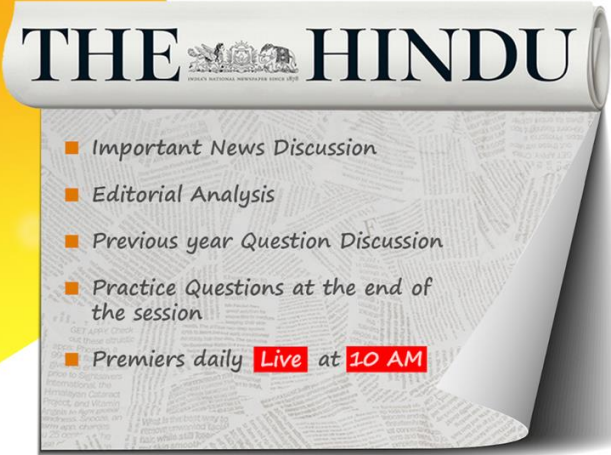




Daily News Analysis



- Important News Discussion
- Editorial Analysis
- Previous year Question Discussion
- Practice Questions at the end of the session
- Premiers daily **Live** at **10 AM**

— BY —
Pooja Sharma

MONDAY July 22, 2024
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INSIDE



Karnataka Cabinet likely to discuss quota Bill

BENGALURU
The Karnataka Cabinet meeting on Monday is likely to again discuss the proposed legislation to reserve jobs for local people in the private sector. » PAGE 3

Missing driver untraced six days after landslide

BENGALURU
Residents of Kannadikall in Roshikode district on Sunday took out a protest march seeking urgent steps to rescue Arjun, a lorry driver missing for six days after a landslide at Arvola in Karnataka. » PAGE 3

Biden drops out of race, endorses Kamala Harris

The 81-year-old President says the decision, which comes amid escalating pressure from Democratic allies, was made in the best interest of the party and country adds that he will complete the remainder of the term; lawmakers had expressed to him their doubts whether he could convince voters of his ability to handle the job for another term

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Joe Biden dropped out of the 2024 race for the White House on Sunday, ending his bid for reelection following a disastrous debate with Donald Trump that raised doubts about his fitness for office under four months before the election. Mr. Biden said he was endorsing Vice President Kamala Harris as the Democratic nominee for the 2024 election.

The decision comes after escalating pressure from Mr. Biden's Democratic allies to step aside following the June 27 debate, in which the 81-year-old President trailed off, often gave nonsensical answers and failed to call out the former President's many falsehoods.

Mr. Biden plans to serve out the remainder of his term in office, which ends on January 20, 2025.

"It has been the greatest honor of my life to serve as your President. And while it has been my intention to seek reelection, I believe it is in the best interest of my party and the country for me to stand down and to focus solely on fulfilling my duties as President for the remainder of my term," Mr. Biden wrote in a letter posted on X.

Mr. Biden's decision came as he has been isolating at his Delaware beach house after being diagnosed with COVID-19 last week, huddling with a shrinking circle of close confidants and family members about his political future. He said he would address the nation later this week to provide "details" about his decision.

The White House confirmed the authenticity of the letter.



Passing the baton: U.S. President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris at the White House. APF

The announcement is the latest jolt to a campaign for the White House that both political parties see as the most consequential election in generations, coming just days after the attempted assassination of Mr. Trump at a Pennsylvania rally.

Closest parallel
A party's presumptive presidential nominee has never stepped out of the race so close to the election.

The closest parallel would be President Lyndon Johnson who, besieged by the Vietnam War, announced in March 1968 that he would not seek another term.

The decision marks a swift and stunning end to Mr. Biden's 52 years in electoral politics, as donors, lawmakers and even aides expressed to him their doubts whether he could convince voters of his ability to handle the job for another four years.

Mr. Biden won the vast majority of delegates and every nominating contest but one, which would have made his nomination a formality. In 2020, Mr. Biden pitched himself as a transitional figure who wanted to be a bridge to a new generation of leaders. But once he secured the job he spent decades struggling to attain, he was reluctant to part with it. Mr. Biden was once asked whether any other Democrats could beat Trump. "Probably 50 of them," Mr. Biden replied. "No, I'm not the only one who can defeat him, but I will defeat him."

Mr. Biden is already the country's oldest President and had insisted repeatedly that he was up for the challenge of another campaign and another term, telling voters all they had to do was "watch me". And watch him they did.

Debate performance
His poor debate performance prompted a cascade of anxiety from Democrats and donors who said publicly what some had said privately for months, that they did not think he was up to the job for four more years.

Concerns over President Biden's age have dogged him since he announced he was running for reelection.

A majority also doubt his mental capability to be President.

BULLET FOR DEMOCRACY
» PAGE 14

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The Hindu Analysis: 22 July 2024

The Hindu Analysis: 22 July 2024

Mains Oriented News:

1. The importance of both Quad and BRICS
(GS Paper-II : Important International Institutions, agencies and fora - their Structure, Mandate.)

1. Focus on female employment to counter unemployment
(GS Paper-III : Indian Economy and issues relating to Employment.,GS Paper-II: Role of Women and Women's Organization)

Prelims Oriented News:

1. Nipah Virus
2. Second Thomas Shoal
3. Dyson spheres

The importance of both Quad and BRICS

The importance of both Quad and BRICS

The 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-a-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 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
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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

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QUAD

PRIMARY OBJECTIVES

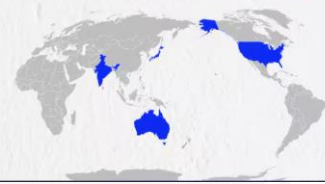
Maritime security, addressing climate change, combating Covid-19 pandemic, among others.

The Quad is also seen as an attempt to counter the growing might of China

What Is The Quad?

The Quad, officially the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QSD), is not a formal alliance. It is an informal strategic forum comprising four maritime democracies:

India, Japan, Australia and the United States



BRICS



BRAZIL



RUSSIA



INDIA



CHINA



SOUTH AFRICA

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BRICS

- BRICS: Partnership of five developing countries (**Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa**).
- Representation: Over 42% of global population, 30% of world's territory, 23% of GDP, and 18% of global trade.
- Historical bonds: Friendship, solidarity, and shared interests.
- Origin: Acronym popularized by a 2001 Goldman Sachs report.
- Founding values: Restructuring global political, economic, and financial systems to be fair, balanced, and representative.
- Pillars: Multilateralism and international law.
- Initial meeting: Leaders met informally at G8 Outreach Summit in St Petersburg, Russia, in July 2006.
- Formalization: First BRIC Foreign Ministers' Meeting in September 2006 during the UN General Assembly.
- **First BRIC Summit: Yekaterinburg, Russia, June 2009.**
- **South Africa joined: 2010**, attended the Third BRICS Summit in China, in 2011.
- Growth: Expanded scope and depth of cooperation.

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The importance of both Quad and BRICS

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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.

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Focus on female employment to counter unemployment

Article discuss three things :

- Female Labor Force Participation Rate(FLFPR) is Increasing
- Steps that can be taken to increase FLFPR
- Steps taken by government to increase FLFPR

Focus on female employment to counter unemployment

The 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 Lokmit CSIS 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 4.2% 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 step 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 36.9% in 2000 to 23.3% in 2018. Against the 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 8.5% 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 women may be extremely gendered, which makes generating employment opportunities for females tricky. Our study on work conditions and employment for women in the shams of Bhat, Gujarat, shows that women are more interested in engaging in traditional employment activities from home, such as handloom, embroidery and full 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 fruitful 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 – tea and dye. Collectivising women under self-help groups (SHG), and, further, through federations may link women directly to the market for better returns. The Kanch 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 fear of women in male-dominated workplaces would increase competition for labour work. This competition can be avoided by generating new opportunities in previously neglected areas. 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 Uttar Pradesh 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 2nd summer slump season, when males had less interest in agriculture, positively affected female employment.

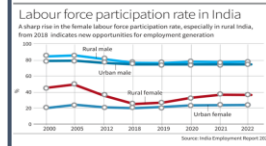
Additional non-conventional irrigation benefits women, as this writer's recent field visits to villages in West Bengal showed. Women have initiated farming, pisciculture, nursery and vermicompost after water is made available through ponds or tube wells in arid and monocropped regions. These women are 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 tilling in ponds. In most tribal villages, women are barred from ploughing due to gender norms. Similar norms exist if they used hired tractors for ploughing and tilled labour for sowing. 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 underutilization of time can be possible by developing income-earning opportunities where males need not be continued and driven out of the labour market. Women's work opportunities or near home can enhance the family income and women's position in the family. Strikingly, a woman in West Bengal revealed that she could lend money to her husband to buy agricultural inputs. In another study in the same region, we 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
As the time rises, participation in work outside the home should be focused. This has a more direct impact on women's employment and the family income. In rural areas, public policy should help improve overall employment and the family income. In urban areas, public policy should help improve overall employment and the family income. In rural areas, public policy should help improve overall employment and the family income. In urban areas, public policy should help improve overall employment and the family income.

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 improve overall employment and the family income. In urban areas, public policy should help improve overall employment and the family income.

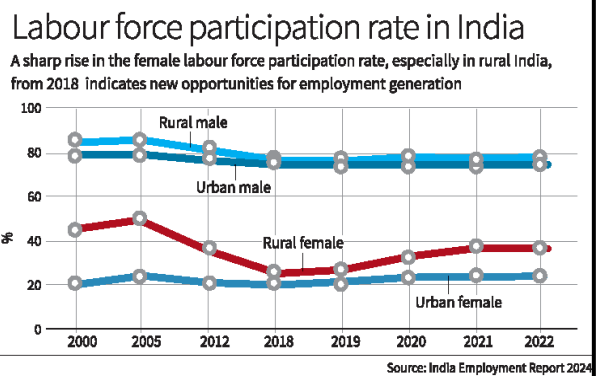
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Focus on female employment to counter unemployment

Female Labor Force Participation Rate(FLFPR) is Increasing

- As per the author **Jobs and inflation** were the two major issues in the Lok Sabha Elections 2024.
- **The India Employment Report (IER) 2024**, of ILO, also illustrated a rise in the unemployment rate.
- 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 there was a increase in FLFPR** 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
- But still it is far less than required.
- Why?



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Focus on female employment to counter unemployment

Major features of Female Labor Force

- Women in Unpaid Family Work (*not even included in National Income*)
- Choice of Employment is extremely gendered
- Lack of Employment Opportunities in Urban areas
- Limited Support to start own enterprise (Family Support ?, Social Support ? Govt Support in terms of Finance ?)

Other Problems

- Pink Jobs
- Glass Ceiling and Glass Cliff
- Gender Pay Gap (Indian Cricket Team)
- Feminisation of Poverty

Focus on female employment to counter unemployment

What Can Be done ?

- Collectivising Women in **SHGs**
- **Connecting them to market** : More market interaction empowers women by enabling them to circumvent gender norms and reduce dependency on male family members
- **Availability of work near home** so as to reduce migration.
- **Creating new opportunities** so as to decrease the competition to males (Author's View)
- **Need for a better work environment**: Safety and basic facilities in the workplace (toilets and crèches) should be made available.

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Focus on female employment to counter unemployment

Steps taken by Government

- The **Code on Social Security, 2020** has the provisions for enhancement in **paid maternity leave from 12 weeks to 26 weeks.**
- The **Code on Wages 2019** has provisions that there shall be **no discrimination in an establishment** or any unit thereof among employees **on the ground of gender in matters relating to wages** by the same employer, in respect of the same work or work of similar nature done by any employee
- Government is providing training to them through a network of Women Industrial Training institutes, National Vocational Training Institutes and Regional Vocational Training Institutes
- Empowering Women through **Self Help Group(SHG) and Lakhpati Didi Scheme(ministry of Rural Development)** where government has now set a target to uplift **three crore women to Lakhpati status.**
 - The objective of lakhpati Didi Scheme is to shift the focus from social and financial inclusion to entrepreneurial success.
- **Stand Up India scheme** which facilitates bank loans for setting up a new enterprise in manufacturing, services, agri-allied activities, or the trading sector by SC/ST/Women entrepreneurs by providing bank loans between INR 10 lakh and up to 1 crore.

Focus on female employment to counter unemployment

Mains Question

Q. Females face a specific set of challenges while participating in labor force .What are the problems faced by female workforce in India ? What steps government has taken to address them ?

(250 Words,15 marks)

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Nipah Disease

Kerala Health Minister confirmed Nipah infection in a 14-year-old boy from Malappuram district in Kerala.



Nipah outbreaks have been reported in Kozhikode district in 2018, 2021, and 2023 and in Ernakulam district in



Presence of Nipah virus antibodies had been detected in bats in Kozhikode, Wayanad, Idukki, Malappuram and Ernakulam districts.

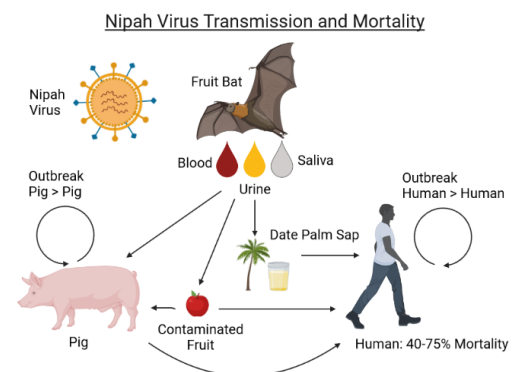
14-year-old Kerala boy dies of Nipah infection

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Nipah virus claimed the life of a 14-year-old boy from Malappuram district of Kerala on Sunday. The resurgence of the infection, which often spreads from fruit bats to humans and other animals, has prompted the State government to impose containment measures in at least two panchayats in the district.

Nipah Disease

- According to WHO, the Nipah virus infection is a newly emerging zoonosis, that is, a disease transmitted from animals to humans.
- Nipah surfaced in Kerala in 2018
- The symptoms of Nipah are similar to that of influenza: **fever, muscle pain, and respiratory problems. Inflammation of the brain** can also cause disorientation.
- Late onset of Encephalitis can also occur.
- Sometimes a person can have an asymptomatic infection, and be a carrier of Nipah and not show any symptoms.



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Nipah

- The disease **initially emerged in Malaysia and Singapore** in 1998 and 1999.
- It was **first detected in domestic pigs** and has since been identified in several other domestic animals, including dogs, cats, goats, horses, and sheep.
- The disease is **transmitted by fruit bats**, also known as 'flying foxes,' of the genus Pteropus, which are natural reservoir hosts for the Nipah viruses.
- The virus can be found in **bat urine and potentially in bat feces, saliva, and birthing fluids**.
- Currently, there are **no vaccines available** for either humans or animals.

Second Thomas Shoal

- Located about **105 nautical miles (195 km)** west to Philippines. Hence Philippines' Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).
- **Part of the Spratly Islands**, an area with overlapping territorial claims by China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, and Taiwan.
- Strategically important due to its position in the South China Sea, a major maritime trade route rich in natural resources.

As per United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS):

An **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)** is an ocean area extending up to **200 nautical miles (230 miles/370 km)** beyond a nation's territorial sea, where the **coastal nation has jurisdiction over both living and non-living resources**.



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Second Thomas Shoal

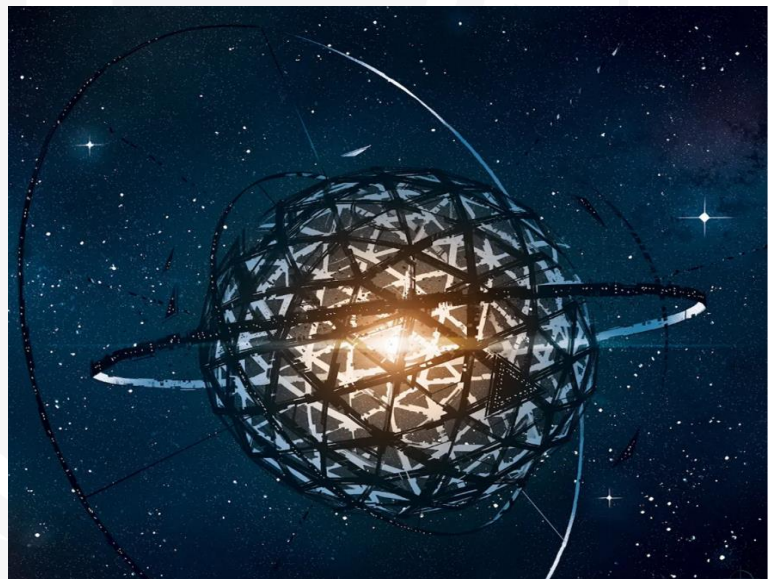
What is the South China Sea Dispute?

- A dispute over territory and sovereignty over ocean areas as well as the Paracels and the Spratlys islands.
- Many countries- China, Vietnam, the Philippines, Taiwan, Malaysia, and Brunei all have competing claims.
- Chinese claims: an area defined by the “nine-dash line”.



Dyson spheres

Dyson sphere: an energy devourer



For Course related enquiries click on the link : <https://bit.ly/tathastu-ics>

Dyson spheres

Dyson sphere: an energy devourer

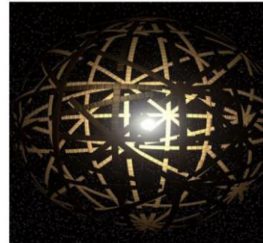
Arkatapa Basu

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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Dyson spheres

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