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# History

## (PRE-Mix)

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1. Newspaper “Sambad Prabhakar” was published by -

- A. Ishwar Chandra Gupta
- B. Raja Ram Mohan Roy
- C. Keshari Nath Tripathi
- D. Debashis Chakraborty

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

**Ishwar Chandra Gupta**

- Sambad Prabhakar was a Bengali daily Newspaper founded by Ishwar Chandra Gupta.
- It began as weekly newspaper in 1831 and became a daily eight year later in 1839.
- It was the first Bengali Daily Newspaper.
- It covered news on India and abroad and out forward its views on religion, politics, society and literature.
- It was influential in the Bengali Renaissance and in building public sentiment leading to Indigo revolt.
- He was a Bengali Sanskrit pundit, educator, social reformer, writer and philanthropist one of the greatest intellectuals and activists of the 19th century.
- He was bestowed the title of Vidyasagar in 1839 for his mastery over Sanskrit and philosophy.
- At the age of twenty one, Ishwar Chandra joined the Fort William College as the head of the Sanskrit department.
- Michael Madhusudan - famous Bengali poet gave him the title of Dayasagar.

**Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar**

- Principal of Sanskrit College from 1851 to 1858, and he believed that Vidyasagar strongly believed that everyone irrespective of caste or gender, had the right to education and thus opened the premises for lower caste.
- Principal of Sanskrit College from 1851 to 1858, and he believed that Vidyasagar strongly believed that everyone irrespective of caste or gender, had the right to education and thus opened the premises for lower caste.
- He brought about a revolution in the Bengali education system by changing the way Bengali language was written and taught.
- Credited with reconstructing the Bengali Alphabet and wrote a book - “Borno Porichoy” meaning introduction to the letter for the same.

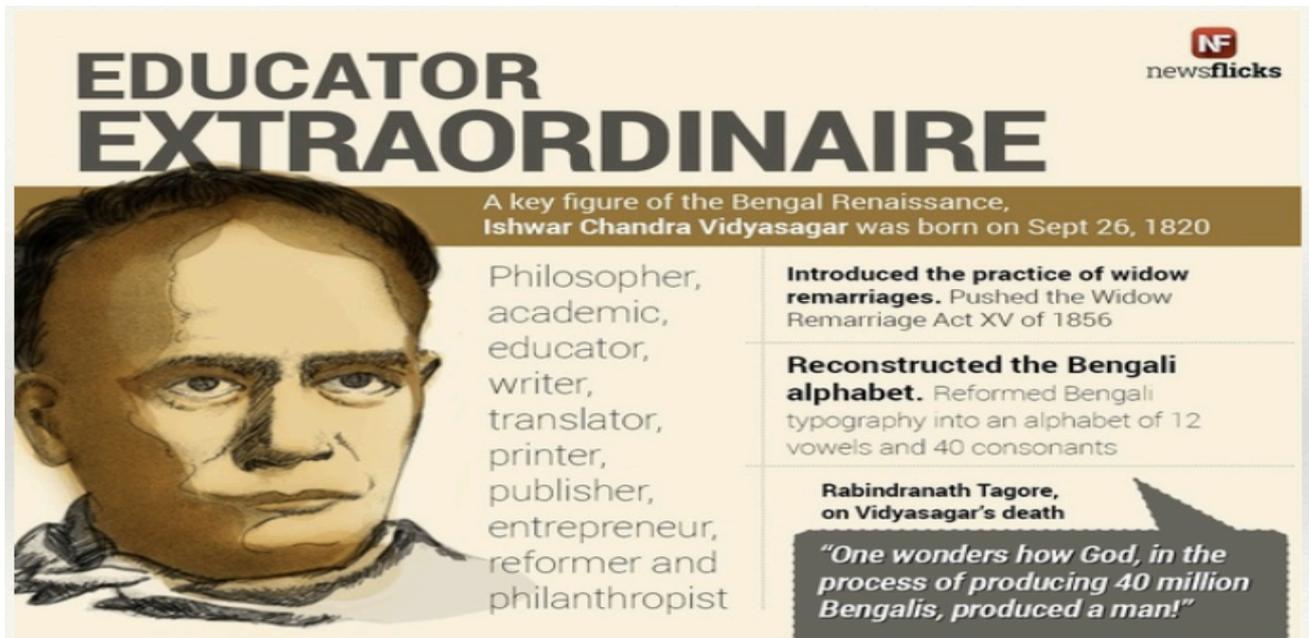
**Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, As a Social Reformer**

- Actively worked towards changing the status of Women in India.

- Result of his untiring struggle that the then Government of India passed the Widow Remarriage Act in 1856.
- One unique feature - He sought to reform the society from within.
- Fought for women education and battled against the practice of Child Marriage determined battle against the then prevailing social custom of Kulin Brahmin polygamy.
- He was a man that was beyond his times.

### Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, Significant Works

- Wrote a number of biographical notes - Betaal Panchavinsati (1847), Banglar Itihaas (1848), Jivancharita (1849), Shakuntala (1854), Mahabharata (1860), Seetar Vanavas (1860), Bhrantivilaas (1869), Oti Alpa Hoilo (1873), Aabaar Oti Alpa Hoilo (1873), Brajavilaas (1884), Ratnopariksha (1886).
- Works on Social Reforms - 'Bidhobabivah' on widow's right to remarry (1855), 'Bahubivah' on banning of polygamy (1871) and Balyabivah on the flaws of child marriage.



**EDUCATOR EXTRAORDINAIRE**

**newsflicks**

A key figure of the Bengal Renaissance, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar was born on Sept 26, 1820

Philosopher, academic, educator, writer, translator, printer, publisher, entrepreneur, reformer and philanthropist

**Introduced the practice of widow remarriages.** Pushed the Widow Remarriage Act XV of 1856

**Reconstructed the Bengali alphabet.** Reformed Bengali typography into an alphabet of 12 vowels and 40 consonants

**Rabindranath Tagore, on Vidyasagar's death**

*"One wonders how God, in the process of producing 40 million Bengalis, produced a man!"*

2. Festival Shigmo is associated with which of the following states ?

- A. Manipur
- B. Mizoram
- C. Goa
- D. Andhra Pradesh

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

**Shigmo Festival**

- Shigmo is a colored festival celebrated by Hindu Community in Indian state Goa in the month of “Falgun” (March month) as per Saka Calendar. It is five-day festival of colours considered as the spring festival of Goa. Its celebrations begin with the Holi, the festival of colours celebrated across the country.



- The festival commemorates the homecoming of the warriors who had left their homes and families at the end of Dussera to fight the invaders.
- During Shigmo festival ripening of the winter crop is also included as a reason for the festivities. Artists display the martial dances like ‘Ghode- morni’ or the horse dance, with main figures in display of legendary rulers of the area like the Rashtrakuts, Kadambas, Portuguese etc.
- The themes are mostly from Hindu scriptures. Sita-haran ; Draupadi’s vastraharan and Lord Krishna coming to her help; Luv-Kush taking on Lord Rama by trying to tame the horse after the Ashwamedh Yajna; the conquest of Ravana’s Lanka; etc.
- There are two variants of Shigmo festival: Dhakto Shigmo (“small Shigmo”) and Vhadlo Shigmo (“big Shigmo”).
- Dhakto Shigmo is generally celebrated by farmers, the labour class and the rural population, while Vhadlo Shigmo is of greater consequence and is celebrated by everyone together.

**3. Which of the following statements about Kondane cave art is/ are correct ?**

1. They are pictorial depictions of Jataka stories.
2. The Buddhist rock-cut architecture found in these caves belongs to the Mahayan phase of Buddhism.

**Choose the correct option**

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- Kondane cave art depicts myth and daily life. • Archaeologists discovered around 40 rock paintings in Kondane caves in Raigarh district in Maharashtra a few years ago.
- These paintings include a hunter standing with a bow and arrow, a Barasingh, footprints, palm impressions and some trees.

- The images were found in both natural caverns and man-made caves.
- The man-made caves also feature Buddhist architecture such as a 'chaitya' (prayer hall) and a monastery.
- A striking image found was that of a mythical figure, perhaps a demon. Other paintings reflected everyday life and occupations such as hunting deer.
- The Buddhist rock-cut architecture found in these caves belongs to the Hinayana phase of Buddhism.



**4. Which of the following pairs have been correctly matched**

1. Hindi - Devangiri
2. Nastaliq - Kashmiri
3. Kalinga - Oriya
4. Vatteluttu - Konakni

**Choose the correct Option**

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 3 and 4 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 2 and 4 only

**Answer: A**

**5. Which of the following statements are Nayanars are correct?**

1. The Nayanars were a group of 63 saints living in Tamil Nadu during the 3rd to 8th centuries CE who were devoted to the Hindu god Vishnu.
2. The names of the Nayanars were first compiled by Sundarar.

**Choose the correct answer**

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

## Nayanars

- The Nayanars were a group of 63 saints living in Tamil Nadu during the 3rd to 8th centuries CE who were devoted to the Hindu god Shiva.
- Along with the Alvars, their contemporaries who were devoted to Vishnu, they influenced the Bhakti movement in early medieval South India.
- The names of the Nayanars were first compiled by Sundarar.
- The list was expanded by Nambiyandar Nambi during his compilation of material by the poets for the Tirumurai collection, and would include.
- In the 10th century, king Raja Raja Chola I collected the volumes of Tevaram after hearing excerpts of the hymns in his court.
- His priest Nambiyandar Nambi began compiling the hymns into a series of volumes called the Tirumurai.
- He arranged the hymns of three saintpoets Sambandar, Appar and Sundarar as the first seven books which he called the Tevaram.
- He compiled Manikkavasakar's Tirukovayar and Tiruvasakam as the eighth book, the 28 hymns of nine other saints as the ninth book, the Tirumandiram of Tirumular and 40 hymns by 12 other poets as the tenth book.
- The Nayanars were from various backgrounds, including Channars, Vanniyar, Vellalas, Idayars, Kurumbars, Thevars, oilmongers, Brahmins, Washermen, Harijan, and nobles.
- Along with the twelve Vaishnava Alvars, they are regarded as the important Hindu saints from South India.

### 6. Regarding 'Atal Pension Yojana', which of the following statements is/are correct? (2016)

1. It is a minimum guaranteed pension scheme mainly targeted at unorganized sector workers.
2. Only one member of a family can join the scheme.
3. Same amount of pension is guaranteed for the spouse for life after subscriber's death.

Select the correct answer using the code below -

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

**Answer: C**

### 7. Consider the following statements -

1. Aadhaar card can be used as a proof of citizenship or domicile.

2. Once issued, Aadhaar number cannot be deactivated or omitted by the Issuing authority.

Choose the correct options

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: D

8. Consider the following statements -

1. Capital Adequacy Ratio is the amount that banks have to maintain in the form of their own funds to offset any loss that banks incur if the account-holders fail to repay dues.
2. CAR is decided by each individual bank.

Choose the correct statement

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

9. The staple commodities of export by the English East Indian Company from Bengal in the middle of the 18th century were-

- A. Raw cotton, oil-seeds and opium
- B. . Sugar, salt, zinc and lead
- C. Copper, silver, gold, spices and tea
- D. Cotton, silk, saltpetre and opium

Answer: D

10. With reference to agricultural soils, consider the following statements:

1. A high content of organic matter in soil drastically reduces its water holding capacity.
2. Soil does not play any role in the sulphur cycle.
3. Irrigation over a period of time can contribute to the salinization of some agricultural lands.

Choose the correct statement -

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

**Answer: B**

**11. Regarding Wood's Dispatch, which of the following statements are true ?**

1. Grant-in-Aid system was introduced.
2. Establishment of universities was recommended.
3. English as a medium of instruction at all levels of education was recommended.

**Select the correct answer**

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

**Answer: A**

**12. The demand for the Tebhaga Peasant Movement in Bengal was for (UPSC 2013) Select the correct answer using the code below -**

- A. The reduction of the share of the landlords from one-half of the crop to one-third.
- B. The grant of ownership of land to peasants as they were the actual cultivators of the land.
- C. The uprooting of Zamindari system and the end of serfdom.
- D. Writing off all peasant debts.

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

**Tebhaga Movement**

- The Tebhaga movement was led by the share croppers of the Bengal region against the oppressive jotedars in 1946-47.
- The uprising was due to the share cropping system that prevailed in the Bengal.
- During the early nineteenth century a new class of rich peasants known as jotedars emerged in the Bengal region.
- The jotedars collected huge tracts of land in rural areas.

- They also controlled the local markets, money lending activities, exercised control over the poor cultivators.
- In rural villages these jotedars exercised more control than the Zamindars, who often lived in urban areas.
- The large agricultural areas under the jotedars were cultivated through sharecroppers (also known as bhagadars), who handed over half of the crop after the harvest to the jotedars.
- The jotedars were mainly concentrated in the North Bengal, whereas in other parts of the Bengal they are known as haoladars, gantidars, or mandals.
- In late 1946, the bhagadars challenged the prevailed system of share cropping.
- They asserted that they would not pay half of the produce but only one-third of the produce and also before the share of the produce, it should be stored in their godowns (also called as khamars) and not that of jotedars.
- The sharecroppers were encouraged by the Flood Commission which had already recommended their demand to the government.
- The movement was led by the All India Kisan Sabha, the peasant wing of CPI. Initially only few peasants were participated but in January 1947, the Bengal Bargadars Temporary Regulation Bill incorporated the demand of the Sharecroppers.
- This encouraged the movement and led to the increased participation of the peasants from rural areas. At the request of the jotedars, the police suppressed the sharecroppers.
- By March 1947, the movement slowly disappeared due to government promises. But the government failed to pass the bill immediately and it was only in 1950, the bill was passed.

**13. Which of the following statements are correct about Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple ?**

- 1. Padmanabhaswamy Temple is a Hindu temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva and is located in Tamil Nadu.**
- 2. The temple is amongst the 108 principal Divya Desams in Vaishnavism and is glorified in the Divya Prabandha.**
- 3. Marthanda Varma surrendered the Ahom Kingdom to Padmanabha Swamy (deity of the temple) and pledged that he and his descendants will be the agents of the deity.**

**Select the correct answer using the code below**

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. All of the above

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

## Padmanabhaswamy Temple

- The Padmanabhaswamy Temple is a Hindu Vishnu temple located in Kerala, India. Several Hindu texts such as Brahma Purana, Matsya Purana, Varaha Purana, etc. have mentioned this shrine.
- As per several historians, the temple was called “The Golden Temple” as it was wealthy at that time. In addition to this, Tamil literature has mentioned that the walls of the temple and the city has been made of gold.
- The Ananthapuram temple in Kasaragod is believed to be the original seat of Padmanabhaswamy.
- The temple is amongst the 108 principal Divya Desams in Vaishnavism and is glorified in the Divya Prabandha
- It is believed that Parasurama has placed the idol of Sree Padmanabha in Dwapara Yuga.
- At the beginning of the 18th century, Anizham Thirunal Marthanda Varma succeeded his uncle Rama Varma as king at the age of 23.
- On January 17, 1750, Anizham Thirunal Marthanda Varma
- surrendered the Travancore Kingdom to Padmanabha Swamy (deity of the temple) and pledged that he and his descendants will be the agents of the deity, serving the kingdom as Padmanabha Dasa.
- The male members of the family were known as Sree Padmanabha Dasa while the female members were known as Sree Padmanabha Sevinis.
- Royal Family of Travancore holds the Shebait rights of this temple.



### 14. Which of the following statements are correct about Utkal Diwas?

1. The day is celebrated in the memory of the struggle for achieving a separate identity for the state that was once part of Kalinga ruled by emperor Ashok, and later by Kharavela.
2. This region became India's first independent province on a language basis on April 1, 1936.

Choose the correct statement -

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: C**

#### Explanation

- Context - Odisha will celebrate its 85th foundation day of the state on April 1. The day is also known as 'Utkal Divas'. The day marks the date when the state became independent in the year 1936.

- Utkal Divas or Utkala Dibasa or Odisha Day is celebrated on April 1 every year.
- The day is celebrated in the memory of the struggle for achieving a separate identity for the state that was once part of Kalinga ruled by emperor Ashok, and later by Kharavela.
- Odisha became India's first independent state on a language basis on April 1, 1936, i.e. 85 years ago.
- After a long struggle of more than three centuries, Odisha became a separate province.
- The state was carved out of the combined Bengal-Bihar-Orissa province.
- The day is usually celebrated through various public events. However, the Covid-19 pandemic has affected the celebrations this year and the day will be celebrated in a low-key manner.

**15. Which of the following statements are correct about Dada Saheb Phalke Award?**

1. It is India's highest award in cinema and is presented annually by Ministry of Culture.
2. The award comprises a Swarna Kamal (Golden Lotus) medallion, a shawl, and a cash prize of Rs. 10 Lakh.
3. Recently famous actor Shahrukh Khan has been chosen to be honoured with Dadasaheb Phalke award.

**Choose the correct statement -**

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

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**

- Context: The Dadasaheb Phalke Awards is India's highest award in cinema and is presented annually at the National Films Awards ceremony by the Directorate of Film Festivals, an organisation set up by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
- The very first recipient of this award was Devika Rani who received it in 1969 on the occasion of the 17th National Films Awards.
- Dadasaheb Phalke is known as the 'Father of Indian Cinema'.
- He made India's first full-length feature film Raja Harishchandra in 1913.
- Hence, to commemorate Dadasaheb Phalke, the Government of India has started the Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 1969.
- The recipients are honoured for their outstanding contribution to the growth and development of Indian cinema.

- The winners of the Dadasaheb Phalke award is selected by a committee consisting of eminent personalities from the Indian film industry.
- The award comprises a Swarna Kamal (Golden Lotus) medallion, a shawl, and a cash prize of Rs. 10 Lakh.

**16. What is/are the most likely advantages of implementing 'Goods and Services Tax (GST)'? (PYQ)**

- 1. It will replace multiple taxes collected by multiple authorities and will thus create a single market in India.**
- 2. It will drastically reduce the 'Current Account Deficit' of India and will enable it to increase its foreign exchange reserves.**
- 3. It will enormously increase the growth and size of the economy of India and will enable it to overtake China in the near future.**

**Select the correct answer**

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

**Answer: A**

**17. Buddha's teachings are the four noble truths. In regard to the same, what does "Samudaya" mean? Select the correct answer using the code below -**

- A. Cause of suffering
- B. Path to cessation of suffering
- C. Cessation of suffering
- D. Truth of Suffering

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

**4 Noble Truths of Buddhism**

- In Buddhism there are 4 noble truths, considered to be the first teaching of Buddha and the most important ones.
- They are called "Noble Truths" because as Buddha says - "they are real, infallible and do not change".
- As the Buddha articulated them, the four noble truths are central and universal events regardless of time and space.
- Dukkha - All beings experience pain and unhappiness during their lifetime.

“Birth is pain, old age is pain, sickness is pain, death is pain; sadness, grief, ache, sorrow and anxiety are pain. Contact with the unpleasant is pain. Separation from pleasure is pain. Not getting what one wants is pain. In short, the five aggregates of the mind and matter that are subject to attachment are pain”.

- Samudaya - The origin of pain and misery is due to a specific cause.

“It is desire that leads to rebirth, accompanied by pleasure and passion, seeking pleasure here and there; that is, the desire for pleasure, the desire for existence, the desire for non-existence”.

- Nirodha- The cessation of pain and suffering can be achieved as follows -

“By the complete non-passion and cessation of this very desire, by abandoning it and giving it up, by being released and free from it”

- Eightfold Path - The method we must follow to stop pain and misery .

✓ The right understanding

✓ The right thought

✓ The right speech

✓ The right action

✓ The right livelihood

✓ The right effort

✓ The right memory

✓ The right mindfulness.

**18. Who among the following founded the Bharat Mahila Parishad ? Select the correct answer using the code below -**

- A. RamaBai Ranade
- B. Pandita Ramabai Saraswati
- C. Tarabai Premchand
- D. Sarla Devi Chadhrani

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

**Ramabai Ranade**

- The Mahadev Govind Ranade and his wife Ramabai also contributed greatly to the cause of women.
- In 1869, Ranade founded the Widow Remarriage Association and encouraged widow remarriage and female education and opposed child marriage.

- He founded the National Social Conference, which became a pre- eminent institution for social reform.
- Pandita Ramabai (1858-1922) was also a pioneer in women’s education and a rebel champion of women’s rights.
- She founded the Sharda Sadan, a school for widows, in Bombay and at Mukti, near Pune.
- Her greatest legacy was her effort, the first in India, to educate widows.
- Bharat Mahila Parishad was a part of the National Social Conference to provide a forum for the discussion of social issues.

**19. Standstill Agreement is related to which of the following ?**

**Choose the correct statement -**

- A. 1857 Sepoy Revolt
- B. Princely States Reorganisation
- C. Swadeshi Movement
- D. Macdonald’s Communal Award

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

Standstill Agreement

- A standstill agreement was an agreement signed between the newly independent dominions of India and Pakistan and the princely states of the British Indian Empire prior to their integration in the new dominions.
- The form of the agreement was bilateral between a dominion and a princely state.
- It provided that all the administrative arrangements then existing between the British Crown and the state would continue unaltered between the signatory dominion and the princely state, until new arrangements were made.

**20. Based on the following statements identify the personality -**

1. He was an Indian political leader, planner of the municipal charter for Bombay (now Mumbai).
2. He was also the founder of the English-language newspaper Bombay Chronicle (1913).
3. He presided over the sixth session of the Indian National Congress in 1890.
4. In 1911 he helped found the Central Bank of India, financed and controlled by Indian interests.

**Choose the correct statement -**

- A. Pherozshaha Mehta
- B. Dadabhai Naroji
- C. Womesh Chandra Banarjee
- D. Gopal Krishna Gokhale

**Answer: A**

### Explanation

- Sir Pherozeshah Mehta, (born Aug. 4, 1845, Bombay [now Mumbai], India – died Nov. 5, 1915, Bombay), Indian political leader, planner of the municipal charter for Bombay (now Mumbai) and founder of the English-language newspaper Bombay Chronicle (1913).
- The son of a middle-class Parsi foreign trader, Mehta studied law in England for four years, was called to the bar in 1868, and then returned home.
- During a legal defense of a Bombay commissioner, Arthur Crawford, he noted the need for municipal government reforms and later drew up the Municipal Act of 1872, for which he was called the “father of municipal government in Bombay.”
- He became a commissioner himself in 1873 and served as chairman in 1884–85 and in 1905.
- A member of the Bombay Legislative Council from 1886, he was elected to the governor-general’s Supreme Legislative Council in 1893.
- He presided over the sixth session of the Indian National Congress in 1890.
- He was knighted in 1904.
- After a trip to England in 1910, Mehta was appointed a vice chancellor of the University of Bombay (now University of Mumbai).
- In 1911 he helped found the Central Bank of India, financed and controlled by Indian interests.



**21. The word ‘Hindu’ as reference to the people of Hind (India) was first used by : (1995) Select the correct answer -**

- A. The Greeks
- B. The Romans
- C. The Chinese
- D. The Arabs

**Answer: D**

### Explanation

**Various Names in Ancient India**

- Meluha - Oldest name used in the association with the Indian subcontinent was Meluha that was mentioned in the texts of ancient Mesopotamia in 3 millennium BCE, to refer to the Indus Valley Civilisation.
  - ✓ The records of Sumerian and Akkadian texts also mention the imports from Meluha such as timbers, carnelian, Ivory etc. which also matches with the resources of Harappan realm.
- Bharat/Bharatvarsha - The roots of this name are traced to Puranic literature, and to the Hindu Epic Mahabharata.
  - ✓ Bharat at that times referred to the “supraregional and subcontinental territory where the Brahmanical system of society prevails”.
  - ✓ Geographically, the Puranas mentioned Bharata to be situated between the ‘sea in the south and the abode of snow in the north.
- Jambudvipa - The name ‘Jambudvipa’ or the ‘land of the Jamun trees’ has also appeared in several Vedic texts, and is still used in a few Southeast Asian countries to describe the Indian subcontinent.
- Aryavarta’ - as mentioned in the Manusmriti, referred to the land occupied by the Indo-Aryans in the space between the Himalayas in the north and the Vindhya mountain ranges in the south

#### **Nabhivarsa - Jain literature**

- Hindustan - The name ‘Hindustan’ was the first instance of a nomenclature having political undertones. It was first used when the Persians occupied the Indus valley in the seventh century BCE.
- Hindu was the Persianised version of the Sanskrit Sindhu, or the Indus river, and was used to identify the lower Indus basin.
- From the first century of the Christian era, the Persian suffix, ‘stan’ was applied to form the name ‘Hindustan’.
- Indus- The Greeks who had acquired knowledge of ‘Hind’ from the Persians, transliterated it as ‘Indus’.
  - ✓ By the time the Macedonian ruler Alexander invaded India in the third century BCE, ‘India’ had come to be identified with the region beyond the Indus.

**22. In Sanskrit plays written during the Gupta Period women and Sudras speak - (1995) Select the correct answer using the code below -**

- A. Sanskrit
- B. Prakrit
- C. Pali
- D. Saurseni

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

**Language in Use during the Gupta Period**

- In Sanskrit plays written during the Gupta period women and sudras speak Prakrit.
- At that there was a division of class in the Gupta Society where women and Sudras spoke Prakrit and the Elite spoke Sanskrit.
- The poetry and prose in Sanskrit were encouraged on a lavish scale through royal patronage Example- Kalidasa was the outstanding writer who wrote famous works of Shakuntalam, Meghadutam etc.
- During the Gupta age -Bhasa, Sudraka, Kalidasa, Visakhadatta and Bharavi flourished.
- Literature in Prakrit also had its patronage outside the court circle and the Prakrit literature was mainly written by Jainas.

23. The term 'Yavanpriya' in Ancient Sanskrit texts denoted .Select the correct answer using the code below -

- A. A fine variety of Indian Muslin
- B. Ivory
- C. Damsels sent to Greek court for dance performance
- D. Pepper

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**

**Yavanapriya**

- Yavanas was the term which was used to denote Indo-Greeks/Romans. They liked pepper, that is why pepper is known as Yavanapriya.
- They liked pepper very much and hence the name 'Yavanapriya'.

24. The concept of Anuvrata was advocated by (1995) - Choose the correct statement -

- A. Mahayana Buddhism
- B. Hinayana Buddhism
- C. Jainism
- D. The Lokyata School

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

**Jainism**

- The path or Dharma (truth, teaching) that Mahavira advocated was one of strict asceticism, renunciation and moral cultivation. He instructed his followers to cultivate the three jewels of:
  - ✓ Right belief
  - ✓ Right knowledge

✓ Right conduct

- Emerging from these three jewels and relating to right conduct are the five abstinences, which are the vows of:

✓ Ahimsa (non-violence)

✓ Satya (truthfulness)

✓ Asteya (not stealing)

✓ Aparigraha (non-acquisition)

✓ Brahmacharya (chaste living)

- Emerging There are two forms of the five vows:

✓ Mahavrata: the 5 great vows followed by Jain monks and nuns.

✓ Anuvrata: the lesser vows followed by Jain lay people. These are less strict version of the great vows.

**25. According to Mimamsa School of Philosophy, liberation is possible by means of - Choose the correct statement -**

A. Jnana

B. Bhakti

C. Yoga

D. Karma

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**

**Mimamsa School of Philosophy**

- In literal terms it means - Reflection or Critical Investigation.
- It is probably the earliest of all the 6 schools of Indian Philosophy.
- It is fundamental to Vedanta, another of the six systems, and has deeply influenced the formulation of Hindu Law.
- The aim of Mimamsa is to give rules for the interpretation of the Vedas, and to provide a philosophical justification for the observance of Vedic rituals.
- It is basically concerned with earlier parts of the Vedas (called Karmakanda).
- It is also referred to by the name of Purva Mimamsa (Prior Study) or Karma- Mimamsa.
- Vedanta which deals with the latter portion of the Vedas Literature called Upnishads is called Uttar Mimamsa or Posterior Study or Jnana Mimamsa (Study of Knowledge).

26. Which one of the following statements regarding Ashokan stone Pillars is incorrect - (1997)  
Select the correct answer -

- A. They are highly polished.
- B. They are monolithic
- C. The shaft of pillars is tapering in shape.
- D. These are parts of Architectural structures.

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**

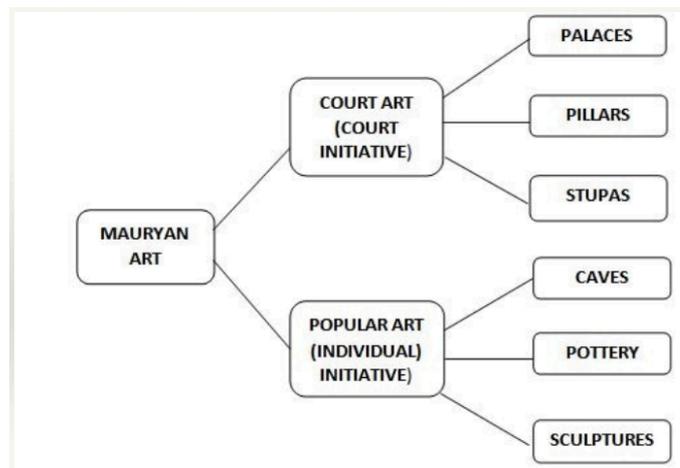
**Ashokan Pillars**

- King Ashok patronised the shaman tradition - Buddhism which also paved the way for the development of Mauryan sculptural and Architectural styles.
- If we talk about the pillars ,as as symbol of the state, assumed a great significance in the entire Mauryan Empire.

✓Material Used - Primarily Chunar Sandstone.

✓Objective - To disseminate Buddhist ideology and court orders in the entire Mauryan empire.

✓Language - Most of the pillars edicts have the use of Pali and Prakrit language, while few were also found in Greek or Aramic languages.



**Pillar Architecture**

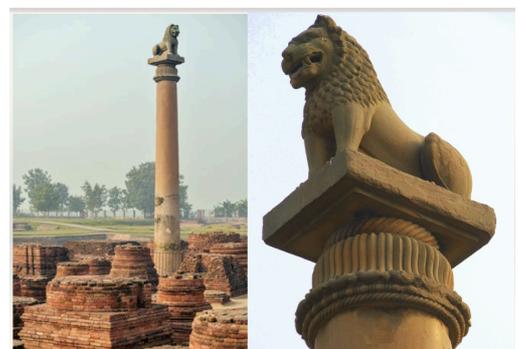
- It comprised mainly of four parts -

✓Shaft - A long shaft formed the base and was made up of a single piece of stone or monolith.

✓Capital - On top of shaft lay the capital, which was either lotus-shaped or bell- shaped.

✓Abacus - Above the capital, there was a circular or rectangular base known as the abacus.

✓Capital Figure - All the capital figures (usually animals like a bull, lion, elephant, etc) are vigorous and carved standing on a square or circular abacus.



**Similarities with Persian (Achaemenian) Pillars**

- Polished stones and Motifs - Both used polished stones and have certain common sculpture motifs such as the Lotus.

- Proclamations - The idea of spreading written Information through the use of pillars had its origin in the Persian Pillars only.
- Special Feature - Inscriptions of both empires begin in the third person and then move to the first person.

### **Differences with Persian (Achaemenian) Pillars**

- Minor Variations in Capital Figure and Shape and Orientation like in Mauryan pillars of the Kumhrar hall whereas pillars at Persepolis have the elaborate capital figures and the shape of Mauryan lotus is different from the Persian pillar.
- Pillar Surface: Most of the Persian pillars have a fluted/ ridged surface while the Mauryan pillars have a smooth surface.
- Architectural Scheme: The Achaemenid pillars were generally part of some larger architectural scheme, and bit complex and complicated, while the Ashokan pillars were simple and independent freestanding monuments.
- Shaft: Unlike Mauryan shafts which are built of monolith (single piece of stone), Persian/ Achaemenian shafts were built of separate segments of stones (aggregated one above the other).

**27. Which of the following edicts mentions the personal name of Ashoka - (1997) Select the correct answer using the code below -**

- A. Kalsi
- B. Runnindei
- C. Kaling edict
- D. Maski

**Answer: D**

### **Explanation**

#### **Ashokan Edicts**

- Ashoka uses his name only in these 4 edicts
  - ✓ Maski
  - ✓ Brahmgiri
  - ✓ Gujjara (MP)
  - ✓ Nettur (AP)
- The edicts of Ashoka are a collection of 33 inscriptions on the Pillars, as well as boulders and cave walls.
- These were dispersed throughout the areas of Modern Day - Bangladesh - India - Nepal - Afghanistan and Pakistan and provide the first tangible evidence of Buddhism.

- The inscriptions found in the central and eastern part of India were written in Magadhi Prakrit using the Brahmi script, while Prakrit using the Kharoshthi script, Greek and Aramaic were used in the northwest.
- These edicts were deciphered by British archaeologist and historian James Prinsep.
- Three languages are used - Ashokan Prakrit, Greek and Aramaic.
- Four Scripts are used -
  - ✓ Prakrit inscriptions were written in Brahmi and Kharoshthi scripts.
  - ✓ Greek and Aramaic inscriptions used their respective scripts.
- Kandhar Rock Inscription is bilingual in nature - Greek and Aramaic and originally probably contained all the Major Rock Edicts 1-14.
- The Edicts are divided into four categories, according to their size (Minor or Major) and according to their medium (Rock or Pillar).
- Minor Rock Edicts: Edicts inscribed at the beginning of Ashoka's reign; in Prakrit, Greek and Aramaic.
- Minor Pillar Edicts: Schism Edict, Queen's Edict, Rummindei Edict, Nigali Sagar Edict; in Prakrit.
- Major Rock Edicts: 14 Edicts (termed 1st to 14th) and 2 separate ones found in Odisha; in Prakrit and Greek.
- Major Pillar Edicts: 7 Edicts, inscribed at the end of Ashoka's reign; in Prakrit.
- The Minor Rock edicts as well as Minor Pillar edicts are religious in Nature, they mention extensively the Buddha (and even previous Buddhas as in the Nigali Sagar inscription), the Sangha, Buddhism and Buddhist scriptures (as in the Bairat Edict)
- Major Rock edicts and Major Pillar edicts are essentially moral and political in nature and they never mention Buddha or explicit Buddhist teachings, but are preoccupied with order, proper behaviour and non violence under the general concept of "Dharma",
  - ✓ They also focus on the administration of the state and positive relations with foreign countries as far as the Hellenistic Mediterranean of the mid-3rd century BCE.

### **Minor Rock Edicts (Points to be noted)**

- Kandhar Bilingual Rock Inscription - First known Edict - Bilingual (Greek and Aramaic) - written in 10th year of his reign.
- Maski Edict - It confirms the association of title 'Devanampriya' with the title 'Asoka', thereby clarifying the historical author of these inscription.
- Gujjara Edict - Also mentions the name of Ashoka with his full title - "Devanampiya Piyadasi Asokaraja".
- Bairat Edict - Gives a list of Buddhist scriptures (most of them unknown today).
- They refer to 14 separate major edicts, which are significantly detailed and extensive.

- These Edicts were concerned with practical instructions in running the kingdom such as the design of irrigation systems and descriptions of Ashoka's beliefs in peaceful moral behaviour.
- They contain little personal detail about his life.[32] These edicts are preceded chronologically by the Minor Rock Edicts.
- Three languages were used, Prakrit, Greek and Aramaic. The edicts are composed in non-standardized and archaic forms of Prakrit.
- Prakrit inscriptions were written in Brahmi and Kharosthi scripts, which even a commoner could read and understand.
- The Major Rock Edicts of Ashoka are inscribed on large rocks, except for the Kandahar version in Greek (Kandahar Greek Edict of Ashoka), written on a stone plaque belonging to a building.

### **Major Pillar Edicts (Points to be noted)**

- The Major Pillar Edicts of Ashoka refer to seven separate major Edicts inscribed on columns, the Pillars of Ashoka, which are significantly detailed and extensive.
- They are all located in central India.

**28. Many of the Greeks, Shakas and Kushanas embraced Buddhism rather than Hinduism because - (1997)**

**Select the correct answer -**

- A. Buddhism was in the ascendent at that time.
- B. They had renounced the policy of war and violence.
- C. Caste ridden Hinduism did not attract them.
- D. Buddhism provided easier access to Indian Society.

**Answer: C**

### **Explanation**

- The Indo-Greeks, Shakas, Kushanas entered the subcontinent during the 2nd–4th century CE when Brahmanical religion was at its peak.
- The groups of conquerors from the north west were considered Mlechchas, or outsiders. Classical religion did not ever welcome admission of new people. Gradually some of the foreigners got incorporated into the lower varnas, however were never considered as Kshatriya, the warrior class.
- On the other hand, Buddhism was rather open to embrace people. During that period Buddhism was gaining popularity among the common masses due to its moderate nature which was in contrast to the strict varna system.
- Thus many of the Shaka, Kushana, Greek kings adopted Buddhism instead of Brahmanism

- Note: The term/concept of Hinduism did not exist in early India. It was Brahmanical or Classical tradition.

**29. Which of the following was the corporation of Merchants in Ancient India (1997) ? Select the correct answer using the code below -**

- A. Chaturvedimangalam
- B. Parishad
- C. Ashtadikgaja
- D. Manigrama

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**

- Chaturvedimangalam refers to a place peopled by scholars who were conversant with the four Vedas.
- Manigrama was a large influential guild of south Indian merchants during the period of Western Chalukyan rulers in 10th to 12th century CE.
- Ashtadiggajas is the collective title given to the eight Telugu scholars and poets in the court of Emperor Krishnadevaraya who ruled the Vijayanagara Empire from 1509 until his death in 1529. During his reign, Telugu literature and culture reached its zenith.
- Parishad - A sovereign General Assembly during the Vedic Age.

**30. The silver coin issued by the Guptas were called (1998) - Select the correct answer using the code below -**

- A. Rupaka
- B. Karshapana
- C. Dinara
- D. Pana

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- Rupaka - a silver coin of Gupta period. 16 Rupaka was equal to 1 gold coin.
- The Gupta monarchs were famous for their gold coins. They also issued silver coins. However, coins made of copper, bronze or any other alloy metals are scarce. The abundance of gold coins from the Gupta era has led some scholars to regard this phenomenon as the 'rain of gold'.
- The Gupta gold coin is known as dinaras.

- The gold coins of the Gupta rulers are the extraordinary examples of artistic excellence. The coins depicted the ruling monarch on the obverse and carried legends with the figure of a goddess on the reverse.
- The 'Asvamedha' or horse-sacrifice coins were issued by both Samudragupta and Kumaragupta I.
- Sanskrit was the language of the inscription.
- Karshapana , refers to ancient Indian coins current during the 6th century BCE onwards, which were unstamped and stamped (āhata) metallic pieces whose validity depended on the integrity of the person authenticating them. It is commonly supposed by scholars that they were first issued by merchants and bankers rather than the state.
- They contributed to the development of trade since they obviated the need for weighing of metal during exchange. Kārṣāṇas were basically silver pieces stamped with one to five or six rūpas ('symbols') originally only on the obverse side of the coins initially issued by the Janapadas and Mahajanapadas, and generally carried minute mark or marks to testify their legitimacy.
- Silver punch-marked coins ceased to be minted sometime in the second century BCE but exerted a wide influence for next five centuries.
- Pana - During the Mauryan Period, Pana was the name of the silver coin.
  - ✓ No evidence of usage of gold coins is found during the Mauryan Period. Rupyarupa and Pana were the silver coins whereas Tamarupa were the copper coins used in the Mauryan period.

**31. In the Mahayan Buddhism, the Boddhisatva Avalokiteshvara was also known as - Select the correct answer using the code below -**

- A. Vajrapani
- B. Manjusri
- C. Padmapani
- D. Maitreya

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

**Pamdapani Buddha**

- Avalokitesavara is a bodhisattva who embodies the compassion of all Buddhas. He is one of the more widely revered Bodhisattvas in mainstream Mahayana Buddhism.
- In Sanskrit, Avalokiteshvara is also referred to as Padampani ("Holder of the Lotus")
- (Boddhisatva - A person who is able to reach nirvana but delays doing so through compassion for suffering beings.)

**Maitreya Buddha**

- Maitreya, in Buddhist tradition, the future Buddha, presently a bodhisattva residing in the heaven, who will descend to earth to preach anew the dharma ("law") when the teachings of Gautama Buddha have completely decayed.
- The name Maitreya is derived from the Sanskrit maitrī ("friendliness").

### **Vajrapani Buddha**

- Vajrapāṇi ("Vajra in [his] hand") is one of the earliest- appearing bodhisattvas in Mahayana Buddhism. He is the protector and guide of Gautama Buddha and rose to symbolize the Buddha's power.
- Vajrapāṇi is extensively represented in Buddhist iconography as one of the earliest three protective deities or bodhisattvas surrounding the Buddha.
- Each of them symbolizes one of the Buddha's virtues:
- Manjushri manifests all the Buddhas' wisdom,
- Avalokiteśvara manifests all the Buddhas' immense compassion,
- Vajrapāṇi protects Buddha and manifests all the Buddhas' power.

**32. What is the correct chronological order in which the following appeared in India ?**

- 1. Gold Coins**
- 2. Punch Marked Silver Coins**
- 3. Iron Plough**
- 4. Urban Culture**

**Select the correct answer using the code below -**

- A. 3-4-1-2
- B. 3-4-2-1
- C. 4-3-1-2
- D. 4-3-2-1

**Answer: D**

### **Explanation**

- In India, IVC appeared as the first signs of Urbanisation between 2500 and 2000 BCE.
- According to researchers, it is hard fact that the earlier known specimen of Iron Ploughshare comes from Ganwara in District Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh and dates from around 700 BC.
- The first documented coinage is deemed to start with 'Punch Marked' coins issued between the 7th-6th century BC and 1st century AD.

- Gold coins for the first time were introduced by Indo Greek Rulers - Kushanas who ruled a large part of North Western India around 200 BCE, they introduced coins made of Pure Gold and marks the distinction of the finest Pure Gold in Ancient India.

**33. Which of the following events is not related to tenure of Lord Lytton as the Governor general of India?**

- A. Creation of Statutory Civil Services
- B. The Second Afghan war
- C. Passing of the Vernacular Press Act
- D. Passing of the First Factory Act

**Answer: D**

#### **Explanation**

- Disraeli, the Prime Minister of England had deputed him to India with the specific object of pursuing a forward policy against Afghanistan.

#### **The Statutory Civil Service**

- The Charter Act of 1833 had declared that all Indians would be entitled to get government jobs on merit.
- The Charter Act of 1853 had made the Provision of holding a Competitive examination in London for recruitment to high services under the Company. Indians were allowed to compete in that examination.
- Thus, the right of the Indians to get even the highest jobs - Civil Services - on merit was accepted by the government in principle though, in practice, every possible effort was made to check their entry into them.
- Lord Lytton straightforwardly proposed to debar the Indians from the covenanted services.
- But his proposal was not accepted by the British Government. He, then introduced the Statutory Civil Service in India.
- It was decided in 1879 that on the recommendation of provincial governments the government of India could employ some Indians of good social standing in the services though confirmation of their jobs was to be sought from the Secretary of State for India.
- The members of this Statutory Civil Service were to enjoy equal status with the members of the Covenanted Services.
- Their number, however, could not exceed one-sixth of the total number of the members appointed to the covenanted service in a year.
- The Statutory Civil Service scheme was a temptation for the Indians with a view to dampening their spirit to compete for covenanted service.
- Besides, it gave positions of influence only to those Indians who were loyal to the British. It was dropped by the British Government after eight years.

**34. Which of the following were the main objectives of Queen Victoria's Proclamation of 1858?**

1. To disclaim any intention to annex Indian states.
2. To place Indian administration under British Crown.
3. To regulate East India Company's Trade with India.

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

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- On November 1, 1858, a grand Darbar was held at Allahabad.
- Lord Canning sent forth the royal proclamation which announced that the queen had assumed the government of India.
- This proclamation declared the future policy of the British Rule in India.
- The armies of the East India Company ceased to exist and the forces in India were incorporated as an integral part of the British army.
- As per Queen Victoria's proclamation of November 1, 1858, all treaties and agreements made with the Indian native princes under the authority of the East India company did not cease to exist but were there to stay and accepted by the crown.
- The declaration expressed faith and the rights, dignity and status of the native princes.

**35. Bhatiali is associated with which of the following states?**

- A. Uttar Pradesh  
B. Manipur  
C. West Bengal  
D. Madhya Pradesh

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- Bhatiali was sung by the fishermen of ancient Bengal.
- The word Bhatiali comes from Bhata meaning ebb or downstream
- It is said that this musical form was used by the oarsmen and fishermen of Bengal to keep themselves entertained when they didn't have to row their boats with all their might.

- Nirmalendu Chowdhury is one of the best exponents of this ancient musical form.

**36. The first Population census of India was held in**

- A. 1872
- B. 1881
- C. 1891
- D. 1901

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- A systematic and modern population census, in its present form was conducted non synchronously between 1865 and 1872 in different parts of the country.
- This effort culminating in 1872 has been popularly labeled as the first population census of India
- However, the first synchronous census in India was held in 1881. Since then, censuses have been undertaken uninterruptedly once every ten year.

**37. Which of the following Ancient Indian texts were translated into Persian by Dara Shikoh and were compiled under the title 'Sir-i-Akbar'?**

- A. Rig Veda
- B. Puranas
- C. Upanishads
- D. Smritis

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- The Upanishads were translated into the Persian language during the reign of Shah Jahan by his son Dara Shikoh as "Sir-i-Akbar".
- 52 Upanishads were translated in this book. Majma-ul-Bahrain is original creation of Dara Shikoh.

**38. Assertion (A) : According to Ashoka's edict social harmony among the people was more important than religious devotion. (1998)**

**Reason (R) : He spread ideas of equity instead of promotion of religion.**

**Select the correct option -**

- A. Both A and R are true but R is the correct explanation of A.
- B. Both A and R are true but R is not a correct explanation of A.

C. A is true but R is false.

D. A is false but R is true.

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- Ashok's edict put stress on social harmony among the people by spreading ideas of equity instead of promotion of religion.
- Most of the inscriptions are about dhamma (Prakrit form of dharma, literally means the universal law or righteousness or social and religious order).
- Ashoka's dhamma emphasised non-violence, mutual respect and understanding between people of different sects and beliefs.
- It included the state's concern for the welfare of its people.
- The basic attributes of dhamma included compassion, charity, truthfulness, purity and gentleness.
- He asked the people to extend respect, consideration, compassion and tolerance towards slaves and servants,
  - ✓ obedience to parents,
  - ✓ generosity towards friends and relatives,
  - ✓ regard and donations to Brahmanas and Shramanas,
  - ✓ A concern for all living beings and to abstain oneself from destroying life.

**39. Which of the following are correctly matched - (1998)**

1. Lothal : Ancient Dockyard
2. Sarnath : First Sermon of Buddha
3. Rajgir : Lion Capital of Ashok
4. Nalanda : Great seat of Buddhist Learning.

**Choose the correct statement -**

- E. All of the above
- F. 3 and 4
- G. 1, 2 and 4
- H. 1 and 2

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- Lion Capital of Ashoka is in Sarnath.

40. Which one of the following ancient records is the earliest royal order to preserve food grains to be utilised during the crises in the country ? (1998)

Select the correct answer -

- A. Sohgaura Copper Plate
- B. Rummindei Pillar - Edict of Ashoka
- C. Prayaga-prasasti
- D. Mehrauli Pillar inscription of Chandra

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

**Sohguara Cooper Plate**

- The earliest known copper plate called Sohgaura is a Mauryan record that mentions famine relief efforts and is one of the very few pre- Ashokan Brahmi inscription in India.

**Rummindie Pillar**

- Lumbini Pillar Edict in Nepal is known as the Rummindei Pillar Inscription.
- Ashoka travelled to the Buddha's birthplace and personally made offerings.
- He then had a stone pillar set up and reduced the taxes of the people in that area.

**Prayaga Prasasti**

- The Allahabad pillar containing one of the Pillars edicts of Ashoka,
- It is particularly notable for containing later inscriptions attributed to the Gupta emperor Samudragupta with extensive military conquest as under his rule he expanded the dynasty's political power.
- Also engraved on the stone are inscriptions by the Mughal emperor Jahangir, from the 17th century.

**Mehrauli Pillar Inscription**

- Famous Mehrauli iron pillar inscription describes the conquest of one of the most famous kings of the Gupta dynasty i.e Chandragupta II.
- The pillar is famous for the rub-resistant composition of the metals that have been used in the construction.
- It is believed that the pillar was erected perhaps outside the Udayagiri caves and was later moved to its current location in the Qutub complex at Mehrauli under the Delhi sultanate.

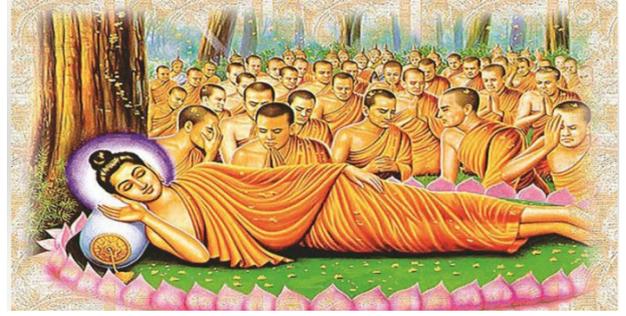
41. The concept of Eight fold path forms the theme of - Select the correct answer using the code below -

- A. Vajrapani Dipavamsa

- B. Divyavandana
- C. Mahaparinirbhan
- D. Dharam Chakra Pravartana Sutta

**Answer: D**

### Explanation



- The Noble Eight Fold path, is one of the principle teaching of Buddha, who described it as the way leading to the cessation of suffering (Dukkha) and attainment of self awakening.
- In Buddhist symbolism, the Nobel eight fold path is often represented by means of the Dharm wheel (Dharamchakra), whose eight spokes represent the eight elements of path.
- Eight fold path includes right understanding, right speech, right livelihood, right mindfulness, right thought, right action, right effort and right concentration.
- Dipvamsa - The Dīpavaṃsa "(Chronicle of the Island)" is the oldest historical record of Sri Lanka.
- The chronicle is believed to be compiled around the 3rd to 4th century CE.
- Together with the Mahavamsa, it is the source of many accounts of ancient history of Sri Lanka and India.
- Its importance resides not only as a source of history and legend, but also as an important early work in Buddhist and Pali literature.

### Divyadana -

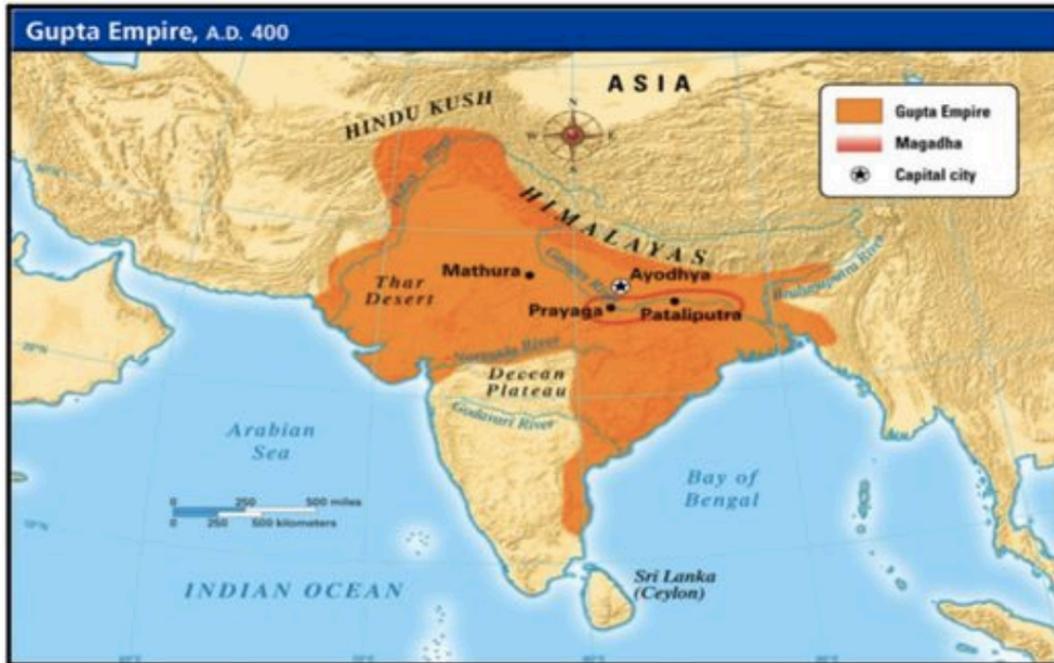
- It is a Sanskrit anthology of Buddhist avadana tales, many originating in Mūlasarvāstivādin vinaya texts.
- (Avadāna] is the name given to a type of Buddhist literature correlating past lives' virtuous deeds to subsequent lives' events.may be dated to 2nd century CE.)
- The stories themselves are therefore quite ancient and may be among the first Buddhist texts ever committed to writing,
- Typically, the stories involve the Buddha explaining to a group of disciples how a particular individual, through actions in a previous life, came to have a particular karmic result in the present. A predominant theme is the vast merit (puṇya) accrued from making offerings to enlightened beings or at stupas and other holy sites related to the Buddha.

**42. Which of the following ports handled the North Indian trade during the Gupta Period ? Select the correct option -**

- A. Tamralipti
- B. Broach
- C. Kalyan
- D. Cambay

Answer: A

Explanation



- Gupta Empire had robust international and internal trade despite fall in Roman trade.
- Riverine trade was also conducted through Ganges, Brahmaputra, Narmada, Krishna etc.
- The important ports included Tamralipti, Braoch, Kalyan, and Cambay. Broach (Bharuch). The main items of trade included spices, pearls, gold, horses etc.
- Tamralipti port handled the north Indian trade during the Gupta period.
- It is believed that Tamralipti was the exit point of the Mauryan trade route for the south and south-east. It was located near Rupnarayana river.

43. The practice of military governorship was first introduced in India by the - (2000) Choose the correct statement -

- A. Greeks
- B. Shakas
- C. Parithans
- D. Mughals

Answer: A

Explanation

- Greeks first introduced military governorship in India.
- They appointed their Governors called strategos.

**44. In ancient Indian Buddhist monasteries, a ceremony called Pavarana used to be held, it was the - (2002)**

**Select the correct answer -**

- A. Occasion to elect the Sanghparinayaka and two speakers one on Dhamma and the other on Vinaya
- B. Confessions of monks for their offences committed during their stay in the monasteries during the rainy season.
- C. Ceremony of initiation of new person into the Buddhist Sanhga in which the head is shaped when yellow robes are offered.
- D. Gathering of Buddhist monks on the next day to the full moon day of Ashadha when they tie up a fixed abode for the next four months of the rainy season.

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

**Pavarana**

- It is a Buddhist Holy day celebrated on the full moon day of the eleventh lunar month.
- It marks the end of the month of Vassa, sometimes called "Buddhist Lent"
- This day marks the end of the rainy season in some Asian countries like Thailand, where Theravada Buddhism is practiced.
- On this day, each monk must come before the community of monks and atone for an offence he may have committed during the Vassa.

**45. The ancient Indian play Mudrarakshasha of Vishakadutt has its subject on - (2002)**

**Select the correct answer using the code below -**

- A. A conflict between Gods and Demons .
- B. A romantic story of an Aryan Prince and a tribal women.
- C. The story of Power struggle between the two Aryans.
- D. The court intrigues at the time of Chandragupta.

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**

- The Mudrarakshasha ("The Signet of the Minister").
- A historical play in Sanskrit by Vishakhadatta (4th century CE) narrates the ascent of the King Chandragupta Maurya to power in North India.

46. **Mrichachhhakatika** an ancient Indian book written by Sudraka deals with -

Select the correct answer using the code below -

- A. The love affair of a rich merchant with the daughter of a courtesan.
- B. The victory of Chandragupta II over the Shaka Kshatrapas of western India.
- C. The military expeditions and exploits of Samudragupta.
- D. The love affairs between a Gupta King and a princess of Kumarupa.

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

**Mrichchhakatika (The Clay Court)**

- It is a Sanskrit play written by Shudraka in 2nd cen BCE.
- It is about a young man named Charudutta (a rich merchant) and his love for Vasantsena, a courtesan.

47. Which one of the following dynasties was ruling over North India at the time of Alexander's Invasion-

Select the correct answer using the code below -

- A. Nanda
- B. Maurya
- C. Sunga
- D. Kanva

48. **Raja Parba**, a 3-day festival to honour womanhood, is celebrated in which one of the following states?

- A. Karnataka
- B. Jharkhand
- C. Odisha
- D. Kerala

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

**Type: Factual**

**Difficulty: Easy**

- Apart from the world-famous Ratha Yatra, which takes place in June, Odia people also celebrate a unique festival called Raja.

- During this period, it is believed that Mother Earth menstruates and prepares herself for future agricultural activities with the arrival of monsoon.
- The festivities begin a day before Mithuna Sankranti and conclude two days after that.
- Primarily, it is a time for the unmarried girls to prepare for their matrimony.
- They follow various customs related to the festival by consuming nutritious food like Podapitha, not walking barefoot, taking a bath on the first day, and merrily swinging on ropes attached to a tree.



49. Which are true in the context of Culture in “Vijayanagar rule”?

1. The chief characteristics of the Vijayanagara architecture were the construction of tall Raya Gopurams.
2. Many Amman shrines were added to the already existing temples.
3. The bull was the most common animal to be depicted on the pillars.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. All of the above

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

**Type: Factual**

**Difficulty: Medium**

- The chief characteristics of the Vijayanagara architecture were the construction of tall Raya Gopurams or gateways and the Kalyanamandapam with carved pillars in the temple premises.
- The sculptures on the pillars were carved with distinctive features.
- The horse was the most common animal found in these pillars.
- Large mandapams contain one hundred pillars as well as one thousand pillars in some big temples.
- These mandapams were used for seating the deity on festival occasions.
- Also, many Amman shrines were added to the already existing temples during this period.

50. With reference to Manipuri Sankirtana, consider the following statements: (2017)

1. It is a song and dance performance.
2. Cymbals are the only musical instruments used in the performance.
3. It is performed to narrate the life and deeds of Lord Krishna.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

**Type: Factual**

**Difficulty: Medium-Hard**

- The Sankirtana is a ritual dance and music form of Manipur.
- Sankirtana practices centre on the temple, where performers narrate the lives and deeds of Krishna through song and dance.
- In a typical performance, two drummers and about ten singer-dancers perform in a hall or domestic courtyard encircled by seated devotees.
- The performing space is a square which faces the east and the performance itself is executed in a circle.
- This unique cultural heritage of Manipur was inscribed in the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity of the UNESCO in 2013.
- It is a vibrant practice promoting an organic relationship with people: the whole society is involved in its safeguarding, with the specific knowledge and skills traditionally transmitted from mentor to disciple.

51. What is/are common to the two historical places known as Ajanta and Mahabalipuram?

1. Both were built in the same period.
2. Both belong to the same religious denomination.
3. Both have rock-cut monuments.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

D. None of the statements given above is correct

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

**Type: Conceptual**

**Difficulty: Easy-Medium**

**Ajanta Caves**

- Ajanta Caves, Buddhist rock-cut cave temples and monasteries, located near Ajanta village, north-central Maharashtra state, western India, that are celebrated for their wall paintings.
- The group of some 30 caves was excavated between the 1st century BCE and the 7th century CE and consists of two types, caityas ("sanctuaries") and viharas ("monasteries").
- Although the sculpture, particularly the rich ornamentation of the caitya pillars, is noteworthy, it is the fresco-type paintings that are the chief interest of Ajanta.
- These paintings depict colorful Buddhist legends and divinities with an exuberance and vitality that is unsurpassed in Indian art. The caves were designated a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1983.
- The paintings and sculptures of Ajanta, considered masterpieces of Buddhist religious art, have had a considerable artistic influence.

**Mahabalipuram**

- Mahabalipuram is a temple town situated along the shores of the Bay of Bengal about 60 kms from the south Indian city of Chennai. There are several famous temples at Mahabalipuram; Shore Temple and 'Ratha' Cave Temples are the most famous amongst them.

**Shore Temple**

- The Shore Temples at Mahabalipuram, a coastal village 50 km south of Madras, was built in the 7th century, during the reign of Rajasimha, and they depict the final flowering of Pallava art.
- The temple with its beautiful polygonal dome enshrines Lord Vishnu and Shiva.
- These beautiful temples, ravaged by wind and sea have been declared world heritage by UNESCO.

**'Ratha' Cave Temple**

- The magnificent 'Ratha' cave temples of Mahabalipuram was built by the Pallava king Narsimha in the 7th and 8th centuries.
- The beauty of the rock-cut sculpture of the temple is reflective of the artistic tastes of the erstwhile Pallava rulers.
- It is known especially for its rathas (temples in the form of chariots), mandapas (cave sanctuaries), giant open-air reliefs such as the famous 'Descent of the Ganges', and the temple of Rivage, with thousands of sculptures to the glory of Shiva.

**52. Consider the following statements about Bhakti tradition.**

1. Saguna bhakti focused on the worship of an abstract form of God.
2. Nirguna bhakti focused on the worship of incarnations of Vishnu.

**Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?**

- A. 1 Only
- B. 2 Only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

**Type: Conceptual**

**Difficulty: Medium**

- Historians of religion often classify bhakti traditions into two broad categories: Saguna (with attributes) and Nirguna (without attributes).
- The formerly included traditions that focused on the worship of specific deities such as Shiva, Vishnu and his avatars (incarnations) and forms of the goddess or Devi, all often conceptualised in anthropomorphic forms.
- Nirguna bhakti, on the other hand, was the worship of an abstract form of god.
- During their travels the Alvars and Nayanars identified certain shrines as abodes of their chosen deities. Very often large temples were later built at these sacred places. These developed as centres of pilgrimage.
- Singing compositions of these poet saints became part of temple rituals in these shrines, as did worship of the saints' images.

**53. Consider the following statements with respect to Political Associations in in Pre-independent India.**

1. The Bangabhasha Prakasika Sabha was formed in 1836 by associates of Raja Rammohan Roy.
2. The Bombay Presidency Association was started by Badruddin Tyabji, Pherozshah Mehta and K.T. Telang in 1885.
3. The Madras Mahajan Sabha was founded in 1884.

**Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?**

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

D. 1, 2 and 3 only

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**

• Political Associations in Bengal:

✓ The Bangabhasha Prakasika Sabha was formed in 1836 by associates of Raja Rammohan Roy.

✓ The Zamindari Association, more popularly known as the 'Landholders' Society', was founded to safeguard the interests of the landlords.

✓ The Bengal British India Society was founded in 1843.

✓ In 1851, both the Landholders' Society and the Bengal British India Society merged into the British Indian Association.

✓ The Indian League was started in 1875 by Sisir Kumar Ghosh.

• Political Associations in Bombay

✓ The Poona Sarvajanik Sabha was founded in 1867 by M. Mahadeo Govind Ranade and others, with the object of serving as a bridge between the government and the people.

✓ The Bombay Presidency Association was started by Badruddin Tyabji, Pherozshah Mehta and K.T. Telang in 1885.

• Political Associations in Madras

✓ The Madras Mahajan Sabha was founded in 1884 by M. Viraraghavachari, B. Subramaniya Aiyer and P. Anandacharlu.

**54. Which of the following acts were passed by the British Government to repress Swadeshi Movement?**

1. Ancient Monuments Preservation Act, 1904
2. The Prevention of seditious meetings Act, 1907
3. The Explosives Substances Act, 1908
4. The Indian Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1908 AD
5. Indian Councils Act, 1909
6. The Press Act, 1910

**Select the correct code.**

- A. 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6
- B. 2, 3, 4 and 6
- C. 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6
- D. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6

**Answer: B**

### **Explanation**

#### **Swadeshi Movement**

- The Swadeshi Movement had its genesis in the anti-partition movement which was started to oppose the British decision to partition Bengal.
- Between 1907 and 1911, five new laws were enforced to check anti-government activity.
- These legislations included
  - ✓ Seditious Meetings Act, 1907;
  - ✓ Indian Newspapers (Incitement to Offences) Act, 1908;
  - ✓ Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1908; and
  - ✓ Indian Press Act, 1910.

**55. Which one of the following acts authorised the Government to imprison any person without trial and conviction in a court of law, thus enabling the Government to suspend the right of habeas corpus which had been the foundation of civil liberties in Britain?**

- A. The Indian Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1908
- B. The Rowlatt Act
- C. Defence of India Act, 1915
- D. Bengal Criminal Law Amendment, 1924

**Answer: B**

### **Explanation**

#### **The Rowlatt Act**

- The Rowlatt Act, referred to as the “black act” was passed by the British government in 1919, during the First World War.
- It was named after the Rowlatt Committee’s president Sir Sidney Rowlatt.
- The aim of enforcing this act was to abolish revolt and uproot conspiracy against the British from India.
- The Rowlatt Act entitled the British to arrest anyone found suspicious of plotting against the British Raj.
- Under this act, those supposed to be involved in revolt against the British could be sentenced to a term of up to 2 years in jail, without any trial.
- Any suspects could be arrested without warrant and could be detained for indefinite period.
- The act also empowered the government to silence the press in case they wanted to investigate on the reasons and the evidences.

- Resultantly, there was a ban on public gatherings of any cultural or religious sort.

56. Consider the following pairs with respect to Gandhiji's early activism in India.

1. **First Civil Disobedience: Champaran Satyagraha (1917)**
2. **First Hunger Strike: Rowlatt Satyagraha (1918)**
3. **First Mass Strike: Ahmedabad Mill Strike (1918)**

Which of the above pairs are incorrectly matched?

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

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

**Champaran Satyagraha (1917) – First Civil Disobedience**

✓ It was India's first Civil Disobedience movement launched by Mahatma Gandhi to protest against the injustice meted out to tenant farmers in the Champaran district of Bihar.

**Ahmedabad Mill Strike (1918) – First Hunger Strike**

- Gandhi used Satyagraha and hunger strike for the first time during an industrial dispute between the owners and workers of a cotton mill in Ahmedabad. The owners wanted to withdraw the plague bonus to the workers while the workers were demanding a hike of 35% in their wages.

**Kheda Satyagraha (1918) – First Non-Cooperation**

- **Because of drought in 1918, the crops failed in Kheda district of Gujarat.** As per Revenue Code, if the yield was less than one-fourth the normal produce, the farmers were entitled to remission.
- The authorities refused to grant remission but Gandhiji supported the peasants' cause and asked them to withhold revenue.
- The authorities, not willing to openly concede the peasants' demands, issued secret instructions that only those who could afford to pay should pay.

**Rowlatt Satyagraha (1918) – First mass-strike**

- Just when the nationalists were expecting post-War constitutional concessions, the Government came out with the repressive Rowlatt Act which the nationalists took as an insult. Gandhi called for a nationwide protest in February 1919.

57. Consider the following statements.

1. **The Indian National Congress passed the historic 'Purna Swaraj' resolution at this session.**

2. It was declared in this session that 26th Jan would be celebrated as the independence day when people were to take a pledge to struggle for independence.

Which session is being mentioned in the above statements?

- A. 44th Session: Lahore
- B. 43rd Session: Calcutta
- C. 45th Session: Karachi
- D. 47th Session: Calcutta

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

**Lahore Congress Session of December 1929**

- The Indian National Congress, on 19 December 1929, passed the historic 'Purna Swaraj' - (total independence) resolution - at its Lahore session.
- A public declaration was made on 26 January 1930 - a day which the Congress Party urged Indians to celebrate as 'Independence Day'.
- The declaration was passed due to the breakdown of negotiations between leaders of the freedom movement and the British over the question of dominion status for India.

58. Consider the following statements with respect to Rath Yatra 2021.

1. This chariot festival of Puri town is dedicated to Lord Shiva.
2. The idols of the god inside the Puri temple are made out of metal and stone.
3. Puri temple is also known as 'Yamanika Tirtha'.

Which of the above statements are incorrect?

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

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- Ratha Yatra is a Hindu festival associated with Lord Jagannath held at Puri in the state of Odisha, India.
- This festival is held annually for 9 days with great pomp and fervour.
- The literal meaning of Jagannath is Lord of Universe.
- Here Lord Jagannath is worshipped with His sister Devi Subhadra and brother Balabhadra.
- Rath Yatra is also known as Gundicha Yatra, Ghosa yatra, Navdivisiya Yatra, Patit Pawan Yatra etc.

- The idols of the god inside the Puri temple are of a particular type and are not made out of any metal or stone. Rather, Neem wood is used to carve the idols beautifully.

59. Jnanpith Award was recently in news. Consider the following statements with respect to this award.

1. It is the oldest and the highest Indian literary award.
2. This award is given in every 2 years.
3. It is awarded by Ministry of Culture.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**

- Jnanpith Award is the oldest and the highest Indian literary award presented annually by the Bharatiya Jnanpith to an author for their "outstanding contribution towards literature".
- Instituted in 1961, the award is bestowed only on Indian writers writing in Indian languages included in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India and English.
- Renowned Malayalam poet Akkitham Achuthan Namboothiri was conferred with the 55th Jnanpith award.
- Akkitham is the 6th Malayalam writer to receive the award.

60. The Gamosa, a white rectangular piece of cloth, is an article of significance for the people of which state?

- A. Manipur
- B. Bihar
- C. Assam
- D. Tripura news

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- Gamosa is not only a traditional rectangular cotton cloth with red borders and floral motifs but also a symbol of Assam's culture and identity.



- It is used to greet/felicitate/honour guests or invitees or as a towel, decor gift or as part of an attire during religious functions or festivities.
- The Assam government will be using only hand-woven gamosa and traditional food items during official functions and events in an effort to support and promote locally available products.
- ‘Gamosa’ has also been granted a Geographical Indications (GI) tag.
- Gamosa is not only a traditional rectangular cotton cloth with red borders and floral motifs but also a symbol of Assam’s culture and identity.
- It is used to greet/felicitate/honour guests or invitees or as a towel, decor gift or as part of an attire during religious functions or festivities.
- The Assam government will be using only hand-woven gamosa and traditional food items during official functions and events in an effort to support and promote locally available products.
- ‘Gamosa’ has also been granted a Geographical Indications (GI) tag.

**61. Consider the following statements with respect to Rudreswara Temple.**

- 1. The temple has been given a world heritage site tag by the UNESCO.**
- 2. The temple was constructed in 1213 AD during the reign of the Chalukya Empire.**
- 3. The deity worshipped at this temple is Lord Shiva.**

**Which of the above statements are correct?**

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

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- The Rudreswara temple was constructed in 1213 AD during the reign of the Kakatiya Empire by Recharla Rudra, a general of Kakatiya king Ganapati Deva.
- It is also known as the Ramappa temple, after the sculptor who executed the work in the temple for 40 years.
- The sculptural art and decoration specific to the time and Kakatiyan Empire have an outstanding universal value.
- The decision to add this temple to UNESCO’s World Heritage list was taken at the 44th session of the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO held in China.
- India now has 39 sites on the UNESCO’s World Heritage List and ASI is the custodian of 23 world heritage sites.



**62. Navroz ritual celebration is related to which of the following communities of India?**

- A. Buddhists
- B. Sikhs
- C. Christians
- D. Parsi

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**

- Navroz is a 3,000-year-old Zoroastrian tradition, a ritual celebration that signals the start of Spring and the Persian new year.
- In 1079 AD, an Iranian king named Jalaluddin Malekshah introduced the Navroz (New Year) festival to generate revenue and collect taxes from people.
- Over a period of time, the festival was introduced in India on a wide scale by members of the Parsi community who eventually connected it to Jamshed, the illustrious king of Iran.

**63. Consider the following statements with respect to Dholavira.**

1. It is the second site of the ancient Indus Valley Civilisation in India to get the tag of UNESCO world heritage.
2. It is fourth site from Gujarat to make the list of UNESCO world heritage sites.
3. The origin of the Buddhist Stupas lies in the memorials in Dholavira.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- Dholavira, the archaeological site of a Harappan-era city, received the UNESCO world heritage site tag.
- While Dholavira became the fourth site from Gujarat and 40th from India to make the list, it is the first site of the ancient Indus Valley Civilisation (IVC) in India to get the tag.
- After Mohen-jo-Daro, Ganweriwala and Harappa in Pakistan and Rakhigarhi in Haryana of India, Dholavira is the fifth largest metropolis of IVC.
- 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.

64. What was the part of land granted by the sultan to military chiefs for maintenance of a given number of troopers called?

- A. Muahatsib
- B. Iqta
- C. Nazir
- D. Usharaf

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- Under Iqta System, the land of the empire was divided into several large and small tracts called Iqta and assigned these Iqtas to his soldiers, officers and nobles. In the beginning, an Iqta was based upon salary. Later, under Firoz Shah Tughlaq, it became hereditary.
- The agricultural and land revenue system of the early Turkish Sultans rested on two foundations viz. the Iqta (assignment of land revenue) and Kharaj (Land Revenue).
- The Iqta system provided an agrarian system to the country while the members of the ruling class attained income without any permanent attachment to any territory.
- The Iqta system was provided institutional status by Iltutmish and later this system became the mainstay of the sultanate administration under slave dynasty.



65. Consider the following statements about Lingayat tradition.

1. Lingayats encouraged post-puberty marriage and the remarriage of widows.
2. Lingayats emerged as a reactionary force against Jainism in the twelfth century.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- Hinduism being an amorphous religion has seen branches of sub-traditions and oppositional traditions since time immemorial.
- The Lingayats too emerged as a reactionary force against Hinduism in the twelfth century.
- While it rejected most of the broad Hindu traditions, it also assimilated aspects of it, making the demand for a separate religious status a rather complicated affair.
- The Lingayats also encouraged certain practices disapproved in the Dharmashastras, such as post-puberty marriage and the remarriage of widows.

66. Aihole is called the 'Cradle of Indian Temple Architecture'. It is related to which dynasty?

- A. Cholas
- B. Cheras
- C. Chalukyas
- D. Pandyas

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- Aihole was once the capital of the Chalukya Dynasty, and is a city with a rich and illustrious history.
- It has great cultural significance as the cradle of Hindu temple architecture, and has more than 125 temples in and around it.
- Aihole is an archaeologists' delight with several temples dating back to Chalukyan times.
- Aihole is a historic site of ancient and medieval era Buddhist, Hindu and Jain monuments in north Karnataka (India) dated from the fourth century through the twelfth century CE.



67. Which of the following places of India have been recognised under UNESCO's Historic Urban Landscape Project?

1. Gwalior
2. Mysore
3. Varanasi
4. Ajmer

Select the correct code.

- A. 1, 2 and 4
- B. 2, 3 and 4
- C. 1, 3 and 4
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- MP government has launched the UNESCO's Historic Urban Landscape Project in Gwalior and Orchha in a virtual event with UNESCO representatives and other senior officials of the state.
- Only eight cities in the entire South Asian region have been recognised under the UNESCO's Historic Urban Landscape Project and Varanasi and Ajmer are the other two Indian cities recognised by UNESCO under the project.

- The city of Gwalior hosts the historic Gwalior Fort, Scindia Royal Palace called Jai Vilas Palace and other monuments of tourist interest.
- Similarly, Orchha is also considered a riveting tourist destination among people residing in neighbouring cities and states.
- Being part of the UNESCO missions and projects not only brings technical and financial assistance for the development of the place but also attracts a large number of international tourists whose itinerary begins from visiting top UNESCO recognised sites.

**68. Consider the following statements about the Lord Lytton's tenure as Viceroy in India :**

- 1. The Arms Act, passed in 1878, prevented the Indians to keep arms without appropriate license.**
- 2. The system of decentralisation of finance that had begun in the time of Lord Mayo was abolished during the time of Lord Lytton.**

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

**Answer: A**

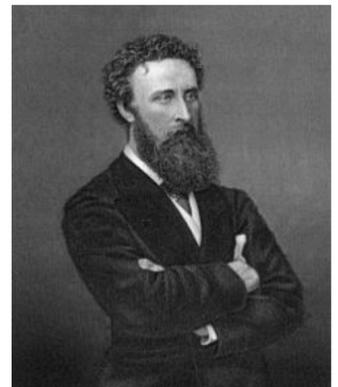
**Explanation**

- Vernacular Press Act, 1878
- Arms Act, 1878
- Abolished tax on cotton for British traders
- Maximum age to take up civil services exam lowered from 21 to 19
- In the year 1878, the Arms Act was passed.

✓ This Act prevented the Indians to keep arms without appropriate license. Its violation would be a criminal offence.

✓ The Europeans and the Anglo- Indians were exempted from the operation of these legislations.

**Robert Bulwer -Lytton**



**6<sup>th</sup> Viceroy of India (1876-80)**

- The system of decentralisation of finance that had begun in the time of Lord Mayo was continued during the time of Lord Lytton.
- The provincial governments were empowered with some control over the expenditure of all provincial matters like land-revenue, excise, stamps, law and justice.
- Lytton wanted to encourage the provinces in collecting the revenue and thereby strengthen the financial power and position of the provinces.

**69. Which of these Mughal Emperors did not engage in a conflict with the Sikhs?**

1. Akbar
2. Jahangir
3. Humayun
4. Aurangzeb

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below**

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 4 only
- D. 1, 3 and 4 only

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- Jahangir martyred Guru ArjanDev, 5th Sikh Guru.  
✓ He later imprisoned the 6th guru, Guru Hargobind at Gwalior, but released him after a number of years when he no longer felt threatened.
- Shah Jahan, took offence at Guru Hargobind's "sovereignty" and after a series of assaults on Amritsar forced the Sikhs to retreat to the Sivalik Hills.
- Aurangzeb martyred the 9th Sikh guru, Guru Teg Bahadur and then engaged in battle with Guru Gobind Singh, the 10th Sikh guru.

- Akbar, on the other hand, supported religious freedom and after visiting the langar of Guru Amar Das got a favourable impression of Sikhism.
- ✓ As a result of his visit he donated land to the langar and the Mughals did not have any conflict with Sikh gurus until his death in 1605.

**70. Consider the following statements with respect to Charvaka School of Indian Philosophy.**

1. It rejects supernatural concepts like God and soul, but accepts metaphysical concepts like afterlife and moksha.
2. It evolved around in 6th-7th CE.
3. They held perception and direct experiments to be the valid and reliable source of knowledge.

**Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?**

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

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- Charvaka/Lokyata is an ancient school of Indian materialism, one of the popular belief system in Ancient India. (Traditional name of Charvaka is Lokyata)
- Founder - Brihaspati - Brihaspati Sutra (lost)
- Time Period - Around 5-6th century BCE.
- Rejects supernatural concepts like God and soul and also metaphysical concepts like afterlife (or reincarnation) and moksha.
- In Charvaka Philosophy, Perception is of 2 types - External and Internal.

**71. Which of the following describes Qissa & Var?**

- A. It was the mystical poetry of Kashmiri Saints.
- B. An account of Mewar Rajput's by bards.

C. Love ballads & Heroic poetry in Punjabi.

D. Stories related to Buddhist tanka cults.

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- The word Qissa, which is Arabic in origin, means a tale. In Punjabi the Qissa developed under the influence of Persian poetry.
- It is interesting to note that the Persian poets have used the word Mathnavi (a poem in rhyming distichs) for their long narratives in verse, instead of the word Qissa.
- In fact the word Qissa is used in Arabic, Persian and Urdu for a long tale in prose.
- There are certain genres that are popular in Punjabi literature such as 'Qissa' (tale/legend) 'Var' (Epic) and 'Dhola' (ballad).

**72. Consider the following statements with respect to Khajuraho temples.**

- 1. These are dedicated to only one religion.**
- 2. They are specimens of Nagara style of temple building.**

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- The Khajuraho Group of
- Monuments is a group of Hindu and Jain temples in Madhya Pradesh, India, about 175 kilometers (109 mi) southeast of Jhansi.
- They are one of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India.

- The temples are famous for their nagara-style architectural symbolism and their erotic sculptures. Most Khajuraho temples were built between 950 and 1050 by the Chandela dynasty. These are dedicated to Shiva, Vishnu and Jain Tirthankaras.



**73. Which of the statements mentioned below is/are incorrect in the context of Chishti tradition and its relations with emperors?**

1. The sufis accepted unsolicited grants and donations from the political elites.
2. The Chishtis accepted donations in cash and kind.
3. They accumulated these donations for future use.
4. Kings sometimes sought legitimation from the Sufis.

**Select the correct code.**

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 4 only

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- Of the groups of sufis who migrated to India in the late twelfth century, the Chishtis were the most influential.
- This was because they adapted successfully to the local environment and adopted several features of Indian devotional traditions.
- The sufis accepted unsolicited grants and donations from the political elites.
- The Sultans, in turn, set up charitable trusts (auqaf ) as endowments for hospices and granted tax-free land (inam).
- The Chishtis accepted donations in cash and kind.
- Rather than accumulate donations, they preferred to use these fully on immediate requirements such as food, clothes, living quarters and ritual necessities (such as sama').
- All this enhanced the moral authority of the shaikhs, which in turn attracted people from all walks of life.

- Further, their piety and scholarship, and people's belief in their miraculous powers made sufis popular among the masses, whose support kings wished to secure.
- Kings did not simply need to demonstrate their association with sufis; they also required legitimation from them.

#### 74. Consider the following festivals

1. Saga Dawa - Buddhist festival which celebrates birth, enlightenment of Budha.
2. Kharchi Puja - it is a folk festival to celebrate the birth of Krishna.
3. Hornbill festival - agricultural festival of Nagaland.
4. Amumbachi mela - Festival to celebrate harvest.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 4 only
- D. 2 and 3 only

**Answer: B**

#### Explanation

- Saga Dawa - It is mostly celebrated in the Buddhist communities living in the State of Sikkim.

✓ It is celebrated on the full moon day that falls in the middle of the Tibetan lunar month called the Saga Dawa.

✓ This day is considered to be a very auspicious day for the Tibetan community.



- Kharchi Pooja - This festival primarily originates from the State of Tripura.
- While it began as a festival of the royal family of Tripura, currently even the common households celebrate this festival.
- It is celebrated over a period of 10 days and takes place in the month of July each year.
- The festival is celebrated in the honour of Lord Shiva who had ordered the people to worship 14 other deities.

#### 75. Which one of the following statements is incorrect about Buland Darwaza?

- E. It is a part of Fatehpur Sikri complex built-in 1601 by Akbar.
- F. It was built to commemorate Akbar's victory over Bengal.
- G. It was beautifully carved with inlay work of white marble.
- H. It even has the verses of Jesus Christ.



Answer: B

Explanation

- Buland Darwaza or the "Gate of Magnificence", was built in 1601 A.D. by Akbar to commemorate his victory over Gujarat.
- It is the main entrance to the palace at Fatehpur Sikri, a town which is 43 km from Agra, India.
- Buland Darwaza is the highest gateway in the world and is an example of Mughal architecture.
- It displays Akbar's empire On the main gateway an Islamic inscription written in Persian reads "Isa (Jesus), son of Mary said:  
'The world is a Bridge, pass over it, but build no houses upon it. He who hopes for a day may hope for eternity; but the World endures but an hour. Spend it in prayer for the rest is unseen.' Jesus was advising his followers not to consider the world as a permanent home.
- Verses from the Quran have been carved in the Naskh (script) along the top.

**76. The Treaty of Lahore was signed after the First Anglo-Sikh War. Which of the following were the main features of the Treaty?**

- 1. The Jalandhar Doab (between the Beas and the Sutlej) was annexed to the Company's dominions.**
- 2. A British resident was to be established at Lahore under Henry Lawrence.**
- 3. Daleep Singh was removed as the ruler of Punjab.**

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. All of the above

**Answer: A**

## Explanation

- The end of the first Anglo-Sikh War forced the Sikhs to sign a humiliating treaty on March 8, 1846. The main features of the Treaty of Lahore were as follows:
  - ✓ War indemnity of more than 1 crore of rupees was to be given to the English.
  - ✓ The Jalandhar Doab (between the Beas and the Sutlej) was annexed to the Company's dominions.
  - ✓ A British resident was to be established at Lahore under Henry Lawrence.
  - ✓ The strength of the Sikh army was reduced.
  - ✓ Daleep Singh was recognised as the ruler under Rani Jindan as regent and Lal Singh as wazir.
  - ✓ Since, the Sikhs were not able to pay the entire war indemnity, Kashmir including Jammu was sold to Gulab Singh and he was required to pay Rupees 75 lakh to the Company as the price.
  - ✓ The transfer of Kashmir to Gulab Singh was formalised by a separate treaty on March 16, 1846.

## 77. Consider the following statements about 'the Charter Act of 1813' :

1. It ended the trade monopoly of the East India Company in India except for trade in tea and trade with China.
2. It asserted the sovereignty of the British Crown over the Indian territories held by the Company.
3. The revenues of India were now controlled by the British Parliament.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**Answer: A**

## Explanation

### Main Provision of Charter Act, 1833

- The company was allowed to continued territorial and revenue possession for period of 20 years i.e. from 1833 to 1853. The company was held in trust to the Crown.

- All powers that had full complete and constantly to control, to replace supersede or prevent all proceeding and Act of Governor-General-in-Council were under the British Parliament.
- The Governor-General-in-Council was empowered to make laws and regulation for all person or Court of British India.
- Provisions were made for the representation of natives & their Educational Development.
- All restrictions to European immigrants into India were removed.
- The civil and military power were removed from the Company and its entire control and super tend were vested in Governor-General-in-Council.
- The Act also provided measures for the abolition of slavery trough out in India.
- Prior to 1833, laws made were called as regulation here after the laws made to be called as 'Act'.

**78. The famous image of 'Maheshmurti' -three heads showing shiva, bhairava, uma is found in which of the following?**

- A. Karle cave
- B. Ajanta cave
- C. Yellora temple
- D. Elephanta cave

**Answer: D**

### **Explanation**

- The image of Maheshmurti at Elephanta dates back to the early sixth century CE. It is located in the main cave shrine.
- In the tradition of western Deccan sculpting it is one of the best examples of qualitative achievement in sculpting images in rockcut caves. The image is large in size.
- The central head is the main Shiva figure whereas the other two visible heads are of Bhairava and Uma.
- The central face is in high relief having a round face, thick lips and heavy eyelids. The lower lip is prominently protruded showing a very different characteristic.
- The all-inclusive aspect of Shiva is exhibited in this sculpture by softmodelling, smooth surface and large face.
- The face of Shiva-Bhairava is clearly shown in profile in anger with bulging eye and mustache.



- The other face showing feminine characters is of Uma who is the consort of Shiva.

79. Consider the following statements with respect to Kailasa temple's architecture at Ellora and Elephanta caves.

1. Temple has single tiered shikhara.
2. In a sculpture, Ravana was making attempts to lift Mount Kailasa, the abode of Siva.
3. The important figure is 'Trimurthi' represent the three aspects of Shiva as Creator, Preserver and Destroyer.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- The art and architecture of the Rashtrakutas were found at Ellora and Elephanta.
- At Ellora, the most remarkable temple is the Kailasa temple. It was excavated during the reign of Krishna I.
- It is carved out of a massive block of rock 200 feet long, and 100 feet in breadth and height.
- The temple consists of four parts - the main shrine, the entrance gateway, an intermediate shrine for Nandi and mandapa surrounding the courtyard.
- The temple stands on a lofty plinth 25 feet high.
- It has a three-tiered sikhara or tower resembling the sikhara of the Mamallapuramrathas.
- In the interior of the temple there is a pillared hall, which has sixteen square pillars.
- The Kailasa temple is an architectural marvel with its beautiful sculptures.
- The sculpture of the Goddess Durga is shown as slaying the Buffalo demon.
- In another sculpture Ravana was making attempts to lift Mount Kailasa, the abode of Siva.
- The scenes of Ramayana were also depicted on the walls. The general characteristics of the Kailasa temple are more Dravidian.



- Elephanta is an island near Bombay. It was originally called Sripuri. The Portuguese after seeing the large figure of an elephant named it Elephanta.
- The sculptural art of the Rashtrakutas reached its zenith in this place. There is a close similarity between the sculptures at Ellora and those in Elephanta.
- In the walls of the prakara around the sanctum there are niches containing the images of Shiva in various forms – Nataraja, Gangadhara, Ardhanareesvara and Somaskanda.
- The most imposing figure of this temple is Trimurthi. The sculpture is six metre high.
- It is said to represent the three aspects of Shiva as Creator, Preserver and Destroyer.



**80. Consider the following statements with respect to woods dispatch:**

1. It is considered as the “Magna Carta of English Education in India”.
2. It systematised the hierarchy from vernacular primary schools to universities.
3. It recommended English as the medium of instruction at all levels.

**Which of the above statement is/are incorrect?**

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

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

**Wood’s Despatch (1854)**

- In 1854, Charles Wood prepared a despatch on an educational system for India.
- Considered the “Magna Carta of English Education in India”, this document was the first comprehensive plan for the spread of education in India.
- It asked the government of India to assume responsibility for the education of the masses, thus repudiating the ‘downward filtration theory’, at least on paper.
- It systematised the hierarchy from vernacular primary schools in villages at the bottom, followed by Anglo- Vernacular High Schools and an affiliated college at the district level, and affiliating universities in the presidency towns of Calcutta, Bombay, and Madras.
- It recommended English as the medium of instruction for higher studies and vernaculars at the school level.

- It laid stress on female and vocational education, and on teachers' training.
- It lay down that the education imparted in government institutions should be secular.
- It recommended a system of grants-in-aid to encourage private enterprise.

**81. Which of the following battles did Babur fight in his quest to establish and consolidate himself in India?**

1. Battle of Panipat
2. Battle of Khanwa
3. Battle of Chausa
4. Battle of Chanderi

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below**

- A. A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1, 2 and 4 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3 only
- D. All of the above

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- The very first Mughal emperor and the founder of the Mughal emperor Babur brought gunpowder to India
- He is known for defeating:
  - ✓ Ibrahim Lodhi in the First Battle of Panipat (AD 1526)
  - ✓ Rana Sanga (Sangram Singh) at battle of Khanwa
  - ✓ Medini Rai of Chenderi at Battle of Chanderi (AD 1528)
  - ✓ Mahmud Lodi at Battle of Ghagra (AD 1529)
- Babur wrote Tuzuk-i-Baburi in Turkish language
- The first Mughal emperor declared Jihad and adopted the title Ghazi
- Babur died in 1530 and was buried at Aram Bagh (Agra). Later, his body was taken to Bagh-e-Babun (Kabul)
- The Battle of Chausa was a notable military engagement between the Mughal emperor, Humayun, and the Afghan, Sher Shah Suri.

82. Which war ended with the Treaty of Sagauli in 1816?

- A. Anglo Maratha
- B. Anglo Mysore
- C. Anglo Burma
- D. Anglo Nepal

Answer: D

Explanation

- Treaty of Sagauli, (March 4, 1816), agreement between the Gurkha chiefs of Nepal and the British Indian government that ended the Anglo-Nepalese (Gurkha) War (1814–16).
- The conflict started due to the Gorkhas' capture of Butwal and Sheoraj in the period of Lord Hastings (1813-23).
- As per the treaty,
  - ✓ Nepal accepted a British resident.
  - ✓ Nepal ceded the districts of Garhwal and Kumaon, and abandoned claims to Terai.
  - ✓ Nepal also withdrew from Sikkim