NEXT IAS

DAILY NEWS

ANALYSIS

12th April

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EXPLAINED

1. IRON ORE EXPORTS TO CHINA

Relevance: Distribution of Key Natural Resources across the world (GS 1)

Backdrop: Iron ore exports to China dropped by nearly **50%**, falling from **45.4 million tonnes (mt)** in FY24 to **24.14 mt** in FY25.

In the news

Market Share and Trends

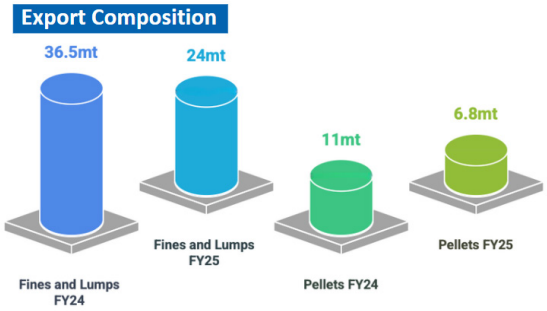
- China accounted for:
  - **80%** of India's iron ore exports in FY25
  - Down from **95%** in FY24
  - Compared to a **six-year average** of **86%** (FY20–FY25)
- Other significant buyers: **Malaysia and Indonesia**

Reasons for Decline

- **China's crude steel production**: 924 mt (April 2024–Feb 2025), a **1% decline year on year.**
- **Contributing factors** to reduced demand:
  - Slowing **steel production**
  - **Debt crisis**, real estate **overcapacity**, and **slowdown in infrastructure projects** in China
  - Slowdown in demand led to accumulation of port inventories in China, which further weighed on demand.

Importing Countries

China is first and **Indonesia** is second major export destination.

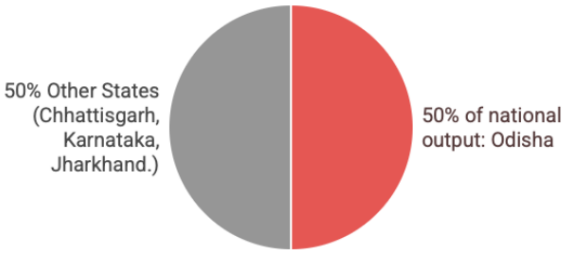


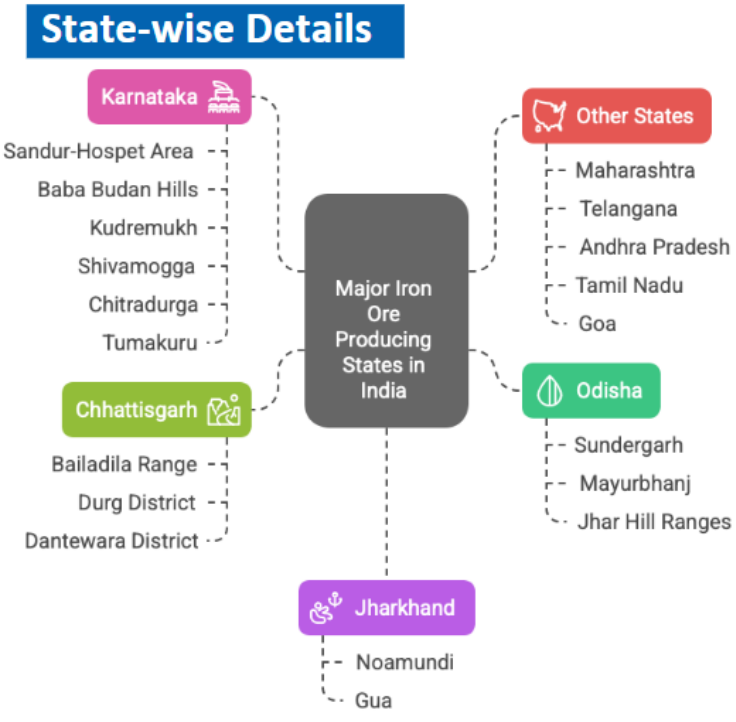
Iron ore deposits in India

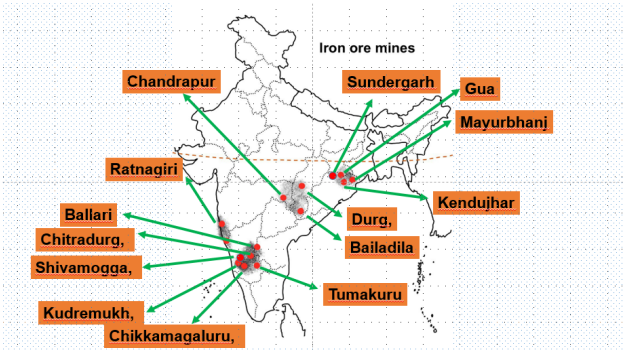
Abundance: India has the largest reserves in Asia, with two main types of iron ore:

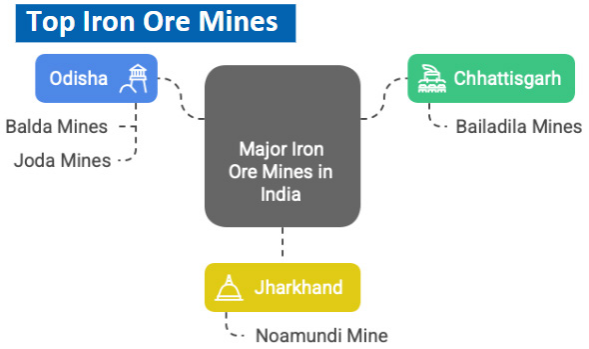
- **Haematite – 50 – 60% iron content**
- **Magnetite – 70% iron content**

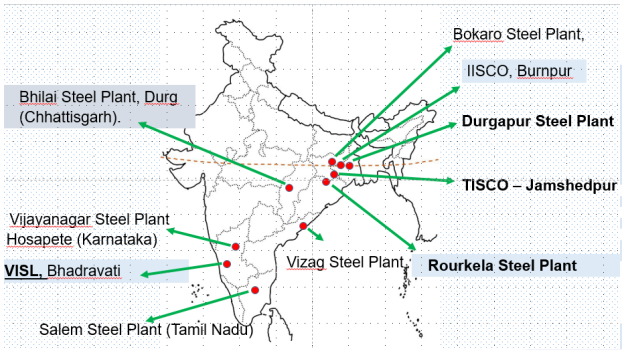
- **Leading Producing States:**











Iron ore exports - Ports designated.

- Marmagao, Visakhapatnam, Port Blair, Tuticorin, Chennai, Krishnapatnam, New Mangalore, Paradip, JNPT, and Kandla are a few leading iron ore handling ports having mechanical ore handling system.

2. THE MAGIC OF INDIAN SILK

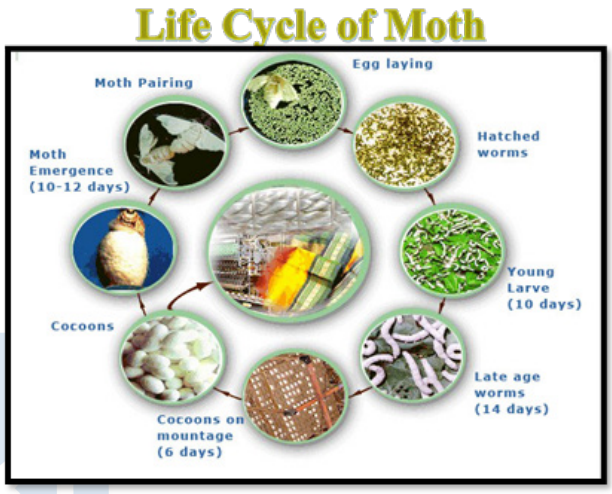
Relevance: GS 3 / Agriculture

Backdrop: PIB Report

- Silk holds deep cultural and artistic value in India, symbolizing its rich heritage.
- Sarees like **Kanchipuram**, **Banarasi**, and **Bhagalpur Tussar** represent regional craftsmanship and tradition.
- Overall, 9.5 million people are dependent on sericulture as their livelihood.

About Sericulture

- **Sericulture** is the cultivation of silkworms for silk production.
- **Silkworms are fed** leaves from trees such as mulberry (main), oak, castor, and arjun.
- The lifecycle:
  - Silkworms grow for about a month.
  - They spin **cocoons** around themselves.
  - Cocoons are harvested and **boiled** to soften and loosen the threads.
  - **Silk threads** are then unwound, twisted into yarn, dyed, and woven into fabric.

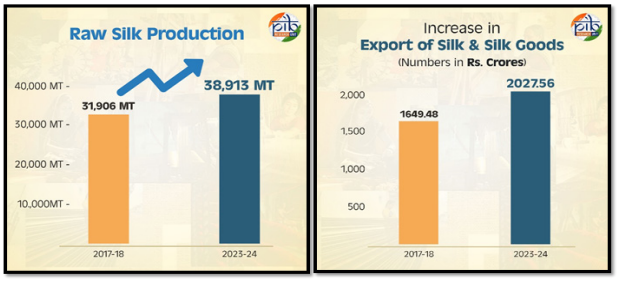


- This process converts **tiny caterpillars into fine silk**, emphasizing careful handling and artisanal skill.

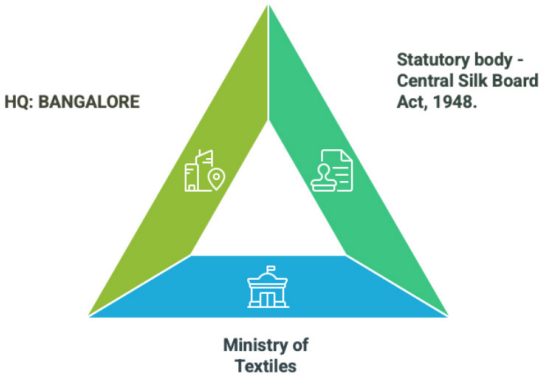
Economy of Silk

- India is the **2nd largest producer** and the **largest consumer** of silk globally.
- Types of Silk found in India
  - **Mulberry silk**:
- Comes from silkworms fed only mulberry leaves.
- Known for its soft texture, bright sheen, and luxurious quality.
- Contributes **92% of India's total silk production**.
- Main producing states: **Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Jammu & Kashmir**.
  - **Non-Mulberry silk (Vanya silk)**:
    - Comes from wild silkworms that eat oak, castor, or arjun leaves.
    - Includes **Tussar, Eri, and Muga silks**.
    - Has a **rougher texture**, matte finish, and is **eco-friendly & durable**.
    - Produced in **Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, and Northeast India**.

- Silk industry:
  - Accounts for **only 0.2% of world textile production** (low volume, high value).
  - Important for **rural employment**, especially for **women and marginal farmers**.
  - Plays a role in earning **foreign exchange** through exports.



About Central Silk Board (CSB)



Vision

- See India emerge as the leader in the world market for silk.

Mission

- Make continuous efforts in Research and Development and Technology Transfer
- To create greater opportunities for gainful employment and improved levels of income in sericulture through spread of scientific sericulture practices
- To improve productivity in all stages of silk production
- Strengthen levels of efficiency through a commitment to quality.

Government Schemes Supporting the Silk Sector

Silk Samagra Scheme

Ministry : Minister of Textiles, Central Sector Scheme

- Launched to **revitalize and scale up** the silk industry.
- Aims to:
  1. Enhance **productivity and quality**.
  2. Provide **income opportunities** for rural, backward, and poor communities.
- Four main components:
  1. **Research & Development**, training, IT-based interventions.
  2. **Seed production and distribution** (for silkworm rearing).
  3. **Market development and coordination** to ensure smooth supply chains.
  4. **Quality certification**, export promotion, and tech upgrades.

Silk Samagra-2

- Extension of the original scheme.
- Running from **2021-22 to 2025-26** with a **budget of ₹4,679.85 crore**.
- Achievements:
  - **₹1,075.58 crore** disbursed as central assistance.
  - **Over 78,000 beneficiaries**, including farmers and weavers.
  - State-specific aid: 72.50 crore to **Andhra Pradesh**, 40.66 crore to **Telangana**.

Other Key Supporting Schemes

Raw Material Supply Scheme (RMSS)

- Earlier known as Yarn Supply Scheme (YSS).
- Purpose: Provide **subsidized, quality yarn** to handloom weavers.
- Achievements: **340 lakh kg** of yarn distributed in FY 2023–24.

National Handloom Development programme (NHDP)

- Duration: **2021-22 to 2025-26**.
- Aims for integrated development of **handlooms**, including silk.
- Support areas:
  - **Raw materials**, **design**, **technology upgrades**, **marketing** (via exhibitions and fairs).
  - Helps develop permanent infrastructure: **Urban Haats**, **marketing complexes**.
  - Targets **individual weavers**, **cooperatives**, and **Self-Help Groups (SHGs)**.

SAMARTH (Scheme for Capacity Building in Textile Sector)

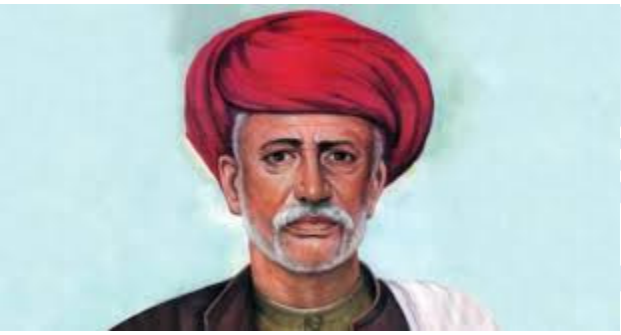
- **Skill development** initiative under Ministry of Textiles.
- Focuses on:
  - Entry-level training.
  - **Upskilling/reskilling** in silk, jute, handloom, and garments.
- Extended for **FY 2024-25 & 2025-26**, with a budget of ₹**495 crore**.
- **Goal:** Train **3 lakh people** across textile sectors.

3. PM PAYS TRIBUTE TO MAHATMA PHULE ON HIS BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

Relevance: GS 1/ Modern Indian History.

Backdrop: PM pays tribute to Mahatma Phule on his birth anniversary on April 11.

Mahatma Jyotiba Phule (1827–1890)



- Social reformer, educationist, thinker, and writer from **Maharashtra**.
- Regarded as the *"Father of the Indian Social Revolution"*.
- First to use the term **"Dalit"** to describe the oppressed castes.
- Pioneer of **anti-caste movements** and **inclusive education** in India.

Early Life

- **Born:** 11 April 1827, in **Katgun**, Satara district (present-day Maharashtra), into the **Mali (gardener)** caste.
- Birth anniversary **(11 April)** celebrated as:
  - **Mahatma Phule Jayanti**
  - **National day of Social Justice** in India.
- Attended **Scottish Mission School**, Pune;
- At age 13, married **Savitribai Phule**, who later became India's **first female teacher**.

Major Contributions:

- Opened **India's first girls' school (1848)** in Pune with Savitribai.
- Also started schools for **Dalits, Shudras**, and **night schools** for laborers and farmers.
- Vehement critic of **caste hierarchy**, **Brahminical orthodoxy**, and **patriarchy**.
- **Founded Satyashodhak Samaj (1873)**:
  - **Focus:** Truth-seeking, equality, rationalism, and self-respect.
  - Encouraged **non-Brahmin priesthood**, **inter-caste marriage**, and **mass education**.
- Started **Balhatya Pratibandhak Griha (Anti-Infanticide Center)** to save unwanted girl children.
- Promoted **widow remarriage**, protection of orphans, and rights of women and lower castes.
- Opposed **British filtration theory** of education (only educating upper castes).
- Submitted recommendations to the **Hunter Commission (1882)** for **inclusive education**.
- Appointed as a **municipal councilor** in Pune (1876–1883).
- Co-founded **Bombay Millhands Association** with **Narayan Meghaji Lokhande** for **labor welfare**.

Major Works:

- **Gulamgiri (Slavery)** – Published in 1873, parallels caste oppression with American slavery; dedicated to American abolitionists.
- **Shetkaryacha Asud** – Highlights farmer exploitation and proposes agrarian reforms.
- **Sarvajanik Satya Dharma Pustak** – Introduces a religion based on universal truth, morality, and justice.
- **Din Bandhu (1877):**
  - Weekly newspaper to amplify voices of the oppressed.
  - Focused on **social injustice**, **agrarian distress**, and **caste discrimination**.
- **Other Works**
  - *Tritiya Ratna* – A social reform drama.
  - *Ishara* – Commentary on social customs.
  - *Powada on Shivaji Maharaj* – Poetic narrative highlighting his social justice legacy
  - Authored **'Shetkaryacha Asud' (Farmer's Whip)** – A scathing critique of:

- Exploitation of farmers by landlords, moneylenders, and British officials.
- Inequitable land revenue system and corruption.

4. AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY

Relevance: Industrial Growth (GS III)

Backdrop: NITI Aayog launches a Report on "Automotive Industry: Powering India's Participation in Global Value Chains".

India's Automotive Ambitions by 2030

- Target: **USD 145 billion** in auto component production.
- Aim: Increase **India's GVC (Global value chain) share** from **3% to 8%**.
- Goal: Create **2–2.5 million** new jobs; raise total sector employment to **3–4 million**.
- Vision: Establish India as a **global hub** for automotive manufacturing.

Current Landscape: Global and Indian Context

- **Global Production (2023):** ~94 million vehicles.
- **Global Auto Component Market:** Valued at **USD 2 trillion**; exports ~**USD 700 billion**.
- **India's Position**
  - 4th largest vehicle producer (after China, USA, Japan).
  - Annual production ~**6 million vehicles**.
  - Stronghold in **small cars** and **utility vehicles**.
  - Benefiting from **'Make in India'** and a **cost-competitive workforce**.

Key Trends Shaping the Sector

1. **Electric Vehicles (EVs):**
   - Demand driven by sustainability, regulations, and battery tech advancements.
   - Rise of lithium and cobalt supply chains.
2. **Industry 4.0 Transformation:**
   - Integration of **AI, ML, IoT, robotics**.
   - Enhanced **productivity**, **cost-efficiency**, and **business agility**.

Challenges Hindering Global Competitiveness

- **Low global share:** Only 3% in global auto component trade.
- **Limited share in high-precision segments:** Engine, transmission, steering components (2-4%).
- **Structural issues:**

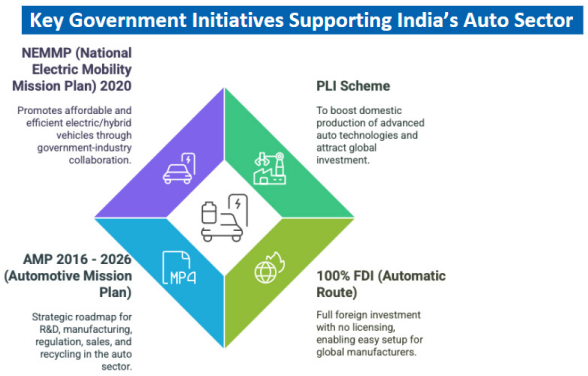
Strategic Interventions Proposed by NITI Aayog

Fiscal Measures

- **Opex & Capex Support:** For manufacturing, tooling, and infrastructure.
- **Skill Development:** To build a robust automotive workforce.
- **R&D Incentives & IP Transfer:**
  - Boost innovation and product differentiation.
  - Empower MSMEs by government-facilitated IP.
- **Cluster Development:**
  - Shared R&D and testing infrastructure.
  - Strengthen local supply chains.

Non-Fiscal Measures

- **Adoption of Industry 4.0:** Improve efficiency and tech-readiness.
- **International Collaboration:**
  - Encourage JVs (Joint ventures), FTAs, and tech partnerships.
- **Ease of Doing Business:**
  - Simplify compliance, improve labor laws, and streamline supplier access.



DECODED

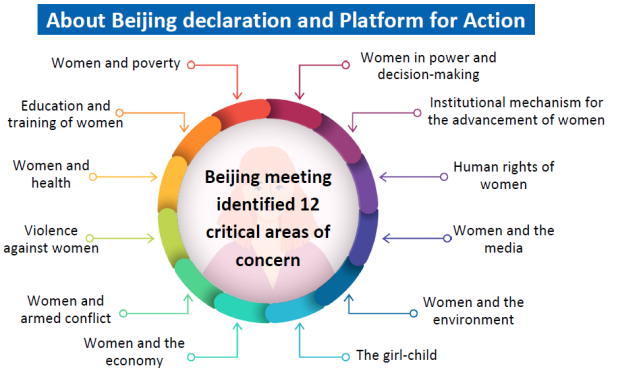
5. THE BEIJING REPORT AS MILESTONE AND OPPORTUNITY

Relevance: GS 2

Backdrop: **30 years since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,**

About the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995)

It was adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women (United Nations) in 1995, to provide a comprehensive framework for gender equality.



It emphasized women's rights as human rights, advocating for reforms in education, political participation, economic empowerment, health, and protection from violence.

Highlights of the Beijing India Report – 2024

Progress Since Beijing Declaration

- Guided gender policy in India for 30 years.
- Key laws passed: **Domestic Violence Act**, **POSH Act**.
- Implementation gaps remain between law and reality.

Missing Climate-Gender Link

- Climate crisis hits women hardest, especially in rural/tribal areas.
- 2024 report lacks a strong climate-gender lens — a missed opportunity.

Women & Climate Vulnerability

- Rural women face:
  - Limited resources & decision-making power
  - Exposure to heat, malnutrition, food insecurity, migration.
  - Health impacts: anaemia, infertility, menstrual issues, hysterectomies.
- Each 1°C rise → **8% more physical violence**, **7.3% more sexual violence**

Economic Impacts

- Climate change cuts farm and non-farm income (up to **33% loss**).
- Women's **unpaid work** may reach **8.3 hours/day by 2050**.
- Food insecurity worsens women's health.

Women in Climate Action

- Crucial roles in:
  - Sustainable farming
  - Seed preservation
  - Disaster response
- Need support for women's leadership and local collectives.
- Priorities vary: urban (pollution), tribal (Mahua, Mao, Migration).

Policy & Budgeting Needs

- Integrate gender in **NAPCC/SAPCC**, disaster response, and livelihoods.
- Ensure **gender-audited climate budgets**.
- Set up **climate hubs** for women's health, safety, migration, and rights.

Private Sector & Partnerships

- Direct green funds to **women-led innovation**.
- Promote access to **climate-resilient tech**.
- Foster partnerships across government, civil society, private sector, and academia.
- Focus on **data, leadership training**, and gendered climate research.

Impact of Climate Change on Agriculture

Crop Yield & Production

- Reduced yields due to heat stress (esp. wheat, rice, maize).
- Shorter crop cycles, affecting grain quality and quantity.
- Shift in agro-climatic zones

Rainfall Uncertainty

- Erratic monsoons cause floods & droughts.
- Crop planning was disrupted due to delayed/ early rainfall.

Water Stress

- Increased evapotranspiration lowers soil moisture.
- Decline in groundwater and glacial sources.

Soil Degradation

- Erosion, nutrient loss, salinity, and acidification increase.
- Affects long-term soil fertility.

Pests & Diseases

- Warmer climates promote pests and crop diseases.
- Higher pesticide usage raises costs and environmental concerns.

Livestock & Fisheries

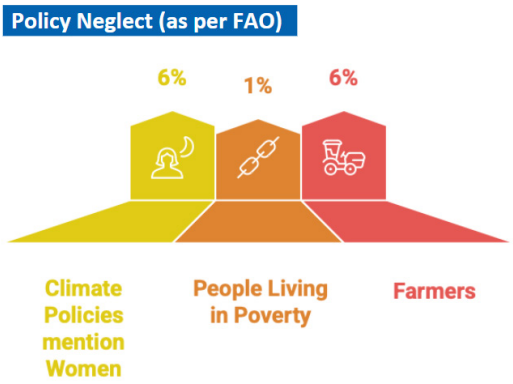
- Heat stress reduces milk/meat output.
- Fish breeding is affected by ocean warming and acidification.

Economic & Social Impact

- Lower farm income, food insecurity, farmer distress.
- Rise in migration, debt, and rural unemployment.

Gendered Impact of Climate Change in Rural India

- **Limited Access & Representation**: Existing inequalities restrict women's and girls' access to resources and decision-making in rural areas.
- **Dependence on Agriculture**: Women are heavily engaged in the agrarian economy, making them more vulnerable to climate variability.
- **Health Impacts**:
  - Extreme heat and malnutrition have led to increased cases of:
    - Hysterectomies
    - Infertility
    - Menstrual health issues
- **Livelihood Disruptions**:
  - Heat stress and erratic rainfall reduce:
    - Agricultural productivity
    - Human productivity
    - Ecosystem functionality
  - Consequences include:
    - Price fluctuations
    - Income loss (up to 33% in non-farm livelihoods)
    - Distress migration
    - Damaged infrastructure
    - Disrupted services, especially for women
- **Unpaid Care Burden**:
  - Climate-related resource scarcity increases women's unpaid work, like water and fuel collection.



Climate Change and Gendered Vulnerabilities in India

- **Unpaid Workload: Women in India work over 8 hours daily, with 71% of that being unpaid (Arsht-Rock report). Without climate action, this could rise to 8.3 hours/day by 2050.**
- **Maternal Health: Over 50% of pregnant women in India are anaemic, a key contributor to maternal mortality.**
- **Food Insecurity & Health: Women facing food insecurity are 1.6 times more likely to suffer from anemia compared to food-secure women.**
- **Climate & Gender-Based Violence: Rising temperatures correlate with increased abuse—each 1°C rise is linked to:**
  - **8% rise in physical violence**
  - **7.3% rise in sexual violence**

Suggestive measures

- Integrate Gender in Climate Policies
  - Embed a strong gender focus in climate policies and reports.
  - Use gender-responsive budgeting to ensure equitable resource allocation.
  - Localize gender-climate actions through national and state plans.
- Promote Women's Leadership in Climate Action
  - Create platforms for women's participation in climate decisions.
  - Support women-led green initiatives and leadership roles in local governance.
  - Establish climate hubs offering health, safety, and migration-related support for women.
- Improve Women's Health and Protection
  - Address health risks like anaemia and malnutrition worsened by climate change.

- Enhance disaster response for vulnerable women and protect against trafficking and violence.
- Recognize the climate-violence link and strengthen women's safety measures.

- Boost Economic Opportunities
  - Promote non-farm livelihoods and skill training for climate-impacted women.
  - Support women in building green businesses and accessing climate-resilient tech.
  - Bridge the gender gap in agricultural inputs to increase productivity.
- Leverage Traditional Knowledge
  - Recognize women's role in sustainable farming and seed preservation.
  - Strengthen and support women's collectives for disaster response and ecosystem care.
- Strengthen Data and Research
  - Invest in gender-focused climate research and data collection.
- Include a gender perspective in emerging issues like human-animal conflict.
- Foster Partnerships
  - Build cross-sectoral alliances among government, civil society, private sector, and global partners.
  - Promote knowledge exchange, capacity building, and highlight best practices.

PRACTICE QUESTION

Q. By investing in women's education and capacity in climate action and promoting women-led climate initiatives, the consequences of gender invisibility can be turned around. Critically Evaluate.

DNA QUIZ

Q.1 Consider the following statements:

1. In India, State Governments **do not** have the power to auction non-coal mines.
2. Andhra Pradesh and Jharkhand **do not** have gold mines.
3. Rajasthan has iron ore mines.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 3 only

Q.2 Which of the following pairs is incorrectly matched with respect to iron ore locations in India?

(a) Bailadila Range – Chhattisgarh

(b) Kudremukh – Karnataka

(c) Baba Budan Hills – Odisha

(d) Sandur-Hospet – Karnataka

Q.3 Arrange the following varieties of silk in India in their order of decreasing production:

1. Muga
2. Eri
3. Mulberry
4. Tasar

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 3-2-4-1

(b) 3-4-2-1

(c) 2-4-1-3

(d) 2-1-4-3

Q.4 Satya Shodhak Samaj organized (2016)

(a) a movement for upliftment of tribals in Bihar

(b) a temple-entry movement in Gujarat

(c) an anti-caste movement in Maharashtra

(d) a peasant movement in Punjab

Q.5 Magnetite particles, suspected to cause neurodegenerative problems, are generated as environmental pollutants from which of the following?

1. Brakes of motor vehicles
2. Engines of motor vehicles
3. Microwave stoves within homes
4. Power plants
5. Telephone lines

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

(a) 1, 2, 3 and 5 only

(b) 1, 2 and 4 only

(c) 3, 4 and 5 only

(d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Q.6 Which of the following statements about the automotive industry is incorrect?

(a) The National Electric Mobility Mission Plan focuses on promoting hybrid vehicles.

(b) The Automotive Mission Plan covers the period from 2016 to 2026.

(c) Up to 100% FDI is permitted through the automatic route.

(d) The Samarth Scheme offers direct support to MSMEs in the automobile sector.

Q.7 'Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action' often seen in the news, is

(a) A strategy to tackle regional terrorism, an outcome of a meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

(b) a plan of action for sustainable economic growth in the Asia-Pacific Region, an outcome of deliberations of the Asia-Pacific Economic Forum

(c) An agenda for women's empowerment, an outcome of a World Conference convened by the United Nations

(d) A strategy to combat wildlife trafficking, a declaration of the East Asia Summit.

ANSWER

1. (d) 2. (c) 3. (a)
4. (c) 5. (b) 6. (d)
7. (c)

■■■■