

Mr. Bennett survived significantly longer than one of the last milestones – when Baby Fae, a dying infant, lived 21 days with a baboon's heart in 1984.

# PMLA cases: SC turns focus on undertrials' endless wait

## Centre emphasises gravity of offence of money laundering

**LEGAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday focused on the rights of those under trial in money laundering cases, saying they cannot wait endlessly behind bars for the trial to commence.

“The experience is that the trials do not proceed. They remain pending, investigation reports are not filed on time... Now, if this is the state of affairs, then there has to be some balancing,” a Bench led by Justice A.M. Khanwilkar said.

The court was hearing a batch of petitions challenging the various provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The court said though Section 45 of the PMLA had



made offences under it cognisable and non-bailable, Section 436-A of the Code of Criminal Procedure mandates a “maximum period” for which an undertrial prisoner can be detained.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehat, for the Centre, however argued on the gravity of the offence of money

laundering. He submitted that it was a “premeditated offence” which causes huge loss of public funds and is a serious threat to the country's financial health.

Mr. Mehta argued that money laundering usually takes place across borders and not within the bounds of the country. “There are tax-haven nations where the offender can easily park the illicit money,” he submitted.

“Due to the international nature of this offence, the accused, especially the main accused, has his own infrastructure, wherewithal and every infrastructure in that respective country where he parks his money or he has ensured his stay getting citizenship,” Mr. Mehta submitted.

# China looks for ‘acceptable solution’ on LAC

Military-level talks to be held by the two sides tomorrow will focus on Patrolling Point 15 in Hot Springs

ANANTH KRISHNAN  
HONG KONG

China on Wednesday said it hoped military-level talks with India set for Friday would “move forward” the long-running negotiations on disengagement along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) towards “an acceptable solution” for both sides.

The talks this week, the 15th round held to take forward disengagement since the crisis of 2020, will focus on Patrolling Point 15 in Hot Springs. Disengagement has already been undertaken on the north and south banks of Pangong Lake, Galwan and Gogra.

Indian defence sources earlier told *The Hindu* that both sides are focusing on the remaining friction areas – there are also differences in Demchok and Depsang –



**Staggered withdrawal:** Soldiers and tanks of the People Liberation Army during military disengagement along the LAC at the India-China border in Ladakh. • FILE PHOTO

and that “recent statements by both sides to find a mutually acceptable solution have been encouraging and positive in nature”.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry made a similar observation on Wednesday with spokesperson Zhao Lijian

saying the previous round in January saw both sides hold “a candid, in-depth exchange of views” and that Beijing “hopes this round of meeting, on the basis of previous meetings, can move forward, further enlarge consensus, narrow differenc-

es and work for a solution that is acceptable to both parties”.

Mr. Zhao referred to remarks made by Foreign Minister Wang Yi during the National People’s Congress in Beijing this week when he said “relations encountered

setbacks in recent years, which do not serve the fundamental interest of the two countries and people” and needed to “move forward on the right track”.

Mr. Zhao said China “always believe[s] that the China-India relations are mature and multi-dimensional”. “The border issue doesn’t represent the whole of the China-India relations and should be put in an appropriate position in bilateral relations and under effective control,” he said.

“We hope India will work with China to continuously enhance mutual trust, strengthen practical cooperation and ensure that the bilateral relations will move forward in the right track, bring more benefits and make greater contributions to the region and beyond.”

## Naga groups seek early peace deal

Nagaland government-led consultative committee meeting adopts resolution

VIJAITA SINGH  
NEW DELHI

A consultative committee meeting, initiated by the Nagaland government, on the impending Naga peace agreement adopted a resolution on Wednesday that the talks conclude early and it be transparent. The resolution urged the negotiating parties to heed earnestly the Naga people’s call for an early political solution.

The Union government is engaged in discussions with the Isak-Muivah faction of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN-IM) and seven Naga National Political Groups (NNPGs) to find a solution to the Naga political issue. The outcome of the negotiation is shrouded in mystery since 2015 when the



**Raging protest:** Nagas stage a demonstration against the killings of civilians in December. • AP

Union government, under the then interlocutor R.N. Ravi, now Tamil Nadu Governor, signed a framework agreement with the NSCN-IM.

The dialogue collapsed in 2020 when the largest Naga group refused to hold any further talks with Mr. Ravi. Union Home Minister Amit

Shah then deputed two Intelligence Bureau officers to carry forward the negotiations.

The consultative meeting of all stakeholders, including mass-based civil societies, church organisations, tribal *hohos*, political parties and NGOs, was held at the State Banquet Hall in Kohima.

“The negotiating parties should earnestly heed this call and arrive at a political solution that is honourable, inclusive, transparent and acceptable to the people. The House further appeals to all sections to make renewed efforts towards unity and understanding in order to work towards One Solution and One Agreement,” the resolution added.

Over 200 participants, including Chief Minister Niphiu Rio, signed the resolution.

The Naga peace talks were also impacted by the incident on December 4, 2021 when six villagers returning from a coal mine were killed in an operation by para commandos of the Assam Rifles in Nagaland’s Mon.

# Antarctic explorer Shackleton's ship discovered after a century

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
LONDON

Scientists say they have found the sunken wreck of polar explorer Ernest Shackleton's ship *Endurance*, more than a century after it was lost to the Antarctic ice.

The Falklands Maritime Heritage Trust says the vessel lies 3,000 meters below the surface of the Weddell Sea, about 6.4 kilometers south of the location recorded in 1915 by its captain, Frank Worsley.

An expedition set off from South Africa last month to search for the ship, which was crushed by ice and sank in November 1915.

Mensun Bound, director of exploration for the *Endurance22* expedition, said footage revealed the ship to be in remarkably good condition.

"This is by far the finest



**Unearthing history:** The *Endurance* ship that was discovered off the coast of Antarctica a century after its sinking. ■ AFP

wooden shipwreck I have ever seen," he said. "It is upright, well proud (clear) of the seabed, intact, and in a brilliant state of preservation. You can even see '*Endurance*' arched across the stern, directly below the taffrail."

Shackleton's 1914-16 attempt to become the first person to cross Antarctica via the South Pole failed – he

never set foot on the continent.

But his successful bid to reach help at a remote South Atlantic whaling station and rescue his men is considered a heroic feat of endurance. All the men survived and were rescued many months later.

The expedition to find the ship comes 100 years after Shackleton's death in 1922.

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

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

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