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Daily MCQs: 21-06-2024

1. Consider the following statements about Sickle Cell Disease (SCD)

- 1) It is an inherited genetic disease.
- 2) The disease burden from Sickle Cell anaemia in India is prevalent in tribal populations.

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. Which of the following statements about the Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards is correct?

- A) They are awarded annually by the Prime Minister.
- B) They recognize outstanding achievements in the fields of literature and poetry.
- C) They are given in the fields of music, dance, and drama.
- D) They were first awarded in 1954.

3. Which of the following is NOT a function of TRAI?

- A) Regulating the telecom services
- B) Fixing tariffs for telecom services
- C) Granting licenses for telecom services
- D) Promoting and ensuring orderly growth of the telecom sector

4. Which of the following is a criterion for a startup to be recognized by DPIIT?

- A) The startup should be working towards innovation, development, or improvement of products or processes.
- B) The startup must have been in existence for over 10 years.
- C) The startup should have an annual turnover exceeding INR 100 crore.
- D) None of the above

5. Darfur, a region that has been most affected by conflict and famine is located in which of the following countries?

- A) Chad
- B) Sudan
- C) Ethiopia
- D) Azerbaijan

Solutions:

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1. Answer: C

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Sickle cell anaemia (SCA) is an **inherited genetic disease**. **Haemoglobin** which is tasked with carrying oxygen to all parts of the body has **four protein subunits — two alpha and two beta**. In some people, **mutations in the gene** that creates the beta subunits **impact the shape of the blood cell and distort it to look like a sickle**, similar to the letter C.
- A round red blood cell can move easily through blood vessels because of its shape but sickle red blood cells **end up slowing and even blocking the blood flow**. Moreover, sickle cells **die early**, resulting in a **shortage of red blood cells that deprive the body of oxygen**.
- These obstructions and shortages may cause **chronic anemia, pain, fatigue, acute chest syndrome, stroke, and a host of other serious health complications**.

Prevalence

- **India is the second-worst affected country in terms of predicted births with SCA — i.e. chances of being born with the condition.**
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The disease burden from Sickle Cell anaemia in India is **prevalent in tribal populations**. Tribes like **Pawara, Bhil, Madia, Gond and Pardhan from Maharashtra** have a very high prevalence.
- Sickle cell anaemia is **most prevalent in the central India belt covering states like Gujarat, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Orissa and parts of Bengal**. There are **pockets in the south, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and parts of Telangana**.
- There is a **lack of screening awareness and inadequate screening centers/facilities** in tribal and rural areas. Also, **failure to access primary healthcare** is a concern.

Treatment

- Sickle cell anemia is a **genetic disorder, making complete “elimination” a challenge** that requires a major scientific breakthrough.
- The only cure comes in the form of **gene therapy and stem cell transplants — both costly and still in developmental stages**.
- In gene therapy, the DNA inside the hemoglobin gene is edited to stop the disease while in stem cell transplants, the bone marrow affected by sickle cell anemia is replaced with healthy bone marrow from a donor. Both interventions are currently being tested in **clinical trials** globally.
- **Blood transfusion**, wherein red blood cells are removed from donated blood and given to a patient, is also a trusted treatment in the absence of permanent cures. But challenges include a **scarcity of donors, fears around safe supply of blood, risk of infection etc.**

2. Answer: C

Explanation

- **Statement A is incorrect:** The **Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards** are the **highest national recognition conferred on practicing artists by the Sangeet Natak Akademi**.

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- **Statement B is incorrect and statement C is correct:** Akademi Awards may be conferred on **eminent practitioners, gurus and scholars of music, dance and theater** for sustained individual achievement of high professional order.
 - The **Akademi Awards** have been conferred since **1952**. Hence **statement D is incorrect**.
- The Akademi also confers **Fellowships** (Akademi Ratna) on **eminent artists and scholars of music, dance and drama**. It is considered as the **highest honor given to an eminent artist in the field of performing arts** for his/her exceptional contribution to his/her performing art form.
 - The Fellowship of the Akademi is a most prestigious and rare honor, which is **restricted to 40 at any given time**.
 - The first Fellow of the Akademi was elected in **1954**.
- The award of Akademi Fellow carries a prize money of Rs 3 lakh, while the Akademi award carries a prize money of Rs 1 lakh, besides a 'tamrapatra' (inscriptions on copper plates) and 'angavastram' (a traditional shoulder cloth).

3. Answer: C

Explanation

- The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) was established in 1997 by an **Act of Parliament**, called the **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997**, to **regulate telecom services, including fixation/revision of tariffs for telecom services** which were earlier vested in the Central Government.
- TRAI's mission is to **create and nurture conditions for growth of telecommunications** in the country in a manner and at a pace which will enable India to play a leading role in emerging global information society.
- One of the main objectives of TRAI is to **provide a fair and transparent policy environment which promotes a level playing field and facilitates fair competition**.
- The TRAI Act was amended by an ordinance in 2000, establishing a **Telecommunications Dispute Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT)** to take over the adjudicatory and disputes functions from TRAI.
 - TDSAT was set up to adjudicate any dispute between a licensor and a licensee, between two or more service providers, between a service provider and a group of consumers, and to hear and dispose of appeals against any direction, decision or order of TRAI.
- The responsibility for **granting licenses to telecom service providers rests with the Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** under the Ministry of Communications, Government of India. The DoT is the licensing authority and oversees the issuance and management of licenses for telecom services. Hence **option C is the correct answer**.

4. Answer: A

Explanation

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- As per the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade's (DPIIT) definition, an entity shall be considered a "Startup" –
 1. If it's incorporated as **either Private Limited Company or Registered Partnership Firm or Limited Liability Partnership**. A sole proprietorship or a public limited company is not eligible as startup.
 2. If it is **up to 10 years** from the date of its incorporation/registration. **Hence statement B is incorrect.**
 3. If its **turnover** for any of the financial years has **not exceeded INR 100 crore**. **Hence statement C is incorrect.**
 4. If it is **working towards** innovation, development or improvement of products or processes or services, or if it is a scalable business model with a high potential of employment generation or wealth creation. **Hence statement A is correct.**
 5. **Should not have been formed by splitting up or reconstruction** of a business already in existence.

5. Answer: B

Explanation

- Darfur, a region that has been severely affected by **conflict and famine**, is located in **Sudan**.
- Darfur is a region in western Sudan, bordering Chad to the west, Central African Republic to the southwest, and Libya to the northwest.
- It has been plagued by a **prolonged conflict involving government forces, rebel groups, and militia** since the early 2000s, resulting in significant humanitarian crises, including widespread **famine and displacement of populations**.
- The conflict in Darfur has been primarily driven by ethnic tensions, competition for resources, and political factors.