



PURCHASING MANAGERS' INDEX



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The New Learning Mantra

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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.

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Gaming and gambling

Economic rights, personal freedoms,
social imperatives must be in balance

The Union government's proposed measures for regulating online gaming in a draft amendment to the Information Technology (Intermediary Liability and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 leave several questions unanswered. Some of these proposed measures, such as the establishment of a self-regulatory body, collection of know-your-customer (KYC) information from players, and appointment of a grievance officer within the company, are already in place. These are moves that industry bodies representing such companies have encouraged. States such as Tamil Nadu want much stricter regulation of the sector than what is being proposed by the Centre in the draft, particularly for gambling with real money. The Centre's draft remains ambiguous on the question of whether States can have additional restrictions. So far, the industry has staved off several bans by mounting legal challenges arguing that they offer games of skill and not those purely dependent on chance – a tenuous distinction for real money gaming. Still, games that require wagering are outlawed in the physical form under the colonial Public Gambling Act, 1867 or States' own gambling laws. A clear answer should come from the Union government on whether States are empowered to prohibit these games online as they do offline. While the gaming industry has huge potential as an economic driver of growth in India, there is strong case for robust regulation. Of skill or of chance, all online games impact individuals and society, in the short and the long term.

The government has indicated that the definition of an 'online game', which is limited in the draft amendment to wagering platforms, may be expanded in future to include all games broadly. Societies around the world have grappled with the effects of video games on young players, and the addictive cycles that some gamers can get stuck in; China, for instance, has limited the number of hours that young gamers are allowed to play daily, after which they are locked out for the day. Care and restraint must be exercised when pondering similar steps in India, lest the government introduces uncertainty for both small domestic game developers and large international studios with Indian audiences. The government has said the goal is to facilitate the industry and not hinder its growth. It has also indicated that in future, it will try to curb "violent, addictive or sexual content" in video games. There should be widespread public consultation to ensure that economic rights, individual freedoms, and social imperatives remain in balance.

Jallikattu: cultural practice or cruelty

Why did the Supreme Court quash the Tamil Nadu Regulation of Jallikattu Act, 2009 in 2014? What has been the stand of the government on jallikattu? Can the event be recognised as a collective cultural and traditional right of the State of Tamil Nadu?

EXPLAINER

T. Ramakrishnan

The story so far:

With the Supreme Court recommencing its work after the winter vacation, all eyes in Tamil Nadu are on the verdict of a five-member Constitution Bench of the Court on a batch of petitions seeking to strike down a 2017 Tamil Nadu law that protects jallikattu, a traditional event involving bulls. As the conduct of the event will coincide with the Pongal festival, the Bench, which reserved its judgment on December 8, is expected to give its ruling next week.

How did the current litigation begin?

A massive agitation erupted on the Marina beach in Chennai in January 2017, demanding that the Central and State governments come up with a law that would annul the Supreme Court's ban on jallikattu which was imposed, through a judgment in May 2014 in the *Animal Welfare Board of India vs A. Nagaraja* case. Apart from demanding that the event be allowed again, the protesters had raised the issue of "redeeming Tamil identity and culture." Many prominent personalities, including film music director A.R. Rahman and chess maestro Viswanathan Anand, voiced their support for the bull-taming sport. It was against this context that the law in question was then enacted originally in the form of an Ordinance – the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Tamil Nadu Amendment) Ordinance 2017. The Assembly had subsequently adopted a Bill to replace the Ordinance which resulted in the Court being moved and the case referred to the Constitution Bench in February 2018.

How is the case being presented now?

The primary question involved is whether jallikattu should be granted constitutional protection as a collective cultural right under Article 29 (1) – a fundamental right guaranteed under Part III of the Constitution to protect the educational and cultural



Lock of horns: A youth trying to tame a bull during a jallikattu event at Palamedu in Madurai. LASHOK, R

rights of citizens. The court examined if the laws – the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Tamil Nadu Amendment) Act of 2017 and the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Conduct of Jallikattu) Rules of 2017 – "perpetuate cruelty to animals" or were actually a means to ensure "the survival and well-being of the native breed of bulls". This assumes relevance in the context of the Court quashing in 2014 the Tamil Nadu Regulation of Jallikattu Act, 2009, which had allowed jallikattu. The Court had then talked of how bulls were being "tortured to the hilt" in the process of performing for the event. The apex court then scrutinised the question of whether the new jallikattu laws were "relatable" to Article 48 of the Constitution which urged the state to endeavour to organise agriculture and animal husbandry on modern and scientific lines. The Constitution Bench also looked into whether jallikattu and bullock-cart race laws of Karnataka and Maharashtra would actually sub-serve the objective of "prevention" of

cruelty to animals under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act of 1960.

What were the arguments adduced for and against jallikattu?

In Tamil Nadu, jallikattu is both a religious and cultural event celebrated by the people of the State and its influence extends beyond the confines of caste and creed. "A practice which is centuries-old and symbolic of a community's identity can be regulated and reformed as the human race evolves rather than being completely obliterated," the State government submitted. It added that any ban on such a practice would be viewed as "hostile to culture and against the sensitivities of the community." Describing jallikattu as "a tool for conserving this precious indigenous breed of livestock," the government argued that the traditional event did not violate principles of compassion and humanity. It contended that the traditional and cultural significance of the event and its intertwining with the sociocultural milieu was being

taught in high school curriculum so that "the significance is maintained beyond generations." The petitioners' line of argument was that animal life was inextricably connected to the lives of humans. Liberty was "inherent in every living being, whether it be in any form of life," an aspect that had been recognised by the Constitution. The Tamil Nadu law was brought to circumvent the ban on jallikattu imposed by the Supreme Court. Placing their position on media reports about deaths and injuries caused to humans as well as bulls which had taken place in several districts of the State while conducting jallikattu, the petitioners contended that contrary to the arguments advanced by Tamil Nadu, several tamers pounced on bulls. According to them, "extreme cruelty" was inflicted on the animals. Also, there was no material to justify jallikattu as a part of culture. The critics had equated the event with practices such as sati and dowry, which were also once recognised as part of culture and stopped through legislation.

THE GIST

▼ The verdict of a five-member Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court on a batch of petitions seeking to strike down a 2017 Tamil Nadu law that protects jallikattu, a traditional event involving bulls, is expected next week.

▼ Jallikattu is a religious and cultural event celebrated by the people of Tamil Nadu. Describing jallikattu as "a tool for conserving this precious indigenous breed of livestock," the government argued that the traditional event did not violate principles of compassion and humanity. It added that any ban on such a practice would be viewed as "hostile to culture and against the sensitivities of the community."

▼ The petitioners' line of argument was that animal life was inextricably connected to the lives of humans. According to them, "extreme cruelty" was inflicted on the animals.

Why has a high-power Ladakh committee been formed?

Why is the Union Territory asking for protection of the region under the sixth schedule of the Constitution? What has been the government's response? What is the mandate of the newly constituted committee?

Vijaita Singh

The story so far:

On January 2, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) constituted a high-powered committee chaired by Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai for the Union Territory of Ladakh. The committee will discuss measures to protect the region's unique culture and language taking into consideration its geographical location and strategic importance; ensure protection of land and employment for the people of Ladakh; strategise inclusive development and discuss issues related to the empowerment of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill District Councils of Leh and Kargil.

Why was the committee formed?

Civil society groups in Ladakh have been

demanding protection of land, resources and employment for the past three years after the special status of the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 of the Constitution was read down by Parliament on August 5, 2019. The fear of big businesses and conglomerates taking away land and jobs from the local people have contributed to this demand.

What is the sixth schedule?

The sixth schedule under Article 244 of the Constitution protects the autonomy of tribal populations through creation of autonomous development councils which can frame laws on land, public health and agriculture. As of now ten autonomous councils exist in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.

As per the 2011 Census, the total population of Ladakh was 2,74,289, and nearly 80% of them are tribals.

What is the background?

In 2020, the Peoples Movement for Constitutional safeguard under the sixth schedule or the Apex Body, Leh was formed. They announced that they would boycott the upcoming district autonomous council elections if their demands were not met. The representatives which included former BJP MP Thupstan Chhewang and Skyabje Thiksey Khampo Rinpochey were called to Delhi for a meeting with Home Minister Amit Shah following which they called off the boycott call. They were assured that discussions would commence after 15 days of the culmination of elections. In the same year, the Apex Body and the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) from the two districts of Leh and Kargil in Ladakh came together to jointly fight for constitutional safeguards for the region. On August 2, 2022, the two bodies

renewed their demand to seek full Statehood for Ladakh. The UT has shut down at least twice and protested several occasions in the past three years over these demands.

However, members of the new committee state that the MHA order instituting the committee is not clear as it avoids any mention of the primary demand for inclusion under the sixth schedule of the Constitution. Moreover, even before the committee was announced, the Apex Body and KDA had scheduled a meeting in Jammu on January 7 to chart the future course of action.

What is the government's stand?

Not keen to give any special status to Ladakh, the MHA informed a parliamentary standing committee recently that the objective for inclusion of tribal population under the sixth schedule is to ensure their overall socio-economic development, which, the UT administration has already been taking care of and that sufficient funds are being provided to Ladakh to meet its overall developmental requirements. A report tabled in Rajya Sabha on December 13, 2022, quoted MHA officials, that the Ladakh administration recently increased the reservation for the Scheduled Tribes in direct recruitment from 10% to 45% which will significantly help the tribal population in their development.

THE GIST

On January 2, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) constituted a high-powered committee chaired by Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai for the Union Territory of Ladakh.

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Mixed signals

Manufacturing has gained momentum, but inflation still a concern

Recent macro-economic data, including the official Index of Eight Core Industries for November and S&P Global's survey-based Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for the manufacturing and services sectors for December, offer mixed signals on the underlying momentum in the economy. The government's provisional data show that output across the core industries, spanning coal to electricity, grew by an average 5.4% year-on-year in November. Double-digit expansions in cement, coal, electricity and steel led the index higher. However, on a sequential basis, contractions in six of the eight sectors, including in the heavyweight sectors of electricity and refinery products, which together represent almost half the index, kept average core output unchanged. While electricity output shrank 2.1% from October, refinery products contracted by 3.1% sequentially. Only production of coal and cement expanded both year-on-year and month-on-month, signalling that non-power demand for coal and construction activity may have begun gaining some traction in the third fiscal quarter. The uptrend in cement is heartening as consumption of the key building material spans the job-intensive housing and infrastructure segments and, if sustained, could help undergird broader economic momentum. The 12.3% year-on-year and 15.1% sequential expansion in coal output is also a positive augury as it indicates an improvement in availability of the fuel to fire captive power plants and furnaces in the crucial process and metal-making industries.

Separately, the more up-to-date December PMI data show that manufacturing momentum strengthened appreciably as businesses reported the fastest rise in new orders since February 2021. The private survey of purchasing managers at about 400 manufacturers signalled that average output growth across these firms hit a 13-month high last month, with the PMI reading of 57.8 pointing to the strongest sectoral expansion since October 2020. Producers of goods stepped up hiring to help them meet a backlog of orders. And though the increase in jobs was the slowest since September, employment across the sector rose for a tenth straight month reflecting the heightened optimism among manufacturers. The PMI survey shows that overall output charge inflation across the private sector has intensified, with manufacturers reporting inflation in selling prices outpacing gains in input costs for the first time in almost two-and-a-half years. Policymakers can ill-afford to drop their guard on inflation at this stage.

Services PMI shows surge in Dec., private sector output growth rises to 11-year high

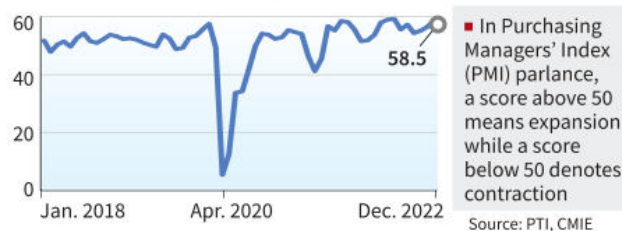
Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

India's services sector reported a sharp growth in new business in December, led by finance and insurance services, as per the S&P Global India Services Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI). The index rose to 58.5 last month from 56.4 in November 2022. A reading of 50 on the index indicates no change in business activity levels.

This is the 17th month in a row that new orders grew for services firms and the uptick was sharpest since

Services stride ahead

S&P Global India's Services Purchasing Managers' Index rose to 58.5 in December, the strongest expansion since mid-2022



August 2022, as per the survey-based PMI Business Activity Index, which reflected the strongest pace of overall growth in services since mid-2022.

With the India Manufacturing PMI also reporting a strong rise in December, the S&P Global India Composite PMI Output Index for the month sped from

56.7 in November to 59.4 in December, marking the quickest rate of growth for India's private sector since January 2012.

Real estate and business services saw the slowest expansion in new orders even as input cost inflation accelerated from November's levels, with firms mentioning wage pressures and higher prices for energy, food and transportation.

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Services PMI shows surge in December

Consumer services were hit the most by this surge in input cost inflation, while financial and insurance services firms enhanced their charges by the most extent for the second successive month.

The services sector continued to scale up hiring to keep pace with the upturn in output and business, but the extent of job creation dropped to a five-month low. Though overall positive sentiment was above-average, companies were 'least upbeat' in three months with competitive pressures and inflation concerns dampening overall optimism, S&P Global said.

"As we head into 2023, companies signalled strong optimism towards the outlook for output," said Pollyanna De Lima, economics associate director at S&P Global Market Intelligence. "Around 31% of panellists forecast growth, while only 2% anticipate a contraction," she added.

"Inflation trends were mixed, as input prices rose at a faster pace and the upturn in charges moderated. On the expense front, services firms reported pressure from energy, food, staff and transportation costs and several companies felt the need to transfer escalating costs through to clients," she added.

Aggregate sales rose sharply and at the fastest pace since August, boosted by quicker expansions at goods producers and services companies, S&P Global noted about the combined performance of manufacturing and services sector in December.

CERC orders payment to coal power units for forced output

Last year, power stations using imported coal had ceased operating due to high input prices; the government had at the time directed the producers to resume generation to meet high demand

Reuters
NEW DELHI

Power plants that rely on imported coal should be fully compensated when forced to supply electricity, power regulator CERC said on Tuesday, paving the way for firms to recover losses resulting from a government order last year.

In May, India invoked an emergency clause in the Electricity Act to direct plants using imported coal to resume generation to meet high demand. The

Cost of power

Regulator CERC's order came on Jan.3 after Tata Power's appeal



- Power tariffs for plants using imported coal should cover their costs as well as a 'reasonable profit margin'

- Other firms, including Adani Power, and JSW Energy, too would be able to claim compensation for being compelled to supply power during that period

- Plants with 17 GW total capacity stopped operations before govt. order

power stations, with a combined capacity of about 17 gigawatts, had ceased operating due to

high coal prices. Power tariffs for plants using imported coal should cover their costs as well as a "rea-

sonable profit margin," the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) said in its January 3 order.

The order came after Tata Power appealed to the CERC against the tariff fixed by the power Ministry after the directive last year forced them to keep operating to avert a power crisis in the country.

Other firms, including Adani Power and JSW Energy, would now be able to claim compensation for being compelled to supply power during that period, an industry official said.

Centre clears ₹19,744 cr. Green Hydrogen Mission

Plan is to reduce fossil fuel imports, decarbonise major sectors of the economy and turn the country into a global hub of production and export of green hydrogen and its derivatives

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the National Green Hydrogen Mission with an initial outlay of ₹19,744 crore, in a move aimed at making the country a global hub to produce, utilise and export green hydrogen and its derivatives.

The government expects that the initiative will help abate nearly 50 million tonnes (MT) of annual greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and cumulatively reduce fossil fuel imports estimated at over ₹1 lakh crore.

Briefing presspersons about the Cabinet decisions, Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Minister Anurag Thakur

GH₂: promises & challenges

■ Hydrogen produced is said to be 'green' if all its inputs are green. Decarbonisation plans of many countries include green hydrogen (GH₂) because combusting hydrogen releases only heat and steam

■ 60% of India's energy comes from fossil fuel sources

■ The production mode of choice of green hydrogen is through the electrolysis of water

■ India currently lacks the required electrolysers and needs cheaper renewable energy



■ Technologies to adapt hydrogen fuel cells for use in vehicles are largely immature in India

■ Hydrogen leaks easily and liquid hydrogen reacts explosively with air, incurring significant storage and transport costs

said the mission would be instrumental in making India energy-independent and decarbonising major sectors of the economy.

The initial outlay includes ₹17,490 crore for the Strategic Interventions for

Green Hydrogen Transition Programme (SIGHT); ₹1,466 crore for pilot projects; ₹400 crore for research and development; and ₹388 crore for other mission components.

Hydrogen is sought after

as a fuel because its combustion releases only steam. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is to formulate the scheme guidelines for implementation of the respective components.

Offers incentives

The government has already announced some incentives with a view to cutting the cost of hydrogen by half by 2030. They include priority power supply for manufacturers, concessions and short-term waivers for distributors and transmission costs, respectively; and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is expected to operate a single-window clearance system for proposals.

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Centre clears Green Hydrogen Mission

According to the government, the mission would lead to the development of green hydrogen production capacity of at least 5 MMT per annum with an associated renewable energy capacity addition of about 125 GW by 2030. It is expected to bring in investments of over ₹8 lakh crore, create over six lakh jobs, and help meet international commitments to fight climate change.

“Under the SIGHT programme, two distinct financial incentive mechanisms – targeting domestic manufacturing of electrolysers and production of green hydrogen – will be provided. The mission will also support pilot projects in emerging end-use sectors and production pathways. Regions capable of supporting large-scale production and/or utilisation of hydrogen will be identified and developed as green hydrogen hubs,” it said.

Public-private partnership

While a robust standards and regulations framework is to be developed for the ecosystem, the mission will facilitate a public-private partnership framework for research and development (R&D).

The new policy is in part to green the hydrogen used as fuel in various sectors, to the tune of 6 million tonnes per annum as of 2020, and to replace fuels in other sectors.

Some roadblocks in its implementation are procuring the electrolysers and electrolytes required to produce ‘green’ hydrogen and reducing the contribution of fossil fuel sources in India’s power generation mix. The former are already in great demand; the latter requires more and cheaper solar and wind power.

The Ministry of Power is expected to raise demand for use of hydrogen as a fuel, which, industry members have noted, could be another issue in the absence of a mandate to transition and technologies to adapt hydrogen fuel cells for use in vehicles.

Storing and moving hydrogen also incurs non-trivial costs because the gas leaks easily. Even small quantities of liquid hydrogen, which is easier to transport, react explosively with air.

Silent Valley bird species' number goes up to 175

The Hindu Bureau
PALAKKAD

A bird survey conducted at the Silent Valley National Park in Kerala in the last week of December identified 141 species, of which 17 were new. So far, 175 species of birds have been spotted in Silent Valley.

The survey held on December 27, 28 and 29 marked the 30th anniversary of the first bird survey in Silent Valley. Although the first survey was held in the last week of December 1990, the anniversary could not be celebrated in 2020 December because of COVID-19 restrictions.

Veteran birders such as P.K. Uthaman and C. Sushant were the only members in the 7th survey team who had attended the first survey held in 1990.



Visual treat: (from left) Grey-headed canary-flycatcher, Nilgiri flowerpecker and Pompadour green pigeon spotted in the Silent Valley National Park in Kerala. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

As many as 30 birders and forest staff took part in the bird survey by staying in seven camps inside the core area of the Silent Valley. Wildlife Warden S. Vinod said that another bird survey would soon be held in the buffer zone of the national park.

The survey was held in

association with the Kerala Natural History Society.

New species

Brown wood owl, Banded bay cuckoo, Malabar woodshrike, White-throated kingfisher, Indian nightjar, Jungle nightjar, and Large cuckooshrike were among the 17 species new-

ly identified in the Silent Valley. As many as 139 birds had been identified in a survey held in 2006, and the number of species went up to 142 in the last survey held in 2014.

Birds such as Crimson-backed sunbird, Yellow-browed bulbul, Black bulbul, Indian white-eye and

A bird survey conducted in Kerala in the last week of December identified 141 species, of which 17 are new

Indian swiftlet were found in abundance in Silent Valley. Silent Valley officials said several species endemic to high elevation areas were also identified during the survey. Among the birds they sighted were Nilgiri laughingthrush, Nilgiri flowerpecker, Brown-cheeked fulvetta, Black-and-orange flycatcher, Grey-headed canary-flycatcher, Greenish warbler, Common chiffchaff, Tytler's leaf warbler, Shaheen falcon, Nilgiri wood pigeon, and Malabar whistling thrush.

General Studies Paper I	
A	History of Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of art forms, literature and architecture from ancient to modern times;
B	Modern Indian history from about the middle of the eighteenth century until the present-significant events, personalities, issues;
C	Freedom struggle-its various stages and important contributors / contributions from different parts of the country;
D	Post-independence consolidation and reorganization within the country;
E	History of the world will include events from 18 th century such as industrial revolution, world wars, re-drawing of national boundaries, colonization, decolonization,
F	Political philosophies like communism, capitalism, socialism etc.-their forms and effect on the society
G	Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India;
H	Effects of globalization on Indian society;
I	Role of women and women's organization;
J	Social empowerment, communalism, regionalism & secularism
K	Salient features of world's physical geography;
L	Geographical features and their location- changes in critical geographical features (including water bodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes;
M	Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone etc.
N	Distribution of key natural resources across the world (including South Asia and the Indian subcontinent);
O	Factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary, and tertiary sector industries in various parts of the world (including India);
P	Population and associated issues;
Q	Urbanization, their problems and their remedies
General Studies Paper II	
A	India and its neighbourhood- relations;
B	Important International institutions, agencies and fora- their structure, mandate;
C	Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests;
D	Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.
E	Indian Constitution, historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure;
F	Comparison of the Indian Constitutional scheme with other countries;
G	Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the States, issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure, devolution of powers and finances up to local levels and challenges therein; Inclusive growth and issues arising from it;
H	Parliament and State Legislatures - structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers & privileges and issues arising out of these;
I	Structure, organization and functioning of the executive and the judiciary, Ministries and Departments;

J	Separation of powers between various organs dispute redressal mechanisms and institutions;
K	Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional bodies;
L	Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies;
M	Mechanisms, laws, institutions and bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections;
N	Salient features of the Representation of People's Act;
O	Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance- applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential;
P	Citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures;
Q	Issues relating to poverty and hunger,
R	Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States, Performance of these schemes;
S	Issues relating to development and management of social sector / services relating to education and human resources;
T	Issues relating to development and management of social sector / services relating to health
General Studies Paper III	
A	Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization of resources, growth, development and employment;
B	Effects of liberalization on the economy, changes in industrial policy and their effects on industrial growth;
C	Inclusive growth and issues arising from it;
D	Infrastructure Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc. Government budgeting;
E	Land reforms in India
F	Major crops, cropping patterns in various parts of the country, different types of irrigation and irrigation systems;
G	Storage, transport and marketing of agricultural produce and issues and related constraints;
H	e-technology in the aid of farmers; Technology Missions; Economics of Animal-Rearing.
I	Issues of buffer stocks and food security, Public Distribution System- objectives, functioning, limitations, revamping;
J	Food processing and related industries in India – scope and significance, location, upstream and downstream requirements, supply chain management;
K	Issues related to direct and indirect farm subsidies and minimum support prices
L	Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nano-technology, bio-technology;
M	Indigenization of technology and developing new technology;
N	Developments and their applications and effects in everyday life;
O	Issues relating to intellectual property rights
P	Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment
Q	Disaster and disaster management
R	Challenges to internal security through communication networks, role of media and social networking sites in internal security challenges, basics of cyber security;
S	Money-laundering and its prevention;

T	Various forces and their mandate;
U	Security challenges and their management in border areas;
V	Linkages of organized crime with terrorism;
W	Role of external state and non-state actors in creating challenges to internal security;
X	Linkages between development and spread of extremism.
General Studies Paper IV	
A	Ethics and Human Interface: Essence, determinants and consequences of Ethics in human actions;
B	Dimensions of ethics;
C	Ethics in private and public relationships. Human Values - lessons from the lives and teachings of great leaders, reformers and administrators;
D	Role of family, society and educational institutions in inculcating values.
E	Attitude: Content, structure, function; its influence and relation with thought and behaviour;
F	Moral and political attitudes;
G	Social influence and persuasion.
H	Aptitude and foundational values for Civil Service , integrity, impartiality and non-partisanship, objectivity, dedication to public service, empathy, tolerance and compassion towards the weaker sections.
I	Emotional intelligence-concepts, and their utilities and application in administration and governance.
J	Contributions of moral thinkers and philosophers from India and world.
K	Public/Civil service values and Ethics in Public administration: Status and problems;
L	Ethical concerns and dilemmas in government and private institutions;
M	Laws, rules, regulations and conscience as
N	sources of ethical guidance;
O	Accountability and ethical governance; strengthening of ethical and moral values in governance; ethical issues in international relations and funding;
P	Corporate governance.
Q	Probity in Governance: Concept of public service;
R	Philosophical basis of governance and probity;
S	Information sharing and transparency in government, Right to Information, Codes of Ethics, Codes of Conduct, Citizen's Charters, Work culture, Quality of service delivery, Utilization of public funds, challenges of corruption.
T	Case Studies on above issues.