

04/05/2024

## TOPICS COVERED

1. The paradox of India's global rise, its regional decline (4 May) (GS Paper II: IR)
2. This is the year to get the Sustainable Development Goals back on track (4 May) (GS Paper III: Environment)
3. Sexual crimes and videos: On the Prajwal Revanna case in Karnataka (4 May) (GS Paper I: Society)

## Modi remained silent on allegations against Governor, says Mamata (4 May)

- Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee expressed sympathy for a woman who accused West Bengal Governor C.V. Ananda Bose of sexual assault.
- Mamata Banerjee described the woman's tears as heartbreaking and mentioned watching her video testimony.
- She criticized the BJP, asking why the Governor allegedly harassed a woman working at Raj Bhavan.
- The Trinamool Congress questioned why Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who visited Raj Bhavan, didn't address the issue.
- The woman, a contractual employee at Raj Bhavan, filed a complaint with Kolkata Police alleging harassment by the Governor.
- The Constitution's Article 361 grants immunity to the Governor against criminal proceedings.
- The Governor dismissed the charges as "absurd drama," vowing to continue efforts to expose corruption and reduce violence.

## India press freedom score fell over the last year: RSF (4 May)

The World Press Freedom Index (WPFI) is an annual ranking published by Reporters Without Borders (RSF), an international non-profit organization advocating for freedom of information. Since 2002, the WPFI has assessed the state of press freedom in 180 countries and territories worldwide.

### What does it measure?

The WPFI doesn't directly measure press freedom but rather assesses the environment for journalism. This evaluation considers a variety of factors including:

- Pluralism - Diversity of media ownership and viewpoints
- Media Independence - Freedom from government, political, or commercial influence
- Media Environment and Self-censorship - Threats, harassment, and intimidation faced by journalists
- Legislative Framework - Laws and regulations impacting press freedom
- Transparency - Openness of government and access to information

### How is it ranked?

RSF uses a questionnaire completed by media professionals, lawyers, and human rights activists along with quantitative data on journalist abuses to determine a score for each country. Higher scores indicate greater press freedom.

- India's score in the World Press Freedom Index decreased from 36.62 to 31.28 over the past year, as reported by Reporters Without Borders (RSF).
- However, India's ranking improved from 161 in 2023 to 159 in 2024, primarily due to declines in other countries' rankings.
- The Indian government has historically dismissed international freedom rankings as misinformed and propaganda-driven.
- Norway and Denmark ranked highest in press freedom, while Eritrea ranked lowest, with Syria just above it.
- RSF highlighted that press freedom globally is threatened by political authorities, with an average decline of 7.6 points.
- RSF's questionnaire for press freedom covers political, legal, economic, sociocultural, and security contexts.
- India's scores worsened in all categories except security.
- RSF attributed India's decline in press freedom to an "unofficial state of emergency" since Narendra Modi's rise to power in 2014, alleging a cozy relationship between the BJP and influential media families.
- The term "Godi media" is used to describe media outlets perceived as mixing populism and pro-BJP propaganda.
- Indian journalists critical of the government face harassment campaigns from BJP-backed trolls, according to RSF's India country report.
- Rebecca Vincent, director of campaigns at RSF, highlighted the significant role of elections in India regarding press freedom.
- She noted a perception of Indian authorities engaging in mass disinformation and propaganda, particularly during election periods.
- Vincent expressed concern about the state of press freedom in the U.S., especially due to the global impact of developments there.
- During the Trump presidency, media were often labeled as enemies of the state, influencing press freedom negatively.
- The U.S.'s press freedom score dropped from 71.22 to 66.59, and its ranking deteriorated from 45 to 55 according to the RSF index.

# The paradox of India's global rise, its regional decline (4 may) (GS Paper II: IR)

This dichotomy has profound implications for New Delhi's global aspirations

- India is experiencing a paradox in its foreign policy where it is globally rising but regionally declining in power.
- The global rise of India is driven by factors such as **economic growth, military capabilities, and a youthful population.**
- India's presence in global institutions like the **G-20** and its participation in multilateral groups like the **Quad** and **BRICS** highlight its geopolitical significance.
- **Despite not being a member of the UN Security Council, India's global influence is growing, with increased peer accommodation of its claims to be a significant global power.**
- India's role in the Indo-Pacific region is gaining attention, as it holds a central position both geographically and strategically.



- However, regionally, India's power is diminishing relative to China, and it is losing primacy in South Asia due to changes in the region's geopolitics.

## Extraneous factors

- India's global rise is accompanied by a decline in its influence within the South Asian region.
- This decline is not absolute but comparative, seen when comparing India's past influence in the region to China's current influence.
- Factors contributing to India's declining influence include the American withdrawal from the region and China's expansion to fill the resulting power vacuum.
- Paradoxically, some factors behind India's global prominence, like increased US interest in accommodating India to counterbalance China, also contribute to its regional decline.

- India's focus on the Indo-Pacific, while gaining global attention, may have diverted attention and resources away from its continental neighborhood.
- While India's global rise is driven by absolute power growth and geopolitical choices of major powers, its regional decline is influenced by dynamics of comparative power and choices made by smaller regional powers.
- Overlooking the balancing acts of smaller regional powers in favor of focusing solely on great power balancing could be counterproductive.

## The rise of China and what India must do

- China's rise is the primary factor explaining India's decline in regional influence, despite India's overall increase in power.
- India's relative weakness compared to China in history is due to China's emergence as a rising superpower neighboring India.
- The shift in regional power balance favors China due to its increased presence in South Asia, the US withdrawal from the region, and India's focus on the Indo-Pacific.
- Smaller South Asian nations are adopting various strategies like balancing, bargaining, hedging, and bandwagoning in response to this new power equation.
- India's neighbors see China as a useful hedge against India's influence, contributing to India's diminishing hold on the region.
- The obsolescence of South Asia as a geopolitical construct further challenges India's influence in the region.
- To address this challenge, India needs to reassess its traditional conceptions of the region and modernize its approach to maintaining primacy in South Asia.
- Accepting the changed realities of the region and focusing on India's strengths instead of directly competing with China in every aspect is crucial.
- India should craft a new engagement strategy with the region that leverages its traditional strengths and acknowledges the region's evolving dynamics.
- Reclaiming aspects of India's cultural heritage
- India faces challenges in its continental strategy but has numerous opportunities in its maritime space.
- Leveraging its maritime advantages in the Indo-Pacific could help compensate for India's continental handicaps.
- India should involve its smaller South Asian neighbors in Indo-Pacific strategic discussions, even if they are not currently significant players in the region.
- Partnering with countries like Sri Lanka, the Maldives, and Bangladesh as part of the larger Indo-Pacific strategy can help counter China's influence in the region.
- New Delhi's willingness to view the region through a non-India centric lens indicates openness to cooperation with external powers in addressing common challenges.
- India is no longer uneasy about external powers in its neighborhood, as it was during the Cold War era.
- There is a desire in New Delhi to collaborate with external partners in the Indian Ocean and South Asia to tackle shared regional challenges.

- Utilizing this openness and external engagement can help mitigate the difficulties stemming from India's regional decline.

## Tap soft power

- New Delhi should **utilize its soft power creatively to maintain influence in the region.**
- Encouraging **informal contacts between political and civil society actors** in India and other South Asian countries can be beneficial.
- Informal conflict management processes should be encouraged in the region, especially **where direct involvement by the Indian state may be hesitant, such as in Myanmar.**
- The contrast between India's global rise and regional decline has significant implications for its global aspirations.
- It raises the question of whether a country unable to maintain primacy in its surrounding regions can truly be a pivotal power in international politics.

## Sexual crimes and videos: On the Prajwal Revanna case in Karnataka (4 May) (GS Paper I: Society)

### The sexual assault cases in Karnataka must be investigated with sensitivity

- The Karnataka police and State administration must prioritize the safety and privacy of women who have accused Prajwal Revanna, a suspended Janata Dal (Secular) leader and Member of Parliament, of rape and sexual harassment.
- Prompt action, including seeking cancellation of Mr. Revanna's diplomatic passport, has been taken by the State government.
- The Special Investigation Team (SIT) must swiftly investigate the allegations, ensuring the protection of the women's identities and the removal of any videos depicting the alleged acts.
- Recent cases involving allegations of sexual misconduct by individuals in positions of power highlight the challenge of holding perpetrators accountable due to unequal power dynamics and political influence.
- Survivors of sexual abuse often hesitate to come forward, but filing complaints can encourage others to speak out, particularly against serial offenders.
- The police are facing difficulties persuading women shown in the videos to register complaints.
- Both Prajwal Revanna and his father, H.D. Revanna, a Member of the Legislative Assembly, have been summoned by the SIT for questioning, with Prajwal facing rape charges and his father accused of kidnapping a complainant.
- It is suggested that both leaders resign from public office until the investigation is completed, given the seriousness of the allegations.

# Policy mismatch: On the U.S. and Israel policy

(4 May)

## The U.S. must not arm Israel while asking it to halt Gaza strikes

- The Israel-Hamas war began on October 7, with the immediate priority for President Joe Biden being to prevent the conflict from expanding into a regional war.
- Biden adopted a two-fold strategy: offering unconditional support for Israel's actions in Gaza while simultaneously engaging in diplomatic efforts to reduce tensions between Israel and its neighbors.
- However, as the conflict persisted, resulting in significant civilian casualties in Gaza, Biden's policy began to face challenges.
- The war has lasted for months, with a high number of casualties, particularly among women and children in Gaza.
- Israel intends to invade Rafah, a town in Gaza with a large population of Palestinians, despite Biden's warning against such a move.
- The conflict has seen incidents beyond the borders of Palestinian territories and Israel, including Houthi attacks in the Red Sea and exchanges between Israel and Iran, though a full-scale regional war has been avoided.
- The war has sparked protests in the United States, especially among university students, putting pressure on Biden to reconsider his approach to Israel.
- Biden officials have been working to achieve a ceasefire and hostage deal between Israel and Hamas, with some success.
- Biden's response to Iran's attacks against Israel and warnings to Benjamin Netanyahu helped ease regional tensions.
- However, criticism has been leveled at Biden for the U.S.'s continued support for Israel despite allegations of indiscriminate bombing in Gaza.
- Some argue that Biden's failure to pressure Israel undermines America's moral standing and weakens his position, both internationally and domestically.
- Suggestions include calling for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza and considering policies like suspending arms sales to Israel to achieve peace in the region.

## This is the year to get the Sustainable Development Goals back on track (4 May) (GS Paper III: Environment)

2024 is an election year across the world and newly elected governments need to focus on the all-important sustainability issue



- The United Nations summit on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) took place in New York on September 18-19.
- The purpose of the summit was to evaluate progress made towards achieving the SDGs.
- The Agenda-2030, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015, outlines 17 SDGs with 169 specific targets to be achieved by 2030.
- These goals cover various aspects of sustainable development, including poverty alleviation, gender equality, environmental protection, and access to education and healthcare.
- While the SDG program is not legally binding, all countries have committed to working towards these goals as sustainable development is considered a global effort.
- The summit provided an opportunity for countries to review their efforts, share successes and challenges, and identify areas for improvement in achieving the SDGs.

### Slow progress

- Progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is falling short.
- The COVID-19 pandemic and other global crises have worsened the situation.
- There's concern about slow progress and lack of attention to environmental goals.
- The current approach to pursuing SDGs is criticized for not considering their integrated nature.
- Failure to balance human well-being and environmental health may lead to accelerated environmental degradation.
- The UN SDG Report 2023 suggests urgent action in five key areas.

- World leaders have reaffirmed commitments to achieve SDGs by 2030, but their effectiveness on the ground is uncertain.

## Results that deserve deliberation

- A team of 64 scholars analyzed 3,000 studies to assess the political impact of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on poverty eradication, social justice, and environmental protection.
- Published in Nature Sustainability, September 2022, led by Professor Frank Biermann of Utrecht University, Netherlands.
- Examined five dimensions: global governance, domestic political systems, institutional integration, inclusiveness, and ecological protection.
- Concluded that SDGs mainly had discursive effects with limited normative and institutional reforms.
- Found little evidence that global goal-setting directly impacted national and local politics.
- Emphasized the importance of a systemic approach to realize the transformative potential of the 2030 Agenda.
- The "Future is Now" UN report (2019) suggests identifying entry points to address multiple SDGs simultaneously.
- Advocates for maximizing co-benefits while managing trade-offs in sustainable development actions.
- Recommends leveraging governance, economy, individual and collective action, and science and technology.
- Calls for partnerships and collaborations to implement integrated pathways tailored to local needs and priorities.
- Gro Harlem Brundtland, former Prime Minister of Norway, hopes policymakers heed the report's suggestions to drive sustainable development.

## An important year

- In 2024, elections will take place in at least 64 countries worldwide.
- These countries represent both developed and developing nations.
- The elections involve nearly half of the world's population, totaling 49%.
- It's crucial for newly elected governments to consider sustainability and adjust their national policies accordingly.
- Sustainability should be a key focus for governments as they shape their agendas and policies.
- Aligning national policies with sustainability goals can contribute to long-term environmental, social, and economic well-being.
- Addressing sustainability issues is essential for ensuring a better future for current and future generations.

## A livelihood silenced (4 May)

## With rising threats from gau rakshaks and an unsupportive administration, Rajkot's Dalit cattle skimmers are opting out of their profession

- In Rajkot's Chamadia Para, a traditional area for animal skinning in Gujarat, a police raid occurred on April 3.
- Two policemen and four gau rakshaks, self-professed cow custodians, entered the courtyard of Manju Parmar's house.
- They claimed to have seized 100 kilos of cow meat allegedly stocked by Manju and her son Mahesh.
- An FIR was filed against the mother and son under Gujarat's stringent anti-cow slaughter law, Gujarat Animal Preservation (Amendment) Act, 2017.
- Manju and Mahesh belong to the Dalit community, traditionally involved in cattle skinning in Gujarat.
- Previously, 500 to 600 families from different parts of Rajkot worked at the Sokhada dumping ground, but many are now leaving due to various challenges.
- Challenges faced by skimmers include lack of legal recognition, absence of identity cards, and threats from vigilante groups like gau rakshaks.
- The leather godowns in Chamadia Para are difficult to find and are often hidden from view.
- Every part of a dead animal is utilized: hide is sold to traders, bones are used for gelatine, and cow horns are used to make toys and buttons.
- Meat from dead cattle is sold cheaply in the grey market, serving as a cheap alternative to chicken and mutton for Dalit households.
- The area, once bustling with warehouses stocking cattle hides, is now filled with a sense of gloom, with many godowns having shut down.

## The decay of the cattle skinning trade

- Until last year, cattle skimmers would use their pick-up trucks to drive to farms when a cow died.
- Traditionally, District Magistrates allotted land called Charm Kund to cattle skimmers in each district for skinning dead cattle, goats, and sheep.
- Suresh Rathod, from a family involved in the trade for three generations, has given up skinning and now ferries passengers and transports goods for a living.
- Rapid urbanization along NH27, the Rajkot-Ahmedabad highway, has engulfed areas like Sokhada, leading to the construction of a new international airport and other infrastructure projects.
- As part of the 2024 Lok Sabha poll promises, property rates are escalating in areas adjoining the airport, impacting Dalit skimmers who are no longer allowed to skin cattle at Sokhada.
- The Rajkot Municipal Corporation has erected concrete boundary walls at what was once Charm Kund, and gau rakshaks discourage skinning activity in the area.
- Local leaders affiliated with the ruling party are developing plots for parties adjacent to the Sokhada dumping ground, claiming the stink is unacceptable.
- Haresh Parmar, a former skinner, was falsely accused of illegally selling cow meat, spent three months in Rajkot central jail, and faced rejection of his bail application multiple times.

- Haresh Parmar has to present himself at the police station every 15 days, cannot leave town, and must attend monthly court hearings.
- If convicted, he faces a sentence of up to 10 years in jail.
- Rajkot's BJP candidate Parshottam Rupala, also the Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, faced controversy for remarks about Kshatriyas and Dalits.
- Rupala praised the Dalit community, referring to them as the most oppressed, but faced criticism for allegedly exploiting Dalit sentiments for political gain.
- The Rajkot Lok Sabha constituency has nearly 22 lakh voters, with Scheduled Castes comprising only 6.9% of the electorate.
- Dalit demands for sheltered facilities at Sokhada dumping ground for hygienic skinning of cattle have been ignored by the ruling party and administration, despite a decade-long fight for their rights.

### **The crumbling cow economy**

- Gujarat is among India's top five milk-producing states, contributing 7.49% of the total milk production.
- The state has a population of over 2 crore cows, oxen, and buffaloes, with only half being milk-producing.
- Cows typically live for 25 years, with 15 years of milk production before becoming redundant.
- Wadhwan Taluka panjrapole in Surendranagar district cares for non-milch cattle, where up to 20 animals are housed separately for end-of-life care.
- Carcasses are disposed of by individuals like Jitubhai, who operates a business processing cattle hides and bones.
- Jitubhai's business involves skinning carcasses, with workers like Bashir from Bihar employed in the field.
- The hide market has seen a slump, with prices dropping significantly since 2016-17.
- Despite the decline in hide sales, there is a thriving market for cattle bones, which are crushed and sold to pharmaceutical and gelatine manufacturing units.
- Income from the bone mill business ranges from ₹50,000 to ₹1 lakh per month after deducting expenses.
- Cattle horns have seen a decrease in demand, leading to a pile-up in warehouses.
- Jitubhai hopes his sons will pursue stable, city-based jobs, fearing potential shutdowns of his business due to nearby developments like an international school campus.

### **Plastic, the real killer**

- Bashir shows shredded plastic found in a cow's stomach near the dumping ground where the animal grazed.
- In Wadhwan village, a large pile of rubbish is present roadside, with cows often seen around it.
- Natubhai Parmar, an activist with Navsarjan, has installed a cow statue at a road crossing and displays 60 kilos of plastic bags recovered from dead cows' stomachs.

- Villagers dispose of leftover food in plastic bags, leading cows to consume them while searching for food.
- Cows, especially pregnant ones, suffer when they ingest plastic, often leading to painful deaths for both the cows and their calves.
- In 2017, the Dalit community gathered plastic from dead cows' stomachs and presented samples to 182 MLAs, demanding adequate grazing land for cattle to prevent them from scavenging in garbage dumps.

### A history of fear

- In 2016, five Dalits who skinned dead cows were lynched by 40 gau rakshaks in Mota Samadhiyala village, leading to fear among the community in Diu.
- Following protests over poor conditions at the Sokhada dumping ground in Rajkot, urban cow skimmers like Rathod and Ramesh resumed work but eventually stopped last year due to declining income.
- Atrocities against Dalits and restrictions on their work are often linked to land control issues, according to Sidharth Parmar, a former MLA in Rajkot.
- Despite efforts to address the issue, such as a 2017 notification for identification cards for cattle skimmers, individuals like Haresh faced refusal on grounds of potential misuse.
- The police are required to investigate complaints from gau rakshaks, leading to nine FIRs related to cow slaughter and transportation registered in Rajkot between 2019 and 2024.
- While cases of illegal cow transportation have been witnessed, there is a call for allowing traditional cattle skimmers to continue their work.

## March mining output growth slows to 1.2% in signal for IIP (4 May)

### IIP

The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is a measure of the physical volume of production of industrial products in the Indian economy.

It serves as a crucial indicator of the growth rate in various industry groups over a specific period. The IIP is compiled and published monthly by the National Statistical Office (NSO), which is a part of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation [1].

#### Core Industries and the IIP

Eight core industries in India significantly influence the IIP. These industries form the foundation for the nation's economic development and contribute around 40.27% of the weightage to the overall IIP calculation [2].

**The eight core industries, listed according to their weightage in the IIP, are:**

1. Refinery Products
2. Electricity
3. Steel
4. Coal
5. Crude Oil
6. Natural Gas
7. Cement
8. Fertilizers [2]

### Where to Find the Latest IIP Data

The Press Information Bureau (PIB), Government of India, releases information on the Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI), which is essentially the IIP with a specific focus on the core sectors. The PIB website provides access to monthly and annual indices along with press releases for recent data [3].

Here's the link to the PIB webpage dedicated to the Index of Eight Core Industries: [PIYB Index of Eight Core Industries ON Press Information Bureau [pib.gov.in](http://pib.gov.in)]

I hope this information provides a helpful starting point for understanding the IIP and its core industries!

- India's mining output growth decreased to 1.2% in March, marking a 19-month low.
- February saw a higher growth rate of 8% in mining, contributing to overall industrial output growth.
- Mining accounts for 14.3% of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).
- February's industrial output growth reached a four-month high of 5.7%, supported by mining (8%) and electricity (7.5%).
- Manufacturing, constituting 77.6% of the IIP, grew by 5% in February.
- Growth in the eight core sectors slowed to 5.2% in March compared to February's 7.1%.
- Economists anticipate a further deceleration in industrial output growth, with estimates ranging from 3.5% to 5%.
- The eight infrastructure sectors represent 40.27% of the IIP.
- The index of mineral production for March increased by 1.2% compared to March 2023.
- Some non-fuel minerals, including copper concentrate, gold, manganese ore, diamond, graphite, limestone, and magnesite, experienced positive growth.
- In FY24, mining output rose by 7.5%, outpacing the 5.8% growth recorded in 2022-23.
- Iron ore, limestone, and aluminium production achieved new records during the year, with increases of 7.4%, 10.7%, and 2.1%, respectively.

**Question 1:** Consider the following statements about the World Press Freedom Index (WPF):

- (a) It is an annual ranking published by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).
- (b) It assesses the state of press freedom in 180 countries based on pluralism, media independence, and safety of journalists.
- (c) A higher score on the WPF indicates a greater restriction on press freedom.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) Only (a)
- (b) Only (b)
- (c) Only (c)
- (d) (b) and (c)

Answer: (b) Only (b)

**Explanation:**

- (a) - Incorrect. The WPF is published by Reporters Without Borders (RSF), not UNESCO.
- (b) - Correct. The WPF considers factors like pluralism, media independence, and safety of journalists.
- (c) - Incorrect. A higher score on the WPF indicates greater press freedom.

<p><b>Question 2:</b> With reference to the World Press Freedom Index (WPFI), which of the following is/are NOT a factor considered for ranking a country?</p> <p>(a) Level of government censorship  (b) Diversity of media ownership  (c) Economic development of the country  (d) Online threats and harassment faced by journalists</p>	<p>Answer: (c) Economic development of the country</p> <p><b>Explanation:</b>  The WPFI focuses on factors directly impacting press freedom, not the overall economic development of a nation.</p>
<p><b>Question 3:</b>  The target year for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is:</p> <p>(a) 2020  (b) 2025  (c) 2030  (d) 2035</p>	<p>Answer: (c) 2030</p> <p><b>Explanation:</b> The SDGs were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 with a target year of 2030 for achieving them.</p>
<p><b>Question 4:</b>  Which of the following is NOT one of the Sustainable Development Goals?</p> <p>(a) Eradicate poverty and hunger  (b) Ensure access to affordable and clean energy  (c) Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development  (d) Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls</p>	<p>Answer: None of the above (a, b, c, and d) are all SDGs.</p> <p><b>Explanation:</b> All the listed options are actually SDGs. There are 17 SDGs in total, aiming to address various social, economic, and environmental challenges.</p>
<p><b>Question 5:</b> Match List I (SDG) with List II (Target) and select the correct answer:</p> <p>List I (SDG)  (A) SDG 3  (B) SDG 6  (C) SDG 13  (D) SDG 15</p> <p>List II (Target)  1. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls  2. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all  3. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts  4. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages  5. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems</p>	<p><b>Explanation:</b>  SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages (4)  SDG 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all (Not matched)  SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts (3)  SDG 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss (5)</p>
<p><b>Question 6:</b> The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is compiled and published by:</p> <p>(a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)  (b) Ministry of Commerce and Industry  (c) Central Statistical Organisation (CSO)  (d) NITI Aayog</p>	<p>Answer: (c) Central Statistical Organisation (CSO)</p> <p><b>Explanation:</b> The Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, is responsible for compiling and publishing the IIP.</p>

<p>Question 7: What is the base year currently used for calculating the IIP in India?</p> <p>(a) 2004-05  (b) 2010-11  (c) 2011-12  (d) 2015-16</p>	<p>Answer: (c) 2011-12  <b>Explanation:</b> The base year for calculating the IIP was revised from 2004-05 to 2011-12 in April 2017.</p>
<p>Question 8: Which of the following sectors is NOT included in the IIP?</p> <p>(a) Agriculture  (b) Manufacturing  (c) Mining  (d) Electricity</p>	<p>Answer: (a) Agriculture  <b>Explanation:</b> The IIP focuses on the industrial sector and excludes agriculture. It covers three broad categories: Manufacturing, Mining, and Electricity.</p>
<p>Question 9: A higher positive IIP growth rate indicates:</p> <p>(a) Stagnation in industrial production  (b) Decline in industrial production  (c) Slowdown in industrial production  (d) Increase in industrial production</p>	<p>Answer: (d) Increase in industrial production  <b>Explanation:</b> A positive IIP growth rate signifies an increase in the physical volume of production compared to the same period in the previous year. The higher the positive growth rate, the greater the increase in industrial production.</p>

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