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Daily MCQs: 18-04-2024

1. With reference to the PM CARES Fund, consider the following statements.

1. It was set up as a dedicated fund to deal with any kind of emergency or distress situation and to provide relief to the affected.
2. The Prime Minister is the ex-officio chairperson of the Fund.
3. PM CARES Fund is audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

2. With reference to the Arab League, consider the following statements.

1. It is a union of Arabic-speaking countries.
2. It aims to promote the independence, sovereignty, affairs, and interests of its member countries and observers.
3. Arab League does not have any members outside the Persian gulf region.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

3. Which of the following entities are eligible to open Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendras which sell quality generic medicines?

1. Hospitals
2. Non Governmental Organizations
3. Individuals with B. Pharma degree

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

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4. Under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, who shall be the authority to initiate the process for determining the nature and extent of individual or community rights?

- A. State Forest Department
- B. District Collector
- C. Gram Sabha
- D. Ministry of Tribal Affairs

5. Which of the following are correct about Kala-azar.

- 1. It is a viral disease.
- 2. It is transmitted to humans by the bite of infected female sandflies.
- 3. It is one of the most dangerous neglected tropical diseases (NTDs).

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

Solutions:

- 1. Answer: **B**

Explanation:

- The Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations (PM CARES) Fund was set up in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic to mobilize resources. The Fund was established in 2020.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** PM CARES Fund is a **public charitable trust**. It has been set up keeping in mind the need for having a dedicated fund with the primary objective of dealing with any kind of emergency or distress situation, like posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, and to provide relief to the affected.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The **Prime Minister** is Chairperson (ex-officio) of the PM CARES Fund and Minister of Defence, Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Finance, Government of India are ex-officio Trustees of the Fund.

Objectives

- The primary objectives of the PM CARES Fund Trust are:-
 - 1. To undertake and support relief or assistance of any kind relating to a **public health emergency or any other kind of emergency, calamity or distress**, either man-made or natural, including the creation or upgradation of healthcare or pharmaceutical facilities, other necessary infrastructure, funding relevant research or any other type of support.
 - 2. To render financial assistance, provide grants of payments of money or take such other steps as may be deemed necessary by the Board of Trustees to assist the affected population.

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3. To undertake any other activity, which is not inconsistent with the above Objects.

Legal Provisions

- PM CARES Fund has been registered as a Public Charitable Trust under the Registration Act, 1908.
- PM CARES Fund accepts **voluntary contributions** by individuals/organizations as well as contributions as part of **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)** from Companies/Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs). However, **contributions flowing out of budgetary sources of the PSUs are not accepted.**
- All contributions towards the PM CARES Fund are **100% exempt from Income Tax** under Section 80(G) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for those who opt for the old tax slabs.
- Any contribution made to the PM CARES Fund by any Company or a PSU shall **qualify as CSR expenditure** as provided under the Companies Act, 2013.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** PM CARES Fund is audited by an **independent auditor.**

Whether Foreign Donation is accepted in the PM CARES Fund?

- **Yes.** PM CARES Fund has received exemption from operation of all provisions of the **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010.**

2. Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct & Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Arab League is a union of Arabic-speaking African and Asian countries.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It was formed in Cairo in 1945 to **promote the independence, sovereignty, affairs, and interests of its member countries and observers.**
- The Arab League, formally known as the **League of Arab States**, was initially established with just **six nations:** Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, and Syria.
- Currently, it has **22 member states**, who have pledged to **cooperate on economic and military affairs, among other issues.**
- Its membership includes Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

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- The League makes decisions on a **majority basis**, but there is **no mechanism to compel members to comply with resolutions**.
- It has been criticised for its internal conflicts and collective inaction on important international issues.

3. Answer: **D**

Explanation:

- With an objective of **making quality generic medicines available at affordable prices to all**, Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) was launched by the **Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers** in 2008.
- Under the scheme, dedicated outlets known as **Janaushadhi Kendras** are opened to provide generic medicines at affordable prices.
- The Scheme is implemented by a society registered under the Societies Registration Act, viz., **Pharma & Medical Bureau of India (PMBI)**.
- The Scheme is operated by **government agencies as well as by private entrepreneurs**.

Objectives:

- **Ensure access to quality medicines** for all sections of the population especially the poor and the deprived ones. Prices of the Jan Aushadhi medicines are 50%-90% less than that of branded medicines prices in the open market.
- **Create awareness** about generic medicines through education and publicity to counter the perception that quality is synonymous with high price only.
- **Generate employment** by engaging individual entrepreneurs in opening of PMBJP Kendra.

Eligibility Criteria:

- The **Eligibility Criteria** for the Individual applicants to open Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendra is to have **D. Pharma or B. Pharma. Any organization, NGO, charitable organization and hospital** can apply for this by appointing B.Pharma or D.Pharma degree holders.

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- The **incentive amount** for Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendra is **five lakh rupees, 15 percent of monthly purchases or a maximum of 15 thousand rupees per month. One time additional incentive of two lakh rupees** as reimbursement for IT and infra expenditure in special categories and areas is also provided.

4. Answer: C

Explanation:

- The **Scheduled Tribes and Other Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006** is a people-centric law for forests, which **recognises the rights of forest-dwelling communities to use and manage forest resources.**
- With more than 150 million forest dwellers, the scope of FRA is immense to protect their livelihoods, and engage them in sustainable forest management.

Rights under FRA

- **Title rights** – Ownership to land that is being farmed by tribals or forest dwellers subject to a maximum of **4 hectares**; ownership is only for land that is actually being cultivated by the concerned family, meaning that no new lands are granted.
- **Use rights** – to minor forest produce (also including ownership), to grazing areas, to pastoralist routes, etc.
- **Relief and development rights** – to rehabilitation in case of illegal eviction or forced displacement; and basic amenities, subject to restrictions for forest protection.
- **Forest management rights** – to protect forests and wildlife.

Eligibility

- To qualify as **Other Traditional Forest Dweller (OTFD)** and be eligible for recognition of rights under FRA, two conditions need to be fulfilled:
 - Primarily resided in forest or forests land for three generations (75 years) prior to 13-12-2005, and
 - Depend on the forest or forests land for bonafide livelihood needs.
- To qualify as a **Forest Dwelling Scheduled Tribe (FDST)** and be eligible for recognition of rights under FRA, three conditions must be satisfied by the applicant/s, who could be **“members or community”**:
 - Must be a Scheduled Tribe in the area where the right is claimed; and
 - Primarily resided in forest or forests land prior to 13-12-2005; and
 - Depend on the forest or forests land for bonafide livelihood needs.
- The FRA provides that a forest right conferred under the Act shall be **heritable but not alienable or transferable**, and shall be registered jointly in the name of both the spouses in case of married persons and in the name of the single head in the case of a household headed by a single person.

Process of recognition of rights

- The Act provides that the **gram sabha**, or village assembly, will initially pass a resolution recommending whose rights to which resources should be recognised.

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- This resolution is then screened and approved at the **level of the sub-division** (or taluka) and subsequently at the **district level**.
- The **screening committees** consist of three government officials (Forest, Revenue and Tribal Welfare departments) and three elected members of the local body at that level. These committees also hear appeals.

5. Answer: D

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Kala-azar or visceral leishmaniasis (VL) is a **tropical parasitic disease** characterised by irregular fever, weight loss, anaemia and swelling of the spleen and liver.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** A chronic and potentially fatal disease, VL is caused by a **protozoan Leishmania parasite** and is transmitted to humans by the bite of infected **female sandflies**.
- According to WHO, globally, about 7 to 10 lakh new cases occur annually. **India accounts for about two-thirds** of the total global cases, and the disease is **endemic to Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal**.
- The disease affects some of the poorest people and is linked to malnutrition, population displacement, poor housing, a weak immune system and a lack of financial resources.
- Leishmaniasis is also **linked to environmental changes** such as deforestation, and urbanisation, according to WHO.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Kala azar, also known as **black fever**, is one of the most dangerous **neglected tropical diseases (NTDs)**.

What does the treatment include?

- Leishmaniasis is a **treatable and curable disease**, which requires an immunocompetent system and thus **those having a weak immune system are prone to get severely affected**.
- **Anti-leishmanial medicines** are available for treatment. **Vector control** is also recommended by the WHO, which means reducing or interrupting the transmission of disease by decreasing the number of sandflies in surroundings through insecticide spray, use of insecticide-treated nets, etc.
- The government aimed to eliminate the disease in India by 2015, but that deadline was missed. However, the number of cases has been brought down significantly through the **National Kala-Azar Elimination Programme**.
- Medicines, insecticides and technical support are given by the central government, while state governments provide for costs involved in implementation.