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Daily MCQs: 15/03/2023

1. With reference to the Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA), consider the following statements.

1. ASHA must primarily be a woman resident of the village married/ widowed/ divorced.
2. ASHA acts as the first port of call for any health related demands of deprived sections of the population, especially women and children, who find it difficult to access health services.
3. The ASHAs receive performance-based incentives for promoting universal immunization, referral and escort services for Reproductive & Child Health (RCH) and other healthcare programmes, and construction of household toilets.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

2. Consider the following statements about Dholavira.

1. It is located in present-day Gujarat.
2. It is the largest metropolis of the Indus Valley Civilisation.

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. Consider the following statements about the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA).

1. It aims at building capabilities of Panchayati Raj Institutions for achieving Sustainable Development Goals.
2. The scheme extends to all States and UTs including non-Part IX areas where Panchayats do not exist.

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. Consider the following statements about Pneumonia.

1. A variety of organisms, including bacteria, viruses and fungi, can cause pneumonia.
2. The WHO recently declared India 'Pneumonia-free'.

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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

5. The MyGov platform for Citizen Engagement is designed, developed and hosted by

- A. National Survey and Mapping Organisation
- B. Atal Innovation Centre
- C. Centre for Development of Advanced Computing
- D. National Informatics Centre

Solutions:

1. Answer: D

Sol:

- Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) is a **trained female community health activist**. Selected from the community itself and accountable to it, the ASHA will be trained to work as an interface between the community and the public health system.

Eligibility criteria for ASHAs

- **Statement 1 is correct:** ASHA must primarily be a woman resident of the village married/ widowed/ divorced, preferably in the age group of 25 to 45 years.
- She should be a **literate woman** with due preference in selection to those who are qualified up to 10 standard wherever they are interested and available in good numbers. However, it may be relaxed under some exceptions.
- ASHA should have effective communication skills with language fluency of the area/population she is expected to cover leadership qualities and be able to reach out to the community.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The ASHAs will receive **performance-based incentives** for promoting universal immunization, referral and escort services for Reproductive & Child Health (RCH) and other healthcare programmes, and construction of household toilets.

Functions of ASHA

- **Statement 2 is correct:** ASHA will be the **first port of call for any health related demands of deprived sections** of the population, especially women and children, who find it difficult to access health services.
- ASHA will be a health activist in the community who will **create awareness on health and its social determinants** and mobilise the community towards local health planning and increased utilisation and accountability of the existing health services.
- She would be a **promoter of good health practices** and will also provide a minimum package of curative care as appropriate and feasible for that level and make timely referrals.
- ASHA will **provide information to the community** on determinants of health such as **nutrition, basic sanitation & hygienic practices, healthy living and working conditions,**

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information on existing health services and the need for timely utilisation of health & family welfare services.

- She **will counsel women** on birth preparedness, importance of safe delivery, breast-feeding and complementary feeding, immunization, contraception and prevention of common infections including Reproductive Tract Infection/Sexually Transmitted Infections (RTIs/STIs) and care of the young child.
- ASHA will **mobilise the community and facilitate them in accessing health and health related services** available at the Anganwadi/sub-centre/primary health centers, such as immunisation, AnteNatal Check-up (ANC), Post Natal Check-up supplementary nutrition, sanitation and other services being provided by the government.
- They also involve in Promotion and coordination for immunisation programme; Supporting patients in palliative care and Counselling women on all aspects of pregnancy.

2. Answer: A

Sol:

About Dholavira

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Located in the **Kutch district of Gujarat**, Dholavira is a part of the **Indus Valley Civilisation (IVC)** dating back to about 4,500 years ago.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** After Mohen-jo-Daro, Ganweriwala and Harappa in Pakistan and Rakhigarhi in Haryana of India, Dholavira is the **fifth largest metropolis of IVC**.
- The ancient city of Dholavira is one of the most remarkable and well-preserved urban settlements in South Asia dating from the 3rd to mid-2nd millennium BCE.
- It is the **first site of the ancient IVC in India to get the tag**.

Why makes Dholavira special?



- Discovered in 1968, the site is set apart by its unique characteristics, such as its **water management system, multi-layered defensive mechanisms, extensive use of stone in construction and special burial structures**.
- The site has a **fortified citadel, a middle town and a lower town with walls made of sandstone or limestone instead of mud bricks** in many other Harappan sites.

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- A range of artefacts of copper, shell, stone, jewellery, terracotta and ivory had been found at the site.
- Unlike graves at other IVC sites, **no mortal remains of humans** have been **discovered at Dholavira**.
- **Remains of a copper smelter** indicate Harappans, who lived in Dholavira, knew **metallurgy**. It is believed that traders of Dholavira used to **source copper ore from present-day Rajasthan and Oman and UAE and export** finished products. It was also a **hub of manufacturing jewellery** made of shells and semi-precious stones, like agate and used to export timber.
- Such **beads** peculiar to the Harappan workmanship have been **found in the royal graves of Mesopotamia**, indicating Dholavira used to trade with the Mesopotamians. Its decline also coincided with the collapse of Mesopotamia, indicating the **integration of economies**.
- From 2000 BC, Dholavira entered a phase of **severe aridity** due to climate change and rivers like Saraswati drying up. Because of a drought-like situation, people started migrating toward the Ganges valley or towards south Gujarat and further beyond in Maharashtra.

3. Answer: C

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The **Union Budget 2016-17** announced the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) as a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme for building capabilities of Panchayati Raj Institutions for achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.
- Key local development challenges faced by the country viz. poverty, public health, nutrition, education, gender, sanitation, drinking water, livelihood generation, etc. are in sync with SDGs and fall within the realm of Panchayats.
- The Panchayats have therefore been designated as a key player for implementation of the United Nations SDGs to be achieved by 2030.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The scheme **extends to all States and UTs including non-Part IX areas** where Panchayats do not exist.

Focus of the scheme

- The scheme has a focus on ensuring **basic orientation training for the Elected Representatives (ERs) of Panchayats**, within six months of their election and **refresher training** within 2 years.
- RGSA will have thrust for **PRI-SHG (Self-Help Group) convergence** to ensure effective community mobilisation and greater public ownership of flagship programs of the government.
- **Use of e-governance and technology driven solutions** at Panchayat level will be increased to attain administrative efficiency, improved service delivery, and greater accountability.
- RGSA also aims at **enhancing capabilities of Panchayats to raise their own sources of revenue**.
- **Strengthening Gram Sabhas** to function effectively as the basic forum of people's participation is also a focus area of RGSA.
- It also aims at **promoting devolution of powers and responsibilities to Panchayats** according to the spirit of the Constitution and Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996.

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Components of the scheme

The scheme consists of Central and State Components:

- The Central component comprises
 - National level activities viz. National Plan for Technical Assistance in collaboration with academic institutions/ institutions of excellence for various activities of Capacity Building & Training (CB&T) for PRIs,
 - Mission Mode Project (MMP) on e-Panchayat and
 - Incentivization of Panchayats.
- The State component relates to
 - Activities to be undertaken by State Governments for CB&T
 - Strengthening of Gram Sabhas in PESA areas,
 - Distance Learning Facility,
 - Support for Innovations,
 - Technical support to PRIs,
 - Other activities for strengthening of Panchayats.

4. Answer: A

Sol:

- Pneumonia is an infection that **inflames the air sacs in one or both lungs**.
- The air sacs may fill with fluid or pus, causing cough with phlegm or pus, fever, chills, and difficulty breathing.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** A variety of organisms, including **bacteria, viruses and fungi**, can cause pneumonia.
- Pneumonia can range in seriousness from mild to life-threatening.
- It is most serious for infants and young children, people older than age 65, and people with health problems or weakened immune systems.
- The germs that cause pneumonia are **contagious**. Both **viral and bacterial pneumonia** can spread to others through inhalation of airborne droplets from a sneeze or cough. One can contract fungal pneumonia from the environment. However, it doesn't spread from person to person.
- **Vaccines** are available to prevent some types of pneumonia and the flu.

Pneumonia in India

- As per Sample Registration System Report (2010-13) of Registrar General of India, **Pneumonia contributes 16.9% of infant deaths and it is the 2nd highest cause of infant mortality**.
- As per Health Management Information System (HMIS) data, **under-five mortality** rate in the country is **37 per 1000 live births**, of which **5.3 deaths are caused due to pneumonia**.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The government aims to achieve a **target of reducing pneumonia deaths among children to less than three per 1,000 live births by 2025**.

5. Answer: D

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Sol:

- MyGov portal has been established as **Government of India's Citizen Engagement Platform** which collaborates with multiple Government bodies/ Ministries to engage with citizens for policy formulation and seeks the opinion of people on issues/ topics of public interest and welfare.
- MyGov platform is designed, developed and hosted by the **National Informatics Centre** under the **Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY)**.
- Since its launch in 2014, MyGov has more than 18.5 million registered users.
- Almost all Government Departments leverage MyGov platform for their citizen engagement activities, consultations for policy formulation and also to disseminate information to citizens for various Government schemes and programs.
- MyGov is part of **Digital India Corporation**, a not for profit Company set up by MeitY under Section 8 of Companies Act 2013.

