



**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 - "Vedhik - Daily News Analysis (DNA)\_The Hindu" compilations to help you with UPSC Civil Services Examination preparation. We believe this initiative - "Vedhik - Daily News Analysis (DNA)\_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 Haameed 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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# Maharishi Dayanand removed evils falsely attributed to religion: Modi

**Abhinay Lakshman**

NEW DELHI

Kicking off the two-year celebrations commemorating Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati's 200<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the Arya Samaj founder removed "all evils falsely attributed to religion with the light of religion itself".

The Prime Minister was addressing a gathering at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium where he released a logo for the celebrations. He also participated in a *yagna* during the ceremony. The PM said the birth anniversary being celebrated during India's *Amrit Kaal* [lead-up to 100 years of Independence] was a "sacred inspiration". "In



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being presented a 'Samman Patra' by Gujarat Governor Acharya Devvrat on the 200th birth anniversary of Dayanand Saraswati, in New Delhi on Sunday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

this era of discord, violence and instability, the path shown by Maharishi Dayanand gives hope," he said. Maharishi Dayanand was born in an era when false interpretation of the Vedas was used to belittle

India, and its traditions were being deformed as part of efforts to "crush the ideals, culture and roots" of the nation, he said.

Mr. Modi spoke of Maharishi Dayanand's campaigns against social ills

such as discrimination and untouchability. "Evils that were falsely attributed to religion, Swamiji removed them with the light of religion itself," Mr. Modi said.

The Prime Minister said he was fortunate to have been born in the same land as Swami Dayanand in present-day Gujarat and spoke of how his ideals continued to impact his life.

## 'Pride in heritage'

Mr. Modi added that the New Education Policy had also been designed to modernise education "with a focus on Indianness" and that the country's wish to follow Swami Dayanand's teachings is reflected in the fact that people are now "confidently calling for pride in our heritage".

# 'Indo-U.S. Unmanned Aerial Vehicle to be flight-tested this year'

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

A prototype of the Air-Launched Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (ALUAV) developed jointly by India and the United States is likely to be flight-tested later this year, said a member of the U.S. government delegation to Aero India 2023.

Major General Julian C. Cheater, Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of the U.S. Air Force, International Affairs, said, "There is certainly some progress with respect to the ALUAV, this project arrangement was signed last year and we are expecting to conduct flight testing as early as the fall [September-November] of 2023. The flight testing will occur at a range in northern India as well as in the U.S."

In 2021, the Indian Ministry of Defence and U.S. Department of Defense signed a Project Agreement for ALUAV, under the Joint Working Group Air Systems in the Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI).

Bengaluru-based Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE) and the Aerospace Systems Directorate at the U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory, along with the Indian and U.S. Air Forces, are the principal organisations for execution of the project agreement.

**The flight testing of the ALUAV prototype will occur at a range in northern India as well as in the U.S.**

Major General Cheater said that ALUAV would be launched from the C130J aircraft. "We will develop sensors on the package and we expect that this particular UAV would most likely be launched from the C130J aircraft. That signifies a seven-year project arrangement. It is a long-term agreement and it also involves technology transfer that is a great step in the relationship of the two countries," Major General Cheater said.

## **F-35 at expo**

On the likely participation of the U.S.'s F-35 stealth aircraft in the Aero India 2023, a member of the delegation said that if it did, it would be the most advanced aircraft in the airshow. The delegation also said that it would be too premature for the U.S. to offer the F-35 to India.

The head of the U.S. delegation to Aero India, Ambassador A. Elizabeth Jones, said India and the U.S. were working together in many ways to ensure a free and open, prosperous, connected, and resilient Indo-Pacific region, where democracies can thrive.

# 'EU cannot help prop up a repressive regime in Kabul'

The European Union's Special Envoy for Afghanistan signals a possible shift in dealing with the Taliban, but does not endorse alternative opposition groups that are seeking to put up armed resistance; he says the EU wants to have dialogue with Afghan entrepreneurs, women and the Taliban; on denial of visas for Afghan students in India, he says he wants to have a better overview of the situation

## INTERVIEW

**Tomas Niklasson**

Suhasini Haidar

India and the European Union (EU) need to speak up together on upholding of human rights in Afghanistan, says the European Union's Special Envoy for Afghanistan, Tomas Niklasson, who visited Delhi for consultations on the way forward. Mr. Niklasson says Taliban's increased restrictions on women and the ban on girls' education is of particular concern for the EU. Such restrictions may lead the EU to change its policy on engagement and assistance to the regime in Kabul, he says.

**Has the Taliban's ban on women's education and**

**rights changed the view of the international community towards engaging the regime?**

We could have managed to build a more constructive relationship with Taliban, or helped stabilise the Afghan economy, if we would have seen any progress being made towards development and upholding of human rights.

If we had seen for example, secondary schools opening for girls, or Taliban taking positive steps towards opening a political dialogue on specific issues, taken a less harsh position on journalists, been more successful in implementing their so-called amnesty for officials from the previous government, if they had taken steps towards either recognising the Constitution in place, or proposing a new one, and implementing rule of law.

But the fact is, they have not, and we cannot be seen

as helping to prop up an increasingly repressive regime. There will be a meeting of EU Foreign Ministers in Brussels on February 20, the first occasion when our Ministers will talk about Afghanistan substantially in this format since September 2021.

**Where do you see India's role today – where it has a technical mission in Kabul, and is talking to the Taliban?**

India has taken a similar position as the EU, by establishing limited presence in Kabul and saying we don't want to close doors on engaging the regime, while not recognising it, of course. And we don't want to sit back in Brussels and Delhi and tell ourselves that we don't want to close doors, we actually want to be there to have a dialogue with Afghan entrepreneurs, with journalists, with civil society, with Af-



ghan women, with Taliban, as needed. Because if we are not there, others remain.

**During your visit here, is there something you are asking India to do?**

India and the EU need to stand up for the common principles, common values that we share about human rights and democracy, inclusive government, etc. The European Union is often quite outspoken in public diplomacy and making

better what the Indian position is, and I would like to get the facts right as well. I don't come with an agenda. These are issues that people have mentioned to me before I was coming here. And these are also issues that some of our Indian counterparts have raised with me, but as I said, my first point would be to have a better overview of the situation.

**When it comes to alternatives to the Taliban, what is the EU's position on supporting the political opposition, or armed groups like Ahmed Massoud-led NRF?**

For the EU, supporting armed groups, or military interventions is simply not on the table. I think any power considering doing so should consider the many risks: supporting the wrong people, or the armed resistance not suc-

ceeding, or tainting any attempted armed resistance by making them being seen as supported from abroad. And if one actor would extend financial or political support to any specific group, other countries would most likely support other groups, and we would risk seeing again, a spiral of violence inside the country.

We are happy to come to listen, we are happy to engage in a dialogue, as long as armed resistance is not on the table. But we also see the risk that if any group were to be seen as set up, facilitated, pushed by us, it would be counter-productive.

**In the Doha agreement, the Taliban had committed to not allowing foreign terror groups in Afghanistan. Is that promise being kept at all?**

Last summer, the leader of

Al-Qaeda was killed in a building owned or controlled by senior Taliban members. That is a clear indication that the Taliban have not delivered on one of their commitments in the Doha agreement. We see an increasing number of attacks claimed by ISIS-KP against diplomatic missions, and their numbers are rising too. Each neighbouring country has at least one group they are worried about – IMU for Uzbekistan, ETIM for China, TTP for Pakistan and LeT and JeM for India, and none of the neighbours seems convinced that the Taliban are fully capable or fully willing to guarantee their security.

Perhaps even though they have issues with each other, neighbouring countries will seek collective solutions, at least in terms of intelligence sharing among themselves. (Full interview is at [bit.ly/euspecialenvoy](https://bit.ly/euspecialenvoy))

# The spirit of the law lies in this dissenting judgment

How must the rights of religious groups be balanced with the rights of its adherents? This question has long plagued India's courts. When one such clash arose in 1962, the Supreme Court of India, through a 4:1 ruling, firmly placed group rights over individual freedom. There, in *Sardar Syedna Taher Saifuddin vs The State Of Bombay*, a challenge was mounted by the leader of the Dawoodi Bohra community, the Dai-ul-Mutlaq, to the Bombay Prevention of Excommunication Act, 1949. The law prohibited religious communities from expelling individuals from a group's membership. The petitioner claimed that he served not only as a trustee of the community's properties but that he had also been vested with power to excommunicate from the denomination any member of his choice. In his belief, this power was integral to the Dawoodi Bohras' collective right to religious freedom.

The Court, with Chief Justice of India B.P. Sinha dissenting, declared the law unconstitutional. It held that the Dai's power to excommunicate was so essential to the group's faith that a legislation, in the name of social welfare, cannot be allowed to reform a religion out of its existence. The verdict has long been a subject of critique. On February 10, 2023, the Court, through Justice A.S. Oka's judgment (*Central Board of Dawoodi Bohra Community vs The State Of Maharashtra*), agreed that it merited reconsideration, for at least two reasons.

First, the original ruling had failed to examine whether the rights of religious denominations ought to be balanced with other fundamental rights, particularly the rights of its individual members to be treated with equal care and dignity.

Second, in the years since *Sardar Syedna*, Indian jurisprudence has evolved to a point where any act of excommunication ought to be tested on a touchstone of constitutional morality. Given these failures, the Court believed that the issues involved ought to be resolved by a larger Bench, in this case by a nine-judge Bench, where questions emanating out of the Sabarimala dispute are already pending consideration.

## In India, conflict is inevitable

There is, in the words of the former Chief Justice of Canada Beverly McLachlin, no "magic barometer" to measure limits on religious freedom. But given the inextricable link between religion and social life – especially stark in India – denominational rights invariably come into conflict both with laws of general application and with the individual rights of a group's adherents.



**Suhrit Parthasarathy**  
is an advocate practising in the Madras High Court

When the Bench searches for answers to the questions posed by 'Sardar Syedna', it would do well to focus on the opinion of the then Chief Justice of India

Resolving one such battle, the Court, in *Shirur Mutt* (1954) held that it was only those aspects of religion which are "essential" to faith that deserve constitutional protection. Determining what is essential, the Court ruled, would depend on what devotees to the faith deem as integral to that religion. This exercise was meant to be narrowly tailored. But the carefully drawn-out distinction between the religious and the secular soon collapsed, and soon the Court, through a series of rulings, assumed theological authority and interpreted religious scriptures to determine which practices were, in fact, central to faith.

Over time, this "essential practices" doctrine began to border on the absurd. In one instance, the Court found that the *Tandava* dance practised by the Anandi Margis was inessential to religion even though the sect's founder expressly mandated the performance of the dance. The upshot was this: judges, quite contrary to deciding when the state must be allowed to legitimately intervene in matters of religion, were sketching out boundaries to determine which rites and rituals were deserving of constitutional protection in the first place.

This approach undermined the elementary rationale behind the guarantee of religious freedom: that members of religious groups must enjoy an ethical autonomy to determine for themselves how best to lead their lives. But equally, as the judgment in *Sardar Syedna* attested, the essential practices doctrine also meant that the Court was sometimes unwilling to strike down a practice that impinged on individual rights merely because the practice in question as essential to faith. It was for this reason that Justice D.Y. Chandrachud suggested in his concurring opinion in the Sabarimala case that we look towards alternatives.

One choice can be found, as it happens, in *Sardar Syedna*. There, in a rousing dissent, CJI Sinha held that it was immaterial whether the practice of excommunication was essential to religion. What the Court had to see was the effect that the practice had on the expelled adherent. As the judgment recognised, a person who had been excommunicated would be disentitled from using the communal mosque and burial ground, and would practically be regarded an outcast. What is more, because of the expulsion, no other person from the community could have any contact, social or religious, with the excommunicated member. Thus, the law in question, as the CJI wrote, merely carried out the "strict injunction of Article 17" – through which untouchability in any form stood abolished.

There is a clear logic to this opinion. Religious

groups are vested with rights so that independent members can come together to fulfil collective desires. At the heart of this guarantee is the individual. Therefore, howsoever essential a practice might be to faith, it cannot be allowed to undermine the dignity of the individual.

## The subject of 'constitutional morality'

Article 26, which recognises the rights of religious denominations, begins with a dictate that its promise would be "subject to public order, morality and health". What might morality mean? In referring *Sardar Syedna* to a larger Bench, Justice Oka makes clear that morality today must be understood to mean "constitutional morality". It must subsume within it the fundamental values supporting the Constitution: among them, the ideas of liberty, equality, and fraternity. Justice Oka wrote, "Even assuming that the excommunication of members of the Dawoodi Bohra community is always made on religious grounds, the effect and consequences thereof, on the person excommunicated needs to be considered in the context of justiciable constitutional rights." He found, on the face of things, that excommunication brought with it serious civic consequences, affecting a person's right to lead a meaningful life.

History has repeatedly shown us that discrimination within religious boundaries often breaches those frontiers and tends to impinge on a person's relationship with the wider world. If autonomy vested in groups over matters of religion is allowed to trump the rights guaranteed to individual members (to be treated with dignity and equal care and concern) the central tenets underlying the Constitution will cave in.

The anti-exclusion principle rests on a further axiom: that power equations within religious denominations mean that rules are often enforced by dominant community leaders. This leaves little scope for what the professor of law, Madhavi Sunder, described as "cultural dissent". In her words, a law that favours autonomy of the group over the autonomy of the individual will have "the harmful effect of favouring the view of the association proffered by the powerful over the views proffered by less powerful members of the group that is, traditionally subordinate members such as women, children, and sexual minorities".

The dissenting judgment in *Sardar Syedna* rests on similar foundations. When the nine-judge Bench searches for answers to the questions posed to it, it will do well to turn to CJI Sinha's opinion, for in it lies the brooding spirit of the law.

# The saga of appointing Justice Victoria Gowri

The cardinal question raised in the Supreme Court by a group of petitioners is whether the appointment of a person who has “spread hate against citizens due to their religious affiliation will erode the independence of the judiciary, the fundamental right of access to justice and the faith of the general public in the integrity of the judicial institution”

## LETTER & SPIRIT

Krishnadas Rajagopal

Justice Lekshmana Chandra Victoria Gowri took oath as an Additional Judge of the Madras High Court on February 7, leaving in her wake a pulsating question directed at the Collegium system of judicial appointments, during a time when it is under attack.

### The chain of events

The Supreme Court Collegium recommended the elevation of advocate Gowri (as she was then) as a judge of the Madras HC on January 17. A group of 21 lawyers, shot off a communication to the President and the Collegium on February 1 and February 2, respectively, accusing her of making public utterances amounting to hate speech on social media. The petitions alleged that Justice Gowri had in two interviews on YouTube in 2018 launched into a “shocking, distasteful diatribe”. They said her interviews were peppered with communal statements.

They sought an interim order like in the case of *Sri Kumar Padma Prasad versus Union of India* in 1992 when the apex court had restrained a judicial appointee to the Gauhati High Court from taking oath and assuming office as a judge.

Chief Justice Chandrachud made an oral statement in open court that these “developments” came to the notice of the Collegium after the recommendation was “formulated”. After initially listing the case on February 10, it was advanced to February 7 as by then Law Minister Kiren Rijiju had tweeted her appointment as judge.

The oath-taking ceremony was scheduled at 10:35 am on February 7. While the petitioners’ lawyers were summoned to Chief Justice Chandrachud’s court at 9.15 am on the same day, a Bench comprising of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and B.R. Gavai dismissed the petitions in a 25-minute hearing. A nine-page order published on February 10 reasoned that judicially reviewing a Collegium recommendation



The Madras HC Acting Chief Justice with the newly sworn-in Additional Judge Justice Victoria Gowri. ANI

would “violate the law and amount to evaluating and substituting the decision of the Collegium with individual or personal opinion on the suitability and merits of the person”.

### Eligibility versus suitability

The petitioners, represented by senior advocate Raju Ramachandran and advocate Sanchita Ain, quoted the Supreme Court’s own 2009 case of *Mahesh Chandra Gupta versus Union of India*, which had held that questions of eligibility of a candidate and effective consultation for appointment as a HC judge under Article 217(2) of the Constitution, was open to judicial review.

They contended that the decision-making process was “stymied” as the Collegium did not have full information about Justice Gowri’s “vitriolic comments”. Mr. Ramachandran argued that her social media utterances revealed a strong prejudice that would threaten access to justice. Absence of prejudice was the essence of an

independent judiciary and she had made herself ineligible for judicial office. The Bench responded that the scrutiny process was “fairly robust” and included taking the opinion of consultee judges in the Supreme Court and the High Courts.

Its order said whether a person was “fit” to be appointed as a judge essentially involved the aspect of “suitability” and not “eligibility”. Aspects of suitability stood excluded from the purview of judicial review.

The Bench distinguished between ‘suitability’ and ‘eligibility’ of a candidate zeroed in for HC judgeship. Eligibility was based on “objective factors” given in Article 217(2) of the Constitution like citizenship and 10 years’ experience as a judicial officer or a lawyer in a High Court.

The suitability of a candidate was the domain of the Collegium as it involved a procedure “designed to test the fitness of a person, including her character, integrity, competence, knowledge and the like”.

### On hate speech

The petitioners pointed out that Ms. Gowri, who was a senior standing counsel for the central government from 2015 until 2020 and later an Assistant Solicitor General, was affiliated to the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party. She had described herself as “Chowkidar Victoria Gowri” in her Twitter handle, which was “now removed”. Justice Khanna said there had been HC and SC judges with political antecedents and that an advocate’s political leanings did not disqualify her from being appointed a judge. To this, Mr. Ramachandran argued that political background was not the “question here at all... It is hate speech that matters here. You may be a member of a political party, but hate speech by that member ran antithetical to the tenets of the Constitution and renders you unfit to take oath as a judge”. The petitioners said Justice Gowri’s statements “reveal her revulsion against certain protected religious communities in our country”. Their petition referred to the *Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association versus Union of India* of 1993 which had observed that “justice without fear or favour, ill-will or affection, is the cardinal creed of our Constitution and solemn assurance of every judge to the people of this great country”. They referred to the Supreme Court’s 2009 judgment in *N. Kannadasan versus Ajoy Khose* which said “a judge must have these basic qualities and, thus, must be found to possess the same”. Mr. Ramachandran submitted that “strong communal bias” like prior conviction for a crime and undischarged insolvency, disqualified at the very threshold a person from appointment as a HC judge under Article 217 (2) of the Constitution.

But the Bench said that “the fact of the matter is all these matters must have been placed before the Collegium... it is not that the Collegium was not aware. If there was anything, they would have reconsidered... Can you show such a lack of respect to the Collegium?”. Dismissing the case, the court said, “We don’t think we will be able to pass any orders at this stage... We will be setting a very wrong precedent.”

### THE GIST

▼ The Supreme Court Collegium recommended the elevation of advocate Gowri as a judge of the Madras HC on January 17. A group of 21 lawyers, shot off a petition accusing her of making public utterances amounting to hate speech on social media. The petitions alleged that Justice Gowri had in two interviews on YouTube in 2018 launched into a “shocking, distasteful diatribe”.

▼ On February 7, a Bench comprising of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and B.R. Gavai dismissed the petitions in a 25-minute hearing.

▼ The petitioners said Justice Gowri’s statements “reveal her revulsion against certain protected religious communities in our country”. They submitted that “strong communal bias” like prior conviction for a crime and undischarged insolvency, disqualified at the very threshold a person from appointment as a HC judge under Article 217(2) of the Constitution.

# Former SC judge among 6 new Governors appointed

Justice Nazeer (retd) was part of Benches that delivered the verdicts on demonetisation, Ayodhya, privacy; President accepts resignations of Maharashtra Governor Koshyari, Ladakh L-G Mathur

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

**F**ormer Supreme Court judge Justice S. Abdul Nazeer (retd) is among the six new faces appointed Governors by President Droupadi Murmu on Sunday.

The President also accepted the resignations of Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari and Ladakh Lieutenant-Governor R.K. Mathur in the latest gubernatorial reshuffle.

Justice Nazeer (retd), who was part of the five-judge Bench that delivered the November 2019 *Ayodhya* verdict, has been appointed Governor of Andhra Pradesh, while the incumbent, Biswa Bhushan Harichandan, has been moved to the Chhattisgarh Raj Bhavan.

The former judge, who

## New roles

A look at the appointees for six Raj Bhavans



S. Abdul Nazeer



Lt. Gen. Parnaik



L.P. Acharya



C.P. Radhakrishnan



S.P. Shukla



G.C. Kataria

■ **Justice S. Abdul Nazeer (retd):** He was part of the Constitution Benches which delivered judgments on issues such as demonetisation, reservation for Marathas, Ayodhya land dispute, instant 'triple talaq' and the one that declared 'right to privacy' a fundamental right. He will be Governor of Andhra Pradesh

■ **Lt. Gen. Kaiwalya Trivikram Parnaik (retd):** He served as commander of the Army's prestigious Northern Command. He will be Governor of Arunachal Pradesh

■ **Lakshman Prasad Acharya:** A BJP leader, he is a member of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council. He will be Governor of Sikkim

■ **Shiv Pratap Shukla:** He was Minister of State for Finance in the first Modi government. He will be Governor of Himachal Pradesh

■ **C.P. Radhakrishnan:** He is a two-time Lok Sabha member of the BJP from Coimbatore. He will be Governor of Jharkhand

■ **Gulab Chand Kataria:** He is the sitting Leader of the Opposition in the Rajasthan Assembly. He will be Governor of Assam

also headed the five-judge Constitution Bench that upheld the Union government's November 2016 decision to demonetise ₹500 and ₹1000 currency notes,

retired in January.

Four leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), including Gulab Chand Kataria, who was serving as the Leader of the Opposi-

tion in Rajasthan, have been appointed Governors.

**CONTINUED ON**  
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# Ex-SC judge among six Governors appointed

Mr. Kataria will be the new Governor of Assam. The other BJP leaders who were nominated for governorship are Lakshman Prasad Acharya for Sikkim, C.P. Radhakrishnan for Jharkhand and Shiv Pratap Shukla for Himachal Pradesh. In Maharashtra, Mr. Koshyari has been replaced by Jharkhand Governor Ramesh Bais, while the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh Brig. B.D. Mishra (retd) will replace Mr. Mathur in Ladakh. Lt. Gen. K.T. Parnaik (retd) will be the new Arunachal Pradesh Governor.

The reshuffle also saw Chhattisgarh Governor Anusuiya Uikye moving to Manipur, while the incumbent in Manipur, La Ganesan, was appointed as the Governor of Nagaland. Bihar Governor Phagu Chauhan has been moved to Meghalaya while incumbent Himachal Pradesh Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar will replace him in Bihar.

Following an uproar in Maharashtra over his controversial remarks on Chhatrapati Shivaji and the calls for his removal by the Opposition parties, Mr. Koshyari had issued a statement in January saying that he had already expressed his desire to step down to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Officials told *The Hindu* that in Ladakh as well, the Union Home Ministry removed Mr. Mathur from the L-G position amid an agitation by civil society groups. The protesting groups sought safeguards for the Union Territory, such as inclusion under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution that provides protection to tribal-dominated areas.

# 'India must plan for wheat export as record yield expected'

No trace of any disease or locust, and despite late monsoon in many parts, soil moisture enabled farmers to plant on time this season, says Professor Arun Kumar Joshi; farmers expect the price to be good with situation in Ukraine still continuing; last year, market price was higher than MSP

## INTERVIEW

### Arun Kumar Joshi

A. M. Jigeesh  
NEW DELHI

**A**run Kumar Joshi, managing director, Borlaug Institute of South Asia and the Country Representative of International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT) has spent about four decades in researching and developing high-yielding and climate-resilient wheat varieties. With unexpected changes in the global climatic conditions and trade systems, wheat production

in India has been gaining considerable international attention. Of late, due to the situation in Ukraine, there has been an increased demand for wheat from India. Professor Joshi talked to *The Hindu* about the current challenges in the cultivation of wheat in the background of a decrease in production, in the last rabi season. Excerpts:

**Last year, we faced a decrease in wheat production. What is the feedback you are getting from the fields in this rabi season?**

The feedback so far I am getting is that there will be record production of



wheat. The reason is that the area of cultivation has increased. According to government estimates, wheat has been sown in more than 34 million hectares so far in this rabi season. There is confidence among farmers that they can take a good harvest and there will be a market available for it.

This is a good year. Monsoon came late in many parts, but there was enough soil moisture. Farmers were able to plant on time. A significant number of farmers in Central India, Northwest India, Eastern sector also are shifting to planting the crop to one week to 10 days early. Seeing that the situation in Ukraine is still continuing, farmers expect that the price will be good. The government has managed input supply nicely. Irrigation systems have also improved. There will be record production, and India should plan for another export of wheat.

**So do you think that by exporting, farmers here**

**will get the benefit of price from international markets?**

Last year, the market price was higher than the Minimum Support Price. This year also, people believe that the market prices will be around MSP. We cannot export wheat from the Karnal Bunt (a fungal disease) infected areas such as Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana. So wheat from Central India is exported and the country should plan for it.

**Early summer was a villain last year. How can the farmer be prepared to face such unexpected climate changes?**

The earlier you plant, the better you harvest. Farmers should go for mechanisation. If your crop is ready today, arrange all the mechanisation systems in advance, immediately harvest and store.

**Can we expect a repeat of it this time? Last time locusts had also damaged the crops.**

So far, the weather has been nice in North India. The most important is night temperature. Nights are cooler than days. Soil health is also important. Humidity was low. No diseases so far. So far the global surveys are not indicating that locusts are coming.

# Service firms on recovery path, manufacturing still a concern

While pessimism levels among urban consumers have declined, confidence about the economy is yet to reach pre-pandemic levels

## DATA POINT

Vignesh Radhakrishnan

The share of urban consumers who were pessimistic about the Indian economy continued to decline in January 2023 though more than half of them said the situation has worsened compared to a year ago.

**Chart 1A** shows the responses from a Reserve Bank of India (RBI) survey conducted across 19 major cities between January 2 and 11. When asked to comment on their current perception about the economic situation, 52.1% said it has worsened. This is the lowest share since the pandemic outbreak. Still, the share was significantly higher than the 28.3% who said the economic situation has improved (not plotted on the graph).

**Chart 1B** shows that 49.9% of the respondents were pessimistic about their current employment scenario. Notably, in the last two survey editions – November 2022 and January 2023 – the share has remained below the 50% mark. Due to the economic slowdown in 2019 and the pandemic that followed, a majority had remained pessimistic since July 2019, but that trend has changed.

**Chart 1C** shows that 29.6% of the respondents were pessimistic about their current income levels. This is the lowest share since the pandemic outbreak, but is still considerably higher than the pre-pandemic levels.

Worryingly, close to 94% of the respondents continued to say that price levels of commodities have increased (**Chart 1D**).

Though optimism is yet to return to pre-pandemic levels, the degree of pessimism about the economy, jobs and income levels has declined. High prices, though, are still a sore point.

**Chart 2** shows the growth in new orders received by 800 manufacturing companies surveyed by the RBI. The quarter-on-quarter

growth of new orders received turned negative in Q2FY23 (July-September 2022) after being in the positive for four straight quarters.

**Chart 2** also shows the response of a survey conducted in 1,356 manufacturing companies about their order books. The graph shows the share of companies which said new orders had increased. Only 33% said their order books had increased in the latest quarter.

**Chart 3** shows the results of the RBI's survey that capture the growth in the services and infrastructure sectors. The latest data are for October-December 2022. In the survey, 1,091 companies were asked to comment on their turnover. The chart plots the net response – the difference between those who said it had increased and vice-versa. A positive number points to a higher share of companies recording an increase in turnover and vice-versa. The chart hints at a recovery in the turnover of both the service and infrastructure sectors. In the latest period, 49.2% of service sector companies reported that their turnovers had increased, 45.2% reported that there was no change and only 5.5% said their turnovers had decreased. So, the net response was +43.7% points. This was much higher than the pre-pandemic levels. A similarly positive net response was reported by the infrastructure firms.

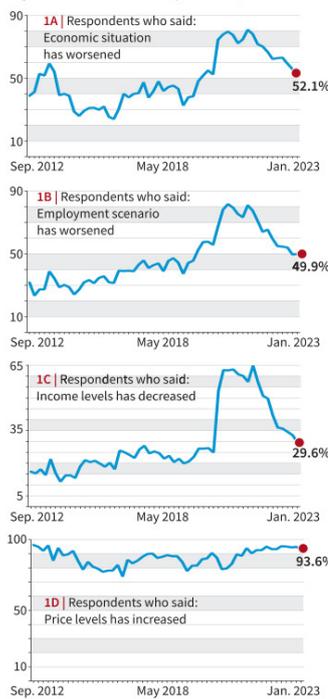
**Chart 4** plots the results of RBI's quarterly bank lending survey. Senior loan officers were asked to assess loan demand. The latest data are for October-December 2022. The chart plots net response. The demand for loans in the agriculture, manufacturing and retail sectors recorded a downturn, while showing a major uptick in the service sector and an increase in the infrastructure sector. So, while the service and infrastructure sectors are firmly on the recovery path with the demand for loans continuing to grow, there are some hiccups in the manufacturing sector.

## Recovery tracker

The charts are based on data collated from various surveys conducted by the RBI on consumer confidence, orders received by manufacturing firms, the turnover of the services and infrastructure sectors, and demand for loans



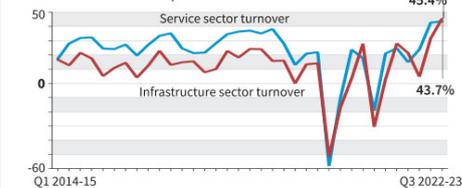
**Chart 1** | The charts show the results of the RBI's consumer confidence survey conducted across 19 major cities between January 2 and 11, 2023



**Chart 2** | The chart shows the q-o-q growth (%) in new orders received by manufacturing firms and the survey response of such companies



**Chart 3** | The chart plots the net response of the services and infrastructure sectors companies



**Chart 4** | The chart shows the net response of the assessment of loan demand among various sectors, according to RBI's bank lending survey



# The demand for a Greater Tipraland by the TIPRA Motha

How is the core ideological demand of the Tipraha Indigenous Progressive Regional Alliance Motha affecting the larger politics of Tripura? Is it creating tensions?

Saptarshi Bhattacharya

## The story so far:

The newest political party in Tripura, the Tipraha Indigenous Progressive Regional Alliance (TIPRA) Motha, floated in 2019 by Pradyot Bikram Manikya Debbarma, the son of Tripura's last king, has created a flutter with its demand for a Greater Tipraland. With this core demand, the party has brought other indigenous political parties under its fold. Its first foray into electoral politics in the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC) elections in 2021 was marked by a sharp victory where it secured 18 of the 28 seats.

## What is Greater Tipraland?

Greater Tipraland is the core ideological demand of the TIPRA Motha. The party released what it called a Vision Document

last week, where it said that it was committed to seeking a permanent solution upholding the rights of the indigenous people of Tripura as per the Constitution of India. The objective is to carve out a new State for the 19 indigenous tribes of Tripura under Articles 2 and 3 of the Constitution. In its current form, the contours of the new State would go beyond the TTAADC areas to include several other villages where the Tiprasa (indigenous people of Tripura) reside in large numbers. In addition, the Motha would set up task forces to connect with the Tiprasa living in other regions of the country and the world to help them with their linguistic, cultural, social, and economic development, according to Jagadish Debbarma, a TIPRA Motha leader and the Chairperson of the TTAADC. While the core ideology of the new party brinks on ethnic nationalism,

the leadership of the Motha has been careful not to project itself as an "of the tribals, by the tribals and for the tribals only" party. Pradyot Manikya, has stated clearly in his media interactions that his party was inclusive and would also take the non-tribal population along.

## What is the genesis of this demand?

On the face of it, the demand for Greater Tipraland appears to be a rehash of the demand for Tipraland put forth by the Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT) in 2009 after it broke away from the Indigenous Nationalist Party of Tripura (INPT). But Motha leader Jagadish Debbarma disagrees. The earlier Tipraland demand was to carve out a separate State for the tribal population of Tripura from the TTAADC areas, he explains. The present demand goes beyond the TTAADC areas and includes at

least 36 more villages where the tribal population is in the range of 20 to 36%. This, in no way, would exclude the nine per cent Muslim population and the majority Hindu population coming within these limits, he hastens to add. According to the 1941 Census, the ratio of population of tribals and non-tribals in Tripura was almost 50:50. However, by the next Census, the tribal population was reduced to a little over 37% due to the huge influx of refugees from East Pakistan. Between 1950 and 1952, nearly 1.5 lakh refugees had entered Tripura for shelter. The flood of refugees led to bitter differences and, eventually, conflict between the tribals and the non-tribals escalated in 1980 and took the shape of armed insurgency. The demand for autonomous regions or separate statehood during this time metamorphosed to sovereignty and independence. However, after a political truce was reached between the State and the rebel groups, the demand for statehood was revived.

## How has this affected Tripura?

It seems to have considerably polarised an already uneasy relationship between the tribals and the non-tribals since the State emerged from the days of armed insurgency. The TIPRA Motha put up a massive roadshow in November which is being hailed as one of the largest political mobilisation of tribals in the State.

## THE GIST

Greater Tipraland is the core ideological demand of the TIPRA Motha. The objective is to carve out a new State for the 19 indigenous tribes of Tripura under Articles 2 and 3 of the Constitution.

The party has stated clearly in its media interactions that it was inclusive and would also take the non-tribal population along.

However, the party seems to have considerably polarised an already uneasy relationship between the tribals and the non-tribals of Tripura since the State emerged from the days of armed insurgency.

# 'Indo-U.S. Unmanned Aerial Vehicle to be flight-tested this year'

## The Hindu Bureau

BENGALURU

A prototype of the Air-Launched Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (ALUAV) developed jointly by India and the United States is likely to be flight-tested later this year, said a member of the U.S. government delegation to Aero India 2023.

Major General Julian C. Cheater, Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of the U.S. Air Force, International Affairs, said, "There is certainly some progress with respect to the ALUAV, this project arrangement was signed last year and we are expecting to conduct flight testing as early as the fall [September-November] of 2023. The flight testing will occur at a range in northern India as well as in the U.S."

In 2021, the Indian Ministry of Defence and U.S. Department of Defense signed a Project Agreement for ALUAV, under the Joint Working Group Air Systems in the Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI).

Bengaluru-based Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE) and the Aerospace Systems Directorate at the U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory, along with the Indian and U.S. Air Forces, are the principal organisations for execution of the project agreement.

## The flight testing of the ALUAV prototype will occur at a range in northern India as well as in the U.S.

Major General Cheater said that ALUAV would be launched from the C130J aircraft. "We will develop sensors on the package and we expect that this particular UAV would most likely be launched from the C130J aircraft. That signifies a seven-year project arrangement. It is a long-term agreement and it also involves technology transfer that is a great step in the relationship of the two countries," Major General Cheater said.

## **F-35 at expo**

On the likely participation of the U.S.'s F-35 stealth aircraft in the Aero India 2023, a member of the delegation said that if it did, it would be the most advanced aircraft in the airshow. The delegation also said that it would be too premature for the U.S. to offer the F-35 to India.

The head of the U.S. delegation to Aero India, Ambassador A. Elizabeth Jones, said India and the U.S. were working together in many ways to ensure a free and open, prosperous, connected, and resilient Indo-Pacific region, where democracies can thrive.

# Aero India flies high with 98 participating nations

PM to open five-day event today; MoUs estimated at ₹75,000 crore expected; India to pitch indigenous military hardware to friendly countries at the Defence Ministers' conclave

**Dinakar Peri**  
BENGALURU

**T**he 14<sup>th</sup> edition of the biennial Aero India which will see participation of 809 Indian and foreign companies spread over 35,000 sq.m is expected to see conclusion of 251 memoranda of understanding (MoUs) estimated at ₹75,000 crore during the three business days, defence officials said.

At the Defence Ministers' conclave for which 32 foreign Defence Ministers have confirmed participation, India will make a strong pitch for indigenous military hardware.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the five-day Aero India 2023 on Monday. While the first three days (February 13-15) are business days, February 16 and 17 have been set as public days. In a first for the expo, European defence majors Airbus and Thales have announced that they would hold interactions for potential recruitment with aspiring candidates.

The aim of the event is to promote exports of air platforms with focus on the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) and also attract foreign investments includ-



**Height of might:** Aerobatics team 'Surya Kiran' and an IAF helicopter carrying the National Flag, during rehearsals ahead of Aero India 2023 in Bengaluru on Saturday. MURALI KUMAR K.

ing on co-development and co-production, said Cdr. Achal Malhotra, Director, Defence Exhibition Organisation in the Ministry of Defence, at the curtain-raiser event on Sunday. The expo comprises a Defence Ministers' conclave; a CEOs' round table; the *Manthan* (brainstorming) start-up event; a *Bandhan* ceremony, airshows, a large exhibition; India Pavilion and a trade fair of aerospace companies.

**'Showcase of prowess'**  
Addressing mediapersons, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said Aero India 2023

will showcase the country's manufacturing progress and the progress achieved towards realising *Aatmanirbhar Bharat*.

"A strong and self-reliant defence sector will play a pivotal role in helping India emerge as one of the top three world economies," he said.

This year's event will see the participation of 98 countries and Defence Ministers of 32 countries, Air Chiefs of 29 countries and 73 CEOs of global and Indian original equipment manufacturers (OEMs).

The Defence Ministers' conclave will address as-

pects related to deepening cooperation for capacity building (through investments, R&D, joint venture, co-development, co-production and provisioning of defence equipment), training, space, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and maritime security to grow together.

The annual defence innovation event, *Manthan*, will bring the leading innovators, start-ups, MSMEs, incubators, academia and investors from defence and aerospace ecosystem under one roof. A series of seminars are also lined up on various themes.

# Central agencies gear up to strengthen framework as FATF evaluations near

**Devesh K. Pandey**  
**Suhasini Haidar**  
NEW DELHI

Government agencies have expedited efforts to further strengthen the anti-money laundering and counter-terror financing frameworks in view of the coming Financial Action Task Force (FATF) assessment of India in the fourth round of mutual evaluations expected later this year.

It is learnt that the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) is organising meetings with representatives from sectors such as real estate to ensure compliance with KYC (Know Your Client) norms.

As mandated by law, all the other agencies have been referring cases involving the money laundering angle to the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for further action.

The government has also organised a series of conferences focused on combating terror financing, including the United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee special conference in India; the 'No Money For Terror' conference where India proposed to host its headquarters; and the UNSC briefing on challenges to the global counter-terrorism regime at the UN in New York.

According to the FATF, the possible onsite assessment is due in November 2023, whereas the findings may be discussed at its June 2024 plenary. The mutual evaluation of India was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Aspects looked at

The scope of mutual evaluations involves two as-

## **According to the FATF, the possible onsite assessment of India is due in November 2023**

gal framework and other associated measures are in force and whether the supporting institutional framework is in place; and effectiveness, to determine if the systems are working towards achieving the defined set of outcomes.

"On the legal front, we have one of the most stringent anti-money laundering/terrorist financing laws in the world. Besides, the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act and the Black Money Act have been brought in," an official of a probe agency said.

In its 2010 review, the FATF had highlighted two shortcomings in the Indian legal framework. While the confiscation of assets was based on convictions, which was subsequently addressed by amending Section 8(5) of the PMLA, money laundering was not a standalone offence – it was dependent on scheduled/predicated offences under other penal laws.

Pointing out that money laundering was a conceptual and conduct-based offence evolved by the civil law legal system countries, an official said in India "offence" had been defined as an act or omission made punishable by law for the time being in force. It does not explicitly include conduct-based crime.

On the aspect of "effectiveness", apart from the instances of attachment/seizure/freezing of assets, conviction rate in the money laundering/terror fi-

# China planning Aksai Chin railway line to connect Tibet and Xinjiang

The line will broadly follow the course of the G219 national highway; the construction of the Xinjiang-Tibet highway through Aksai Chin had triggered tensions between India and China in the lead-up to the 1962 war

**Ananth Krishnan**  
BEIJING

China will soon begin construction on an ambitious new railway line connecting Xinjiang and Tibet that will run close to the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and through the disputed Aksai Chin region, according to a new railway plan released by the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) government.

The “medium to long term railway plan” for Tibet, made public last week, envisages expanding the TAR rail network to reach 4,000 km by 2025 up from the current 1,400 km, including new routes that will run up to China’s borders with India and Nepal.

The most ambitious of the new plans is the Xinjiang-Tibet railway, which will broadly follow the course of the G219 national highway. The construction of the Xinjiang-Tibet high-



**Racing ahead:** The plan is to expand the Tibet Autonomous Region’s rail network from 1,400 km to 4,000 km by 2025. AFP

way through Aksai Chin had triggered tensions between India and China in the lead up to the 1962 war.

The proposed railway will begin in Shigatse in Tibet, and run northwest along the Nepal border, before cutting north through Aksai Chin and ending in Hotan in Xinjiang. The planned route will pass through Rutog and around Pangong Lake on the Chi-

nese side of the LAC. The first section, from Shigatse to Pakhukto, will be completed by 2025, with the rest of the line, up to Hotan, expected to be finished by 2035.

“By 2025, the construction of several railway projects, including the Ya’an-Nyingchi section of the Sichuan-Tibet Railway, the Shigatse-Pakhukto section of the Xinjiang-Tibet Rail-

way, and the Bomi-Ra’uk section of the Yunnan-Tibet Railway will all see major progress,” said a State media report quoting the plan, which was released by the TAR Development and Reform Commission.

“Improvements to the regional railway network will be of great significance in promoting socioeconomic development and safeguarding national security,” the report said.

Tibet currently only has three rail lines in operation: the Qinghai-Tibet link that opened in 2006, the Lhasa-Shigatse rail launched in 2014, and the Lhasa-Nyingchi line that began operation in 2021.

The Lhasa-Nyingchi line runs to Tibet’s southeast, and near the border with India’s Arunachal Pradesh. This line is being extended further east up to Chengdu, the provincial capital of Sichuan and a major economic and military hub

in western China, shortening the travel time between the two regional capitals from 36 hours to 12 hours.

Under the plan, border railway lines will be built up to Gyirong, the land port on the Nepal-Tibet border, and to Yadong county in the Chumbi valley, which borders India’s Sikkim as well as Bhutan.

## Twin purposes

The railway construction is being seen as serving two purposes: boosting border security by enabling China to more closely integrate border areas as well as mobilise quickly to the frontier when needed; and secondly, accelerating Tibet’s economic integration with the hinterland. While Qinghai province has a rail link to Tibet, the plan will now extend railway links for the first time to the three other neighbouring provinces of Sichuan, Yunnan and Gansu.

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.