

1. Consider the following statements about the Index of Eight Core Industries.

1. It is a production volume index released by the Central Statistical Organisation.
2. The eight core industries comprise 40.27 per cent of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

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

Answer: **B**

Explanation:

- The monthly Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) is a **production volume index**.
- The objective of the ICI is to provide an advance indication on production performance of industries of 'core' nature before the release of Index of Industrial Production (IIP) by the Central Statistics Office.
- These industries are likely to impact on general economic activities as well as industrial activities.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Eight Core Industries- **Electricity, steel, refinery products, crude oil, coal, cement, natural gas and fertilizers**- comprise 40.27 per cent of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).
- **Industry Weight (In percentage)**
 - Petroleum & Refinery production - 28.04
 - Electricity generation - 19.85
 - Steel production - 17.92
 - Coal production - 10.33
 - Crude Oil production - 8.98
 - Natural Gas production - 6.88
 - Cement production - 5.37
 - Fertilizers production - 2.63
- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** ICI is released by the **Office of Economic Advisor**, under the Ministry of Commerce and Industries. The base year of the ICI is **2011-12**.

<https://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/eight-core-industries-output-shrinks-by-15-in-june-2020/article32240448.ece>

2. Consider the following statements.

1. At present, 100 per cent FDI is allowed through the automatic route in coal mining and related activities.

2. The Central government recently announced that it would allow commercial mining in the coal sector without any end-use restrictions.
3. Till recently, India imported coal to meet the shortages of domestic supply, but now India is self-sufficient in coal production.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Despite India having the **world's fourth largest coal reserve** and being the **second largest producer**, the country was the **second largest coal importer**. The sector had been kept out of competition and devoid of transparency, hampering investment and efficiency.
- As a part of the announcements under the **Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan**, the Central government recently announced that it would allow commercial mining in the coal sector.

What is commercial mining?

- **Statement 2 is correct:** Commercial mining **allows the private sector** to mine coal commercially on a **revenue-sharing model without placing any end-use restrictions**.
- *A revenue sharing mechanism instead of the earlier fixed price per tonne will introduce competition, transparency and private sector participation in the market.*
- The private firms have the option of either gasification of the coal or exporting it. They can also use it in their own end-use plants or sell them in the markets.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** Last year, the government approved 100 per cent FDI through the automatic route in coal mining and related activities.
- With 100 per cent foreign direct investment allowed in the coal sector, global companies can also participate in the auctions.
- The complete freedom to decide on sale, pricing, and captive utilisation is expected to attract many private sector firms to participate in the auction process.
- The government expects these steps will generate employment and reduce India's import bill.

Was the private sector never allowed in mining?

- Private sector participation was permitted until the early 1970s. The Indira Gandhi government announced the **nationalisation of the coal blocks** in two phases **between 1971 and 1973**.
- The recently announced reforms will effectively **end state-owned Coal India Ltd (CIL)'s monopoly** over mining and selling of coal.

Is this the first attempt by govt to open up the sector?

- After the Supreme Court cancelled the coal block allocations made to the private sector in 2014, the central government had brought in the Coal Mines (Special provisions) Act of 2015 to return these coal blocks to the private sector through auctions.
- But there had been **end-use restrictions** and the private sector was **not allowed to trade into the market** making it unattractive for the private sector.

- Further in 2018, private sector firms were allowed to **sell upto 25 per cent of the output** in the market, but this also saw a lukewarm response from the private sector.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1642606>

3. Which of the following factors are contributions of Bal Gangadhar Tilak?

1. He founded the Deccan Education Society which was aimed at educating the masses through the English language.
2. Tilak owned and edited two weekly newspapers — Kesari and The Mahratta.
3. He also established the Indian Independence League.

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: **A**

Explanation:

- Bal Gangadhar Tilak was considered the **first popular leader of the freedom movement**.
- He was **born on 23 July 1856 in Ratnagiri, Maharashtra**.
- A nationalist to the core, he was a **great scholar, mathematician and a philosopher**.
- He was conferred upon the title, "**Lokmanya**" (**beloved leader**) by his followers.
- **Mahatma Gandhi** called him "**The maker of modern India**" while **Jawaharlal Nehru** described Tilak as "**The father of the Indian revolution**".

Works and contributions to freedom movement

- **Statement 1 is correct:**Tilak founded the **Deccan Education Society (1884)**, aimed at educating the masses through the **English language**, which he considered as a **conveyor of liberal and democratic ideals**.
- Tilak popularised Maratha icon Shivaji and organised the **first Shivaji festival in 1886**.
- In **1883** Tilak organised "**Ganesh Utsav**" that mobilized people from different castes and communities to spread nationalism.
- Despite being perennially against early marriage, he **opposed the 1891 Age of Consent Bill** which proposed to raise the minimum age for a girl to get married from 10 to 12 years. Tilak saw the bill as interfering with Hinduism.

Political career

- Tilak **joined the Indian National Congress in 1890** and opposed the moderate nationalists within the party.
- Following the **partition of Bengal in 1905**, Tilak supported the **Swadeshi movement** and said that once British goods were boycotted, there will be a gap which will be filled by the Indian goods.
- Tilak **quit the Congress in the 1907 Surat Session** along with other extremist nationalists due to his differences with moderates.

- He founded the **Indian Home Rule League in 1914**, setting the stage for the freedom movement.
- He gave the slogan of “**Swaraj is my birthright and I will have it**”.
- Tilak also concluded the “**Lucknow Pact**” with **Mohammed Ali Jinnah** which helped create a “Hindu-Muslim” unity during the Khilafat movement (1919) and the Non-Cooperation Movement (1920).
- Tilak died of pneumonia on 1 August, 1920 in Mumbai.

Books and Magazines

- **Statement 2 is correct:** Tilak owned and edited two weekly newspapers — **Kesari (Marathi)** and **The Mahratta (English)**.
- The papers criticized many aspects of British rule and called for a rejuvenation of India's national life.
- Tilak's editorial in Kesari titled “**The misfortune of the country**” in 1908 slammed the brutal bureaucracy under the British rule, leading to his imprisonment.
- He was sent to jail in Mandalay, Myanmar, from 1908 to 1914 where he wrote an original commentary on the Bhagavadgita, **Bhagawadgita-Rahasya** (Secret of the Bhagavadgita) or **Gita Rahasya** in **Marathi**.
- In 1893, he published **The Orion**; or, **Researches into the Antiquity of the Vedas**, and, in 1903, **The Arctic Home in the Vedas**.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Indian Independence League was founded by **Rash Behari Bose**.

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4. With reference to the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), consider the following statements.

1. It is the National Standard Body of India.
2. It works under the aegis of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is the **National Standard Body of India** established under the BIS Act 2016.
- BIS is responsible for the harmonious development of the activities of standardization, marking and quality certification of goods.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** BIS works under the aegis of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

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5. Consider the following statements about the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY).

1. It was launched to provide connectivity to unconnected habitations of designated population size.
2. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways along with state governments is responsible for the implementation of PMGSY.

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

Answer: **A**

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), was launched in 2000 to provide connectivity to unconnected habitations of designated population size (500+ in plain areas and 250+ in North-East, hill, tribal and desert areas as per Census, 2001).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The **Ministry of Rural Development** along with state governments is responsible for the implementation of PMGSY.
- In 2015, under the recommendation of the 14th finance commission, the funding pattern was changed.
- **Current funding pattern:** In ratio of 60:40 between Centre and State for all States except for 8 North Eastern and 3 Himalayan States (Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Jammu & Kashmir) for which it is 90:10.

Related information:

- **Road Connectivity Project for Left Wing Extremism affected Areas:** Government launched Road Connectivity Project for Left Wing Extremism affected Areas in the year 2016 as a separate vertical **under PMGSY** to provide all-weather road connectivity with necessary culverts and cross-drainage structures in 44 districts (35 are worst LWE affected districts and 09 are adjoining districts), which are critical from security and communication point of view.
- **Meri Sadak mobile app:** It was launched to enable citizens to register complaints regarding the quality and pace of construction of PMGSY roads.

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