Society & Social Justice

DAILY PRACTICE 28/11/2026 · UPSC CSE · Society & Social Justice

Q1.

Consider the following statements regarding Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) in India:

1. ASHAs are community-based health workers introduced under the National Rural Health Mission.
2. ASHAs function as a link between communities and the public healthcare system.
3. ASHAs are regular Central Government civil servants with a uniform salary structure determined by the Seventh Central Pay Commission.
4. Their responsibilities include facilitating maternal and child healthcare services and promoting immunisation.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

A. 1 and 2 only

B. 1, 2 and 4 only

C. 2, 3 and 4 only

D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Correct answer: Option B — 1, 2 and 4 only

Explanation

Correct Answer: (b) — Statements 1, 2 and 4 are correct.

1. **Statement 1 is correct:** ASHAs were introduced under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), launched in 2005, as community-level health activists.

2. **Statement 2 is correct:** They facilitate access to public healthcare services and connect communities with frontline health institutions.

3. **Statement 3 is incorrect:** ASHAs are generally recognised as honorary volunteers rather than regular Central Government civil servants. They receive task-based incentives and other applicable financial support.

4. **Statement 4 is correct:** Their activities include promoting institutional deliveries, immunisation, maternal and child health services and community awareness.

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Q2.

Under the Ayushman Bharat–Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY), consider the following statements:

1. It provides health insurance cover for secondary and tertiary hospitalisation to eligible beneficiary families.
2. It is entirely financed by the Central Government in all States and Union Territories.
3. Beneficiaries can avail cashless treatment at empanelled public and private hospitals.
4. The scheme provides an unrestricted annual outpatient consultation benefit to every Indian citizen.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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A. 1 and 3 only

B. 1, 2 and 3 only

C. 2 and 4 only

D. 1, 3 and 4 only

Correct answer: Option A — 1 and 3 only

Explanation

Correct Answer: (a) — Statements 1 and 3 only.

1. **Statement 1 is correct:** AB-PMJAY provides health cover of up to ₹5 lakh per eligible family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation.
2. **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The scheme is jointly financed by the Centre and States, with the sharing pattern varying across categories of States and Union Territories.
3. **Statement 3 is correct:** Beneficiaries can receive cashless treatment at empanelled public and private hospitals.
4. **Statement 4 is incorrect:** PM-JAY is primarily a hospitalisation-based scheme, not an unrestricted outpatient consultation insurance programme for every citizen.

Q3.

A food product carries a prominent front-of-pack warning indicating high sugar, salt or fat content. Which of the following behavioural outcomes is this regulatory intervention primarily intended to promote?

A. Elimination of consumer choice through mandatory restrictions on purchases.

B. Reduction of information asymmetry and enabling healthier consumer choices.

C. Replacement of nutritional standards with voluntary industry disclosures.

D. Prohibition of all processed and packaged food products.

Correct answer: Option B — Reduction of information asymmetry and enabling healthier consumer choices.

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Explanation

Correct Answer: (b) — Reduction of information asymmetry and enabling healthier consumer choices.

1. **Information asymmetry:** Consumers may not easily identify excessive nutrients from complicated nutritional tables.
2. **Front-of-pack labelling:** Prominent warnings make important nutritional information easier to understand at the point of purchase.
3. **Behavioural change:** Clear warnings can influence purchasing decisions and encourage healthier dietary choices.

4. **Public health:** Reduced consumption of products high in sugar, salt and unhealthy fats can contribute to preventing non-communicable diseases.

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Q4.

A government school provides cooked midday meals to children to improve nutrition and encourage school participation. Which of the following best explains the significance of this intervention from the perspective of human development?

A. It primarily transfers the responsibility of household food security from families to schools.

B. It combines nutritional support with improved educational access and can reduce classroom hunger.

C. It replaces the need for public investment in healthcare and child nutrition.

D. It ensures that improvements in school attendance automatically translate into better learning outcomes.

Correct answer: Option B — It combines nutritional support with improved educational access and can reduce classroom hunger.

Explanation

Correct Answer: (b) — It combines nutritional support with improved educational access and can reduce classroom hunger.

1. School meal programmes address classroom hunger and contribute to children's nutritional intake.
2. They can encourage enrolment, attendance and retention, particularly among children from economically weaker households.
3. Better nutrition can support concentration and learning, although educational outcomes also depend on teaching quality and the

wider school environment.

4. Such programmes complement rather than replace household food security, healthcare and other nutrition interventions.

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Q5.

A management institute asks students to develop a business solution using artificial intelligence. Which of the following approaches best reflects the principle of experiential learning?

A. Memorising established management theories and reproducing them in examinations.

B. Evaluating a technology primarily on the basis of its technical sophistication.

C. Developing a solution for an identified customer problem, testing it in the market and modifying it using feedback.

D. Prioritising theoretical research without considering its practical application.

Correct answer: Option C — Developing a solution for an identified customer problem, testing it in the market and modifying it using feedback.

Explanation

Correct Answer: (c) — Developing, testing and improving solutions through practical experience.

1. Experiential learning involves acquiring knowledge through direct experience, experimentation and reflection.

2. Market testing helps students understand customer behaviour, commercial viability and operational constraints.
3. Customer feedback supports iterative improvement and evidence-based decision-making.
4. Technology adoption should be guided by the problem it solves rather than technological novelty alone.

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Q6.

A woman facing domestic violence approaches a One Stop Centre for assistance. Which of the following services can she access through this institutional mechanism?

1. Emergency and medical assistance.
2. Police facilitation and legal aid.
3. Psycho-social counselling.
4. Temporary shelter.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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A. 1 and 2 only

B. 2, 3 and 4 only

C. 1, 3 and 4 only

D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Correct answer: Option D — 1, 2, 3 and 4

Explanation

Correct Answer: (d) — All four services are covered.

One Stop Centres (OSCs), established under the Mission Shakti framework, provide integrated support to women affected by violence.

1. **Statement 1 is correct:** OSCs facilitate emergency response and medical assistance.

2. **Statement 2 is correct:** They provide police facilitation and access to legal aid.
3. **Statement 3 is correct:** Psycho-social counselling helps survivors cope with trauma and access support.
4. **Statement 4 is correct:** Temporary shelter is available to women requiring immediate protection.

The 181 Women Helpline also facilitates access to emergency and non-emergency support services.

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Q7.

With reference to the social security framework for gig and platform workers in India, consider the following statements:

1. The Code on Social Security, 2020 recognises gig workers and platform workers as distinct categories.
2. The Code provides for the establishment of a Social Security Fund for the welfare of unorganised, gig and platform workers.
3. Every gig worker is automatically entitled to the same provident fund benefits as a regular employee under the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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A. 1 and 2 only

B. 2 and 3 only

C. 1 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

Correct answer: Option A — 1 and 2 only

Explanation

Correct Answer: (a) — Statements 1 and 2 only.

1. **Statement 1 is correct:** The Code on Social Security, 2020 separately defines gig workers and platform workers, recognising forms of employment outside traditional employer-employee relationships.
2. **Statement 2 is correct:** It provides for a Social Security Fund and enables schemes relating to life and disability cover, health, maternity and old-age protection.
3. **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Recognition under the Code does not automatically confer conventional EPF benefits on every gig worker. Coverage depends on applicable statutory provisions and notified schemes.

Q8.

Consider the following statements regarding the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO):

1. EPFO administers the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952.
2. The Universal Account Number (UAN) facilitates portability and consolidation of an employee's EPF accounts across different employers.
3. EPFO functions as a department directly under the Ministry of Finance.
4. The Employees' Provident Fund is a contributory social security scheme involving contributions from employers and employees.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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A. Only one

B. Only two

C. Only three

D. All four

Correct answer: Option C — Only three

Explanation

Correct Answer: (c) — Statements 1, 2 and 4 are correct.

1. **Statement 1 is correct:** EPFO administers the EPF and MP Act, 1952, which provides for statutory social security benefits.
2. **Statement 2 is correct:** UAN links multiple member IDs and facilitates continuity of EPF accounts when employees change jobs.
3. **Statement 3 is incorrect:** EPFO functions under the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India.
4. **Statement 4 is correct:** Both employees and employers contribute to the EPF, subject to applicable statutory provisions.

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Q9.

A public health programme reports a decline in iron-deficiency anaemia, but nutritional surveys continue to identify Vitamin B12 deficiency among women and children. Which intervention would most directly address this gap?

A. Promoting iron supplementation as the sole nutritional intervention.

B. Combining dietary diversification, Vitamin B12 supplementation where indicated, and improved access to animal-source or fortified foods.

C. Replacing nutritional interventions with universal protein supplementation.

D. Restricting nutritional screening to pregnant women.

Correct answer: Option B — Combining dietary diversification, Vitamin B12 supplementation where indicated, and improved access to animal-source or fortified foods.

Explanation

Correct Answer: (b) — Anaemia is multifactorial, and interventions must address deficiencies beyond iron alone.

1. **Iron deficiency:** Iron supplementation and iron-rich diets help address iron-deficiency anaemia.
2. **Vitamin B12:** Deficiency can cause megaloblastic anaemia and neurological complications; iron supplementation alone cannot correct it.
3. **Dietary diversification:** Dairy products, eggs, meat and fortified foods can improve Vitamin B12 intake.

4. **Screening:** Nutritional assessment helps identify the underlying cause and enables appropriate treatment.

Q10.

With reference to drug abuse prevention and control in India, consider the following statements:

1. The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985 provides the principal legal framework for controlling narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in India.
2. The Narcotics Control Bureau functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
3. Drug abuse is exclusively a law-enforcement issue and does not require public-health interventions.
4. The National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) includes preventive education, awareness generation, rehabilitation and capacity building.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

A. 1 and 2 only

B. 1, 2 and 4 only

C. 2, 3 and 4 only

D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Correct answer: Option B — 1, 2 and 4 only

Explanation

Correct Answer: (b) — 1, 2 and 4 only

1. **Statement 1 is correct:** The NDPS Act, 1985 regulates and controls operations involving narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and provides for penalties for specified offences.
2. **Statement 2 is correct:** The Narcotics Control Bureau is the nodal agency for drug-law enforcement coordination under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
3. **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Substance abuse requires a comprehensive response involving law enforcement, healthcare, prevention, counselling and rehabilitation.
4. **Statement 4 is correct:** NAPDDR focuses on demand reduction through awareness, preventive education, treatment, rehabilitation and institutional capacity building.

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