

**Q: Consider the following statement regarding BF.7:**

1. It is one of the variants responsible for the spike in cases in China.
2. The Omicron variant emerged in India.

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 Omicron variant emerged in Mongolia and is now spreading to other countries, posing new threats.
- It is one of the variants responsible for the spike in cases in China.
- The variant is also spreading to the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia and Belgium.

**Q: Consider the following statement regarding Booker Prize:**

1. Margaret Atwood won the Booker prize 2022 for fiction.
2. It was originally open to British, Irish and Commonwealth writers.
3. The award was founded in 1969.

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:

- Recently, Sri Lankan novelist Shehan Karunatilaka has won the Booker prize 2022 for fiction.
- He won the award for his book, 'The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida'.
- Founded in 1969, the Booker Prize has a reputation for transforming writers' careers.
- It was originally open to British, Irish and Commonwealth writers but eligibility was expanded in 2014 to all novels in English published in the U.K.
- Past winners of the Booker Prize, which was first awarded in 1969, include Margaret Atwood, Salman Rushdie and Yann Martel.

**Q: Consider the following statement regarding official language:**

1. In the Constituent Assembly, Hindi was voted as the official language by a single vote.
2. English would continue to be used as an associate official language for 15 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:

- The origin of the linguistic row goes back to the debate on official languages. In the Constituent Assembly, Hindi was voted as the official language by a single vote. However, it added that English would continue to be used as an associate official language for 15 years.
- The Official Languages Act came into effect on the expiry of this 15-year period in 1965. This was the background in which the anti-Hindi agitation took place.

**Q: NASA is planning to launch the next resupply mission to the International Space Station (ISS). Consider the following statement:**

1. NASA will launch its Bio-Fabrication Facility.
2. NASA will also conduct a study on growing plants in space.
3. Scientists will also shed light on climate change and global warming.

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:

- NASA will launch its BioFabrication Facility that in 2019 successfully printed a partial human knee meniscus and a large volume of human heart cells. The technology is being re-flown to space with new capabilities to test whether microgravity enables the printing of tissue samples of higher quality than those printed on the ground.
- NASA will also conduct a study on growing plants in space. The Plant Habitat-03 will assess whether adaptations in one generation of plants grown in space can transfer to the next generation. The research will the addition of extra information to the DNA of plants in space.
- NASA said that the long-term goal of the investigation is to understand how epigenetics can contribute to adaptive strategies plants use in space and, ultimately, to develop plants better suited for use on future missions to provide food and other services.
- Scientists will also shed light on climate change and global warming through the Post-Wildfire Mudflow Micro-Structure (TangoLab Mission-28) which aims to study the thin layer of soil which is created after a wildfire burns plants and repels water.

**Q: Consider the following statement regarding PM Kisan Samruddhi Kendras (PM-KSK):**

1. It will act as a one-stop-shop for farmers.
2. It will provide information regarding various government schemes.

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:

- Prime Minister inaugurated 600 PM Kisan Samruddhi Kendras (PM-KSK) that will act as a one-stop-shop for farmers who can buy products and avail multiple services related to the agriculture sector.
- The Centre intends to convert more than 3.3 lakh fertiliser retail shops in the country into PM-KSK in a phased manner.
- The PM-KSK will supply agri-inputs like seeds, fertilisers and farm implements. It will also provide testing facilities for soil, seeds and fertilisers.
- It will provide information regarding various government schemes and ensure regular capacity building of retailers at block/district level outlets.