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Daily MCQs: 25-05-2024

1. Consider the following statements about the “International Criminal Court (ICC)”.

1. ICC is a permanent judicial body established by the Rome Statute.
2. The ICC investigates and tries individuals charged with the most serious crimes of concern to the international community.
3. India is a party to this statute.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All the three
- D. None of the above

2. Rohingya are an ethnic group of

- A. Iran
- B. Palestine
- C. Syria
- D. Myanmar

3. Consider the following statements about the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act, 1994.

1. The Act was enacted to stop female foeticides and arrest the declining sex ratio in India.
2. The main purpose of enacting the act is to ban the use of sex selection techniques before or after conception and prevent the misuse of prenatal diagnostic technique for sex selective abortion.

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. The Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) is associated with

- A. SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organisation)
- B. NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization)
- C. CSTO (Collective Security Treaty Organization)
- D. ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations)

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5. Which of the following are situated in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve?

- A. Neyyar, Peppara and Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuaries; and Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve
- B. Mudumalai and Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuaries; and Silent Valley National Park
- C. Kawal and Sri Venkateswara Wildlife Sanctuaries; and Nagarjunasagar-Srisaillam Tiger Reserve
- D. Mayurbhanj Elephant Reserve; Hadgarh and Kuldiha Wildlife Sanctuaries

Solutions:

1. Answer: B

Explanation:

- The International Criminal Court is a **permanent judicial body** established by the **Rome Statute** of the International Criminal Court. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The ICC **investigates and tries individuals** charged with the most serious crimes of concern to the international community such as **genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and the crimes of aggression.** **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - **Crimes Against Humanity:** It includes **murder, extermination, torture, rape, sexual offences, persecution, and other inhumane acts** intentionally causing great suffering, or serious injury to the body or to mental or physical health when committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack directed against a civilian population pursuant to or in furtherance of a state or organizational policy.
 - **War Crimes:** It includes **grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions** in the context of armed conflict, and include wilful killing or torture of civilians or prisoners of war, extensive unlawful destruction and appropriation of property not justified by military necessity and so on.
- **Based at: The Hague, Netherlands**
- It is a court of last resort and **seeks to complement, not replace, national courts.** It prosecutes cases only when states are unwilling or unable to do so.
- This principle of complementarity is from the **Rome Statute.**
- Currently, **124 countries** are Parties to the Rome Statute. **(India isn't a party).** **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.**
- The ICC does have jurisdiction over crimes committed by nationals of both State Parties and non-state Parties on the territory of a State Party.

Are ICC's decisions binding?

- The ICC's decisions **are binding.** However, it relies on the cooperation of States for support, particularly for making arrests and transferring the arrested individuals to the ICC detention centre, for freezing assets, and enforcing sentences.
- The USA and Russia had signed the treaty but did not ratify it.

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2. Answer: D

Explanation:

- The Rohingya are an **ethnic group**, the majority of whom are **Muslim**, who have lived for centuries in the majority Buddhist **Myanmar**.
- The Rohingya speak **Rohingya or Ruaingga**, a dialect that is distinct to others spoken throughout Myanmar.
- They are not considered one of the country's 135 official ethnic groups and have been **denied citizenship in Myanmar** since 1982, which has effectively rendered them stateless.
- Hundreds of thousands of Rohingya have fled persecution in **Myanmar's Rakhine State**, fueling a historic migration crisis.

3. Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act, 1994** is an Act of the Parliament of India enacted to **stop female foeticides and arrest the declining sex ratio in India**. The act **banned prenatal sex determination**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

Objectives:-

- The main purpose of enacting the act is to **ban the use of sex selection techniques before or after conception and prevent the misuse of prenatal diagnostic technique for sex selective abortion**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

Salient features:-

- **Offences** under this act include **conducting or helping in the conduct of prenatal diagnostic technique** in the unregistered units, **sex selection** on a man or woman, **conducting PNDT test** for any purpose other than the one mentioned in the act, **sale, distribution, supply, renting etc. of any ultra sound machine** or any other equipment capable of detecting sex of the foetus.

Main provisions in the act are:-

- The Act provides for the **prohibition of sex selection, before or after conception**.
- It **regulates the use of pre-natal diagnostic techniques**, like ultrasound machines by allowing their use only to detect :- genetic abnormalities, metabolic disorders, chromosomal abnormalities, certain congenital malformations, haemoglobinopathies, Sex linked disorders.
- No laboratory or centre or clinic will conduct any test including **ultrasonography** for the purpose of determining the sex of the foetus.
- No person, including the one who is conducting the procedure as per the law, will **communicate the sex of the foetus** to the pregnant woman or her relatives by words, signs or any other method.
- Any person who puts an **advertisement for pre-natal and pre-conception sex determination facilities** in the form of a notice, circular, label, wrapper or any document, or advertises through interior or other media in electronic or print form or engages in any visible

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representation made by means of hoarding, wall painting, signal, light, sound, can be **imprisoned for up to three years and fined Rs. 10,000.**

4. Answer: **A**

Explanation:

- Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is a permanent intergovernmental international organisation established in 2001.
- Prior to the creation of SCO in 2001, **Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan** were members of the **Shanghai Five**.
- Following the accession of **Uzbekistan** to the organisation in 2001, the Shanghai Five was renamed the SCO.
- There are **eight member states** in the SCO at present. **India** and **Pakistan** became members in 2017.
- In 2021, the decision was made to start the accession process of **Iran** to the SCO as a full member.
- The **Heads of State Council** is the supreme decision-making body in the SCO. It meets once a year and adopts decisions and guidelines on all important matters of the organisation.
- The organisation has **two permanent bodies** —
 - the **SCO Secretariat** based in Beijing and
 - the Executive Committee of the **Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS)** based in Tashkent. RATS serves to promote cooperation of member states against the three evils of terrorism, separatism and extremism.

Objectives of the SCO

- To **strengthen mutual trust** among the neighbouring member states.
- To **promote effective cooperation** in various fields like economy, trade, politics, culture and research and technology.
- To **ensure peace, prosperity, security and stability** in the region, and
- To **establish a democratic, fair and rational international eco-political order.**

5. Answer: **B**

Explanation:

- The Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve was the **first biosphere reserve in India** established in 1986. It is located in the **Western Ghats**.
- It encompasses **parts of Tamilnadu, Kerala and Karnataka**.
- Wide ranges of ecosystems and species diversity are found in this region.
- The **Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary, Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary, Bandipur National Park, Nagarhole National Park, Mukurthi National Park and Silent Valley** are the protected areas present within this reserve.

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