



Daily Current Affairs Prelims Quiz - 07-07-2020 - (Online Prelims Test)

1) “MSME Emergency Response Programme” that aims to support the increased flow of finance into the hands of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in India, was recently signed between India and?

- a. World Bank
- b. New Development Bank
- c. Asian Development Bank
- d. International Monetary Fund

Answer : a

- The **World Bank and the Government of India** have recently signed the 750 million dollar agreement for the **MSME Emergency Response Programme** to support the increased flow of finance into the hands of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), severely impacted by the COVID-19 crisis.
- The World Bank’s MSME Emergency Response Programme will address the immediate liquidity and credit needs of some 1.5 million viable MSMEs to help them withstand the impact of the current shock and protect millions of jobs.

2) Consider the following statements with respect to the *National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organization (NATMO)*

- 1. It is the sole authority for depicting National framework data in the form of thematic maps and atlases.
- 2. It functions as a subordinate office under the Ministry of Science & Technology.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : c

- **National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organization** has recently published the 4th updated version of COVID-19 Dashboard on its official Portal.

National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organization (NATMO)

- It is a subordinate office under **Department of Science & Technology**, Ministry of Science and Technology.
- This organization was assigned with responsibility in the field of thematic cartography and geographical research at national level.
- It is the **sole authority for depicting National framework data in the form of thematic maps and atlases** to cater the actual picture of the development and planning initiatives of the country among the users.

3) "World Drug Report" was released recently by which of the following organizations?

- a. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
- b. Intergovernmental Agency on World Trafficking
- c. Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development
- d. United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute

Answer : a

- According to the latest **World Drug Report** of the **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)**, the fourth highest seizure of opium in 2018 was reported from India, after Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- In terms of heroin seizure (1.3 tonnes), India was at the 12th position in the world.
- Heroin is manufactured from the morphine extracted from the seed pod of opium poppy plants.
- Outside Asia, the largest total quantity of heroin and morphine was seized in Europe (22% of the global total in 2018).

4) Consider the following statements with respect to Zardozi

1. It is a form of embroidery, native to Western Europe that came to India via British invasion.
2. The embroidery, also known as Pukhoor, appears like a woven cloth but is made with the use of red and black threads with a white cotton cloth background.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 nor 2



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Answer : d

- **Zardozi** is a form of embroidery that came to India **from Persia**.
- Done with metal wire and metal pieces or sequins on velvet, satin and heavy silk bases, Zardozi is one of the most famous and elaborate techniques in **metal embroidery**.
- The **original embroidery of Zardozi** was done with pure silver wires coated with real gold, and was known as **Kalabatun**.
- Though silver and gold wires have now been replaced with synthetic threads, the art remains the same.

Toda Embroidery

- The Toda Embroidery, also locally known as **Pukhoor**, is an art work among the Toda pastoral people of Nilgiris, in Tamil Nadu, made exclusively by their women.
- The embroidery, which has a **fine finish, appears like a woven cloth but is made with use of red and black threads with a white cotton cloth background**.
- Both sides of the embroidered fabric are usable and the Toda people are proud of this heritage.
- Both men and women adorn themselves with the embroidered cloaks and shawls.
- This handicraft product is listed as a geographically tagged product and is protected under the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration & Protection) Act (GI Act) 1999 of the Government of India.

5) "Natanz Nuclear Complex", often seen in the news recently, is one of the main uranium enrichment plants of which of the following countries?

- a. Iran

- b. Israel
- c. North Korea
- d. Pakistan

Answer : a

- An accident happened recently at a warehouse under construction at the **Natanz Nuclear Complex in Central Iran**.
- Natanz is one of Iran's main uranium enrichment plants.

6) Consider the following statements with respect to *Winter Diesel*

1. It loses its fluidity function in extreme winter conditions and has lower sulphur content.
2. It meets the Bureau of Indian Standards specification, BS-VI grade.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : b

- Indian armed forces may soon be using *Winter Diesel* for operations in high altitude areas such as Ladakh.
- State-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), has sought approval from the Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA) of the armed forces to approve winter diesel.
- Winter Diesel contains additives to maintain lower viscosity can be used in temperatures as low as -30°C.
- It has lower sulphur content, which would lead to lower deposits in engines and better performance.
- It *does not lose its fluidity function* even in extreme winter conditions, unlike the normal grade of Diesel which becomes difficult to utilize in such extreme winter conditions.
- It meets the Bureau of Indian Standards specification, *BS-VI grade*.

7) Consider the following statements with respect to the *National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)*

1. It ensures accessibility and availability of only the National List of Essential Medicines to people at affordable prices.
2. It is an attached office to the Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : d

- Recently, *National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)*, allowed pharmaceutical companies to increase the price of essential blood thinner *Heparin* by as much as 50%.
- Heparin is among the essential medicines that are needed for combating the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.
- *NPPA* is an *independent regulator* for the pricing of drugs, to ensure the availability and accessibility of medicines at affordable prices.
- It is as an attached office to the *Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals &*

Fertilizers.

- It regularly publishes lists of medicines and their maximum ceiling prices under the Drug Price Control Orders (DPCO).
- It monitors the availability of drugs, identifies shortages, if any, and to take remedial steps.

8) Consider the following statements with respect to *Mars Orbiter Mission*

1. The mission aims a specific search for Methane in the Martian atmosphere.
2. It is the Israel's first mission to the Red Planet and first entry into interplanetary spaceflight.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : a

- Recently, *ISRO's Mangalyaan* Captures Image Of *Phobos*, biggest Moon of Mars.
- The Mars Colour Camera (MCC) onboard Mars Orbiter Mission has captured the image of Phobos.
- The *Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM)*, also called *Mangalyaan* is the India's first mission to the Red Planet and first entry into interplanetary spaceflight.
- The mission is to explore and observe Mars surface features, morphology, mineralogy and the Martian atmosphere.
- Further, *a specific search for methane in the Martian atmosphere.*
- This will provide information about the possibility or the past existence of life on the planet.

9) Which *Country* recently finalized a plan to *phase out Coal and Nuclear Energy*?

- a. Greenland
- b. Denmark
- c. Germany
- d. Japan

Answer : c

- *Germany* is first major economy *to phase out coal and nuclear.*
- The plan envisions the phase-out of coal and nuclear energy between now and 2038.
- The plan is part of Germany's 'energy transition', an effort to wean Europe's biggest economy off planet-warming fossil fuels and generate all of the country's considerable energy needs from renewable sources.

10) Consider the following statements with respect to the *Ice in Italian Alps that turned Pink*

1. The pink hue is caused by algae that accelerate the effects of climate change.
2. The ice with the algae on its surface, reflects more than 80% of the sun's radiation.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : a

- Recently, the *Ice in Italy's Alps* have *turned pink.*

- According to reports, the appearance of pink glacial ice is caused due to *Algae* that accelerate the effect of climate change
- Normally ice reflects more than 80% of the sun's radiation.
- However, *with the arrival of the algae, it absorbs the heat and starts to melt faster.*
- Everything that darkens the snow causes it to melt because it accelerates the absorption of radiation.
- More algae appear as the ice melts more rapidly, giving them vital water and air.



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