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Q32

Consider the following statements: Statement I: At the 28th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28), India refrained from signing the 'Declaration on Climate and Health'. Statement II: The COP 28 Declaration on Climate and Health is a binding declaration; and if signed, it becomes mandatory to decarbonize health sector. Statement III: If India's health sector is decarbonized, the resilience of its health-care system may be compromised. Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements? (a) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct and both of them explain Statement I (b) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct but only one of the them explains Statement I (c) Only one of the Statements II and III is correct and that explains Statement I (d) Neither Statement II nor Statement III is correct Official key: C.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2025 · General Studies · 2 marks · Environment and Ecology

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

Explanation

(a)

• **Both II and III correct and both explain I. II fails:** the COP28 Declaration on Climate and Health is a political declaration, not a binding instrument that would make health-sector decarbonisation mandatory.

(b)

Both II and III correct but only one explains I. That still needs II to be true. It is not.

(c) Official key

Only one of II and III is correct and that explains I. India did refrain from signing at COP28 (I). III is the reported concern: diesel backup, cold chain and rural facilities still need reliable power; a blunt decarbonisation mandate could weaken surge capacity. That is why I holds. II is the distractor that treats a COP declaration as hard law.

(d)

Neither II nor III. III is the explanation for India's stand.

Summary

• **Official key is (c):** India skipped the COP28 climate-and-health declaration because it is not a binding treaty (II is wrong), while Statement III - worry that a forced health-sector decarbonisation could hit resilience - is the line that explains the refusal. (a) and (b) treat the

declaration as binding; (d) drops III.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

COP28 UAE Declaration on Climate and Health

A non-binding political declaration at Dubai 2023. Dozens of countries signed; India did not.

UNFCCC COP decision vs declaration

A COP cover decision can have legal-political weight among Parties. A side declaration is not **Article 15** compliance law.

Health-sector emissions

Hospitals, supply chains and anaesthetic gases. WHO and World Bank files sit next to this PYQ.

National Programme on Climate Change and Human Health

India's MoHFW window on climate-sensitive disease, heat and disaster - resilience, not a COP28 signature.

COP29 Baku

The next COP after Dubai. Health remained a side track, not a new binding protocol.

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