



**VAJIRAM & RAVI**  
Institute for IAS Examination

# The Analyst

**CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout**

**24th January 2025**



# Unemployment

**CONTEXT:** Claims of Delhi govt, H-1B Uncertainty, Bangladesh crisis

**Basics**

- ILO - out of a job; being available to take a job; and actively engaged in searching for work
- Unemployment Rate
- PLFS
- LFPR
- Worker Population Ratio
- EPFO Payroll Data

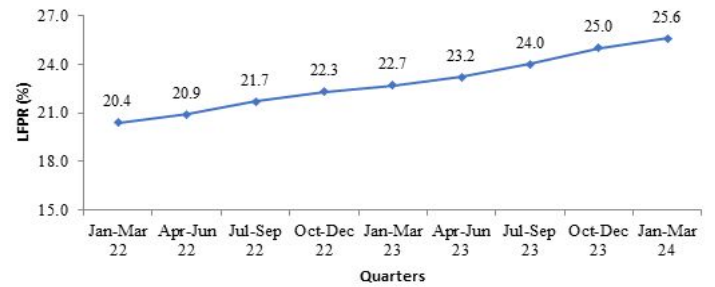
**Figure 5: UR (%) in CWS for urban areas for male for persons of age 15 years and above**



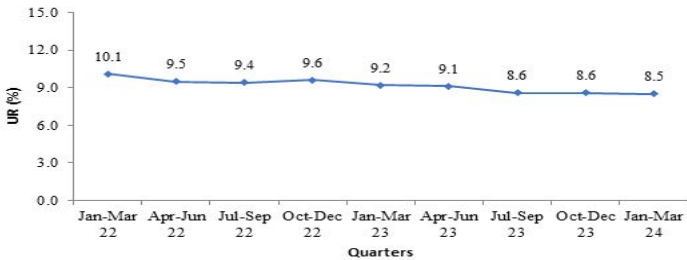
**Figure 1: LFPR (%) in CWS for urban areas for male of age 15 years and above**



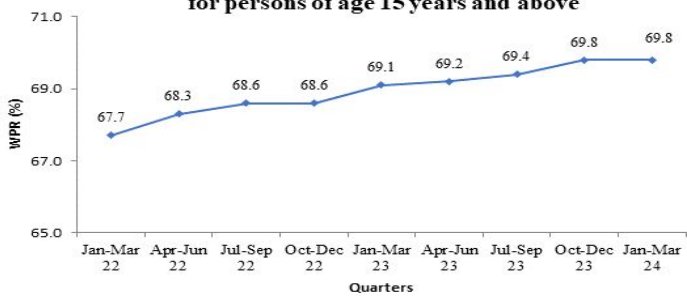
**Figure 2: LFPR (%) in CWS for urban areas for female of age 15 years and above**



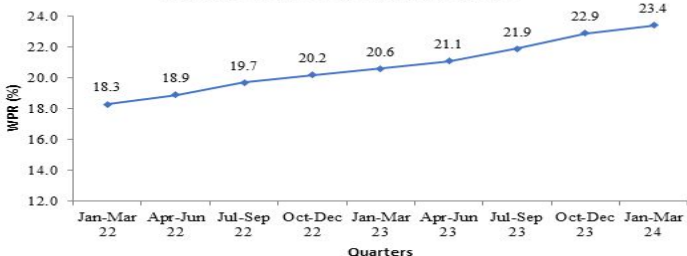
**Figure 6: UR (%) in CWS for urban areas for female for persons of age 15 years and above**



**Figure 3: WPR (%) in CWS for urban areas for male for persons of age 15 years and above**

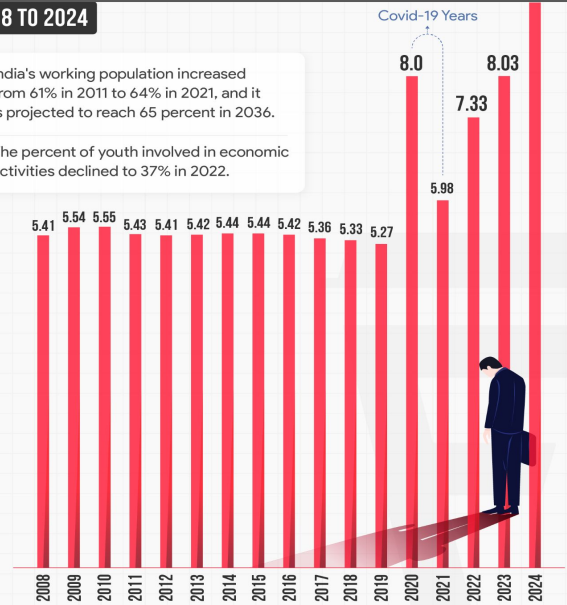


**Figure 4: WPR (%) in CWS for urban areas for female of age 15 years and above**



**2008 TO 2024**

- ▶ India's working population increased from 61% in 2011 to 64% in 2021, and it is projected to reach 65 percent in 2036.
- ▶ The percent of youth involved in economic activities declined to 37% in 2022.



**Average unemployment rate in India (2019-2023)**



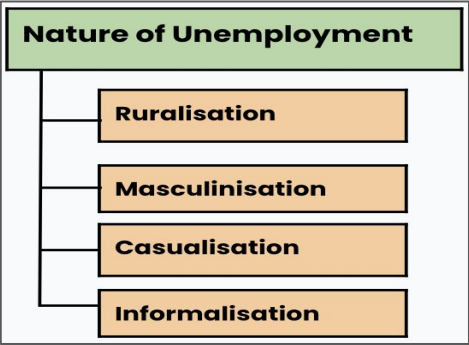
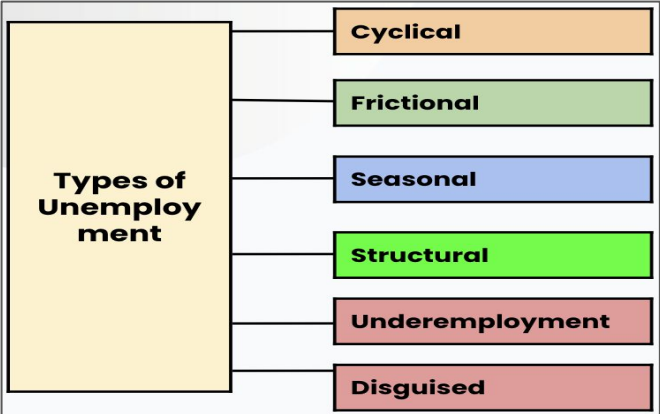
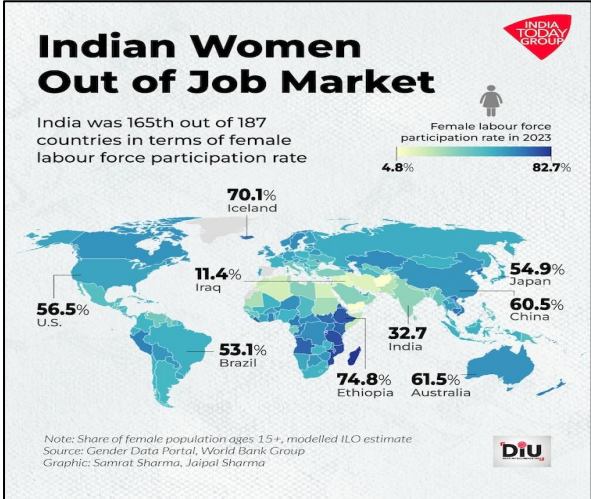
**Unemployment by age group Sep-Dec '22**

- 15-19 y/o 53.5%
- 20-24 y/o 44.9%
- 25-29 y/o 12.9%

\* week of March 19  
Source: Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy

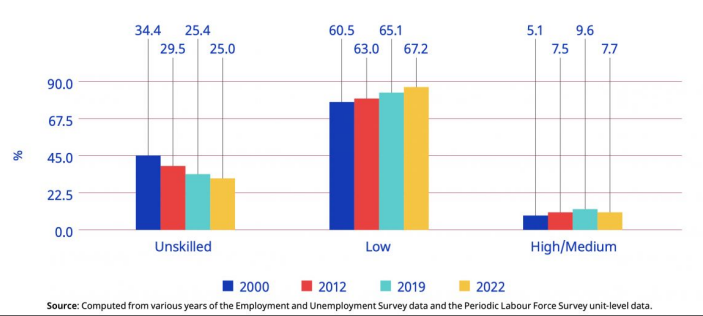
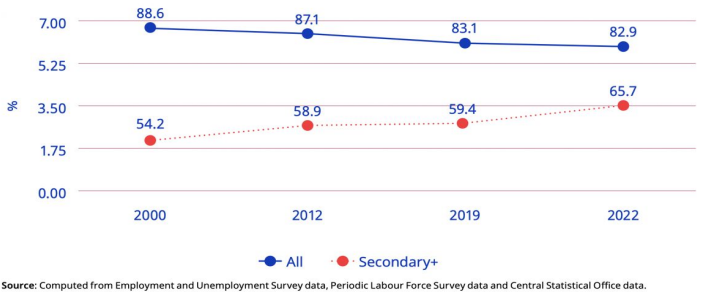
# Unemployment

**CONTEXT:** Claims of Delhi govt, H-1B Uncertainty, Bangladesh crisis



**India Employment Report 2024**

- Educated youth
- “Stunted” structural transformation
  - Non farm employment
  - Stagnant manufacturing
- Employment quality
  - low skills jobs
  - Informalisation
- Youth bulge in eastern & central India
- Socio economic hierarchies & effectiveness of affirmative actions
- Technology



**Steps for Employment Generation**

- PM Employment Generation Programme
- MGNREGS
- DDU GKY
- DAY-NULM
- PM Mudra Yojana
- Rural Self Employment & Training Institutes
- Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise (SMILE)
- Start Up India
- Rozgar Mela
- Atmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana

**Suggestions by CII**

- Integrated National Employment Policy
- Internship Programme in Rural Govt Offices
- Tax incentives for job creation
- Boost female LFPR
- Social security for gig workers
- International mobility authority
- Expert committee on productivity

**Mains Practice Question**

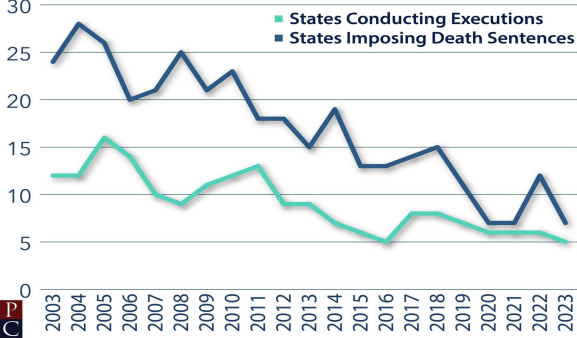
Unemployment remains one of the most pressing challenges facing the Indian economy. Analyze the key factors contributing to unemployment in India, and suggest policy measures that could effectively address this issue while promoting inclusive growth.



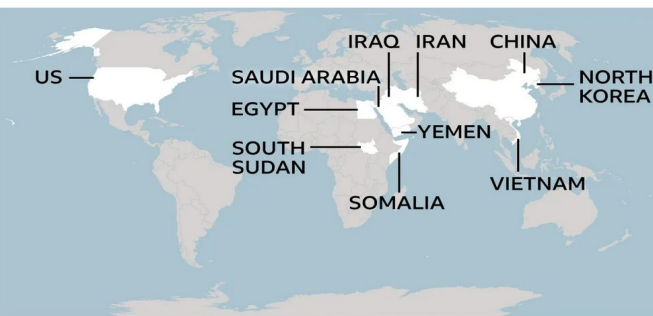
**CONTEXT:** Clamour for death penalty for RG Kar convict

**World View**

20 Year Trend: Total Number of States Conducting Executions and Imposing Death Sentences Each Year



Countries that persistently executed people between 2018-2022

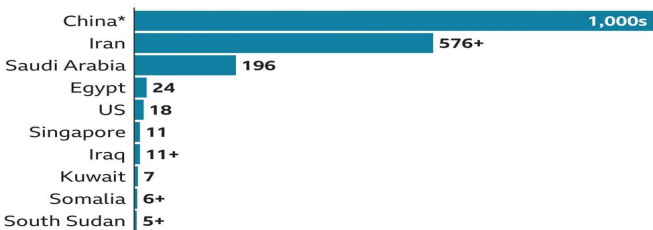


Source: Amnesty International



The countries with the highest number of executions in 2022

Numbers with a '+' indicate the figure calculated is a minimum



Some evidence has found that in states with capital punishment, murder rates were actually higher.



Source: Lamperti, John  
Does Capital Punishment Deter Murder?  
[https://www.dartmouth.edu/~chance/teaching\\_aids/books\\_articles/21paper.pdf](https://www.dartmouth.edu/~chance/teaching_aids/books_articles/21paper.pdf)

88%

of criminologists do not believe the death penalty is an effective deterrent.

Source: "Study: 88% of criminologists do not believe the death penalty is an effective deterrent."  
[deathpenaltyinfo.org/Death-Penalty-Information-Center](https://deathpenaltyinfo.org/Death-Penalty-Information-Center)

Long periods spent in the confines of death row have caused incarcerated people to develop mental health issues, and the aging death row population requires more and more care as they become elderly.



Source: "Time on Death Row."  
[deathpenaltyinfo.org/Death-Penalty-Information-Center](https://deathpenaltyinfo.org/Death-Penalty-Information-Center)

**Arguments against**

- Reformatory justice
- Anti-thesis of one's right to life
- Immanuel Kant
- Albert Camus
- Section 354(3) of CrPC
- Judicial fallibility, irreversibility
- Deterrence
- Moral High ground
- International Human Rights Standards
- Cost Considerations

**Judicial Take**

- **Jagmohan Singh vs. State of Uttar Pradesh, 1973**
  - valid, not violative of Articles 14, 19 and 21
  - Procedure established by law - circumstances, nature of crime
- **Rajendra Prasad vs. State of UP, 1979**
  - violative of articles 14, 19 and 21
  - 2 things must - record special reason, only in extraordinary circumstances
- **Bachan Singh vs. State of Punjab, 1980**
  - overruled Rajendra Prasad
  - as an alternative punishment for murder is not unreasonable
  - Principle of 'rarest of rare cases'.
  - mitigating & aggravating factors
- **Machhi Singh vs. State of Punjab, 1983 - 5 categories**
  - Manner of Commission of murder
  - Motive - depravity and meanness
  - Anti-social or socially abhorrent nature of the crime
  - Magnitude of the Crime
  - Personality of victim
- **Deena vs. Union of India, (1983) - by rope**
- **Mithu vs. State of Punjab, (1983) - S.303**

**Mains Practice Question**

Globally, there has been a significant decline in the use of the death penalty, with many countries moving towards abolition. Analyze the arguments against the death penalty and discuss the key judicial decisions in India that have shaped its application.



**Syllabus: GS 1: Modern Indian History – significant events, personalities;**  
**Newspaper : Indian Express, Page No. 11**

**Early Life & Career**

- 4th position in ICS exam, resigned in 1921
- As Mayor of Calcutta
- Political guru: Chittaranjan Das.

**Political Views**

- Non pacifism
- Anti imperialism
- Socialism
- Secularism
- Anti-Compromise Conference (March 1940) – Joint effort by Forward Bloc & Kisan Sabha
- International Collaboration

**Escape & Exile**

- Left India for external support in the struggle
- January 1941, reached Peshawar
- Initially sought Russian help
- Moved to Germany, met Hitler using pseudonym Orlando Mazzotta
- Formed Freedom Army (Mukti Sena) with POWs – Headquarters in Dresden, Germany
- Popularized the slogan 'Jai Hind.'
- Regular broadcasts from Berlin radio
- 1943: reached Japan and then Singapore
- Took command of INA from Rashbehari Bose

**Netaji's Death and Remains**

- Died on August 18, 1945, after a plane crash in Taipei – remains taken to Tokyo
- Urn kept at Renkoji Temple, hidden from US forces
- Remains still honored at Renkoji Temple

**Speculations & Investigations**

- Multiple theories about his death or escape after the crash
- Investigations kept classified for decades
- Three Indian inquiries in 1956, 1979, and 1999
- Ten reports confirmed Netaji's death in 1945
- Justice Mukherjee Commission (1999) inconclusive, flawed with errors

**Attempts to Return Remains**

- Japanese governments and admirers wanted remains returned to India
- P.V. Narasimha Rao and Pranab Mukherjee initiated return in 1990s

- Justice Mukherjee Commission set up in 1999, but report not accepted by the government

**Declassification of Documents**

- Modi government and Mamata Banerjee declassified final documents
- Evidence overwhelming in support of Netaji's death in 1945
- No conspiracy found in declassified documents

ON AUGUST 18, 1945, three days after the end of World War II in the eastern theatre of war, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose died following a plane crash in Taipei (then occupied by Japan). His remains were cremated there and taken to Tokyo. The community of Indian exiles who had made their home there arranged for the urn to be kept (hidden from the US occupation forces) at Renkoji Temple temporarily – maybe a few months or a few years, at the most. Today, almost 80 years later, and more than 77 years after India became independent, Netaji's remains are still honoured at Renkoji Temple. Rev Mochizuki, the third-generation head priest, exercises this function.

Over time, the results of the earlier investigations were declassified and further inquiry commissions were set up, three alone – in 1956, 1979 and 1999 – by the Indian government. Ten reports concluded that Netaji died during the night of August 18, following a plane crash in Taipei. Only the last Indian inquiry by the Justice Mukherjee Commission arrived at inconclusive results. But this report, for strange reasons, contains many mistakes, inconsistencies and incorrect statements. When

Many Japanese governments and Japanese admirers of Netaji wanted the Indian government and his family to take custody of Netaji's remains in his motherland, India. In the 1990s, Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao and his foreign minister, later rashtrapati, Pranab Mukherjee, with the support of Netaji's widow and his daughter, initiated a return of the leader's remains. However, before this could be achieved, their government fell, and the following government abandoned the idea and acceded to the request of other followers and family members to set up the Justice Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry in 1999 to look into the circumstances of Netaji's death once again. The Mukherjee Commission worked for about six years till the new government finally demanded the submission of the report. The government did not accept this report.





**Syllabus: GS2:** Effect of Policies and Politics of Developed and Developing Countries on India's interests; **Newspaper :** Indian Express **Page No. 15**

- Trump's campaign: tariffs to boost US manufacturing, 100% on BRICS if \$ undermined, Chinese goods

**What Are Tariffs?**

- Taxes on imported goods e.g. cars
- Implications of imports: loss for US manufacturers, rising trade deficit, cheaper goods for consumers

**Reasons for Imposing Tariffs**

- Protect domestic industries
- Raise tax revenue - moderate tariff rates
- Encourage FDI - force foreign firms to set up US factories

**Retaliation to Tariffs**

- Dumping: China absorbs tariff, sells cheaper to drive out US competitors
- Pass on costs to consumers
- China sets up US factories: unlikely as higher labor costs
- Trade rerouting: through countries with FTA (Mexico, Canada)
- Trade war: retaliates with tariffs on US goods or devalues currency.

**Impact of Tariffs**

- hurt domestic consumers
- Protectionist measures lead to inflation
- Domestic industries may benefit

**Trump's Tariffs Effectiveness**

- US-China trade: imports from China fell, trade deficit reduced
- US-Mexico & US-Canada trade: imports increased, trade deficit grew
- US trade deficit from \$516 billion (2017) to \$784 billion (2023)
- China's resilience: exports grew, same role in global supply chains
- Mexico, Canada, ASEAN nations benefited from the trade war

**India's Position**

- India risk of becoming a conduit for Chinese goods to the US
- Indian exporters to leverage trade war opportunities, add domestic value

tomers buy the cheaper car, imports from China rise. In consequence:

■ As sales of the American carmaker decline, the wages of its workers do not rise enough, and some start to get laid off. The company stops hiring, and also stops expanding, so no new jobs are created.

■ The US trade deficit — the difference between the value of imports and exports — increases. This essentially means more money flows out of the country.

■ American consumers continue to get cheaper cars.

The US government then imposes a "protectionist" tariff of 50% on all car imports from China.

**Why would the US government want to impose tariffs?**

Due to one or more of these reasons:

**Protect the domestic car industry:** Chinese cars will now cost \$150 (instead of \$100) and demand will arguably shift to the cheaper (\$120) US-made cars. The whole industry will be better off financially.

**Raise tax revenues:** Taxing a product that

is selling well brings the government revenue. If the sole purpose is to raise more revenue, the tariff rate may not be 50%, but only say, 5% or 10%, so that the sales of Chinese cars don't completely dry up.

**Force Chinese companies to build their cars in the US:** This is called Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), and it is a good way to ensure that American consumers get better or cheaper cars and American workers don't lose their jobs either.

**How might a country that is targeted by tariffs respond?**

There are several options.

**Dumping:** The Chinese carmakers, if they have the resources, can choose to simply absorb the tariff and continue to sell for \$100. The calculation would be to drive American carmakers out of the market over time and, once they have a monopoly, raise prices and recover previous losses.

**Pass the tariff cost to the consumer:** The Chinese firms can add the 50% tariff (\$50 in this case) to the price of the car, so it is the American buyer who ends up paying the tar-

iff. There will be inflation in the US, while China will remain largely unaffected.

In such cases, American carmakers may raise their price from \$120 to \$140 (still below \$150 of the Chinese cars), and make more money without necessarily improving the quality of the car or the efficiency of manufacturing it.

The US government also earns more revenues in this case. But American consumers still bear the cost.

**China sets up a plant in the US:** This is essentially what Trump wants. However, China may not want to do so — given the higher labour and other input costs in the US, it may not be able to build that car for \$100, and setting up a factory in the US rather than in China would imply Chinese job losses.

**Trade rerouting:** China may reroute their cars through countries such as Mexico and Canada that enjoy a free-trade agreement (FTA) with the US. So, China exports an almost fully built car to Mexico, where it is repackaged and sold as a Mexican export to the US.

**Trade war:** China may retaliate by counter-tariffs on goods that it imports from





**Syllabus: GSI: World History;**  
**Newspaper : The Hindu, Page No. 10**

**French Withdrawal from West Africa**

- Ivory Coast President announces French troops' withdrawal
- France hands over military base in Chad
- Senegal calls for closure of French military bases
- Other countries joining the withdrawal request: Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso

**Reasons for Withdrawal Request**

- **National sovereignty concerns:** Colonial-era defense pacts (Françafrique), now no such security needs
- **Public dissatisfaction:** Failure to contain insurgency, rising anti-French sentiments
- **Quest for new partnerships:** West African nations diversifying ties, especially towards Russia

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**Implications for African Countries**

- **End of France's influence**
- **New alliances:** Potential for Chad, Senegal, and Ivory Coast to join Sahel alliance with Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso
- **Counter-terrorism opportunity:** regional cooperation to address insurgencies

**The story so far:**

**I**n January 1, Ivory Coast President Alassane Ouattara announced that French troops would withdraw from the country by the end of the month. On December 26, in Chad, France handed over its military base in Faya-Largeau and began the withdrawal of troops following the termination of a defence cooperation agreement in November. On December 3, Senegalese President Bassirou Diomaye Faye called for the closure of all French military bases, commenting that their presence was "incompatible" with the country's national sovereignty. Senegal, Ivory Coast, and Chad have joined three West African countries – Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso – asking for French troop's withdrawal, marking a major blow to France's waning influence in the region.

**Why did Chad, Ivory Coast, and Senegal ask for French troop's withdrawal?**

First, the narrative on incompatibility with national sovereignty. France has around 1,000 troops in Chad, 600 in Ivory Coast, and 350 in Senegal. Since independence, France had colonial pacts with these former colonies to maintain economic, political, and military influences, referred to as 'Françafrique'. In Senegal and Ivory Coast, French troops have been stationed since 2014 as part of Operation Barkhane. For Chad, the defence pact existed for decades and does not align with its security requirements. Chad's President Mahamat Daby says ending the defence agreements is like taking back national sovereignty. Ivory Coast and Senegal have followed in similar footsteps for a reciprocal relationship that respects each other's independence and sovereignty.

Second, public dissatisfaction over French presence. French troops have been fighting insurgent groups linked to

**French withdrawal.**

Third, West Africa's quest to move beyond France. Recently, many West African countries have shown interest in diversifying their relations from traditional colonial to new partners. The military governments in West Africa, Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso, have built military ties with Russian mercenaries to fight insurgency. For military leaders, Russian mercenaries do not come with the baggage of adhering to democratic values. Besides, Russia has successfully spread an image as a better security provider in Africa.

**What does French withdrawal mean for African countries?**

For Africa, French withdrawal means the end of France's decades-long influence. However, in Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso, French withdrawal and Russia's arrival has not addressed or contained insurgency. Rather, these three countries rank among the top in the Global Terrorism Index 2024 by the Institute for Economics & Peace. The military regimes





**Syllabus: GSI: World History;**  
**Newspaper : The Hindu, Page No. 10**

### Implications for France

- **End of 'Françafrique'**
- **Decline in political and economic relations:** Difficulty fulfilling economic interests without political backing
- **Military reputation undermined:** Loss of credibility as a global security provider
- **Shift to Russian influence:** Russian mercenaries replacing French troops

### Larger European Influence Decline

- **Competition from Russia and China:** Russia filling military vacuum, China increasing economic influence
- **EU struggles:** Economic strain, focus on internal issues like Ukraine war, migration, and autocracies
- **Declining EU trade surplus:** From €55 billion (2022) to €35 billion (2023)
- **Increased military coups:** EU funding cuts leading to more instability

### Russia's Role

- **Military vacuum filled by Russia:** influence through troop deployments
- **Shift in European foreign policy:** Likely more inward-looking, focusing on border and migration issues rather than expanding markets

have strengthened in the region with the new Alliance of Sahel states between Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso. The common anti-French sentiments would likely bring Chad, Senegal, and Ivory Coast to join the Sahel alliance and an opportunity to boost regional counter-terrorism efforts.

#### What does the withdrawal mean for France?

The withdrawal would have four implications – first, the obituary of the 'Françafrique'. Under French President Emmanuel Macron, the withdrawal marks the end of "Françafrique," giving prominence to maintaining a strong economic and diplomatic foothold. Second, the decline in political influence affects economic relations. Since 2010, President Ouattara has been in term with support from France; however former president Gbagbo's reemergence in 2020 challenged political stability. Without political influence, fulfilling France's economic interests can be problematic. Third, a waning military presence would impact international reputation. The military has supported pro-France African leaders to maintain political and economic stability. French Armed Forces have been stationed in support of UN operations since the Ivorian Civil War. Therefore, projecting France as a global fighter against terrorism and a defender

of international values and human rights will be undermined in the new reality. Fourth, Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger have pushed out French troops involuntarily, which are now either replaced by Russian mercenaries or engulfed in a military coup, making French influence impossible. It is uncertain for the Ivory Coast, given its political and economic ties with France even after independence.

#### Is there a larger waning European influence in Africa?

In the geopolitical era of conflicts, Europe's declining presence and the competition from Russia and China in Africa were the least focused. The EU is struggling with the shifting political landscape, security issues from the war in Ukraine, and larger economic strain; therefore handling autocracies, migrants, and anti-Europe sentiments has been put on the back burner. In the last few decades, Germany, France, and the U.K. have called down their development funding, leading to increased military coups and greater involvement of external actors. To gain a political and security presence in Africa, Russia has filled the military vacuum, while China asserts its economic influence through the Belt and Road Initiative. The EU's trade surplus has declined by 15%, from 55 billion euros to 35 billion euros between 2022 and 2023. In comparison, China maintains a surplus of more than 70 billion euros.

Militarily, Russia has benefited from the troops' withdrawals. Whether this will change the right-wing governments in Europe is worth asking. The 2024 manifestos of these parties can be useful in this regard. Their policies are more security-oriented in managing borders and migrants, rather than being economically driven. In the coming years,





**Syllabus: GS2 & 3:** Structure, Organization and Functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary; **Newspaper :** Indian Express, **Page No. 15**

### SC's Suggestion for Ad Hoc Judges

- retired judges ad hoc to address backlog in criminal cases
- Article 224A allows
- modify 2021 ruling - ad hoc appointments only in certain situations

### Process of Appointing Ad Hoc Judges

- Article 224A:** CJ of HC requests retired judges with President's consent
- Full judicial powers but not considered permanent judges
- Procedure in 1998 MoP

### Appointment Procedure

- CJ forwards appointment details to CM, who passes it to Union Law Minister
- Law Min consults CJI before forwarding to PM
- PM advises President on approval
- Lok Prahari vs UoI, 2021: Recommendations routed through SC's collegium (CJI+2)

### Conditions for Ad Hoc Judge Appointment

- Trigger Point:** More than 20% vacancies or 10% of backlog is over 5 years
- Appointment for 2-3 years
- Each CJ should create a panel of retired and soon-to- retire judges.
- Appointments for 2-3 years, with 2-5 ad hoc judges per HC.
- Periodic review of ad hoc appointments.

AJOY SINHA KARPURAM  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 23

ON TUESDAY, the Supreme Court suggested temporarily appointing retired judges on an *ad hoc* (as required) basis to address the growing backlog of pending criminal cases before several High Courts.

Article 224A of the Constitution allows the Chief Justice of a High Court to request retired HC judges to perform the duties of a judge again, with the permission of the President of India. Although it has rarely been invoked, there is a detailed procedure for such appointments, with the SC previously weighing in on the practice.

The SC on Tuesday also suggested modifying the top court's 2021 decision, which held that *ad hoc* judge appointments could

only be made in certain situations.

### Provision for appointments

Article 224A, titled "Appointment of retired Judges at sittings of High Courts", states: "The Chief Justice of a High Court for any State may at any time with the previous consent of the President, request any person who has held the office of a Judge of that Court or of any other High Court to sit and act as a Judge of the High Court for that State".

Such appointees are entitled to allowances as determined by the President's order and have the jurisdiction, powers and privileges of a Judge of that High Court. Both the retired judge and the President of India are required to consent to the appointment.

The detailed procedure can be found in the 1998 Memorandum of Procedure (MOP) for the appointment of High Court judges, which

was prepared after the creation of the collegium system for appointing judges. It states that after the retired judge has consented to the appointment, the Chief Justice must forward her name and appointment details to the Chief Minister. The CM will pass this recommendation to the Union Law Minister, who will consult the Chief Justice of India before forwarding the recommendation and the CJI's advice to the Prime Minister of India. The PM will advise the President on whether to give her approval.

However, in the case of *Lok Prahari Through Its General Secretary S.N. Shukla IAS (Retd.) v. Union of India (2021)*, the Supreme Court held that this recommendation "has to be routed through the collegium of the Supreme Court". This collegium includes the CJI and the two seniormost judges of the

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Supreme Court. The court also provided guidelines for such appointments.

### Criteria to prevent overuse

In *Lok Prahari*, the SC was considering measures to address pending cases before the courts and the vacancies in posts of HC judges, having noted that the "number of vacancies arising every year are barely filled in by fresh appointments". At the time, there were almost 40% vacancies across all High Courts. The court also took note of some earlier reports of the Law Commission suggesting that temporarily appointing retired judges who have decades of experience is a viable solution to tackle the mounting backlog.

However, the court expressed concern that Article 224A would encourage "inaction

in making recommendations" for regular appointments. Thus, it gave directions on when the process could be initiated. Most importantly, the court held that *ad hoc* judges can only be appointed when recommendations have not been made for less than 20% of the vacancies, after considering both the number of active judges and pending proposals for appointments. This is so that Article 224A can be "resorted to only on the process having being initiated for filling up of the regular vacancies and awaiting their appointments".

The court also held that there has to be a "Trigger Point" for appointing judges under Article 224A, such as if the HC has vacancies of more than 20% of the sanctioned strength (excluding any proposals for appointment) and if more than 10% of the backlog of pending cases is over five years. It further recommended that *ad hoc* judges should generally

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**Syllabus: GSI:** Indian Culture – Salient aspects of Art Forms, Literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times; **Newspaper :**The Hindu, **Page No. 1**

### Introduction of Iron in Tamil Nadu

- Report: *Antiquity of Iron: Recent radiometric dates from Tamil Nadu*
- First quarter of the 4th millennium BCE (3345 BCE)
- Findings from the Sivagalai site, Thoothukudi district.
- Tamil Nadu – independent culture with advanced technological skills

### Scientific Validation and Methodology

- Findings validation via multiple labs and research methods.
- Methods: Accelerator Mass Spectrometry (AMS) and Optically Stimulated Luminescence (OSL).

### Technological Mastery in Iron Smelting

- Iron smelting required temperatures of 1,200–1,400°C, indicating advanced technology.
- Tamil people mastered this skill over 5,300 years ago.

### Historical and Cultural Context

- Iron role in agriculture, trade, and the formation of states, human evolution.
- Prior excavations at Sivagalai, Adichanallur, Mayiladumparai, Kilnamandi, and Mangadu dated iron introduction to between 2500 BCE–3000 BCE.
- South India Iron Age earlier due to limited copper availability

Stalin on Thursday said introduction of iron in modern-day Tamil Nadu went back to the first quarter of the 4th millennium BCE. Samples were lifted from the Sivagalai site in Thoothukudi district.

Releasing the report, “Antiquity of iron: recent radiometric dates from Tamil Nadu”, authored by K. Rajan and R. Sivanantham, Mr. Stalin said: “The Iron Age began on Tamil soil.” He went on to cite carbon dating results from renowned institutions. The finding meant that iron usage was prominent in South India over 5,300 years ago, he said. Iron was used on Tamil land in 3345 BCE, he said.

“Compared to other metals, you need to have higher temperature to smelt iron about 1,200 to 1,400 degree celsius. You need superior technology. It shows people in Tamil land had mastered the skill even some 5,300 years ago.”

The earlier excavations at Sivagalai, Adichanallur, Mayiladumparai, Kilnamandi and Mangadu indicated the date falls between 2500 BCE and 3000 BCE as the introduction of iron in south India, particularly in Tamil Nadu. When cultural zones located north of Vindhyas experienced the Copper Age, the region south of Vindhyas might have entered into the Iron Age due to the limited availability of commercially exploitable copper ore, the report said.





**Q1. Regarding types of unemployment, consider the following statements:**

1. Cyclical unemployment is more commonly observed in developing economies like India.
2. Disguised unemployment occurs when more people are employed than required for a particular task.
3. Frictional unemployment arises when workers are transitioning between jobs.

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

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: b**

**Q2. Consider the following statements regarding Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose:**

1. He was elected President of the Indian National Congress twice.
2. Netaji formed the Azad Hind Fauj (Indian National Army) in Germany.
3. The slogan "Jai Hind" was popularised by Subhash Chandra Bose.

**How many of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

**Answer: b**

**Q3. Regarding tariffs in India, consider the following statements:**

1. Tariffs are primarily imposed to generate revenue for the government and protect domestic industries from foreign competition.
2. The Most Favored Nation (MFN) principle under the World Trade Organization requires India to impose uniform tariffs on all its trading partners.
3. The government can impose anti-dumping duties as a form of tariff to protect domestic industries from unfair foreign pricing practices.

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

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2, and 3

**Answer: c**

**Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the death penalty in India:**

1. The death penalty can only be awarded in cases that fall under the "rarest of rare" doctrine as laid down by the Supreme Court.
2. The President of India has the power to commute a death sentence under Article 72 of the Constitution.
3. The Law Commission of India has recommended the abolition of the death penalty for all crimes, including terrorism-related offences.

**How many of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

**Answer: b**

**Q5. Consider the following statements regarding the appointment of ad-hoc judges in High Courts in India:**

1. Ad-hoc judges are appointed under Article 224A of the Constitution of India.
2. The Chief Justice of the High Court can appoint an ad-hoc judge without consulting the President.
3. Ad-hoc judges exercise the same judicial powers and perform the same functions as permanent judges of the High Court.

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

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 1 and 3 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2, and 3

**Answer: b**





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