



# NEWS ANALYSIS

9 JULY 2024

# Prelims Practice Question For Today

1. Consider the following states sharing the boundaries with Line of Actual Control (LAC) are arranged from Right to Left in the order?

(a) Arunachal Pradesh – Sikkim – Uttarakhand – Himachal Pradesh – Jammu and Kashmir

(b) Sikkim – Arunachal Pradesh – Uttarakhand – Himachal Pradesh – Jammu and Kashmir

(c) Sikkim – Arunachal Pradesh – Uttar Pradesh – Himachal Pradesh – Jammu and Kashmir

(d) Sikkim – Arunachal Pradesh – Himachal Pradesh – Uttar Pradesh – Jammu and Kashmir

# EXPLANATION

The LAC is an imaginary dividing line between Indian and Chinese territory in their ongoing border dispute, an unofficial border separating areas controlled by India and China in their unresolved border conflict.

- The states having borders with the LAC, starting from the easternmost state and moving west:

1. Arunachal Pradesh
2. Sikkim
3. Uttarakhand
4. Himachal Pradesh
5. Jammu and Kashmir (Ladakh region)

- **Hence, Option a is Correct.**

# Today's Prelims Practice Question

**The Brandt Line (an imaginary line) is a concept that highlights**

- a) Global Climate Change**
- b) Global Food security**
- c) Global economic disparities**
- d) Access to clean drinking water**

# Unemployment in India

## Unemployment in India



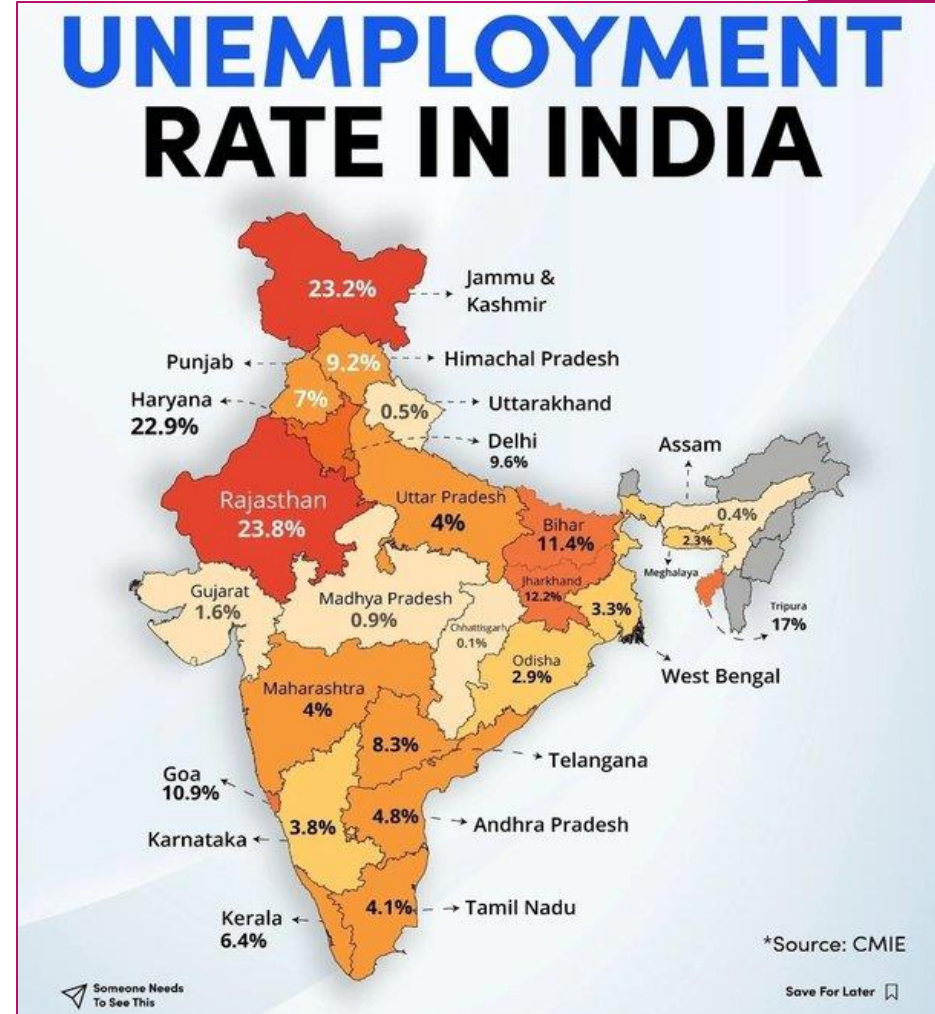
<https://mbaroi.in>

### Context

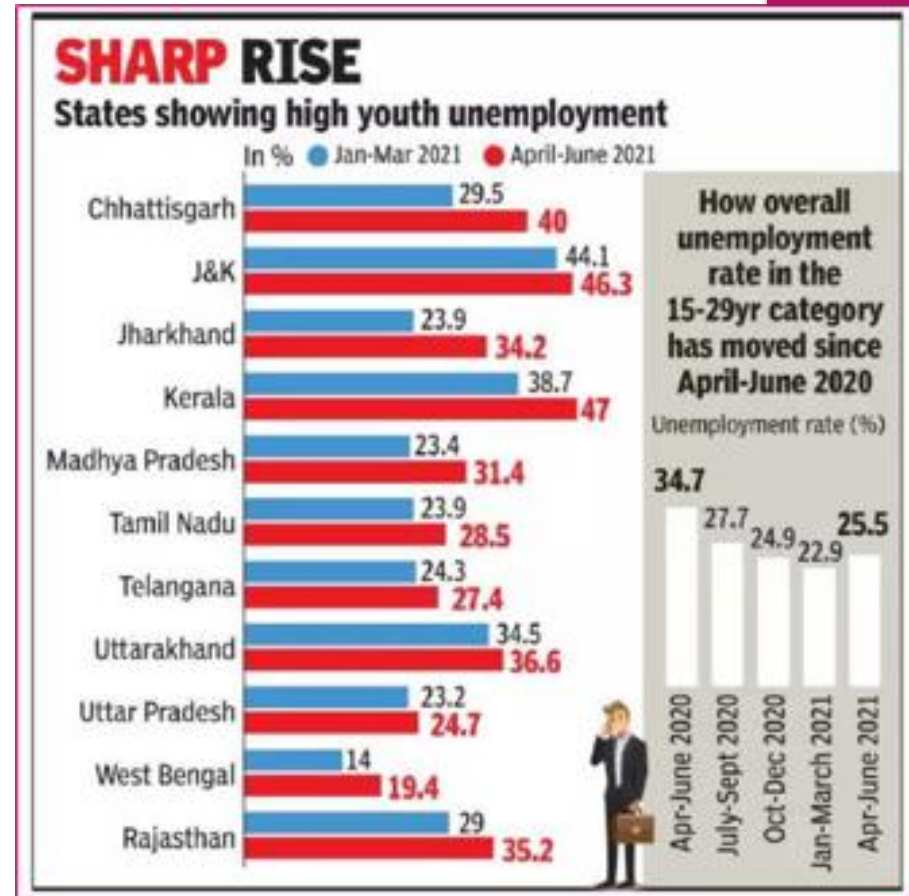
- **The Ministry of Labour** rebutted a recent report by Citigroup which forecast that India will struggle to create sufficient employment opportunities even with a 7 per cent growth rate.
- The Ministry stated that official data sources like PLFS, RBI, etc. show consistent improvements in the key labour market indicators, including increased LFPR and WPR, and a **declining Unemployment Rate** during last five years.

## State of 'unemployment' in India

- **India Employment Report 2024** (created jointly by the Institute for Human Development and the International Labour Organisation)
- India's working population increased from 61 percent in 2011 to 64 percent in 2021, and it is projected to reach 65 percent in 2036.
- However, the percent of youth involved in economic activities declined to 37 percent in 2022.






- The unemployment rate in India stood at 9.2 percent in June 2024, a sharp increase from 7 percent in May 2024.
- **Female unemployment** reached 18.5 percent, exceeding the national average, in June 2024. This is up from 15.1 percent in the same period last year.
- At the same time, male unemployment stood at 7.8 percent, slightly higher than 7.7 percent in June 2023.
- **The Labour Participation Rate (LPR)** rose to 41.4 percent in June 2024 from 40.8 percent in May and up from 39.9 percent in June 2023, the rural unemployment rate rose to 9.3 percent in June from 6.3 percent in May.
- The urban unemployment rate climbed from 8.6 percent to 8.9 percent.



## How unemployment rate is calculated in India?

- The unemployment rate is expressed as a percentage and is influenced by economic conditions:
- **High Unemployment:** Occurs during economic downturns when job opportunities are scarce.
- **Low Unemployment:** Seen in periods of economic growth and prosperity when job availability increases.
- **Formula for Calculating Unemployment Rate:** The unemployment rate in India is calculated using the following formulas:
  - **Unemployment Rate = Number of Unemployed Persons / Civilian Labor Force or**
  - **Unemployment Rate = Number of Unemployed Persons / (Number of Employed Persons + Number of Unemployed Persons)**



**Unemployment Rate Formula** = 
$$\frac{\text{No. of Unemployed Persons}}{\text{No. of Employed Persons} + \text{No. of Unemployed Persons}}$$



## Criteria for Classification as

**Unemployed:** To be considered unemployed in India, individuals must meet specific criteria:

- **Age:** Must be at least 16 years old.
- **Availability:** Available to work full-time during the last four weeks.
- **Actively Seeking Employment:** Actively searching for job opportunities during this period.
- **Exceptions:** Temporarily laid-off individuals actively seeking to return to their previous jobs are also classified as unemployed.



# Vadhavan Port



19<sup>th</sup> June, 2024  
CABINET DECISION



## Major Port at Vadhavan, Maharashtra

- ▶ Cabinet approves 'Development of an all-Weather Greenfield deepdraft Major Port at Vadhavan in Maharashtra'
- ▶ The total project cost, including the land acquisition component is Rs.76,220 Crore
- ▶ Will create a cumulative capacity of 298 million metric tons (MMT) per annum
- ▶ Potential of 10 lakh direct and indirect employment opportunities



## Context

- India is gearing up to launch its most ambitious port project yet—a colossal venture set to reshape the country's maritime capabilities. Situated on the Maharashtra coast, the Vadhavan Port promises to be a game-changer in global shipping, projected to rank among the top 10 container ports worldwide upon completion.

## Key Features of VadHAVAN Port

- The Rs 76,220 crore, **all-weather, deep-draft port near the Gujarat** border received cabinet approval in June 2024. It's important features are:
- **Capacity:** Annual capacity of 298 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) .
- **Specialized Berths:** Apart from container handling, the port includes berths for multipurpose cargo, liquid bulk, Ro-Ro operations, and small craft, catering comprehensively to diverse maritime needs.

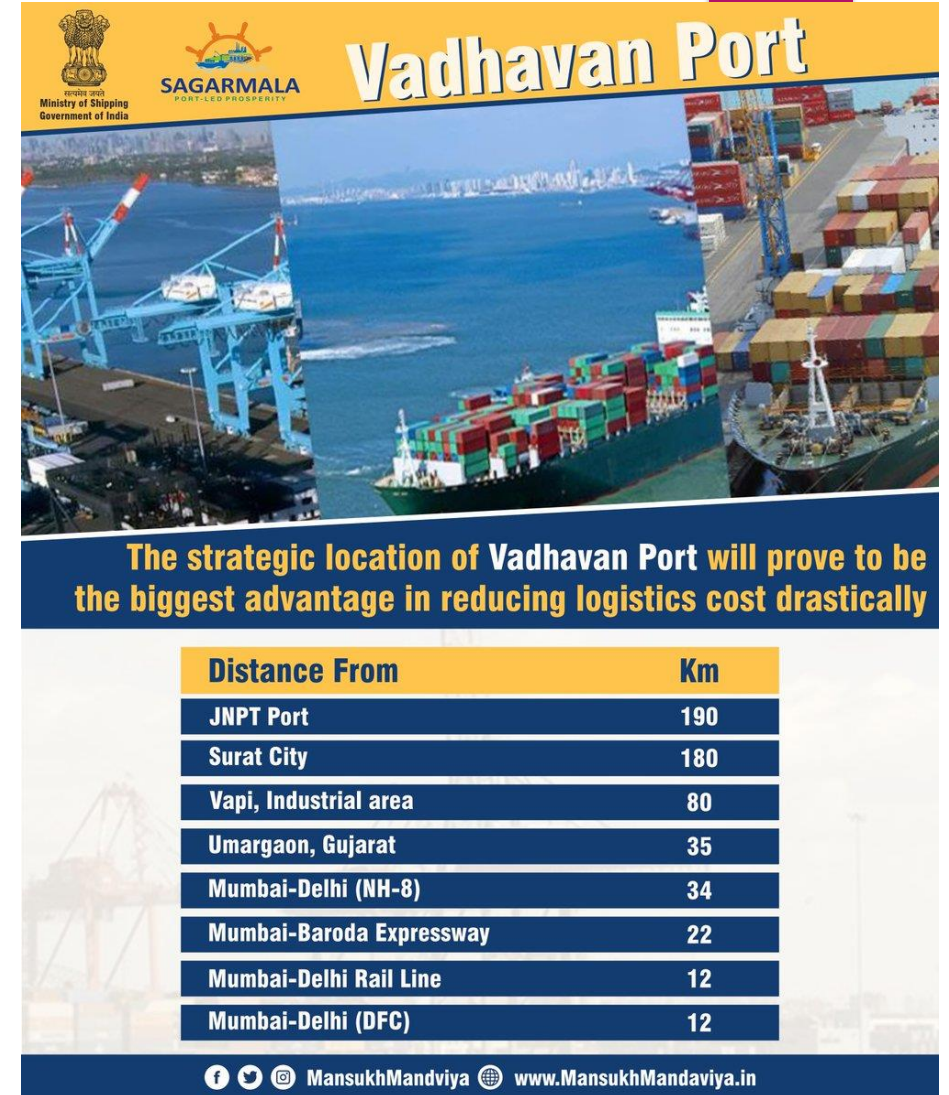


- **Rail and Onshore Facilities:** A dedicated rail terminal and onshore reclamation areas further enhance logistical capabilities, ensuring seamless integration with national and regional transport networks.
- It will be over three times the size of India's current largest ports—the government-operated Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) in Mumbai and the Adani-owned Mundra.
- **The Vadhavan port**, set to be operational by 2030, will be developed by reclaiming 1,448 hectares of sea land, eliminating the need for land acquisition.



## Strategic Significance

- **Geopolitical Importance:** Serving as a pivotal hub in the Arabian Sea, the port is strategically placed to facilitate trade routes linking India with the Middle East, Europe, and Africa.
- **IMEC Corridor:** As the starting point for the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), Vadhavan Port is poised to play a pivotal role in enhancing India's trade relations across continents.



The graphic features the Government of India logo, the Ministry of Shipping logo, and the SAGARMALA logo. The main title 'Vadhavan Port' is prominently displayed. Below the title is a photograph of the port with a large container ship docked and several cranes. A blue banner with white text states: 'The strategic location of Vadhavan Port will prove to be the biggest advantage in reducing logistics cost drastically'. Below this is a table showing distances from various locations. At the bottom, there are social media icons and the website address.

Distance From	Km
JNPT Port	190
Surat City	180
Vapi, Industrial area	80
Umargaon, Gujarat	35
Mumbai-Delhi (NH-8)	34
Mumbai-Baroda Expressway	22
Mumbai-Delhi Rail Line	12
Mumbai-Delhi (DFC)	12

[www.MansukhMandviya.in](#)

# Classical Languages

## Centre set to tweak criteria for according classical language status

**Sreeparna Chakrabarty**  
NEW DELHI

Amid demand for classical status for many languages, the Union government has decided to tweak the criteria for giving the special tag.

The Linguistics Expert Committee of the Culture Ministry submitted a report on October 10 last year, suggesting changes, sources in the Ministry told *The Hindu*.

The sources said the Centre had asked the panel to reconsider the rules. The issue was taken up first at a meeting on June 21, 2023. A Gazette notification of the new criteria will be issued after Cabinet approval.

This, in effect, means that classical language status for certain languages, chiefly Marathi, which is under consideration of the government, may have to

**With polls due in Maharashtra, push for the status for Marathi has gained momentum**

wait for the notification.

Over the years, some States and literary circles have been demanding classical status for languages such as Marathi, Bengali, Assamese and Maithili.

In 2014, then Maharashtra Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan constituted a committee of Marathi language experts chaired by Ranganath Pathare, and the report was submitted to the Centre. The Pathare committee had concluded that Marathi fulfils all parameters to be recognised as a classical language.

Mr. Chavan had written to then Culture Minister Shripad Naik requesting that the demand be met.

The issue has been

raised time and again by MPs from Maharashtra in Parliament, and the Centre has given assurances at least three times in the past 10 years that Marathi was being considered. Then Union Culture Minister G. Kishan Reddy informed Parliament in February 2022 that “the proposal for according classical status to Marathi was under the active consideration of the Ministry of Culture”.

Once a language is notified as a classical language, the Education Ministry helps promote it, which includes instituting two major annual international awards for scholars of eminence in the language. Apart from this, a centre of excellence for studies in the language is set up, and the University Grants Commission is requested to create a certain number of Professional Chairs in Central universities.

With Assembly election due in Maharashtra in October, the demand in support of Marathi has gained momentum. Recently, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh posted on X: “For the last ten years, the demand for declaring Marathi as a classical language has been pending with the Modi Sarkar”.

The Shiv Sena-BJP government in Maharashtra too upped the game by forming a “persuasion” committee, led by former diplomat Dnyaneshwar Muley, four months ago. The mandate of this committee is to liaison and pursue the matter with Union government officials.

Lakhshmikant Deshmukh, a committee member, told *The Hindu*: “Maharashtra is a rich State. We do not need any funds for the promotion of the language. It is just a matter of pride for us.”

## Context

- The Central government's **Linguistics Expert Committee** recommended tweaks in the criteria for granting classical status.

## Current Status and Demands:

- Currently, India has six classical languages: **Tamil (declared in 2004), Sanskrit (2005), Kannada (2008), Telugu (2008), Malayalam (2013), and Odia (2014).**

## Current Criteria for Classical Language Status:

- High antiquity of its early texts/recorded history over a period of 1500-2000 years;
- A body of ancient literature/texts, which is considered a valuable heritage by generations of speakers
- The literary tradition be original and not borrowed from another speech community
- The classical language and literature being distinct from modern, there may also be a discontinuity between the classical language and its later forms or its offshoots.

### Languages in India: Criteria for Classical Language in India

In the year 2004, it was decided by the Government of India to declare Indian Languages meeting certain requirements as "Classical language" and Tamil was declared as a Classical Language by the Government of India in June 2004.

### Indian Classical Languages

1. Tamil
2. Sanskrit
3. Kannada
4. Telugu
5. Malayalam
6. Odia



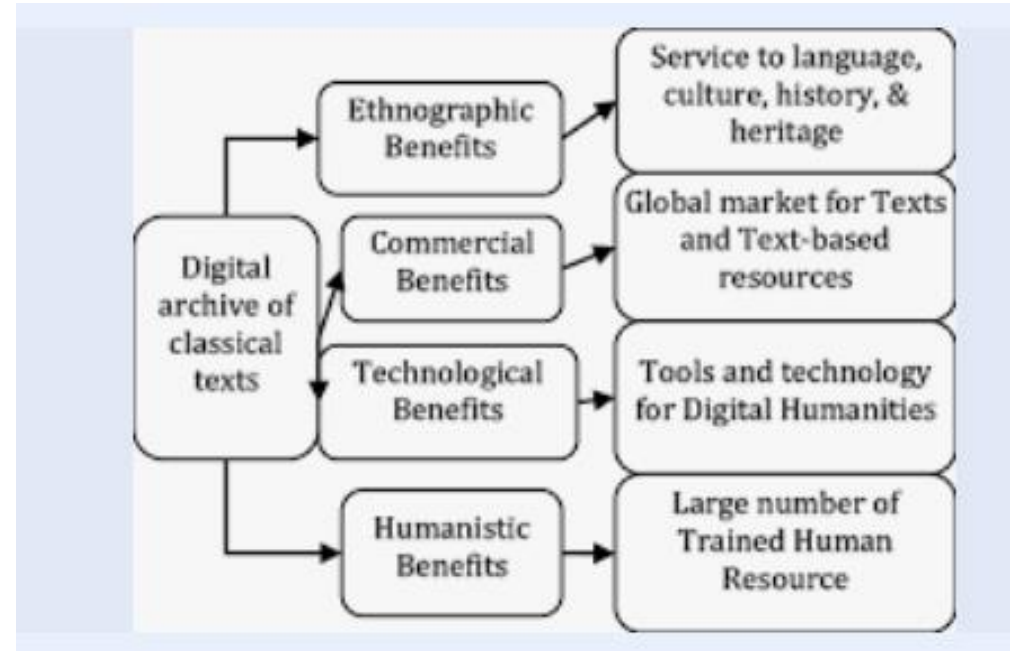
Sanskrit is already having a special status in India under Article 351 and Sanskrit was declared as a classical language in the year 2005.

### Classification of Indian Languages

The [Indian languages](#) belong to major 6 language families:

- Indo-Aryan Group
- Dravidian Group

- **Benefits:** Designated classical languages receive benefits such as
- international awards for scholars
- establishment of centers of excellence
- creation of professional chairs in universities
- There have been demands from various states and literary circles, including Maharashtra, for classical status for languages like **Marathi, Bengali, Assamese, and Maithili.**
- The demand for Marathi has been pending for over a decade despite multiple assurances from the Central government. In 2014, a committee chaired by **Ranganath Pathare** concluded that Marathi meets all criteria for classical language status.





# A brewing duel amid Manila's dual engagement



## Context

- The Philippines, under President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., is adopting a more assertive stance against China in the South China Sea dispute. This shift in foreign policy, coupled with strengthening U.S.-Philippines relations and support from Quad countries, is altering the geopolitical dynamics in the Indo-Pacific region. The situation highlights the delicate balance between security concerns and economic interests in the area.



## Strategic Importance of the Philippines in the Indo-Pacific:

- **Crucial geographic location: Indispensable actor in U.S. Indo-Pacific strategy to counter China's influence.**
- **Military modernization: \$35 billion acquisition list approved in January for enhancing surveillance and power projection capabilities.**
- **Revitalization of strategic bases: Plans to modernize Subic Bay for naval operations and Clark Air Base for "Joint Air-Sea-Land Operations".**



## International Support and Dual Engagement Challenges:

- Quad countries' assistance: India delivers **BrahMos missiles (\$374.96 million deal)**; Japan provides coastal surveillance radars and funds patrol ships; Australia is the second-largest bilateral grant aid donor.
- US. cautious support: **Mutual Defense Treaty since 1951**; concerns about opening another front against China.
- Economic reliance on China: **\$9.1 billion** in state-directed finance to previous administrations (2000-2022), creating a challenging dual engagement scenario.





# Thank you

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