

**Q: Consider the following statement water body census:**

1. The vast majority of India's water bodies are less than one hectare (ha) large.
2. It was conducted by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).

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: a

Explanation:

- The findings of the first-ever water body census, conducted by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, was published recently.
- India is facing a water crisis with groundwater decline, biodiversity loss, and climate change increasing the frequency of floods and droughts. In this context, water bodies are important. They buffer against climate variability, holding flood waters for use in dry periods.
- They contribute to food and water security as well as livelihoods by recharging groundwater and providing water for irrigation and livestock. They also have cultural and ecological significance.
- Most water bodies in the country are very small; the vast majority of India's water bodies are less than one hectare (ha) large. This means locating and keeping track of them is likely to remain a challenge.

**Q: Consider the following statement regarding the disqualification of Member of Parliament:**

1. Only Tenth Schedule to Constitution provides for disqualification of the members on ground of defection.
2. According to tenth schedule, a member may be disqualified if he voluntarily gives up the membership of his political party.
3. Member may also be disqualified if he votes or abstains from voting in the House contrary to any direction issued by the political party to which he belongs.

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:

- Apart from article 102, the Tenth Schedule to Constitution provides for disqualification of the members on ground of defection. Defection refers to desertion of one's party in favor of an opposing one. As per the provisions of the Tenth Schedule, a member may be disqualified if he:
  - Voluntarily gives up the membership of his political party which gave him ticket to contest and win
  - Votes or abstains from voting in the House contrary to any direction issued by the political party to which he belongs, unless such voting or abstention has been condoned by the political party within fifteen days. A member elected as an independent candidate shall be disqualified if he joins any political party after his election.
- However, a nominated member is allowed to join a political party provided he joins such political party of his choices within a period of six months. After that period, joining a political party would lead to defection and disqualification.

**Q: With reference to Natural Gas, consider the following statements:**

1. Natural gas is mainly methane and other higher alkanes, carbon dioxide, nitrogen etc.
2. Currently, Natural gas makes up only about 6% of the nation's overall energy mix.

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

Ans: c

Explanation:

- Natural gas is mainly methane and other higher alkanes, carbon dioxide, nitrogen, and hydrogen sulphide.
- Currently, Natural gas makes up 6% of the nation's overall energy mix.

**Q: Consider the following statement regarding START Programme:**

1. It is part of the ISRO's efforts to enable Indian students to become professionals in Space Science and Technology.
2. The programme will cover various domains of Space Science, including Astronomy and Astrophysics.
3. It is aimed at postgraduate and final-year undergraduate students of Physical Sciences and Technology.

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:

- The START programme is part of the ISRO's efforts to enable Indian students to become professionals in Space Science and Technology, as the organisation's Space Science exploration programme continues to expand into new domains.
- START is aimed at postgraduate and final-year undergraduate students of Physical Sciences and Technology.
- The programme will cover various domains of Space Science, including Astronomy and Astrophysics, Heliophysics and Sun-Earth interaction, Instrumentation, and Aeronomy. It will be delivered by scientists from Indian academia and ISRO centres.
- The programme is intended to provide students with an introductory-level training in Space Science and Technology, giving them an overview of different facets of the field, research opportunities, and career options.

**Q: Consider the following statement regarding Bluesky:**

1. It is a micro-blogging platform and social website.
2. It is a competitor of Facebook.

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: a

Explanation:

- Bluesky is a micro-blogging platform and social website built on the AT Protocol (Authenticated Transport Protocol).
- Bluesky might be classified as a Twitter competitor due to its founding team but it is different in terms of its structure, as it is meant to form part of a decentralised ecosystem.
- Users of apps built on the AT Protocol would be able to move between platforms without losing their followers, media, work, and data. This account portability, as the feature is called, is a major part of the AT Protocol's structure.