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**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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# In Pakistan, a new army chief and old issues

**L**ieutenant-General Asim Munir has replaced General Qamar Bajwa as Pakistan's army chief. The delay in the announcement, an unstable political situation in Islamabad, the continuing militancy in the western provinces, Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) revoking the ceasefire, and tensions with the Taliban should be the immediate concerns for him. What is being projected as the 'Bajwa legacy' is likely to be his primary challenge. Lt. Gen. Munir is inheriting the old issues plaguing civil-military relations as well as those that crept up during Gen. Bajwa's tenure.

## The Imran Khan challenge

There are six significant challenges for Lt. Gen. Munir. The first is Imran Khan. The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and Mr. Khan would not have succeeded in the 2018 elections had it not been for the establishment. 'Project Imran' should have been set in motion after Gen. Bajwa took office in November 2016 and after the Supreme Court disqualified Nawaz Sharif following the Panama Papers expose in 2017. The establishment should have decided to back the PTI as a replacement for the Sharifs' Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N). Many believe that the rise of the Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP), its violent protests in Faizabad in 2017, and its subsequent political participation were a part of political engineering in Punjab. The TLP cut into the PML-N's traditional support base in Punjab, providing political space to the PTI. The 2018 election result was stunning: Mr. Khan won Punjab and formed the government in Islamabad. The establishment should have been elated by the removal of the PML-N from Islamabad and Punjab. However, despite proclaiming to be on the same page, Mr. Khan seemed to be on a different page. The delay in extending Gen. Bajwa's tenure in 2019 and the differences between the army and government over choosing the new Inter-Services



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What is being projected as the legacy of the outgoing army chief Gen. Bajwa is likely to be the primary challenge for the incoming Lt. Gen. Asim Munir

Intelligence (ISI) chief in 2021 showed their differences. Finally, in April 2022, Mr. Khan had to leave after failing to prove a majority against the collective political onslaught of the Pakistan Democratic Movement. He blamed the establishment and a foreign conspiracy. The fallout with the general headquarters (GHQ) was complete when the Director-General-ISI and the DG-Inter Services Public Relations Pakistan denounced Mr. Khan's anti-establishment narrative at a press meet. Mr. Khan said the denouncement was foolish and later accused a military officer of being part of a plot to assassinate him. How will the new army chief deal with Mr. Khan? In 2017, Mr. Khan did not have a wide support base outside Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, especially in Punjab. However, the recent results of the bypolls should hint at a new populist Khan.

Second, the PML-N and the PTI are polarised within and outside Parliament and in the main provincial assembly - Punjab. Mr. Khan has been threatening to upset political stability with yet another long march demanding early elections. So far, the Shehbaz Sharif government has failed to address the rising power and energy prices and provide flood relief. Pakistan needs a stable government. Mr. Khan wants the establishment to pressure the government to yield to early elections. However, Lt. Gen. Munir would like to have some time before the next polls as Gen. Bajwa did before the 2018 polls.

The third challenge relates to the establishment's political engineering projects in Punjab and Sindh. In Punjab, Gen. Bajwa's efforts have provided space to the PTI and the extremist TLP. The TLP undermined the PML-N vote bank to ensure that 'Punjab minus PML-N' materialises. In the forthcoming elections, the TLP is likely to participate in Punjab and Sindh, eating into the PML-N's share rather than the PTI's. Will Lt. Gen. Munir be able to put the TLP genie back? In Karachi, during Gen. Bajwa's tenure, the

establishment broke the Muttahida Quami Movement (MQM). The MQM stands factionalised today and there are already discussions about bringing the factions together before the next elections. While it was easier for the outgoing army chief to stay out of politics, this is unlikely to be an easy call for the new chief.

The fourth challenge is to repair the establishment's image. Earlier, the intelligence agencies could control and manipulate the media, but now individual news portals and those on social media question the establishment's control. A case in point is the recent expose about Gen. Bajwa and his family's economic fortunes. Despite brazen attacks on them, some journalists and media houses have been questioning the role of intelligence agencies in disappearances and attacks against them.

## Militancy challenges

The last two challenges are from the western provinces and the Durand Line. The political protests in Gwadar in Balochistan are linked with the Baloch middle class's fears about the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor than with ideological violence led by the Baloch militants. The TTP continues to operate in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, as seen from the recent violence in Swat Valley. On November 28, the TTP finally announced withdrawing from the ceasefire and has asked its cadres to carry out attacks whenever and wherever. Addressing militancy and a ceasefire with the TTP should have become two primary legacies of Gen. Bajwa; now, they stand as a challenge to Lt. Gen. Munir. The return of the Taliban in Kabul has not made the Durand Line easier for the establishment. The closures in the border points underline the uneasy GHQ-Taliban relationship.

To sum it up, Gen. Bajwa leaves a challenging legacy for Lt. Gen. Munir. Will the new army chief leave a better legacy for his successor or continue to muddle through?

# China reiterates its stand on 'no first use' nuclear policy

**Associated Press**

BEIJING

China strictly adheres to its policy of no first use of nuclear weapons “at any time and under any circumstances,” its Defence Ministry said on Tuesday in a scathing response to a U.S. report released last week alleging a major build-up in Beijing’s nuclear capabilities.

The Pentagon last week released an annual China security report that warned Beijing would likely have 1,500 nuclear warheads by 2035, and that it has provided no clarity on how it plans to use them.

That report “distorts China’s national defence policy, makes groundless speculation about China’s military development and grossly interferes in China’s internal affairs on the issue of Taiwan,” Ministry spokesperson Tan Kefei

said in a statement.

Mr. Tan accused the U.S. of being the “biggest troublemaker and destroyer of world peace and stability,” and repeated that Beijing has never renounced the use of force to conquer self-governing Taiwan.

Mr. Tan did not directly address the report’s allegations about a Chinese nuclear buildup, but blamed the U.S. for raising nuclear tensions, particularly with its plan to help Australia build a fleet of submarines powered by U.S. nuclear technology, which the French President has described as a “confrontation with China.”

His remarks came days after U.S. Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin said the U.S. is at a pivotal point with China and will need military strength to ensure that American values, not Beijing’s, set global norms in the 21st century.



# Yuan Wang 5, surveillance vessel of China, re-enters Indian Ocean

Voyage coincides with the planned Indian long-range missile test between December 15 and 16; Chinese presence in Indian Ocean began in 2008 under the garb of anti-piracy operations in Gulf of Aden, and has maintained continuous occupancy

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

**T**he Chinese research and survey vessel *Yuan Wang 5* has re-entered the Indian Ocean in what coincides with a planned Indian long-range missile test on December 15 or 16. In a similar incident last month, another vessel, *Yuan Wang 6*, entered the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) coinciding with a planned Indian missile launch, but the launch was then deferred.

According to the maritime vessel-tracking portal [marinetraffic.com](http://marinetraffic.com), *Yuan Wang 5* had entered the IOR through the Sunda strait, off Indonesia, late in the evening of December 4. The vessel was in the IOR last month.

As per the open-source intelligence handle on [Twitter@detresfa](https://twitter.com/detresfa), India had issued a NOTAM (Notice to Airmen) for a no-fly zone over the Bay of Bengal for a possible missile launch with a window bet-



**On the lookout:** The research and survey vessel *Yuan Wang 5* has powerful equipment for gathering a wide range of data. FILE PHOTO

ween December 15 and 16, for a maximum distance of 5,400 km. Given the range, it is likely to be the test of the Agni-5 intermediate range ballistic missile.

While research activities are allowed on international waters as per international regulations, the data generated had a dual na-

ture, including military, and on many occasions, the motive of the Chinese vessels seemed doubtful, defence officials had said.

#### Diplomatic clash

In August, the docking of *Yuan Wang 5* at Hambantota in Sri Lanka had created a major diplomatic situa-

tion between India and Sri Lanka.

Last week, Navy chief Admiral R. Hari Kumar said that there were a lot of Chinese ships which operated in the region. He added that there were four to six Navy ships, research vessels and fishing vessels apart from 60-odd ships of

extra-regional forces, and as a resident power, the Indian Navy kept track and ensured that "they do not undertake any inimical activities".

As reported by *The Hindu* earlier, there had been a steady rise in the deployment of Chinese research vessels in the IOR, and the general area of deployment observed was around 90-degree east ridge and southwest Indian ridge.

The research or survey vessels have powerful equipment for snooping and gathering a range of data.

The Chinese presence in the Indian Ocean began in 2008 under the garb of anti-piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden and have since maintained continuous presence in the region, even deploying nuclear attack submarines (SSN) on occasions.

China had since set up a military base in Djibouti and developed several dual-use ports in the IOR in Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Pakistan and other countries.

# Intense engagement

## India can work with Germany to bring G-20 partners together for global unity

**G**erman Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock's visit to India and talks with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar have set the stage for a more updated bilateral relationship. The two sides signed an agreement on mobility and migration that boosts travel for students, researchers and investors and businesses, and the meeting was preceded by Germany's agreement to fund renewable energy projects worth a billion Euros. The year 2022 has seen intense high-level engagement, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi made two visits to Germany – for the India-Germany Inter-Governmental Consultations with Chancellor Olaf Scholz in Berlin and the G-7 outreach summit in Bavaria. The leaders also met at the G-20 summit in Bali. In 2023, Mr. Scholz is expected to be in Delhi, in spring, and again in September for the G-20 summit in India. On the multilateral stage, Ms. Baerbock, a leader of the German Alliance 90/Green party, made countering climate change an important issue where New Delhi and Berlin can cooperate at the G-20 under India's presidency. Mr. Jaishankar spoke of the need to keep pushing for UN Security Council reform, where India and Germany have been part of the 'G-4' grouping since 2005. Ms. Baerbock also walked back previous controversial comments calling for the "United Nations track" to resolve the Kashmir dispute; she told *The Hindu* ahead of her visit that she believes Kashmir is a "bilateral dispute" to be resolved between India and Pakistan only.

The substance of the relationship will be tested in continuing differences over the war in Ukraine. Mr. Jaishankar's line to journalists was that India's imports of Russian oil, a national interest necessity, remain a fraction of the fossil fuels Europe continues to buy. While this may be correct, it is also true that the European Union countries have cut all other links with Moscow, and falling fuel imports are likely to drop further once the December 5 launch of the "oil price cap" for seaborne imports kicks in. On the other hand, India's imports of Russian oil have soared to a whopping 21-fold increase, making Russia India's biggest supplier. Writing in the *Foreign Affairs Journal*, Chancellor Scholz said that the world was facing an "epochal, tectonic shift", using the term *Zeitenwende* or "turning point" to describe the geopolitical transition post Russia's war in Ukraine, and accused Russian President Vladimir Putin of "shattering" an international peace architecture. For India, which inherits the G-20 presidency in the year of this *Zeitenwende*, it will be necessary to work more closely with Germany to bring all western partners on board with Mr. Modi's plans to forge "global unity", without letting the deep divisions with Russia derail consensus on important tasks such as fighting climate change, inequality, poverty and the digital divide.



# Scenarios for the future of India, and the world

**M**aking predictions of the economic growth of nations – long term, annual, and quarterly – is a lucrative industry employing many economists, researchers, analysts, and commentators. The fast growth of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) economies was forecast by economists at the turn of the millennium. The prediction had a large impact on the public imagination and on corporate investments.

## A tale on forecasting

Some industry leaders in the World Economic Forum (WEF) were wary. They recalled that economists in the 1980s, extrapolating the remarkable post-war performance of Japan, had predicted that the 21st century would be Japan's century. Few economists then had predicted the quick collapse of the Soviet Union or foresaw China's remarkable ascent. In the next decade, Japan's growth was limping, the Soviet Union was history, and China was the country investors were being directed to. China was the economic powerhouse in the BRICS projection: India, Brazil, Russia, and South Africa were the other four.

Whereas economists' forecasts do not compute the effects of social conditions and domestic politics on economic policies, strategic thinkers in the Shell Oil company, using methods of "scenario planning", had forecasted the collapse of the Soviet Union and integration of the Russian economy with the West. Shell redirected billions of dollars of investments beforehand and gained a strategic advantage over its competition.

Responding to its members' needs, WEF commissioned a "scenario planning" exercise for the BRICS countries in 2004. WEF collaborated with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) to prepare scenarios for India's growth because CII had supported a similar exercise internally in 2000 and knew the methods of scenario planning.

The foundational discipline of scenario planning, which distinguishes it from conventional forecasting and planning, is "systems thinking". Scenario planning does not begin with the data. It starts with listening to diverse points of view about what is going on within a complex system at present to understand the undercurrents that will surface and disrupt predictions of economists' models.



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India, especially in its year of G-20 chairmanship, needs to promote a 'Gandhian' approach of using solutions that depend on local systems to help the world get out of the 'BollyWorld'-like scenario it is caught in

Scenarios depict shapes that a country's economy may take in the future depending on changes in social and political conditions with economic growth. Systems' scenarios include subjective perceptions of poverty and inequality, and also mistrust in institutions of governance, which are "externalities" to economists' quantitative models.

## Looking ahead

The WEF/CII report, 'India and the World: Scenarios to 2025' (published in 2005) projected three scenarios of India's future depending on the country's economic policies. India was in an "India Shining" mood at that time: it was celebrated as "the world's fastest growing free market democracy" to tempt western investors away from autocratic China's even faster growing economy.

The first scenario looked deeper within India's current reality at that time. Evocatively labelled "BollyWorld", the scenario revealed forces which would dampen growth in the future if not responded to in good time. The opening of India's economy had created more opportunities for private enterprises and rapid increases in the wealth of the top 1%. Millionaires were multiplying. The imported cars they owned, the expensive clothes they wore, and the champagne they drank in their parties were celebrated on "page 3" of daily papers. While entrepreneurial spirits were unleashed and young people aspired to become wealthy, signs of their increasing frustration were also visible. Violence was not restricted to rural, "Naxal" areas; petty urban crimes, many violent, were also increasing. Glamour and violence can be mixed for the entertainment of viewers of Bollywood movies. However, India's "BollyWorld" economic growth is a real story that was becoming painful for millions of citizens living in it.

The second scenario was called "Atakta Bharat". It showed how increasing inequality and insecurity could compel the government to impose controls on politics for security, and also compel it to play a larger role in the economy without adequate resources. A heavy-handed government would dampen India's democracy and stall its economy. In both scenarios, BollyWorld and *Atakta Bharat*, the "theory of change" is top-down. Change is led by leaders on top of large organisations in government and businesses. Fortunately, a third, and more attractive scenario was also visible. Here, the

changes that people need are produced by them: by local leaders of women's self-help groups; cooperatives for water conservation, and farming and dairying; and profitable business enterprises based on local production and consumption. Such "enterprises by the people for the people", using local resources and local energies, are more sustainable than top-down, large-scale programmes. The scenerists projected that if India's policymakers pursued this model of change, economic growth would be more inclusive, more environmentally sustainable, and faster too. They called this scenario "Pahale India".

## The rise of reactionary forces

These scenarios were made in 2006 before the global financial crisis, to recover from which governments of the G-7 took actions to save the "too large to fail" financial institutions. The G-7 enlarged to the G-20 to stabilise global financial and economic institutions. There are tensions within the "BollyWorld" model of top-down, and wealth driven, economic growth the world has pursued in the last 30 years. Increasing inequality and insecurity around the world, rising along with "free market" globalisation, have resulted in reactionary forces in many countries, including China and Russia amongst the BRICs. They have appeared in India too.

Inequalities have further increased; top-down solutions to the global environmental crisis are producing only more hot air. Violence between powerful countries deploying the latest technologies is harming millions of innocent people around the world. The Indian scenerists had pointed to a choice before public policymakers when societal tensions increase in a "BollyWorld"-like scenario the world seems caught in. One choice is concentration of power in governments and large business monopolies for imposing more security and pushing faster GDP growth. This leads to further unrest and "Atakta" (stalling) economies. The other choice revolves around local systems solutions for environmental and economic problems, cooperatively implemented by communities. This model solves global systemic problems; it also creates a more harmonious world.

India must promote this model in the G-20 it is hosting this year. It must also adopt this "Gandhian" approach more determinedly to make "Pahale India" a reality for all Indian citizens.



# China's Xi set to visit Saudi Arabia for 'milestone' summit

This will be the Chinese President's second major overseas visit since the start of his third term.  
Report says China in 2020 replaced EU as GCC's largest trading partner with trade close to \$161 bn

**Ananth Krishnan**  
BEIJING

**C**hinese President Xi Jinping will visit Saudi Arabia this week for what Beijing is calling a "milestone" first ever China-Arab summit to boost relations and already deep economic ties.

The visit was announced on Tuesday by the official Saudi Press Agency, which said Mr. Xi, at the invitation of King Salman, would arrive in Riyadh on Wednesday and later this week attend a Saudi-China summit, where Prince Mohammed bin Salman will also be present. Mr. Xi will on Friday attend a summit with leaders from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.

This will be Mr. Xi's second major overseas visit following the start of his third term in October, coming after a trip to Bali and Bangkok for the G20 and APEC summit last month, underlining the growing strategic importance of West Asia for China.



**Shared interests:** Xi Jinping will on Friday attend a summit with leaders from countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). AFP

China in 2020 replaced the European Union as the GCC's largest trading partner with trade reaching \$161 billion, said a report this week from the Middle East Council on Global Affairs, which noted that China was involved in "massive infrastructure projects" in the region including the Lusail stadium that is hosting World Cup matches in Qatar and high-speed railway lines in Saudi Arabia, as well as being a major oil importer.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry as of Tuesday evening had not confirmed Mr. Xi's visit, with the govern-

ment currently marking a mourning period for the passing of former leader Jiang Zemin. The Chinese Foreign Ministry earlier described the December 9 summit as "a milestone event" in a newly released report on China-Arab states cooperation.

## 'Similar opportunities'

"At the moment, amid the profound changes unseen in a century, China and Arab states face similar opportunities and challenges," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said. "China has all along viewed Arab states as stra-

tegic partners in our pursuit of peaceful development...We will continue working with Arab states to carry forward our traditional friendship, deepen cooperation in all areas, step up exchanges between our respective civilisations, and build a China-Arab states community with a shared future in the new era."

The first China-Arab states summit was "a strategic choice by both sides", Wang Guangda of the China-Arab Research Centre on Reform and Development in Shanghai wrote in the Party-run *Global Times* on Tuesday.

"China and Arab countries are reliable partners who treat each other equally. In their long-term interactions with the Western countries, Arab countries have become tired of the condescending arrogance of the West," he said. "China respects the development path chosen independently by the people of other countries, and is a reliable partner that will not impose its own values on others."



# Europe's concerns about the U.S. IRA

What are the provisions of the new Inflation Reduction Act of the United States? Why has the French President described the Act as 'super aggressive' toward European companies? Are the EU's fears about the new legislation valid? How has the Biden administration responded?

## EXPLAINER

Diksha Munjal

### The story so far:

French President Emmanuel Macron during his two-day visit to the U.S. questioned Joe Biden about clean energy subsidies in the new Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), which European countries believe are discriminatory to non-American companies. Addressing lawmakers at the Library of Congress, Mr. Macron described the IRA as "super aggressive" toward European companies. The EU has asked for a resolution of its concerns before the Act kicks in on January 1 next year.

### What is the U.S. IRA?

Signed into law on August 16, the IRA is a \$430 billion package of federal spending, tax breaks, credits, and levies, aimed at fighting climate change, reducing healthcare costs, and making large corporations pay their "fair share" in taxes. The Act is a scaled-down version of Mr. Biden's ambitious Build Back Better plan that did not get the Senate's approval in 2021. Besides its goal of bringing down inflation, the Act is the biggest climate action package in U.S. history – earmarking \$370 billion for climate-focused funding and investments aimed at cutting emissions by around 40% below 2005 levels by 2030. The IRA combines climate action goals with industrial policy, aiming to transition to clean energy by incentivising local manufacturing of renewable energy components. It also seeks to reduce American reliance on China for materials and components for the clean energy industry.

In order to bolster clean energy development in the U.S., the IRA provides consumer and industry-side incentives. To promote the use of electric vehicles (EV) and to secure domestic supply chains for their manufacturing, the federal tax incentive policy for EVs has been changed. Now, only passenger EVs assembled in North America are eligible for a \$7,500 tax credit incentive. Those who buy used EVs will be



**Energy worries:** U.S. President Joe Biden and French President Emmanuel Macron hold a joint press conference in the White House on December 1. AFP

eligible for a \$4,000 tax credit if 40% of the critical minerals used in the car batteries are extracted, processed and recycled in North America or a country having a free-trade agreement with Washington.

Additionally, the Act offers \$10 billion investment tax credit to build clean technology manufacturing facilities, two billion dollars in grants for refurbishing existing auto manufacturing facilities to make zero-emission vehicles, and up to \$20 billion in loans to build new EV manufacturing facilities across the country. It also offers billions in federal procurement to American-made clean technologies.

### What are Europe's concerns?

Europe's high energy dependence on Russia led to energy shocks in the wake of the Russia-Ukraine war, leading to energy shortages, skyrocketing power prices, and a harsh winter. The 27 member countries of the EU fear that the IRA tax credits and subsidies to EVs and other green product makers in North America and free-trade partner countries put European companies at a disadvantage and may push these

companies to move critical parts of their supply chains to America. The EU's own new green plan 'Fit for 55' is targeting to cut CO2 emissions from cars by 55% and vans by 50% by 2030 and all emissions from cars by 2035. For this, it will need to significantly increase its uptake of EVs. Although China dominates the EV purchasing market, Europe has also been posting high growth in EV demand vis-a-vis the total auto demand, even faster than the U.S. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), nine of the top 10 countries by share of EVs in the total car stock are in Europe. To meet its emissions targets, the EU will benefit from its local automakers ramping up manufacturing, but the IRA raises fears of automakers moving to the U.S. Mr. Macron in November hosted several European CEOs of energy, auto, and pharma companies to convince them to not move manufacturing to America. Europe's fears may not be unfounded as several automakers, battery makers and energy companies have already made announcements or shown interest in setting up shop in America. South

Korea and Japan have also raised similar concerns. For instance, *Reuters* reported that Swedish battery maker Northvolt was set to establish a lithium-ion battery factory in Germany, Europe's top car manufacturer, but after the IRA, the company's CEO Peter Carlsson said that it could get up to 800 million euros (\$836 million) in U.S. state subsidies, which was nearly four times what the German government was offering. EU members claim that around 200 billion euros of the subsidies are for locally produced content provisions, which they say potentially violates the World Trade Organization (WTO) rules.

### What is the U.S.'s stand?

At a joint press conference during Mr. Macron's visit, President Joe Biden said that there was room for "tweaks" in the IRA to "make it easier for European countries to participate" and that it was "never intended" to exclude cooperating countries. However, he stressed that the "U.S. makes no apology" for promoting American manufacturing and would continue to create jobs for its people.

## THE GIST

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# How is TRAI proposing to help callers identify spammers?

What is the new feature the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India is planning to introduce? What is its function? What are the concerns?

Saptaparno Ghosh

## The story so far:

On November 29, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) floated a consultation paper seeking comments about the potential introduction of a Calling Name Presentation (CNAP) feature. The feature would provide an individual with information about the calling party (similar to 'Truecaller' and 'Bharat Caller ID & Anti-Spam'). The idea is to ensure that telephone subscribers are able to make an informed choice about incoming calls and curb harassment by unknown or spam callers. Comments for the consultation paper are invited until December 27.

## What is its purpose?

Existing technologies present the number

of the calling entity on the potential receiver's handset. Since subscribers are not given the name and identity of the caller, they sometimes choose not to answer them believing it could be unsolicited commercial communication from unregistered telemarketers. This could lead to even genuine calls being unanswered.

Additionally, there have been rising concerns about robocalls (calls made automatically using IT-enabled systems with a pre-recorded voice), spam calls and fraudulent calls. Truecaller's '2021 Global Spam and Scam Report' revealed that the average number of spam calls per user each month in India, stood at 16.8 while total spam volumes received by its users were in excess of 3.8 billion calls in October alone. Smartphone users, at present, rely on in-built features or third-party apps to mark and tackle spam

calls. However, as per the regulator, their reliance on crowd-sourced data may not be reliable.

## Are there concerns about privacy?

Isha Suri, a Senior Researcher at the Centre for Internet and Society (CIS), opines that, notwithstanding the utility, it is not particularly clear how the CNAP mechanism would balance the caller's right to remain anonymous, an essential component of the right to privacy. To put it into perspective, an individual may opt to remain anonymous for multiple reasons, for example, whistle-blowers or employees being harassed. She observed that because customers accord consent only to their operators when completing the prerequisite KYC formalities for a connection, it would be ideal that a framework for the feature is developed along those lines rather than asking a

centralised database operated by a third party to host and share data (one of the proposed models). "You have to see it in parallel with The Digital Personal Data Protection Bill (2022) which has a clause on deemed consent lacking adequate safeguards including sharing of data with third parties," Ms. Suri said.

## Would the provisions be enough?

Previously, telemarketers were required to be registered as promotional numbers, making it easier to identify and block them. However, CEO and Founder of LocalCircles Sachin Taparia told *The Hindu*, that marketers have started deploying people who are not necessarily part of the entity's set-up, but rather "at-home workers" to whom work is being outsourced. They are given SIM cards not registered to a particular company, but rather to the individual themselves. Mr. Taparia says, "Just by showing the identity would not mean much, once the system (to identify and mark spammers) gets built and hundreds of people are able to utilise the system, only then would the system have a meaningful impact." Ms. Suri adds that the government must also invest in digital literacy, skilling citizens to navigate and use the tech better, ensuring they do not share their data indiscriminately and are informed about dangers such as financial frauds and spoofing.

## THE GIST

On November 29, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) floated a consultation paper seeking comments about the potential introduction of a Calling Name Presentation (CNAP) feature.

Truecaller's '2021 Global Spam and Scam Report' revealed that the average number of spam calls per user each month in India, stood at 16.8 while total spam volumes received by its users were in excess of 3.8 billion calls in October alone.

The government must invest in digital literacy, skilling citizens to navigate and use tech better, ensuring that they do not share their data indiscriminately.

# New labour codes give a free hand to employers: unions

International workers' groups criticise Centre's policies at ILO regional meeting in Singapore, say workers demand a new social contract

**A.M. Jigeesh**  
SINGAPORE

**I**nternational workers' groups criticised the Centre's labour policies, including the four new labour codes, at the 17th Asia and the Pacific Regional Meeting (APRM) of the International Labour Organization (ILO), which began here on Tuesday.

India's new labour codes violate the tripartite agreements – among workers, employers and the government – and give a free hand to employers, alleged Felix Anthony, workers' representative in the APRM and senior leader of the International Trade Unions Confederation (ITUC).

Speaking at a session of the APRM, Mr. Anthony added that trade unions in India had been opposing such policies.

The power of inspection has been left with employers through the new codes, and it will threaten the tripartite system in the country, he said, adding that the workers are asking for a new social contract. "A contract with governments and employers, par-



**Policy talks:** Minister Rameswar Teli meeting ILO D-G Gilbert F. Hougbo in Singapore on Tuesday. TWITTER/@RAMESWAR\_TELI

ticularly at the national level. A contract which is based on the availability of decent jobs for all; respect of rights for all; fair wages including minimum wage; adequate and easily available social protection; respect for equality; inclusiveness and no forms of any discrimination," he said.

Hiro Matsui, vice-president of the International Organisation of Employers' Asia chapter, said that declining productivity growth had a negative impact on workers, on the sustainability of enterprises – especially micro, small and medium-sized enter-

prises – on economies, and on communities.

Intervening in a discussion on the report tabled by ILO Director-General Gilbert F. Hougbo, Minister of State for Labour Rameswar Teli said India had the largest youth population in the world and it was observing a technological and entrepreneurial boom with start-ups and small businesses mushrooming across the country.

He said that 90% of the workforce belonged to the unorganised sector and there were persistent challenges of low-paid jobs and poor working conditions.



# 'Fertilizer subsidy for FY23 may rise to ₹2.3-2.5 lakh cr'

**Press Trust of India**

NEW DELHI

The government's fertilizer subsidy will rise to ₹2.3-2.5 lakh crore in this fiscal but the bill may fall by 25% in the 2023-24 financial year with moderation in global prices, according to industry body FAI.

Fertilisers Association of India (FAI) expressed concern that the fixed cost of urea has not been increased, affecting the viability of urea plants.

It also pointed out that the industry is running on a very thin margin, which is hampering new investments in this sector.



"We estimate the fertilizer subsidy bill at ₹2.3 lakh crore to ₹2.5 lakh crore," FAI President K.S. Raju told reporters here.

This has helped insulate the farmers from the impact of a steep increase in the cost of all fertilizers.

The fertilizer subsidy

stood at ₹1.62 lakh crore in the previous financial year.

FAI board member P. S. Gahlaut, who is MD of Indian Potash Ltd., said the subsidy bill in the next fiscal year could fall by about 25% as global prices had softened.

FAI said as per the data provided by 24 fertilizer firms, profit after tax as a percentage of turnover were 0.61%, 0.39%, 0.64%, 2.47% and 1.39% for the financial years 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22, respectively.

"Such wafer-thin margins are grossly inadequate to service the investments made," the FAI said.

# DoT proposes not to monetise Bharatnet infrastructure

**Press Trust of India**

NEW DELHI

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has proposed not to monetise rural broadband network infrastructure built under the Bharatnet project, according to sources.

It plans to replace it with alternative assets to achieve the target fixed under the National Monetisation Pipeline, they said.

The BSNL tower monetisation bid will be targeted before FY23, they said, adding that an earlier attempt to monetise assets under

**DoT has so far not raised any money via asset monetisation against FY23 target of ₹20,180 crore**

Bharatnet had failed to get satisfactory response from private players. DoT, under the Ministry of Communications, has so far not raised funds via asset monetisation against the ₹20,180 crore target in FY23.

An e-mail sent to DoT seeking comments remained unanswered.



# Fitch lowers India FY2023-24 growth forecast to 6.2%

RBI likely to raise policy rate to 6.15% this month and retain this level through 2023, says the rating agency; it retains growth forecast for FY23 at 7%, says Q2 expansion was higher than expected

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

**F**itch Ratings on Tuesday pared its 2023-24 growth expectations for India to 6.2% from the 6.7% level it had predicted in September, with global growth expected to slip to just 1.4% in 2023 as opposed to 1.7% estimated earlier – the weakest expansion since 2008.

Ahead of the central bank's monetary policy review to be unveiled on Wednesday, the global rating agency said it expects the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to increase the policy rate to 6.15% this month

## Future tense

The Reserve Bank has raised rates by 190 bp since the start of the tightening cycle in April 2022, lagging behind the Federal Reserve's 350 bp increases over the same period



- Fitch expects RBI to announce a 25-bp increase in repo rate on Wednesday
- India's 6.3% growth in second quarter was higher than Fitch's 5.5% estimate
- Global growth is set to slip to 1.4% in 2023, lower than 1.7% estimated earlier – the weakest expansion since 2008

and retain this level through 2023. “The RBI has raised rates by a cumulative 190 basis points (bp) since the start of the tightening cycle in April..., lagging behind the Fed's 350

bp increases over the same period,” the firm said in its Global Economic Outlook report for December. 100 basis points equal one percentage point. “The RBI has already intervened to

support the rupee and further rate rises are likely to support the currency and to curtail underlying inflationary pressure.”

“We now expect the RBI to increase policy rates to 6.15% by December and to then hold this rate throughout 2023,” it said, implying the bank's monetary policy committee may opt for a slower 25 bps increase at its meeting that will conclude on Wednesday. Fitch has retained its India GDP growth estimate for 2022-23 at 7%, noting that the economy's 6.3% uptick in the second quarter was higher than its forecast of 5.5%.

# Foreign funds pile into financial firms as credit cycle picks up

**Reuters**  
MUMBAI

Foreign investors are buying into Indian financial firms, lured by prospects of a fresh credit cycle that may boost the stocks of the country's largest lenders.

Indian shares are trading at a record-high valuation premium to their Asian counterparts, BNP Paribas said, but overseas

investors have found a bright spot in financials, considering them relatively cheap given their strong fundamentals.

The optimism is reflected in foreign investors buying a net of \$1.74 billion worth of Indian financial stocks in November, NSDL data showed. That is more than a third of the total \$4.44 billion net inflows for the month.



# Former Minister and economist Y.K. Alagh passes away at 83

**Jagriti Chandra**

NEW DELHI

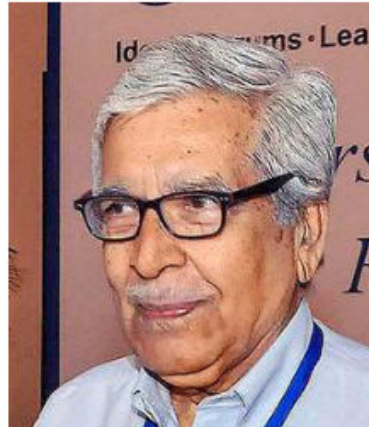
Former Union Minister and agricultural economist Yoginder K. Alagh, 83, who passed away at his residence in Ahmedabad on Tuesday evening due to ill health, is remembered for being a “democrat” and for his “inclusive approach to development”.

“Professor Y.K. Alagh was a distinguished scholar who was passionate about various aspects of public policy, particularly rural development, the environment and economics. Pained by his demise,” Prime Minister Narendra Modi wrote on Twitter.

Mr. Alagh had been the Chairperson of the Institute of Rural Management Anand from 2006 to 2012, succeeding Verghese Kurien. He was the Chancellor of the Central University of Gujarat, Gandhinagar, and Vice-Chairman, Sardar Patel Institute of Economic and Social Research, Ahmedabad.

He was appointed a Union Minister based on his lifetime achievements in academia and public policy and headed the Ministries of Power, Science and Technology and Planning and Programme Implementation.

Between 1992 and 1996, he served as the Vice-



Y.K. Alagh

Chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) where he raised non-government funding from zero to 25%, recruited 23 scholars from the finest universities around the world and as a member of the International Rectors' Group sponsored by New York University, pushed the university towards globalisation.

As the Chairman of the Agricultural Prices Commission during 1982-83, he reorganised Indian planning on an agro-climatic basis. From 1980 to 1982, he was the Executive Vice-Chairman of the Narmada Planning Group.

He also chaired the Expert Group on the Cauvery dispute.

“A wise thoughtful institution builder and outstanding academic, he recruited many of us against all odds,” wrote academic Amitabh Mattoo on Twitter.

# World Bank raises India's growth projection to 6.9%

After three downgrades in its 2022-23 GDP growth estimates, Bank reverses course, citing strong Q2 growth and strong demand at start of Q3; report lauds strong macroeconomic fundamentals

**Sreeparna Chakrabarty**

NEW DELHI

**T**he World Bank on Tuesday lifted its growth forecast for India's economy this year to 6.9%, after having downgraded it to 6.5% in October, citing resilience in economic activity despite a deteriorating external environment.

The Bank said it revised the GDP forecast considering the strong upturn in the July-to-September quarter of 2022-23, when it grew 6.3% despite inflationary pressures and tighter financing conditions, "driven by strong private consumption and investment".

"The government's focus on bolstering capital expenditure also supported domestic demand in the first half of 2022-23. High

## In a better place

India is better positioned to manage external shocks, according to the World Bank's India Development Update. **Excerpts:**



India's growth is affected

by slower growth in major economies but the impact on India is relatively less compared to other emerging market economies



The merchandise trade deficit will widen, driven by high oil prices. Goods export growth expected to moderate but will be 'somewhat offset' by Services exports



Forex reserves down 10% this year, but still provide 'adequate buffer against global spillovers' with about eight months' import cover

frequency indicators indicate continued robust growth of domestic demand at the start of Q3 (October to December quarter)," the Bank noted in its latest India Development Report titled 'Navigating the Storm'.

"India's economy has been remarkably resilient to the deteriorating exter-

nal environment, and strong macroeconomic fundamentals have placed it in good stead compared to other emerging market economies," said Auguste Tano Kouame, World Bank's country director in India.

In response to a query on whether India was experiencing 'jobless

growth', Mr. Kouame said that jobs are being created, but they are all in the informal sector. "So, the policy question here is what to do to formalise that... How to make job creation visible," he remarked, adding that the renewable energy and green economy sectors could create a lot of jobs.

The Bank expects the Indian economy to grow at a slightly slower 6.6% in 2023-24 as a challenging external environment and faltering global growth will affect its economic outlook through different channels.

The report said that a one percentage point decline in growth in the United States is associated with a 0.4 percentage point decline in India's growth.

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# World Bank revs up growth hopes to 6.9%

The effect is about around 1.5 times larger for other emerging economies, and the result is similar for growth spillovers from the EU and China.

Dhruv Sharma, senior economist at the Bank and lead author of the report, said that a well-crafted and prudent policy response to global spillovers is helping India navigate global and domestic challenges. The report, however, cautions about trade-offs between trying to limit the adverse impact of global spillovers on growth and the available policy space. Like its COVID-19 response, the Indian government's response to the external shock combined demand-side and supply-side policies, with both fiscal and monetary policy levers deployed, the report noted.

"The RBI's gradual withdrawal of liquidity and policy rate hikes have been aimed at anchoring inflation expectations. However, this has increased borrowing costs, which, along with elevated input prices, have potentially constrained private investment. The central bank's management of short-term volatility in exchange rates has contributed to a decline in reserves, though they are still at a relatively high level," it pointed out.

Strong revenue growth would largely offset India's higher subsidy bill and lower fuel taxes, but these measures have slowed the pace of fiscal consolidation. "The confluence of multiple challenges on the external front poses a challenge to India's growth trajectory, but balanced policymaking..., will help India navigate global headwinds." A widening goods trade deficit, driven by rising imports and softening exports, has expanded current account deficit to 2.8% of GDP in Q2 from 1.5% in the first quarter, the Bank said, adding that India scores better than only the Philippines and Thailand on this metric. However, the trade deficit will be "somewhat offset by resilient services trade surplus", it stressed.

# Delhi choking, but do not blame stubble burning alone

Every year around Deepavali, and like clockwork, Delhi's air quality makes it to the headlines. But there is a problem. You would have noticed that the noise on TV channels and even newspapers over the issue dies down after one 'strong wind speed day' and blows the debate away. Next winter we are back to expressing outrage again. As firefighters we are doing well, but as planners doing very little. While nature will not change, emissions can be reduced.

Increasingly polluted air is a hazard and a health crisis in the making. In fact, it is already one. India now reports 2.5 million air pollution-related deaths annually. Pollution not only makes our throats and eyes burn but is much more insidious. Some pollutants are so small that they are able to enter the bloodstream with ease, impacting almost every organ in the body and leading to the onset of health issues such as stroke, heart diseases, respiratory diseases and cancer, to name just a few serious health problems. It is not just about good air. It is about life.

While a lot has been written and said about Delhi's air quality, the question that still has to be answered is this: why is nothing changing after all these years?

## The same orders again

A principal reason is that year after year, we are doing the same things to try and address the problem without actually trying to evaluate why those measures are not effective. The Government formed the Commission for Air Quality Management, which, unfortunately, did not offer anything new. This body essentially issued the same orders the Ministry and the Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority used to, with just a slight change in the



**C.K. Mishra**  
is a former Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and founder, Partnerships for Impact

The reality is that Delhi's air is bad even when stubble is not being burnt, which points to the need for comprehensive, long-term measures throughout the year

language used. Every year schools are closed, people are advised to stay indoors, or carpool and work from home, bans on firecrackers are reinforced, construction stopped, trucks and cars not allowed to enter the city, and industries running on fuel shut. These measures, and several others, are akin to dressing a bullet wound with bandaid. Stopping people from going about their regular work is plain bad governance.

## Why Delhi's air is bad

As the haze descends over Delhi, the blame game begins – with stubble burning in the neighbouring States being identified as the main culprit. However, the reality is that Delhi's air is bad even when stubble is not being burnt. The burning of biomass in and around Delhi, if audited properly, would be the same as stubble burning in other States. Unfortunately none of the bodies, be it the municipal body or the government's Public Works Department, is willing to take responsibility for this or address and find a solution to the problem. This is not to say that stubble burning is not a problem. Some solutions have been tried out over the years, but with little success. What is required is a fundamental shift in agricultural patterns, which needs someone to make a bold political call. Unless farmers are adequately compensated, the problem is unlikely to go away. The 'Happy Seeder'-based solution has sadly not been a happy experience. We need to acknowledge that the problem is not just Delhi-centric. For some strange reason we all talk about the airshed approach but do not spend the rest of the year trying to solve the problem. Delhi chokes on its own dust and industrial activities. Who is ensuring compliance with the rules relating to the handling of construction and demolition waste? Delhi started with much enthusiasm about

roadside greening and cover. But is anyone monitoring this? Everyone seems to be looking at the data of PNG in industry, but is anyone looking at the unauthorised industries, which are a large emitter? Vehicles are another source of pollution in the city and we need to introspect why, despite an expanding fleet of public transport, citizens who primarily use two-wheelers have not moved to using the public transport system – buses and the metro. I feel the reasons for this include last-mile connectivity, the problem of crowding in buses and metros, and the inability to reach and navigate narrow lanes that two-wheelers can. The state of maintenance of buses could be another reason as well.

## A no to silo functioning

We have to be creative and look beyond the measures that have already been tried and proved they are at best a short-term solution to a recurring, long-term problem. Even then a core issue that needs to be addressed is the governance system. There needs to be a single entity that takes responsibility for air quality management. We cannot operate in silos where one system of governance is responsible for thinking, a second issues orders and a third is responsible for implementation. Without an efficient system that works in a coordinated way, we will find ourselves to be in the same position years later.

The reality also is that Delhi is not the sole offender. There are many other cities in India where safe levels of air quality are breached regularly. Air quality is a problem on most days but becomes an issue around Deepavali and when stubble is being burnt. We need to take more comprehensive, long-term measures throughout the year and not just in the days and weeks when it begins to make news.



# Curbing terror financing in Afghanistan holds the key to regional security: NSA

**Suhasini Haidar**

NEW DELHI

Curbing terrorism and terrorist financing in Afghanistan, and the use of trade and connectivity routes via Iran are key to regional security, said India's National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval chaired the first India-Central Asia meeting of NSAs and Secretaries of Security Councils in Delhi on Tuesday.

The day-long meeting, which was the outcome of the India-Central Asia virtual summit held in January this year, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi hosted leaders of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan and agreed to have security chiefs meet on a regular basis to discuss India's "extended neighbourhood".

"The [Security Advisers] discussed the current



**Stronger bond:** Ajit Doval with his Uzbekistan counterpart Viktor Makhmudov (right) at the meeting in Delhi on Tuesday. ANI

situation in Afghanistan and its impact on the security and stability of the region, reiterating strong support for a peaceful, stable and secure Afghanistan, emphasising respect for its sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity and urging non-interference in its internal affairs," said a joint communique at the end of the meeting, adding that all the countries present had concerns about the "cur-

rent deteriorating humanitarian situation" in Afghanistan and the need to ensure that terrorist groups don't find safe haven there.

The meeting, which focussed on the situation on Afghanistan, is among a number of conversations New Delhi is having this week with various stakeholders.

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# Curbing terror financing key to security, says NSA

On Monday, the U.S. Special Envoy for Afghanistan Tom West met with the Deputy NSA Vikram Misri and Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) point-person Joint Secretary J.P. Singh. On Thursday, the U.K. Prime Minister's special representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan Nigel Casey will hold similar meetings in Delhi. In addition, New Delhi has intensified its engagement with the Taliban regime, with the head of the Indian Mission in Kabul meeting with its "Interim" Ministers last week to discuss restarting Indian projects in Afghanistan.



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.