

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

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Daily MCQs: 26-08-2024

1. Consider the following statements about Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021

- 1) The Act prohibits both commercial surrogacy and altruistic surrogacy.
- 2) According to the Act, a child born out of a surrogacy procedure will be deemed to be the biological child of the intending couple.

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

2. Consider the following statements about UNHRC

- 1) It is an inter-governmental body within the United Nations system.
- 2) All UN members automatically become members of UNHRC.

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

3. Which of the following initiatives are supported under the BioE3 Policy?

1. Establishing Biomanufacturing & Bio-AI hubs
2. Promoting Biofoundry
3. Fostering Circular Bioeconomy
4. Encouraging Regenerative Bioeconomy Models

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 3 and 4 only
- C. 1, 2, 3, and 4
- D. 2 and 4 only

4. Which of the following statements is/are correct about Free Trade Agreements (FTAs)?

1. FTAs promote trade by reducing tariffs, duties, and other trade barriers.
2. FTAs are always bilateral agreements.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

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5. Which of the following tribal leaders is commemorated during the Janjatiya Gaurav Divas?

- A. Birsa Munda
- B. Rani Lakshmi Bai
- C. Bhagat Singh
- D. Sardar Patel

Solutions:

1. Answer: B

Explanation

- The Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021 defines surrogacy as a practice where a woman gives birth to a child for an intending couple with the intention to hand over the child after the birth to the intending couple. It was passed by the Parliament last year.

Highlights of the Act

Regulation of surrogacy

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Act **prohibits commercial surrogacy, but allows altruistic surrogacy**. Altruistic surrogacy involves **no monetary compensation** to the surrogate mother other than the medical expenses and insurance coverage during the pregnancy.
- Commercial surrogacy includes surrogacy or its related procedures undertaken for a monetary benefit or reward (in cash or kind) exceeding the basic medical expenses and insurance coverage.

Purposes for which surrogacy is permitted

- Surrogacy is permitted when it is: (i) for intending couples who suffer from proven infertility; (ii) altruistic; (iii) not for commercial purposes; (iv) not for producing children for sale, prostitution or other forms of exploitation; and (v) for any condition or disease specified through regulations.

Eligibility criteria for intending couple

- The intending couple should have a '**certificate of essentiality**' and a '**certificate of eligibility**' issued by the appropriate authority.
- A certificate of essentiality will be issued upon fulfilment of the following conditions: (i) a certificate of proven infertility of one or both members of the intending couple from a District Medical Board; (ii) an order of parentage and custody of the surrogate child passed by a Magistrate's court; and (iii) insurance coverage for a period of 16 months covering postpartum delivery complications for the surrogate.
- The certificate of eligibility to the intending couple is issued upon fulfilment of the following conditions: (i) the couple being **Indian citizens and married for at least five years**; (ii) **between 23 to 50 years old (wife) and 26 to 55 years old (husband)**; (iii) they **do not have any surviving child** (biological, adopted or surrogate); this would not include a child who is mentally or physically challenged or suffers from life threatening disorder or fatal illness; and (iv) other conditions that may be specified by regulations.
- The law also allows **single women (widow or a divorcee between the age of 35 and 45 years)** to resort to surrogacy.

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Eligibility criteria for surrogate mother

- To obtain a **certificate of eligibility** from the appropriate authority, the surrogate mother has to be: (i) a **close relative** of the intending couple; (ii) a **married woman** having a child of her own; (iii) **25 to 35 years old**; (iv) a **surrogate only once** in her lifetime; and (v) possess a **certificate of medical and psychological fitness** for surrogacy. Further, the surrogate mother cannot provide her own gametes for surrogacy.

National and State Surrogacy Boards

- The central and the state governments shall constitute the **National Surrogacy Board (NSB) and the State Surrogacy Boards (SSB)**, respectively.
- Functions of the NSB include, (i) advising the central government on policy matters relating to surrogacy; (ii) laying down the code of conduct of surrogacy clinics; and (iii) supervising the functioning of SSBs.

Parentage and abortion of surrogate child

- **Statement 2 is correct:** A child born out of a surrogacy procedure will be **deemed to be the biological child of the intending couple**. An abortion of the surrogate child requires the **written consent** of the surrogate mother and the authorisation of the appropriate authority. This authorisation must be compliant with the **Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971**.
- Further, the surrogate mother will have an option to withdraw from surrogacy before the embryo is implanted in her womb.

Offenses and penalties

- The offenses under the Act include: (i) undertaking or advertising commercial surrogacy; (ii) exploiting the surrogate mother; (iii) abandoning, exploiting or disowning a surrogate child; and (iv) selling or importing human embryos or gametes for surrogacy.
- The penalty for such offenses is imprisonment up to 10 years and a fine up to 10 lakh rupees.

2. Answer: A

Explanation About UNHRC

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Human Rights Council is an **inter-governmental body within the United Nations system**.
- The Council's mandate is to promote "universal respect for the protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all" and "address situations of violations of human rights, including gross and systematic violations, and make recommendations thereon."
- It has the ability to discuss all thematic human rights issues and situations that require its attention throughout the year.
- The Council was created by the **United Nations General Assembly** in **2006**. It replaced the former United Nations Commission on Human Rights.
- The headquarters of UNHRC is in **Geneva, Switzerland**.

Membership

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Council is made of **47 Member States**, which are elected by the majority of members of the General Assembly of the United Nations through **direct and secret ballot**.

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- The Council's Membership is based on **equitable geographical distribution**.
- Members of the Council serve for a period of **three years** and are **not eligible for immediate re-election after serving two consecutive terms**.

3. Answer: C

Explanation

- The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal '**BioE3 (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment and Employment) Policy** for Fostering High Performance Biomanufacturing' of the Department of Biotechnology.
- The salient features of BioE3 policy include **innovation-driven support to R&D and entrepreneurship across thematic sectors**.
- This will accelerate technology development and commercialization by establishing **Biomanufacturing & Bio-AI hubs and Biofoundry**.
- Along with prioritizing **regenerative bioeconomy models of green growth**, this policy will facilitate **expansion of India's skilled workforce and provide a surge in job creation**.
- This Policy will further strengthen Government's initiatives such as '**Net Zero' carbon economy & 'Lifestyle for Environment'** and will steer India on the path of accelerated '**Green Growth**' by promoting '**Circular Bioeconomy**'.

4. Answer: A

Explanation

- A Free trade Agreement (FTA) is an agreement between two or more countries or trading blocs that primarily agree to **reduce barriers to imports and exports among them**.
- FTAs normally cover **trade in goods or trade in services**. FTAs can also cover other areas such as **intellectual property rights (IPRs), investment, government procurement and competition policy, etc.**

WTO & FTAs

- The **General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) for goods** and the **General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) for services** of the World Trade Organization (WTO) allows countries to form FTAs if the agreements cover "substantially all the trade" between the parties and **do not raise barriers to trade with non-participating countries**.
- These rules are designed to ensure that FTAs complement rather than undermine the multilateral trading system.
- India has so far concluded **13 FTAs and 6 PTAs**. The most recent in the list are the **India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)** which entered into force in 2022 and the **India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (Ind-Aus ECTA)**, which entered into force in 2022.
- The list of FTAs signed by India is as under:
 - India-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (FTA)
 - Agreement on South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA)
 - India-Nepal Treaty of Trade

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- India-Bhutan Agreement on Trade, Commerce and Transit
- India-Thailand FTA - Early Harvest Scheme (EHS)
- India-Singapore Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA)
- India-ASEAN CECA - Trade in Goods, Services and Investment Agreement
- India-South Korea Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)
- India-Japan CEPA
- India-Malaysia CECA
- India-Mauritius Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA)
- India-UAE CEPA
- India-Australia ECTA
- In addition, India has signed the following 6 limited coverage Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs):
 - Asia Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA)
 - Global System of Trade Preferences (GSTP)
 - SAARC Preferential Trading Agreement (SAPTA)
 - India-Afghanistan PTA
 - India-MERCOSUR PTA
 - India-Chile PTA.
- In addition to these, India recently signed the **Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA)** with the **European Free Trade Association (EFTA)**, an intergovernmental organization of four member countries that are not part of the European Union (EU): **Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland.**

5. Answer: A

Explanation

- Janjatiya Gaurav Divas is celebrated on **15th November** to **remember the contribution of tribal freedom fighters.**
- The day has been announced in the memory of **Bhagwan Birsa Munda**, the tribal freedom fighter from Jharkhand.