

Q: Recently NASA retired its Mars InSight lander. Consider the following statement:

1. It is the first outer space robotic explorer.
2. It studied the crust, mantle, and core of the fourth planet in our solar system.
3. It was NASA second spacecraft to land on Mars since Curiosity.

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:

- InSight, short for Interior Exploration using Seismic Investigations, Geodesy and Heat Transport, is the first outer space robotic explorer and will study the crust, mantle, and core of the fourth planet in our solar system.
- The lander was launched on May 5, 2018, from the Vandenberg Air Force Base in California and took a six-month cruise from Earth to Mars ever since, is NASA's first spacecraft to land on Mars since Curiosity.
- It touched down on the red planet on November 27, 2018.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding BF.7, the Sub Variant of Omicron:

1. The variant is not capable of infecting even those fully vaccinated against the virus.
2. It is more infectious than the other variants of coronavirus known so far.
3. The variant is believed to have a reproduction value.

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 BF.7 is an abbreviated form for BA.5.2.1.7. It is a sub-lineage of the BA.5 Omicron variant.
- The BF.7 variant is reportedly more infectious than the other variants of coronavirus known so far.
- The variant is capable of infecting even those fully vaccinated against the virus.
- The variant is believed to have a reproduction value, which means persons infected with the BF.7 variant are very likely to transmit the virus to others.
- BF.7 accounted for more than 5 per cent of Covid-19 cases in the US and 7.26 per cent in the UK in October.

Q: The J&K Lieutenant Governor's administration, recently notified fresh land rules under J&K Land Grant Rules-2022. Consider the following statement:

1. The leases of current land owners will not be extended.
2. The lease period has been reduced to 40 years.

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:

- According to the new land laws, the leases of current land owners will not be extended in case of their lease expiry. It reads that all leases, except the subsisting or expired residential leases, expired or determined prior to the coming into force of these rules or issued under these rules shall not be renewed and shall stand determined.
- Unlike the previous up to 99 years of lease, the lease period has been reduced to 40 years. The government has asked the outgoing lease holders to evict properties or else face evictions under the new rules.

Q: Consider the following statement:

1. Keki Mistry-headed committee is set up by SEBI to review the buyback regulations, under the stock exchange route.
2. As per the recommendation of Keki Mistry, SEBI will phase out buyback through the stock exchange route with effect from April 1, 2025.
3. The aim of this move is to make the buyback process more robust.

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:

- As per the recommendations of the **Keki Mistry-headed committee**, set up by SEBI to review the buyback regulations, under the stock exchange route, there is a possibility of one shareholder's entire trade getting matched with the purchase order placed by the company, thus depriving other shareholders of availing the benefit of buyback.
- This runs contrary to the principle of equitable treatment, which forms the basis of all corporate actions.
- As recommended by the Keki Mistry committee, SEBI will phase out buyback through the stock exchange route with effect from April 1, 2025.
- Many experts termed SEBI's decision to phase out stock buyback through the exchange route as positive as it will give all the shareholders an opportunity to participate.
- The aim of this move is to make the buyback process more robust, efficient, transparent and shareholder-friendly.

Q: Consider the following statement:

1. There is no international binding agreement to ensure rocket stages always perform controlled re-entries.
2. Liability Convention 1972, recommends that bodies aim for an ocean in order to avoid human casualties.
3. The Liability Convention 1972 requires countries to prevent damages, but not to pay for damages.

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:

- There is no international binding agreement to ensure rocket stages always perform controlled re-entries nor on the technologies with which to do so.
- The Liability Convention 1972 requires countries to pay for damages, not prevent them. These technologies include wing-like attachments, de-orbiting brakes, and extra fuel on the re-entering body, and design changes that minimise debris formation.
- While the OSI letter admits that any kind of re-entry will inevitably damage some ecosystem, it recommends that bodies aim for an ocean in order to avoid human casualties.