

Q: Recently, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance has prepared a comprehensive report on the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Consider the following statement:

1. It recommended moving state-owned banks under RBI's purview.
2. It had suggested a six-year term for the RBI Governor from the existing three years.
3. It recommended to decrease the number of deputy governors from four to two.

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:

- Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance have suggested a six-year term for the central bank governor and increasing the number of deputy governors from four to eight.
- The report is said to have recommended moving state-owned banks under RBI's purview.
- Public sector banks are currently governed through the department of financial services.
- It have suggested a six-year term for the RBI Governor from the existing three years.
- Also, once the Governor's tenure comes to an end, he or she won't be appointed to any other constitutional post after that.
- It have suggested increasing the number of deputy governors from existing four to eight. Positions below that of a deputy governor can be filled through lateral entry.
- It have suggested creation of an independent debt management authority in line with international practices.

Q: Consider the following statement:

1. Section 59 of the Prisons Act empowers States to make rules.
2. Prisons Act, 1894, and the Prisoners Act, 1900, contain any specific provision pertaining to parole.

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 Prisons Act, 1894, and the Prisoners Act, 1900, did not contain any specific provision pertaining to parole and/or furlough.
- However, Section 59 of the Prisons Act empowers States to make rules inter alia "for the shortening of sentences" and "for rewards for good conduct".
- Since "prisons, reformatories..." fall in the State List of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, States are well within their reach to legislate on issues related to prisons.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-1):

1. INC-1 was managed by the European Union.
2. The first session of this meeting was tasked with developing an international legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution.

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: b

Explanation:

- Recently, the first session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-1), tasked with developing an international legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution, concluded in Uruguay's Punta Del Este.
- It implicitly endorsed the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)'s position that plastic pollution is rooted in the material's lifecycle.
- The INC-1 was convened and managed by the United Nations Environment Programme.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding the species in Madagascar:

1. Monkey belongs to Lemur lineage.
2. Animals in lemur lineage have already become extinct.

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:

- Two recent studies by researchers affiliated with 50 organisations worldwide, provide a portrait of Madagascar's biological riches and the main threats to nature the conservation outlook.
- The, three lemur lineages (koala, monkey, and sloth lemurs) have already become extinct, as have the island's two hippopotamus species, the Grandidier's giant tortoise (*Aldabrachelys grandidieri*), and the elephant bird order (*Aepyornithidae*). According to experts, megafauna extinctions have serious consequences for the ecosystem's functioning.

Q: Consider the following statement:

1. According to OECD, 109 Mt of plastic material leaked into the environment.
2. Global plastic production triple from 2019 to 2020.

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: d

Explanation:

- Global plastic production totalled 460 million tonnes (Mt) in 2019, double of 234 Mt in 2000, according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.
- Plastic waste more than doubled during the same period to 353 Mt from 156 Mt. In 2000 alone, 22 Mt of plastic material leaked into the environment. By 2019, 109 Mt had accumulated in rivers and 30 Mt in oceans.