



# Possible Decline in Coffee Production

[Source:TH](#)

## Why in News?

Recently, [Coffee Board of India](#) hinted that India's coffee production for 2024-25 may see a significant drop due to plant and berry losses caused by high temperatures, heavy rainfall, and [landslides](#) in key growing regions.

## What's the Status of Coffee Production in India?

- India is the **6th largest coffee producer** and **5th largest exporter** globally, accounting for 3.14% of global coffee output.
- **70% of India's coffee** produced is exported, **while 30% is consumed domestically**. India is renowned for its high-quality [coffee varieties](#).
  - India produced around 3.6 lakh metric tonnes of green coffee in 2023-24 [crop](#) year.
- **Coffee Varieties in India: Arabica and Robusta.**
  - **Characteristics of Arabica:** Grown at higher altitudes and it has higher market value due to its aroma.
  - **Characteristics of Robusta:** Known for its strength and used in various blends.
- **Causes of Declining Coffee Output:**
  - **Prolonged drought** and soaring temperatures during the April-May period led to scorching of blossom clusters and fruit burn at the pinhead stage.
  - **Heavy Rainfall** in July, caused severe issues like berry dropping, stalk rot, and wet foot conditions due to flooding.
  - **Landslides** in key coffee-growing areas like Sakleshpur and [Wayanad](#) resulted in significant plant and plantation losses. These combined factors have led to an estimated yield **loss of 15% to 20%** in the coffee belt, with the actual damage potentially being higher.

## What are the Key Facts about Coffee Production?

- **History:**
  - Coffee was introduced to India during the late 17th century; the Dutch (who occupied much of India throughout the 17th century) helped spread the cultivation of coffee across the country, but it was with the **arrival of the British in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century that commercial coffee farming fully flourished.**
- **About:**
  - Coffee in India is grown under a canopy of thick natural shade in ecologically sensitive regions of the [Western and Eastern Ghats](#).
    - This is one of the 25 [biodiversity hotspots](#) of the world.
  - Coffee contributes significantly to sustain the unique bio- diversity of the region and is also responsible for the socio-economic development in the remote, hilly areas.
  - Coffee offers protection against oxidative damage, reduces the risk of **type 2 diabetes, and lowers the risk of age-related diseases.**
- **Climatic Conditions Required:**
  - **Climate** - Hot and humid; **temperature** - ranging between **15°C and 28°C**; **rainfall** -

150 to 250 cm.

- **Frost, snowfall, high temperature >30°C and strong sun shine** is not good for coffee crops and is generally grown under shady trees.
  - **Dry weather is necessary** at the time of ripening of the berries.
- Stagnant water is harmful and the crop is grown on hill slopes at elevations from 600 to 1,600 metres above sea level.
- **Well drained loam containing a good deal of humus** and minerals like **iron** and **calcium** is ideal for coffee cultivation.

▪ **Soil Type:**

- Coffee can be grown on lots of **soils** but the ideal types are fertile **volcanic red earth or deep sandy loam**.
- For coffee trees to grow, it is important that the soil is well drained which makes heavy clay or heavy sandy soils inadequate.

▪ **Major Areas:**

- In India, coffee is traditionally grown in the Western Ghats spread over **Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu**.
  - **Karnataka is the largest producer** accounting for about 70% of the total coffee production, followed by Kerala at 23%
- Coffee cultivation is also expanding rapidly in the nontraditional areas of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Odisha as well as in the North East states.

**Note:**

**Coffee's Impact on Climate Change:**

- **Coffee production contributes 40-80% of total GHG emissions of Coffee cycle**, mainly due to mechanisation and intensive irrigation from transitioning to sun-exposed fields. **Fertilisers emit nitrous oxide** and are produced using large quantities of natural gas.
- Heating and keeping water warm for coffee preparation impacts the carbon footprint, with greater emissions in regions using high-carbon electricity.
- Coffee capsules can reduce waste and emissions by optimising coffee and water use, but their manufacturing and disposal add to the carbon footprint if not recycled.

**Coffee Board of India**

- It is a **statutory organisation** that was constituted under Section (4) of the **Coffee Act, 1942**.
- It functions under the administrative control of the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**.
- The Board comprises 33 Members including the Chairperson, who is the Chief Executive and it **functions from Bangalore**.
- The Board mainly focuses its activities in the areas of research, extension, development, market intelligence, external & internal promotion for coffee.

Read More: [India's Coffee](#), [Araku Coffee](#), [World Coffee Conference 2023](#)

**UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Question (PYQ)**

**Q. Match List-I with List-II and select the correct answer using the code given below the Lists: (2008)**

	<b>List-I (Board)</b>		<b>List-II (Headquarters)</b>
A.	Coffee Board	1.	Bengaluru
B.	Rubber Board	2.	Guntur
C.	Tea Board	3.	Kottayam
D.	Tobacco Board	4.	Kolkata

**Code: A B C D**

- (a)** 2 4 3 1
- (b)** 1 3 4 2
- (c)** 2 3 4 1
- (d)** 1 4 3 2

**Ans: (b)**

**Q.2 Though coffee and tea both are cultivated on hill slopes, there is some difference between them regarding their cultivation. In this context, consider the following statements: (2010)**

1. Coffee plants require a hot and humid climate of tropical areas whereas tea can be cultivated in both tropical and subtropical areas.
2. Coffee is propagated by seeds but tea is propagated by stem cuttings only.

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

- (a)** 1 only
- (b)** 2 only
- (c)** Both 1 and 2
- (d)** Neither 1 nor 2

**Ans: (a)**

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/possible-decline-in-coffee-production>

