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**Page 04 : GS 3 : Indian Economy – Effects of liberalisation on the economy**

India's garment exports, valued at \$14.5 billion in 2023-24, are hampered by high import duties, complex procedures, and outdated regulations.

- Competitors like Vietnam and Bangladesh have outpaced India, with rising imports and domestic supply issues exacerbating the problem. The PLI scheme for textiles has also failed to attract investment.

## India's garment export woes self-inflicted: report

At \$14.5 billion, exports from the job-intensive sector were lower in 2023-24 than a decade earlier, owing to barriers on raw material imports and difficult customs, trade procedures, says think tank

**Vikas Dhoot**  
NEW DELHI

Exports from India's labour-intensive garment sector, which have been losing ground to rivals such as Vietnam and Bangladesh and were lower than the 2013-14 levels last year, have been dented more by the country's high duties and barriers on raw material imports along with difficult customs and trade procedures, rather than other nations' competitive strengths, a research report has flagged.

India's garment exports in 2023-24 stood at \$14.5 billion, compared with \$15 billion in 2013-14. Between 2013 and 2023, garment exports from Vietnam have grown nearly 82% to hit \$33.4 billion while that of Bangladesh has grown nearly 70% to hit \$43.8 billion. China exported about \$114 billion of garments in the same year, nearly a quarter lower than a decade earlier.

A production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for textiles launched by the Centre in 2021 has failed to



The report pointed out that recent quality control orders have complicated the process of bringing in essential raw materials. AFP

gain traction with investors and needs significant modifications to be effective, the think tank, Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI), has noted in a report titled "How Complex Procedures, Import Restrictions and Domestic Interests Hinder India's Garments Exports".

The report has also raised concerns about a steady rise in India's garments and textiles imports in recent years, which had grown to almost \$9.2 billion in the calendar year 2023. It warned that this tally could rise faster if the

export slide is not arrested, especially with firms like Reliance Retail expected to kick off sales of Chinese brands such as Shein in the country.

"Complex procedures, import restrictions and domestic vested interests are holding up Indian garment export growth. At the root of the exporters' problem is difficulty in obtaining quality raw fabric particularly synthetic fabric," the report said, adding that Bangladesh and Vietnam do not suffer from these complexities, while Indian firms have to "waste time

and money" on them.

The report, based on interactions with small, medium-sized, and large garment exporters, pointed out that recent quality control orders, or QCOs, issued for fabric imports have complicated the process of bringing in essential raw material. This is pushing up costs for exporters who have to rely on pricier options from domestic firms who dominate the market for raw materials like polyester staple fibre and viscose staple fibre.

"This scenario forces exporters to use expensive domestic supplies, making Indian garments overpriced," it explained.

Moreover, the procedures laid down by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade and Customs are archaic, requiring exporters to meticulously account for every square centimetre of imported fabric, buttons, and zippers, ensuring these are used in the production process and reflected in export product description, the report said, mooting a comprehensive overhaul to change the *status quo*.

## Daily News Analysis

### Current Export Performance:

- India's garment exports in 2023-24 totaled \$14.5 billion, a decrease from \$15 billion in 2013-14.
- Vietnam's garment exports grew nearly 82% to \$33.4 billion, and Bangladesh's grew nearly 70% to \$43.8 billion over the same period.
- China's garment exports were approximately \$114 billion, a nearly 25% drop from a decade earlier.

### Issues with Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme:

- The PLI scheme for textiles, launched in 2021, has not attracted significant investor interest.
- The scheme requires substantial modifications to effectively boost the sector, according to the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI).

### Rising Imports and Domestic Concerns:

- India's imports of garments and textiles reached nearly \$9.2 billion in 2023.
- The figure may rise further if the export decline continues, particularly with the introduction of Chinese brands like Shein in India.

### Complex Procedures and Import Restrictions:

- Indian garment exporters face difficulties in obtaining quality synthetic fabrics due to complex import procedures and restrictions.
- Exporters in Bangladesh and Vietnam do not encounter similar complexities, making their processes more efficient and less costly.

### Quality Control Orders (QCOs) and High Costs:

- Recent QCOs have complicated the importation of essential raw materials, leading to increased costs for exporters.
- Indian exporters must rely on more expensive domestic suppliers for raw materials like polyester staple fibre and viscose staple fibre, making Indian garments less competitively priced.

### Outdated Procedures and Administrative Burdens:

- The Directorate General of Foreign Trade and Customs enforces outdated procedures requiring detailed accounting for every square centimetre of imported materials.
- These procedures impose significant administrative burdens on exporters, leading to inefficiencies and additional costs.

### Recommendations for Reform:

- The report suggests a comprehensive overhaul of existing procedures and policies.
- Simplifying the import process and updating regulatory practices could help reduce costs and improve export efficiency.
- Addressing these systemic issues is crucial for enhancing the competitiveness of Indian garments in the global market.

## Mains Practice Question

**Ques : Discuss the challenges facing India's garment export sector and suggest reforms to enhance its global competitiveness. How have import duties, procedural complexities, and the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme impacted the sector?**



**Page 07 : GS 3 : Science & Technology**

A Dyson sphere is a theoretical structure proposed by Freeman Dyson to capture a star's energy for advanced civilizations.

- ✚ It consists of a shell or swarm of solar panels surrounding a star, and its presence could be detected by excess infrared radiation. Recent searches have found unexplained infrared emissions from several stars.

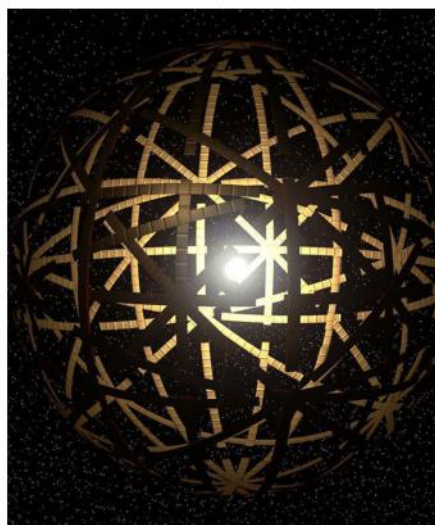
**WHAT IS IT?****Dyson sphere: an energy devourer****Arkatapa Basu**

Imagine you are an astronomer looking deep into space in search of extraterrestrial life. You spot a star that is emitting infrared radiation in anomalous fashion. You zoom in and see a swarm of solar panels covering the star like a shell, quietly collecting an enormous amount of solar energy from the star. Et voila: you have found a Dyson sphere.

The Dyson sphere is named after theoretical physicist Freeman Dyson (1923-2020), who hypothesised its existence. He said that technologically advanced civilisations will have such a tremendous demand for energy that they will have to harness the entire radiative power of a star, using solar energy collectors arranged in a sphere around the orb.

Dyson also figured that these spheres would emit excess heat from the star as infrared radiation, which he said astronomers could look for as an indirect sign of intelligent life — especially life capable of building such megastructures.

Of course, not all unusual infrared radiation emissions are indicative of Dyson spheres. In May this year, scientists set out to look specifically for the signature of



Freeman Dyson said that technologically advanced civilisations will harness the entire radiative power of a star.

Dyson spheres. They scanned 5 million stars within 1,000 light years of the earth. After analysing this data, they found seven stars whose infrared radiation they could not explain. There is no conclusive evidence still, but might one of these seven stars have a Dyson sphere surrounding it?

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with the subject 'Daily page'

## Daily News Analysis

### What is a Dyson Sphere:

- ✚ A Dyson sphere is a theoretical megastructure proposed by physicist Freeman Dyson.
- ✚ Its purpose is to capture and harness the entire energy output of a star to meet the needs of a highly advanced civilization.
- ✚ The concept involves constructing a shell or swarm of solar panels or energy collectors around the star.
- ✚ The collected solar energy would be converted to usable power for the civilization.
- ✚ Dyson spheres are expected to emit excess heat as infrared radiation, detectable by astronomers.
- ✚ The idea suggests that if we detect unusual infrared signatures, it might indicate the presence of such a structure and, by extension, intelligent life.
- ✚ Recent searches of stars within 1,000 light years have identified seven stars with unexplained infrared emissions, potentially hinting at Dyson spheres, but no conclusive evidence has been found.

### Who was Freeman Dyson (1923-2020)?

- ✚ Dyson was a renowned British-American theoretical physicist and mathematician known for his work in quantum electrodynamics, solid-state physics, and astronomy.
- ✚ Born on December 15, 1923, in England, he made significant contributions to science and technology, including the Dyson Sphere concept—a hypothetical structure that could encompass a star to capture its power output.
- ✚ He was also a prominent futurist and author, exploring ideas on space travel, extraterrestrial life, and the future of humanity.
- ✚ Dyson spent much of his career at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton and was known for his interdisciplinary approach to science.

## UPSC Prelims PYQ : 2015

**Ques : The term 'Goldilocks Zone' is often seen in the news in the context of**

- (a) The limits of habitable zone above the surface of the Earth
- (b) Regions inside the Earth-like planets in outer space
- (c) Search for the Earth-like planets in outer space
- (d) Search for meteorites containing precious metals

**Ans: c)**



The 2024 monsoon has shown unexpected patterns with irregular rainfall distribution. While forecasts were based on anticipated La Niña conditions, actual rainfall has been patchy.

- ✚ Accurate local forecasting is crucial for agriculture and water management. Expanding weather monitoring and improving data collection across the subcontinent are recommended for better predictions.

## Data gaps beyond India are holding monsoon forecasts back

The convenience of using the 'all-India monsoon rainfall' index for seasonal outlooks is undermined by the uncertainty India's farmers face at local levels. Our forecasts of rain weeks ahead of a date are getting better but they also increase the demand for even more accurate hyperlocal forecasts

Raghu Murtugudde

**W**e are now in the middle of the monsoon of 2024. The season began on May 30 as expected, but its evolution thus far has sprung some surprises. The rainfall distribution looks as patchy as ever, though with some unexpected patterns. The seasonal outlook provided by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) predicted normal to above-normal rainfall based on the expectation that a La Niña is likely. La Niña, however, appears to be playing truant.

After onset, the northward movement of the monsoon trough seemed to be quite rapid. But then the trough stalled and produced a fairly dry June over large swathes of the country. The entire Western Ghats received below-normal rainfall into July. An unusual pattern of excess rain stretching from south to north persists to this day, with dry patches over large parts of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, and Odisha, as well as north-western India into Jammu and Kashmir.

### A useful index with disclaimers

I have used this analogy before, and it still works well. As the sun crosses into the northern hemisphere and starts warming the Indian subcontinent like a popcorn kettle, monsoon systems pop like kernels of corn in the kettle. The temperature inside the kettle will be essentially uniform, but kernels will still pop randomly, here and there.

These kernels are like the rainfall: its patchy pattern is visible in day-to-day data as well as data averaged over the whole season and even over a whole decade.

However, the convenience of using the 'all-India monsoon rainfall' index for seasonal outlooks – as the IMD does – is undermined by the uncertainty India's farmers face at the local level. Our forecasts of rain days or weeks ahead of a given date are getting better, but they concomitantly increase the demand for, and value of, even more accurate and hyperlocal forecasts.

This demand is not only from farmers but also from water managers and energy companies, among others. We need a broader perspective of the monsoon circulation to help understand where the limitations exist and how they can be resolved.

### The circulation beyond India

People know the summer monsoon as the "southwest monsoon" because the winds sweep in from the southwest over the



People know the summer monsoon as the 'southwest monsoon' because the winds sweep in from the southwest over the Arabian Sea into mainland India, across the Western Ghats. PFI

Arabian Sea into mainland India, across the Western Ghats. The western edge of the winds grazes the African highlands, and some experts have often argued that they are critical for steering the south westerly winds. The active Bay of Bengal, which is full of convective events, can be expected to 'pull' the winds towards India as well. Convection in the atmosphere refers to rain events that release condensation heat.

The heating over West Asia and even the dust from the deserts there contribute to the monsoon circulation, and its variability, as well as the changes it is experiencing due to global warming. Pakistan is very much a part of the monsoon circulation and it experiences high rainfall variability. This is because the edges of the monsoon circulation tend to be highly variable.

The land encompassed by the Himalayan foothills, and thus Nepal and Bhutan, as well as the eastern edge of the Bay of Bengal (including Myanmar), is also involved in regulating the monsoon and the transfer of its heat to the Indian subcontinent. Bangladesh is, of course, ensconced between Northeast India and mainland India. We don't pay attention to the role of heating over Bangladesh or the ocean-land-atmosphere dynamics that create the beautiful monsoon and its heart-breaking vagaries every year.

The heating centres over the subcontinent are very strong, and they maintain a sustained demand for moisture to sustain the convection centres. Indeed, the circulation that



After onset, the northward movement of the monsoon trough seemed to be quite rapid. But then the trough stalled and produced a fairly dry June over large swathes of the country. The entire Western Ghats received below-normal rainfall into July

sweeps the oceans and the subcontinent cannot be represented accurately in rainfall models unless we capture all the heating centres from Pakistan and West Asia in the west to Myanmar in the east, and the Indian Ocean from about 10 degrees south to its northern edge against the subcontinent.

### Detail gaps beyond India's borders

As hard as the IMD and its labs are working to improve their monsoon forecasting abilities at all timescales, their efforts are also undermined by a lack of rainfall and other weather data over parts of the subcontinent beyond India. Satellites can help to some extent, but the amount of data available in near real-time to initiate forecasts is often quite inadequate.

These rainfall models are global for most subcontinent-scale forecasts, even though the IMD also develops regional model forecasts at the level of cities, and at the national scale. The global models ingest data about the oceans and the

planetary atmosphere to initiate forecasts, and the volume of data can appear to be large and adequate – but this is often not the case.

### Monitoring the whole subcontinent

India has been fortunate enough to have a rainfall monitoring network since the 19th century, and the advantages are now bearing fruit with investments in forecasting infrastructure. At this point, we need a few important steps to reach the next level in forecast accuracy. This is also essential to sustain continuous economic growth for India, especially in terms of food, water, and energy security.

In fact, even our national security depends heavily on weather and climate forecasts – for India as well as for the country's more climate-vulnerable neighbours. Debilitating natural disasters can quickly turn into national security concerns, especially with some neighbours having to seek aid from non-allies.

India does share its forecasts with some countries, but it may benefit more by extending this strategy to also establish a broad network to monitor weather and climate across the subcontinent. Improved forecasts for the subcontinent will make everybody safer and less vulnerable. This can only mean better opportunities for safety for all, including food, water, and energy, as well as better health.

(Raghu Murtugudde is a professor, IIT Bombay, and Emeritus Professor, University of Maryland.)

### THE GIST

The demand for accurate forecasts is not only from farmers but also water managers and energy companies. We need a broader perspective of the monsoon circulation to help understand where the limitations exist

The heating centres over the subcontinent maintain a demand for moisture. Circulation from the oceans and subcontinent can't be represented accurately unless we capture data from Pakistan, West Asia, Myanmar, and the Indian Ocean

India has had rainfall monitoring since the 19th century. Now we need to take a few important steps to reach the next level in forecast accuracy. This is essential to sustain economic growth

## Daily News Analysis

### Monsoon Evolution:

- ✚ The 2024 monsoon season began on May 30 as expected but has shown unexpected patterns.
- ✚ Rainfall distribution has been highly irregular, with some regions experiencing excess rain and others significant dryness.
- ✚ After a rapid northward movement of the monsoon trough, it stalled, leading to a dry June in many areas. Western Ghats have seen below-normal rainfall.

### Regional Rainfall Patterns:

- ✚ An unusual pattern of excess rain has been observed from south to north, while areas like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, and north-western India have experienced dry patches.
- ✚ This irregular distribution contrasts with predictions based on La Niña conditions, which seem to be inconsistent.

### Forecasting Challenges:

- ✚ The analogy of monsoon systems popping like kernels in a kettle illustrates the inherent patchiness of rainfall.
- ✚ The 'all-India monsoon rainfall' index used by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) is useful for general outlooks but does not account for local variations.
- ✚ Accurate, hyperlocal forecasts are increasingly demanded by farmers, water managers, and energy companies due to the complex and patchy nature of rainfall.

### Global and Regional Influences:

- ✚ The southwest monsoon is influenced by various factors, including the Arabian Sea winds, the Bay of Bengal's convective events, and heating from West Asia and the deserts.
- ✚ Variability in the monsoon circulation is also affected by heating over the Himalayan foothills, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, and Bangladesh.
- ✚ The monsoon's complexity necessitates considering these broader influences for accurate forecasting.

### Data and Forecasting Limitations:

- ✚ Despite IMD's efforts to improve forecasting, the lack of real-time rainfall data and weather observations from parts of the subcontinent hampers accuracy.
- ✚ Global models used for forecasts often lack sufficient data for precise predictions, particularly for local scales.

### Monitoring and Collaboration Needs:

- ✚ India has a historic rainfall monitoring network, but further investments in forecasting infrastructure are needed for improved accuracy.
- ✚ Better forecasting is crucial for economic growth, food, water, and energy security, as well as national security due to the impact of natural disasters.
- ✚ Extending weather and climate monitoring networks across the subcontinent could enhance safety and reduce vulnerability, benefiting all countries in the region.

### Strategic Recommendations:

- ✚ Establish a broad network for weather and climate monitoring across the subcontinent.

## Daily News Analysis

- ✚ Improve data collection and forecasting capabilities to enhance local and regional forecast accuracy.
- ✚ Collaborate more extensively with neighbouring countries to share forecasts and improve overall regional safety and resilience.

### UPSC Mains PYQ : 2017

**Ques : What characteristics can be assigned to the monsoon climate that succeeds in feeding more than 50 percent of the won population residing in Monsoon Asia?**



**Page : 09 : GS 2: International Relations**

India's strategic alignments in the Quad and BRICS have gained prominence amidst shifting global dynamics, marked by geopolitical rivalries, regional security concerns, and evolving multilateral frameworks.

- These engagements are crucial as India navigates its foreign policy amidst a changing international order, balancing security imperatives with multilateral cooperation and regional stability.

## *The importance of both Quad and BRICS*

**T**he Quad Foreign Ministers' meeting in Japan end-July, after a long gap of 10 months, comes at a time when the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is paralysed and its reform nowhere in sight, international law is violated with impunity both in the Ukraine war and in the assault on Gaza by Israel, an axis of Russia, China, North Korea, and Iran is gaining traction, and Chinese influence is growing not just in the Indo-Pacific, but elsewhere too.

The U.S. has, in turn, realised that it needs not just allies, but also credible partners in its security architecture, including in the Indo-Pacific, and reached "across the aisle" to "non-ally" countries like India to partner with them in smaller pluri-lateral groupings and joint security initiatives. Further, ASEAN countries are getting increasingly vulnerable, with South China Sea remaining a flashpoint.

While India is a member of many pluri-lateral groups on both sides of the geo-strategic "divide", its engagement in Quad and with BRICS present the country with interesting, and sometimes contrasting, dilemmas.

India has enthusiastically embraced Quad and its strategic objectives. U.S. President Joe Biden's belief in the Quad has given it the necessary fillip at the highest level since 2021. The fact that India, during its presidency of the UNSC in August 2021, held a high-level virtual event on 'Enhancing Maritime Security', presided over by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and attended by Russian President Vladimir Putin, among others, indicates the importance India attaches to strengthening maritime security in the Indo-Pacific and beyond.

### **India's role in the Quad**

While Quad has always had a geopolitical security objective vis-à-vis China, India's vision goes beyond this narrow thrust to a much broader redrawing of the security and techno-economic architecture of the Indo-Pacific



**T.S. Tirumurti**

Foreign Service Officer who was India's Permanent Representative to the UN, New York, and India's Sherpa for BRICS

With India being the only country common to both Quad and BRICS and a founding member of both, it cannot afford to downplay one for the other

region. With Quad now working on reorientation of global supply chains of critical technologies and on a range of areas of direct strategic relevance to the region, including digital, telecom, health, power, and semi-conductors, it has underlined that development too has a security perspective which cannot be ignored. India, in its turn, has benefited through enhanced bilateral relations with Quad partners, especially the U.S.

On the other hand, the formation of AUKUS with the U.S., Australia, and the U.K., with a view to enhance their military capabilities, especially Australia's with nuclear submarines, has put securitisation of the Indo-Pacific region and deterrence of China at the centre. The Ukraine war and enhanced focus on NATO has made the West look at Asia too through a military lens. AUKUS may well suit India's geo-strategic interests, but India's reluctance to go the whole nine yards in embracing a purely security vision for Quad is seen as a dampener, in spite of the Indian External Affairs Minister clarifying that Quad is not an Asian NATO and India is not a treaty ally unlike the other three. In fact, I used to tell my Quad colleagues in the UN that the only value-add we have in Quad is India. Instead of factoring in India's viewpoint, if they merely want to convert India to their cause, then they are wasting the opportunity to become inclusive and enhance their overall impact in the region, which includes developing countries with differing compulsions, not all of which are military-centric.

India's independent policy of close relations with Russia and calling for a diplomatic solution to the Ukraine war, both of which are frowned upon by the West, do not distract India from strengthening the Quad. Some Quad members and European countries are themselves enhancing their bilateral engagement with China, underlining their differing bilateral and regional compulsions.

Against the backdrop of India's enthusiastic engagement with

Quad, its engagement with BRICS presents a different conundrum. India was an enthusiastic founder of BRICS. In fact, at the 10th annual summit of the BRICS in 2018 in Johannesburg, South Africa, it was Mr. Modi who reminded the leaders that BRICS was founded to reform the multilateral system and proposed for the first time his vision of "reformed multilateralism." However, India's participation in BRICS has fluctuated from enthusiastic to lukewarm. While BRICS' initiatives such as New Development Bank and the Contingent Reserve Arrangement have been pioneering, the attempt by China to use BRICS to grandstand and push its world view on the Global South and now, to push back the West has made India wary of giving BRICS a higher profile.

### **The potential of BRICS**

India had, consequently, been reluctant to expand BRICS. In fact, in 2018, Mr. Putin too underlined his reluctance to expand BRICS by quoting former South African President Nelson Mandela: "After climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb." But after Quad and the situation in Ukraine, Russia too realised the potential of BRICS, which includes pushing back the West, and lined up behind China. The change of guard in Brazil leaves India as the lone member to push back China. A reluctant India decided to accept BRICS's expansion than oppose it and now many more countries are reportedly waiting to join. Even if India has the best of bilateral relations with all the new members, we need to make sure it all adds up to support for India inside BRICS. For this, India cannot afford to be ambivalent about BRICS any more. To counter moves to take BRICS in a direction India does not like, we need to be more engaged, not less. With India being the only country common to both Quad and BRICS, the country cannot afford to downplay one for the other.

## Daily News Analysis

### What is QUAD?

- ✚ It is the grouping of four democracies –India, Australia, the US, and Japan.
- ✚ All four nations find a common ground of being democratic nations and also support the common interest of unhindered maritime trade and security.
- ✚ It aims to ensure and support a “free, open and prosperous” Indo-Pacific region.
- ✚ The idea of Quad was first mooted by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in 2007. However, the idea couldn't move ahead with Australia pulling out of it, apparently due to Chinese pressure.
- ✚ Finally in 2017, India, Australia, the US and Japan, came together and formed this “quadrilateral” coalition.



### Role of India in QUAD:

- ✚ **Strategic Partnership:** India's involvement in QUAD enhances its strategic partnerships with the other member nations, allowing for collaborative efforts in maritime security, humanitarian assistance, and disaster relief operations.
- ✚ **Building Indo-Pacific Policy:** One of the primary objectives of QUAD is to mitigate China's assertive actions in Indo Pacific region.
- ✚ India is positioned to take on a leadership role in regional security.
- ✚ **Economic Collaboration:** The QUAD nations are working towards strengthening economic ties, including infrastructure development at 'Strait of Malacca' and alternative financing options for Indo-Pacific countries.
- ✚ **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief:** India has actively engaged in humanitarian efforts, exemplified by its Operation Sanjeevani, which provided medical assistance to several Indo-Pacific nations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### What is BRICS?

- ✚ **About:**
  - BRICS is an acronym for the grouping of the world's leading emerging economies, namely Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.
  - The BRICS Leaders' Summit is convened annually.
  - The 15th BRICS Summit was hosted by South Africa in 2023, and Russia will host the 16th Brics summit in October 2024.
- ✚ **Formation of BRICS:**
  - The grouping was first informally formed during a meeting of the leaders of Brazil, Russia, India, and China (BRIC) on the sidelines of the G8 (now G7) Outreach Summit in St.Petersburg, Russia, in 2006, this was later formalised during the 1st BRIC Foreign Ministers' Meeting in New York in 2006.

## Daily News Analysis

- In 2009, the inaugural BRIC summit took place in Yekaterinburg, Russia. The following year (2010), South Africa joined to form the group known as BRICS.

### Silverlining on BRICS

#### **Promoting South-South Cooperation:**

BRICS represents a significant non-Western global initiative in the post-Cold War era. It can bring together major emerging economies from different parts of the world.

#### **Amplifying Voices in Global Governance:**

The BRICS Population is around 40% of the world so the BRICS nations can amplify their voices in global governance and expand their choices of international partners through this grouping.

#### **Fostering Economic Resilience:** Despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, BRICS has emerged as a more effective and efficient institution in fostering economic resilience among its member nations.

#### **Exploring Alternative Financial Mechanisms:** BRICS has taken steps to establish alternative financial mechanisms, such as the New Development Bank (NDB) and the Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA).

#### **Role BRICS group in G20:** The BRICS group has consistently pushed for the inclusion of development issues in the G20 agenda. They argue that the G20 should prioritize the needs of developing countries, particularly in terms of infrastructure investment and social sector support

#### **Promoting Sustainable Development:** The BRICS nations have emphasized the importance of responsible financing for green and sustainable development.

#### **Initiatives like the NDB's focus on sustainable infrastructure projects which would help in achieving of SDG Goal 9.**





## Daily News Analysis

### UPSC Prelims PYQ : 2014

**Ques:** With reference to a grouping of countries known as BRICS, consider the following statements:

1. The First Summit of BRICS was held in Rio de Janeiro in 2009.
2. South Africa was the last to join the BRICS grouping.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Ans: (b)**

### UPSC Mains PYQ : 2020

**Ques :** Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) is transforming itself into a trade bloc from a military alliance, in present times Discuss.

**Important Day In News : National Flag Day, 2024**

On 22nd July in 1947, the Constituent Assembly of India adopted the National Flag.

**1906**

Unofficial flag of India  
in 1906

**1907**

The Berlin committee flag, first  
raised by Bhikaiji Cama in 1907

**1917**

The flag used during the Home  
Rule movement in 1917

**1921**

The flag unofficially adopted in  
1921

**1931**

The flag adopted in 1931. This  
flag was also the battle ensign  
of the Indian National Army

**1947**

The present Tricolour  
flag of India

**History of Our National Flag****First Public Display in Kolkata (1906):**

- The first national flag of India was hoisted on August 7, 1906, in Kolkata at Parsee Bagan Square (Green Park).
- The flag had three horizontal stripes of red, yellow, and green, with "Vande Mataram" inscribed in the center.
- Symbolism: The red stripe included symbols of the sun and a crescent moon, while the green stripe featured eight half-open lotuses.
- The flag is believed to have been designed by freedom activists Sachindra Prasad Bose and Hemchandra Kanungo.

**Indian Flag in Germany:**

- In 1907, Madame Cama and her group of exiled revolutionaries hoisted an Indian flag in Germany.
- This event marked the first time the Indian flag was hoisted in a foreign country.

## Daily News Analysis

- ✚ Home Rule Movement Flag:
- ✚ Dr. Annie Besant and Lokmanya Tilak introduced a new flag in 1917 as part of the Home Rule Movement.
- ✚ The flag featured alternate red and green horizontal stripes, with seven stars in the Saptarishi configuration.
- ✚ It included a white crescent and star in one top corner, and the Union Jack in the other.

### Version by Pingali Venkayya:

- ✚ Pingali Venkayya, an Indian freedom fighter, is credited with the design of the modern Indian tricolour.
- ✚ Venkayya first met Mahatma Gandhi in South Africa during the second Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902).
- ✚ He conducted extensive research and published a book in 1916 that included possible designs for the Indian flag.
- ✚ At the All India Congress Committee in Bezwada in 1921, Venkayya proposed a basic flag design to Gandhi, featuring two bands of red and green to represent Hindus and Muslims.

### Jawaharlal Nehru's Resolution on National Flag

- ✚ India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, moved the Resolution:
- ✚ The National Flag of India shall be a horizontal tricolour of deep Saffron (Kesari), white, and dark green in equal proportion.
- ✚ In the centre of the white band, there shall be a navy blue Wheel representing the Charkha.
- ✚ The design of the Wheel is based on the Chakra from the Sarnath Lion Capital of Ashoka.
- ✚ The diameter of the Wheel approximates the width of the white band.
- ✚ The ratio of the width to the length of the Flag shall be 2:3.
- ✚ The motion was adopted unanimously by the Assembly.



### UPSC Prelims PYQ : 2023

**Ques:** Consider the following statements in respect of the National Flag of India according to the Flag Code of India, 2002:

1. **Statement-I:** One of the standard sizes of the National Flag of India is 600 mm \* 400 mm.
2. **Statement-II:** The ratio of the length to the height (width) of the Flag shall be 3:2.

**Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?**

- a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

**Ans: (d)**

# Focus on female employment to counter unemployment

**T**he difficulty in getting jobs and inflation were the two major issues that played a role in the results of the Lok Sabha Elections 2024, according to the Lokniti-CSDS pre-poll survey (*The Hindu*, April 11, 2024). The India Employment Report (IER) 2024, published by the Institute for Human Development and the International Labour Organization, also illustrated a rise in the unemployment rate from a little more than 2% in 2000 and 2012 to 5.8% in 2019. Unemployment reduced somewhat to 4.1% in 2022, although time-related underemployment was high at 7.5%. The labour force participation rate (LFPR) also fell from 61.6% in 2000 to 49.8% in 2018 but recovered halfway to 55.2% in 2022. But in this gloomy picture marked by unemployment and underemployment, there was a steep and steady upward trend of female LFPR from 24.6% in 2018 to 36.6% in 2022 in rural India. It also increased by around 3.5% from 20.4% in 2018 in urban areas. This is in contrast with male LFPR, which rose marginally by 2% in rural areas and almost stagnant in urban areas.

Female LFPR in India is low when compared to the world average of 53.4% (2019), and it has decreased from 38.9% in 2000 to 23.3% in 2018. Against this backdrop, the current increasing trend in female LFPR, especially a 12% rise in rural India during 2018-22, indicates an untapped opportunity for employment generation. Women have been engaged in unpaid family labour work in both rural and urban areas. While 9.3% of males were employed as unpaid family workers, the same was as high as 36.5% for females in 2022. Moreover, the difference between female and male unpaid family labour employment was 31.4% in rural areas against only 8.1% in urban areas. Hence, if appropriate strategies are taken, there is a much greater opportunity for female employment generation, especially in rural areas.

The choice of employment for earnings may be extremely gendered, which makes generating employment opportunities for females tricky. Our study on work conditions and employment for women in the slums of Bhuj, Gujarat, shows that women are more interested in engaging in traditional employment activities from home,



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A better female labour force participation rate can improve overall family income and welfare, especially in rural India

such as *bandhani*, embroidery and fall beading, rather than other opportunities, including non-farm casual labour. The flexibility of work and the possibility of working from home were the major reasons for preferring traditional occupations despite their low income. The study also found that 30% of women were stuck to their traditional occupations due to the unavailability of other options. A lower rise of female LFPR in urban than rural areas during 2018-22, as shown in IER 2024, also indicates a lack of appropriate and gainful opportunities for females in urban areas. The opportunity to develop one's own enterprise was difficult due to limited access to capital and binding social norms where males of a particular community control the dominant business of the locality – tie and dye. Collectivising women under self-help groups (SHG), and, further, through federations may benefit women involved in traditional occupations. SHG women may be trained to acquire new skills, and federations may link women directly to the market for better returns. The Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan (KMVS), a local non-profit organisation, is working in the region towards this end.

Traditional occupations are accepted by society as they conform to local gender norms. These occupations have emerged as the dominant choice of women. Traditional occupations support women's practical gender needs, such as managing both household work and earnings. However, they may not help in meeting strategic gender needs, such as challenging regressive gender norms. Moving out of their own dwelling and working in a professional environment increases women's agency and empowers them to meet strategic gender needs.

## The importance of market access

The foray of women into male-dominated workspaces would increase competition for labour work. This competition can be avoided by generating new opportunities in previously neglected arenas. In a study on the relationship between the type of dominant irrigation source of a region (canal or groundwater) and women's empowerment (farm employment and decision-making abilities) in the villages in the Upper Gangetic Plains of Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh, we found that women's wages in farm labour work and decision-making abilities increased with the expansion of relatively less dominant source of irrigation and vice versa. Males may take more interest if more water is available through the dominant source of the region. Further, the expansion of canal irrigation during *Ziad* (summer slump season), when males had less interest in agriculture, positively affected female empowerment.

Additional non-conventional irrigation benefits women, as this writer's recent field visits to villages in West Bengal showed. Women have initiated farming, pisciculture, nursery and vermicompost after water is made available

through ponds or tube wells in arid and monocropped regions. These women are part of an all-women water user's association supported by the West Bengal Accelerated Development of Minor Irrigation Project, Government of West Bengal. Availability of work near home has reduced female migration with the whole family and has increased family welfare. Male family members help in heavy activities that demand strength, such as ploughing or netting in ponds. In most tribal villages, women are barred from ploughing due to gender norms. Similar norms exist for netting in ponds. Women said that they could carry on without the help of male family members if they used hired tractors for ploughing and hired labour for netting. More market interaction empowers women by enabling them to circumvent gender norms and reduce dependency on male family members. Far away, in the Upper Gangetic Plains, a more vibrant water market was found to be associated with higher agency by women to influence the purchase of agricultural inputs.

The earnings of both men and women contribute to family income and welfare. Hence, the strategy to enhance women's workforce participation and reduce underutilisation of time can be possible by developing income-earning opportunities where males need not be confronted and driven out of the labour market. Women's work opportunities at or near home can enhance the family income and women's position in the family. Strikingly, a woman in West Bengal was proud that she could lend money to her husband to buy agricultural inputs. In another study in the slums of Kolkata, it was observed that women's participation in the workforce has reduced economic vulnerability and improved resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Need for a better work environment

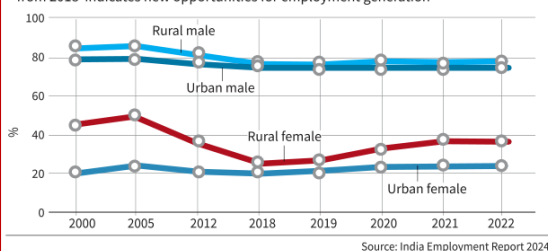
At the same time, participation in work outside the home should be focused. This has a more direct impact on women's empowerment. However, a long-term strategy is required to develop a better work environment for women. Safety and basic facilities in the workplace (toilets and crèches) should be made available. Public policy should mandate these facilities in small- and medium-manufacturing or business units.

A strategy of focusing on the improvement of female LFPR would improve overall employment and the family income. In rural areas, public policy should help women by providing more access to resources (such as water) and markets (to buy inputs and implements and to sell produce). In urban areas, better facilities in the workplace should be mandated. Collectivising women and federating collectives in rural and urban India under planned economic activities will be most helpful. The *Lakshpati Didi* programme aiming at raising an SHG woman's annual income to ₹1 lakh or above may pave the way.

*The views expressed are personal*

## Labour force participation rate in India

A sharp rise in the female labour force participation rate, especially in rural India, from 2018 indicates new opportunities for employment generation



## Daily News Analysis

**GS Paper 03 :** Indian Economy – Issues relating to development and employment.

**PYQ: (UPSC CSE (M) GS-3 2022) :** Economic growth in the recent past has been led by increase in labour productivity. Explain this statement. Suggest the growth pattern that will lead to creation of more jobs without compromising labour productivity. (250 w /15 m)

**Practice Question** Discuss the implications of rising female labour force participation rates (LFPR) in rural and urban India as indicated by recent employment reports. How can this trend be leveraged to address unemployment and underemployment issues in the country?

(250 w/15m)

### Context

- ✚ The Lokniti-CSDS pre-poll survey and the India Employment Report (IER) 2024 highlighted significant employment challenges in India, particularly rising unemployment and underemployment.
- ✚ Despite a low female labour force participation rate (LFPR), recent trends show an increase, presenting opportunities for targeted employment generation and economic empowerment for women.

### Introduction

- ✚ The difficulty in getting jobs and inflation were significant issues affecting the results of the Lok Sabha Elections 2024.
- ✚ The Lokniti-CSDS pre-poll survey highlighted these concerns.
- ✚ The India Employment Report (IER) 2024, published by the Institute for Human Development and the International Labour Organization, provided detailed employment statistics.

### What is Female Labour Force Participation Rate (FLFPR)?

- ✚ Female Labour Force Participation Rate is a ratio of the number of women who are part of the labour force to the number of women in the working age (greater than 15 years of age).
- ✚ A woman is considered to be a part of the labour force if she/he is either employed or actively looking for work.



## Daily News Analysis

### Trends in Female Unemployment

- ✚ **Rural-Urban Disparities in LFPR:** Unemployment rose from a little over 2% in 2000 and 2012 to 5.8% in 2019.
  - It slightly decreased to 4.1% in 2022, though time-related underemployment was high at 7.5%.
  - The labour force participation rate (LFPR) fell from 61.6% in 2000 to 49.8% in 2018 but recovered halfway to 55.2% in 2022.
- ✚ **Impact of Traditional Occupations:** Many women prefer traditional occupations like bandhani and embroidery due to flexibility and the ability to work from home. This choice is influenced by societal norms and the perceived security of these roles, despite lower incomes compared to other opportunities.
- ✚ **Role of Policy and Self-Help Groups (SHGs):** Initiatives like SHGs and federations have supported women in traditional occupations by providing skill training and market linkages. These efforts aim to enhance earnings and empower women economically within their local contexts.

### Barriers and Opportunities to Female Employment

- ✚ **Barriers in Urban Employment:** Urban areas present challenges such as limited gainful employment options for women outside traditional roles. This is compounded by gendered expectations and access to capital, which restricts entrepreneurial ventures among women.
- ✚ **Need for Comprehensive Policies:** Public policy should focus on enhancing women's access to resources like water and markets in rural areas to support agriculture and allied activities. In urban settings, mandated facilities like toilets and crèches in workplaces are crucial to improve working conditions.
- ✚ **Economic Empowerment and Family Welfare:** Women's economic participation not only contributes to family income but also enhances their status within the household. Studies have shown that women's earnings increase resilience during economic downturns, such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Policy Recommendations

- ✚ **Collectivization and Market Access:** Collective efforts through SHGs and federations can amplify the impact of economic interventions for women. These platforms enable collective bargaining, skill development, and access to larger markets, thereby enhancing economic outcomes.

## Daily News Analysis

- ✚ **Creating Enabling Environments:** Developing a conducive work environment with safety measures and essential facilities is critical to encourage more women to enter and stay in the workforce. This includes provisions for safe workplaces, adequate sanitation facilities, and childcare support.

### Conclusion

- ✚ A focused strategy on improving female LFPR can enhance overall employment and family income.
- ✚ Empowering women through better access to resources, markets, and improved work environments is essential.
- ✚ Policies should support both rural and urban women by addressing specific needs and promoting economic activities through SHGs and federations.

### Key Terms

- ✚ **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR):**
  - LFPR is the percentage of the working-age population (aged 15 years and above) that is either employed or unemployed, but willing and looking for employment.
- ✚ **Worker Population Ratio (WPR):**
  - WPR is defined as the percentage of employed persons in the population.
- ✚ **Unemployment Rate (UR):**
  - UR is defined as the percentage of persons unemployed among the persons in the labour force.
- ✚ **Activity Status**
  - The activity status of a person is determined on the basis of the activities pursued by the person during the specified reference period. When the activity status is determined on the basis of the reference period of the last 365 days preceding the date of the survey, it is known as the usual activity status of the person.
  - **Types of Activity Status:**
    - **Principal Activity Status (PS):** The activity status on which a person spent a relatively long time (major time criterion) during 365 days preceding the date of the survey, was considered the usual principal activity status of the person.
    - **Subsidiary Economic Activity Status (SS):** The activity status in which a person in addition to his/her usual principal status, performs some economic activity for 30 days or more for the reference period of 365 days preceding the date of survey, was considered the subsidiary economic activity status of the person.

## Daily News Analysis

- **Current Weekly Status (CWS):** The activity status determined on the basis of a reference period of the last 7 days preceding the date of the survey is known as the current weekly status (CWS) of the person.

### What are the Types of Unemployment?

Type of Unemployment	Description
<b>Disguised Unemployment</b>	More people are employed than needed, primarily found in the agricultural and unorganized sectors.
<b>Seasonal Unemployment</b>	Occurs during specific seasons of the year, often affecting agricultural laborers who do not work year-round.
<b>Structural Unemployment</b>	Arises from a mismatch between available jobs and the skills of workers.
<b>Cyclical Unemployment</b>	Linked to economic cycles, with unemployment rising during recessions and declining in periods of growth.
<b>Technological Unemployment</b>	Job losses due to technological changes. India has seen a significant impact from automation.
<b>Frictional Unemployment</b>	Involves a time lag when individuals search for or switch between jobs, often voluntary and not due to job shortages.
<b>Vulnerable Employment</b>	Informal, contract-less work without legal protection, often leading to unrecorded employment.

### What are the reasons for low Female Labour Force Participation rate in India?

- ✚ **High Degree of Informalisation–** According to a 2018 study by the International Labour Organisation (ILO), more than 95% of India's working women are informal workers. The absence of social security net in the informal sector discourages women from participating in the labour force.
- ✚ **Missing manufacturing-** Lack of alternative employment opportunities in manufacturing and the limited number of jobs in services for women, has also suppressed FLFPR in India.



## Daily News Analysis

- ✚ **Gender Pay Gap and Glass ceiling-** According to the Economic Survey 2018, India has one of the largest gender gap in median earnings of full-time employees. Such discriminatory practices at workplace adversely affects FLFPR.
- ✚ **Pink Jobs-** The societal notions about 'gendered occupations' limit the role of women to specific job profiles like nursing, teaching, gynaecologist etc. There are tangible and intangible barriers to entry of women in multiple professions like heavy engineering, law enforcement, armed forces etc.
- ✚ **Cultural practices-** Unpaid care, child care and domestic chores, has hindered women's ability to participate in the labour force. In a patriarchal society, many women are not allowed to work after marriage.
- ✚ **Increase in Household Income-** The rise in household incomes in both the rural and urban areas has provided women the choice to not take up jobs.
- ✚ **Safety Concerns-** High incidents of violence against women discourages women to work in the night like their male counterparts. Further, instances of sexual harassment at workplace induces women to opt out of labour force.
- ✚ **Educated Unemployment-** Women are going for higher education, as seen in Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of secondary education. The lack of availability of jobs that match the high female education levels also contributes to the low FLFPR.
- ✚ **Legally sanctioned restrictions-** Many States continue to restrict women's participation in hazardous jobs in factories and commercial establishments. For ex- women are not allowed to work on stone-cutting machines, shop floor of boilers, etc.
- ✚ **Political Vacuum-** The current Lok Sabha has only 14.4% women, despite women constituting around 50% of Indian population. The lack of gender perspectives inhibits formulation of a comprehensive policy that encourages women participation in economic activities.

### What is the significance of enhancing Female Labour Force Participation?

- ✚ **Economic Boost-** According to the IMF, gender parity in the workforce can improve India's GDP by 27%.
- ✚ **Tackling poverty-** It helps to tackle the phenomenon of feminisation of poverty, which is a result of highly informalised work performed by women.
- ✚ **Improvement in Social Indicators-** Encouraging more women to enter the formal workforce will improve indicators like Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR).
- ✚ **Self Confidence and Dignity-** Financial independence enables women to play a greater role in decision-making like family planning.

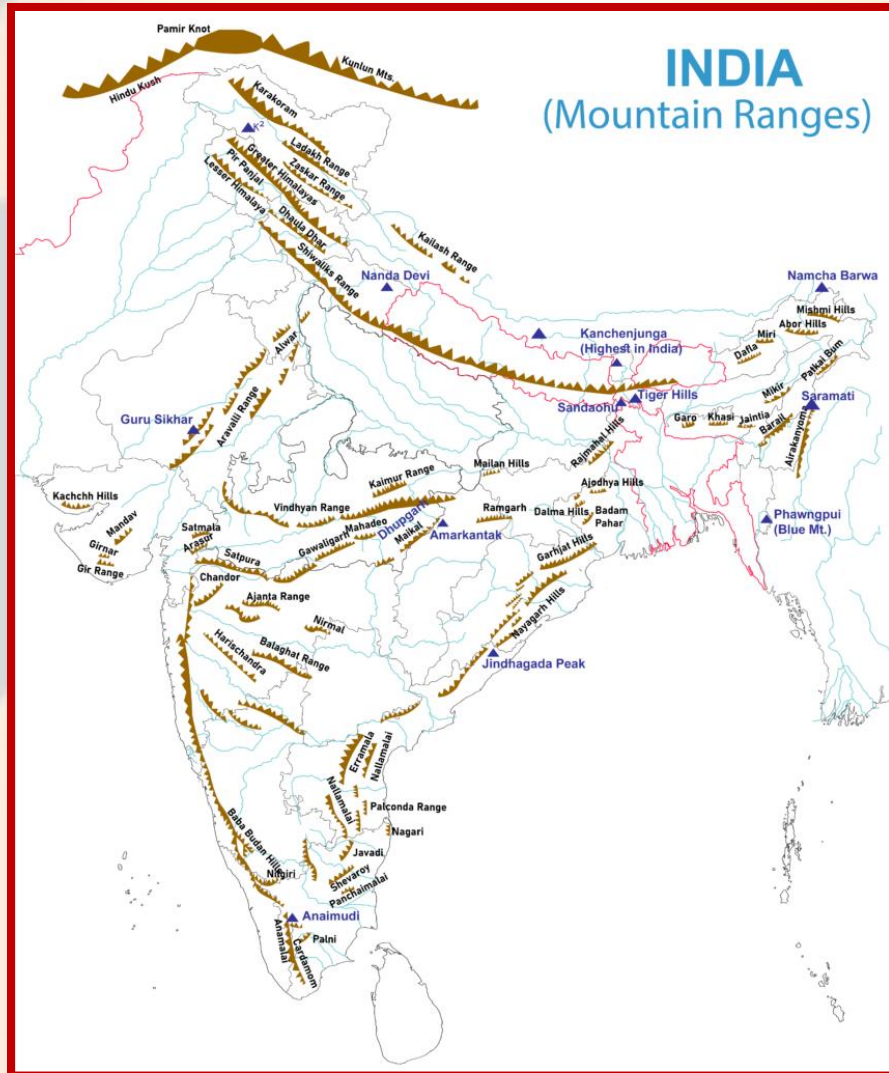
## Daily News Analysis

- ✚ **Global Commitments-** Improving FLFPR is related to achievements of SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) and SDG 10 (Reduced inequalities).

### What are the Government Schemes Related to Women Empowerment?

1. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme
2. One Stop Centre Scheme
3. SWADHAR Greh
4. NARI SHAKTI PURASKAR
5. Mahila police Volunteers
6. Mahila Shakti Kendras (MSK)
7. NIRBHAYA Fund.

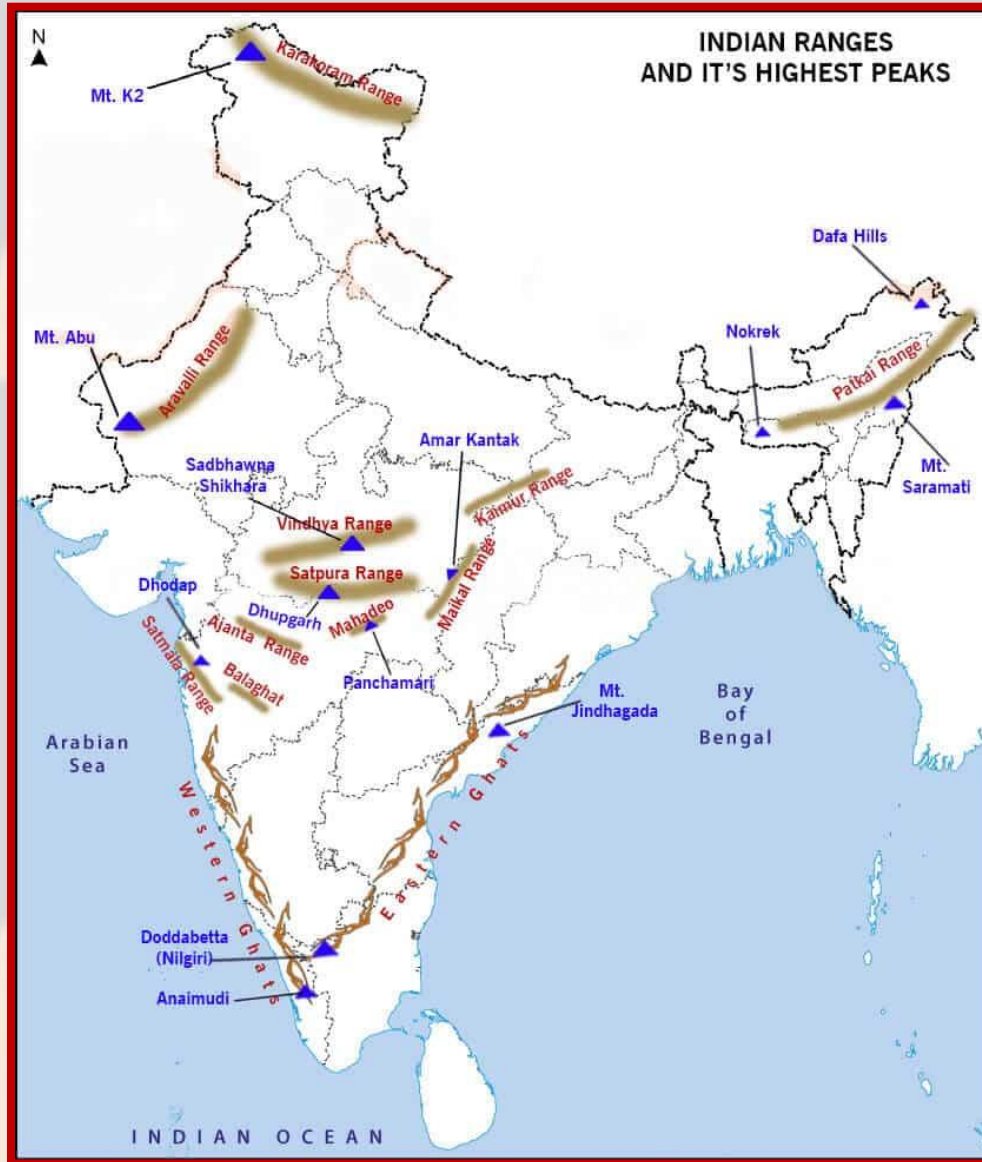
## Mapping : Major Hill Ranges of India



1. Aravalli hills
2. Vindhyan range
3. Satpura range
4. Western Ghat
5. Eastern Ghat



## Daily News Analysis



### Aravalli hills

- ✚ They originate in Gujarat (at Palanpur) and extend till Haryana. They terminate in the Delhi ridge.
- ✚ They have a maximum extent of 800 km
- ✚ They are old fold mountain ranges, one of the oldest tectonic mountains in the world.
- ✚ Rocks that make up the Aravallis are more than 2 billion years old.
- ✚ Unlike other fold mountains, Aravallis have an average elevation in the range of 400-600m only. This is because throughout their geological history they were subjected to the processes of weathering and erosion.

## Daily News Analysis

- ✚ Only a few peaks reach an elevation of above 1000m. These include – Mt. Gurushikhar (1722m, the highest point of Aravallis), Mt. Abu (1158m, it's part of a plateau).
- ✚ Geologically, they are mainly made up of Dharwar igneous and metamorphic rocks.
- ✚ They contain the largest marble deposits in India.
- ✚ Rivers Banas, Luni, Sabarmati are born in Aravallis. Banas is a tributary of Chambal. Luni is an ephemeral river that terminates in the Rann of Kutch.
- ✚ They contain several passes that cut through them, especially between Udaipur and Ajmer like Piplighat, Dewair, Desuri, etc.
- ✚ They also contain several lakes such as Lake Sambhar (largest inland saline water body in India), Lake Dhebar (south of Aravallis), Lake Jaisamand (in the Jaisamand wildlife sanctuary), etc.

### Vindhyan range

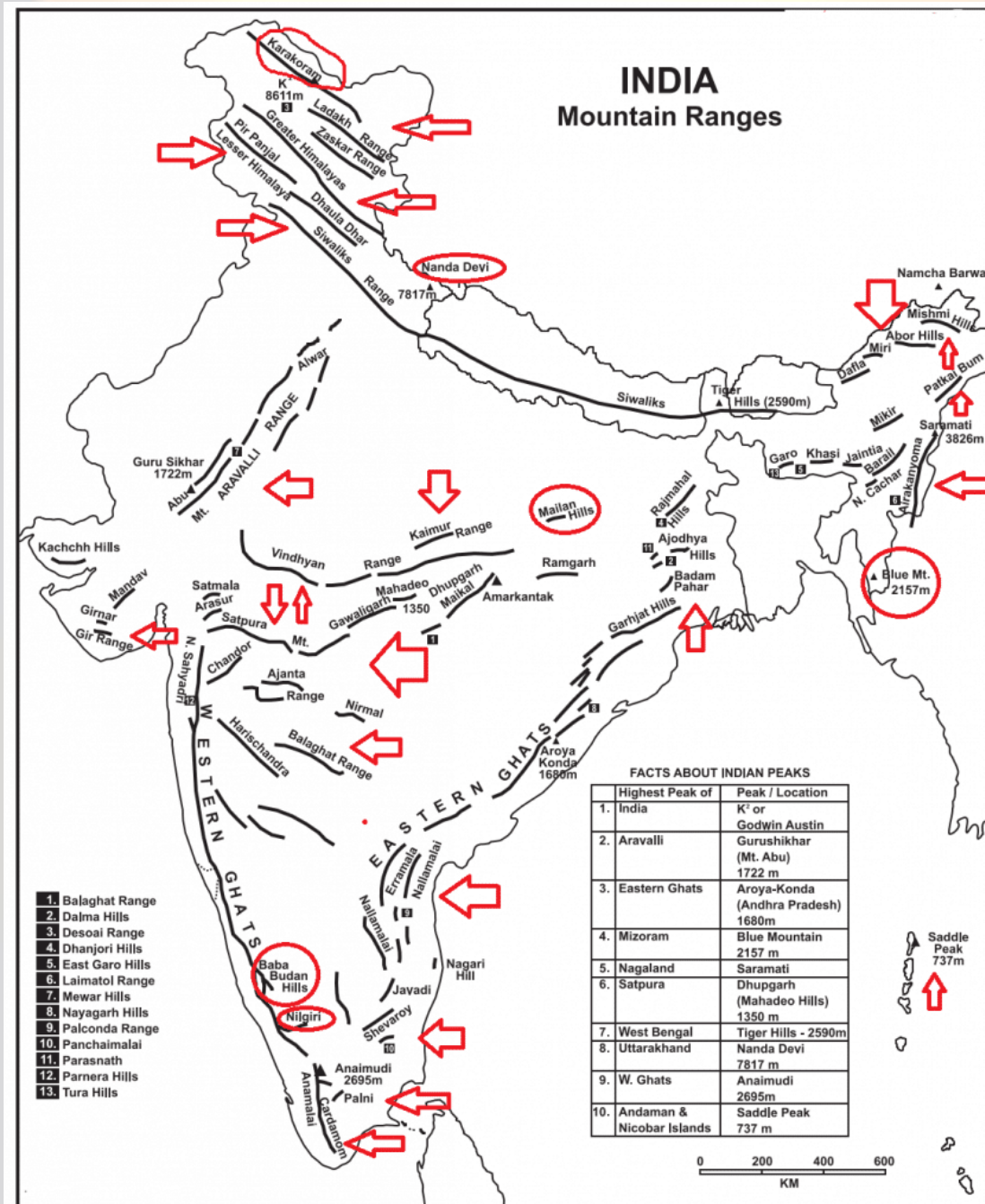
- ✚ These are non-tectonic mountains, they were formed not because of plate collision but because of the downward faulting of the Narmada Rift Valley (NRV) to their south.
- ✚ They extend for 1200km from Bharuch in Gujarat to Sasaram in Bihar.
- ✚ Geologically, they are younger than Aravallis and Satpura hills.
- ✚ Their average height is in the range of 300-650m.
- ✚ They are made up of older Proterozoic rocks. They are cut across by Kimberlite piles (diamond deposits)
- ✚ They are known by local names such as Panna, Kaimur, Rewa, etc.
- ✚ They rise from the NRV in the form of steep, sharp slopes called the escarpments. These escarpments are well developed in Kaimur and Panna regions.

### Satpura range

- ✚ Satpura range is a combination of Satpura, Mahadeo, and Maikala hills.
- ✚ Satpura hills are tectonic mountains, formed about 1.6 billion years ago, as a result of folding and structural uplift. They are a Horst landform.
- ✚ They run for a distance of about 900km.
- ✚ Mahadeo hills lie to the east of Satpura hills. Pachmarhi is the highest point of the Satpura range. Dhupgarh (1350m) is the highest peak of Pachmarhi.
- ✚ Maikala hills lie to the east of Mahadeo hills. Amarkantak plateau is a part of the Maikala hills. It is about 1127m.

## Daily News Analysis

- The plateau has the drainage systems of Narmada and Son, hence it has drainage into the Bay of Bengal as well as the Arabian sea.
- These are mostly situated in the States of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.
- These hills are rich in bauxite, due to the presence of Gondwana rocks.
- Dhuandhar waterfalls over the Narmada is situated in MP.





## Daily News Analysis

<b>Maikal Range</b>	Eastern part of the Satpuras range (MP)
<b>Kaimur Range</b>	Eastern portion of the Vindhya Range in MP, UP & Bihar, Parallel to river son
<b>Mahadeo Range</b>	forms the central part of the Satpura Range, located in MP Highest peak: Dhoopgarh
<b>Ajanta Range</b>	Maharashtra, south of river Tapi, sheltering caves of world famous paintings of Gupta period
<b>Rajmahal Hills</b>	In Jharkhand made up of lava basaltic rocks Point of Ganges bifurcation
<b>Garo Khasi Jaintia Hills</b>	Continuous mountain range in Meghalaya
<b>Mikir Hills</b>	a group of hills located to the south of the Kaziranga National Park (Assam) a part of the Karbi Anglong Plateau
<b>Abor Hills</b>	Hills of Arunachal Pradesh, near the border with China, bordered by Mishmi and Miri Hills drained by Dibang River, a tributary of the Brahmaputra
<b>Mishmi Hills</b>	in Arunachal Pradesh with its northern & eastern parts touching China Situated at the junction of Northeastern Himalaya and Indo-Burma ranges
<b>Patkai Range</b>	Also known as <b>Purvanchal Range</b> , consist of three major hills The Patkai-Bum, the Garo-Khasi-Jaintia, and Lushai Hills situated on India's north-eastern border with Burma
<b>Koubru Hill</b>	also known as Mount Koupalu is <b>one of the highest mountains in Manipur</b> , and the abode of the god Lainingthou Koubru and the goddess Kounu in Manipuri mythology.
<b>Mizo Hills (Lushai Hills)</b>	part of the Patkai range in Mizoram and partially in Tripura
<b>Dalma Hills</b>	Located in Jamshedpur, famous for Dalma national park & minerals like iron ore & manganese.
<b>Dhanjori Hills</b>	Jharkhand
<b>Girnar Hills</b>	Gujrat
<b>Baba Budan Giri</b>	Karnataka
<b>Harishchandra</b>	At Pune, acts as a water divide bw Godavari & Krishna

## Daily News Analysis

	Hills made up of lava
<b>Balaghat range</b>	Bw MP & Maharashtra, famous for manganese deposits
<b>Chilpi series</b>	MP
<b>Talcher series</b>	Odisha, rich in bituminous coal
<b>Champion series</b>	Karnataka, Dharawar period, rich in gold (contains kolar mines)
<b>Nilgiri Hills</b>	Referred as <b>Blue mountains</b> , a range of mountains in the westernmost part of Tamil Nadu at the junction of Karnataka and Kerala Hills are separated from the Karnataka plateau to the north by the Moyar River and from the Anaimalai Hills & Palni Hills to the south by the Palghat Gap
<b>Palani Hills</b>	The eastward extension of the Western Ghats ranges adjoin the high Anamalai range on the west, and extend east into the plains of Tamil Nadu
<b>Anamalai Hills</b>	Also known as <b>Elephant Hill</b> , a range of mountains in the Western Ghats in Tamil Nadu and Kerala with the highest peak Anamudi
<b>Cardmom Hills</b>	Part of the southern Western Ghats located in southeast Kerala and southwest Tamil Nadu
<b>Pachamalai Hills</b>	also known as the Pachais, The Eastern Ghats in Tamil Nadu
<b>Parasnath Hill</b>	Parasnath is a mountain peak in the Parasnath Range. It is located towards the <b>eastern end of the Chota Nagpur Plateau in the Giridih district of Jharkhand.</b>