Q97

With reference to the Agreement at the UNFCCC Meeting in Paris in 2015, which of the following statements is/are correct? 1. The Agreement was signed by all the member countries of the UN and it will go into effect in 2017. 2. The Agreement aims to limit the greenhouse gas emissions so that the rise in average global temperature by the end of this century does not exceed 2°C or even 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. 3. Developed countries acknowledged their historical responsibility in global warming and committed to donate $1000 billion a year from 2020 to help developing countries to cope with climate change. Select the correct answer using the code given below (a) 1 and 3 only (b) 2 only (c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3 Official key: B.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2016 · General Studies · 2 marks · Environment and Ecology

Environment, ecology, climate, biodiversity - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation

(a)

- **Statement 1 (signed by all UN members, in effect in 2017) is false:** not every UN member had signed, and the Agreement entered into force in November 2016 after the ratification threshold. Statement 3 inflates climate finance to $1000 billion a year. 1 and 3 only is not the key.

(b) Official key

- **Statement 2 correctly records the Paris temperature goal:** hold the increase well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursue 1.5°C. Statements 1 and 3 are incorrect. 2 only is the official key.

(c)

Statement 3's $1000 billion a year from 2020 is wrong; the political pledge discussed was on the order of $100 billion a year, and 'historical responsibility' is not packaged in the Agreement as that dollar figure. 2 and 3 only therefore fails.

(d)

All three cannot stand when 1 and 3 are false.

Summary

Official key is (b) 2 only. The Paris Agreement (COP-21, 2015) centres nationally determined contributions and the 2°C / 1.5°C temperature aim. It did not come into force only in 2017 as a universal UN signing, nor did developed countries commit $1000 billion annually. Climate finance in the surrounding decisions referred to mobilising $100 billion a year as a floor, later to be scaled. Statement 2 is the only accurate statement in the set.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Entry into force
4 November 2016 (55 Parties accounting for 55 per cent of emissions)

NDCs
Nationally Determined Contributions; bottom-up pledges

$100 billion
Copenhagen/Cancun-era developed-country climate-finance goal per year by 2020

Common but differentiated responsibilities
UNFCCC principle; Paris uses a more nuanced differentiation

Global Stocktake
Five-yearly review of collective progress