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DAILY NEWS **ANALYSIS**

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## **FOREWORD**


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

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

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

## CONTENTS

- GSP 02 A Editorials - The killing of activists in Myanmar and its aftermath
- GSP 02 A News - Bangladesh seeks \$4.5 billion IMF loan as reserves shrink
- GSP 02 B Editorials - The U.S.'s search for a new role in West Asia
- GSP 02 B News - EU to reduce gas use by 15% over threats of supply cuts by Russia
- GSP 02 B News - Third parties joining CPEC is inherently illegal India
- GSP 02 H News - 19 Rajya Sabha members suspended in one go
- GSP 03 A Editorials - Whose GDP is it anyway
- GSP 03 A Editorials - Desperate measures

- 
- GSP 03 A News - IMF cuts outlook for global growth, flags recession risk
  - GSP 03 A News -ECGC raises risk cover for small exporters
  - GSP 03 A News -Spectrum auction bids worth ₹ 1.45 lakh cr. placed on Day
  - GSP 03 D News -Power tariff revisions and the state of DISCOMs
  - GSP 03 L Editorials -A path to global connectivity
  - GSP 03 L News -Generation of unique disability IDs ramped up
  - GSP 03 P News - India adds five more Ramsar sites
- 

## EXPLAINER

# The killing of activists in Myanmar and its aftermath

Will the execution of four pro-democracy activists instil fear among the people or will opposition against the junta increase?

APARUPA BHATTACHERJEE

**The story so far:** On July 25, Myanmar's junta executed four pro-democracy activists. The junta spokesperson called the executions "lawful" and said it was "justice for the people."

### What has happened in Myanmar since the coup in 2021?

The military (Tatmadaw) seized power from the democratically elected National League of Democracy (NLD) party in February 2021. The junta led by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing formed the State Administrative Council (SAC). Following the coup, Aung San Suu Kyi and several other leaders of the NLD were detained immediately and are still in detention.

As mass protests, called the 'spring revolution', against the regime began, a parallel government – the National Unity Government (NUG) – was formed. It has an armed division known as the People's Defence Force (PDF), which is supported and trained by several armed ethnic groups.

However, they have not been able to make a dent against the junta's repressive measures.

### Who were the executed activists?

Two of the executed activists have been identified – Ko Jimmy was a 53-year-old veteran of the "88 Movement" student uprising and Ko Phyo Zeya Thaw was a rapper, hip-hop artist and a member of



**In protest:** A poster against the Myanmar junta's execution of four prisoners. • AFP

the NLD party. They were arrested in November 2021, and sentenced to death in January 2022 by the military tribunal. They were convicted for devising and participating in anti-regime activities. Since the coup in 2021, the tribunal, according to Irrawaddy, has sentenced 113 people to death for their role in the armed resistance against the regime.

### What led to the latest executions?

On July 22, when the two activists were allowed to meet their families, there was speculation about their execution. Quoting a UN spokesperson, *Reuters* reported at least 1,500 people killed and 11,787 detained by the junta. These repressive measures have failed to suppress the public hostility towards the regime. Perhaps there is growing restlessness within the junta for failing to establish control and legitimacy despite being in power since February 2021, which has led to these executions.

The second reason could be to boost the morale of the military leadership. A section within the Tatmadaw has questioned Senior General Min Aung Hlaing's leadership capabilities, compared to his predecessors Ne Win and Than Shwe. Some military and police officials have even joined the pro-democracy movement. The government is grappling with a resistance movement, ethnic conflicts, terror attacks and a failing economy. According to the World Bank, there had been an 18% economic contraction in the country by the end of September 2021. His promises of an election in two years, forming a caretaker government and declaring himself as a Prime Minister in August 2021 have failed to appease the people.

Third, perhaps the regime sees the global focus on Ukraine (and Sri Lanka) as an opportunity to carry out something in its own backyard.

### Will the executions reduce hostility or lead to a flare up?

The opposition led by the PDF is likely to increase. Calling the executions unforgivable, the Deputy Foreign Minister of the NUG said: "the junta will have to pay the price legally. The executions have made us more determined to topple the regime." Both the activists were youth icons and prominent leaders of the pro-democracy movement. If Aung San Suu Kyi's freedom is a hope that helps the pro-democracy movement to sustain,

these executions will act as a catalyst. In the coming days, the junta might face probable retribution.

Will the executions impact the ethnic conflict between the groups? Unlikely. The equation between the ethnic groups and the junta is likely to remain unstable; however, the equation between the ethnic groups is less likely to be impacted because of the executions.

### Is the international response adequate?

The execution has been condemned by individual countries and international organisations. Regionally, the strongest voice has been from Cambodia, the chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), of which Myanmar is a member. He had requested the Senior General "to reconsider" and "refrain" from such action as it was causing "great concern among the ASEAN members and its external partners." Neither these condemnations nor the earlier sanctions levied by countries and organisations, including the U.S., Canada, Australia, the U.K., the European Union and others, have made an impact on the regime.

Sanctions are not new to Min Aung Hlaing and his Ministers. Successive military regimes have resisted external pressure – both from within the region and the rest of the world. The Senior General did not budge to honour ASEAN's five-point consensus for the peace and stability of Myanmar, although he agreed to implement them in a

regional meeting in April 2021. Besides, there is support for the regime from its allies. Russia has strongly supported the junta since the coup. The friendship has been well displayed by political and economic collaborations. China, the junta's oldest ally, was one of the first to give it de facto recognition after the coup. The support from Russia and China was also projected by the United Nations Security Council. China has a high stake in Myanmar due to its infrastructural projects and investments. It also wishes to avoid conflict within its borders. Among ASEAN members, Thailand's proximity to the junta is a known fact.

While there are regional and international sanctions on the regime, there is also support from crucial actors. The latter sustains the regime against the former.

### So, what do these executions mean for democracy?

Democracy will remain a far-fetched dream for Myanmar. Although Min Aung Hlaing promised an election by 2023, it is unlikely to happen.

If the opposition continues despite executions, the junta will conduct a general election which will be a repeat of 2011. The Tatmadaw's proxy Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) may come back to power through a rigged election.

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## THE GIST

■ On July 25, Myanmar's junta executed four pro-democracy activists. Two of the executed activists have been identified – Ko Jimmy who was a 53-year-old veteran of the "88 Movement" student uprising, and Ko Phyo Zeya Thaw, a rapper, hip-hop artist and a member of the NLD party.

■ The execution has been condemned by individual countries and international organisations. However, none of these condemnations nor sanctions have made an impact on the regime.

■ There is growing restlessness within the junta for failing to establish control and legitimacy despite being in power since February 2021.

# Bangladesh seeks \$4.5 billion IMF loan as reserves shrink

## In Dhaka, D-8 nations seek to overcome economic hardships

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
ASSOCIATED PRESS  
DHAKA

Business leaders and officials from eight developing nations meeting in Bangladesh on Tuesday said more cooperation was needed among them to overcome dwindling foreign currency reserves, a growing energy crisis and supply chain disruptions. Separately, according to a report in the *Daily Star*, the country has asked the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a \$4.5-billion loan to ease pressure from depreciating currency and shrinking foreign exchange reserves.

Representatives from Egypt, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Turkey and Bangladesh under the banner of D-8, or developing eight countries, on Tuesday discussed alternative trade financing such as cross-currency swap, barter and



A.K. Abdul Momen

blockchain to address their foreign currency reserves vulnerabilities, according to organisers.

Bangladesh's Foreign Minister A.K. Abdul Momen said the group, with a \$5 trillion economy among its members, was working to implement a free trade agreement while also increasing the volume of trade.

Organisers said the participants were exploring ways to boost energy security

with members such as Iran and Nigeria among the world's top oil producers.

"Due to ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and key global economic developments, every member country is experiencing foreign reserve and currency vulnerabilities, supply chain disruptions, inflation, energy and food security risks, and therefore should take precautionary measures to prepare for business beyond the usual," said Sheikh Fazle Fahim, President of the D-8 Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Bangladesh, a nation of 160 million people and the world's 41st largest economy, has suspended operations in diesel-run power plants to ease pressure on the cost of imports. The central bank has also taken measures to reduce the imports of luxury goods amid shortages of dollars in banks.

# The U.S.'s search for a new role in West Asia

Realpolitik may have trumped the Biden administration's rather vocal positions on principles in the region



HARSH V. PANT & VIVEK MISHRA

Two contrasting pictures emerged out of U.S. President Joe Biden's four-day visit to West Asia. The first was from his visit to Israel, where Mr. Biden was awarded the Presidential Medal of Honour. The second was from his visit to Saudi Arabia where a cold fist bump with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman foretold the chronicles of an increasingly awkward bilateral relationship.

## Compulsions driving Biden

The compulsions driving Mr. Biden's trip to West Asia have been evident. First, he faces the same challenges that several of his predecessors faced in navigating the U.S.'s West Asia policy, especially the Israel-Palestine conflict and Washington's strenuous relations with Iran.

Second, Mr. Biden's trip to Saudi Arabia signalled a re-prioritisation of his administration's interests, compelled by the Russia-Ukraine war and its ramifications on the global food and energy situation. In principle, his meeting with the Crown Prince was a walk back from his earlier promise in 2019 of keeping away from the Kingdom, after U.S. intelligence concluded in its assessment that the Saudi leader was directly involved in the killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi in

2018.

Although Mr. Biden made a veiled attempt to criticise the Saudi leader, the meeting's focus on bilateral cooperation in 5G technology and integrated air defence, and the fact that Mr. Biden welcomed Saudi Arabia's plan to strategically invest in projects aligning with U.S. Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII) goals, all point to Washington's need more than Riyadh's.

Furthermore, the Crown Prince did not make any public commitment to increase oil production. With Saudi Arabia, Mr. Biden is perceived as having skirted critical issues in the bilateral relationship such as the release of political prisoners, clemency for opponents of the regime, and easing of travel restrictions, especially for those who hold dual citizenship in the two countries.

However, two developments from Mr. Biden's visit could result in positive externalities for the region: one, the consensus to sustain a UN-mediated truce in Yemen and two, the opening of Saudi airspace for civilian aircraft flying to and from Israel. The aim of the former is to translate the truce, which has led to 15 weeks of peace, into a durable ceasefire and political process between Yemen and Saudi Arabia, creating conducive grounds for development and aid in war-ravaged Yemen. The latter emboldens the spirit and objectives of regional bonhomie, which the U.S. sought through the Abraham Accords. The Biden administration has tried to add a different hue to the Abraham Accords by establishing the Negev Forum, fol-



lowing up from the Negev Summit held in March 2022.

## The energy situation

At the heart of Mr. Biden's trip to West Asia lay the global energy situation, exacerbated by the conflict in Ukraine. There is a strong possibility that gas prices in the U.S. may surge as much as three times the current value before the U.S. midterm elections in November. As stricter Western sanctions on Russia kick in, Russia is expected to retaliate by even halting supplies to Europe ahead of the December 5 deadline set by European countries to fully ban Russian cargo ships carrying oil to Europe. Among the top priorities for the Biden administration during the visit to the region were to ensure predictability in energy supplies, stabilise energy prices, curb inflation, assure European allies of energy supplies before winter, and convert these into domestic support for the Democrats in the midterm elections.

As Russia has cut oil and gas supplies to European countries significantly, there is a new energy scramble in Europe which is characteristically both long and short term. In the short term, European countries such as Germany and

Austria are bracing for a harsh winter amid limited energy supplies and possibly the threat of a total cut-off by Moscow. In the long term, the U.S. has led the Western effort to establish alternate energy supply routes to ensure energy security for Europe even amid limited Russian supplies.

Mr. Biden's trip to West Asia also saw several other meetings with heads of state as part of his meetings with Gulf Cooperation Council countries in Jeddah including Prime Minister Al-Kadhimi of Iraq; President of the UAE, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed; Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi; Amir Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani of Qatar; King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa of Bahrain; and King Abdullah II of Jordan. Much in line with Mr. Biden's visit to Saudi Arabia, his meetings with other regional leaders ended without any substantive breakthrough.

## Seeking a toehold

With the first leaders' meet of the I2U2 group (comprising India, Israel, the UAE and the U.S.), sometimes referred to as the West Asian Quad, the Biden administration may have found a new toehold in West Asia. The I2U2, beyond its promises of integration, is of strategic value to the U.S. on the back of troop pull-out from Afghanistan, a not-so-favourable relationship with Saudi Arabia and a hostile relationship with Iran. The group's limited focus in this meeting on food security and energy security is understandable given its recent launch, but its agenda of tying the West Asian region with South Asia through innovation,

private sector investments, initiatives in water, energy, transportation, space, health, and the promotion and development of critical emerging and green technologies depict an integrated inter-regional future for the two regions.

Since the beginning of his term, Mr. Biden has sought a reorientation in the U.S.'s West Asia policy. Resetting relations with Iran through a reworked Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, which would have the U.S. back in the agreement; troop pull-out from Afghanistan, which is having regional security ramifications; and a principled support to democracies translating into a calibrated distancing from regional autocracies and dictatorships were all part of the recalibration. Expectedly, one of the few continuities that Mr. Biden did not want to disturb was the U.S.'s relations with Israel.

The Russia-Ukraine war and its implications have shown that the U.S.'s somewhat tenuous relations with countries in the region will continue despite underlying concerns about human rights and political freedom. For now, realpolitik and the compulsions it has engendered for Washington may have trumped the Biden administration's rather vocal positions on principles. And it may well be a wise choice in the end if it translates into domestic political support in the U.S. and a more favourable West Asia for Biden.

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# EU to reduce gas use by 15% over threats of supply cuts by Russia

Gazprom says cutbacks necessitated by delay in delivery of repaired turbine

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN  
LONDON

European Union (EU) member countries agreed to lower their natural gas use by 15% between August and March, in order to prepare for further cuts in gas supply by Moscow. On Monday, Russian gas company Gazprom said it would cut supplies via the Nord Stream I pipeline, to a fifth of capacity, as tensions continue to be high between Russia and the EU, following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The plan, agreed to by EU Energy Ministers on Tuesday, relies on member states' voluntarily cutting down gas use by 15% but there are provisions in the agreement to impose a mandatory demand reduction, if needed. The plan hopes that gas



**Frequent interruptions:** The landfall facilities of the Nord Stream I gas pipeline in Lubmin, Germany. ■ REUTERS

saved will be stored for use over the winter.

"Today, the European Union has taken a decisive step to face down the threat of a full gas disruption by Putin," European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen

said in a statement.

Some 40% of the EU's gas came from Russia last year, making member countries vulnerable to fluctuations in supply. Nord Stream I was taken offline completely for days, following the servicing

of a gas turbine, following which supplies have been restored to 40% of capacity in June. European leaders have accused Moscow of using energy as a weapon, following Europe and the U.S.'s sanctioning of Russia over its attack on Ukraine.

Gazprom on Tuesday said the cutbacks were necessitated by delays in receiving a repaired turbine for the pipeline. The turbine, which was repaired in Canada, has not been reinstalled yet, and another is expected to go offline because it needs repairs now, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

"The situation has been critically complicated by the restrictions and sanctions imposed on our country," Mr. Peskov added.

*(With AP inputs)*



# Third parties joining CPEC is inherently illegal: India

## Reiterates importance of PoK in Indian scheme of things

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

Days after China and Pakistan held a meeting to bring other countries into the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), India on Tuesday said that efforts to broaden CPEC's scope are "inherently illegal".

"We have seen reports on encouraging a proposed participation of third countries in the so-called CPEC projects. Any such actions by any party directly infringe on India's sovereignty and territorial integrity. India firmly and consistently opposes projects in the so-called CPEC, which are in Indian territory that has been illegally occupied by Pakis-



Arindam Bagchi

tan," said Arindam Bagchi, Official Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs.

The Joint Working Group of International Cooperation and Coordination under CPEC met on July 21, when the Pakistani and Chinese officials discussed bringing in a third country into the fold.

CPEC consists of a number of infrastructure projects that are under construction across Pakistan and is aimed at connecting China overland with the Gulf countries by cutting through the Himalayan range in Gilgit Baltistan and the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Soon after coming to power in Afghanistan last year, the Taliban had expressed desire to join the infrastructure project. Mr. Bagchi reminded Taliban and similar potential third parties of the problems associated with the CPEC, saying, "Such activities are inherently illegal, illegitimate and unacceptable, and will be treated accordingly by India."

# 19 Rajya Sabha members suspended in one go

They were in the Well demanding a discussion on the rise in the prices and a rollback of GST on essential commodities

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

Nineteen MPs were on Tuesday suspended from attending the Rajya Sabha for the remainder of the week for disrupting the House proceedings and demanding a discussion on price rise and a rollback of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on essentials.

The suspended MPs included seven from the Trinamool Congress, six from the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), three from the Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS), two from the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and one from the Communist Party of India (CPI). Later, the House was adjourned for the day as the Chair appealed to the suspended members to withdraw from the House, but

they continued to remain in the Well of the House.

Those suspended are Sushmita Dev, Mausam Noor, Shanta Chhetri, Dola Sen, Santunu Sen, Abir Ranjan Biswas and Nadimul Haque of the Trinamool Congress; M. Mohamed Abdulla, Kanimozhi, N.V.N. Somu, M. Shanmugam, S. Kalyanasundaram, R. Girirajan and N.R. Elango of the DMK; B. Lingaiah Yadav, Ravichandra Vaddiraju and Damodar Rao Divakonda of the TRS; V. Sivadasan and A.A. Rahim of the CPI(M); and Sandosh Kumar of CPI.

This is the highest number of single-batch suspension following the suspension of four Congress members from the Lok Sabha on Monday for the rest of the Monsoon Session. Last November, as many as 12



**Continuing protests:** Opposition members protesting in the Rajya Sabha in New Delhi on Tuesday. •PTI

MPs from Opposition parties were suspended for the entire Winter Session in the Rajya Sabha.

Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs V. Muralidharan moved a motion to suspend 10 MPs in the Rajya Sabha. When it was adopted by a voice vote, Deputy Chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh read out the

names of 19 members who have been suspended for the rest of the week.

## Scenes of ruckus

In the morning, the Upper House paid tributes to the soldiers martyred during the Kargil war. As soon as papers were laid on the table of the House, Opposition MPs stormed into the Well of the

House demanding a rollback of the GST on certain essential goods. Rajya Sabha Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu, without even taking up the notices before him, adjourned the House till noon.

Deputy Chairman Harivansh insisted they will be allowed to ask questions only if the Opposition members return to their seats. When the House assembled, similar scenes of ruckus continued. Deputy Chairman Harivansh adjourned the House for 15 minutes at 12.05 p.m.

But even after that, the pandemonium continued and the Question Hour was taken up amid ruckus. There was a question on the changes in the GST slabs.

Many Opposition members wanted to ask supplementary questions on this, but the Deputy Chairman in-

sisted that they will be allowed to ask questions only if the Opposition members go back to their seats. Mr. Harivansh warned the protesting members against showing placards, saying he will be forced to invoke Rule 256 and name the members if the ruckus continued.

When the House resumed at 2 p.m., MPs continued to be in the Well of the House and Mr. Harivansh said they were disrupting the House and not letting others to speak. The MPs were then suspended and the House adjourned for 15 minutes.

When it resumed, the suspended MPs refused to heed to the Chair's appeals to leave the House, leading to another adjournment for one hour.

The House was finally adjourned until Wednesday.

# Whose GDP is it anyway?

It is time for political leaders to clamour for an overhaul of India's economic performance measurement framework



PRAVEEN CHAKRAVARTY

In a few weeks, a quarterly ritual will play out in India. The Government will release the first quarter's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth numbers with some chest-thumping about how India is among the fastest-growing economies in the world. Opposition parties will hold press conferences on the same day to counter such bombast with facts, rhetoric and nit-picking. But the real question is: what is the significance and impact of GDP growth for the common person? The answer: very little.

## Growth and jobs

It is safe to say that the average person's primary and perhaps sole concern about the economy is the income they can earn. It is well documented that for several years, the single most important demand of people in India is jobs, specifically, a high-quality formal sector job that ensures dignity of work, good income and job security. It is then apparent that GDP growth matters to the average Indian only if it can generate good quality jobs and incomes for them.

Using data of 'employment in public and organised private sectors' published by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), we can calculate that in the decade between 1980 and 1990, every one percentage point of GDP growth (nominal) generated roughly two lakh new jobs in the formal sector. That is, if India's GDP grew by 14% every year in the 1980s, it can be said

that it created roughly 28 lakh new formal jobs.

In the subsequent decade from 1990 to 2000, every one percentage point of GDP growth yielded roughly one lakh new formal sector jobs, half of the previous decade. In the next decade between 2000 and 2010, one percentage point of GDP growth generated only 52,000 new jobs. The RBI stopped publishing this data from 2011-12, but one can safely infer using proxy data that in the 2010-2020 decade, the number of new jobs generated for every percentage of GDP growth fell even further.

In essence, one percentage of GDP growth today yields less than one-fourth the number of good quality jobs that it did in the 1980s. While the actual number of jobs created in each decade is only a rough estimate by the RBI, it is the alarming declining trend in job creation over decades that is more important to ponder. To put it differently, India's GDP growth today has to be four times its GDP growth in the 1980s to produce the same number of formal sector jobs.

It is amply clear that the correlation between formal sector jobs and GDP growth has weakened considerably. Ostensibly, high GDP growth now does not necessarily mean more jobs and incomes for people. Hence, GDP growth does not impact the common person today as much as it perhaps did four decades ago. GDP growth may be an important economic measure, but it is becoming increasingly irrelevant as a political measure, since it impacts only a select few and not the vast majority.

This divorce of GDP growth and jobs is both a reflection of the changed nature of contemporary



GETTY IMAGES

economic development with emphasis on capital-driven efficiency at the cost of labour and GDP being an inadequate measure. Nobel laureate Simon Kuznets, who conceived of GDP as a measure of economic performance, never intended it to be the single-minded economic pursuit for a nation that it has now become, and warned repeatedly that it is not a measure of societal well-being. Irrefutably, GDP is an elegant and simple metric that is a good indicator of economic progress which can be compared across nations. But a compulsive chase for GDP growth at all costs can be counter-productive, since it is not a holistic but a misleading measure. As the saying goes, when a measure becomes a target, it ceases to be a good measure.

## The obsession with GDP

The excessive obsession over GDP growth by policymakers and politicians can be unhealthy and dangerous in a democracy. If growth in GDP does not translate into equivalent economic prosperity for the average person, then in a one person-one vote democracy, exuberance over high GDP growth can backfire and trigger a backlash among the general public who may feel left out of this party.

Sri Lanka's mass uprising and people's revolution can partly be explained through this prism of the structural break between head-

line GDP growth and economic prosperity for the people. Sri Lanka produced two lakh jobs for every percentage of GDP growth in the 1990s decade; this dwindled to 90,000 by 2020. While economic mismanagement and political cronyism may have been the trigger for the recent mass protests in Sri Lanka, the underlying malaise is the dissonance between GDP growth and economic prosperity for the average person.

To be clear, this phenomenon is not unique to India or Sri Lanka or to the governance model of any one political ideology or another. The U.S. today produces fewer new jobs for every percentage point of GDP growth than it did in the 1990s. China produces one-third the number of new jobs today than it did in the 1990s for every percentage of its GDP growth.

The fact that employment intensity of economic growth is declining is neither a new finding nor a surprise to most economists. Yet, given its elegance as a measure, most economists and technocrats still focus heavily on GDP growth. But the perils of the obsession over GDP growth will be felt by politicians who have to answer voters on lack of jobs and incomes despite robust headline growth.

The World Bank and International Monetary Fund may proclaim winners among nations in some inane GDP growth contest every year, but when 'fastest' growing economies are unable to provide prosperity and social mobility for their people, this disillusionment is bound to erupt and manifest itself through the political process. Voter disenchantment over the economy not working for them is already rife in many democracies across the world that have catalysed agitations and social disharmony. Electoral out-

comes in favour of extreme positions in mature democracies such as the U.S., the U.K., France and Germany in the last decade may partly be a reflection of voters' sense of deception over economic gains.

## An expanded dashboard

Back in 2008, the then President of France, Nicolas Sarkozy, assembled the 'Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress' and tasked Nobel Laureate economists Joseph Stiglitz, Amartya Sen and others to develop a more comprehensive measurement framework of economic and social performance as an alternative to the excessive reliance on GDP as a sole measure. The report concluded that "what we measure affects what we do" and recommended an expanded dashboard of multiple indicators unique for each country.

GDP growth has turned into a misleading and dangerous indicator that portrays false economic promises, betrays people's aspirations and hides deeper social problems. The statistical aphorism 'Everything that counts cannot be counted and everything that can be counted does not count' succinctly summarises the GDP growth paradox facing many democracies today. It is time for India's political leaders, especially those in the Opposition, to not be drawn into facile quibbles over GDP growth every quarter and instead clamour for an overhaul of India's economic performance measurement framework to reflect what truly matters to the common person.

Praveen Chakravarty is a political economist and Chairman of Data Analytics of the Congress party

# Desperate measures

Myanmar's junta is only creating martyrs for the resistance through its repression

By executing four political prisoners, defying all international appeals, Myanmar's junta has sent out a clear message to both its critics abroad and the resistance at home that it has no plans for any political settlement. The military (Tatmadaw), which seized power in February 2021 through a coup, unseating the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi, has unleashed repressive measures ever since. It arrested some 14,000 political prisoners, of which over 11,000 are still in prison. More than 2,000 civilians have been killed and thousands of houses have been burnt, rendering millions homeless. Ms. Suu Kyi has been convicted on half a dozen phoney charges in secret trials and sentenced to 11 years in prison. The military has slapped her with many other charges that, with convictions from the Generals' kangaroo courts, could effectively keep her in prison for the rest of her life. But despite these repressive measures, the junta has not managed to establish even a semblance of order. While in the past, pro-democracy activists followed non-violent means of protesting against military rulers, now they have built a violent underground movement and joined hands with the country's ethnic rebels, who have been fighting the junta for decades. This has caused significant losses for the military, which is seeing more ambushes and sniper attacks. The execution of the political prisoners, one of them a former lawmaker, is an act of desperation by a dispensation that is being increasingly cornered.

Myanmar had seen a rare period of stability and economic growth when Ms. Suu Kyi was running the government. The military had agreed to an experiment of quasi-democracy when it found the status quo unsustainable. But that experiment lasted only 10 years as the military became increasingly threatened by Ms. Suu Kyi's growing popularity. By staging the coup, it did not just end the democratic experiment, but also sought to remove the potential threats to the military's grip on power. But not everything moved as per plan. The Generals may have captured power, but they now preside over a different Myanmar. The country's economy is in a free fall – it contracted 18% last year and GDP this year is expected to be 13% lower than in 2019, according to the World Bank. The regime is facing armed resistance in the countryside and civil resistance in the cities. The National Unity Government, the alternative administration formed by the resistance, says the junta, which lacks international recognition, has lost half the country to the rebels. With the executions of political prisoners, the Tatmadaw, one of the most consistent enemies of human freedoms and dignity, has sought to instil fear among the public and crush their spirit. But in trying to do so, it has created four martyrs for the resistance. Its tactics are helping neither the power-hungry Generals nor the people of Myanmar.

# IMF cuts outlook for global growth, flags recession risk

## Fund lowers India growth projection for fiscal 2022 to 7.4%

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
WASHINGTON

Surging inflation and sharp slowdowns in the United States and China prompted the IMF to cut its outlook for the global economy this year and next, while warning Tuesday that the situation could get much worse.

“The outlook has darkened significantly since April,” said IMF chief economist Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas. “The world may soon be teetering on the edge of a global recession, only two years after the last one,” Mr. Gourinchas warned.

In its latest outlook, the International Monetary Fund cut the 2022 global GDP estimate to 3.2%, 40 ba-



sis points lower than April's forecast, and about half the rate seen last year.

Last year's "tentative recovery" from the pandemic "has been followed by increasingly gloomy developments in 2022 as risks began to materialise," the IMF said. "Several shocks have hit a world economy already wea-

kened by the pandemic," including the war in Ukraine which has driven up global prices for food and energy, prompting central banks to raise interest rates sharply.

### ‘India to slow in 2023’

The fund also cut India's growth outlook by 0.8 percentage point to 7.4% for fiscal year 2022, reflecting "mainly less favourable external conditions and more rapid policy tightening."

India's 7.4% GDP growth is the second-highest after Saudi Arabia's 7.6%. India, whose GDP was projected at 8.7% in 2021, will see growth slow down to 6.1% in fiscal year 2023, the fund said.

*(With PTI inputs)*

# ECGC raises risk cover for small exporters

## Firm signs up State Bank of India

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
MUMBAI

ECGC Ltd. has introduced a scheme to provide enhanced export credit risk insurance cover to the extent of 90% to support small exporters. Earlier, the cover available was about 70%.

In this regard, it has signed up State Bank of India (SBI) under the Export Credit Insurance for Banks Whole Turnover Packaging Credit and Post Shipment (ECIB – WTPC & PS). SBI has agreed to provide export credit at repo rate plus 1.3%.

Other banks are also expected to sign up for this scheme, according to ECGC top officials, who added that this scheme would benefit a number of small-scale exporters availing of export credit with banks that hold the ECGC WT-ECIB covers.



This will also enable small exporters to explore new markets and new buyers, and diversify their existing product portfolio to help remain competitive.

“We expect the cover to play a game-changing role,” ECGC chairman M. Senthilnathan told reporters. “We expect this to bring up the percentage of accounts with up to ₹20 crore, thereby lending further stability to ECGC portfolio,” he added.

# Spectrum auction: bids worth ₹1.45 lakh cr. placed on Day 1

All four private players actively participated in the process

**YUTHIKA BHARGAVA**  
NEW DELHI

The government on Tuesday received record bids worth ₹1.45 lakh crore on the first day of the largest-ever auction for telecom airwaves, surpassing the expectations of bids worth ₹80,000 crore to ₹90,000 crore from the entire auction.

The auctions, wherein a total of 72,097.85 MHz (or 72 Ghz) of spectrum worth about ₹4.3 lakh crore has been put on sale, saw “active” participation from all the four private players – Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel, Vodafone Idea and Adani Data Network.

Telecom Minister Ashwini

Vaishnaw told reporters that “₹1.45 lakh crore is a very important number because this shows that the industry now is moving towards positive territory”.

“Now the industry is getting converted into a sunrise industry. It will now focus on investments, focus on creating more employment, providing better quality of service,” he said.

“The previous record was ₹1.09 lakh crore [in 2015 auctions]. So, this is a very encouraging response. This much response for 5G clearly shows that the industry has turned from its difficult times,” the Minister said.

The four rounds of bid-

ding on Tuesday also saw “good” demand for spectrum in the prestigious 700 MHz band that had remained unsold in the two previous auctions held in 2016 and 2021, because of higher price.

Airwaves in the mid (3,300 MHz) and high (26 GHz) frequency bands, which are expected to be utilised by telecom service providers to roll out 5G services, also drew strong bids.

The Minister said the government had set a target of August 15 for the allocation of spectrum. He added that 5G services were expected to begin in the country by September or October.

EXPLAINER

# Power tariff revisions and the state of DISCOMs

Why are power distribution companies swimming in losses? Why are States reluctant to hike power prices?

T. RAMAKRISHNAN

**The story so far:** On July 13, the Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (Tangedco) filed a general retail power tariff revision petition with the Tamil Nadu Electricity Regulatory Commission proposing to hike power tariffs by 10% to 35%. If the proposal comes into effect, expected in September, the hike will be after a gap of eight years. While announcing the government's decision to increase the tariff, Electricity Minister V. Senthilbalaji maintained that the proposed power tariff hike will not affect one crore domestic consumers and people living in hutments out of a total of around 2.39 crore.

**Why has the tariff revision petition been filed by the power utility?**  
A number of factors, which include mounting losses, outstanding loans and the consequent increase in interest burden, has compelled the Tangedco to file the petition. Even after joining the Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY) – a scheme meant for improving the health of state-owned electricity distribution companies (DISCOM) – in January 2017, Tamil Nadu could not bring down the gap between the Average Cost of Supply (ACS) and the Average Revenue Realised (ARR) to nil by 2018-19, as stipulated in the scheme. On the contrary, the gap rose to ₹1.07 per unit in 2019-20 against ₹0.6 per unit in 2015-16, according to a report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General on the implementation of the UDAY scheme by the Tangedco which was tabled on the floor of the State Assembly in May 2022. The Minister told the media that the cumulative financial losses went up from ₹18,954 crore in 2011-12 to ₹1,13,266 crore in 2020-21. What is more important than all these factors is the commitment provided by the Tamil Nadu government to fully absorb Tangedco's losses, due to which the State government has made an allocation of ₹13,108 crore this year in the form of budgetary support.

The Centre tightened its focus on the State by having withheld, through the Power Finance Corporation (PFC) and the Rural Electrification Corporation (REC), the release of ₹3,435 crore under the Special Liquidity (Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan) loan scheme, apart from not releasing the grant of ₹10,793 crore under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS). The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued a guideline to commercial banks that if lending is to be provided to any State-owned power utility including DISCOMs, the entity should have filed a tariff revision petition by November 30 every year.

**What about other power DISCOMs in the country?**  
The Tamil Nadu case is an example of what is happening in the distribution sector in the country. According to Niti Aayog's report of August 2021, most power DISCOMs incur losses every year – the total loss was estimated to be ₹90,000 crore in the financial year 2021. Due to these accumulated losses, DISCOMs were unable to pay for generators on time – as of March 2021, an amount of ₹67,917 crore was overdue. To help these DISCOMs, the Centre in May 2020, announced a Liquidity Infusion Scheme (Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan), under which loans of ₹1,35,497 crore have been sanctioned. As of December 31, 2021, a total of ₹1.03 lakh crore has been disbursed.

**Where do other States stand on power tariffs?**  
Despite the Centre's prescription for annual or periodical revision of retail power tariff, States have found the exercise painful, as the parties in power in the States link the process to their prospects at the time of Assembly or Lok Sabha elections. In Andhra Pradesh, the power tariff hike for domestic consumers approved in March, took place after a gap of two decades. Kerala, where the increase came into effect in late June, had it after three years. In

March 2022, the Bihar Electricity Regulatory Commission issued an order, rejecting the proposal for a 9.9% hike. In Punjab, no changes in the tariff were made and on the contrary, since the beginning of this month, domestic consumers in the State have been given free electricity up to 300 units each month.

In Tamil Nadu, all domestic consumers are entitled to 100 units of free electricity bi-monthly since May 2016 when the AIADMK retained power. The existing DMK regime has decided not to disturb this arrangement. In Gujarat, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has promised free electricity if it is voted to power in the Assembly election if it is voted to power in the Assembly election to be held later this year. The general approach of many parties is to use electricity as a tool for their political agenda and make promises to allure people despite knowing that such assurances, if implemented, are not sustainable in the long run.

**Do States provide subsidies to sectors like agriculture?**  
Yes. A common feature of the power distribution policies of the States is to provide free or heavily subsidised supply to agriculture. The connections for the farm sector are unmetered. Tamil Nadu, which has been implementing free power supply for the sector since the mid-1980s, had long resisted the installation of meters even for fresh connections. But it has been allowing the installation of meters for agricultural pump sets. A senior official claims that the meters are there only to do an assessment of consumption and not for billing. Segregation of feeders has been suggested as an option to arrive at the accurate consumption of the farm sector so that the disproportionate quantum of consumption is not attributed to agriculturists in the absence of meters. Gujarat is cited as a success story in this regard. In Manipur, according to the Niti Aayog's report, prepaid metering was supplemented with improved power supply, resulting in improved billing and collection efficiency as well as lower commercial



**Power strike:** AIADMK cadres protesting in Sivakasi against the Tamil Nadu government's proposal to increase power tariffs. • GOVARTHAN, M

losses. The Madhya Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission, in its tariff order of March 2022, came out with an incentive package in the area of demand side management. It stipulated that an incentive equal to 5% of energy charges should be given on installation and pushed for the use of energy saving devices such as ISI energy efficient motors for pump sets and programmable on-off/ dimmer switch with automation for street lights.



# A path to global connectivity

Integrating terrestrial 5G networks with LEO satellite networks is the next step in communication infrastructure



V. SRIDHAR & TALLEEN KUMAR

As terrestrial 5G mobile networks are being rolled out across countries, there is a renewed interest in integrating Non-Terrestrial Networks, the primary one being the low latency Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite networks (SatNets), as a complement to terrestrial networks. Towards this, Starlink, operated by the Elon Musk-owned SpaceX, and OneWeb, promoted by Bharti Global, have launched about 2,500 and 648 LEO satellites respectively at an altitude of about 1,200 km with the objective of promoting global broadband connectivity. There are other players such as Reliance Jio in a joint venture with Luxembourg-based SES and Amazon's Project Kuiper.

There are primarily three main use cases for integrating LEO SatNets with terrestrial 5G networks: (i) service continuity to provide seamless transition between terrestrial networks and SatNets in case of public safety, disaster management and emergency situations; (ii) service ubiquity to provide 5G services in unserved and underserved areas of the world, thereby bridging the digital divide; (iii) service scalability that utilises the unique capabilities of SatNets in multicasting and broadcasting similar content over a large geographical area. The LEO SatNets can provide service not only to stationary but also to in-motion users.

## Integration process

Satellites and terrestrial networks have always been considered two independent ecosystems, and their standardisation efforts have proceeded independent of each other. In view of the above advantages, standard-setting organisations such as the Third Generation Partnership project (3GPP), comprising telcos and equipment manufacturers around the world, started integrating SatNets in the standardisation process.

As an extension to terrestrial networks, satellites were first mentioned in a deployment scenario of 5G in 3GPP Release 14. This was to provide 5G communication services for areas where terrestrial coverage was not available and also to support services that could be accessed more efficiently through satellite systems, such as broadcasting services and delay-tolerant services.

Interestingly, wireless communications through LEO satellites over long distances is

proven to be 1.47 times faster than communication over the same distance through terrestrial optic fibre. It is this advantage along with global coverage that provide a strong use case for LEO SatNets to complement terrestrial optic fibre networks.

## Issues to be addressed

This would necessitate addressing issues around frequencies to be allocated for satellite broadband, the methodology of allocation, the relatively higher cost of consumer equipment and the placement and interconnections of SatNets with terrestrial public landline/ mobile networks at the ground stations.

The other major challenge in LEO SatNets is the cost of user terminal and access charges to the end users. A recent research analysing both Starlink and OneWeb concludes that the standalone LEO SatNets have a distinct cost advantage only if the density is less than 0.1 person per square km compared to terrestrial broadband networks. Hence it is to the advantage of LEO SatNet providers to integrate their networks with terrestrial 5G networks to improve the cost economies.

Realising the advantages, the Government, in its National Digital Communications Policy 2018, has indicated a number of areas including the development of an ecosystem for local manufacturing of satellite communication systems and promoting participation of private players for the strengthening of satellite communication infrastructure in the country.

Accordingly, the New Space India Limited (NSIL), a public sector enterprise, was established in 2019 under the administrative control of the Department of Space, to re-orient space activities from a 'supply driven' model to a 'demand driven' model, thereby ensuring optimum utilisation of the space assets. The Department of Space also established in 2020 a new regulatory body named the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe).

IN-SPACe is intended to provide a level playing field for private companies to use Indian space infrastructure and to promote and guide the private industries in space activities through encouraging policies and a friendly regulatory environment. All these, along with the proposed revisions to the Satellite Communications Policy of the Government, will provide the required fillip to LEO SatNets to become an integral part of the communication infrastructure of the country.

*V Sridhar is Professor at IIT Bangalore. Talleen Kumar is a Member (Finance), Space Commission, Atomic Energy Commission and Earth Commission*

# Generation of unique disability IDs ramped up

Campaign may be extended till Aug. 15

**DAMINI NATH**  
NEW DELHI

The generation of unique disability IDs (UDIDs) had increased from an average of 5,000 a day to an average of 7,000 to 9,000 daily during the 90-day *Azadi Se Aantodaya Tak* campaign, officials of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities of the Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry said on Tuesday.

The campaign was launched on April 28 by the Union government to improve enrolment in several schemes across Ministries in 75 districts identified for their connection with freedom fighters as a part of *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav*. The campaign, led by the Rural Development Ministry, was supposed to wrap up on July 28, but could be extended till August 15, according to sources.

## Directive to States

When the campaign started, the department had written to the States asking them to expedite generation of the unique IDs for people with disabilities.

As of May 2, a total of 72,06,947 IDs had been generated since the UDID project started in 2016.

This number climbed to 78,12,977, showing an increase of six lakh since the start of the campaign, an official said on Tuesday morning.

## Online issue

The department had made it mandatory for States to issue the UDIDs through its online portal from June 1, 2021 onwards.

In a tweet on Tuesday, the department said it had generated 16,423 UDID cards in the previous 48 hours, with the highest number in Uttar Pradesh (4,601), followed by Kerala (1,945), Maharashtra (1,304) and Uttarakhand (388).

Since its launch, the UDID project has been slow to gather steam, with activists, the disabled and the parliamentary panel on social justice raising concerns over the years.

According to the 2011 Census, there were 2.68 crore people with disabilities.

The standing committee in its report on February 12, 2021, noted that 1.5 crore legacy certificates had been brought onto the UDID portal, which would allow the States to just upload the re-validated certificate to generate a UDID.

# India adds five more Ramsar sites

Three of them are in Tamil Nadu and one each is in Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram

JACOB KOSHY  
NEW DELHI

India has added five more Ramsar sites, or wetlands of international importance, bringing the number of such sites in the country to 54, Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav said on Tuesday.

“Delighted to inform that 5 more Indian wetlands have got Ramsar recognition as wetlands of international importance,” Mr. Yadav tweeted.

These are the Karikili Bird Sanctuary, Pallikaranai Marsh Reserve Forest and Pichavaram Mangrove in Tamil Nadu, the Sakhya Sagar in Madhya Pradesh and the Pala Wetlands in Mizoram.

India’s Ramsar wetlands are spread over 11,000 sq.km – around 10% of the total wetland area in the country – across 18 States. No other South Asian country has as many sites, though this has much to do with India’s geographical breadth and tropical diversity. The U.K. (175) and Mexico (142) – smaller countries than India – have the most Ramsar sites, whereas Bolivia spans the largest area with 1,48,000 sq.km under the Convention protection.

Being designated a Ramsar site does not necessarily



**Vital sinks:** A view of the Pallikaranai marshland in Chennai. ■K. PICHUMANI

invite extra international funds, but the States – and the Centre – must ensure that these tracts of land are conserved and spared from encroachment. Acquiring this label also helps with a locale’s tourism potential and its international visibility. Until 1981, India had 41 Ramsar sites, though the past decade has seen the sharpest rise –13 – in designating new sites.

Wetlands, according to the Environment Ministry, are an “area of marsh, fen, peatland or water; whether natural or artificial, perma-

nent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six metres, but does not include river channels, paddy fields, human-made water bodies/tanks specifically constructed for drinking water purposes and structures specifically constructed for aquaculture, salt production, recreation and irrigation purposes.”

To be Ramsar site, however, it must meet at least one of nine criteria as defined by

the Ramsar Convention of 1961, such as supporting vulnerable, endangered, or critically endangered species or threatened ecological communities or, if it regularly supports 20,000 or more waterbirds or, is an important source of food for fishes, spawning ground, nursery and/or migration path on which fish stocks are dependent upon.

The National Wetland Inventory and Assessment compiled by the ISRO estimates India’s wetlands to span around 1,52,600 square kilometres.

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.