

Q: Recently, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni visited India. Consider the following statement:

1. India and Italy are celebrating the 75th anniversary of their bilateral relations in 2023.
2. 'Startup Bridge' was set up to increase cooperation in area of Renewable Energy, Green Hydrogen, IT etc.
3. Italy is the founding member of Indo-Pacific Ocean Initiative (IPOI).

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:

- Recently, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni chose India as her inaugural international visit as a matter of strategic choice. Her visit is the first high level bilateral visit from Italy in the past 5 years.
- India and Italy are celebrating the 75th anniversary of their bilateral relations in 2023.
- He also welcomed Italy's active participation in the Indo-Pacific, saying the move will help in identifying concrete themes for enhancing our cooperation in Indo-Pacific.
- Italy has decided to join the Indo-Pacific Ocean Initiative (IPOI).
- Indian PM announced the establishment of a 'Startup Bridge' between India and Italy, and said that both countries have laid special emphasis on increasing cooperation in areas like Renewable Energy, Green Hydrogen, IT, semiconductors, telecom and space.

Q: Consider the following statement:

1. The energy sector accounts for around less than 40 per cent of the total average methane emissions from human activity.
2. The greenhouse gas is also released through drilling, extraction and transportation process.
3. Methane is a greenhouse gas, which is responsible for 30 per cent of the warming since preindustrial times.

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:

- The energy sector accounts for around 40 per cent of the total average methane emissions from human activity, as oil and natural gas companies are known to release methane into the atmosphere when natural gas is flared or vented.
- The greenhouse gas is also released through leaks from valves and other equipment during the drilling, extraction and transportation process.
- Methane is a greenhouse gas, which is responsible for 30 per cent of the warming since preindustrial times, second only to carbon dioxide.
- A report by the United Nations Environment Programme observed that over a 20-year period, methane is 80 times more potent at warming than carbon dioxide.
- In 2022, the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) said that the atmospheric levels of methane jumped 17 parts per billion in 2021, beating the previous record set in 2020.

Q: Consider the following statement:

1. Election Commissioners are appointed by the President of India.
2. Leaders of opposition party of Lok Sabha can also give advice to the President regarding the appointment Election Commissioners.

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:

- The appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner and the Election Commissioners shall be made by the President on the advice of a Committee consisting of the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition of the Lok Sabha, and in

case no leader of Opposition is available, the leader of the largest opposition Party in the Lok Sabha in terms of numerical strength, and the Chief Justice of India.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Salt Flat:

1. It is a natural landscape in which a large area of flat land is covered by salt.
2. The world's most well-known salt flat is the Salar de Uyuni in Bolivia.
3. It forms a natural water body whose recharge rate is lower than the evaporation rate.

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:

- A salt flat is a natural landscape in which a large area of flat land is covered by salt. Perhaps the world's most well-known salt flat is the Salar de Uyuni in Bolivia.
- It is the largest in the world of its kind, and also contains more than half of the planet's lithium reserves.
- A salt flat forms from a natural water body whose recharge rate is lower than the evaporation rate. Over time, all the water evaporates, leaving behind the dissolved minerals, usually salts.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Zero Coupon Zero Principal (ZCZP) Instruments:

1. NPO's raised money through ZCAP from private placement or public issues.
2. The minimum issue size is presently prescribed as Rs 1 crore.
3. ZCZP bonds similar to conventional bonds.

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:

- NPOs can raise money either through issuance of Zero Coupon Zero Principal (ZCZP) Instruments from private placement or public issue, or donations from mutual funds.
- SEBI had earlier recognised that NPOs by their very nature have primacy of social impact and are non-revenue generating. Thus, there was a need to provide NPOs a direct access to securities market for raising funds.
- ZCZP bonds differ from conventional bonds in the sense that it entails zero coupon and no principal payment at maturity. The latter provisions a fixed interest (or repayment) on the funds raised through varied contractual agreement, whereas ZCZP would not provision any such return instead promising a social return.
- It is mandatory that the NPO is registered with the SSE for facilitating the issuance. The instrument must have a specific tenure and can only be issued for a specific project or activity that is to be completed within a specified duration as mentioned in the fund-raising document (to be submitted to the SSE).
- It must also demonstrate the requisite expertise through their performance in similar projects in the past, thus, acquiring investor confidence and tackle concerns about potential default.
- The minimum issue size is presently prescribed as Rs 1 crore and minimum application size for subscription at Rs 2 lakhs for ZCZP issuance.