



# CURRENT AFFAIRS



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## INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT (ICC)

*This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and the topic details "International Criminal Court (ICC)". The topic "International Criminal Court (ICC)" has relevance in the "International Relations" section of the UPSC CSE exam.*

### **For Prelims:**

*What is the International Criminal Court (ICC)? What are its functions?*

### **For Mains:**

*GS2: International Institutions and their structure, mandate*

### **Why in the news?**

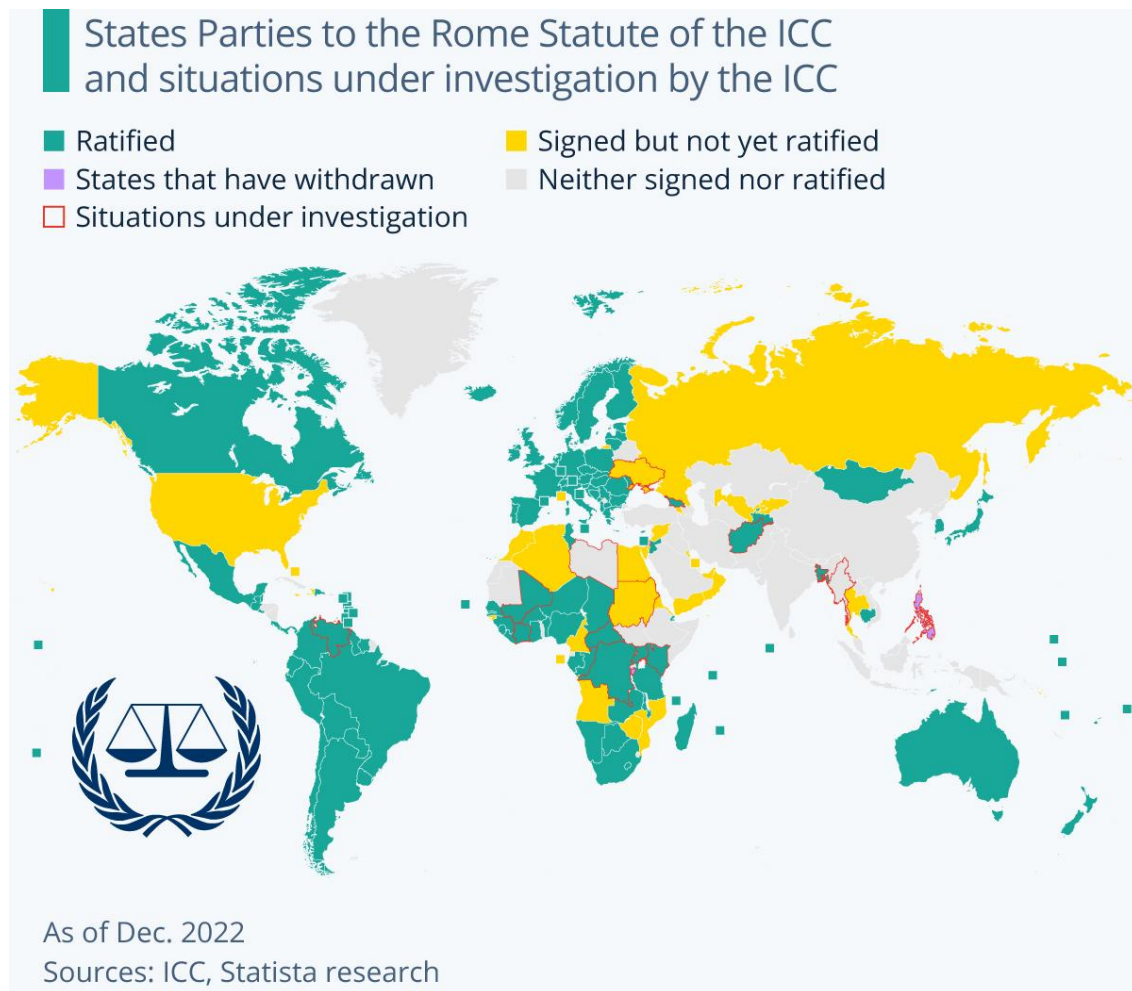
Russian President Vladimir Putin will skip the BRICS summit in South Africa because the International Criminal Court issued a warrant against him, putting South Africa in a challenging situation as an ICC member.

### **International Criminal Court (ICC)**

- The International Criminal Court, situated in The Hague, Netherlands, is a permanent institution tasked with prosecuting individuals for serious international crimes, including genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and aggression.
- It was created to combat worldwide impunity and hold criminals accountable under international law, irrespective of their position or status.
- *It should not be confused with the United Nations' International Court of Justice, also located in The Hague.*

### **The Rome Statute**

- Prior to its operational establishment in 2002, the International Criminal Court (ICC) was established by its founding treaty, the Rome Statute, which was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1998 in Rome, Italy.
- To become a member of the ICC or a State party to the Rome Statute, countries must sign and ratify the statute through their respective legislatures.
- Currently, there are 123 member countries in the ICC, with the largest representation from African nations.
- Significantly, countries such as India, China, Iraq, North Korea, and Turkey never signed the Rome Statute, while others like the US, Russia, Israel, and Syria signed but never ratified it.



### Functions of ICC

#### Judges (Presidency and Judicial Divisions)

- The 18 judges of the International Criminal Court (ICC) are elected by the Assembly of States Parties (ASP) based on their qualifications, impartiality, and integrity.
- They serve 9-year, non-renewable terms.
- The ICC President and two Vice-Presidents, who lead the Court, are elected from among the 18 judges.

### The Assembly

The Assembly of States Parties, comprising representatives from States that ratified or acceded to the Rome Statute, serves as the Court's management oversight and legislative body.

### The Crimes

- The International Criminal Court (ICC) has jurisdiction over four main crimes under its founding treaty, the Rome Statute:
  - Genocide
  - Crimes against humanity
  - War crimes
  - Crime of aggression
- The ICC can prosecute serious violations, such as murder, rape, torture, and attacks against civilian populations.

- The crime of aggression involves the use of armed force by one State against another's sovereignty. On 15 December 2017, the Assembly of States Parties adopted a resolution activating the ICC's jurisdiction over the crime of aggression from 17 July 2018.

### **The Jurisdiction**

- The Court can exercise jurisdiction if genocide, crimes against humanity, or war crimes occurred on or after 1 July 2002, under these conditions:
  - The crimes were committed by a State Party's national.
  - The crimes were committed within the territory of a State Party.
  - The crimes were committed in a State that accepted the Court's jurisdiction.
  - The crimes were referred to the ICC Prosecutor by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).
- The UNSC can refer cases, and acts of aggression can also be investigated, regardless of States Parties' involvement.
- If the UNSC doesn't refer to an act of aggression, the Prosecutor may investigate with certain conditions.
- The Court's jurisdiction for a crime of aggression is limited for States Parties that haven't ratified or accepted the relevant amendments.

### **Charges on President Putin**

- Warrants were issued against Putin and Lvova-Belova for alleged war crimes of unlawfully deporting and transferring children from occupied areas of Ukraine to Russia.
- The charges fall under the Rome Statute's Articles 8(2)(a)(vii) and 8(2)(b)(viii).
- These alleged crimes took place in Ukrainian occupied territory since at least 24 February 2022, when Russia invaded Ukraine.
- The ICC is the international court responsible for prosecuting such crimes under the Rome Statute, adopted in 1998.

### **Doubts over ICC's the authority to prosecute President Putin**

- Russia has consistently stated its non-recognition of the International Criminal Court's (ICC) jurisdiction.
- The ICC's authority extends to offences occurring after July 1, 2002, within countries that ratified the agreement or committed by nationals of such countries.
- Russia, the United States, China, and India are not among the 123 States Parties to the Rome Statute that acknowledge the ICC's authority.
- Ukraine, although not a State Party, accepted the ICC's jurisdiction for alleged crimes committed on its territory during specific periods in 2013 and 2014.

### **Sources:**

**Why Putin won't go to South Africa for the BRICS summit in August | The Indian Express**  
Infographics- Valdaiclub.com

## What is BRICS that President Putin won't be attending in person?



Sources: infobrics.org, economy.gov.ru, ac.gov.ru

### Q1. With reference to International Criminal Court (ICC), consider the following statements:

1. The International Criminal Court (ICC) is a permanent institution located in South Africa, responsible for prosecuting individuals for international crimes, including genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and aggression.
2. The ICC can prosecute crimes that occurred after July 1, 1945.
3. The ICC can prosecute crimes if committed by a State Party national, within a State Party's territory, or in a State that has accepted the ICC's jurisdiction.

Which of the statements given above is/are **NOT** correct?

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

**Answer: (a)**

**Q2. Consider the following statements:**

- 1. India
- 2. Iraq
- 3. South Africa
- 4. Turkey
- 5. US
- 6. Russia

How many of the abovementioned countries have not signed the Rome Statute?

- (a) Only Two
- (b) Only Three
- (c) Only Five
- (d) All Six

**Answer: (b)**

**Q3. Discuss the role of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in prosecuting international crimes and challenges faced by ICC.**

*Gaurav Nikumbh*

## INDIA'S EXPORT SECTOR

*This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and the topic details "India's Export Sector". The topic "India's Export Sector" has relevance in the Economy section of the UPSC CSE exam.*

**For Prelims:**

*Target Range?*

*Current Scenario of Indian Export?*

**For Mains:**

*GS 3: Economy*

*Factors Influencing Exports?*

*Challenges for the Export Sector in India?*

*Way Forward?*

**Why in the news?**

India's exports have encountered a challenging start this year, experiencing a significant contraction of 15.1% during the April to June 2023 quarter. This decline comes after the country's outbound shipments of goods had reached a notable milestone, surpassing \$450 billion in the previous year.

## Target Range:

### Target USD 2 Trillion by 2030:

- India's new Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2023 aims to achieve a total export of USD 2 trillion by 2030, with services and goods exports accounting for a trillion dollars each.
- This long-term objective will be considered while setting the current year's export targets.

### Import to GDP Ratio of Importing Countries:

- The government will take into account the import to GDP (Gross Domestic Product) ratio of the countries that are major importers of Indian goods.
- This ratio provides insights into the potential demand for Indian products in various international markets.

### Export to GDP Ratio of India:

- The export to GDP ratio of India will be assessed to gauge the country's export potential and capacity.
- This analysis helps in understanding the share of exports in India's overall economic output.

### Trend Growth of Past Years:

- The past growth trends in exports will be analyzed to understand the trajectory of India's trade performance.
- Considering historical growth patterns helps in setting achievable targets for the future.

**Target Range:** Based on the figures of FY 2022-23, where exports amounted to USD 450 billion, and assuming a conservative growth rate of 10%, trade experts suggest the following potential target range for **the current year's exports:**

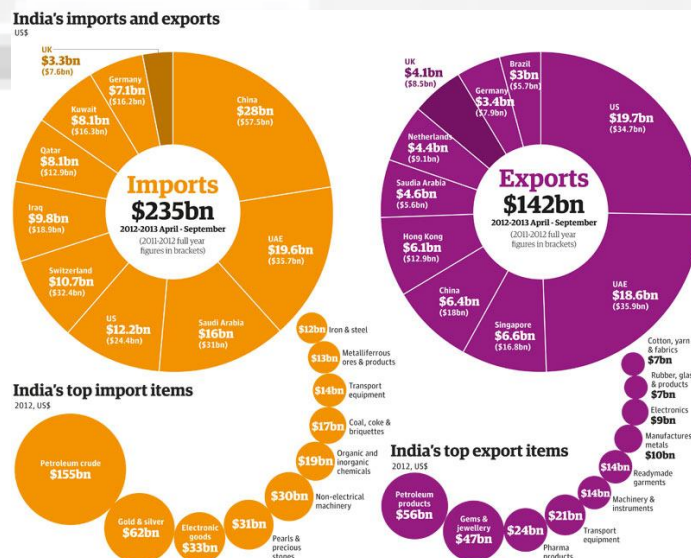
- Lower End of Range: USD 451 billion (Slightly above the previous year's exports)
- Upper End of Range: USD 495 billion (Assuming a 10% growth rate).

### Monitoring Mechanism:

- The Department of Commerce will use a fixed number, which could be a mid-value or an average, to track export performance every month.
- This monitoring mechanism provides timely insights into the progress of exports and allows for necessary adjustments if required to achieve the set targets.

### Current Scenario of Indian Export:

- Goods exports have experienced a series of deceleration, with a 22% drop in June 2023, the steepest fall in 37 months.
- Exported services also witnessed a slowdown, with forex earnings from intangible exports growing by only 5.2% in the first quarter of 2023-24, compared to about 28% growth in the previous year.



## **Factors Influencing Exports:**

### **Global Oil Prices:**

- Petroleum exports saw a sharp plunge of 33.2% in the first quarter due to reduced global oil prices.
- Price cap sanctions on Russian oil shipments also contributed to a moderation in demand.

**External Factors:** The World Trade Organisation's (WTO) forecast of slower global trade growth in 2023 is influencing India's export outlook.

### **Status of the Export Sector in India:**

- Merchandise trade deficit increased by over 39% in 2022-23 to record USD 266.78 billion, compared to USD 191 billion in 2021-22.
- Merchandise imports increased by 16.51% in 2022-23, while merchandise exports rose by 6.03%.
- Overall trade deficit stood at USD 122 billion in 2022-23, compared to USD 83.53 billion in the previous year.

### **India's Major Export Arenas:**

- **Engineering Goods:** Registered a 50% growth in exports, reaching USD 101 billion in FY22.
- **Agriculture Products:** Rice exports worth USD 9.65 billion, the highest among agricultural commodities.
- **Textile and Apparels:** Textile and apparel exports stood at USD 44.4 billion in FY22, a 41% increase on a YoY basis.

### **Challenges for Export Sector in India:**

#### **Challenges in Access to Finance:**

- Exporters face difficulties in obtaining affordable and timely finance due to high interest rates, collateral requirements, and limited credit availability, especially for SMEs.
- Limited Diversification:
- India's export basket is concentrated in a few sectors, making it vulnerable to global demand fluctuations and market risks.

**Rising Protectionism and Deglobalisation:** Increasing protectionist trade policies globally are shrinking India's export capacities.

### **Major Government Initiatives to Promote Export Growth:**

- Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES)
- PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan (NMP)
- Duty Drawback Scheme

### **Way Forward:**

- Investments in transportation networks, ports, customs clearance processes, and export-oriented infrastructure should be prioritized.
- Skill development programs should be implemented to enhance the availability of skilled labor in export-oriented industries.
- Incentivizing and promoting technology adoption, such as automation and digitization, can boost productivity and competitiveness in the export sector.

SOURCE:

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/downhill-driving-the-hindu-editorial-on-indias-overall-trend-of-exports/article67112415.ece>

INFOGRAPHIC: The Guardian

## **Q.1 What is the target range approach adopted by the Indian Government to promote exports?**

1. Setting an export target of USD 2 trillion by 2030
2. Analyzing the past growth trends in exports

3. Considering the import to GDP ratio of major importing countries

**Select the correct answer from the options below:**

- (A) 1 and 2 only
- (B) 2 and 3 only
- (C) Both 1 and 3 only
- (D) 1, 2 and 3

**ANSWER: D**

**Q.2 India's new Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2023 aims to achieve a total export of USD 2 trillion by which year?**

- (A) 2025
- (B) 2030
- (C) 2040
- (D) 2028

**Answer: B**

**Q.3 Discuss the challenges faced by the Indian export sector and the major government initiatives taken to promote export growth. What measures should the government undertake to further enhance India's export competitiveness?**

*Rishabh*

