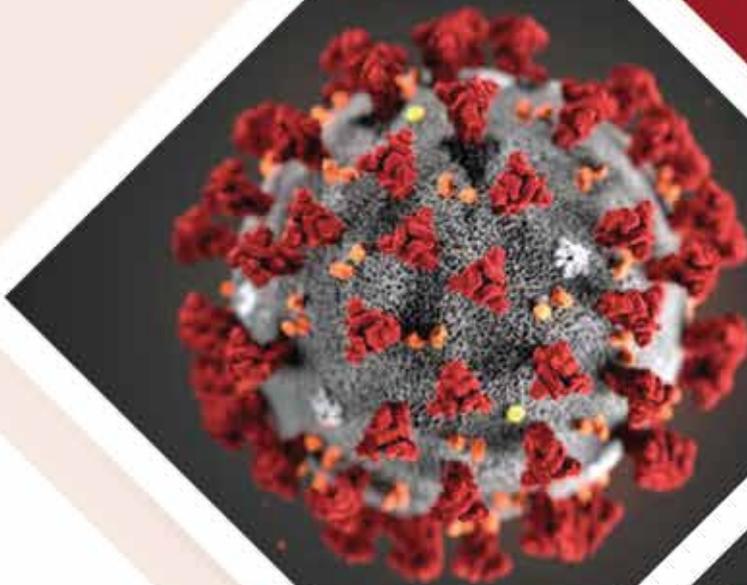




VEDHIK

IAS ACADEMY

The New Learning Mantra



VEDHIK

DAILY NEWS ANALYSIS

06 - MAY - 2022

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.

CONTENTS

- Editorials - A leaked draft, termination rights and the politics GSP 02 E
- News - Collegium recommends two names for Supreme Court GSP 02 E
- News - Panel notifies new J&K Assembly constituencies GSP 02 E
- News - WHO estimates 4.7 million COVID-linked deaths in India Part I GSP 02 T
- News - WHO estimates 4.7 million COVID-linked deaths in India Part II GSP 02 T
- Editorials - Watch the gap GSP 03 A
- News - PMI flags fastest services growth in five months, input costs soar GSP 03 A
- News - War-induced inflation surge said to have forced RBI's hand GSP 03 A
- News - The status of the Naga peace talks GSP 03 U

A leaked draft, termination rights and the politics

The U.S. Supreme Court's 'decision' might have fired up the political scene, but the health statistics must not be ignored



SRIDHAR KRISHNASWAMI

It was something that literally no one expected, and from the portals of the Supreme Court of the United States – a leaked draft of the court's decision on abortion law indicating that a majority of the Justices might have just about agreed to overturn the 1973 landmark *Roe vs Wade* that legalised abortion in America. When Politico got its hands on the 98-page draft, and other media organisations jumped on the bandwagon, all hell broke loose, and expectedly so. In an already divisive country, nothing rankles the partisans more than the sensitive subject of abortion.

Some have likened the leaked document as being the equivalent of the *Pentagon Papers* that surfaced during the Nixon era. In a country where leaks are not out of the ordinary, these have been mostly confined to the White House and the vast bureaucracies, but not from the sacred hallways of the Supreme Court. In fact, one argument has been that even in the heightened political environ-

ment of 2000, when the election of a President (George W. Bush/Al Gore) was being decided, there was not even a whisper about which way the Justices were leaning.

Reactions

But not so this time around. Within a short period of time, the accusations have begun, with the needle of suspicion pointing to the Liberal Justices in the apex court, their clerks and allies, with the intention of alerting the nation about what was in store. According to the story, the first draft had the consent of five Conservative Justices with the Chief Justice, John Roberts, yet to weigh in. "The left continues its assault on the Supreme Court with an unprecedented breach of confidentiality, clearly meant to intimidate. The Justices mustn't give in to this attempt to corrupt the process. Stay strong", tweeted Republican Senator from Missouri, Josh Hawley.

Top Democrats were quick on the draw as well. In a statement, Senate Majority leader Charles Schumer and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi, said, "If the report is accurate, the Supreme Court is poised to inflict that greatest restriction of rights in the past 50 years – not just on women but on all Americans. The Republican-appointed



GETTY IMAGES/STOCKPHOTO

justices' reported votes to overturn *Roe vs Wade* would go down as an abomination, one of the worst and most damaging decisions in modern history."

Out of the nine Justices, six have been appointed by Republican Presidents. Politico has stated that the so-called first draft was supposedly prepared by Justice Samuel Alito with the sole intention of overturning the Court's ruling on *Roe vs Wade* and a 1992 decision in *Planned Parenthood vs Casey*. In the "Opinion of the Court", Justice Alito is said to have written that "*Roe* was egregiously wrong from the start" and that it must be overruled. "It is time to heed the Constitution and return the issue of abortion to the people's representatives", he is said to have added.

Chief Justice Roberts would want a full-scale investigation into

the leak which would most certainly involve the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI); and there is an element of uncertainty as to whether the top court will stay on schedule for a decision in June/July. The argument that the first draft need not necessarily be the final word on the subject has had few takers, with both supporters and opponents in a no-holds barred slanging match, with at least one conservative commentator describing the leak as amounting to an "insurrection" against the top court.

The political angle

There is, undoubtedly, a political angle to this, especially in the run-up to the mid-term elections of November 8 which is about six months away. More immediately, the leak will be seen as having an impact on the primaries that are scheduled in the next few weeks. In a national poll by Marquette Law School in January 2022, 72% were opposed to overturning *Roe vs Wade* as opposed to only 28% who were in favour. And Democratic lawmakers have once again come together to call for codifying *Roe vs Wade* into law – a task that is easier said than done given that the Democrats do not have 60 votes in the Senate and dissension within their ranks on getting rid of filibuster as a procedural tool.

"... the repercussions will be significant," argued Aditi Vaidya of the Center for Health Systems and Policy in the School of Medicine of Tufts University this February. "The removal of the constitutional right to abortion will be felt most among low income people, people of color and rural communities across the country. As history so clearly tells us, banning abortion does not stop them from occurring, it pushes them underground, limiting access to safe abortions," she added, pointing to dangerous methods, unqualified persons in procedures and online pharmacies peddling abortion pills.

Some data

Even as the heated debate has just started and is one that will intensify in the weeks ahead, statistics speak of about 6,30,000 reported abortions in the United States in 2019, down 18% from 2010; 57% of the women were in their twenties; African-American women had the highest rate of abortions, of 27 per 1,000 women aged between 15 years and 44 years. These are telling statistics that the Republicans and the Democrats need to keep in mind as they wrestle for political points.

Sridhar Krishnaswami is a senior journalist in Washington covering North America and the United Nations

Collegium recommends two names for Supreme Court

Sudhanshu Dhulia, Jamshed Pardiwala are HC Chief Justices

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Collegium has recommended Sudhanshu Dhulia and Jamshed Burjor Pardiwala, Chief Justices of the Gauhati and Gujarat High Courts, respectively, for appointment as judges in the top court.

Justice Dhulia will be the second judge to be elevated from the Uttarakhand High Court. He hails from Madanpur, a remote village in Pauri Garhwal district of Uttarakhand.

The grandson of a freedom fighter who took part in the Quit India Movement, Justice Dhulia was elevated as a judge of the High Court of Uttarakhand in November 2008 and later became the Chief Justice of the High Court of Assam, Mizoram, Nagaland and Arunachal



Sudhanshu Dhulia, left, and Jamshed Burjor Pardiwala

Pradesh on January 10, 2021.

Justice Pardiwala is a fourth generation legal professional from his family. His father, Burjor Cawasji Pardiwala, a lawyer, had briefly served as the Speaker of the Seventh Legislative Assembly of Gujarat.

If appointed, Justice Pardiwala will be in line to become the Chief Justice of India and have a tenure of about two years and three

months as top judge of the country. He would be the first from a minority community to be elevated to the Supreme Court in five years, after Justice S. Abdul Nazeer was elevated to the court in February 2017.

Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana has been able to reach a consensus with his Collegium members to recommend 11 names for the top court since August 2021.

Panel notifies new J&K Assembly constituencies

Jammu to get 43 seats, Kashmir 47

**PEERZADA ASHIQ
DAMINI NATH**
SRINAGAR/NEW DELHI

The Jammu and Kashmir Delimitation Commission on Thursday notified the new boundaries, names and number of Assembly constituencies in Jammu and Kashmir, paving the way for the first-ever Assembly election in the Union Territory that was carved out of the erstwhile State of J&K in 2019.

While not mentioned in its order, the Delimitation Commission said in a statement that it had recommended to the Centre to nominate at least two “Kashmiri migrants” to the Legislature who would have the same powers as nominated members of the Puducherry Assembly and to “consider” giving “some representation” to persons displaced from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

A source said this was a “proposal” that the Centre

would take a call on.

A day before its term was to end, the Commission, chaired by Justice (retired) Ranjana Prakash Desai and including Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra and J&K State Election Commissioner K.K. Sharma as ex-officio members, met to finalise its order and later issued a gazette notification.

The delimitation was carried out based on the 2011 Census and other considerations like geographical features and access.

The new Assembly would have 90 seats, 47 in Kashmir and 43 in Jammu, an increase from the earlier 83, with six of the additional seats being in Jammu and one in Kashmir. In a first, nine seats were reserved for the Scheduled Tribes – six in the Jammu region and three in the Kashmir Valley, the commission said.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 10

WHO estimates 4.7 million COVID-linked deaths in India

The figure is nearly 10 times the government's official count for 2020 and 2021

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

There were likely 47 lakh deaths, directly or indirectly attributable to COVID-19, in India in 2020 and 2021, a report by the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Thursday. These are the highest, by far, for any country and make up nearly a third of the 15 million such deaths estimated by the agency globally.

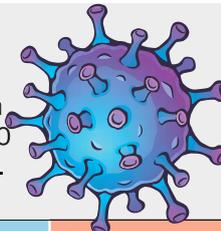
India officially estimated only 4.8 lakh cumulative deaths linked to COVID-19 as of December 2021, which implies that the WHO estimate is nearly 10 times the government count. As of May, India's official COVID-19 death toll is 5.2 lakh.

Minutes after the WHO released its estimate, India reiterated its "objection to the methodology" used.

"These sobering data not only point to the impact of the pandemic but also to the need for all countries to invest in more resilient health systems that can sustain essential health services during crises, including stronger

Scary count

According to WHO's calculations, 4.74 million excess deaths associated with COVID-19 occurred in India between 2020 and 2021, nearly 10 times the official toll. A look at top 10 countries



Country	Cumulative excess deaths associated with COVID-19 in million	Officially reported COVID-19 deaths in million	Excess deaths as a multiple of official COVID-19 deaths
India	4.74	0.48	9.8
Russia	1.07	0.30	3.5
Indonesia	1.03	0.14	7.1
U.S.	0.93	0.82	1.1
Brazil	0.68	0.62	1.1
Mexico	0.63	0.30	2.1
Peru	0.29	0.20	1.4
Turkey	0.26	0.08	3.2
Egypt	0.25	0.02	11.5
S. Africa	0.24	0.09	2.6

health information systems," WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said. "WHO is committed to working with all countries to strengthen their health information systems...."

Excess deaths are calculated as the difference between the number of deaths that have occurred and the

number that would be expected in the absence of the pandemic based on data from earlier years. Excess mortality includes deaths associated with COVID-19 directly or indirectly (due to the pandemic's impact on health systems).

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 10

4.7 million COVID-linked deaths in India: WHO

Deaths indirectly linked to COVID-19 are attributable to other health conditions for which people were unable to access prevention and treatment because health systems were overburdened by the pandemic. The estimated number of excess deaths can be influenced also by deaths averted during the pandemic due to lower risks of certain events, such as motor-vehicle accidents or occupational injuries.

Most of the excess deaths (84%) are concentrated in South-East Asia, Europe, and the Americas. About two-thirds of the excess deaths are concentrated in 10 countries. The pandemic globally claimed more men than women (57% male, 43% female). There were 5.3 lakh deaths in men 60 and older in India in 2020 and 19 lakh deaths in that age group in 2021. There were

3.5 lakh and 15 lakh, respectively, for women.

India on Tuesday made public birth and death registration data from 2020 that reported 4.75 lakh excess deaths from all causes in 2020 over 2019. This data is from the Civil Registration System (CRS) that only counts deaths registered and doesn't break down causes of death.

India's prime objections are that the WHO used mathematical modelling to estimate deaths for India that did not accurately reflect the Indian situation and ignored official estimates.

WHO officials at a press conference did not directly respond to India's criticism but said that they were in dialogue with Indian government experts and that the estimates would be updated.

Watch the gap

Widening trade deficit puts more pressure on the rupee and spurs growth-retarding inflation

Official data on India's merchandise trade for April give reason for cheer at first glance. Emerging from a record export performance during the just-concluded financial year, outward shipments for the month rose 24.2% from a year earlier, with electronics and chemicals showing healthy expansion, while petroleum products more than doubled. However, imports continued to outpace exports, growing by 26.6% to broaden the goods trade deficit, which widened to \$20.07 billion from \$18.5 billion in March. The trade deficit – the extent to which the import bill exceeds export receipts – worryingly breached \$200 billion for a rolling 12-month period for the first time in April, impacted predominantly by petroleum imports of \$172 billion. Global crude oil prices have surged by more than 40% in 2022 in the wake of Russia's war on Ukraine, swelling the import bill. The early onset of the Indian summer, with a heatwave, has bolstered power demand, setting the pace for coal imports, which grew 136% last month, notwithstanding record output by key domestic supplier Coal India. For the first time ever, the Ministry of Power has set timelines for States to import coal over the next few months, a far cry from the 16% year-on-year decline in imports of the fuel in the April 2021-January 2022 period and a clear portent that the bill for overseas purchases of coal is also set to swell.

Monitoring the trade deficit is crucial as this has a direct bearing on the current account deficit (CAD). Disconcertingly, foreign direct investment, which typically helps bridge the CAD, has seen a moderation. And, the wider the CAD, the greater the downward pressure on the rupee, which has already weakened considerably since the conflict in eastern Europe began in February. A weaker rupee, in turn, makes imports costlier, potentially widening the trade deficit, and thus triggering a vicious cycle. The RBI has sought to steady the rupee against wild swings, evident in the dip in foreign exchange reserves to \$600.4 billion (April 22), from \$640 billion just six months earlier. But a central bank can draw on the reserves to ease any rupee weakening only to a limited extent. The RBI also has its hands full with the battle against imported inflation as global commodity prices remain sharply elevated. To help avoid added stress, the Government must consider additional incentives for exports, while encouraging local production of items that strain the import bill. The coal crisis could have been averted with better advance estimates of power demand as the country emerged from the worst of the pandemic, and optimal allocation of coal-carrying rail wagons. Policymakers can ill afford to let their guard down on trade imbalances and risk growth-retarding inflation and more pressure on the rupee.

PMI flags fastest services growth in five months, input costs soar

April export orders dip the most since Sept.; inflation fears dampen sentiment

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

New business and output from India's services sector grew at the fastest pace in five months in April, as per the S&P Global India Services PMI, which increased to 57.9, from 53.6 in March. The survey showed selling prices surged at the sharpest pace since July 2017 amid a near-record upturn in input costs.

Inflation concerns continued to dampen business confidence, even as employment rose for the first time in five months, as per the survey-based index. A reading of 50 on the PMI signals no change in business activity.

"International demand



Job hopes: Employment increased for the first time in five months, as per the survey-based index. ■ B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

for Indian services worsened in April, a trend that has been recorded in each month since the onset of COVID-19 in March 2020," S&P Global said. "New orders from abroad fell at a marked

pace that was the quickest since September 2021," it added.

Real estate and business services sectors were the only ones to report a contraction in new orders and out-

put during April, while consumer services, finance and insurance were the best performers. Businesses reported higher chemical, food, fuel, labour, material and retail costs in April with the overall inflation in inputs rising at the second-strongest pace since PMI data collection started in 2005.

Some firms also reported higher wage costs, which escalated overall expenses.

"Yet, companies resumed their hiring efforts in April, as seen by the first increase in employment since last November. Firms that took on extra staff linked the rise to ongoing growth of new business," S&P Global observed.

War-induced inflation surge said to have forced RBI's hand

April CPI inflation likely to be a 'shocker', people familiar say

LALATENDU MISHRA
MUMBAI

An unexpectedly rapid surge in 'war-induced inflation' in March and April forced the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) to hold an emergency off-cycle meeting this week and announce the first repo rate increase in more than three-and-a-half years, people familiar with the central bank's thinking said.

The inflation print for March, which was announced on April 12 four days after the MPC had concluded its first policy review of the new fiscal year, had ended up 50 basis points higher than the RBI's forecast at almost 7% and with



the reading for April expected to be even higher and a 'big shocker', it became imperative for the MPC to meet urgently to take timely action, the people, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, explained.

Indonesia's sudden decision to completely ban ex-

ports of palm oil had also added to the concern.

Any further delay could have turned counterproductive as the Indian economy has no capacity to withstand a larger rate increase, say of 150-200 bps, they added.

With the RBI detecting signals that there could be a nasty inflation surprise on May 12 (when the April CPI data are expected to be released) it decided to space out its policy response, the people said.

Going forward, the RBI aims to reverse its previous pandemic-triggered rate moves in small steps, much the same way it had reduced rates during the pandemic, they observed.

EXPLAINER

The status of the Naga peace talks

What are the demands of various Naga factions? Who are the NSCN-IM?

DIKSHA MUNJAL

The story so far: The annual report of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) released recently said that the Isak-Muiwah faction of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN-IM) was involved in 44% of insurgency-related incidents in Nagaland in 2020.

The Union government had, in 2015, signed a framework agreement with the NSCN-IM to find a solution to the Naga political issue. The negotiations are yet to be concluded.

Why did the Naga insurgency begin? The term Naga was created by the British for administrative convenience to refer to a group of tribes with similar origins but distinct cultures, dialects, and customs. The Naga tribes are accumulated in Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, and Myanmar.

Residing in the Naga hills of Assam during the advent of the British and the annexation of Assam in 1820, the Nagas did not consider themselves a part of British India. The British adopted a way of governance over the Nagas that involved keeping in place their traditional ways of life, customs, and laws while putting British administrators at the top.

At the time of the withdrawal of the British, insecurity grew among the Naga tribes about the future of their cultural autonomy after India's independence,



Cadres of the NSCN-IM. • FILE PHOTO

which was accompanied by the fear of the entry of "plains people" or "outsiders" into their territory. These gave rise to the formation of the Naga Hills District Tribal Council in 1945, which was renamed the Naga National Council (NNC) in 1946. Amid uncertainties over the post-independence future of the Nagas, a section of the NNC, led by Naga leader A.Z. Phizo declared the independence of the Nagas on August 14, 1947, a day before India's declaration.

The underground insurgency began in the early 1950s when Mr. Phizo founded the Naga Federal Government (NFG) and its armed wing, the Naga Federal Army (NFA). The Central Government sent the

armed forces into Naga areas to curb the insurgency and imposed the contentious Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA), which is still in place in parts of Nagaland.

The Nagas, led by Mr. Phizo, demanding an independent state outside of India, boycotted the 1952 and 1957 general elections and armed clashes grew. Unlike other groups in the north east which were accepting some form of autonomy under the Constitution, Nagas rejected this in favour of sovereignty.

Some leaders among the NNC formed their own group to hold discussions with the government, leading to the formation of the State of Nagaland in 1963. This, however, did not satisfy many in the NNC and NFG, who, following years of negotiations with the government, eventually signed the Shillong Accord of 1975, agreeing to surrender arms and accept the Constitution.

When did the NSCN come into the picture?

This signing of the Shillong Accord was not agreeable with many top leaders of the NNC and those operating from Myanmar as the agreement did not address the issue of Naga sovereignty and coerced them to accept the Constitution.

Three NNC leaders – Thuingaleng Muivah of the Tangkhul Naga tribe of Manipur's Ukhrul district, Isak Chishi Swu of the Sema tribe, and S. S. Khaplang

from Myanmar's Hemis tribe, formed the National Socialist Council Of Nagaland (NSCN) to continue the armed movement. The motto of the NSCN was to create a People's Republic of Nagaland free of Indian rule.

In 1988, after years of infighting and violent clashes along tribal lines and over the main cause of the movement, the NSCN split into two factions. One, led by Mr. Muiwah and Swu called the NSCN-IM and the other, led by Mr. Khaplang called the NSCN-K. The NSCN-IM demanded and continues to demand 'Greater Nagaland' or Nagalim – it wants to extend Nagaland's borders by including Naga-dominated areas in the neighbouring States of Assam, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh. The NSCN-IM has now grown to become the most powerful insurgent group, also playing a role in the creation of smaller groups in other States. Its armed operations intensified along with illegal activities like tax extortion, smuggling of weapons and so on.

Where do the peace talks stand now?

In 1997, the Government of India got the NSCN-IM to sign a ceasefire agreement to begin the holding of talks with the aim of signing a Naga Peace Accord. After this ceasefire, there have been over a hundred rounds of talks spanning over 24 years between the Centre and the

insurgent group, while a solution is still awaited. New Delhi has been holding peace parleys simultaneously with the NSCN-IM, and the Naga National Political Groups (NPPGs) comprising at least seven other extremist groups, including the NSCN (K).

In 2015, it signed a Framework Agreement with the NSCN (IM), the first step towards an actual Peace Accord. The then Joint Intelligence Chief R.N. Ravi was appointed the interlocutor for Naga peace talks and signed the agreement on behalf of the Centre. He was later appointed as Nagaland's Governor in 2019 to further the negotiations.

The negotiations hit an impasse in 2020, with the NSCN-IM demanding the removal of Mr. Ravi as interlocutor, accusing him of "high handedness" and tweaking the agreement to mislead other Naga groups. The NSCN-IM continued to demand a separate flag and constitution for the Nagas and the creation of Nagalim, which it claimed was agreed upon in the Agreement. Mr. Ravi, however, denied this claim. After Mr. Ravi's removal as the interlocutor last year, Intelligence Bureau officer A.K. Mishra was first appointed as the Centre's adviser and then the interlocutor for the peace talks. On April 19 this year, Mr. Mishra visited the NSCN-IM's camp in Dimapur to hold closed-door talks but issues over the Naga flag and constitution remain to be ironed out.

THE GIST

■ The recently released annual report of the Ministry of Home Affairs said that the Isak-Muiwah faction of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN-IM) was involved in 44% of insurgency-related incidents in Nagaland in 2020.

■ The NSCN-IM continues to demand 'Greater Nagaland' or Nagalim – it wants to extend Nagaland's borders by including Naga-dominated areas in the neighbouring States of Assam, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh.

■ In 1997, the Government of India got the NSCN-IM to sign a ceasefire agreement to begin the holding of talks with the aim of signing a Naga Peace Accord. There have been over a hundred rounds of talks, after the ceasefire, between the Centre and the insurgent group but no solution.

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.