Daily Current Affairs Prelims Quiz 24-10-2024 (Online Prelims Test)

1) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Shadow Fleet' in the context of International Shipping

1. It exclusively refers to vessels involved in illegal trade of sanctioned goods.
2. The practice of changing flags of convenience (FoCs) is primarily associated with shadow fleets.
3. Classification societies like Indian Register of Shipping (IRS) are legally prohibited from certifying such vessels.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

a. 1 only

b. 2 only

c. 2 and 3 only

d. None of the above

Answer : d

Shadow Fleet

- The term 'shadow fleet' is a media term for vessels trading with sanctioned countries through ***legal and complex ownership structures***.
- **Merchant ships** – Greece owns the largest share (20%) of global merchant shipping fleet.
- China has surpassed Japan to become the second-largest owner of merchant ships.
- Most ships are built and repaired in China, Japan and South Korea.
- **Marine insurance and shipping regulations** - Are primarily controlled from European countries.
- An insurance type called Protection and Indemnity (P&I) covers loss of life and damage to property. These P&I insurance firms form ‘clubs’ to pool the risk.
- **Flag states** – Ships are registered in particular nations called flag states as they fly that country’s flag.
- Flag states were meant to indicate the origins of the ship.
- Flags of Convenience (FoCs) – FoCs are a ***general shipping practice not exclusive to shadow fleets***.
- **Classification societies** – Can legally certify vessels based on safety parameters regardless of ownership.
- Certify ship structures and machinery for safety of life at sea and marine pollution, facilitating insurance cover for these.
- **Indian Register of Shipping (IRClass)** – Is an international ship classification society providing ship ***classification and certification*** as well as technical inspection services.
- In recent times the IRS (Indian Register of Shipping) saw more ships coming for safety certificates.
- This made some people suspect India was helping Russia avoid sanctions.
- Western countries are claiming India is helping Russia bypass sanctions through shipping practices.

2) Consider the following statements:

1. Right to Information Act, 2005 mandates timely response to citizen requests for government information.
2. India's first Right to Information (RTI) museum is being established in Beawar, Rajasthan.
3. RTI Portal Gateway is an initiative by Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

a. Only one
b. Only two
c. All three
d. None of the above

Answer : c

Right to Information Museum

The foundation stone for a people's Right to Information museum was recently laid at Beawar of Rajasthan, the birthplace of the RTI movement.

- The Right to Information (RTI) is an act of the Indian Parliament that gives citizens the right to access information held by public authorities.
- The RTI Act of 2005 replaced the Freedom of Information Act of 2000.
- Right to Information Act, 2005 mandates timely response to citizen requests for government information.
- RTI Portal Gateway is an initiative by Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.
- **Right to Information Museum** – It is situated in the Beawar, Rajasthan (birthplace of RTI movement).
- **Museum's Purpose**:
  - Document RTI movement's history.
  - Resource center for rights-based movements.
  - Archive for MKSS documents and materials.
  - Central repository for related film footage.
- **Historical Significance of Beawar** – In 1996, 40-day dharna by Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS) demanding RTI law.
- It led to Rajasthan RTI Act, 2000 and National RTI Act, 2005.
- In 2016, RTI memorial established at Chang Gate.
- In June 2023, Stone slab with Constitution's Preamble laid for museum.

3) Consider the following statements:
Statement-I: A dry port provides a logistics facility away from a seaport or airport for cargo handling, storage and transportation.
Statement-II: Inland container depot (ICD) acts as a bridge between sea/air ports and inland regions, facilitating efficient movement of goods.
Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

a. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
b. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
c. Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
d. Statement-I is incorrect but Statement- II is correct

Answer : b

Dry Port

Bihar Industry minister Nitish Mishra recently inaugurated the state's first dry port at Bihta, a town near state capital Patna.

- A dry port, also known as inland container depot (ICD), provides a logistics facility away from a seaport or airport for cargo handling, storage and transportation.
- ICD acts as a bridge between sea/air ports and inland regions, facilitating efficient movement of goods.
- **Features** – It is connected by railways to gateway ports of Kolkata and Haldia in West Bengal, Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh, Nhava Sheva in Maharashtra, Mundra in Gujarat, among others.
- It can *handle customs clearance procedures*, reducing congestion at seaports/airports.
- It caters the entire eastern India, ICD Bihta can help neighbouring states of Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and Odisha.

Inland Container Depot, Tughlakabad situated at Delhi is India's biggest dry port.

- **Public-Private Partnership (PPP)** – It is being run in a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode by Pristine Magadh Infrastructure Private Limited and the state industry department.
- **Export to Russia** – The first consignment exported from the dry port was of leather shoes, which were sent to Russia.
- **Need for ICD** – Bihar exports items mainly agro-based, garments and leather products that are manufactured in diverse locations.
- To streamline cargo handling and transportation, lowering transportation costs, and securing storage and handling.
- Bihar is a major producer of fruits and vegetables such as potato, tomato, banana, litchi and makhana (fox nuts).
- It also has significant export capacities of maize (with 11 of 38 Bihar districts focussing on maize production), sponge iron, packed food, waste paper, newsprint, rice and meat.

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4) Colopsus arkavathi, sometimes seen in the news recently, belong to?

a. Spider species
b. Frog species
c. Butterfly species
d. Bird species

Answer : a

Colopsus Arkavathi

- Colopsus Arkavathi is a new ***jumping spider species*** that was recently discovered near the Arkavathi River in the foothills of Nandi Hills, ***Karnataka***.

*The **Arkavati River** originates at Nandi hills in Chikkaballapura district of **Karnataka**. It is a **tributary of the Kaveri**.*

- The species belongs to the rare Genus Colopsus, under the larger Salticidae family.
- Only 2 species were previously identified in India from this genus.
- These spiders live on the ground and they like to stay in areas with short grass and fallen

leaves.

- They've been found in several places in South India.



5) Consider the following statements:

1. Both antelopes and deer are hoofed animals but they belong to different families.
2. Antelopes have antlers that grow and shed each year, while deer have horns that are permanent.
3. Antelopes are more diverse and found in Africa and Asia, while deer are found worldwide.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

a. Only one

b. Only two

c. All three

d. None of the above

Answer : b

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Antelope and Deer

- **Antelope** – Is any hoofed mammals belonging to the family Bovidae (order Artiodactyla).
- Antelopes account for over 2/3rd of the approximately 135 species of hollow-horned ruminants (cud chewers) in the family Bovidae, which also includes cattle, sheep, and goats.
- Antelopes have adapted to many different ecological niches and so vary in their size, shape, locomotion, diet, social organization, and antipredator strategy.
- **Deer** – Are in the Cervidae family, while antelopes belong to the Bovidae family, which also includes animals like cattle and goats.
- **Taxonomy** – Both antelopes and deer are hoofed animals (called "artiodactyls"), but they belong to different families.

Characteristics	Antelope	Deer

Horns and Antlers	***Male deer have antlers***, which are branches that they ***shed and regrow each year***.	***Antelopes*** have ***permanent horns*** that don't shed, and they are usually smooth and unbranched.
Habitats	Most antelopes live in Africa and Asia, thriving in various habitats like woodlands, savannahs, and even deserts.	Deer are found worldwide, with significant populations in North America, Europe, Asia, and South America.
Number of Species	• 91 species of antelope worldwide. • India has 6 species.	• There are 43 species of deer. • India has 12 types of Deer Species
Threats	Facing challenges due to hunting, habitat loss, and competition with livestock.	Similar to Antelope that include hunting, habitat loss, and competition with livestock.

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Difference between Deer and Antelope



Deer

Family : Cervidae

Antlers shed every year

Antlers are branched

Prominent facial glands present

Example from central india : Sambar, Barasingha, Cheetal



Antelope

Family : Bovidae

Horns are perennial

Horns are not branched

Facial gland absent

Example from central india : Nilgai, Indian Gaur, Four Horned Antelope, Indian Gazelle

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