



**VEDHIK**  
**IAS ACADEMY**  
*The New Learning Mantra*

# 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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# Modi pushes for peace as Shehbaz flags Kashmir

Elected unopposed, new Pak. PM raises issue of Article 370

SUHASINI HAIDAR  
NEW DELHI

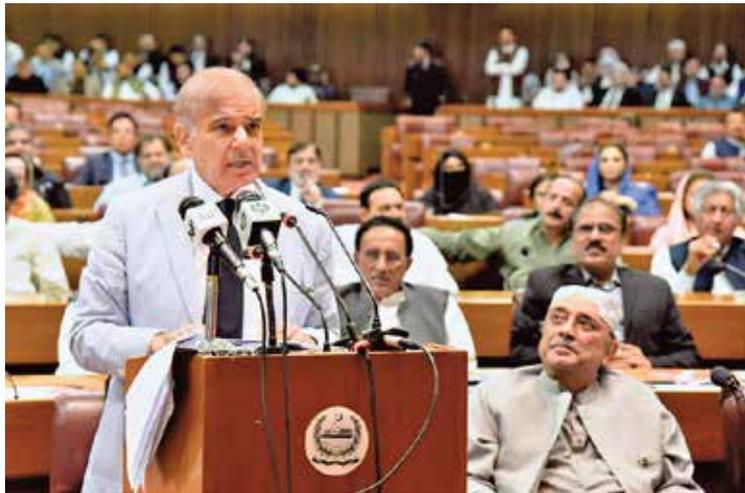
Prime Minister Narendra Modi wished Pakistan's new PM Shehbaz Sharif on Monday, with a message of peace in a region "free of terror".

In a speech to the National Assembly a few hours earlier, Mr. Sharif said that Pakistan desires good ties with India, which is "not possible without the resolution of the Kashmir dispute".

The comments from both leaders, while different from the period of no bilateral engagement between Indian and Pakistani leaders during the last few years of ousted PM Imran Khan's tenure, indicated that both sides will maintain their positions on terrorism and Jammu and Kashmir respectively.

## Development focus

"India desires peace and stability in a region free of terror, so that we can focus on our development challenges and ensure the well-being and prosperity of our people," said Mr. Modi, expressing his congratulations to Mr. Sharif, in a tweet just minutes after Mr. Sharif was sworn in as Prime Minister.



**New journey:** Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif addressing the National Assembly on Monday. ■ AP

Mr. Sharif was elected unopposed in the National Assembly on Monday, after days of uncertainty over the no-confidence motion against Mr. Khan, which was eventually resolved by the Supreme Court, which directed that the vote be held on Saturday.

The Ministry of External Affairs had declined to comment on the "internal matters" of Pakistan, when asked about the turmoil in the neighbouring country. However on Monday, Mr. Modi discussed the situation in Pakistan and Sri Lanka during his virtual meeting

with U.S. President Joe Biden, officials said.

Mr. Biden had not held any conversation with Mr. Khan after taking office in 2021, and his engagement with the new government will be watched closely.

In an hour-long speech after the vote, Mr. Sharif castigated Mr. Khan, accusing him of fostering a deterioration in Pakistan's ties with several countries including China, Saudi Arabia and the United States.

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CHANGE IN LEADERSHIP WON'T AFFECT TIES: CHINA ► PAGE 15

# Modi pushes for peace as Pak. PM flags Kashmir

He also criticised Mr. Khan for a failure to conduct any “serious diplomacy” after India’s decision to reorganise Jammu and Kashmir and amend Article 370.

“We want good ties, but there can be no peace without the resolution of Kashmir,” Mr. Sharif said, adding that “neighbours are not a matter of choice”, calling it a “misfortune” that India and Pakistan don’t share good relations. “I would tell PM Modi that poverty, illiteracy, unemployment are problems on both sides of the border,” he said. “I would invite him to come and talk, discuss a resolution of the Kashmir issue according to the wishes of the Kashmiri people,” Mr. Sharif said adding that “Kashmiris’ blood is flowing on roads of Kashmir and the Kashmir Valley is red with their blood.”

Mr. Sharif had accompanied his elder brother and

three-time Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in December 2015, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi had made an unannounced visit to Lahore.

Although ties between the two countries deteriorated shortly after the terror strike on Pathankot military base in January, Mr. Shehbaz Sharif was known for efforts to increase business and energy ties between the India and Pakistan.

Mr. Sharif was also believed to be privy to the back-channel dialogue held behind the scenes, with prominent businessmen as interlocutors, which eventually was taken over by National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and Pakistan’s military leadership.

In the weeks ahead, Delhi and Islamabad will be tracked for any outreach by either side, particularly on the economic front.

# Ukraine dominates Modi-Biden talks

Consultation with India to continue, says U.S. President

**SRIRAM LAKSHMAN**  
WASHINGTON DC

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Joe Biden met virtually on Monday morning, as External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh were in Washington for the fourth '2+2' foreign and defence ministry dialogues with their U.S. counterparts. The war between Russia and Ukraine featured prominently in the

opening remarks of both.

The government's readout of the meeting said the two leaders had discussed Ukraine, as well as regional and global issues, including the COVID-19 pandemic, the global economy, climate and "recent developments in South Asia and the Indo-Pacific region".

Speaking to reporters on a briefing call, a senior U.S. administration official said developments in Sri Lanka and Pakistan had been "touched on" but not discussed in a detailed manner.

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U.S. President Joe Biden meeting PM Narendra Modi via video link from Washington on Monday. Union Ministers Rajnath Singh and S. Jaishankar are in the U.S. for the '2+2' meet. ■ AP

# Ukraine dominates Modi-Biden talks

Mr. Modi, who spoke via videolink to Mr Biden, described the situation in Ukraine as “very worrying” and said he had spoken, several times, with both Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and Russian President Vladimir Putin and had not just urged peace, but also direct talks between them. India’s unwillingness to call out Russia by name for its attack on Ukraine has not gone down well in Washington, but U.S. officials have also said that they hoped countries that have relationships with Moscow might leverage them to bring about a resolution to the situation.

“The United States and India are going to continue our close consultation on how to manage the destabilising effects of this Russian war,” Mr. Biden said in his opening remarks.

The government’s readout of the meeting said that Ukraine was also discussed. Speaking to presspersons after the meeting, a senior U.S. administration official said there was a “pretty detailed and candid exchange of views” on Ukraine but added that Mr. Biden made no “concrete ask” of India and Mr. Modi gave no “concrete answer”.

The comment by the official was in response to a reporter’s question on whether any explicit commitments were sought from India in terms of Russian oil, and also with re-

gard to condemning Russia for attacking Ukraine. Both the official and Press Secretary Jen Psaki emphasised that while payments for energy from Russia were not sanctioned, the U.S. was discouraging India from increasing its purchases of Russian energy.

In comments shortly after the bilateral meeting, Ms. Psaki said that Mr. Biden had “made clear” what the impact of US sanctions would be, adding, “We expect everybody to abide by those”.

“The President made clear that he does not believe it’s in India’s interest to accelerate or increase imports of Russian energy and other commodities,” Ms. Psaki said, adding that Mr. Biden had reiterated a U.S. offer to help India diversify its energy imports. India currently imports only a small 1-2% of its energy from Russia as per official estimates.

Ms. Psaki used the words “constructive”, “productive” and “direct” to describe the conversation. She said the call was not “adversarial”. During the opening segment of the bilateral meeting, Mr. Jaishankar, Mr. Singh, India’s U.S. Ambassador Taranjit Singh Sandhu, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and U.S. National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan were seen seated at the table with Mr. Biden.

# Idea that judges appoint judges is wrong, says CJI

‘Govt. takes final call for President’

**LEGAL CORRESPONDENT**

**NEW DELHI**

The impression that “judges appoint judges” in India is wrong. It is the government which “finally appoints the judges in the name of the President of India, the head of our state”, Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana said on Monday.

Chief Justice Ramana was in conversation with U.S. Supreme Court judge, Justice Stephen Breyer, on the “comparative approaches of the Supreme Courts of the world’s largest and oldest democracies”.

“There is an impression that in India judges appoint judges. It is a wrong impression and I want to correct that. The appointment is done through a lengthy consultative process. Many stakeholders are consulted. The Executive is one of the key stakeholders,” the CJI said.

He explained how once a proposal was made of a

name as a High Court judge, the State government, the High Court and the Governor concerned all take measure of the candidate.

The Centre vets the name thoroughly before the file is sent to the Supreme Court. Then the top three judges of the Supreme Court would examine the proposal based on the inputs given by all the stakeholders.

They, very importantly, take the opinion of the Consultee Judge – a Supreme Court judge hailing from the State or had earlier worked in the particular High Court for which the name was proposed for.

“Many people may not be aware of this... Only after taking into account wide range of opinions from diverse sources, the collegium forms its opinion. Most of the times it is unanimous opinion. I do not think a selection process can be more democratic than this,” the CJI said.

# 'Rural India will create 1.2 cr. jobs in dairy sector'

## Work can ensure food security: Sodhi

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

**BENGALURU**

Rural India will create 1.2 crore new jobs in dairy-related activities in 10 years and these jobs would mean livelihood and food security for a large segment of the population in the country, said R.S. Sodhi, MD, Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (Amul).

The sector has the potential to generate a large number of new jobs, entrepreneurial opportunities, and sustainable incomes for families and therefore ensure food security, he said while addressing a gathering at an Amul facility.

The country's dairy sector would do well for the next 50 years, especially when many neighbouring countries were facing milk



shortages, added Mr. Sodhi.

Software firm SAP and Amul announced a joint community outreach, focused on knowledge transfer and technology capacity building that would transform the lives of 1.5 million people in Gujarat. More than one lakh children, adolescents and women will be helped with digital literacy and skilling through computer labs in schools.

# State of adolescent learning

ASER highlights the dismal picture of online education



**DISHA TRIVEDI**

Over the last few decades in India, there has been a massive government drive to push for universal enrolment, extending to secondary as well as primary school children. Successive Annual Status of Education Reports (ASER) have shown that this drive has been largely successful for both age groups, with high enrolment rates even during the pandemic. Despite two years of COVID-related school closures, the increase in unenrolled 11-14-year-olds has been marginal, while the number of out-of-school 15-16-year-olds has actually fallen, for both boys and girls. This indicates that schools have been able to retain children beyond primary school. This is remarkable, because children are now enrolled beyond the age of compulsory education, and enrolment rates show almost no gender disparity. But enrolment is only one piece of the puzzle.

## **Absence of formal learning**

Although efforts have been made by parents, teachers and governments, learning at home through online education during the pandemic has been far from successful for these children. ASER 2020 and 2021 brought to light a dismal picture of access to technology-based learning resources. Even though over 70% of children in Classes IX to XII had a smartphone at home, only about 35% of them could use it for studies at all times, while 17% could not use it at all. In the absence of formal schooling, family members often assumed the task of teaching. The ASER reports show adolescents did not fare well – older children received less learning support as compared to younger ones.

Additionally, some children – especially older girls – faced competing demands due to financial stress and increased requirement of care work at home. Even in 2017, ASER had reported that almost 90% of female youth aged 14-18 did housework on a daily basis, compared to three-fourth of male youth. According to the Building Back Better report by UNICEF, school closures exacerbated girls' and women's unpaid care work, limiting the time available to learn at home. During COVID-19, girls might have had to replace the work done by the missing caregiver, or simply because of gendered expectations. ASER 2021 data hints at the same. When asked if any child in the household above 12 years of age had started helping out

more with household chores since the lockdown, almost two thirds of the respondents reported in the affirmative. In all age categories, girls were more likely than boys to be taking on this additional burden. For example, about three quarters of 15-year-old girls had started helping out more with chores since the lockdown, a figure which was more than 10 percentage points higher than 15-year-old boys.

## **Gender disparity**

Gender disparity at home may have been aggravated in the pandemic, but it is not new. ASER 2017 had found that 14-18-year-old youth's aspirations were gendered, with most male youth mentioning 'Army/Police' and 'Engineer', while female youth preferred 'Teacher' and 'Doctor/Nurse' as their occupation. The kind of work children did during lockdowns shows that they are exposed to gendered expectations from a young age. A study using ASER, India Human Development Survey and National Family Health Survey data suggests that long before the pandemic, gender disparity had started spilling over into learning outcomes too. The study found that female disadvantage persists in mathematics learning outcomes over the last decade, and shows no signs of disappearing. The study correlates this finding with "regressive household practices" that limit the autonomy of women (such as veiling of the face by women, and the practice of women eating after men), and finds that female disadvantage in mathematics learning is higher where there is higher prevalence of such practices.

All of this points to an eminent need to integrate gender sensitisation modules into curricula for adolescents' education. School-based gender sensitisation programmes can play a transformative role in ensuring that all children get an equitable environment to grow. For example, an attitude change programme in Haryana run by Breakthrough and evaluated by the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) showed promising results, with participants exhibiting gender-equitable behaviours even two years after the programme ended. It was centred around interactive classroom discussions about gender equality in secondary schools. Scaling up such programmes for all schools and States could help bring about more gender-progressive views among communities.

With schools reopening, a gender-equitable environment for their growth should be prioritised. As the world begins to recover from the effects of the pandemic, this is an opportunity to rebuild better – one which should not be missed.

*Disha Trivedi is a research associate at ASER Centre*

# Weighing the choices

Opening up the third dose for those above 18 years is a positive step

As India sees a steady slump in its daily coronavirus count, the Centre has announced opening up the third, or 'precautionary doses', to everyone over 18 years. The restriction is that these doses must be the same as the ones administered earlier and there must be at least a nine-month gap following the second dose, implying that Covishield and Covaxin will comprise almost all of the demand. The experience of the past two years from around the world has shown that the third dose has only a little additional benefit over two doses in preventing an infection because of the constantly mutating character of the virus. But, because it helps keep antibody levels boosted, they are useful in protecting against a severe infection. A major aspect of vaccines is the risk of adverse events following vaccination, and previous experience has suggested that certain vaccines may induce a higher risk of blood clots in younger populations. While these instances are extremely limited, they become particularly relevant in India given the size of the population and that a large number of people – young and old – have already been exposed to the virus. Normally, a technical committee of experts, such as the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI), weighs the evidence before recommending an approved vaccine for roll-out but this practice has been effectively eschewed in the context of booster doses, as well as earlier decisions to inoculate those below 15.

The pandemic is far from over and reports from several other countries suggest that no country can consider itself immune from emerging variants. With schools reopened, mask mandates made voluntary and restrictions on international travel lifted in India, it is reasonable for the Centre to anticipate a future wave led by a more transmissible variant – reports of the highly infectious XE variant have already surfaced here – and, therefore, take steps to buffer against it. However, there is no public information on whether studies have been done to establish if administering a different vaccine as a third dose is better at boosting antibodies than repeating a vaccine. This ideally ought to have been a major area of research for the Centre. Another aspect that bears a closer look is progress on vaccines other than Covaxin and Covishield. The Serum Institute of India appears to be gearing up for large volumes of, not Covishield, but Covavax. Covaxin, following the World Health Organization's recommendation to pause exports pending an upgrade of its production facilities, is also unlikely to see fresh stocks any time soon. Both vaccines in fact will be available at discounted rates in private facilities. Demand is currently lacklustre but were it to spike, will supply be adequate? The Centre needs to be more transparent about the rationale guiding its vaccine policy.

# Global bond sales to surpass \$10 trillion in 2022, says S&P

Borrowing to stay elevated on high debt rollover needs, war

**REUTERS**  
LONDON

Global sovereign borrowing will reach \$10.4 trillion in 2022, almost a third above the average before the COVID-19 pandemic, S&P Global Ratings said in a report.

Despite an economic recovery, borrowing will stay elevated because of high debt rollover requirements and war in Ukraine, the ratings agency said in an annual note.

While 137 countries will borrow an equivalent of \$10.4 trillion in 2022, an estimated 30% lower than 2020, the overall figure is one-third higher than average borrowing between 2016 and 2019, S&P said.



“Tightening monetary conditions will push up government funding costs,” S&P analysts said.

“This will pose additional difficulties to sovereigns that have been unable to restart growth, reduce reliance on foreign currency financing, and where interest bills are already critically high on

average.”

Borrowing in the economies of emerging Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA) will rise \$253 billion to the equivalent of \$3.4 trillion by the end of the year, S&P said in an accompanying report.

Egypt, which has recently sought IMF assistance, is set to overtake Turkey as the region’s largest issuer of sovereign debt, with \$73 billion worth of bond sales, S&P analysts forecast.

Across emerging markets, JPMorgan analysts wrote in a note, the corporate default rate could reach 8.5% this year, more than double the 3.9% they expected before Russia invaded Ukraine.

# HDFC Bank's \$40 bn deal may face regulatory hurdles, say analysts

## Insurance units seen as main concern

REUTERS  
MUMBAI

HDFC Bank's \$40 billion acquisition of its biggest shareholder could face regulatory hurdles due to the stake it would gain in the insurance sector, analysts said.

Sources told Reuters last year that the RBI, which acts as regulator for the financial industry, wants banks to limit ownership stakes in insurance companies.

HDFC Bank's acquisition of HDFC Ltd., announced on Monday, will create an entity with a combined balance sheet worth \$237 billion and will include the target's insurance and other financial subsidiaries.

HDFC Life and HDFC ERGO are among the leading life and general insurance companies in the private sector, and analysts say the RBI is unlikely to be comfortable with the size of the insurance operations the deal will give the bank. HDFC Bank's management said on Monday that they have asked the regulator for clarity on complying with its rules, but analysts believe it may not be easy to come by.

"Considering there are lot of subsidiaries that need to be merged, there could be some regulatory overhang, particularly in the insurance business where the central bank is not very comfortable with banks increasing their stake," said an analyst at a domestic brokerage house.

HDFC Bank did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment on Tuesday. The RBI also did not respond to a request for comment.

One way of folding the units into HDFC Bank could be to create a holding company, but that could have a



negative impact on the balance sheet in the short term, analysts said.

### 'Equation changes'

"If a holding company structure is enforced then the equation changes," Macquarie said in a note. "Cost goes up as stamp duties and taxes will go up," it added.

In the short term, return on equity (RoE), a key financial metric, would also go down as a result of meeting certain regulatory requirements, Macquarie said.

As a shadow bank – a finance company outside the scope of traditional banking regulation – HDFC has a higher cost of funds compared to the bank.

Post merger, the entity may therefore in the short term also see a higher cost of funds, which could affect its margin, said a portfolio manager at a retail brokerage firm.

"Due to this and other ambiguities regarding the deal and the performance, the stock may not see a big valuation re-rating immediately," he added.

HDFC Bank shares fell as much as 3% on Tuesday, while HDFC slid more than 2%. Both stocks had surged about 10% on Monday.

If it clears the hurdles to a deal, HDFC Bank will shrink the gap in size with bigger rival State Bank of India, and pull further away from peers such as ICICI Bank and Axis Bank.

# NITI puts out Energy and Climate Index list

Gujarat, Kerala, Punjab emerge on top; parameters include discoms' performance, sustainability

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

Gujarat has topped the list for larger States in the NITI Aayog's State Energy and Climate Index-Round 1 that has ranked States and Union Territories (UTs) on six parameters including discoms' performance, energy efficiency and environmental sustainability.

The States have been categorised based on size and geographical differences as larger and smaller States and UTs. The index is based on 2019-20 data.

Gujarat, Kerala and Punjab have been ranked as the top three performers in the category of larger States,



**Future forward:** Going forward, States have to make data updation and validation a priority. ■AFP

while Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh were the bottom three States. Goa emerged as the top performer in the smaller States category followed by

Tripura and Manipur. Among UTs, Chandigarh, Delhi and Daman & Diu/Dadra & Nagar Haveli are the top performers.

Punjab was the best per-

former in discom performance, while Kerala topped in access, affordability and reliability category.

Haryana was the best performer in clean energy initiative among larger States and Tamil Nadu in the energy efficiency category.

## **First step**

"The State Energy and Climate Index (SECI) is the first index that aims to track the efforts made by States and UTs in the climate and energy sector...These parameters have been devised keeping in mind India's goals for climate change and clean energy transition," the report said.

It said the SECI is the first step in this journey where States can explore and benchmark themselves on various parameters. For instance, in terms of energy efficiency, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra have done well while in terms of Discom's performance, two small UTs – D&D and D&N – have done well.

Noting that for a few States, data for a few indicators are not available, which has also affected the overall ranking of the States, the report said data update and validation need to be a priority of State governments going forward to help them design better policies.

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-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.
<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.