



VEDHIK

DAILY NEWS ANALYSIS

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FOREWORD









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



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

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



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Moving policy away from population control

India's focus should be on investment in human capital, on older adults living with dignity, and on healthy population ageing



ADITI CHAUDHARY
& NANDLAL MISHRA

The United Nations' World Population Prospects (WPP), 2022, forecasts India becoming the most populous country by 2023, surpassing China, with a 140 crore population. This is four times the population India had at the time of Independence in 1947 (34 crore). Now, at the third stage of the demographic transition, and experiencing a slowing growth rate due to constant low mortality and rapidly declining fertility, India has 17.5% of the world's population. As per the latest WPP, India will reach 150 crore by 2030 and 166 crore by 2050.

A sea change

In its 75-year journey since Independence, the country has seen a sea change in its demographic structure. In the 1960s, India had a population growth rate of over 2%. At the current rate of growth, this is expected to fall to 1% by 2025. However, there is a long way to go for the country to achieve stability in population. This is expected to be achieved no later than 2064 and is projected to be at 170 crore (as mentioned in WPP 2022).

Last year, India reached a significant demographic milestone as, for the first time, its total fertility rate (TFR) slipped to two, below the replacement level fertility (2.1 children per woman), as per the

National Family Health Survey. However, even after reaching the replacement level of fertility, the population will continue to grow for three to four decades owing to the population momentum (large cohorts of women in their reproductive age groups). Post-Independence, in the 1950s, India had a TFR of six. Several States have reached a TFR of two except for Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Manipur and Meghalaya. All these States face bottlenecks in achieving a low TFR. These include high illiteracy levels, rampant child marriage, high levels of under-five mortality rates, a low workforce participation of women, and low contraceptive usage compared to other States. A majority of women in these States do not have much of an economic or decisive say in their lives. Without ameliorating the status of women in society (quality of life), only lopsided development is achievable.

Demographic dividend

A larger population is perceived to mean greater human capital, higher economic growth and improved standards of living. In the last seven decades, the share of the working age population has grown from 50% to 65%, resulting in a remarkable decline in the dependency ratio (number of children and elderly persons per working age population). As in the WPP 2022, India will have one of the largest workforces globally, i.e., in the next 25 years, one in five working-age group persons will be living in India. This working-age bulge will keep growing till the mid-2050s, and India must make use of it. However, there are sever-



ASHOK R.

al obstacles to harnessing this demographic dividend. India's labour force is constrained by the absence of women from the workforce; only a fourth of women are employed. The quality of educational attainments is not up to the mark, and the country's workforce badly lacks the basic skills required for the modernised job market. Having the largest population with one of the world's lowest employment rates is another enormous hurdle in reaping the 'demographic dividend'.

Another demographic concern of independent India is the male-dominant sex ratio. In 1951, the country had a sex ratio of 946 females per 1,000 males. After aggressively withstanding the hurdles that stopped the betterment of sex ratios such as a preference for sons and sex-selective abortions, the nation, for the first time, began witnessing a slightly improving sex ratio from 1981. In 2011, the sex ratio was 943 females per 1,000 males; by 2022, it is expected to be approximately 950 females per 1,000 males. It is a shame that one in three girls missing globally due to sex selection (both pre-and post-natal), is from India – 46 million of the total 142

million missing girls. Improvement in sex ratio should be a priority as some communities face severe challenges from a marriage squeeze (an imbalance between the number of men and women available to marry in a specific society) and eventual bride purchase.

Life expectancy at birth, a summary indicator of overall public health achievements, saw a remarkable recovery graph from 32 years in 1947 to 70 years in 2019. It is welcome to see how several mortality indicators have improved in the last seven decades. The infant mortality rate declined from 133 in 1951 (for the big States) to 27 in 2020. The under-five mortality rate fell from 250 to 41, and the maternal mortality ratio dropped from 2,000 in the 1940s to 103 in 2019. Every other woman in the reproductive age group in India is anaemic, and every third child below five is stunted. India stands 101 out of 116 nations in the Global Hunger Index; this is pretty daunting for a country which has one of the most extensive welfare programmes for food security through the Public Distribution System and the Midday Meals Scheme.

Serious health risks

The disease pattern in the country has also seen a tremendous shift in these 75 years: while India was fighting communicable diseases post-Independence, there has been a transition towards non-communicable diseases (NCDs), the cause of more than 62% of total deaths. India is a global disease burden leader as the share of NCDs has almost doubled since

the 1990s, which is the primary reason for worry. India is home to over eight crore people with diabetes. Further, more than a quarter of global deaths due to air pollution occur in India alone. With an increasingly ageing population in the grip of rising NCDs, India faces a serious health risk in the decades ahead. In contrast, India's health-care infrastructure is highly inadequate and inefficient. Additionally, India's public health financing is low, varying between 1% and 1.5% of GDP, which is among the lowest percentages in the world.

India is called a young nation, with 50% of its population below 25 years of age. But the share of India's elderly population is now increasing and is expected to be 12% by 2050. After 2050, the elderly population will increase sharply. So, advance investments in the development of a robust social, financial and healthcare support system for old people is the need of the hour. The focus of action should be on extensive investment in human capital, on older adults living with dignity, and on healthy population ageing. We should be prepared with suitable infrastructure, conducive social welfare schemes and massive investment in quality education and health. The focus should not be on population control; we do not have such a severe problem now. Instead, an augmentation of the quality of life should be the priority.

Aditi Chaudhary and Nandlal Mishra are doctoral fellows at the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai

'Global instability posing challenge to national security'

Volatility created by the Ukraine war has made investment atmosphere difficult, says Jaishankar

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Friday said strong global headwinds, instability and tension posed a challenge to national security, while volatility created by the Ukraine war had made the investment atmosphere challenging.

"Challenges keep coming. There is instability in the world and issues have increased tension posing challenge to national security. The Modi government is facing the challenge with confidence," Mr. Jaishankar told reporters here.

On the long-term impact of the Ukraine war, the Minister said: "It is not easy to anticipate. It [war] has created volatility with prices going up and down... be it oil, steel, other metals or semiconductors. Everywhere we are seeing ups and downs that make the investment atmosphere challenging. However, because the world is difficult, it is not that we stop our progress and ambitions. We have to find good ways of understanding it and internalising it."

The war has affected trade to a certain extent, re-

The Modi government is facing the challenge with confidence

S. JAISHANKAR
External Affairs Minister

sulting in energy prices going up sharply, food inflation and affecting sunflower oil imports, Mr. Jaishankar added.

Protecting own interests

When asked if the country was being 'macho' on issues related to the Ukraine war, Mr. Jaishankar said: "There is no denial of Ukraine. We are not out there doing the

macho thing and saying we will take on the world. This is a responsible, prudent and sensible government that is standing for its own interests. We are big enough to define our interest and I do not think it is an unreasonable posture."

Pointing at Europe, the Minister said, "When Europe has taken care of its population, are we not entitled to take care of our interests?"

LAC tension

On the Indo-China border row, Mr. Jaishankar said the situation was tense and

could become dangerous due to the close positioning of troops. "We have had 15 rounds of commander-level talks and have made substantial progress in terms of the sides pulling back from places where they were very close. But there are still some places where they have not [pulled back]."

Stating that China disturbing peace and tranquillity in the border areas would have an impact on the relationship, Mr. Jaishankar said, "As I have said in the past, our relationship is not normal. It cannot be normal if the border situation is not normal."

Avoid unilateral action to alter Taiwan status quo, says India

New Delhi calls for de-escalation of tensions

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

India on Friday called for “restraint” over Taiwan and cautioned against “any unilateral action to change the status quo”, while maintaining that its position on the ‘One China’ policy has been “well known and consistent” that doesn’t need any reiteration.

At the weekly press briefing, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said: “Like many other countries, India too is concerned at the recent developments. We urge the exercise of restraint, avoidance of unilateral actions to change status quo, de-escalation of tensions and efforts to maintain peace and stability in the region.”

Dire straits

■ U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi arrives in Taiwan on August 2 despite China’s strong opposition

■ China begins military drills on August 4 in six regions around Taiwan, practically enforcing a naval and air blockade in these regions

■ Chinese vessels and jets cross the median line of the Taiwan Strait and its missiles fly over Taiwan

■ In response, Taiwan launches its own military exercises after China wraps up its live drills

India had maintained a studied silence on the situation as China held military drills near Taiwan after U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s visit to the island. China has halted the drills but announced that its “war preparation” would continue. As



Peace at risk: China conducting a missile test near Taiwan. ■ REUTERS

 **India is concerned at the recent developments. We urge the exercise of restraint**
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

the crisis intensified, China stepped up global diplomacy and reached out to countries in southeast and south Asia, seeking support for its ‘One China’ policy. A spokesperson of the Embassy of China here earlier had said that 170 countries had supported the

‘One China’ policy and that China would not “renounce” the option of force in dealing with Taiwan.

Asked about India’s position on the ‘One China’ policy, Mr. Bagchi said: “India’s relevant policies are well known and consistent. They do not require reiteration.”

The official comments from the Indian side also reflected New Delhi’s disappointment over the “technical hold” that China placed on the listing for Jaish-e-Mohammed leader Abdul Rauf Asghar at the UN Security Council on August 11. Mr. Bagchi described the Chinese move as “unfortunate” and “most uncalled for”.

India’s strong position against terrorism found special resonance because of the latest terror attack in Rajouri that led to the death of four soldiers.

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‘Avoid unilateral action to alter Taiwan status quo’

Apart from China’s unwillingness to support India’s counter-terror goals at the UNSC, India-China ties in recent weeks were hampered by the planned arrival of China’s intelligence gathering ship *Yuan Wang 5* at Sri Lanka’s Hambantota port.

During Friday’s briefing, the spokesperson denied India exerted pressure on Sri Lanka to prevent the dual-use ship from reaching Hambantota and connected the maritime security concerns of India with the India-China tension along the Line of Actual Control, adding: “With regard to our security concerns, this is the sovereign right of every country. We will make the best judgment in our own interest. This naturally takes into account the prevailing situation in our region, especially in the border areas.”

After August 11, the Chinese vessel’s scheduled date of arrival, Sri Lankan authorities refused to comment on whether the ship called at Hambantota. *The Hindu* contacted the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Defence on Friday, but officials did not confirm if the vessel arrived.

In the only official com-

ment from the Sri Lankan side so far, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Monday said it had communicated to the Chinese Embassy to “defer the visit” of the said vessel to the Hambantota port, “in light of the need for further consultations”. However, it did not indicate if Beijing had acceded its request. In the same statement, the Ministry reaffirmed its “enduring friendship and excellent relations” with China and underscored its “firm commitment” to the ‘One China Policy’.

***PNS Taimur* arrives**

Meanwhile, *PNS Taimur*, Pakistan’s recently commissioned Chinese-built frigate warship, arrived at the Colombo port on Friday, the Sri Lankan Navy said. The vessel is berthed in Colombo amid reports that Bangladesh denied it permission to dock at the Chattogram Port.

“*PNS Taimur* is expected to conduct a naval exercise with the Sri Lanka Navy in western seas on its departure on August 15,” the Sri Lankan Navy said in a statement.

(With inputs from Meera Srinivasan in Colombo)

EXPLAINER

The uproar over the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2022

Why are States alleging that the proposed Bill is unconstitutional? Who are the main opponents of the Bill?

A. M. JIGEESH

The story so far: Ignoring the objections of the Opposition, the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) and the trade unions, the Union Power Ministry introduced the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2022 in Lok Sabha on August 8. Union Power Minister R.K. Singh said at the stage of introduction that the Bill could be moved to the Energy Standing Committee of Parliament for broader consultations. “My simple submission is that this entire matter will be discussed in the Standing Committee and the Standing Committee has representatives from all the parties,” Mr. Singh said. The Opposition questioned the introduction of the Bill. They alleged that the Centre is breaching the promise given to SKM that the Bill will not be brought to Parliament. The Opposition MPs said the Bill is not just anti-farmer, but also anti-Constitutional and against the interest of States. The basis of their argument was that the Bill may lead to ending subsidies for farmers and poor consumers.

What is the history of the Bill? The Electricity Bill was brought for the first time and passed in Parliament in

2003, when A. B. Vajpayee was the Prime Minister. The intention was to consolidate the laws relating to generation, transmission, distribution, trading and use of electricity. The Act also offered to protect the interest of consumers and supply of electricity to all areas, rationalisation of electricity tariff, transparent policies regarding subsidies etc. The Act resulted in privatisation of distributing companies. It was amended in 2007 by the UPA Government, apparently under pressure from the Left parties. The provisions for “cross subsidy” – ensuring subsidy to poor households was added to the Bill in 2007. There were attempts to amend the Bill further in 2014, 2017, 2018, 2020 and 2021. While the 2014 Bill was cleared by the Standing Committee on Energy, it could not be passed in the House as the Centre wanted to revise it. None of the other draft Bills came to Parliament as the Centre was not satisfied with the primary response it received after consultations with stakeholders. All of those Bills remained in their draft form.

Why is there opposition to the Bill? The opposition to the Bill is primarily from farmers’ groups as they fear that the Bill will lead to stopping subsidies and



Telangana Power Employees protesting the Bill on August 8. • RAMAKRISHNA G

that power distribution will thereafter be under the control of private companies. The workers in the power sector also oppose the Bill citing that privatisation of distribution companies and generating units will result in job losses. When the Central trade unions started a campaign against the Act, the SKM pledged support. The Opposition parties questioned the Bill on federalist principles. RSP MP N. K. Premachandran said in the House that power or electricity is a subject which comes under the Concurrent List of the Constitution, and that the Centre should have consulted the States before bringing

the Bill. Congress MP Manish Tewari said the Bill paves way for privatisation of profits and the nationalisation of losses. DMK’s T.R. Baalu asked what will happen to poor farmers who are getting subsidised power in States like Tamil Nadu.

What are the main amendments to the Act?

Compared to the drafts of 2020 and 2021, the Electricity Act (Amendment) Bill of 2022 has a number of changes. The main change among them could be the proposal for the Centre’s intervention in the area of power distribution, a domain under the State governments. Such provisions can be seen in clauses 5, 11, 12, 13, 15 and 23 of the Bill. Clause 5 amends Section 14 of the parent Act that deals with the criteria for electricity distributors. The amendment empowers the Central Government to prescribe the criteria.

Another clause that causes worry for those who oppose the Bill is Clause 11, which seeks to amend section 42 of the principal Act to facilitate operation of multiple distribution licensees in the same area and to avoid parallel network and optimise usage of the distribution network. Trinamool Congress MP

Saugata Roy said such a provision will create a situation similar to the telecom sector where monopoly companies will destroy the public sector and smaller networks.

Similarly, Clause 13 seeks to amend section 60 of the principal Act to enable management of power purchase and cross subsidy in case of multiple distribution licensees in the same area of supply. It says in case of issuance of licence to more than one distribution licensee in an area of supply, the State Government shall set up a cross subsidy balancing fund which shall be managed by a government company.

What lies ahead?

The trade unions in the power sector held a one-day strike against the Bill. They are also discussing the possibilities for an indefinite strike. The SKM is also stepping up its agitations. The Energy Standing Committee will soon start its deliberations on the Bill. The panel is currently headed by senior JD(U) MP Rajiv Ranjan Singh Alias Lalan Singh. JD(U) called off its alliance with the BJP on Tuesday. Though the BJP can claim a majority in the committee, the chairman’s stand will be important when Bills like this are taken up for discussion.

THE GIST

■ The Union Power Ministry introduced the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2022 in Lok Sabha on August 8.

■ The Bill is opposed by farmers’ groups as they fear that the Bill will lead to stopping subsidies and that power distribution will thereafter be under the control of private companies. Opposition parties questioned the Bill on federalist principles as electricity is a subject which comes under the Concurrent List of the Constitution.

■ One of main changes in the Bill is the proposal for the Centre’s intervention in the area of power distribution, a domain under the State governments.

Centre begins scheme to rehabilitate beggars

Project to focus on 75 municipalities

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry on Friday launched the 'SMILE-75' initiative for comprehensive rehabilitation of persons engaged in begging in 75 identified municipalities as a part of the celebrations of 75 years of Independence, a Ministry statement said.

The initiative is part of the Social Justice Ministry's ongoing SMILE project (Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and

Enterprise) for which ₹100 crore has been allocated till 2025-2026.

"The SMILE-75 initiative will cover several comprehensive welfare measures for persons who are engaged in the act of begging with focus extensively on rehabilitation, provision of medical facilities, counselling, awareness, education, skill development, economic linkages and convergence with other government welfare programmes etc.," the Ministry said.

Corporate tax revenue rose 34% till July 31

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

India's corporate tax collections have grown by a 'robust' 34% by July 31 this fiscal, compared with a year earlier, the Income Tax Department said on Friday, without sharing the revenues for the period.

Noting that the tax regime with low rates and no exemptions had lived up to its promise, the department cited corporate tax collections that had grown 58% to ₹7.23 lakh crore in FY22, and 9% over pre-COVID levels of FY19. The statements on Twitter assume significance amid Opposition parties' charges of the Centre favouring corporates while seeking a debate on freebies announced by the States.

Industrial output growth slows

IIP expands 12.3% from a year earlier, but rises only 0.14% over May 2022 levels

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India's industrial output grew 12.3% year-on-year in June, moderating from 19.6% this May, led by a 16.4% uptick in electricity and 12.5% growth in manufacturing. Mining activity grew 7.5% in the month.

The Index of Industrial Production (IIP), however, grew only 0.14% over May 2022, with manufacturing being the only sector to report a sequential uptick in output in June, rising 1.34%.

Production of consumer durables and capital goods led the growth trajectory among use-based categories for the second month in a row, rising 26.1% and 23.8%, respectively, in June. This is the third successive month of output growth for con-



Slowing progress: ICRA predicts IIP growth will ease to high single digits, going by high-frequency indicators. ■ FILE PHOTO

sumer durables after six months of contraction. By contrast, consumer non-durables' output growth was 2.9% after a 0.9% rise in May.

Primary goods output rose 13.7%, followed by intermediate goods (11%) and infrastructure/construction items which grew 8%. Ho-

wever, these three sectors reported a sequential decline from May's output levels, with primary goods slipping 3.8%, intermediate goods 2.9% and construction goods 2.7%.

Although growth in consumer non-durables is still low, it was the highest in five

months, noted India Ratings economists Sunil Kumar Sinha and Paras Jasrai.

"A rebound in this sector is important for a durable and sustained industrial recovery which so far has been witnessing a K-shaped recovery (tepid growth in consumer non-durables and high growth in consumer durables segment)," they said, adding that a moderate recovery may occur in coming months with the progression of the monsoon.

"Given the moderation in the year-on-year performance recorded by most high-frequency indicators in July 2022, such as electricity generation and non-oil exports, we expect the IIP growth to ease to high single digits," said ICRA chief economist Aditi Nayar.

Exports grew 2% in July, imports jumped 44%

Trade deficit stood at record \$30 bn

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

India's goods exports grew 2.1% in July to \$36.27 billion while imports jumped 43.6% to \$66.27 billion, as per quick estimates from the Commerce and Industry Ministry that raised the export figure by about \$1 billion compared with the preliminary data released on August 2.

Consequently, India's merchandise trade deficit moderated from an earlier estimate of \$31.02 billion to \$30 billion, still an all-time high deficit in a month.

The merchandise trade deficit for the first four months of 2022-23 is now estimated at \$98.99 billion as against \$42.07 billion in the same period last year,

reflecting a 135.3% rise. July marks the third successive month where India's goods trade deficit has breached previous records.

The upward change in outbound shipments' estimates, which had earlier indicated a 0.8% contraction year-on-year, seemed to stem largely from petroleum products exports that increased 9.2% to cross \$6.3 billion. They were earlier reckoned to have dipped 7.07% in July.

Sectors such as handicrafts and cotton yarn saw a decline in exports compared with July 2021. Gold imports fell 43.6% to \$2.37 billion but coal imports soared 164.4% to \$5.18 billion. Petroleum imports grew 70.4% to \$21.13 billion.

RBI clamps down on 'intimidation'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

In a major relief for bank loan defaulters, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), taking into account certain recent developments including growing incidences of 'unacceptable practices' followed by recovery agents, has issued additional instructions to regulated entities (REs) by extending the scope of the guidelines and limiting the hours for calling borrowers on phone for recovery of overdue loans.

Any acts to humiliate publicly or intrude upon the privacy of the debtor's family members and friends and calling the borrower before 8 a.m. and after 7 p.m. could be construed as harassment and intimidation, the RBI said.

Retail inflation in India eases to 6.71% in July

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

India's retail inflation slipped below the 7% mark for the first time since April, easing to 6.71% in July, aided by a moderation in food prices inflation to 6.75%, the lowest in five months.

This is the seventh month in a row that the pace of price rise has been over the upper tolerance limit of 6% pursued by the central bank's monetary policy committee.

While inflation in edible oils, meat and fish, and vegetables relented in July, price rise in fruits and eggs accelerated, and cereals inflation hit a multi-year high of 6.9%. Rural inflation eased from 7.09% in June to 6.8% in July, while urban consumers faced 6.49% inflation, from 6.86% in June.

INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT ► PAGE 12

Essential Commodities Act invoked to rein in tur dal price

States to monitor and verify stocks available with traders

VIKAS DHOOT
NEW DELHI

With tur dal prices surging since mid-July and reports coming in of some traders creating artificial supply squeeze by restricting sales, the Centre has invoked the Essential Commodities Act of 1955 to ask States to monitor and verify the stocks available with such traders.

The directive issued on August 12, 2022, came hours before the Retail inflation numbers for July are released. Consumer price inflation has been over 7% since April, and had moderated slightly to 7.01% in June.

Tur dal prices have risen since mid-July amid slow progress in kharif sowing as compared to last year due to excess rainfalls and water logging conditions in parts of major tur dal growing



The Consumer Affairs Department says it is watching stocks of pulses.

States of Karnataka, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, the Department of Consumer Affairs has noted.

“On top of the sufficient overall availability of pulses in the domestic market, the government is currently holding about 38 lakh tonnes of pulses which are being released in the market

to further augment the stocks available in the market,” the Department said, stressing that it is closely watching the availability and prices of pulses in the domestic as well as overseas markets to take pre-emptive steps if there is any unwarranted price rise in the upcoming months.

States and Union Territories have also been asked to direct ‘stockholder entities to upload the data of stocks held by them’ on an online monitoring portal of the Department of Consumer Affairs, on a weekly basis. The government hopes the move will rein in attempts by some sections of traders and stockists to push the price for tur dal upwards, by resorting to ‘restricted sales’ and creating an artificial scarcity.

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.