



# 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 Hameed for their assistance in the preparing the compilations.

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

## CONTENTS

- GS P 03 U News - Ready to work with India for steady growth of ties China Part I
- GS P 03 U News - Ready to work with India for steady growth of ties China Part II
- GSP 02 A News - In riveting political drama in Nepal, `Prachanda' named Prime Minister Part I
- GSP 02 A News - In riveting political drama in Nepal, `Prachanda' named Prime Minister Part II
- GSP 02 E Editorials - Constitutional silences, unconstitutional inaction
- GSP 02 E News - `Reply submitted to Governor's queries on reservation Bills' Part I
- GSP 02 P Editorials - Forest rights and heritage conservation
- GSP 02 R Editorials - A welcome move
- GSP 03 D News - Railways to modernise small stations under new scheme
- GSP 03 K News - Justice Dept. says raising judges' retirement age may benefit non-performers
- GSP 03 P News - CPCB report shows fewer polluted river stretches, but worst ones remain unchanged

# Ready to work with India for steady growth of ties: China

Both countries committed to upholding stability in border areas... and have maintained communication through various channels: Minister

**Press Trust of India**

BEIJING

**C**hinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Sunday that China was ready to work with India for the “steady and sound growth” of bilateral ties and the two countries were committed to upholding stability in the border areas where tensions had prevailed since 2020.

Addressing a symposium on the international situation and China’s foreign relations in 2022, Mr. Wang said both countries had maintained communication through diplomatic and military-to-military channels. “China and India have maintained commu-



Wang Yi

nication through the diplomatic and military-to-military channels, and both countries are committed to upholding stability in the border areas,” said Mr. Wang, who has been elevated to the ruling Communist Party of China’s (CPC) high-power political bureau during the recent party Congress.

“We stand ready to work with India in the direction toward steady and sound growth of China-India relations,” he said.

Mr. Wang, along with National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, is the Special Representative of the India-China boundary mechanism which has remained dormant in the present set of border stand-offs.

In his lengthy address on China’s diplomatic work, Mr. Wang focused more on China’s troubled ties with the U.S. and burgeoning relations with Russia, despite the Ukraine war.

**CONTINUED ON**

**» PAGE 10**

# **'Ready to work with India for better ties'**

Mr. Wang briefly touched on India-China relations that have been bogged down since April 2020 when China tried to move a large number of its troops to the disputed areas in eastern Ladakh, resulting in a prolonged military stand-off.

The two countries have held 17 rounds of talks so far to resolve the stand-off.

The 17th round of the India-China Corps Commander Level Meeting was held on December 20 during which the two sides agreed to stay in close contact and maintain dialogue through military and diplomatic channels and work out a mutually acceptable resolution of the remaining issues at the earliest, according to a joint press release issued after the talks.

# In riveting political drama in Nepal, 'Prachanda' named Prime Minister

**Kallol Bhattacharjee**  
**Suhasini Haidar**  
NEW DELHI

Nepal President Bidhya Devi Bhandari on Sunday appointed Pushpa Kamal Dahal, leader of the parliamentary party of the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist Centre), Prime Minister of the Himalayan nation.

A communication from the President's Office in Sital Nivas said Mr. Dahal, better known as 'Prachanda', would be sworn in as Prime Minister at 4 p.m. on Monday.

Seven parties and three Independent MPs led by former Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli of the Communist Party of Nepal (UML) came together in a dramatic move for a post-poll alliance on Sunday and wrote to the President proposing the name of Mr. Prachanda as the prime ministerial candidate of the Left-dominant coal-



**Another term:** Pushpa Kamal Dahal hands over his documents to President Bidhya Devi Bhandari in Kathmandu on Sunday. AFP

tion. Mr. Prachanda and his CPN (Maoist Centre) have the support of 169 elected members in the Pratinidhi Sabha, the Lower House, representing the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist Leninist), the Rashtriya Swatantra Party (RSP), led by Ravi Lamichhane, the pro-monarchy Rashtriya Prajatantra Party, the Nagarik Unmukti Party, the Janata Samajwadi Party of Mad-

hesi leader Upendra Yadav and the Janamat Party of former secessionist leader C.K. Raut.

## 'Unique relationship'

Congratulating Mr. Prachanda, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "The unique relationship between India and Nepal is based on deep cultural connect and warm people-to-people ties. I look forward to working together

with you to further strengthen this friendship."

Officials, however, said New Delhi would watch the development closely, given that the RSP, one of the key constituents of the Leftist coalition, has criticised India for building an embankment along the Mahakali river at Dharchula, that has led to protests by Nepalese on the other side.

This will be the third time that the former Maoist rebel leader will be the Prime Minister of the Himalayan nation. He served in 2008-09 when he had to step down because of a political crisis over sharing of power. His second stint came in 2016 when he took over from Mr. Oli against the backdrop of an economic blockade of Nepal during 2015-16 by the Madhesi agitators.

**CONTINUED ON**  
» PAGE 10

# 'Prachanda' named Nepal Prime Minister

Among the surprises on Sunday was the decision by the newly formed RSP, led by former TV anchor Mr. Lamicchane, whose campaign pitch for a “clean, anti-establishment” party had led some to assume that the party would remain in the Opposition for now.

“The RSP got the votes by promising to get things done: improving rule of law, reducing corruption, improving government services, providing access to high quality healthcare and education for all, creating jobs, etc.,” RSP Central Committee member Arnico Panday told *The Hindu*, when asked about the turnaround. “We cannot achieve those by sitting in the Opposition. We have been talking to all parties to find the best way to move forward on our agenda. The new coalition provided us with the best opportunity.”

The RSP, which has 20 seats combined from the general election and the proportional representation categories, is now the fourth largest party in the 275-member Pratinidhi Sabha, and will tip the balance in favour of the Prachanda-led coalition.

Earlier, Mr. Prachanda had broken away from the Nepali Congress-led ruling coalition which had governed Nepal since its leader Sher Bahadur Deuba was appointed Prime Minister in a Supreme Court-initiated move in July 2021.

Sunday's developments have put an end to weeks of negotiations that began after the general election of November failed to produce a clear winner though the Nepali Congress emerged as the single largest party. The election, however, was difficult as several Ministers in the Deuba Cabinet lost their seats and a number of smaller parties such as the RSP and Nagarik Unmukti Party emerged as new political players. It was understood that the smaller parties would play a crucial role in helping either of the two big blocs led by Mr. Deuba and Mr. Oli form the next government.

# Constitutional silences, unconstitutional inaction

**W**hen the Constitution was adopted by the Constituent Assembly, the founders left deliberate gaps in it to enable a future Parliament to modify and amend the Constitution that was in accordance with the aspirations and the will of the people. This ostensibly gave birth to a Constitution with glaring misses.

One of the silences in the Constitution is in Article 200 which does not prescribe a timeline for the Governor to provide assent to Bills sent by the Legislative Assembly. This has been used to advantage by the Governors of various Opposition-ruled States to obfuscate the mandate of democratically elected governments. The examples range from the Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Online Gambling and Regulation of Online Games Bill, 2022 (passed by the Tamil Nadu Assembly) to the Kerala Lok Ayukta (Amendment) Bill, 2022 (passed by the Kerala Assembly). In Tamil Nadu alone, almost 20 Bills are awaiting assent by the Governor. The situation is no different in Telangana and West Bengal as well. Can the Governor just sit on Bills endlessly?

## Constitutional scheme

When the draft of Article 200 was discussed in the Constituent Assembly, Prof. Shibban Lal Saxena rightly highlighted how there is no time limit prescribed for the Governor to act. In *Purushothaman Nambudiri vs State of Kerala* (1962), a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court clarified that the Constitution does not impose any time limit within which the Governor should provide assent to Bills. Interestingly, the question as to whether the Governor can sit on Bills indefinitely did not arise before the Court; the Court too had no occasion to provide an authoritative ruling on it. However, the Court has maintained that the Governor must honour the will of the Legislature and that the President or a Governor can act only in harmony with their Council of Ministers. When a Governor, a central government appointee, withholds assent to a law validly passed by the Legislature, he is undoing the will of the Legislature through



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One of the 'silences' in the Constitution is in Article 200, which has been used by some Governors to obfuscate the mandate of democratically elected governments

unconstitutional devices, thereby directly attacking the federal edifice of the Constitution. Causing delay to assent Bills will be an arbitrary exercise, which in itself is constitutionally abhorrent.

The additional issue of the President not acting swiftly to grant assent to the Bills reserved by the Governor for the consideration of the President cannot be missed. The President has not yet acted on the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET)-exemption Bill passed by the Tamil Nadu Assembly, after it was referred to the President in May 2022. There is no timeline prescribed for even the President, under Article 201 of the Constitution, to decide on the outcome of the Bill. Even as there is no timeline for the President to grant assent, there is a timeline of six months applicable to the State Assembly to reconsider the Bill if the President decides to refer it back to the House.

## Call for reforms

In a consultation paper, the 'Institution of Governor under the Constitution', the Justice B.P. Jeevan Reddy-led Committee states that if the Governor withholds assent to a Bill indefinitely, "such a course will not be conducive with the decorous regard a Governor is expected to the rules of the Constitutional game...". The 'National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution' that was set up by the A.B. Vajpayee government in 2000 recommended that "there should be a time-limit – say a period of six months – within which the Governor should take a decision whether to grant assent or to reserve a Bill for consideration of the President." It is also important to understand the real objective behind Article 200 requiring the Governor to grant assent to Bills. It was felt that an independent Governor would be necessary to act as a check and balance, to avoid the state-enacted law being repugnant to the Union laws. Some State governments expressed an opinion before the Sarkaria Commission that a "Governor will act as a safety-valve against hasty legislations and by their operation enable the State Government and Legislature to have a second look at it".

The Sarkaria Commission went to the extent of suggesting a cure to the terminal illness plaguing the federal ecosystem of the country. It was suggested that delay from the side of the Governor in granting assent can be avoided by streamlining the existing procedures; by making prior consultation with the Governor at the stage of the drafting of the Bill itself, and by prescribing time-limits for its disposal.

## Delay thwarts reasonableness

In the realm of administrative law, unreasonable delay in granting administrative sanction would be violative of the rule of law. Therefore, it implies that the Governor will have to grant assent or decline the same within a 'reasonable time'. 'Reasonable time' is what is necessary, under the circumstances, to do conveniently what the contract or duty requires should be done in a particular case. In *Keisham Meghachandra Singh vs The Hon'ble Speaker, Manipur Legislative Assembly* (2020), a case on anti-defection law, the Supreme Court held that the Speaker must act on disqualification petitions against the defecting MLAs within a 'reasonable time'. It clarified in the same judgment that reasonable time is three months in the case of disqualification petitions.

The concept that the Queen reigns, but the Ministers rule is the bedrock of the Westminster system. The Governor's duty is only to ensure that an elected government is working within the parameters of the Constitution. It does not mean that the Governor can sit on the Bills indefinitely, merely because there is no time limit prescribed for the Governor to decide on the bills. The Constitution should be read contextually to provide a meaning that the Governor must act on the Bills within a reasonable time, say three months. The constitutional silences should not give way for unconstitutional inaction, leaving space for anarchy in the rule of law. As Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer put it pithily in *Shamsher Singh and Anr. vs State Of Punjab*, "may be, our founding fathers were not political prophets who could foresee glaring abuses or perverted developments".



# 'Reply submitted to Governor's queries on reservation Bills'

There is no such arrangement in the Constitution, but the Governor had sought details and the answers have been given, says Chhattisgarh CM

**Press Trust of India**

RAIPUR

**C**hhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Sunday said the State government has submitted a reply to queries raised by Governor Anusuiya Uikey on two amendment Bills to hike the overall reservation in the State to 76%.

Talking to reporters here, Mr. Baghel said the Governor should now give her assent to the Bills as she had said she will do it after the State government submits replies to her queries. The State Assembly on December 2 passed the Chhattisgarh Public Service (Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes Reservation) Amendment Bill and the Chhattisgarh Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Amendment Bill, pertaining to quota in government jobs and admission in educational institutions in proportion to the population of different categories in the State.

According to the Bills, the Scheduled Tribes will get a quota of 32%, Other Backward Classes (OBCs) 27%, Scheduled Castes 13%, and 4% has been provisioned for the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) in government jobs



Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel. FILE PHOTO: PTI

and admissions in educational institutions.

The Bills were pending for assent with the Governor who had sought details on 10 points from the Congress-led State government before giving her approval.

Asked about it, Mr. Baghel said, "The reply has been sent to the Governor. There is no such arrangement in the Constitution, but the Governor had sought details from departments and the answer has been submitted. Now she should give her assent to the Bills". The 10 queries raised by the Governor included details of the quantitative data related to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities if collected, details of the extraordinary situation that compelled the State government to hike reserva-

tion beyond 50% ceiling and report of the Quantifiable Data Commission (constituted by the State government for a survey of OBC and EWS population in the State).

The issue of reservation flared up after the Chhattisgarh High Court in September this year set aside the Raman Singh-headed State government's 2012 order to raise the quota to 58% in government jobs and admissions in educational institutions, observing that reservation exceeding the 50% ceiling was unconstitutional.

The decision had halted the recruitment process for government jobs, triggering a massive protest particularly by tribals whose quota came down to 20% from 32% following the order.

# Forest rights and heritage conservation

**O**f the 39 areas declared by UNESCO in 2012 as being critical for biodiversity in the Western Ghats, 10 are in Karnataka. Before recognising areas as world heritage sites, UNESCO seeks the opinion of the inhabitants on the implication of the possible declaration on their lives and livelihoods.

This author interacted with different stakeholders in the gram panchayats located close to the world heritage sites in Karnataka. The primary stakeholders were Scheduled Tribes (STs). Other traditional forest dwellers include Scheduled Castes (SCs), Other Backward Classes, minorities and the general category. An overwhelming majority said that they were not aware of the process that leads to the declaration of UNESCO heritage sites.

## Forest Rights Act

The majority of the forest dwellers claimed land measuring not more than one acre. It is clear that the claims were nowhere close to the ceiling of four hectares permitted under the Forest Rights Act (FRA). The rejection rate of the other traditional forest dwellers was two times more than the STs. In the case of the STs, the reasons were attributed to fresh encroachments; the claimants not living on the lands claimed; claimed lands being on '*paisari bhoomis*' (wasteland and forest lands which have not been notified as protected forests or reserved forests) or revenue lands; and multiple applications made in a single family. In the case of other traditional forest dwellers, it was mainly failure to produce evidence of dependency and dwelling on forest land for 75 years.

The officials said the FRA is good law which recognises the rights of the STs because of their overall backwardness. However, most felt there should be a closure to this Act; and that the process cannot go on forever with new claims emerging on a regular basis. Presenting the declaration



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Democratic and transparent consultations help achieve the objectives of ensuring the rights of forest dwellers and fulfilling conservation efforts

of the world heritage site in a positive light, they said that illegal tree-felling and poaching have come down following the stringent implementation of rules in the 'protected areas'. Most forest dwellers acknowledged this fact.

The people in the villages falling under eco-sensitive zones said they had started experiencing severe restrictions on their entry into the forest. Development activities like road repair has been stopped. Farming is not allowed in a normal way, a slight sound is demurred, the use of fertilizers is banned, and even a small knife is not allowed to be carried into the forest. The people are prohibited from cutting trees falling on their houses to undertake repair work or move the earth. A striking revelation was that these restrictions were in enforcement from the time these areas were declared as protected areas and not necessarily after their declaration as world heritage sites.

The increasing animal insurgency is causing damage to the crops of the farming forest dwellers. Those who don't have recognition over their lands are not given compensation for the loss. Monkeys and snakes released from urban settings into the forests enter their houses. More importantly, the monkeys do not survive in the wild for long.

Owning livestock in the villages close to forests is more challenging than in regular revenue villages. In the areas where irrigation projects have come up, the affected people reported that grazing lands have been taken over by the government to compensate for the forest land lost to such projects.

## Current status

The respondents were in possession of the lands claimed under the FRA even though their applications were either rejected or were still pending. However, in many places, they were apprehensive that people were accepting the resettlement packages and moving out of 'protected areas' for good. They

worried that if half the village population moved away, it would become difficult for the remaining ones to live their normal life.

Most forest dwellers said they were still deprived of basic facilities and other government benefits extended under various schemes and programmes as they don't possess the 'Records of Rights, Tenancy and Crops' that is required along with the title of the land. The government must address this issue in consonance with the rules of the Act.

Half the world heritage sites in Karnataka fall under protected areas (National Park: 1; Wildlife Sanctuaries: 4) and the remaining are reserved forests. The issue becomes complicated when the people refuse to 're-locate' on grounds of their attachment to the land fearing extinction of their culture and religious roots. The gram sabha appears supreme in the Act in deciding the 'proposed resettlement' as it has to give 'free informed consent'. However, this does not happen. Hence, the government must bring more clarity to the Act to avoid conflicts between the government agencies conserving biodiversity and the people living in the forest for over decades and centuries.

Finally, the conservation of biodiversity requires special attention. Yet, forest dwellers willing to live in the forest must be allowed to stay. Many of them comply with the norms of the eco-sensitive zone because they do not depend on modern development needs such as the use of fertilizers and mobile phones. In the same breath, those wanting to experience the fruits of development must be relocated according to their choice of a new place and a suitable package. This can be possible only when the areas declared as 'protected' are arrived at after consultations with the local population. This did not take place in a transparent way at the time of the declaration of world heritage site or earlier, when protected areas were notified.

# A welcome move

## Centre's free food grain distribution in 2023 will provide relief to States

**T**he Government has decided not to extend the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana, (PMGKY), a scheme that ran between April 2020 to December 2022 (except for a short period in between), and provided additional allocation of foodgrains, i.e., rice or wheat from the central pool at five kilograms a month free of cost to beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act (NFSA). PMGKY absorbed the shock of the pandemic for the extreme poor and also brought in political dividends for the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party in many States that had elections this year, including Uttar Pradesh in particular. While discontinuing the scheme, the Government has said that it will bear the expenses of food grains under the NFSA for 2023 and ensure free ration under the Act for the estimated 81.35 crore beneficiaries for that year. In other words, ration card holders can now avail 5 kg of wheat or rice per month for free rather than at a subsidised rate, while Antyodaya Anna Yojana cardholders will receive 35 kg of free foodgrains. As the estimated number of 81.35 crore beneficiaries is still based on Census 2011 numbers and Public Distribution System entitlements have been limited to ration card holders and quotas framed by the Union Government, some States have gone on to expand benefits to others through the NFSA and other schemes. By taking on the burden of the expenditure for this distribution, the Union government, which has estimated an additional amount of ₹2 lakh crore for the scheme, has provided limited but welcome relief in monetary terms for States.

While the expenditure numbers on food distribution and subsidy provisions seem fiscally expensive, the schemes have provided distress relief to the most needy, helped the Government control its food buffer stocks better, and also reduced wastage of procured food grains at a time when procurement figures for rice and wheat by the Food Corporation of India remain high. The PDS and the PMGKY have not only enabled basic food security but have also acted as income transfers for the poor by allowing them to buy other commodities that they could not have afforded if not for the benefits. There is, of course, the question of whether targeted distribution, including the identification of priority households and the “poorest of the poor”, has really helped the benefits reaching the deserving with concerns about diversion of foodgrains. But as rights activists have argued, the more robust solution could be a universalisation of the PDS, which has already worked well in a few States such as Tamil Nadu, as the scheme would be availed by anyone in need instead of a flawed targeting system.

## Railways to modernise small stations under new scheme

**1,000** The number of  
small yet  
important

stations the railways is planning to modernise under its new “Amrit Bharat Station Scheme”. This is apart from the ambitious plan to revamp 200 big stations. Officials said the small stations would be identified not just for their footfalls but also based on the cities they cater to. PTI

# Justice Dept. says raising judges' retirement age may benefit non-performers

It may have a cascading effect with other govt. employees making a similar demand, dept. tells House Panel; it may deprive tribunals of having retired judges as presiding officers

**Press Trust of India**

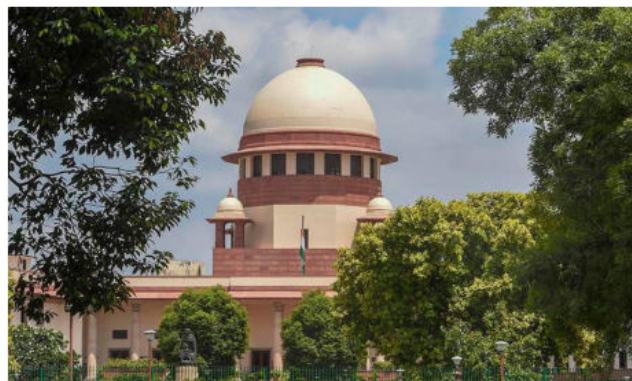
NEW DELHI

**I**ncreasing the retirement age of Supreme Court and High Court judges could extend the years of service of non-performing judges and might have a cascading effect with government employees raising a similar demand, the Department of Justice has told a parliamentary panel.

It also said increasing the retirement age of judges would be considered along with measures to ensure transparency and accountability in appointments to the higher judiciary.

In July, Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju had informed Parliament that there was no proposal to increase the retirement age of Supreme Court and High Court judges.

The Department of Justice made a presentation before the parliamentary panel on Personnel, Law, and Justice that was



**No change:** Law Minister Kiren Rijiju told Parliament in July that there is no proposal to increase the retirement age of judges. PTI

chaired by BJP MP and former Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi. The Department in the Ministry of Law and Justice made the presentation that comprised details of judicial processes and reforms, including on the possibility of increasing the retirement age of High Court and Supreme Court judges.

#### **Other measures**

“Enhancing the age of retirement might extend benefits in terms of extended years of service in certain

non-deserving cases and lead to non-performing and under-performing judges to continue,” the Department said in its presentation. It also suggested that raising the retirement age of judges should be considered along with bringing down pending cases and bringing transparency in the judiciary.

“It would be inappropriate if the increase in retirement age is considered along with other measures to ensure transparency, accountability in the appointments to the higher

judiciary, effort to fill up existing vacancies in the district and subordinate judiciary and bringing down arrears of cases pending in courts,” the Department said.

It said increasing the retirement age may deprive tribunals of having retired judges as presiding officers or judicial members.

“Enhancement of the retirement age of judges will have a cascading effect as government employees at Central and State level, PSUs, commissions, etc, may raise similar demand. Therefore, this issue needs to be examined in totality,” the Department added.

While Supreme Court judges retire at the age of 65 years, High Court judges retire at 62 years.

The 114th Amendment Bill was introduced in 2010 to increase the retirement age of High Court judges to 65 years. However, it was not taken up for consideration in Parliament and lapsed with the dissolution of the 15th Lok Sabha.

# CPCB report shows fewer polluted river stretches, but worst ones remain unchanged

**Jacob Koshy**  
NEW DELHI

The number of polluted stretches in India's rivers has fallen from 351 in 2018 to 311 in 2022, though the number of most polluted stretches is practically unchanged, according to a report from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in November but made public this week.

The CPCB network monitors water quality at 4,484 locations across the country.

Biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) exceeding 3 milligrams per litre (mg/l) is identified as polluted locations. Two or more polluted locations identified on a river in a continuous sequence are considered as a "polluted river stretch." A BOD less than 3 mg/l means the river stretch is fit for "outdoor bathing."

Further, stretches with BOD exceeding 30 mg/l are considered "Priority 1"



**Easy remedy:** All of the improvement were in river stretches that required less intervention. RAJEEV BHATT

(P1), meaning, the most polluted and thus needing the most urgent remediation. There are five such categories with "Priority 2" (P2) indicating a BOD of 20-30 mg/l and "Priority 5" (P5) indicating 3-6 mg/l. The success of river-cleaning programmes are measured by the number of stretches moving from 1 to 2, 2 to 3 until those in 5 (requiring the least action) too reduce.

In 2018, when the CPCB published its report (after

analysing stretches in 2016 and 2017), there were 45 stretches categorised in P1, 16 in P2, 43 in P3, 72 in P4 and 175 in P5. The latest report counts 46 in P1, 16 in P2, 39 in P3, 65 in P4 and 145 in P5. All of the improvement thus, were in river stretches that required relatively less intervention.

"No change/slight change in P1 and 2 category of polluted river stretches indicates that further stringent actions are re-

quired for control of organic pollution from various point sources of pollution including development of infrastructure and its proper operation for treatment of wastewater before discharge into recipient water bodies," the CPCB report observes.

While Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh had the highest number of "Priority 1" river stretches (6), Maharashtra had the most polluted river stretches of 55, followed by Madhya Pradesh (19), Bihar (18), Kerala (18), Karnataka (17) and Uttar Pradesh (17).

Following a report published in *The Hindu* in 2018, the National Green Tribunal passed orders that the CPCB and the Jal Shakti Ministry monitor river pollution and ensure that it was dealt with. Every State had to ensure that at least one river stretch was "restored" to at least be fit for bathing.

To questions on the status of river-pollution abate-

ment efforts by States, Minister Prahlad Patel said pollution abatement work had been implemented in 36 rivers in 80 towns, spread over 16 States at a total cost of ₹6,248.16 crore, and a sewage treatment capacity of 2,745.7 million litres per day (MLD) has been created.

"Under the Central Sector Scheme of *Namami Gange*, 406 projects, including 176 projects for sewage treatment of 5,270 MLD and a sewer network of 5,214 km, have been sanctioned at a cost of ₹32,898 crore against which sewage treatment capacity of 1,858 MLD has been created so far," he said in a statement.

The CPCB, in its report, added the overall decrease in the net number of identified polluted river stretches, which have shown improvement in water quality, "could be attributed" to the efforts done for infrastructure development for pollution control.

| 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;   |



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|---------------------------------|--|
| 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.  |
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| <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.  |