

Prelim Bits 13-09-2018

International Criminal Court (ICC)

\n\n

\n

- United States has recently threatened to prosecute ICC officials if Americans are charged with war crimes committed in Afghanistan.

\n

- ICC is an intergovernmental organization and international tribunal.

\n

- It is headquartered in The Hague in the Netherlands.

\n

- It has the jurisdiction to prosecute individuals for the international crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, crime of aggression and war crimes.

\n

- It is the world's first permanent international criminal court.

\n

- It is intended to complement existing national judicial systems and it may therefore only exercise its jurisdiction when certain conditions are met.

\n

- States which become party to the Rome Statute becomes member of ICC and the co-operation of the non-party states with the ICC is of voluntary nature.

\n

- But when a case is referred to the ICC by the UN Security Council, all UN member states are obliged to cooperate, since its decisions are binding for all of them.

\n

- India is not a signatory to the Rome Statute.

\n

- The United States has not signed up to the court and in 2002, its Congress passed a law enabling U.S to invade the Netherlands to liberate any U.S. citizen held by the court.

\n

\n\n

Bru Refugees

\n\n

\n

- Union government has given a choice to Bru refugees in relief camps in Tripura, to either go back to their villages in Mizoram or be ready to be denied free ration and other facilities.
\n
- In 1990s, Mizo nationalists had demanded that the Brus be left out of the state's electoral rolls, contending that the tribe was not indigenous to Mizoram.
\n
- The Bru militancy was a reactionary movement against Mizo nationalist groups.
\n
- In 1997, the murder of a Mizo forest guard at the Dampa Tiger Reserve in Mizoram allegedly by Bru militants led to a violent backlash against the community.
\n
- It forced several thousand people belonging to Bru community to flee to neighbouring Tripura.
\n
- The displaced Bru people from Mizoram have been living in various camps in Tripura since 1997.
\n
- Recently, the Centre and the state governments of Tripura and Mizoram has recently signed an agreement for repatriation of Bru community from Tripura to Mizoram.
\n

\n\n

Whale Sanctuary

\n\n

- Whale Sanctuary was proposed in South Atlantic by 39 countries in International Whaling Commission.
\n
- It was meant to provide haven for endangered marine mammals.
\n
- The idea was proposed by Brazil in 2001 in IWC meeting.
\n
- It was co-sponsored by Argentina, Gabon, South Africa and Uruguay.
\n
- In the recently concluded session of IWC in Brazil, pro-whaling nations blocked the proposal of setting up of sanctuary.
\n
- Pro-whaling nations include Japan and Russia.

\n

\n\n

Click [here](#) to know more about IWC.

\n\n

National Technical Research Organisation

\n\n

\n

- India's first missile tracking ship is being built for NTRO by Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL).

\n

- NTRO is India's technical intelligence agency.

\n

- It is working under the supervision of the Prime Minister's Office and the National Security Adviser.

\n

- The organisation has the same "Norms of Conduct" as Intelligent Bureau (IB) and Research and Analysis Wing (RAW).

\n

- In 2017, ministry of home affairs through its notification, listed NTRO under The Intelligence Organisations (Restriction of Rights) Act, 1985.

\n

- The provisions of the act are,

\n

\n\n

\n

- i. It prevents employees of a notified agency from forming unions/associations,
- ii. puts restrictions on the employee's freedom of speech,
- iii. bars any communication with the press, or publishing a book or other document without the permission of the head of the intelligence organisation.

\n

\n\n

Click [here](#) to know more about Missile tracking ship (VC 11184)

\n\n

NOTA

\n\n

\n

- Election Commission has withdrawn the provision for the NOTA option for elections to the Rajya Sabha and the State Legislative Council.

\n

- Supreme Court has previously given directive not to extend NOTA to elections in Rajya Sabha.

\n

- None of the above (NOTA) is a ballot option designed to allow the voter to indicate disapproval of all of the candidates in a voting system.

\n

- The idea behind the use of NOTA is to allow the voter to register a “protest” vote if none of the candidates is acceptable to her for whatever reason.

\n

- While NOTA votes are tallied, the candidate with the highest number of votes polled is declared elected irrespective of the NOTA total.

\n

\n\n

\n\n

Source: The Hindu, The New Indian Express

\n\n

\n\n

\n

