GLOBAL AFFAIRS

❖ **How India is helping West meet its energy demand by importing Russian oil**

❖ **CONTEXT:** The European Union's (EU) foreign and security policy chief Josep Borrell in an interview recently said the EU should crack down on India reselling Russian oil into Europe as refined fuel, including diesel.

➢ Since Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, India has emerged as one of the biggest buyers of Russian oil. Last week, a report by the BBC said India's imports of Russian oil rose tenfold last year, according to Bank of Baroda.

➢ "In 2021 Russian oil accounted for just 2% of India's annual crude imports. That figure now stands at almost 20%," it added.

➢ However, India hasn't yet faced a significant blowback for getting Russian oil as the country is helping the West meet its energy demands. The access to cheap crude oil has allowed the country's refiners to register massive profits and export record-level refined petroleum products to Europe and the USA.

➢ For instance, Indian refiners exported an average of around 284,000 barrels per day (bpd) of refined petroleum products to Europe in the December-April period, up from about 170,000 bpd in the year-ago period.

➢ This has angered EU politicians, who are blaming Delhi for making a profit by using cheaply bought Russian oil and, in turn, helping Moscow's economy stay afloat. Meanwhile, India has defended its purchase of oil by saying that given its huge reliance on energy imports and with millions living in poverty, it isn't in a position to pay higher prices.

➢ **What are the sanctions against Russian oil products?**
  • Soon after the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the European and Western countries started to curtail their dependency on Moscow's energy imports in a bid to squeeze its economy. For instance, Germany suspended the launch of the new **Nord Stream natural gas pipeline** and Canada and the US banned the import of Russian crude oil.
  • With the war dragging on in the following months, these nations decided to impose stricter sanctions on Russia to further dent its finances.
  • On December 5, 2022, the **Group of Seven Nations (G7)** – Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States – the European Union and Australia enforced a **"price cap"** on Russian crude. The price cap prohibits Western shippers and insurers from getting involved in trade of Russian oil if it trades above **$60 per barrel.**
  • As most of the oil tankers taking Russian oil are European and more than 90 per cent of the global insurance for freighters by tonnage is made available by European companies, experts believed the price cap imposition would cripple Moscow's economy and severely impact its ability to fund its battle against Ukraine. However, Russia responded by increasing its oil exports to India and China.

➢ **How India is helping the West meet its energy demand?**
  • As the sanctions imposed on the import of Russian oil aren't applicable to India, the amount of fuel from Moscow entering the country has reached a record high. This has allowed India to not only easily meet its own energy demands but also that of other countries, especially the Western nations, who have been facing an energy crisis ever since the Russia-Ukraine war started.
  • India is importing more and more oil from Moscow and refining it into fuel, which is being supplied to Europe and the US — notably, the Russian oil refined in India isn't considered to be of Russian origin.
  • Therefore, it didn't come as a surprise when last month's data from Kpler and Vortexa showed that India's diesel exports to the Europe rose 12-16% to 1,50,000-1,67,000 bpd in the last fiscal year. It was also revealed that India boosted its vacuum gas oil (VGO) shipments to the US. The US took about 11,000-12,000 bpd of VGO in 2022-23, or 65-81% of India's overall exports of the refining feedstock that can be processed further to produce fuels such as gasoline and diesel.

➢ **About Nord Stream Pipeline:**
  • The Nord Stream pipeline is a natural gas pipeline that **runs under the Baltic Sea, connecting Russia and Germany.**
  • The pipeline was built with the aim of transporting natural gas from Russia to Europe, bypassing traditional transit countries such as Ukraine.
  • The first line of the Nord Stream pipeline was completed in 2011 and the second in 2012, and it has since become a major source of natural gas for Europe.
    ✓ **Nord Stream 1** is a 1,224 km underwater gas pipeline running from Vyborg in northwest Russia to Lubmin in northeastern Germany via the Baltic Sea.

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- ✓ **Nord Stream 2,** which runs from Ust-Luga in Leningrad (Russia) to Lubmin, has the capacity to handle 55 billion cubic metres of gas per year once it becomes fully operational.
- The Nord Stream pipeline has significant economic and political implications for both Europe and Russia.
- The Nord Stream pipeline provides a reliable and cost-effective source of natural gas to Europe, which is a crucial energy source for many countries in the region. Many European businesses have large investments in Nord Stream 2 and there is pressure on governments from these businesses.
- As for Russia, which has the largest natural gas reserves in the world, around 40% of its budget comes from sales of gas and oil.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- ❖ **ASTR: How govt's AI and face recognition tool will detect phone frauds**
- ❖ **CONTEXT:** The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has developed an artificial-intelligence-based facial recognition tool that it claims has the capability of running checks on subscriber databases of telecom operators to deduce whether it contains multiple connections associated with the same person.
- ➢ The DoT claims the tool — called **Artificial Intelligence and Facial Recognition powered Solution for Telecom SIM Subscriber Verification (ASTR)** — can potentially bring down cyber frauds by detecting and blocking possible fraudulent mobile connections.
- ➢ **The origins of ASTR:**
  - In 2012, DoT had issued an order to all telecom operators that they would have to share their subscriber database including users' pictures with the department. These images constitute the core database on which authorities are running their facial recognition algorithm using ASTR. The ASTR project was conceptualised and designed between April 2021 and July 2021 by the DoT's unit in Haryana.
  - A pilot project was launched in Haryana's Mewat region to test ASTR's feasibility. It is understood that before the ASTR pilot project, there were approximately 16.69 lakh SIMs in Mewat, of which close to 5 lakh SIMs across all telecom operators were detected to be fraudulent.
- ➢ **Working of ASTR:**
  - Human faces in subscribers' images are encoded using convolutional neural network (CNN) models in order to account for the tilt and angle of the face, opaqueness and dark colour of the images.
  - After that, a face comparison is carried out for each face against all faces in the database, and similar faces are grouped under one directory. Two faces are concluded to be identical by ASTR if they match to the extent of at least 97.5 per cent.
  - ASTR is capable of detecting all SIMs against a suspected face in less than 10 seconds from a database of 1 crore images.
  - Once the faces are matched, ASTR's algorithm uses what it describes as "fuzzy logic" to find similarity or approximate matches for the subscriber names.
  - To take a random example of a name, if one were to look up "Apple Inc.", the algorithm will produce related results including "Apple Incorporated", "Apple Park", "iPhone" etc. It also accounts for any typographical errors that might have occurred while the subscriber acquisition form was being filled.
  - The DoT allows an individual to take nine legitimate mobile phone connections using a single identity proof.
  - In essence, what the ASTR does is – 1) it looks up if there are more than nine connections against a single individual's photograph; 2) it runs a search through the database to see if the same person has taken SIMs under different names.
  - ASTR had detected as many as 6,800 connections against the same image of the subscriber — that is, the same face, but different names. In another case, 5,300 connections were found to have been taken against a single image.
- ➢ **What happens next:**
  - Once the DoT has determined that a set of numbers have been obtained by people through fraudulent means, it shares a list of those connections with telecom operators to block.
  - According to the Ministry of Communication, an analysis of more than 87 crore mobile connections was carried out using ASTR in the first phase, where more than 40 lakh cases of people using a single photograph to obtain mobile connections were detected. After "due verification", more than 36 lakh connections were discontinued by telecom operators.
  - The same list is also shared with banks, payment wallets, and social media platforms for disengaging these numbers from their respective platforms.

PUBLIC HEALTH

- ❖ **Artificial sweeteners harmful? What WHO has recommended**
- ❖ **CONTEXT:** The World Health Organisation(WHO) recommended against using artificial sweeteners to achieve weight loss and prevent lifestyle diseases such as diabetes. The report emphasised that while there was a need to cut intake of sugar, it should not be replaced by artificial sweeteners.
- ➢ Artificial sweeteners provide the sweet taste with very little to no calories. Many diabetics use the sweeteners in their tea and coffee, but there is a growing market for packaged foods and beverages using these sweeteners to offer low-calorie options.

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➢ WHO suggests that **non-sugar sweeteners (NSS)** not be used as a means of achieving weight control or reducing the risk of non-communicable diseases.

➢ **Recommendation of WHO:**
- While there could be some weight-loss and reduction in Body Mass Index in the short term as the artificial sweeteners bring down the calories consumed, but in the long run they have been linked to weight gain, the WHO report said.
- The sweeteners have also linked to an increased risk of Type-2 diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, and mortality in the long run. Some low certainty data also linked the use of such artificial sweeteners to bladder cancer and preterm birth when consumed by pregnant women.
- The meta-analysis found that higher intake of NSS was associated with a 23% increase in the risk of type-2 diabetes when consumed in the form of beverages and 34% when added to foods.
- Higher intake of these sweeteners was also linked with 32% increase in the risk of cardio-vascular disease – including a 19% increase in risk for stroke – and 13% increase in the risk for hypertension.
- It was also linked with a 25% increase in the risk for pre-term birth. Long-term adverse effects in the form of increased risk of death and disease offset any potential short-term health benefit resulting from the relatively small reduction in body weight and BMI observed in randomized controlled trials.
- The WHO has made these recommendations for everyone other than those who are already diabetic. Replacing free sugars with non-sugar sweeteners does not help with weight control in the long term. People need to consider other ways to reduce free sugars intake, such as consuming food with naturally occurring sugars like fruit, or unsweetened food and beverages.

➢ **About Diabetes:**
➢ Diabetes is a metabolic disease or a condition in which the glucose levels in the blood will be high over a prolonged period of time. In other words, it can be defined as a condition that occurs when the body cannot efficiently make use of glucose that serves as a source of energy for body cells. Blood sugar levels are controlled by a hormone called insulin.
➢ **World Diabetes Day** is observed on 14th November every year since 2006.
➢ **Causes of Diabetes:** Diabetes is either caused due to the insufficient production of insulin by the pancreas or it may occur if the cells of the body are not effectively responding to the insulin produced.
➢ **Symptoms of Diabetes:** Signs and Symptoms vary from person to person, or even there may be no signs sometimes.
  ✓ Frequent Urination
  ✓ Feeling more stressed or tired than usual
  ✓ Being thirstier
  ✓ Blurred vision
  ✓ Loss of Weight
➢ **Types of Diabetes:** Diabetes is categorized into the following types based on the reason for their cause:
  1. Diabetes Mellitus
     ✓ Type 1 Diabetes
     ✓ Type 2 Diabetes
  2. Diabetes Insipidus
  3. Gestational Diabetes
➢ **Diabetes Mellitus:** It is the inability of the body to effectively use or respond to the insulin produced by the body, and as a result, blood sugar levels cannot be regulated effectively. Diabetes mellitus is further classified into two types, namely:
➢ **Type 1 Diabetes**: It is also known as Diabetes Mellitus Type 1. It occurs when the pancreas fails to produce sufficient insulin. The consequent lack of insulin causes an increase in glucose levels in urine and blood.
  ✓ **Type 1 Diabetes Symptoms:** It is quite easily diagnosed. It is associated with common symptoms of diabetes as well.
    ♦ Unexplained weight loss.
    ♦ Blurred vision.
    ♦ Always feeling hungry
    ♦ Itching, skin infections
    ♦ Having cuts that heal slowly
    ♦ Blurred vision
➢ **Type 2 Diabetes:** It is also called Diabetes Mellitus Type 2. The prime reason for the occurrence of type 2 diabetes is obesity and lack of exercise in people who are genetically biased. It is more common in adults and 90% mostly cases of Diabetes are Type 2 only.
  ✓ **Type 2 Diabetes Symptoms:** It is mainly associated with lifestyle factors. Genetics also adds up to the factor. Its symptoms usually go unnoticed. The gradual decrease in weight is one of the symptoms of type 2 diabetes. They may be a lack of physical activity, obesity, urbanization, and a change in diet.
➢ **Gestational Diabetes (GDM):** In this type, glucose in the blood increases during pregnancy and may generate complications for both mother and child. It is also be seen that Gestational diabetes may disappear after pregnancy but affected women or children are at increased risk of developing type 2 diabetes later in life.

PRELIMS

1. Economist Robert E Lucas
➢ **IN NEWS:** Chicago University economist and **Nobel laureate** Robert E Lucas, 85, died.
➢ While awarding him the Nobel prize in economics in 1995, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences had stated: "Robert Lucas is the economist whose work has had the greatest impact on the development of macroeconomics and macro-econometrics since 1970."

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➢ His work challenged Keynesian orthodoxy and policy solutions (such as government providing tax cuts to boost economic activity and reduce unemployment), and led to the growth of what is called the new classical economics.

➢ He argued that if people are rational, which is assumed in microeconomics, then government intervention will only have an impact on prices and inflation if it is unexpected or unpredictable. Otherwise, people adjust their expectations for future inflation as soon as policy is announced and it then has no impact on prices as well as the inflation.

2. Global Accessibility Awareness Day(GAAD)

➢ **IN NEWS:** The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) will be celebrating the Global Accessibility Awareness Day (GAAD) on 18th May 2023, with the vision to build an inclusive society in which equal opportunities are provided for the growth and development of Persons with Disabilities so that they can lead productive, safe and dignified lives.

- DEPwD, under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India is the nodal body to look after all the development agenda of Persons with Disabilities of the country.
- Celebrated on the 3rd Thursday of May every year the purpose of GAAD is to get everyone talking, thinking and learning about digital- web, software, mobile, etc. access/inclusion for people with different disabilities.

3. Sanchar Saathi Portal

➢ **IN NEWS: Ministry of Communications** launched a **Citizen Centric Portal named Sanchar Saathi Portal** to fulfill vision of safe and secure communication under Digital India programme.

- Through this portal, people will be able to block, track and check genuineness of a used device before buying them.
- Portal, developed by Department of Telecom, will enable citizen with following three modules
  - Centralized Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) for tracing/blocking of lost/stolen mobile devices.
  - Know Your Mobile to check number of mobile connections taken in a subscriber's name.
  - ASTR (Artificial Intelligence and Facial Recognition powered Solution for Telecom SIM Subscriber Verification) to identify fraudulent subscribers

4. The first indigenous Vaccine against Dengue

➢ **IN NEWS:** Drug makers **Serum Institute of India** and **Panacea Biotec** are moving closer to develop the country's first vaccine against dengue.

- They have applied to the Indian Council of Medical Research's (ICMR) call for 'Expression of Interest' for collaborative **Phase-III clinical trials** for indigenous manufacturers.
- Phase-III clinical trial is being done for evaluation of efficacy, along with safety and immunogenicity of tetravalent dengue vaccine.
- The desirable characteristics of a dengue vaccine includes:
  - Acceptable short and long-term safety profile (**no antibody dependent enhancement).**
  - Inducing protection against all **four serotypes of dengue**.
  - Reducing risk of severe diseases and deaths.
  - Inducing a sustained immune response and effectiveness irrespective of the earlier **sero-status** and **age** of the individual.
- **The risk posed by Dengue:**
  - ✓ The global incidence of dengue has grown dramatically with about half of the world's population now at risk.
  - ✓ The World Health Organization **(WHO)** has identified dengue to be one among the **top ten global health threats** in 2019.
  - ✓ As of now, there is **no specific treatment for dengue/severe dengue**. Therefore, there is an urgent need to develop effective vaccines against dengue viral disease.
- **About Dengue (break-bone fever) :**
  - ✓ Dengue viruses are spread to people through the bite of an **infected Aedes species** (Ae. aegypti or Ae. albopictus) **mosquito.**
  - ✓ It is more common in **tropical and subtropical climates**.
  - ✓ The most common symptoms are high fever, headache, body aches, nausea and rash.
  - ✓ If not treated timely, Dengue could lead to **fatality.**

5. Minimum Import Price (MIP)

➢ **IN NEWS:** The Central Government recently introduced the Minimum Import Price (MIP) for apples in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).

➢ **About Minimum Import Price (MIP):**

- MIP is a temporary measure to provide protection to domestic farmers from predatory pricing of imports. Below this price, import of the commodity is not allowed.
- Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) is an arm of the commerce ministry which frames rules related to exports and imports.

➢ **MIP for Apples:**

- It aims to protect their interests by preventing tax-free imports of apples from other countries, ensuring a level playing field for the local apple industry.
- According to the policy, any apple costing less than Rs 50 per kg cannot be imported.
- **Benefits:**
  - ✓ It will help stabilize apple prices in the local market by reducing the oversupply of cheap imported apples.
  - ✓ This stability will enable local farmers to fetch better prices for their produce.

6. Sagar Parikrama

➢ **IN NEWS:** The Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying has recently announced the commencement of Phase-V of the Sagar Parikrama initiative.

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> **About Sagar Parikrama:**
> - It aims to address the challenges faced by fishers and stakeholders while uplifting their economic prospects through various fisheries schemes and programs, such as Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) & Kisan Credit Cards (KCC).
> - Sagar Parikrama is an evolutionary journey envisaged in the sea across the coastal belt demonstrating solidarity with all fisherfolk, fish farmers and concerned stakeholders as a spirit of 75th Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.
> - Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying.
> - The Parikrama shall be accompanied by the State Fisheries officials, Fishermen representatives, Fish-Farmers entrepreneurs, stakeholders, professionals, officials and Scientists from across the nation.
> - The Phase-V journey will encompass six locations across the states of Maharashtra and Goa. During the journey, fishermen, coastal fishers, fish farmers, and young fishery entrepreneurs will receive certificates and sanctions related to the PMMSY, KCC, and State Schemes.
> - Phase III covers mainly the coastal areas of Maharashtra and Gujrat. The Phase –I and Phase- II programmes of 'Sagar Parikrama' has been organized in March 2022 and September 2022 respectively.

ANSWER WRITTING

Q. Examine the issues which have strained the India-Pakistan relationship in the last few years. Do you think that confidence-building measures can help bring a change in the status quo between the two countries?

India and Pakistan share linguistic, cultural, and geographic links yet their relationship has been mired in complexity due to a number of historical and political events. India's consistent position is that issues between India and Pakistan should be resolved bilaterally and peacefully. India has also made a number of attempts to build normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan. However, these initiatives have been responded to with acts of cross-border terrorism and violence. Therefore, the onus is on Pakistan to create a conducive environment for meaningful engagement.

Issues that have strained India- Pakistan relationship:

- Cross-border terrorism: Terrorism emanating from territories under Pakistan's control remains a core concern in bilateral relations. E.g., the 2016 Uri attack, the 2019 Pulwama attack and the recent Poonch attack. India has consistently stressed the need for Pakistan to take credible, irreversible and verifiable action to end cross-border terrorism against India.
- Kashmir issue: India's constitutional changes in Kashmir made Pakistan cut down its ties with India. India received widespread support for its decision from the international community. However, China and Pakistan, in particular, have reacted with hostility and attempted to open a new chapter on Kashmir at the United Nations Security Council.
- India's concerns with China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC): India has opposed the CPEC as it is seen as violating India's sovereignty and territorial integrity. It passes through parts of the Indian state of Jammu & Kashmir under the illegal occupation of Pakistan.
- Unilateral actions by Pakistan: In 2019, Pakistan announced unilateral measures, including the downgrading of diplomatic relations, suspension of bilateral trade and review of bilateral arrangements with India. Subsequently, Pakistan also suspended all bus and train services. India has rejected Pakistan's attempt to present an alarming picture of bilateral ties to the world by taking such unilateral measures.
- Water dispute: India has asked Pakistan for modification of the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty after Pakistan refused intergovernmental negotiations on the matter. Issues have arisen due to a longstanding dispute over two hydroelectric power projects, i.e., Kishanganga on the Jhelum, and Ratle on the Chenab.

Much-needed confidence-building measures:

- People-to-people contact: The use of propaganda by the media of both sides to justify their stand on conflicting issues creates misconception, stereotyping and hatred among the people of both countries. Steps should be taken to increase people-to-people contact, such as facilitating travel between the two countries, providing security for tourists, setting up student and faculty exchanges, etc.
- Renewing trade ties: India had accorded the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status to Pakistan. However, in 2019, Pakistan suspended bilateral trade with India. Renewing trade ties can prove to be beneficial for both sides.
- Backchannel diplomacy: Given the uncertainty and volatility in Pakistan's political arena, it needs to rebuild its foreign policy consensus towards India. Until Pakistan gets its domestic acts together, one priority for Delhi must be to sustain valuable back-channel diplomacy.
- More measures like Kartarpur corridor: The Kartarpur Sahib Corridor Agreement provides for visa-free travel of Indian pilgrims as well as Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) cardholders, from India to the holy Gurudwara in Pakistan on a daily basis, throughout the year. Connecting other pilgrimage sites on the India- Pakistan border can further help in confidence building.
- Implementing existing confidence-building measures (CBM): In the past, India and Pakistan have worked out bilateral pacts and agreements with the aim of decreasing the risk of conflict. Both are part of SAARC and many other multilateral forums. The focus should be on using the already existing confidence-building measures effectively.

Meaningful engagement with Pakistan becomes difficult because of the ideological conflict between India and Pakistan. Pakistan's ideology is contradictory to that of India, and Pakistan's domestic opinion is steeped in that ideology. Therefore, any forward movement will depend on maintaining continuity in Track II dialogues in the medium term, until a consensus is reached on certain issues.

MCQs

1. Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal will inaugurate the two-day National Ayush Mission Conclave in New Delhi on 18th May. Consider the following statement regarding National Ayush Mission.
   1. It is a centrally sponsored Scheme.

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2. It is implemented by the Ministry of Health and Family Wefare.

Select the correct answer using the codes below.

a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) None of these

2. Consider the following statement regarding Artificial Intelligence and Facial Recognition powered Solution for Telecom SIM Subscriber Verification (ASTR)

1. It is developed by Department of Telecommunications (DoT)
2. It is an artificial-intelligence-based facial recognition tool that it claims has the capability of running checks on subscriber databases of telecom operators to deduce whether it contains multiple connections associated with the same person.
3. ASTR is capable of detecting all SIMs against a suspected face in less than 10 seconds

Select the correct statement using the codes below

a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

3. Recently India, E.U. Discuss E.U. Carbon Border Tax in Brussels. With reference to the Carbon Border Tax, consider the following statements:

1. It is a duty on imports based on the amount of carbon emissions resulting from the production of the product in question.
2. The carbon border tax involves imposing an import duty on a product manufactured in a country with more lax climate rules than the one buying it.

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

4. Recently Scheduled Quad leaders meeting cancelled. With reference to QUAD, consider the following statements

1. It is an informal strategic forum comprising four nations, namely — United States of America (USA), India, South Africa and Japan.
2. The QUAD 2023 scheduled to be hoisted by Sydney.
3. QUAD plus members includes South Korea, New Zealand, and Vietnam amongst others.

Which of the above statements are correct?

a) 1 & 2 only
b) 2 & 3 only
c) 1 & 3 only
d) 1, 2 & 3

5. Recently The Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying has recently announced the commencement of Phase-V of the Sagar Parikrama initiative. Consider the following statement regarding Sagar Parikrama initiative.

1. It aims to address the challenges faced by fishers and stakeholders while uplifting their economic prospects through various fisheries schemes and programs, such as Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) & Kisan Credit Cards (KCC).
2. Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Agriculture
3. The Phase-V journey will encompass six locations across the states of Maharashtra and Goa.

Which of the above statements are correct?

a) 1 & 2 only
b) 2 & 3 only
c) 1 & 3 only
d) 1, 2 & 3

6. Burachapori Wildlife Sanctuary, recently seen in the news, lies in which state?

a) Uttarakhand
b) Assam
c) Uttar Pradesh
d) Karnataka

7. The Government recently launched the "Meri LiFE" (My Life) mobile application to empower young people and encourage their participation in tackling climate change. Consider the following statements regarding Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment):

1. It focuses on bringing about behaviour changes in individuals through simple and easy-to-do actions.
2. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is the nodal Ministry for the coordination and implementation of the mission.

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

8. For giving fresh impetus to deliverables under the flagship Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana(PMMSY), seven major field studies are being carried out by National Productivity Council (NPC) recently. With reference to National Productivity Council Consider the following statements.

1. It is an autonomous organization under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
2. Its Objective is to promote innovation-led productivity in a sustained manner in all spheres of national economy through a holistic and inclusive approach by addressing the triple bottom line – Economic, Environmental and Social.

Select the correct answer using the codes below.

a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) None of these

9. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently told banks and other regulated entities to ensure a complete transition away from the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR).Consider the following statement regarding LIBOR.

1. It is a benchmark interest rate at which major global banks lend to one another in the international interbank market for short-term loans.
2. LIBOR is also the basis for consumer loans in countries around the world, so it impacts consumers just as much as it does financial institutions.
3. The rate is calculated and will continue to be published each day by the Intercontinental Exchange (ICE).
4. The most commonly quoted rate is the three-month U.S. dollar rate, usually referred to as the current LIBOR rate.

Select the correct statements using the codes below

a) 1, 2 and 3 only
b) 1, 3 and 4 only
c) 2, 3 and 4 only
d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

10. Sanchar Saathi Portal launched by which of the following Ministry?

a) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
b) Ministry of Communication
c) Ministry of Education
d) Department of Science and Technology

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