

Q: Mathura-Vrindavan, one of India's largest pilgrimage centres, aims to become a "net zero carbon emission" tourist destination by 2041. Consider the following statement:

1. To attain a net zero carbon emission status, greenhouse gas emissions must be reduced to as close to zero.
2. The plan divides the entire Mathura-Vrindavan region into four clusters.
3. This is not the first such carbon neutral master plan for a tourist destination in India.

Choose the correct option from the codes given below:

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

Ans: a

Explanation:

- To attain a net zero carbon emission status, greenhouse gas emissions must be reduced to as close to zero as possible, with any remaining emissions re-absorbed from the atmosphere, by oceans and forests for instance.
- To facilitate this in Mathura-Vrindavan, the plan divides the entire region into four clusters, each containing two of the eight key cities.
- The idea is to form small circuits called 'Parikrama Paths' which the pilgrim can undertake either on foot or using electric vehicles. In case they want to travel from one destination to another they can avail electric mini-buses.
- This will be the first such carbon neutral master plan for a tourist destination in India.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Digital Markets Act:

1. It was first proposed by United Nation in 2021.
2. It seeks to confront the domination of Big Tech which restrains the growth of new and alternate platforms
3. It can hinder innovation.

Choose the correct option from the codes given below:

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

Ans: b

Explanation:

- Digital Markets Act (DMA) bill, which was first proposed by the European Commission in December 2020, endeavours to put an end to unfair practices by tech companies that act as 'gatekeepers' in the online space.
- It seeks to confront the domination of Big Tech which restrains the growth of new and alternate platforms.
- However, critics have put forth that this would hinder innovation in the sector, especially if they are asked to share information and expertise essential for their own competitive success.

Q: Consider the following Statement:

1. Governor is a representative of the Union government in states.
2. Under Article 163, the Governor will normally be aided and advised by the Council of Ministers.

Choose the correct option from the codes given below:

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only
- c) 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Ans: c

Explanation:

- Under Article 155 and 156 of the Constitution, a Governor is appointed by the President and holds office "during the pleasure of the President".
- If this pleasure is withdrawn before completion of the five-year term, the Governor has to step down.
- As the President works on the aid and advice of the Prime Minister and the council of ministers, in effect, the Governor can be appointed and removed by the central government. Thus, a Governor is a representative of the Union government in states.
- Article 163 of the Constitution says the Governor will normally be aided and advised by the Council of Ministers except in those functions which require his discretion.
- While the Governor's duties and responsibilities lie in a particular state, there is no provision for impeaching the Governor.

Q: The Supreme Court will hear a petition on agricultural stubble burning in the northern states, considered the prime reason for the extremely bad air quality in Delhi-NCR. Consider the following statement:

1. The particulate matter from the burning contributes 30-40% of the PM2.5 concentrations in Delhi's air.
2. Stable burning is the single largest source of PM2.5 levels during this period.
3. The pollutants are trapped due to cold weather and get concentrated at the lower layer of atmosphere resulting smoke and Haze.

Choose the correct option from the codes given below:

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

Ans: d

Explanation:

- At this time of the year, the burning of agricultural waste in Punjab and Haryana is indeed the dominant reason for the smoke and haze over Delhi.
- The particulate matter from the burning contributes 30-40% of the PM2.5 concentrations in Delhi's air during this time.
- It is the single largest source of PM2.5 levels on most days during this period.
- The reason is the weather, or rather, heat. Hotter air rises higher above the surface, and takes the pollutants along with it. The polluting particles are lifted 2-3 km above the surface or even higher, before getting dispersed.
- During October-November, however, the air is not that hot. The pollutants are trapped and tend to get concentrated at lower levels of the atmosphere, resulting in the smoke and haze situation that is being witnessed now.

Q: Consider the following statement:

1. Governor holds office on the pleasure of the President.
2. In *BP Singhal vs Union of India* (2010), the Supreme Court elaborated on the pleasure doctrine.
3. In *Surya Narain Choudhary vs Union of India* (1981), the Rajasthan High Court held that the pleasure of the President was justiciable.

Choose the correct option from the codes given below:

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

Ans: a

Explanation:

- Since the Governor holds office "on the pleasure of the President", questions have been raised time and again on whether the Governor has any security of tenure, and if the President is obligated to show reasons for recalling a Governor.
- In *Surya Narain Choudhary vs Union of India* (1981), the Rajasthan High Court held that the pleasure of the President was not justiciable, the Governor had no security of tenure and can be removed at any time by the President withdrawing pleasure.
- In *BP Singhal vs Union of India* (2010), the Supreme Court elaborated on the pleasure doctrine. It upheld that "no limitations or restrictions are placed on the 'at pleasure' doctrine", but that "does not dispense with the need for a cause for withdrawal of the pleasure".