

ANCIENT HISTORY MEDIEVAL HISTORY & CULTURE



7 YEAR PYQ TREND ANALYSIS
GS PRELIMS (2017-23)

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DELHI

12 MAR, 9 AM | 21 MAR, 5 PM | 11 APR, 9 AM

GTB Nagar Metro (Mukherjee Nagar): 23 APR, 5:30 PM

AHMEDABAD: 8 JAN	BHOPAL: 5 APR	CHANDIGARH: 5 APR	HYDERABAD: 15 APR
JAIPUR: 27 MAR	JODHPUR: 7 MAR	LUCKNOW: 12 MAR	PUNE: 15 MAR



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PRELIMS 2024

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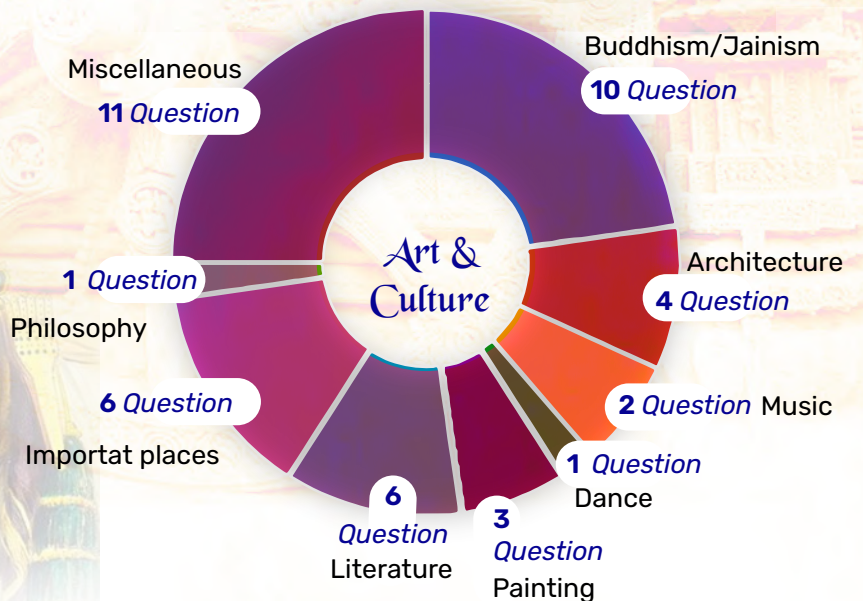
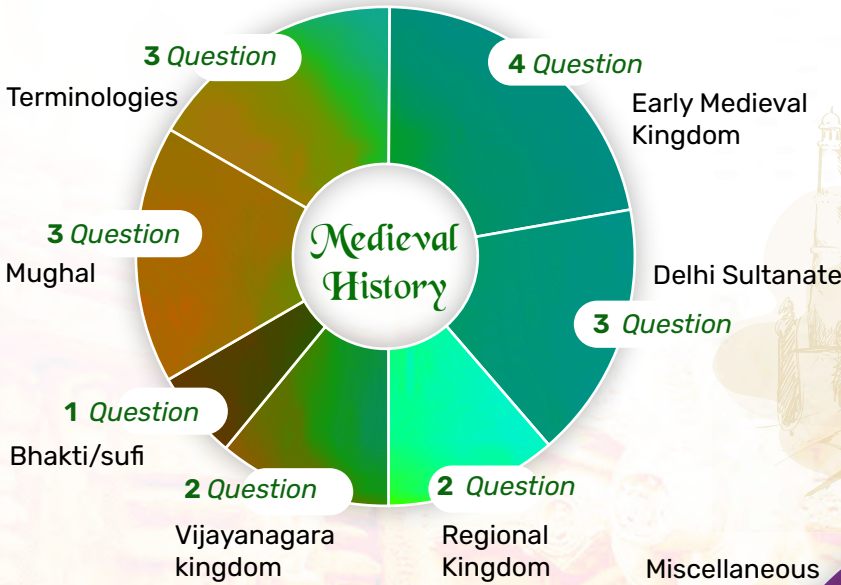
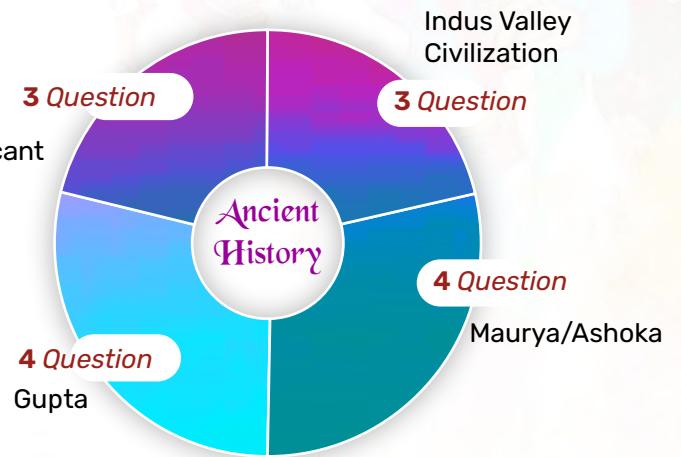
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UPSC Prelims History Syllabus:

History of India and Indian National Movement

? Topic wise no. of questions-

Total Questions-76
Ancient History-14
Medieval History-18
Art & Culture-44



Question Source Type Analysis

	Ancient	Medieval	Art and Culture
EM	6	11	12
RM	3	3	8
EN	-	1	14
RR	5	3	10

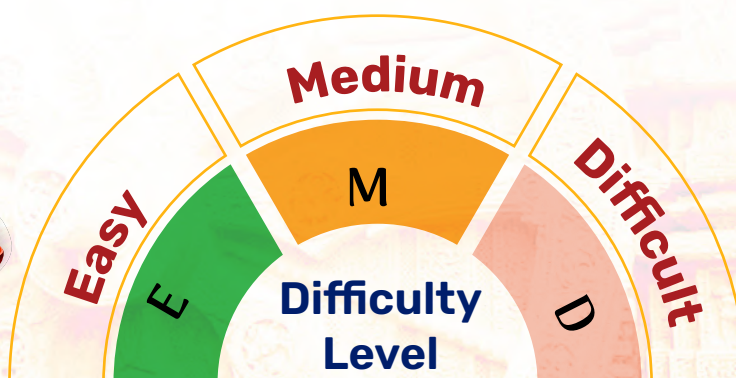
Source Type

EM: Essential material like basic books etc.




RM: Random material

EN: Essential News/Current Affairs

RR: Random Read like a random websites etc.



Difficulty Level Analysis

	Ancient	Medieval	Art and Culture
Easy 	2	1	4
Medium 	3	3	15
Diffucult 	9	4	25



Important observation based on 7 year's prelims Questions

In the UPSC preliminary examination, the history section consistently comprises nearly one-fifth of the total question paper in which Ancient, medieval, and culture collectively account for more than 60 percent of this section. This allocation underscores the significance of these sections in the examination.

ANCIENT HISTORY

- ★ In Ancient history over the last seven years, UPSC has consistently focused on asking questions related to the Harappan civilization, emphasizing major sites associated with this ancient civilization. Like question on Dholavira and Mohenjodaro etc
- ★ The Mauryan period, particularly Ashoka, remains a favorite topic for UPSC, with questions typically centered around Ashokan edicts and their themes. Additionally, the Gupta period and questions on terms and important places and locations were also emphasized by the UPSC, and the examiners directly asked questions on locations and terms. Like questions on Vishti, Dronvapa, Neolithic sites, Samudragupta and ports related questions etc.
- ★ They also frequently asked comparative questions related to the Vedic and Harappan civilizations and random question on Arthashastra etc to assess candidates' in-depth understanding of these topics.



MEDIEVAL INDIA

- ★ Over the past three years, there has been a notable emphasis on the Medieval India history section in UPSC exams, with increased weighting and elevated difficulty levels observed.
- ★ Subjects like the Delhi Sultanate, the Mughal Empire, the Bhakti and Sufi movements, and the Vijayanagara Empire consistently appear.
- ★ UPSC often explores challenging themes in medieval Indian history, such as questions on different dynasties like the Gurjara-Pratiharas, Pushyabhutis, terms like Fannam, and topics related to the Mongol invasion during the Delhi Sultanate period. These questions necessitate a nuanced understanding of historical narratives and the ability to draw connections between various events and developments in this significant period.



ART AND CULTURE

- ★ The UPSC consistently integrates Art and culture questions with current affairs topics, such as Ramanujacharya, the Somnath Temple, Sports, Awards and the National Flag code. Etc.
- ★ From 2017 to 2024, recurring themes in UPSC Preliminary papers include ancient art and architecture, Jainism and Buddhism philosophy, classical dance forms, historical monuments, archaeological discoveries, UNESCO World Heritage Sites, and cultural events.
- ★ Questions often feature famous historical monuments like Ajanta and Ellora Caves as well as religious and ritual practices, folk arts, crafts, and traditional practices from various regions of India. Candidates should focus on these recurring themes and topics to enhance their preparation for the Art and Culture section of UPSC examinations.





Strategies for Adapting to Changes in UPSC Examination Patterns"

- ★ Despite the varied pattern adopted by UPSC in 2023, including changes in options and limitations on elimination techniques, students should prioritize intentional and observational acquisition of knowledge over superficial studying.
- ★ Analyze previous years' question papers to identify trends and patterns in question types, topics, and difficulty levels.
- ★ Adopt an interdisciplinary approach to study by integrating knowledge from various subjects such as history, geography, economics, and current affairs to understand complex topics thoroughly.
- ★ Lastly, allocate sufficient time for the revision and review of concepts, formulas, and important facts to ensure retention and recall during the exam.

SOURCES TO BE REFERRED TO



Essential Material (EM)

★ Ancient and Medieval History

- Ancient India-RS sharma
- New NCERT class 12th- Themes in Indian History - Part 1
- NCERT class 6th, Our Past-1
- NIOS
- NCERT class 7th-OUR PASTS - II
- Satish Chandra-Medieval India -Class XI-Old NCERT-
- New NCERT-Themes in Indian History Part-II



Random Material (RM)

★ Ancient and Medieval History

- The History of Early India: From the Origins to AD 1300 by Romilla Thapar
- THE WONDER THAT WAS INDIA: A L Basham
- Tamil Nadu board- new History

★ Art and Culture

- THE WONDER THAT WAS INDIA: A L Basham
- A History of Ancient and Early Medieval India: From the Stone Age to the 12th Century-Upinder singh
- shodhganga



Art and Culture

★ CCRT

★ NCERT's

- ★ <https://egyankosh.ac.in>
- ★ NCERT-Themes in Indian History Part-II
- ★ AN INTRODUCTION TO INDIAN ART
- ★ Class XI NCERT, Ancient India



Essential Newspaper (EN)

★ The Hindu

★ The Indian Express

★ Times of India



Random Read (RR)

★ Ancient and Medieval History

- A History of Ancient and Early - Upinder Singh;
- www.britannica.com

★ Art and Culture

- History of Early India: From the Origins to AD 1300-Romila
- PIB
- www.britannica.com

Brief outline and chronology of key periods in Ancient Indian History

1. Prehistoric Period



I. Early Stone Age (Paleolithic Period) - 2.5 million years ago to 10000 BCE:

- ★ Tools made of stone, bone, and wood used by early humans for hunting and gathering.

II. Middle Stone Age (Mesolithic Period) - 10000 BCE to 4000 BCE:

- ★ Development of microlithic tools for hunting, fishing, and gathering.



III. Late Stone Age (Neolithic Period) - 7000 BCE to 1000 BCE:

- ★ Emergence of settled agricultural communities.
- ★ Development of permanent settlements with mud-brick houses.



IV. Chalcolithic Period (2200-700 BCE):

- ★ Introduction of copper metallurgy alongside stone tools.



2. Indus Valley Civilization (3300-1300 BCE)

- ★ **Mature Harappan Phase:** 2600-1900 BCE
- ★ **Decline and Late Harappan Phase:** 1900-1300 BCE
- ★ Urban planning, advanced drainage systems, sophisticated pottery, seals, and script.



3. Vedic Period (1500-600 BCE)

- ★ **Early Vedic Period:** 1500-1000 BCE
- ★ **Later Vedic Period:** 1000-600 BCE



4. Mahajanapadas (600-300 BCE)

- ★ Rise of 16 Mahajanapadas (major states), including Magadha, Kosala, and Vatsa.
- ★ Buddha and Mahavira propagate new religions.

5. Maurya Empire (322–185 BCE)

- ★ **Chandragupta Maurya:** 322–298 BCE
- ★ **Bindusara:** 298–272 BCE
- ★ **Ashoka the Great:** 268–232 BCE
- ★ Unified Indian subcontinent, establishment of centralized administration, spread of Buddhism.
- ★ **Brihadratha:** 187–185 BCE

VI. Indo-Greek Kingdom (180 BCE–10 CE):

- ★ **Demetrius:** Established the Indo-Greek Kingdom in northwestern India.
- ★ **Menander (Milinda):** One of the most famous Indo-Greek rulers, known for his interactions with Buddhist philosopher Nagasena.

VII. Indo-Scythian Kingdom (2nd century BCE–1st century CE):

- ★ **Maues:** One of the earliest Indo-Scythian rulers who established his authority in northwestern India.
- ★ **Rudradaman I:** Western Kshatrapa ruler who ruled over western India and was known for his inscriptions.

VIII. Indo-Parthian Kingdom (1st century BCE–1st century CE):

Gondophares: Indo-Parthian ruler associated with the establishment of the Indo-Parthian Kingdom.

IX. Kushan Empire (1st–3rd century CE):

- ★ **Kujula Kadphises:** Founder of the Kushan Empire
- ★ **Kanishka (127 CE – 150 CE):** One of the most famous Kushan rulers, known for his military conquests, patronage of Buddhism, and promotion of Gandhara art.

6. Post-Mauryan Period (185–320 BCE)

I. Sunga Dynasty (185–73 BCE):

- ★ **Pushyamitra Sunga:** Founded the Sunga Dynasty after overthrowing the Mauryan rule.

II. Kanva Dynasty (73–30 BCE):

- ★ Founded by Vasudeva after overthrowing the Sunga Dynasty.

III. Satavahana Dynasty (1st century BCE–3rd century CE):

- ★ **Simuka:** Founder of the Satavahana Dynasty and the Satavahana Empire.
- ★ **Gautamiputra Satakarni:** Notable ruler known for his military conquests and patronage of Buddhism.

IV. Mahameghavahana Dynasty (1st century BCE):

- ★ Ruled in the Kalinga region under the leadership of King Kharavela. Known through Hathigumpha inscription.

V. Sangam Period (3rd century BCE–3rd century CE):

- ★ Flourishing of Tamil literature and culture, with the Chola, Chera, and Pandya kingdoms contributing significantly to the development of Sangam literature.

7. Gupta Empire (320–550 CE)

- ★ **Chandragupta I:** 320–335 CE
- ★ **Samudragupta:** 335–380 CE
- ★ **Chandragupta II (Vikramaditya):** 380–415 CE
- ★ Kumaragupta I (reigned c. 415/420–455 CE)
- ★ Skandagupta (reigned c. 455–467 CE)
- ★ Vishnugupta (reigned c. 540–c. 550 CE)



8. Post-Gupta Period (550–750 CE)

Maitraka Dynasty: ruled western India (now Gujarat) from approximately 475 to approximately 776 CE from their capital at Vallabhi.

- ★ **Founder:** Bhatarka
- ★ **Important Rulers:** Dhruvasena II (c. 555–570 CE): Known for his military campaigns and patronage of Jainism.

Maukhari Dynasty: (554 CE - 606 CE) - capital at Kanyakubja (modern-day Kannauj city).

- **Founder:** Ishanavarman

9. Vakataka Dynasty (3rd to 5th century CE)

Founder: Vindhyaśakti

Region: Deccan region, primarily present-day Maharashtra

Important Rulers:

- ★ **1. Harishena (c. 475–500 CE):** Known for his patronage of art and literature, and the construction of Ajanta Caves.

10. Vardhana Dynasty (6th–7th century CE)

- ★ **Founder:** Pushyabhuti
- ★ **Important Ruler:** Harsha (c. 606–647 AD)



Ancient History

Indus Valley Civilization- Total No. of Questions - 3

2017

Q.1. With reference to the difference between the culture of Rigvedic Aryans and Indus Valley people, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Rigvedic Aryans used the coat of mail and helmet in warfare whereas the people of Indus Valley Civilization did not leave any evidence of using them.
2. Rigvedic Aryans knew gold, silver and copper whereas Indus Valley people knew only copper and iron.
3. Rigvedic Aryans had domesticated the horse whereas there is no evidence of Indus Valley people having aware of this animal.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

ANSWER C

Elimination strategy



Solvability: We can use elimination skill to solve this question:

In the given question **statement 2nd is not correct**- The people of the Indus Valley civilization were acquainted with gold and silver, as well as bronze and copper, but they did not possess knowledge of iron. This eliminates option (B) and (D).

Explanation



- ★ **Rigvedic Aryans used the coat of mail and helmet in warfare whereas the people of Indus Valley Civilization did not leave any evidence of using them. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- ★ Various materials were used in Harappan civilisation to make beads: stones like carnelian, jasper, crystal, quartz and steatite; metals like copper, bronze and gold; and shell, faience and terracotta or burnt clay. Some beads were made of two or more stones, cemented together, some of stone with gold caps. **The Harappan culture was ignorant of the iron metal and it was mainly a Bronze culture. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

- ★ Rigvedic Aryans had domesticated the horse whereas there is no evidence of Indus Valley people having aware of this animal. Rigvedic Aryans owned their success to horses and chariots along with better arms. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

Source

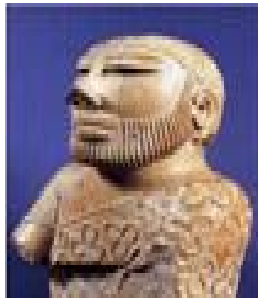


Ancient India: R.S. Sharma page 38 THE WONDER THAT WAS INDIA: A L Basham page : 18
Statement 2nd- NEW NCERT Class 12, Ch. 1, page 10.

Difference between Harappa and Vedic Civilization

The Harappan civilization

flourished around 2600 BCE to 1900 BCE, primarily in the northwestern regions of the Indian subcontinent, in present-day Pakistan and northwest India.



Vedic Civilization

Time period: Rigvedic (1500-1000 BC) and Later Vedic (1000-600 BC)

It covered a wider geographical area, including the Indo-Gangetic plains and regions of northern India



Urban civilization with main occupation of trade and commerce

Rural culture with pastoral and rudimentary agriculture as main occupation

People used to build planned houses of baked bricks.

He had no knowledge of urban life. Their houses were mostly made of muds and bamboo-leaves etc.

Icon and Nature Worshippers:

The Harappans worshipped Pashupati, mother goddess, animals, snake and nature. There is no evidence of temple.

Nature worshippers: Indra, Varuna Agni were principle dieties.

There is no evidence of idol worship and temple.

Ignorant of Iron and was purely copper-bronze culture

Used gold and copper in the beginning but later used iron

Not aware of the horse

Great importance to horse and cow

More advanced in art of writing though the script was pictographic and has not been deciphered yet

Unaware of writing - The Vedic culture is associated with the Vedas, which were transmitted orally for centuries before being written down in Sanskrit around 500 BCE.

Pottery was black and red ware

Pottery was **Painted Grey Ware**

Peace loving people and arms and military equipment were primitive

Warlike people knowing advanced weaponry and armour

2017

Q.2. Which one of the following is not a Harappan site?

- (a) Chanhudaro
- (b) Kot Diji
- (c) Sohgaoura
- (d) Desalpur

ANSWER C



Explanation

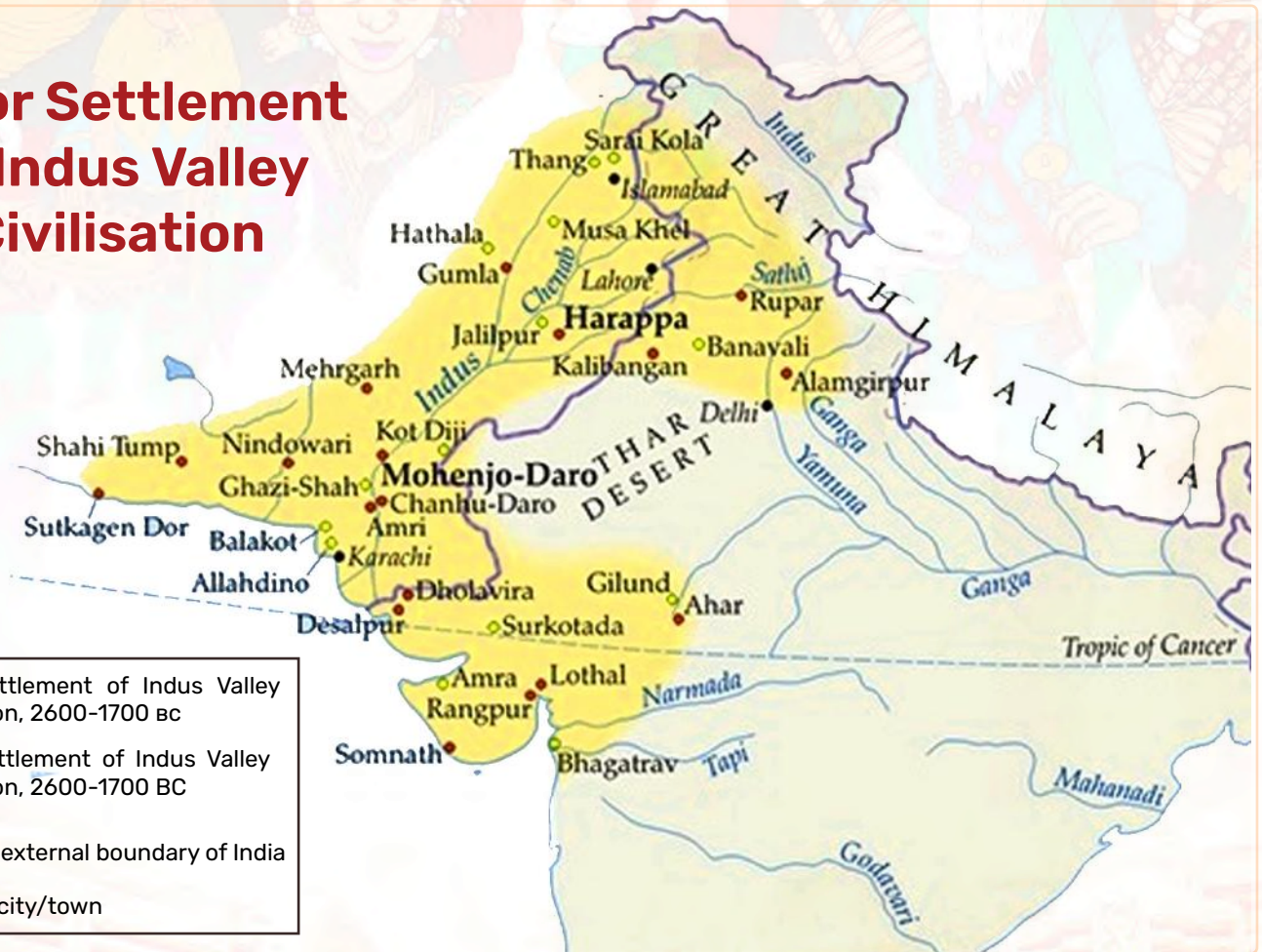
- ★ **Sohgaoura is located in Gorakhpur district of Uttar Pradesh is a copper plate inscription found here** It is supposed to be from the Mauryan period. **The inscription is written in Prakrit in the Brahmi script.** The inscription records a royal order that the grains stored in the granary should be distributed carefully. It is supposed to be suggestive of precautions taken in the times of a famine. **Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.**



Sohgaoura Copper Plate Inscription

- ★ **Kot diji:** It is a Harappan site located in the Khairpur district of Sindh, Pakistan. It was discovered in 1955 by the Pakistani archaeologist Ahmed Hasan Dani. The site is famous for its well-planned streets, public buildings, and houses.

Major Settlement of Indus Valley Civilisation



- Major settlement of Indus Valley Civilisation, 2600-1700 BC
- Minor settlement of Indus Valley Civilisation, 2600-1700 BC
- Present external boundary of India
- Present city/town

- ★ **Desalpur** is an archaeological site located in Gujarat, India.

- It is associated with the Harappan civilization, dating back to around 2600 BCE to 1900 BCE.
- Excavations at Desalpur have revealed the remains of a Harappan settlement with well-planned streets, houses, and drainage systems.
- Artifacts found at Desalpur include pottery, seals, beads, and other objects, indicating its role as a thriving urban center during the Indus Valley Civilization.

- ★ **Chanhudaro** is an archaeological site belonging to the Indus Valley Civilization. The site is located 130 kilometres south of Mohenjodaro, in Sindh, Pakistan. The settlement was inhabited between 4000 and 1700 BCE and is considered to have been a centre for manufacturing carnelian beads. This site is a group of three low mounds that excavations have shown were parts of a single settlement, approximately 5 hectares in size. Chanhudaro was the only city without a citadel in the Indus Valley civilization

Source



A History of Ancient and Early - Upinder Singh;

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Indus-civilization>

2021

Q.3. Which one of the following ancient towns is well-known for its elaborate system of water harvesting and management by building a series of dams and channelizing water into connected reservoirs?

- (a) Dholavira
- (b) Kalibangan
- (c) Rakhigarhi
- (d) Ropar

ANSWER **A**

Motivation



Dholavira received UNESCO's World Heritage Site Status

Explanation



★ **Dholavira** (Occupied between ca. 3000-1500 BCE), the southern center of the Harappan Civilization, is sited on the **arid island of Khadir (located within Rann of Kachchh) in Gujarat**. It was discovered in 1968 by archaeologist Jagat Pati Joshi.

- Unlike some of the other Harappan cities, which were divided into two parts, **Dholavira was divided into three parts, and each part was surrounded by massive stone walls**, with entrances through gateways. There was also a large open area in the settlement, where public ceremonies could be held.
- There was also a large open area in the settlement, where public ceremonies could be held. Other finds include large letters of the Harappan script that were carved out of white stone and perhaps inlaid in wood. This is a unique find as generally Harappan writing has been found on small objects such as seals.
- At Dholavira, two seasonal streams (Manhar and Mansar) provided water, a scarce resource in the region, to the walled city. Water diverted from seasonal streams, scanty precipitation, and the available ground was sourced, stored, in **large stone-cut reservoirs which are extant along the eastern and southern fortification**. To further access water, a few rock-cut wells are evident in different parts of the city. **Dams were built across these to channelize their water into reservoirs. Hence option (a) is the correct answer.**

Source



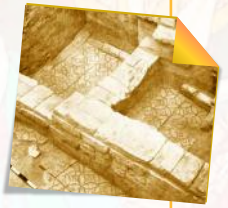
New NCERT: Themes in Indian History - Part 1- Page 4



Dholavira (Gujarat)

★ Other important Harappan sites:

● **Kalibangan:** Kalibangan (literally, 'black bangles') gets its name from the thick clusters of black bangles lying all over the surface of its mounds. This site lies on the banks of the dry bed of the Ghaggar river, in the Hanumangarh district of Rajasthan. The citadel complex at Kalibangan consists of a northern and southern unit, separated from each other by a wall. The southern unit had no houses but is noted for a series of mud-brick platforms with a row of seven clay-plastered pits. Steps or ramps led up to the platforms. **Nearby were a well and bath pavements. The pits have been interpreted as fire altars.**



● **Rakhigarhi (Hisar, Haryana):** The site of Rakhigarhi is one of the five known biggest townships of Harappan civilization on the Indian subcontinent. The other four are Harappa, Mohenjodaro and Ganweriwala in Pakistan and Dholavira (Gujarat). The site is located in the **Saraswati/ Ghaggar-Hakra River plain**, some 27 km from the seasonal Ghaggar river. It represents the mature Harappan phase as it had planned township having mud-brick as well as burnt-brick houses with a proper drainage system. Animal sacrificial pit lined with mud brick and triangular and circular fire alters on the mud floor have also been excavated. Excavation at Mound No. 3 has revealed what appears to be "an aristocratic settlement".



● **Lothal** is located between the Sabarmati river and its tributary, the Bhogava, in Saurashtra in Gujarat. The most distinctive feature of Lothal is the dockyard, which lies on the eastern edge of the site. This is roughly a trapezoidal basin, enclosed by walls of burnt bricks. The dockyard had provisions for maintaining a regular level of water by means of a sluice gate and a spill channel. A mud-brick platform along the western embankment may have been used for loading and unloading of goods.



★ **Ropar:** Ropar has the distinction of being the site where the remains of the Harappa civilization were excavated for the first time in post-partition India.

★ Mohenjo Daro, or "Mound of the Dead" is an ancient Indus Valley Civilization. It lies in Pakistan's Sindh province, on the bank of the Indus River. It was discovered in 1922 by R. D. Banerji. Mohenjo-Daro, like its contemporaries (Kalibangan and Harappa), was also divided into two parts: the citadel and the lower town.

● The city included a 900-square-foot Great Bath and about 700 wells. The Great Bath is a rectangular public pool situated in the citadel.

● Other important findings were- Granary, Bronze dancing girl, Seal of Pasupati Mahadeva, Steatite statue of beard man, A piece of woven cotton etc.

★ **Harappa** is the first discovered site of this civilization excavated in 1921 by a team led by Daya Ram Sahni. It was a major urban centre during its mature phase surrounded by extensive walls. It is located in Punjab Province, Pakistan, on an old bank of the River Ravi.

CSAT

CLASSROOM PROGRAM 2024

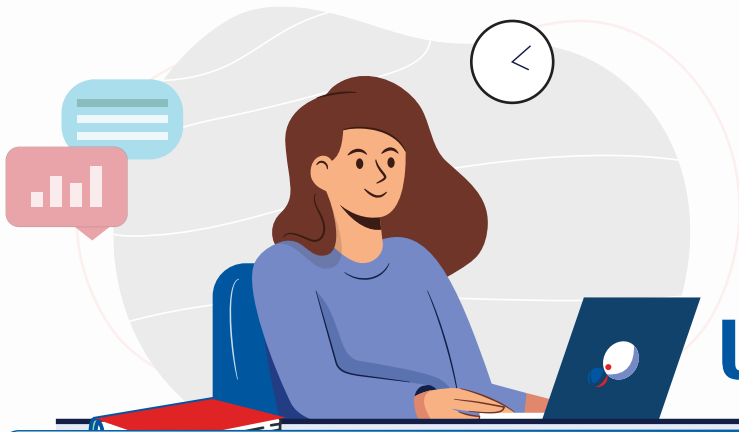
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Mastering CSAT:

A Strategic Roadmap for

UPSC Prelims Examination

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With the CSAT's growing complexity, achieving the 33% qualifying score is challenging. Aspirants must navigate time management, adapting to changing difficulty levels, maintaining balance with General Studies, and finding quality practice materials. This underscores the importance of a well-planned strategy.



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Strategic Framework for CSAT Preparation



Initial Self-Assessment: Begin with a self-evaluation using the previous year's CSAT papers to identify strengths and areas for improvement.



Study Plan: Develop a structured study plan, focusing on high yielding areas and selecting reliable study sources.



Regular Practice and Post-Test Analysis: Solving and analyzing previous year papers and mock tests to familiarize with the exam format and question types, ensuring a strategic approach to covering the comprehensive syllabus effectively.



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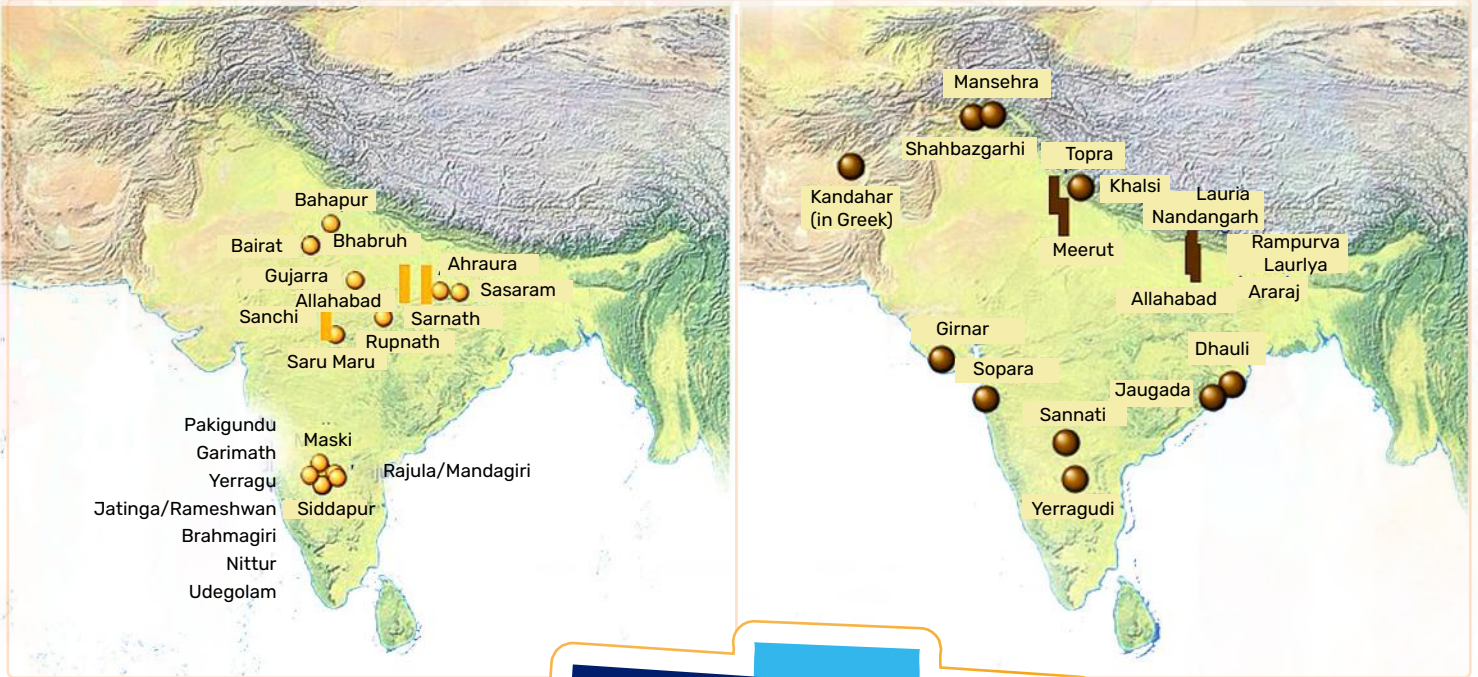


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Ashoka- Minor and Major Rock edicts



2020

Q.2. Who among the following rulers advised his subjects through this inscription?

"Whosoever praises his religious sect or blames other sects out of excessive devotion to his own sect, with the view of glorifying his own sect, he rather injures his own sect very severely."

- (a) Ashoka
- (b) Samudragupta
- (c) Harshavardhana
- (d) Krishnadeva Raya

ANSWER A

Explanation



- ★ Ashoka is known to be a tolerant emperor of India. He respected every religion and encouraged people to follow Dharma. This particular trait of him is evident from the inscription on the XIIth major rock edict. He calls for restraint in speech in praising one's own religion and criticizing other religions. Criticizing harshly harms own and other religions as well. The edict concludes with the admonition that an individual's religion grows through Dharma and so all faiths are improved by tolerance and understanding. **Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.**



Ashoka is known to be secular and tolerant. Also, the first ruler who spoke to his people through inscriptions

Source



NCERT class6th, Our Past1, Page.No.- 73, chapter: ASHOKA, THE EMPEROR WHO GAVE UP WAR

Themes in the 12 Major Rock Edicts of Ashoka

Edicts	Theme
Edict I	Prohibition on animal killings
Edict II	Provision for social welfare such as medical treatment for humans and animals
Edict III	Inspection tours by officials to instruct population in Dharma
Edict IV	Decree concerning non-violence. Importance of right behaviour and Dharma
Edict V	Instructions to do good to all; compassion for convicts and their families
Edict VI	Effective administration and necessity of reports from populace
Edict VII	Religious tolerance and importance of self control and purity of heart
Edict VIII	Dharma yatras propagating dharma and gifting Brahmanas, old aged people
Edict IX	Decree on proper and improper ceremonies
Edict X	Achievement of glory only through propagation of Dharma
Edict XI	Explanation of Dharma through values such as generosity, compassion, non-violence
Edict XII	Decree concerning religious tolerance and mutual respect among adherents of different faiths
Edict XIII	Decree concerning the Kalinga War and its impact on Ashoka- acceptance of Dharma
Edict XIV	Describes engravings in different parts of the country

2022

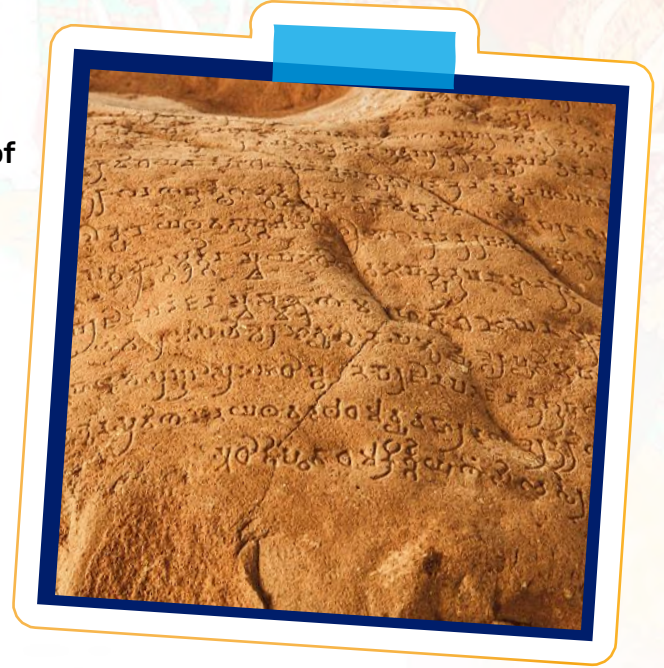
Q.3. Consider the following pairs:

Site of Ashoka's major rock edicts Location in the State of

- | | | |
|-------------|---|----------------|
| 1. Dhauli | - | Odisha |
| 2. Erragudi | - | Andhra Pradesh |
| 3. Jaugada | - | Madhya Pradesh |
| 4. Kalsi | - | Karnataka |

How many pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one pair
 (b) Only two pairs
 (c) Only three pairs
 (d) All four pairs



ANSWER **B**

Explanation



Major Rock Edict XII of Ashoka:

- ★ The set of 14 major rock edicts (or portions thereof) occur at:
- ★ Kandahar (in Kandahar district, south Afghanistan) (only portions of rock edicts 12 and 13)
- ★ Shahbazgarhi (Peshawar district, North-West Frontier, Province, Pakistan)
- ★ Mansehra (Hazara district, NWFP, Pakistan)
- ★ Kalsi (Dehradun district, Uttarakhand)
- ★ Girnar (Junagadh district, Gujarat)
- ★ Mumbai-Sopara (originally at Sopara in Thane district, Maharashtra; now in the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya, Mumbai; only fragments of rock edicts 8 and 9)
- ★ Dhauli (Puri district, Orissa; separate rock edicts 1 and 2 replace major rock edicts 11-13)
- ★ Jaugada (Ganjam district, Orissa; separate rock edicts 1 and 2 replace major rock edicts 11-13)
- ★ Erragudi (Kurnool district, Andhra Pradesh)
- ★ Sannati (Gulbarga district, Karnataka; portions of rock edicts 12 and 14 and separate rock edicts 1 and 2 were found on a granite slab in a medieval goddess temple.



Source



NCERT class6th, Our Past1, Page.No.- 73, chapter: ASHOKA, THE EMPEROR WHO GAVE UP WAR

2022

Q4. According to Kautilya's Arthashastra, which of the following are correct?

1. A person could be a slave as a result of a judicial punishment.
2. If a female slave bore her master a son, she was legally free.
3. If a son born to a female slave was fathered by her master, the son was entitled to the legal status of the master's son.

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 B**Explanation**

- ★ The Arthashastra states that a man could be a slave either by birth, by voluntarily selling himself, by being captured in war, or as a result of a judicial punishment.
- ★ Slavery was a recognized institution and the legal relationship between master and slave was clearly defined e.g. if a female slave bore her master a son, not only was she legally free but the child was entitled to legal status of the master's son.
- ★ **Slavery in Arthashastra:**
- ★ Arthashastra gives a detailed account of the institution of slavery in a separate chapter 'Dasa Kalpa'. Although he has supported the institution by suggesting it is a necessary element of society, he provides certain rights to enable them to achieve emancipation.
- ★ **According to Kautilya there were nine types of slaves:**
- ★ A person captured in war was enslaved for a short period of time. As these were mostly Aryas, they could be freed by paying half the price and attain Arya-hood again.
- ★ There were slaves who accepted the slave status for living. Kautilya mentions them as 'Udaradasa' (slave for stomach i.e. due to hunger)
- ★ There were slaves who were born slaves (Grihjatah). These were born in the house of the masters to the female slaves.
- ★ Bought slaves are also mentioned in the Arthashastra and are called 'Krita' who could never attain freedom. They were mostly non-Aryans (Mlechcha)
- ★ Slaves received in gifts are also mentioned as Labdhah.
- ★ Slaves had been treated as chattels and they could be inherited from father to son. They are described as 'Daya-agatah'

- ★ A person enslaved because of judicial punishment has been mentioned as Dandapraneet. This kind of slavery was of fixed period as Dandapraneet could be freed after serving the sentence.
- ★ Kautilya also described the slaves who enslaved themselves voluntarily by selling themselves. They could attain freedom after some time and their children could be free even during their term of slavery
- ★ Mortgaged slaves are described as 'Ahitaka'.

Source



<http://indiansaga.com/others/slavery.html>



GUPTA- Total No. of Questions - 4

2019

Q.1. With reference to forced labour (Vishti) in India during the Gupta period, which one of the following statements is correct?

- (a) It was considered a source of income for the State, a sort of tax paid by the people.
- (b) It was totally absent in the Madhya Pradesh and Kathiawar region of the Gupta Empire.
- (c) The forced labourer was entitled to weekly wages.
- (d) The eldest son of the labourer was sent as the forced labourer.

ANSWER A

Explanation



- ★ Forced labour (vishti) is forced labour which became more common than before in 300-600C. It is mentioned along with taxes in land grant inscriptions which suggests that it was considered as a source of income for the state, a sort of tax paid by the people. It was an unpaid labour.
- ★ Most of the inscriptions referring to vishti come from the Madhya Pradesh and Kathiawar regions may suggest that this practice was more prevalent in these areas. **Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.**

Source



A History of Ancient and Early - Upinder Singh

<https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/67712/1/Unit-6.pdf>

Student Note



Visthi is a term continuously used to describe forced labour/ bonded labour from state taxation since ancient times

2019

Q.2. With reference to the period of Gupta dynasty in ancient India, the towns Ghantasala, Kadura and Chaul were well known as

- (a) ports handling foreign trade
- (b) capitals of powerful kingdoms
- (c) places of exquisite stone art and architecture
- (d) important Buddhist pilgrimage centres.

ANSWER **A**

Motivation



- ★ **Buddha statue unveiled at Ghantasala village in NOV -2019**
- ★ **Cyclone Nisarga: Central team set to survey losses in Chaul, Diveagar and Kashid in Raigad**

Explanation



- ★ **Indian examples of Ancient submerged Port Towns:**
- ★ In India, evidence of shipbuilding, port, and warehouse installations are datable to Harappan culture. The important Harappan and late Harappan ports were Lothal, Lakhabawal, Kindarkhera, Kuntasi, Megham, Prabhasa, Todio, and Amra. The excavations of these sites have yielded antiquities of Bahrain island, the Persian Gulf, Egypt, and Mesopotamia cities.
- ★ The same maritime traditions continued even during the lifetime of Buddha, the Mauryas, the Gupta, and in later periods. During the historical period, India had trade and cultural contacts with Egypt, Rome, Greeks, Arabs, China, and almost all Southeast Asian countries, through these ports.
- ★ The ports on the west coast were Barygaya, Suppara, Calliena, Semylla, Mandagore, Palaepatme, Malizigara, Aurrannobbas, Byzantine, Naura, Tyndis, Muziris and Nelcynda and the ports on the east coast were Tamralipti, Charitrapur, Paluru, Dantapur, Kalingapatnam, Pithunda, Sopatma, **Ghantasala**, Poduca, Puhar, Korkai and Camara. Merchants thronging sea-port towns like Mamallapuram, Puhar, and Korkai; or busy customs officials, and those engaged in loading and unloading vessels in the harbor.
- ★ The wealth of the Roman Empire reached India through the ports of Kalyan, **Chaul**, Broach, and Cambay in Western India. Tamralipti was an important port in Bengal. It carried on trade with China, Lanka, Java, and Sumatra. There was a great maritime trade between India Southeast Asia and China. **Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.**

Source



OLD NCERT-Medieval India-Satish chandra page no. 93-chapter:The Bahmani Kingdom – Its Expansion and Disintegration

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/buddha-statue-unveiled-at-ghantasala-village/article29957226.ece>
<https://www.nodc.noaa.gov/archive/arc0001/9900162/2.2/data/0-data/jgofscd/htdocs/marinearc/ancientwreck.html>



2020

Q.3. With reference to the history of India, the terms "kulyavapa" and "dronavapa" denote

- (a) measurement of land
- (b) coins of different monetary value
- (c) classification of urban land
- (d) religious rituals

ANSWER **A**

Explanation

- ★ **Gupta Economy:** The agricultural crops constituted the main resources which the society produced and the major part of the revenue of the state came from the agriculture.
- ★ Various types of land are mentioned in the inscriptions; land under cultivation was usually called Kshetra, Khila was the uncultivable land, Aprahata was the jungle or forest land, Gopata Sarah was the pasture land and Vasti was the habitable land.
- ★ **Different land measures were known in different regions such as Nivartana, Kulyavapa and Dronavapa. In the inscriptions of Bengal terms like Kulyavapa and Dronavapa are used. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.**
- ★ It is not possible to classify the regions precisely according to the crops grown, but all the major categories of crops – cereals like barley, wheat and paddy, different varieties of pulses, grams and vegetables as well as cash crops like cotton and sugarcane – were known long before the Gupta period and continued to be cultivated.
- ★ **Different terms used for land measurement during 300-600 CE:**
 - **Angula:** The smallest measure (probably $\frac{3}{4}$ inch)
 - **Hasta:** standardized distance between the tip of the elbow and middle finger
 - **Adhavapa:** $\frac{3}{8}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ acre
 - **Dronavapa:** $\frac{1}{2}$ -2 acre
 - **Kulyavapa:** 12-16 acres. (areas required to sow Adhava, Drona, Kulya pf grain respectively)
 - Pataka- 60-80 acre

Source



Upinder Singh: A history of Ancient and Early Medieval India

2020

Q.4. From the decline of Guptas until the rise of Harshavardhana in the early seventh century, which of the following kingdoms were holding power in Northern India?

1. The Guptas of Magadha
2. The Paramaras of Malwa
3. The Pushyabhutis of Thanesar
4. The Maukharis of Kanauj
5. The Yadavas of Devagiri
6. The Maitrakas of Valabhi

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1, 2 and 5
- (b) 1, 3, 4 and 6
- (c) 2, 3 and 4
- (d) 5 and 6

ANSWER B

Elimination strategy



Parmara of Malawa are 10th century and Yadavas of Devgiri are 12-13th century rulers. Knowledge of Alauddin Khalji's conquest should be used to eliminate options (5th and 2nd) i.e. Yadavas and Parmar. Hence we can eliminate options (a), (c) and (d).



Explanation



- ★ In the sixth century CE, the Huns occupied Malwa, Gujarat, Punjab and Gandhara. As the Hun invasion weakened the Gupta hold in the country, independent rulers emerged all over the north like Yasodharman of Malwa, the Maukharis of Uttar Pradesh, the Maitrakas in Saurashtra and others in Bengal.
- ★ In time, the Gupta Empire came to be restricted to only Magadha.
- ★ North India splintered into several warrior kingdoms after the downfall of the Gupta Empire. Excepting in the areas that were subdued by the Huns (modern Punjab, Rajasthan and Malwa), regional identity became pronounced with the emergence of many small states.
- ★ Maithriyas had organised a powerful state in Sourashtra (Gujarat), with Valabhi as their capital. Agra and Oudh were organised into an independent and sovereign state by the Maukharis.

The Vakatakas had recovered their position of ascendancy in the western Deccan. Despite political rivalry and conflict among these states, Thanesar, lying north of Delhi between Sutlej and Yamuna, was formed into an independent state by Pushyabhutis.

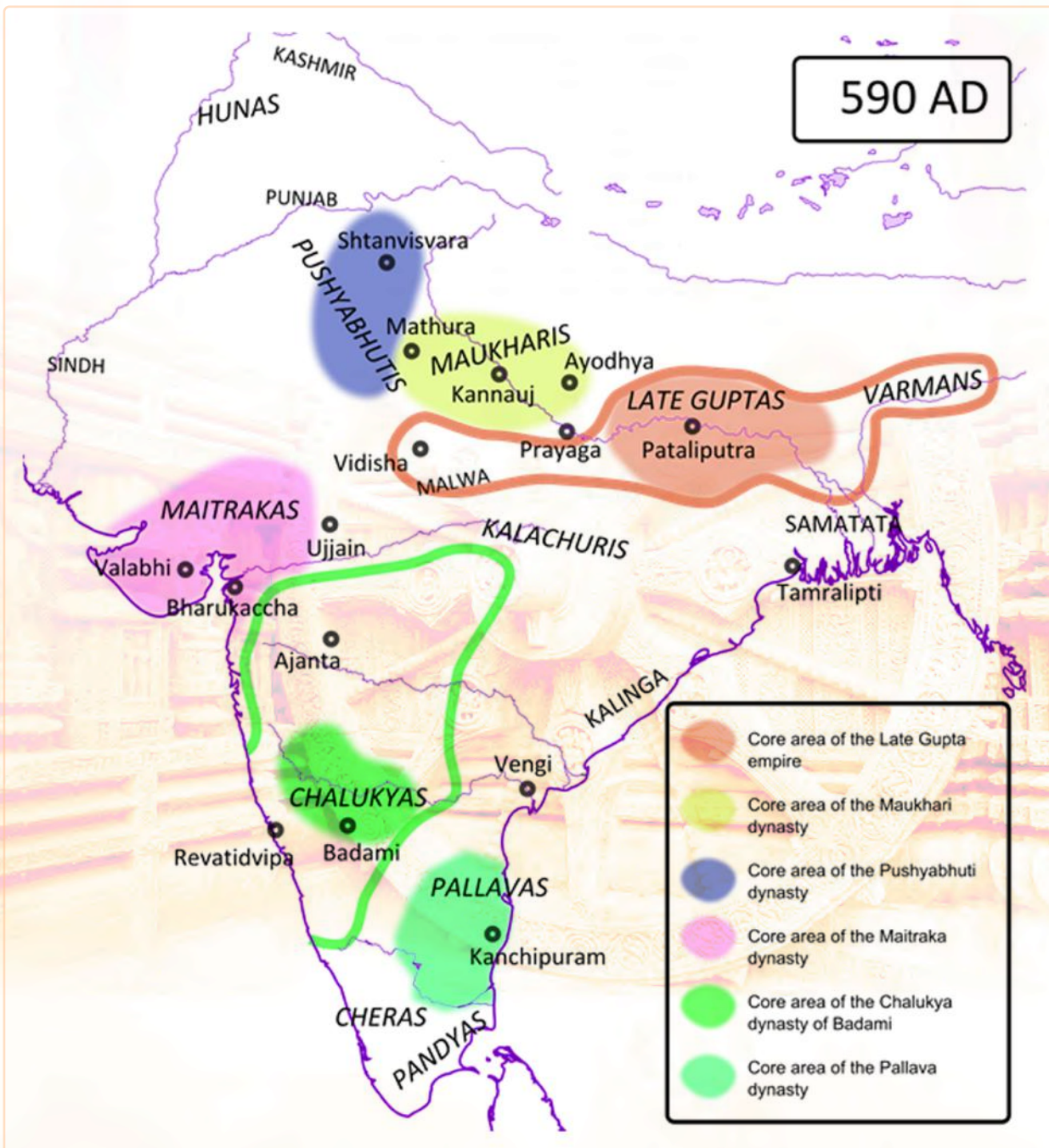
- ★ By the beginning of the tenth century two powerful Rajput Kingdoms Gurjar Pratihara and Rashtrakutas had lost their power. Tomaras (Delhi), Chauhans (Rajasthan), Solankis (Gujarat), Paramaras (Malwa), Gahadavalas (Kanauj) and Chandelas (Bundelkhand) had become important ruling dynasties of Northern India.
- ★ At the beginning of the fourteenth century, when the Delhi Sultanate was preparing to extend southwards, the Deccan and south India were divided into four kingdoms: the Yadavas of Devagiri (Western Deccan or present Maharashtra), the Hoysalas of Dvarasamudra (Karnataka), the Kakatiyas of Warangal (eastern part of present Telengana) and the Pandyas of Madurai (southern Tamil Nadu).
- ★ Hence option (b) is the correct answer.

Source



The History of Early India: From the Origins to AD 1300 by Romilla Thapar: Chapter-9: Threshold Times c. AD 300-700; Sub-topic: Harsha

<https://scroll.in/article/722369/the-changing-map-of-india-from-1-ad-to-the-20th-century>



Significant Places - Total No. of Questions - 3

2021

Q.1. Consider the following pairs:

(Historical place)	(Well-known for)
1. Burzahom	: Rock-cut shrines
2. Chandra-ketugarh	: Terracotta art
3. Ganeshwar	: Copper artefacts

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 2 and 3

ANSWER D

Elimination strategy

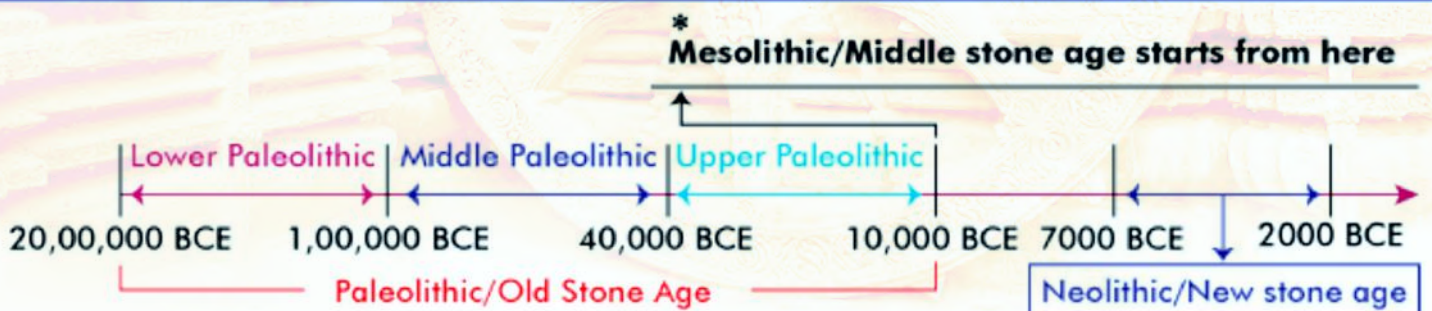
Solvability:

Burzhom is mentioned in NCERT for pit dwellings. Through this knowledge we can easily eliminate option (a) and (b)

Explanation

- ★ The Stone Age is a period in prehistory during which early humans started using stones, usually flint, to make tools and weapons. It is the earliest known period of human culture. **In India, the prehistoric period/Stone Age is divided into :**

CLASSIFYING INDIAN STONE AGE



* The end date of Mesolithic period is not clearly established as it extends across different periods.

- ★ 1. Paleolithic (Old Stone Age) – Timeline – 500,000 B.C. to 10,000 B.C.
- ★ 2. Mesolithic (Middle Stone Age) – Timeline – 10,000 B.C. to 4,000 B.C.
- ★ 3. Neolithic (New Stone Age) – Timeline – 7000 BC to 2,000 BC.
- ★ In India the Neolithic Age is mainly characterized by the development of settled agriculture and the use of tools and weapons made of polished stones.
 - The Neolithic settlements have been found in the North-Western part (Such as Kashmir), Southern part (Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh), North Eastern frontier (Meghalaya), and Eastern part (Bihar and Odisha) of India.
 - Important Neolithic settlements are Mehrgarh (located in Baluchistan, Pakistan), Burzahom (Kashmir), Gufkral (Kashmir), Chirand (Bihar), and Utnur (Andhra Pradesh).

★ **Burzahom (the place of birch)**

- The site is famous for pit dwelling and neolithic tool industry. The people lived on a lake side in pits. Domestic dogs were buried along with their masters in their graves. Burzahom had a well-developed bone tool industry; artefacts such as points, harpoons, needles etc. Used tools and weapons made of polished stone as well as bone. Other finds of Period at Burzahom included ill-fired, handmade, coarse pottery in grey, red, brown, and buff colours.



★ **Hence pair 1 is not correctly matched.**

- ★ **Chandraketugarh is located in the Ganga delta in West Bengal. In early historic times, Chandraketugarh was connected to the Ganga by the Vidyadhari river, and must have been an important centre of trade, and possibly also a political centre. Various kinds of artefacts have been found at the site over the years, including coins, pottery, seals and sealings, and figurines made of ivory, wood, and bronze. Chandra-ketugarh is best known as a major centre of terracotta craft. Large number o terracotta artifacts have been discovered here, which can be assigned to 200 BCE-300 CE. Hence pair 2 is correctly matched.**

★ **The Neolithic period was followed by the Chalcolithic/Metal age. It was the time when humans began using metals along with stones.**

- First metal used by humans was Copper. Hence this age was also called the 'Copper-Stone' age.
- Technologically, the Chalcolithic stage is applied to the pre-Harappan phase. However, in various parts of India, the Chalcolithic cultures followed the Bronze Age Harappa culture.
- The Chalcolithic people mostly used stone and copper objects, but they also occasionally used low-grade bronze and even iron.

★ **The important non-Harappan chalcolithic cultures lay mainly in western India and Deccan. These include**

- **Banas culture (2600BC-1900 BC)** in south-east Rajasthan, with Ahar near Udaipur and Gilund as its key sites;
- **Kayatha culture (2100BC-2000 BC)** with Kayatha in Chambal as its chief site in Madhya Pradesh;
- **Malwa Culture (1700BC-1400BC)** with Navdatoli in Western Madhya Pradesh as an important site, and
- **Jorwe culture (1400BC- 700BC)** with Inamgaon and Chandoli near Pune in Maharashtra as its chief centers.

- ★ **Ganeshwar** is a Chalcolithic site in Rajasthan whose deposits are ascribed to 2800–2200 BC, they, by and large, predate the mature Harappan culture. Ganeshwar principally supplied copper objects to Harappa and did not receive much from it. The Ganeshwar people partly lived on agriculture and largely on hunting. Although their principal craft was the manufacture of copper objects, they were unable to urbanize. With its microliths and other stone tools, much of the Ganeshwar culture can be considered a pre-Harappan Chalcolithic culture that contributed to the making of the mature Harappan culture. **Hence pair 3 is correctly matched.**

Some important Neolithic sites and their findings

Neolithic Site	Location	Important Findings
Mehrgarh	Balochistan, Pakistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Earliest evidence of agriculture and domestication of animals. ★ Well-planned settlement with mud-brick houses. ★ Artifacts like pottery, figurines, and beads
Gufkral	Kashmir, India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Remains of mud-brick structures and stone tools. ★ Evidence of domestication of animals and early agriculture
Brahmagiri	Karnataka, India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Discovery of microliths and polished stone axes. ★ Evidence of hunting, gathering, and early agriculture
Piklihal	Karnataka, India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ The people in Piklihal were cattle-herders. They domesticated sheep, goats, and cattle. ★ Ash mounds have been found.
Chirand	Bihar, India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Chirand is an archaeological site situated in the Saran district of Bihar. It is located on the bank of the Ganga river. ★ Archaeological evidence of circular huts and small-scale cultivation of wheat, rice, peas, etc have been found here. ★ One of the peculiar characteristics of this site is its abundance of bone tools.
Tokwa	Jammu and Kashmir, India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Remains of mud-brick structures and artifacts like pottery and stone tools ★ Evidence of early agricultural practices
Hallur	Karnataka, India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Well-planned settlement with evidence of early agriculture. ★ Discovery of pottery, beads, and burial sites

Source



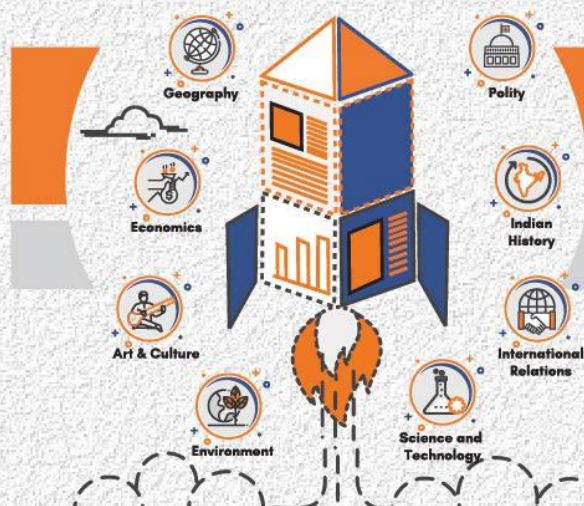
Upinder Singh, Chapter 3

Option 2: "Chandraketugarh

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kolkata/heritage-pnel-plans-intl-centre-at-chandraketugarh/articleshow/85988318.cms>

<https://www.thebetterindia.com/251144/west-bengal-chandraketugarh-archaeological-survey-of-india-history-mystery-chandragupta-maurya-indus-valley-civilisation-div200/>

Important Neolithic sites



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**ADMISSION
OPEN**

2023

Q.2. In which one of the following regions was Dhanyakataka, which flourished as a prominent Buddhist centre under the Mahasanghikas, located?

- (a) Andhra
- (b) Gandhara
- (c) Kalinga
- (d) Magadha

ANSWER **A**

Explanation



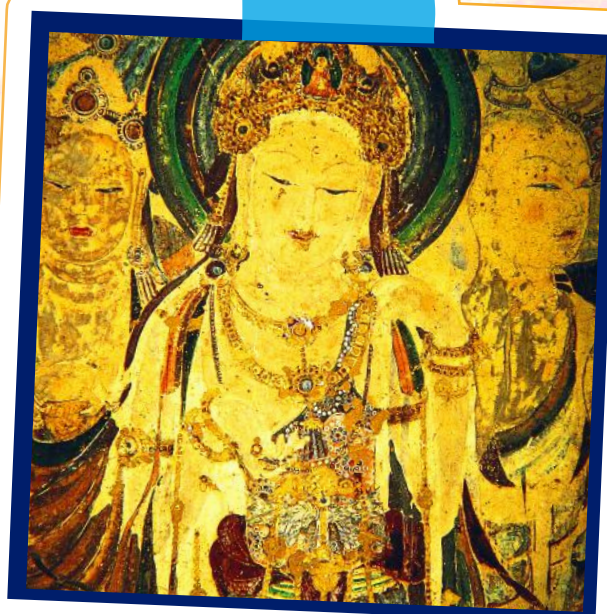
- ★ There are a few literary traditions about the **presence of Buddhism in Andhra Pradesh during pre-Mauryan period**. The famous Buddhist sites of Amaravati and Dhanyakataka are associated with Buddha, as a birthplace of one of the previous births of Buddha and a preaching site of Buddha respectively.
- ★ **Amaravati and Dharanikota, both formed part of ancient Dhanyakataka, the capital of later Satavahanas. With the spread of Buddhism to different parts of the country many sects appeared.** For example, the **Theravadins had their centre of activity at Kausambi; Mathura was the centre for the Sarvastivadins;** and the **Bhadra Yanika sect flourished at Nasik and Kanheri.**
- ★ The origin of these sects may not have been originally due to differences in the doctrines. In fact, what contributed to their origin and growth were factors related to geographical diversities of the country, attitudes of various communities at the local levels and perhaps lack of coordination between the various exponents of the sects. **Under the Satavahavas, the Dhanyakataka (Amaravati) region became the most important stronghold of Mahayana Buddhism whereas the Sthaviravadins were popular in the north. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.**

Source



Themes in Indian History Part 1;
Ch2- Kings, Farmers and Towns
Early States and Economies (c.
600 BCE-600 CE)- Pg 43 (Map)

<https://ncert.nic.in/textbook/pdf/lehs102.pdf>



Some Important Kingdoms and Towns



2023

Q.3. With reference to ancient South India, Korkai, Poompuhar and Muchiri were well known as

- (a) capital cities
- (b) ports
- (c) centres of iron-and-steel making
- (d) shrines of Jain tirthankaras

ANSWER B

Motivation



- ★ Articles in early 2023 on these ports
- ★ <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/the-last-of-pearl-divers-from-the-ancient-tradition-of-korkai/article66573663.ece>
- ★ <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/ancient-port-city-of-poompuhar-traced-undersea-claim-researchers/article66413969.ece>

Explanation



- ★ Korkai, Poompuhar and Muchiri were well-known ports. The Sangam literature provides valuable insights into the urban centres and cultures of early historical South India. Kaverippumpattinam (also known as Poompuhar or Puhar) was the premier Chola port in early historical times. Classical accounts refer to it as Khabaris or Camara. Korkai was the major Pandya port, while Tondi and Muchiri were the important ports in the Chera kingdom.
- ★ Hence option (b) is the correct answer.

Student Note



Puhar is mentioned in the NCERT as port city. Muziris is also mentioned. Sometimes, different variations of names are used in historical accounts.

Source



Themes in Indian History Part 1; Ch2- Kings, Farmers and Towns Early States and Economies (c. 600 BCE-600 CE)- Pg 43 (Map)

<https://ncert.nic.in/textbook/pdf/lehs102.pdf>

Important port during Sangam Age



Brief outline and chronology of key periods in
Medieval Indian History

A. Early Medieval Indian Dynasties and Regional Kingdoms

Pallava Dynasty (3rd–9th century CE)

- ★ **Founder:** Simhavishnu
- ★ **Important Rulers:** Mahendravarman I, Narasimhavarman I (Mamalla)



Chalukya Dynasty (6th–12th century CE)

- ★ **Founder:** Pulakeshin I
- ★ **Important Ruler:** Pulakeshin II



Chola Dynasty (9th–13th century CE)

- ★ **Founder:** Vijayalaya Chola
- ★ **Important Rulers:** Rajaraja Chola I, Rajendra Chola I, Kulottunga Chola I



Pandya Dynasty (9th–14th century CE)

- ★ **Founder:** Kadungon
- ★ **Important Rulers:** Sundara Pandya, Maravarman Kulasekara Pandyan I, Jatavarman Sundara Pandyan



5. Rashtrakuta Dynasty (8th–10th century CE)

- ★ **Founder:** Dantidurga
- ★ **Important Rulers:** Krishna I, Amoghavarsha I



Pala Dynasty (8th–12th century CE)

- ★ **Founder:** Gopala
- ★ **Important Rulers:** Dharmapala, Devapala



Gurjara-Pratihara Dynasty (6th–11th century CE)

- ★ **Founder:** Nagabhata I
- ★ **Important Rulers:** Mihira Bhoja, Mahendrapala I



Rajput Dynasties

★ **Chauhan Dynasty: (8th–12th century CE)**

- **Founder:** Vighararaja Chauhan
- **Important Ruler:** Prithviraj Chauhan

★ **Chandelas of Jejakabhukti: (9th–13th centuries.)**

- **Founder:** Nannuka
- **Important Ruler:** King Yashovarman, King Paramardi Deva

★ **Gahadavalas of Kannauj:**

- **Time Period:** 11th to 12th centuries CE.
- **Region:** Kannauj region, present-day Uttar Pradesh.

★ **Parmar Dynasty:**

- **Time Period:** 9th to 13th centuries CE.
- **Region:** Primarily present-day Malwa region of Madhya Pradesh.
- **Important Rulers:**
- **Raja Bhoja:** Known for his patronage of arts, literature, and his contributions to Sanskrit literature.

Hoysala Dynasty (10th–14th century CE)

- ★ **Founder:** Nripa Kama II
- ★ **Important Rulers:** Vishnuvardhana, Veera Ballala II



Kakatiya Dynasty (11th–14th century CE)

- ★ **Founder:** Prola II
- ★ **Important Rulers:** Rudrama Devi, Prataparudra



B. Late Medieval India (1200–1826 CE)

Delhi Sultanate (1206–1526 CE)

- ★ **Slave Dynasty (1206–1290 CE):**
 - Founder: Qutb al-Din Aibak
- ★ **Khilji Dynasty (1290–1320 CE):**
 - Founder: Jalaluddin Khilji
 - Important Rulers: Alauddin Khilji
- ★ **Tughlaq Dynasty (1320–1414 CE):**
 - Founder: Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq
 - Important Rulers: Muhammad bin Tughlaq, Firuz Shah Tughlaq
- ★ **Sayyid Dynasty (1414–1451 CE):**
 - Founder: Khizr Khan
- ★ **Lodi Dynasty (1451–1526 CE):**
 - Founder: Bahlul Lodi
 - Important Rulers: Sikandar Lodi, Ibrahim Lodi

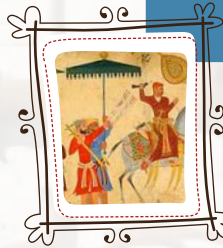


Vijayanagara Empire (1336–1646 CE)

- ★ **Harihara I and Bukka Raya I (Founders)**
- ★ **Important Rulers:** Krishnadevaraya, Devaraya II

Bahmani Sultanate (1347–1527 CE)

- ★ **Founding:** Established in 1347 CE by Ala-ud-Din Bahman Shah, a noble who declared independence from the Delhi Sultanate.
- ★ **Disintegration:** The Bahmani Sultanate disintegrated into five smaller sultanates known as the Deccan Sultanates in 1527 CE.



Deccan Sultanates (1527–1686 CE)

- ★ **Golkonda Sultanate:** Founded by Quli Qutb Shah in 1518 CE.
- ★ **Ahmednagar Sultanate:** Founded by Malik Ahmad Nizam Shah in 1490 CE.
- ★ **Bijapur Sultanate:** Founded by Yusuf Adil Shah in 1490 CE.
- ★ **Berar Sultanate:** Founded by Fathullah Imad-ul-Mulk in 1490 CE.
- ★ **Bidar Sultanate:** Founded by Qasim Barid in 1528 CE.



Mughal Empire (1526–1857 CE)

- ★ **Founder:** Babur
- ★ Babur establishes the Mughal Empire after defeating Ibrahim Lodi at the First Battle of Panipat
- ★ Akbar, Jahangir, Shah Jahan, and Aurangzeb are prominent rulers

Ahom Kingdom (1228–1826 CE)

- ★ **Founder:** Sukaphaa
- ★ **Important Rulers:** Rudra Singha, Suhungmung



Maratha Empire (1674–1818 CE)

- ★ **Founder:** Shivaji Maharaj
- ★ **Important Rulers:** Shivaji Maharaj, Peshwa Baji Rao I



Sikh Empire (1799–1849 CE)

- ★ **Founder:** Maharaja Ranjit Singh
- ★ **Important Rulers:** Maharaja Ranjit Singh



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Medieval History

Early Medieval dynasties/Significant Dynasties -Total No. of Questions - 4

2017

Q.1. Which one of the following was a very important seaport in the Kakatiya kingdom?

- (a) Kakinada
- (b) Motupalli
- (c) Machilipatnam (Masulipatnam)
- (d) Nelluru

ANSWER **B**

Explanation



- ★ Motupalli was the chief port of the Kakatiyas and this port was visited by the Venitian traveller, Marco Polo. Marco Polo praises the delicate buckram and muslins of Mutfli or Motupalli, which received a special charter from the Kaktiya king Ganapatideva for its promotion as a major trdaing centre..
- ★ **Motupalli is also important for its inscription by Ganapti Deva of Kakatiya dynasty. It records both the imports and exports of this town. It records some items of trade such as kari (elephants), turaga (horse); kanaka (gold), ratna (gems), corals, copper, zinc lead, and silk thread etc.**
- ★ **The inscription was an 'abhaya sasana' attempting to standardise levies on trade, at least external trade.**

Source



Early India: From the Origins to A.D. 1300, Part 1 Romilla Thapar
page 384

<https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/44512/1/Unit-15.pdf>

2020

Q.2. Consider the following events in the history of India :

1. Rise of Pratiharas under King Bhoja
2. Establishment of Pallava power under Mahendravarman-I
3. Establishment of Chola power by Purantaka
4. Pala dynasty founded by Gopala

What is the correct chronological order of the above events, starting from the earliest time?

- (a) 2-1-4-3
- (b) 3-1-4-2
- (c) 2-4-1-3
- (d) 3-4-1-2

ANSWER **C**

Elimination strategy



Solvability:

Mahendravarman I was important ruler of Pallava kingdom and also a contemporary of Harsha: So it can be safely assumed that it is first chronologically. Accordingly we can eliminate option (b) and (d) which are not started with option 3.

Explanation



- ★ **The Gurjara Pratihara** dynasty was founded by Nagabhatta I in the region of Malwa in the 8th century AD. He belonged to a Rajput clan. Gurjara-Pratihara dynasty ruled much of Northern India from the mid-8th to the 11th century. The Pratiharas, derived their name from the Sanskrit meaning doorkeeper, are seen as a tribal group or a clan of the Gurjaras. The greatest ruler of the Pratihara dynasty was Mihir Bhoja (836–885 CE). He recovered Kannauj (Kanyakubja) by 836 A.D, and it remained the capital of the Pratiharas for almost a century.
- ★ **The Pallavas** were a powerful ancient dynasty that ruled a huge part of Southern India, including present day Tamil Nadu, between the 6th and 9th centuries AD, with Kanchipuram as their capital. The Pallavas reached their zenith during the reign of Mahendravarman I (c. 600–630), a contemporary of Harsha and Pulakeshin II.
- ★ **Mahendravarman I:** He was a Pallava King who succeeded Simhavishnu and reigned for c. 600–630. He was a great patron of art and architecture and is known for introducing a new style to Dravidian architecture, which is sometimes referred to as “Mahendra style.” He built temples at Panamalai, Mandagapattu and Kanchipuram. The inscription at Mandagapattu mentions Mahendravarman I with numerous titles such as: Vichitrachitta (curious-minded) Chitrakarapuli (tiger among artists) Chaityakari (temple builder).

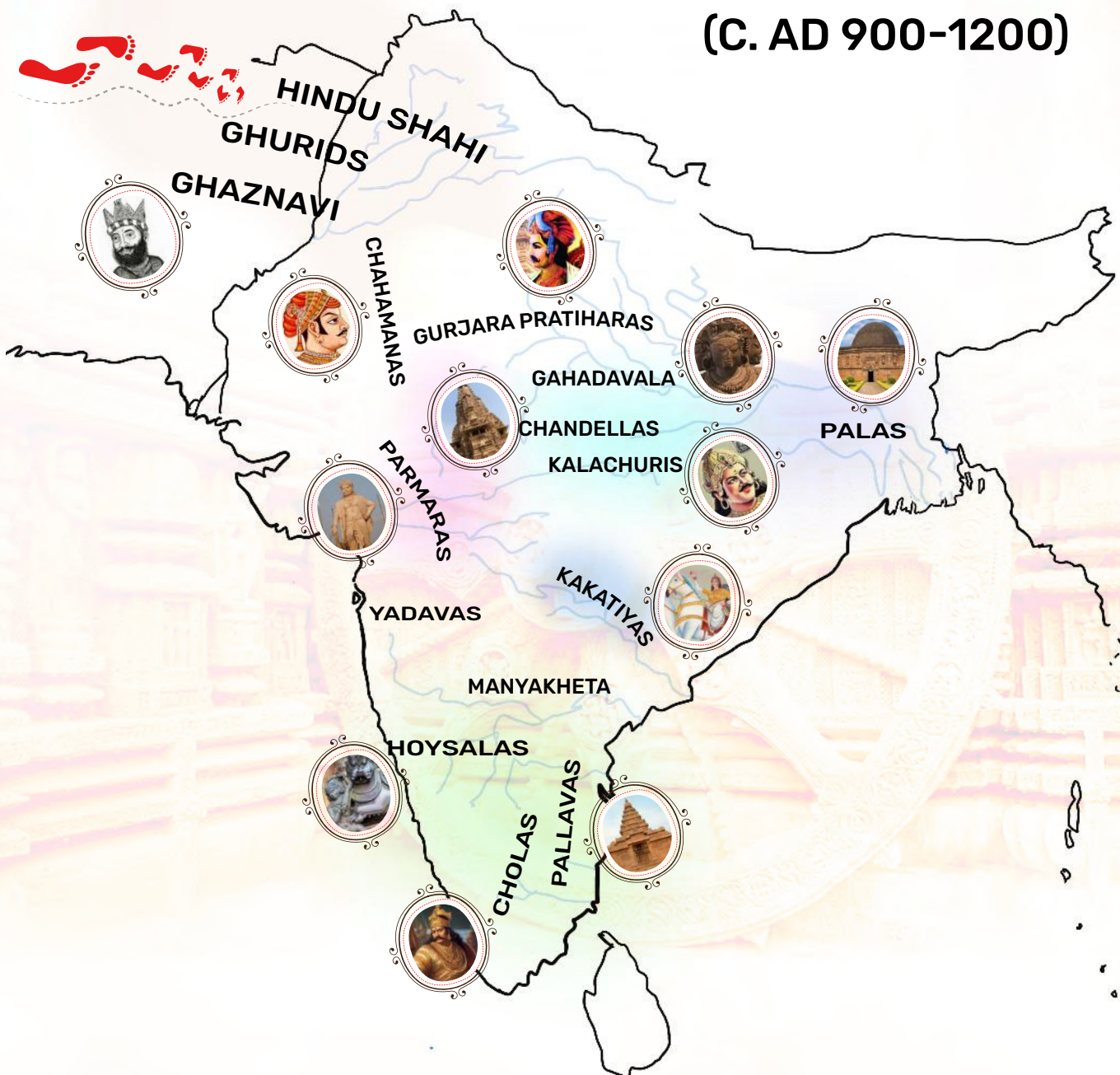
- ★ **The Cholas** became prominent in the ninth century and established an empire comprising the major portion of South India. Their capital was Tanjore. The Chola ruler Parantaka succeeded his father Aditya I (Aditya I or Aditya Chola, the son of Vijayalaya Chola, is the second ruler of the medieval Cholas) on the throne in 907 and ruled for forty-eight years. Soon after his accession, as early as 910, he invaded the Pandyan country and assumed the title Maduraikonda ('Capturer of Madura').
- ★ The Pala Empire was an imperial power during the post-classical period (8th and 9th century AD) which originated in the Bengal region. The empire was founded with the election of Gopala as the emperor of Gauda in 750 CE. **Hence correct sequence is 2-4-1-3.**

Source



NCERT class7th-OUR PASTS - II, NEW KINGS AND KINGDOMS. pg.16-21.

INDIA (C. AD 900-1200)



2022

Q.3. Consider the following pairs:

King	Dynasty
1. Nannuka	Chandela
2. Jayashakti	Paramara
3. Nagabhata II	Gurjara-Pratihara
4. Bhoja	Rashtrakuta

How many pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one pair
- (b) Only two pairs
- (c) Only three pairs
- (d) All four pairs

ANSWER B

Explanation



- ★ **The Gurjara Pratihara dynasty was founded by Nagabhata I in the region of Malwa in the 8th century AD. Gurjara-Pratihara dynasty** ruled much of Northern India from the mid-8th to the 11th century. The Pratiharas derived their name from the Sanskrit meaning doorkeeper, are seen as a tribal group or a clan of the Gurjaras. Nagabhata I, **Nagabhata II**, Mihir Bhoj or Bhoja and Mahendrapala were the other important rulers of the dynasty. The expansion of the Gurjara-Pratihara kingdom involved constant conflicts with other contemporary powers such as the Palas and the Rashtrakutas known as the tripartite struggle over the city of Kannauj. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched but pair 4 is not correctly matched.**
- ★ **Dantidurga** was the founder of the dynasty called, Rashtrakuta dynasty (8th century AD). The capital of the Rastrakutas was Manyakheta or Malkhed near Sholapur. Dhruva-I, Krishna-I and Amoghavarsha were the other important rulers of this dynasty.
- ★ The Chandela or Chandel was Indian Rajput clan of Central India. They were popularly termed as Chandelas or Jejakabhukti dynasty in Indian history.
- ★ **Nannuk**, a ruler of small kingdom was the founder of Chandela Dynasty. Khajuraho was a strong hold of Nannuk who was considered as the chief of his clan. Vakapati succeeded his father in the first quarter of tenth century. Vakapati had to often assist Pratiharas in the battle field, as he was a liegeman of them. Some inscriptions prove that his territory extended till Vindhya hills.
- ★ **Jaishakti, the elder son**, succeeded the throne and was successful in extending his empire. Jaishakti, the elder brother who ruled first, was also called Jai Jak and from this name the region ruled by the Chandelas acquired the name of Jaijkbhukti. He was succeeded on the throne by his younger brother, Vijayshakti. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched but pair 2 is not correctly matched.**

Source

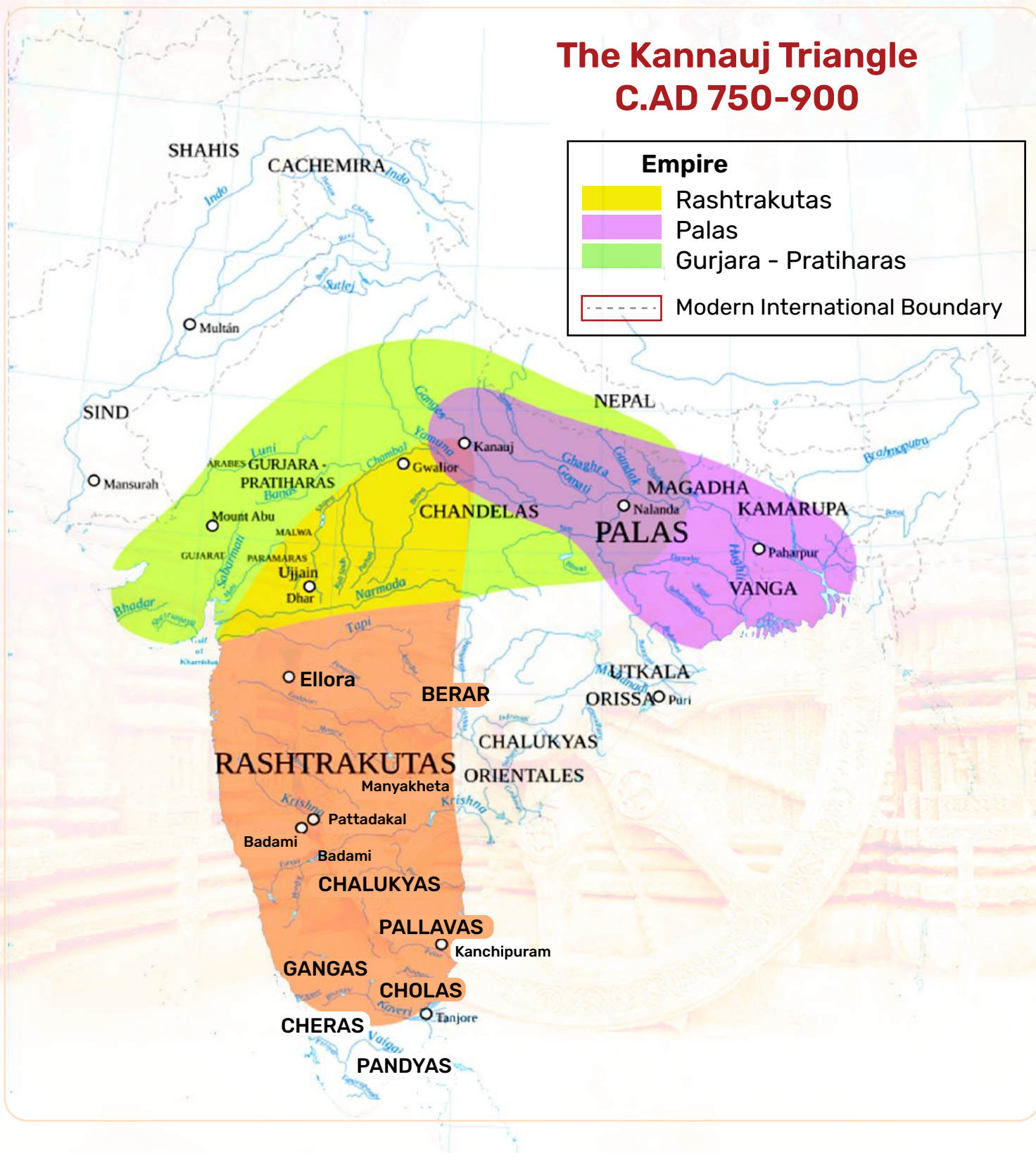


<https://ncert.nic.in/ncerts/l/gess102.pdf>

(Our past-II Class 7th NCERT (New Kings and Kingdom),

https://nios.ac.in/media/documents/SrSec315NEW/History_Module1.pdf
<https://www.khajuraho-india.org/chandela-dynasty.html>

The Kannauj Triangle C.AD 750-900



2023

Q.4. Consider the following dynasties:

1. Hoysala
2. Gahadavala
3. Kakatiya
4. Yadava

How many of the above dynasties established their kingdoms in early eighth century AD?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) None

ANSWER D

Explanation

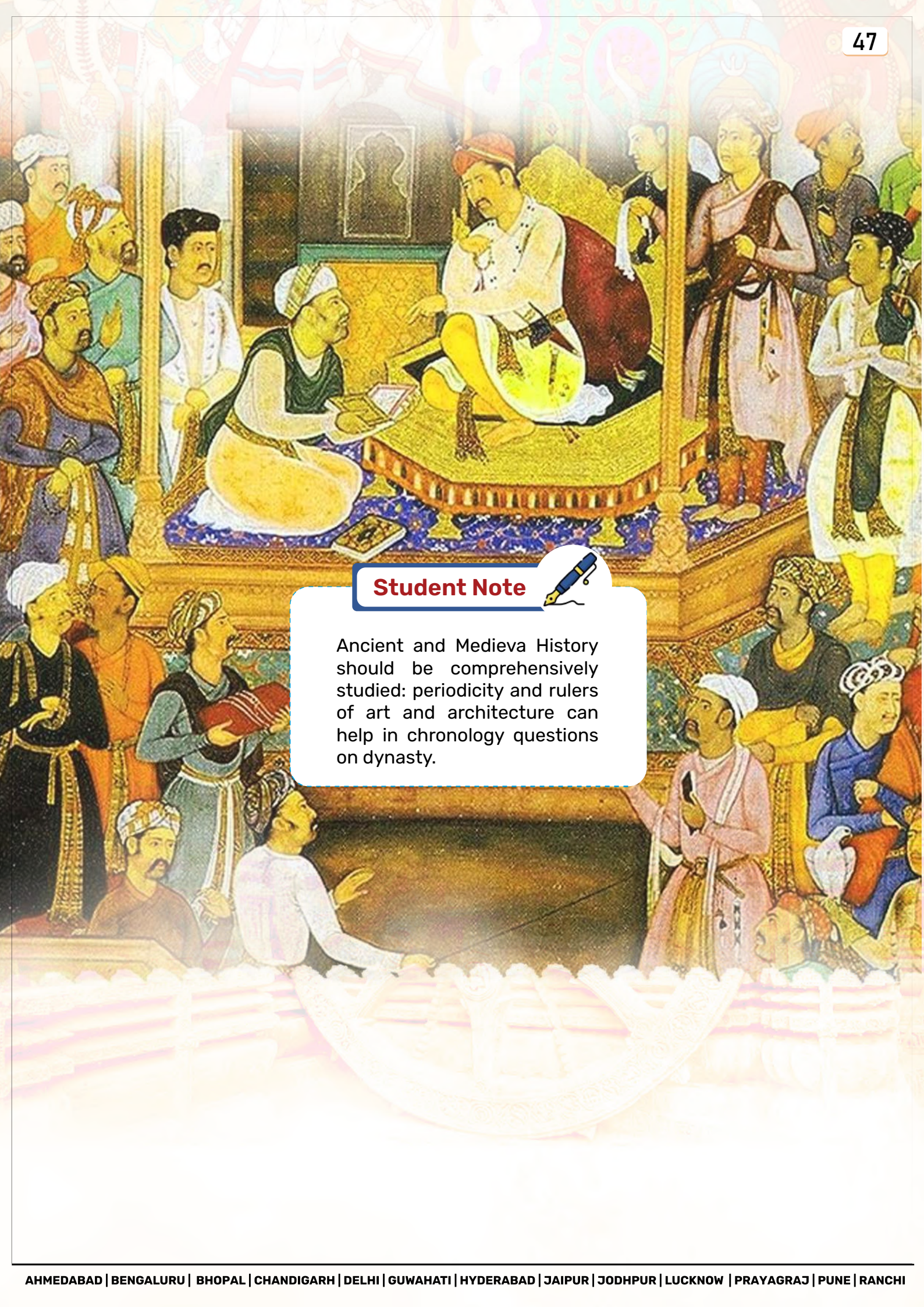


- ★ The **Hoysala era (1026 CE – 1343 CE)** was marked by illustrious achievements in art, architecture, and culture. The nucleus of this activity lay in the present-day Hassan district of Karnataka, India. **Hence option 1 is not correct.**
- ★ The **Gahadavala dynasty also Gahadavalas of Kannauj was a Rajput dynasty** that ruled parts of the **present-day Indian states of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, during 11th and 12th centuries.** Their capital was located at Banaras in the Gangetic plains, and for a brief period, they also controlled Kannauj. **Hence option 2 is not correct.**
- ★ The **Kakatiya dynasty** ruled most of eastern Deccan region in present-day India **between 12th and 14th centuries.** Their territory comprised much of the present day Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, and parts of eastern Karnataka, northern Tamil Nadu, and southern Odisha. **Hence option 3 is not correct.**
- ★ **The Seuna, Sevuna or Yadava dynasty (850 - 1334 A.D.)** was an Indian dynasty, which at its peak ruled a kingdom stretching from the Tungabhadra to the Narmada rivers, including present-day Maharashtra, north Karnataka and parts of Madhya Pradesh, from its capital at Devagiri (present-day Daulatabad in Maharashtra). **Hence option 4 is not correct.**

Source



History of Medieval India by Satish Chandra



Student Note

Ancient and Medieval History should be comprehensively studied: periodicity and rulers of art and architecture can help in chronology questions on dynasty.

Delhi Sultanate - Total No. of Questions - 3

2019

Q.1. Consider the following statements:

1. In the revenue administration of Delhi Sultanate, the in-charge of revenue collection was known as 'Amil'.
2. The Iqta system of Sultans of Delhi was an ancient indigenous institution.
3. The office of 'Mir Bakshi' came into existence during the reign of Khalji Sultans of Delhi.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

ANSWER **A**

Explanation



- ★ In the revenue administration of Delhi Sultanate, the in-charge of revenue collection was known as 'Amil'. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- ★ The initial Turkish conquests in India in the early 13th century displaced many local chiefs. In order to consolidate, the Turkish rulers made revenue assignments (iqta), in lieu of cash, to their nobles. So, Iqtas were provinces or spheres of influence which were put under the charge of officers called 'Iqtadars' (governors). **Iqta is an Arabic word and the institution had been in force in the early Islamic world as a form of reward for services to the state.** It was used in the Caliphate administration as a way of financing operations and paying civil and military officers. It was not an ancient indigenous institution. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
- ★ **In Akbar's administration, the military department was headed by Mir Bakshi which looked after all matters pertaining to the military administration.** He was also considered as the head of nobility. **Hence statement 3 is not correct.**

Source



NCERT-Themes in Indian History Part-II

Delhi sultanate-

- ★ The rulers who ruled substantial parts of the North India between 1200 to 1526 AD were termed as Sultans and the period of their rule as the Delhi Sultanate. During this period of around three hundred years five different dynasties ruled Delhi. These were **the Mamluks (AD 1206–AD 1290)** (popularly known as slave dynasty), **the Khaljis (AD 1290–AD 1320)**, the **Tughlaqs (AD 1320–AD 1412)**, the **Sayyids (AD 1412–AD 1451)** and the **Lodis (AD 1451– AD 1526)**. All these dynasties are collectively referred as the Delhi Sultanate.

Account of important Sultanate rulers and their contribution

<p>Qutubuddin Aibak</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Known as Lakh Baksh due to his generosity ★ Built Quwwat-ul-Islam Mosque in Delhi ★ Built Adhai din ka Jhonpra in Ajmer ★ Began construction of Qutub Minar (In the honour of Khwaja Qutubuddin Bakhtiyar Kaki)
<p>Iltutmish</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Tackled Mongol attack by refusing to shelter Khwarizm prince ★ Set up official nobility of slaves: 'Chalisa' or Turkan-e-Chahalgani. ★ Introduced silver coins (Tanka) and copper coins (jital) ★ Introduced Iqta system of administration ★ Completed Qutub Minar
<p>Razia Sultana</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ First and only women muslim ruler of Delhi sultanate
<p>Balban</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Broke the power of chalisa ★ Established 'Diwan-i-Arz': Military department headed by Ariz-i-Mumalik ★ Took the title of 'Zil-i-ilahi' (Shadow of god) ★ Introduced Sijda (Prostration before king) and Paibos (Kissing the feat of king) system
<p>Alauddin khajji</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Important ordinances: to confiscation of religious endowments and free lands; reorganization of spy system; prohibition of wine; ban on social gathering of nobles and ban on intermarriage without Khalji's permission ★ Introduced Dagh (branding of horses) and chehra/huliya (description of soldiers) in army ★ Created special office named Mustakharaj to collect revenue ★ Sought to fix cost of all commodities and set up three markets in Delhi ★ Department of Diwan-i-Mustkharaj: Department of arrears ★ Constructed Alai Darwaza (entrance of Qutub Minar) ★ Built palace of thousand pillars ★ Amir Khusrau was his court poet

Account of important Sultanate rulers and their contribution

Muhammad Bin Tughlaq

- ★ Some decisions take:
- ★ Artificial fixation of prices
- ★ Increased rate of taxation: Ghari (house tax) and Charahi (Pasture land tax) were introduced
- ★ **Diwan-i-kohi:** Agricultural department was created
- ★ Decision of transfer of capital to Devgiri which was reversed
- ★ Creation of token bronze coins

Firoz Shah Tughlaq

- ★ Hereditary position of nobility was created to stabilize kingdom
- ★ Principle of heredity in Army
- ★ Soldiers paid in Vajeha (land revenue)
- ★ **Diwan-i-bandgan:** Department of slaves
- ★ New taxation according to religious scriptures: Jizya, kharaj, zakat, khams
- ★ Established Diwan-i-khairat: making provisions for marriage of poor young girls
- ★ Repaired many canals and imposed water taxes (Hasil-i-sharb)
- ★ Built cities like Fatehabad, Firozabad
- ★ Tow pillars of Ashoka were brought to Delhi

Sikandar Lodi

- ★ Shifted capital to Agra, a city he founded
- ★ Introduced Gaz-i-Sikandari: land measurement unit

Some important facts

Administrative units and their heads

- ★ Iqta (Province): Muqti
- ★ Shiq (District): Shiqdar
- ★ Pargana (Taluka): Chaudhari/Amil
- ★ Gram (Village): Muqaddam

Local administration

- ★ Patwari: Village accountants
- ★ Khot: village headman

2021

Q.2. Consider the following statements:

1. It was during the reign of Iltutmish that Chengiz Khan reached the Indus in pursuit of the fugitive Khwarezm prince.
2. It was during the reign of Muhammad bin Tughluq that Taimur occupied Multan and crossed the Indus.
3. It was during the reign of Deva Raya II of Vijayanagara Empire that Vasco da Gama reached the coast of Kerala.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 2 and 3

ANSWER A



Explanation



- ★ **Statement 1 is correct:** The Khwarezm ruler Jalaluddin who was being pursued by Chengiz Khan fled to Delhi Sultanate. Iltutmish, who was ruling Delhi then, refused the request of Jalaluddin for asylum.
- ★ **Statement 2 is not correct:** Muhammad Tughluq time period is 1324 -1351(He died in 1351 and Timur started his career of conquest in 1370. He crossed the Indus during the reign of Firuz Shah Tughluq (1351 -1388).
- ★ **Statement 3 is not correct:** Devaraya II died in 1446 and Vascodegama arrived in 1498.

Source



<https://ncert.nic.in/ncerts/l/gess103.pdf>

- ★ **Statement 1:** Satish Chandra-Medieval India – Class XI-Old NCERT-Page No:66
- ★ **Statement 2:** Satish Chandra-Medieval India –Class XI-Old NCERT- Page No: 93
- ★ **Statement 3:** Satish Chandra-Medieval India –Class XI-Old NCERT-Page No: 121

The Rulers of Delhi

RAJPUT DYNASTIES

Tomaras	early twelfth century - 1165
Ananga Pala	1130-1145
Chauhans	1165-1192
Prithviraj Chauhan	1175-1192

EARLY TURKISH RULERS 1206-1290

Qutbuddin Aybak	1206-1210
Shamsuddin Iltutmish	1210-1236
Raziyya	1236-1240
Ghiyasuddin Balban	1266-1287



KHALJI DYNASTY 1290-1320

Jalaluddin Khalji	1290-1296
Alauddin Khalji	1296-1316

TUGHLUQ DYNASTY 1320-1414

Ghiyasuddin Tughluq	1320-1324
Muhammad Tughluq	1324-1351
Firuz Shah Tughluq	1351-1388



SAYYID DYNASTY 1414-1451

Khizr Khan	1414-1421
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LODI DYNASTY 1451-1526

Bahlul Lodi	1451-1489
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2022

Q.2. With reference to Indian history, consider the following statements:

1. The first Mongol invasion of India happened during the reign of Jalal-ud-din Khalji.
2. During the reign of Ala-ud-din Khalji, one Mongol assault marched up to Delhi and besieged the city.
3. Muhammad-bin-Tughlaq temporarily lost portions of north-west of his kingdom to Mongols.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3
- (d) 3 only

ANSWER B

Explanation



- ★ Changez Khan reached Indus during the reign of Iltutmish in 1221 AD, chasing the Khwarizmi prince Jalaluddin. Hence, **Statement 1 is not correct.**
- ★ The fourth Mongol invasion during Ala-ud-din Khalji reign took place only after some months of Ala-ud-din's return from Chittor in 1303 A.D. The Mongols numbering 1,20,000 horsemen under the command of Targhi moved so swiftly that provincial governors could not get time to reach Delhi to help the Sultan. Besides, a large part of the army of Ala-ud-din had left for Telingana campaign and the army left at Delhi was insufficient and weak after its tough battle at Chittor. Therefore, Ala-ud-din was not in a position to face the Mongols in an open battle. He retired to the fort of Siri and took up defensive position. **The Mongols plundered the environs of Delhi and besieged the fort for two months.** But as they were ignorant of the art of siege-warfare, they failed to capture the fort and withdrew. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- ★ **The next major Mongol invasion took place after the Khiljis had been replaced by the Tughlaq dynasty in the Sultanate.** In 1327 the Mongols invaded under Tarmashirin. Historians have differed regard Muhammad Tughlaq's policy. According to one version, he defeated the Mongols and himself chased them to drive them out. However according to another version, Muhammad Tughlaq bribed the Mongols and they went back. **Hence statement 3 is not correct.**

Source



Class 7 NCERT Our Past -II, Chapter 3rd, The Delhi Sultans -Page no. 40-41 The Mongols and Delhi Sultanate- Satish Chandra, Medieval India NCERT, Class 11, Old NCERT page 51-53.

Regional Kingdom - Total No. of Questions - 2

2021

Q.1. With reference to Indian history, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The Nizamat of Arcot emerged out of Hyderabad State.
2. The Mysore Kingdom emerged out of Vijayanagara Empire.
3. Rohilkhand Kingdom was formed out of the territories occupied by Ahmad Shah Durrani.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1 and 2
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3
- (d) 3 only

ANSWER **B**



Explanation

- ★ Nizamat of Arcot was established by Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb and was the legal dependency of the Nizam of Hyderabad, it did not emerge from the Hyderabad state. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- ★ **Mysore** was a small **feudatory kingdom under the Vijayanagar Empire. After Vijayanagar fell in 1565, the ruling dynasty of Wodeyars asserted their independence and the Raja Wodeyar** ascended the throne in 1578. The capital moved from Mysore to Srirangapatnam in 1610. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- ★ **Several states emerged as a result of the decline of the Mughal Empire.** Some of them are Awadh, Bengal, Rohilkhand. The states of Rohilakhand and the kingdom of the Bangash Pathans were a fall out of the Afghan migration into India. Large scale immigration of Afghans into India took place in mid-18th century because of political and economic turmoil in Afghanistan.
- ★ Ali Muhammad Khan took advantage of the collapse of authority in north India following **Nadir Shah's invasion, to set up a petty kingdom, Rohilakhand.** Ahmad Shah Durrani was the founder of the state of Afghanistan and ruler of an empire that extended from the Amu Darya to the Indian Ocean and from Khorāsān into Kashmir, the Punjab, and Sindh. **Hence statement 3 is not correct.**

Source



Tamil Nadu new History, Chapter 8; Spectrum, Chapter 3 Source for statement

1:<https://studenttheses.universiteitleiden.nl/access/item%3A2608781/view>

Page no. 25 Source for statement 2:

<https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/20298/1/Unit-4.pdf>

2023

Q.2. Who among the following rulers of medieval Gujarat surrendered Diu to Portuguese?

- (a) Ahmad Shah
- (b) Mahmud Begarha
- (c) Bahadur Shah
- (d) Muhammad Shah

ANSWER C



Explanation

- ★ Early in 1535, the Portuguese Governor De Cunha had led his expedition for the capture of the town in Diu, but was defeated by the Sultan. However, around that period, the Gujarat Sultan Bahadur Shah's kingdom was overwhelmed by Mughal invasion.
- ★ **Pressed by Mughal king Humayun on one side and the Portuguese at the gates of Diu, Bahadur Shah entered into a treaty with Nuno De Cunha on October 25, 1535 who agreed to assist Bahadur Shah against his enemy by land and sea.**
- ★ In turn he received permission to construct a fortress at Diu and a site was granted for this purpose in the harbour. After the Mughal danger was receded, the Shah of Gujarat realised his mistake in allowing the Portuguese to construct the fort. Finally Diu was conquered by the Portuguese in 1546 who ruled there till 1961. **Hence option (c) is the correct answer.**



Source



Old NCERT Medieval India Satish Chandra(page128) Spectrum Modern History

Master

UPSC PRELIMS CHALLENGES in CURRENT AFFAIRS with VISIONIAS PT365



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Vijayanagara Empire -Total No. of Questions -2

2021

Q.1. According to Portuguese writer Nuniz, the women in Vijayanagara Empire were expert in which of the following areas?

1. Wrestling
2. Astrology
3. Accounting
4. Soothsaying

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (b) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (c) 2 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

ANSWER **D**

Explanation



★ **Fernao Nuniz**, Portuguese traveller, visited the empire during the reign of Achyuta Deva Raya (r. 1529 - 1542 CE) an Emperor of Vijayanagara who succeeded his older brother, the Emperor Krishna Deva Raya.

According to Fernao Nuniz, a large number of women were employed in royal palaces as dancers, domestic servants and palanquin bearers.

★ **There were also wrestlers, astrologers and soothsayers among them. Some women were also appointed as accountants, judges, bailiffs, and watch women.**

Source



<https://www.historydiscussion.net/history-of-india/progress-of-the-vijayanagar-empire-in-india/2738>

<https://ia801504.us.archive.org/2/items/in.ernet.dli.2015.220599/2015.220599.Women-In.pdf>

2023

Q.2. Who among the following rulers of Vijayanagara Empire constructed a large dam across Tungbhadra River and a canal-cum-aqueduct several kilometres long from the river to the capital city?

- (a) Devaraya I
- (b) Mallikarjuna
- (c) Vira Vijaya
- (d) Virupaksha

ANSWER A

Explanation

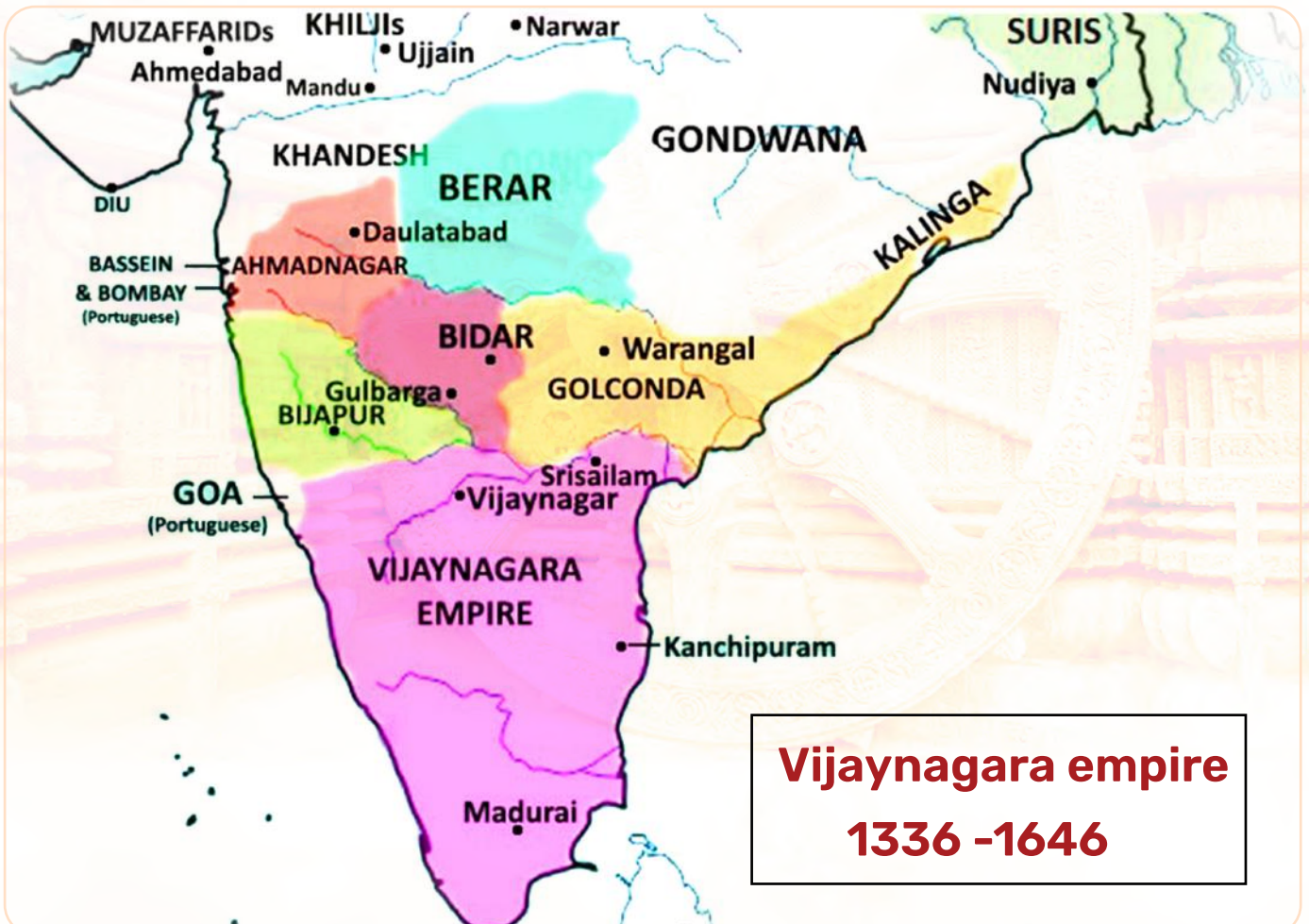


- ★ Devaraya I in around 1410 A.D. got a barrage constructed across the Tungbhadra river and commissioned a 24 km long aqueduct from the Tungbhadra river to the capital. The account provided by Nuniz gives details of the projects undertaken by Deva Raya I that brought prosperity to the Kingdom. **Hence option (a) is the correct answer.**

Source



Satish Chandra - Medieval India NCERT chapter 9, page 116



Vijayanagara Empire (1336-1646): Brought to light by Colonel Colin Mackenzie in 1800

Successive dynasties:

- ★ Sangama Dynasty (1336–1485 CE) - Established by Harihara I and Bukka Raya I.
- ★ Saluva Dynasty (1485–1505 CE) - Ascended to power after the decline of the Sangama Dynasty.
- ★ Tuluva Dynasty (1491–1570 CE) - Under their rule, the empire reached its zenith.
- ★ Aravidu Dynasty (1570–1646 CE) - Marked by internal conflicts and external pressures, leading to the eventual downfall of the empire.

Extent

- ★ During the rule of Krishnadevaraya, the land between the Tungabhadra and Krishna rivers (the Raichur doab) was acquired (1512), the rulers of Orissa were subdued (1514) and severe defeats were inflicted on the Sultan of Bijapur (1520).

Political Structure

- ★ **'Amara-Nayalas'** were military commanders who were given territories to rule by the Raya i.e. the King. They collected taxes and retained part of revenue for personal use and maintenance of elephants and horses, maintenance of temple and irrigation works. They sent tributes to the King.
- ★ Ayagar system was a feature of village administration. Twelve functionaries, collectively known as 'ayagars' were appointed by the government in each village and once allotted, the office became hereditary.

Land administration

- ★ 'Amaram' and 'Bhandaravada' were the land in possession of amaranayakas.
- ★ The nayakas engaged Kaniyalar for the cultivation of these land. 'Manyas' were the tax free lands given to temples

Architectural Marvels

- ★ The Virupaksha Temple,
- ★ The Vithala Temple Complex.
- ★ The Hazara Ram temple.
- ★ Hampi complex is a UNESCO World Heritage Site

Literature

- ★ Amuktamalyada (work in polity) and Jambavati Kalyanam (Sanskrit play) by Krishnadevaraya.
- ★ Krishnadevarays court had 'Ashtadiggajaru' who were eight scholars of different vocation

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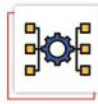
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Balanced Conclusion: Summarizing key points concisely, offering insights or recommendations if applicable, and providing a satisfying closure to the argument or discussion.



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Bhakti/Sufi - Total No. of Questions - 1

2019

Q.1. Consider the following statements:

1. Saint Nimbarka was a contemporary of Akbar.
2. Saint Kabir was greatly influenced by Shaikh Ahmad Sirhindi.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER **D**

Explanation



- ★ Nimbarka, a Telugu Brahmin, is believed to have been a younger contemporary of Ramanuja(11th Century). He spent most of his time in Vrindavan near Mathura in North India. He believed in total devotion to Krishna and Rama. The Mughal emperor Akbar lived from 1542-1605. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- ★ Naqshbandi Sufi Saint Shaikh Ahmad Sirhindi was in Haryana in the period of 1624. Whereas Kabir Das, is a 15th century mystical poet and great Bhakti Saint of India. He is the most important Nirguna Bhakti saint. The nirguna bhaktas were devotees of a formless God even while calling him variously as Rama, Govinda, Hari or Raghunatha. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**

Source



Themes in Indian History-Part II

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Nimbarka-Indian-philosopher>

Overview of Bhakti Saints

Naynars (63) and Alvars (12) [7-9th century]	★ Shaivites and Vaishnavites respectively
Ramanujacharya (1017-1137)	★ Proponent of Advaita philosophy (Oneness of soul and God)
Nimbaraka (12th century)	★ Exponent of Dvaitadvaita (Soul both different and non-different from God): Reconciles positions of Dvaita and Advaita
Madhvacharya (1238-1317)	★ Dvaita also termed as Tattwavada (ultimate difference between god and soul)
Basava (1106-68)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Saint from Karnataka ★ Formed Lingayat sect ★ Shaivite and anti-caste ★ 'Vachanas'- teachings of Basava ★ Anubhav mantapa- democratic council of reformers
Tyagaraja (1767-1847)	★ Saint-composerr of Karnataka. Bhakti of Lord Rama
Vallabhacharya (1479-1531)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Saint who worshipped Krshina ★ Propounded philosophy of Pushtimarga
Jnaneshvara (1275-1296)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Founder of Bhakti movement in Maharashtra ★ Wrote commentary on Bhagvadgeeta
Namdev (1270-1350)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Belonged to tailor caste ★ Link between Bhakti movements in Mahaashtra and North India ★ His ideas incorporated in Adi Granth
Tukaram (1598-1650)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Saint lived in Maharashtra. ★ Composed 'Abhangas'
Ramananda (14-15th century)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Reformer in North India ★ Preached equality ★ Worshiper of Rama ★ Disciples from different caste and social strata including saint Kabir
Kabir (1440-1518)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Preached unity between Hindu and Muslims ★ Against rituals and idol worship ★ Wrote Dohas- reformist literature

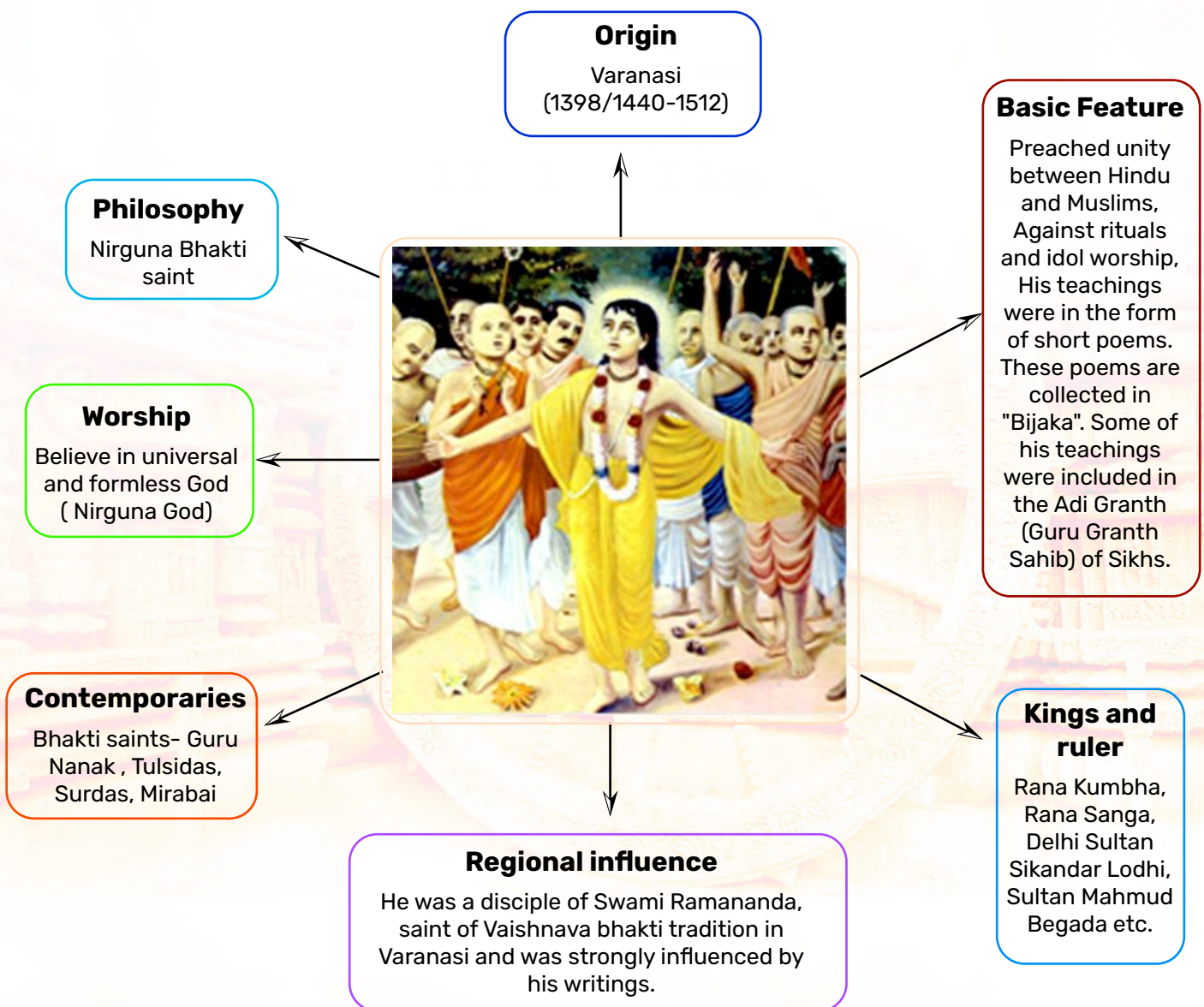
Overview of Bhakti Saints

Guru Nanak (1469-1538)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Founder of Sikhism ★ Travelled many religious sites in India and outside including Mecca and Medina ★ Emphasized pure living ★ Unity of God ★ Against idolatry and caste system
Chaitanya (1485-1533)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Bhakti saint from Bengal ★ Devotee of Lord Krishna ★ Opposed caste system and emphasized for tolerance and humanism ★ Popularized Sankirtana
Goswami Tulsidas (16th century)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Devotee of Rama ★ Wrote Ramacharitamanas ★ Other works: Janaki Mangal and Parvathi Mangal ★ Contemporary of emperor Akbar
Ramdas (17th century)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Devotee of Rama ★ Wrote Dasabodha ★ Stressed equality of all men before god
Vidyapati (14-15th century)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Maithili saint-poet wrote ballads on Radha-Krishna
Women Saints	
Andal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ A woman Alvar saint ★ Compositions were widely sung
Karaikkal Ammaiyar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Devotee of Shiva
Akkamahadevi (12th century)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Devotee of Shiva ★ Follower of Lingayat Sect
Janabai (13th century)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Saint from Maharashtra ★ Was of lower caste ★ Follower of Namadeva ★ Poems on restrictions faced on lower caste women and about domestic chores

Women Saints	
Mirabai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Devotee of Krishna ★ Symbol of resistance to social order
Bahinabai (17th century)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Poet-saint of Maharashtra ★ Devotee of lord Vithala ★ Follower of saint Tukaram ★ Writings on women's responsibility and labour in the fields

Student Note

While studying about bhakti saints student should focus on following aspects: for example Sant Kabir



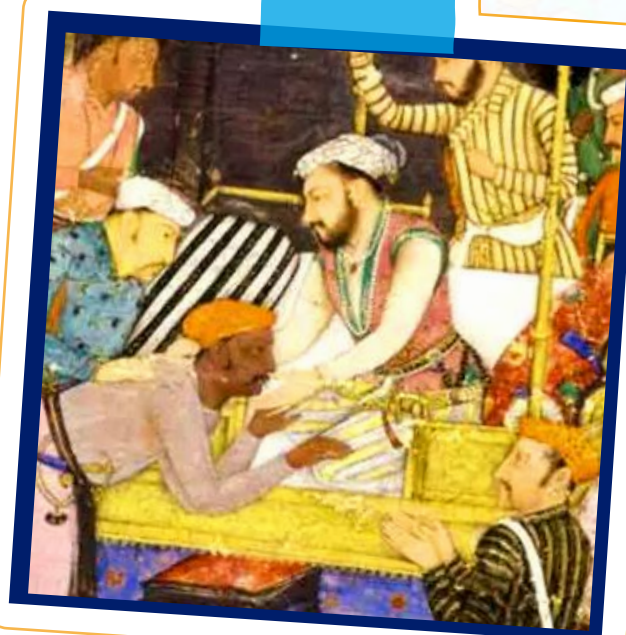
Mughals -Total No. of Questions - 3

2018

Q.1. Which one of the following foreign travellers elaborately discussed about diamonds and diamond mines of India?

- (a) Francois Bernier
- (b) Jean-Baptiste Tavernier
- (c) Jean de Thevenot
- (d) Abbe Barthelemy Carre

ANSWER B



Student Note

Foreign visitors, books and their authors mentioned in NCERTs should be studied compulsorily.

Explanation

- ★ The Hope Diamond, said to be mined in the Kollur mines in Andhra Pradesh, and acquired by French gem merchant, JeanBaptiste Tavernier, in 1666. It is unclear as to how the merchant got the diamond, but according to the Smithsonian, Tavernier purchased the 112 3/16 carat diamond who then sold it to French King Louis XIV of France. **Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.**

Source

<https://www.thehindu.com/life-and-style/secret-lives-of-indian-jewels/article22377010.ece>

<https://www.thenewsminute.com/article/it-isn%E2%80%99t-just-about-koh-i-noor-precious-diamonds-golconda-india-lost-42100>

Important Foreign Visitors

During Ancient period



★ **Megasthenes** : He was an ancient Greek historian and diplomat who served as an ambassador to the **Mauryan court of Chandragupta Maurya. He authored the work "Indika,"** which provides valuable information about India during the Mauryan period.

★ **Faxian or Fa-Hien** : A Chinese Buddhist pilgrim, Faxian walked to **India during the days of Chandragupta Vikramaditya.** His travelogue, "Record of Buddhist Kingdom," details the Gupta dynasty and provides valuable information about the social and economic aspects of the era.

★ **Hiuen-Tsang: Period:** (630-645 A.D.) **He was a** Chinese buddhist monk, popularly known as Xuanzang, travelled from China to India to collect Buddhist texts. He spent 15 years in India during the **reign of Harsha Vardhan.**

He studied in Nalanda for almost five years and studied logic, grammar, Sanskrit, and the Yogacara style of Buddhism. He wrote **"The Records of the Western World,"** or **Si-yu-ki.**

During and before Sultanate period



★ **Marco Polo** - He was a Venetian merchant, explorer, and writer. He visited India around **1289-1293 during the reign of Kakatiya Dynasty. He wrote about Rudrama Devi's rule and nature in flattering terms.** He referred to the kingdom as Mutfli, which was the name for the area around a major port of Masulipatnam.

★ **Sulaiman**, an Arab traveller, **visited Amoghvarsa's court in AD 851.** He wrote that the Rashtrakuta kingdom had reached its zenith under Amoghvarsa's rule. He also wrote that the Rashtrakuta dynasty was one of the four great empires of the world.

★ **Al-Masudi** historian and traveller, known as the "Herodotus of the Arabs". He gives an account of India in his work *Muruj al-Dhahab* describing the history, geography, social life, and religious customs. Geography and general history were combined in *Muruj al-Dhahab* (Golden Meadows) of Masudi (written in 943) to illustrate the wide variety of worldly cultures.

★ **Al Beruni** was a traveller from Uzbekistan who visited in 11th century in Punjab and Northern part of India. **He travelled with Mahud of Ghazni during one of his raids.**

In his book Kitab-UI-Hind, he adopted a distinctive structure in his book to describe India. He started each chapter with a question, following up with a description based on Sanskrit traditions, and concluding with a comparison with other cultures.

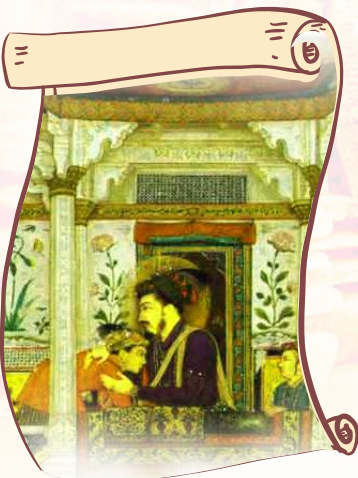
★ **Ibn Batuta:** He visited India during the reign of Muhammad-bin-Tughlaq. He wrote the book 'Rihla' which explains the contemporary socio-economic conditions.

Vijayanagara Period



- ★ **Nicolo Conti:** An Italian, was at **Vijayanagara in about 1420**, just after the **accession of Devaraya I**. The first known foreign traveller, he mentions the fortifications of the city and the thousands of men employed in the army of the rulers.
- ★ **Abdul Razzaq:** He was an **ambassador of Shah Rukh**, ruler of Persia. **He visited Vijayanagar around 1443. Devaraya II of sangama dynasty** was the ruler during this time. He noticed fortifications and seven rings of ramparts protecting the city. He also gives details about Mahanavami festival. Abdur Razzaq traveller wrote his 450-page book, Matla-us-Sadain wa Majma-ul-Bahrain translates to "The Rise of the Two auspicious constellations and the Confluence of the Two Oceans." a chronicle of the history of the world from 1304 to 1470.
- ★ **Duarte Barbosa:** **He was Portuguese Writer**, Traveller and explorer who had given a vivid account of **Vijayanagara governance under Krishna Deva Raya** in his book i.e. An Account of Countries Bordering the Indian Ocean and their Inhabitants.
- ★ **Domingo Paes:** was at Vijayanagara in about 1520-22, **during the reign of Krishnadevaraya**. He also describes the city, its major temples, the Mahanavami festivals.
- ★ **Afanasy Nikitin** was a **Russian merchant** and traveler who is known for his journey to India in the 15th century. Nikitin's travels took place **between 1466 and 1472, during the reign of the Bahmani Sultanate** in the Deccan region. His travels are documented in a narrative known as the "Journey Beyond Three Seas"
- ★ **Fernao Nuniz:** **A Portuguese horse-trader**, composed his account around 1536-37. He was in the capital **during the reign of Achyutaraya**. gives details of the Mahanavami festival, noting admiringly the extravagant jewels worn by the courtly women, as well as the thousands of women in the king's service. He also gives an account of occupation of women like wrestlers, fighters, astrologers, soothsayers, etc.

During Mughal period



- ★ **Sir Thomas Roe:** Most well known Englishman at **Jahangir's court who arrived in India in 1615** seeking trade concessions. He was working for East India Company. He detailed about the court of Jahangir and the working of Mughal empire.
- ★ **Jean-Baptiste Tavernier:** He was a **French jeweller** who came to **India during the reign of Shah Jahan**. He travelled six times to India scouring almost all of India. In his second trip, he visited diamond mines there. He got the opportunity to examine Kohinoor. His descriptions give important information regarding the Mughal court and military system.
- ★ **Francois Bernier:** He arrived **during the succession wars among the sons of Shah Jahan**. He described of the trade and commerce of India. He famously said that large part of gold of the world is absorbed by India. He gave an impression of lack of private property in India.
- ★ **Nicolo Manucci:** He was an **Italian traveller** who was **employed as an artilleryman by Dara Shikoh**. He also served as a physician at the Mughal court. He provided an account of powerful women in the Mughal Polity.

2019

Q.2. With reference to Mughal India, what is/are the difference/ differences between Jagirdar and Zamindar?

1. Jagirdars were holders or land assignments in lieu of judicial and police duties, whereas Zamindars were holders of revenue rights without obligation to perform any duty other than revenue collection.
2. Land assignments to Jagirdars were hereditary and revenue rights or Zamindars were not hereditary.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER D

Explanation



- ★ The Sultan was the fountain pen of judiciary system in Mughal period. He was all in all in the state .He was responsible for any kind of error in the state. The second agency of judiciary was the Qazi. **Qazi had a bigger role in the judiciary system in the state and he held the court and gave justice. Whereas Jagirdars were those mansabdars who were given salary in lieu of military service in terms of jagirs(land). Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- ★ The judicial and police functions were performed locally by zamindars. An important feature of the **jagir system was shifting of jagir-holders from one jagir to another for administrative reasons. This system of transfers checked the jagirdars from developing local roots. Thus jagirs were transferable and could be seized too. Zamindars on the other hand were hereditary.** The zamindars were present in practically every part of the Mughal Empire and held the most significant position in the agrarian structure of Mughal India. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**

Source



Themes In Indian History Part -II; Old NCERT Satish Chandra, Medieval India

2021

Q.3. With reference to medieval India, which one of the following is the correct sequence in ascending order in terms of size?

- (a) Paragana—Sarkar—Suba
- (b) Sarkar—Paragana—Suba
- (c) Suba—Sarkar—Paragana
- (d) Paragana—Suba—Sarkar

ANSWER **A**



Explanation

- ★ Using the methods of Sher Shah, Akbar organised his empire into administrative units independently of existing local usage. **Groups of villages formed parganas, then sarkars, and finally subahs. Hence the correct order is Paragana-Sarkar-Suba.**

Source



Satish Chandra—Medieval India –Class XI–Old NCERT

Account of Mughal administration

Central Administration

Wazir

- ★ Enjoyed civil and administrative powers
- ★ Akbar took away financial powers

Diwan-i-kul

- ★ Finance minister
- ★ Direct contact with all provinces
- ★ Entire revenue collection and expenditure under his charge

Revenue ministry divisions

- ★ Diwan-i-khalisa
- ★ Diwan-i-tan (cash salary)
- ★ Diwan-i-jagir
- ★ Diwan-i- bayutat (royal houshold)

Mir Bakshi

- ★ Head of military department

Mir Saman

- ★ Officer incharge of royal karkhanas

Account of Mughal administration

Sadr-us-sudur ★ Head of ecclesiastical department

Qazi-ul-Quzzat ★ Head of judiciary

Provincial administration

Subadar ★ Provincial governor appointed by emperor

Diwan ★ Head of reveue department: appointed and answerable to emperor

Bakshi ★ same military functions as Mir Bakshi at provincial level

Darogha-i Dak ★ Head of department of postal services

Local administration

Fauzdar ★ Executive head of sarkar

Amalguzar/Amil ★ Revenue collector

Thanedar ★ Preservation of law and order

The Mansab system

Mansab ★ Held dual rank: Zat and sawar
Determined:

- Status (Zat)
- Salary
- Obligation of maintenance of horses and equipment (Sawar)

Three classes of mansabdar

- Those with horsemen (sawar) equal to the number of the zat;
- Those with horsemen half or more than half of the number of the zat
- Those whose sawar rank was less than half of their zat rank

Jagir system

Akbar's period ★ Land division: Khalisa (revenue to imperial treasure) and Jagir (revenue to Jagirdars in lieu of salary)

Types of Jagirs

- Jagir tankhas: In lieu of pay and were transferable
- Mashrut jagirs: conditional jagirs
- In'am jagirs: no obligation of service
- Watan jagirs: assigned to chieftains in their homeland; were hereditary and non-transferable

Terminologies - Total No. of Questions - 3

2020

Q.1. Which of the following phrases defines the nature of the 'Hundi' generally referred to in the sources of the post-Harsha period?

- (a) An advisory issued by the king to his subordinates
- (b) A diary to be maintained for daily accounts
- (c) A bill of exchange
- (d) An order from the feudal lord to his subordinates

ANSWER **C**

Student Note

Hundi is a term in usage even today. Such contemporary references should be noted during attempting questions. Sometimes contemporary meanings of terms are also should be noted

Explanation

- ★ In India, instruments of credit have been in use since time immemorial and are popularly known as Hundies. The movement of goods during Medieval period was facilitated by the growth of a financial system which permitted easy transfer of money from one part of the country to another. **This was done through the use of Hundis.**
- ★ **The Hundis was a letter of credit payable after a period of time at a discount.** The Hundis often included insurance which was charged at different rates on the basis of value of the goods. The sharrafs was specialized in dealing with Hundis. In the process they acted as private bank and supplement the money in circulation. Many Sharrafs set up their agency in different parts of India and also in West and Southeast Asia. Therefore, they helped in promoting external trade with neighboring countries. The hundies are written in Indian languages and have a large variety:
- ★ **Hundies and its Types** There are a variety of hundies used in our country.
- ★ **Shahjog Hundi:** This is drawn by one merchant on another, asking the latter to pay the amount to a Shah. Shah is a respectable and responsible person, a man of worth and known in the bazaar. A shah-jog hundi passes from one hand to another till it reaches a shah, who, after reasonable enquiries, presents it to the drawee for acceptance of the payment.
- ★ **Darshani Hundi:** This is hundi payable at sight. It must be presented for payment within a reasonable time after its receipt by the holder. It is similar to a demand bill.
- ★ **Muddati Hundi:** A muddati or miadi hundi is payable after a specified period of time. This is similar to a time bill. There are few other varieties of hundies like **Nam-jog hundi, Dhani-jog hundi, Jawabee hundi, Jokhami hundi, Firman-jog hundi,** and so on.

Source 

NCERT, Accountancy Chapter: bill of exchange, Page.no. 279-280.

https://www.rbi.org.in/scripts/ms_hundies.aspx

2022

Q.2. In medieval India, the term "Fanam" referred to:

- (a) Clothing
- (b) Coins
- (c) Ornaments
- (d) Weapons

ANSWER B

Explanation



- ★ Coins were called by popular names such as : anna, cash, dhinglo, dokdo, doudou, dub, escudo, fanam, faruqi, karshapara, kas, kon, mohur, naya paisa, pagoda, panam, pice, pie, rupia, suvarna, tanga, and tanka. **The fanam was a small coin used in south India between the 9th and 19th centuries.** These small gold coins weighed as little as 0.3 grams and had a diameter of less than a centimetre. **Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**

Source



<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india/it-s-all-about-the-money/story-KCU0WCc5xpDAQr5fC0QsdM.html>
<https://www.firstpost.com/business/suvarna-mohur-a-journey-through-indias-numismatic-history-through-133-rare-coins-5889281.html>
<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bengaluru/tales-of-the-rupee/articleshow/71130395.cms>



ऑल इंडिया GS प्रीलिम्स टेस्ट सीरीज़ एवं मेंटरिंग प्रोग्राम

कॉम्प्रिहेंसिव रिवीजन, अभ्यास और मेंटरिंग के साथ बेहतर प्रदर्शन के लिए एक इनोवेटिव मूल्यांकन प्रणाली

30 टेस्ट
 5 फंडामेंटल टेस्ट 15 एप्लाइड टेस्ट
 10 फुल लेंथ टेस्ट

ENGLISH MEDIUM 2024: 23 MARCH
 हिन्दी माध्यम 2024: 23 मार्च

ENGLISH MEDIUM 2025: 17 MARCH
 हिन्दी माध्यम 2025: 17 मार्च



2022

Q.3. With reference to Indian history, who of the following were known as "Kulah-Daran"?

- (a) Arab merchants
- (b) Qalandars
- (c) Persian calligraphists
- (d) Sayyids

ANSWER D



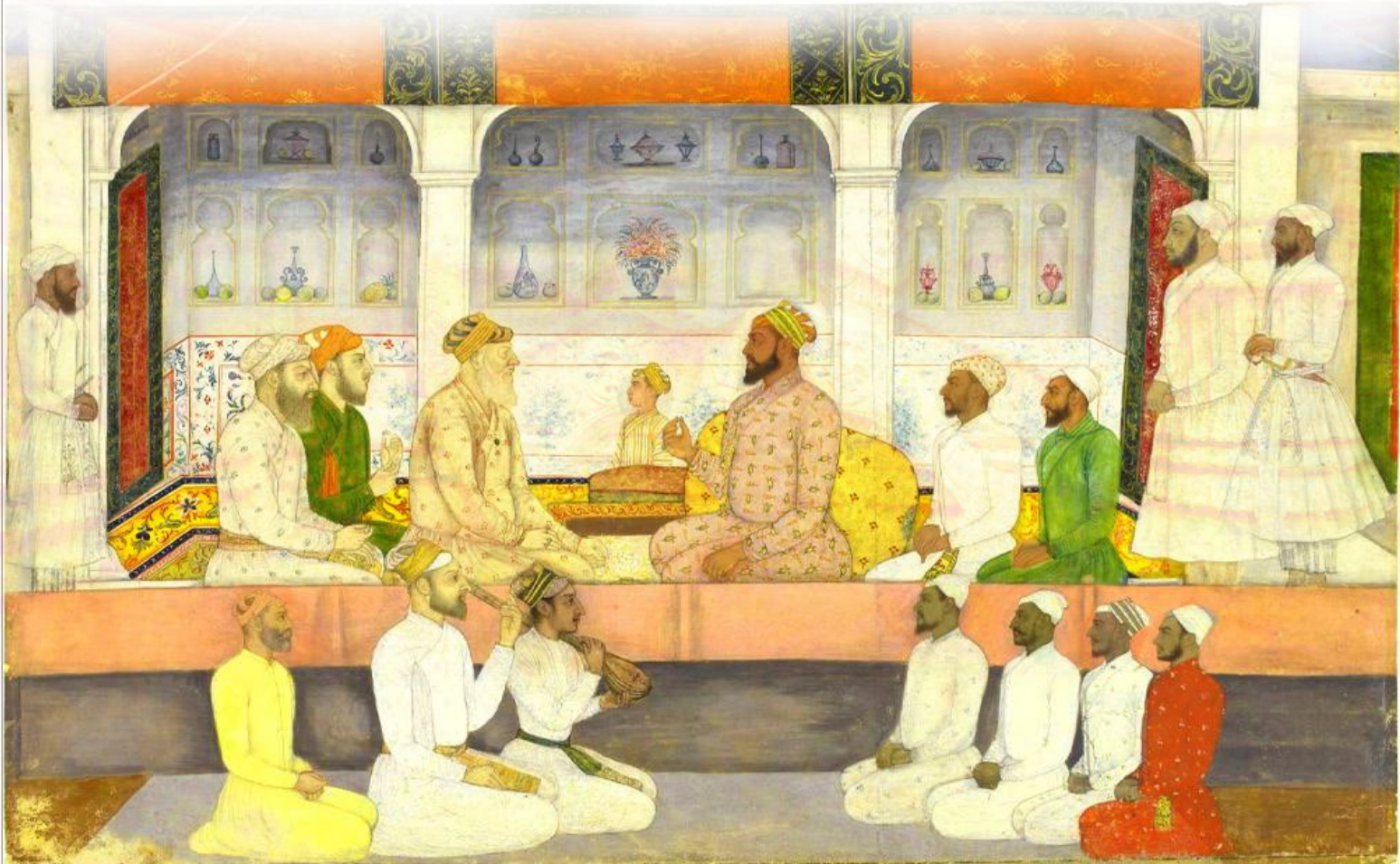
Explanation

- ★ The Sayyids were claimed to descent from the Prophet through his daughter Fatima. They Com-manded special respect in Muslim society. Even the Timur protected the life of Sayyids during his invasion in India. Although his policy was one of general slaughter. **The sayyids put on a pointed cap (kulah) and they were known as 'Kulah Daran' during Delhi sultanate.**

Source



History of Medieval India by V.D Mahajan page no. 364 (The Delhi sultanate)



Indian Art and Culture Overview

This detailed bifurcation provides a more focused overview of the diverse aspects of Indian art and culture covered in the UPSC syllabus.

1. Indian Architecture



- ★ **Indus Valley Architecture:** Town planning, drainage systems, and structures.
- ★ **Temple Architecture:** Nagara, Dravidian, and Vesara architectural styles.
- ★ **Buddhist Architecture:** Stupas, viharas, and chaityas.

- ★ **Islamic Architecture:** Mughal architecture, Indo-Islamic monuments, and Persian influences.
- ★ **Colonial Architecture:** British colonial buildings, Indo-Saracenic architecture, and Gothic Revival.
- ★ **Vernacular Architecture:** Traditional architectural styles across regions, including houses, forts, and palaces.
- ★ **Modern Architecture:** Post-independence architectural developments, contemporary trends, and sustainable design.

2. Indian Sculpture



- ★ **Indus Valley Sculpture:** Terracotta figurines, seals, and sculptures.
- ★ **Gupta Sculpture:** Iconic Gupta period sculptures, art of Mathura and Gandhara schools.
- ★ **Medieval Sculpture:** Jain and Buddhist sculptures, temple carvings, and Islamic art.

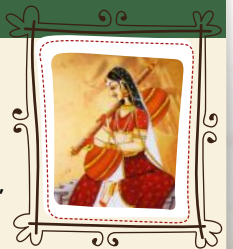
3. Paintings in India



- ★ **Cave Paintings:** Ajanta, Ellora, Bhimbetka, and other rock-cut cave paintings.
- ★ **Mural Paintings:** Kerala mural paintings, Madhubani paintings, Pattachitra, etc.

- ★ **Miniature Paintings:** Mughal, Rajput, Pahari, and Deccan miniature painting traditions.
- ★ **Modern Indian Paintings:** Bengal School of Art, contemporary artists, and movements.
- ★ **Contemporary Art:** Modernist movements, Bengal School of Art, abstract art, and contemporary artists.

4. Music



- ★ **Classical Music:** Hindustani (North Indian) and Carnatic (South Indian) music traditions.
- ★ **Musical Instruments:** Sitar, Tabla, Veena, Flute, Mridangam, etc.
- ★ **Regional Music Traditions:** Dhrupad, Khayal, Thumri, Bhajan, Qawwali, etc.
- ★ **Folk Music:** Baul, Bihu, Bhavageet, Ghazal, Qawwali, etc.
- ★ **Evolution of Indian Music:** Historical development, classical compositions, and modern influences.

5. Indian Dance



★ **Classical Dance Forms:** Bharatanatyam, Kathak, Odissi, Kuchipudi, Manipuri, etc.

★ **Tribal and folk Dance:** Indigenous tribal music and dance forms across India.

6. Literature and Theatre



★ **Sanskrit Literature:** Vedic texts, epics (Ramayana, Mahabharata), classical plays, and poetry.

★ **Regional Literature:** Tamil Sangam literature, Bhakti and Sufi poetry, modern Indian literature.

★ **Indian Theatre:** Sanskrit drama, folk theatre, modern Indian theatre movements.

7. Puppetry



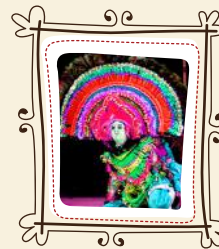
Types of Puppetry: String puppets (Kathputli), glove puppets, shadow puppets (Ravanchayya), rod puppets, etc.

Regional Puppetry Traditions: Rajasthan, West Bengal, Karnataka, Kerala, etc.

Puppetry in Indian Culture: Role in storytelling, religious ceremonies, and entertainment.

Contemporary Puppetry: Modern adaptations and revival efforts.

8. Folk Theatre



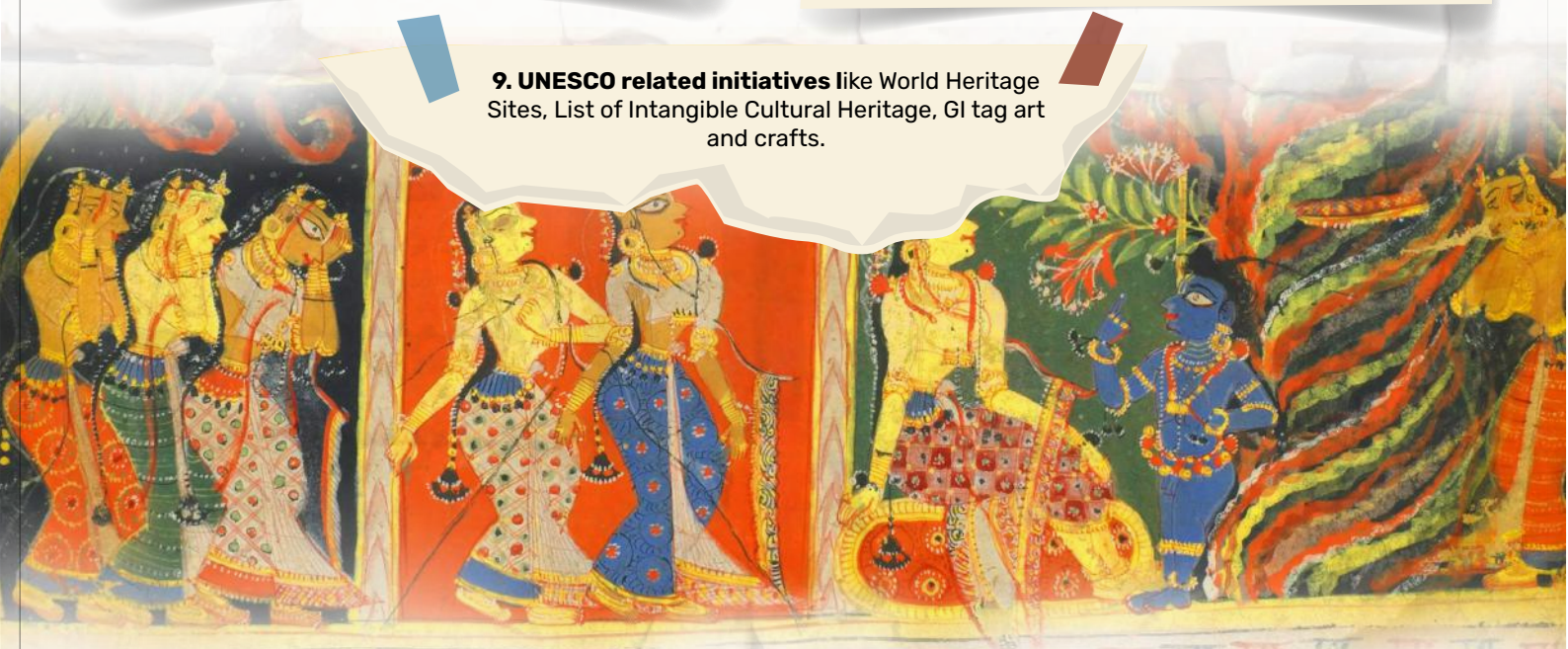
Forms of Folk Theatre: Nautanki, Tamasha, Yakshagana, Jatra, Bhavai, etc.

Regional Folk Theatre Traditions: Bhand, Swang, Dashavatar, Lavani, etc.

Themes and Performances: Folk tales, mythological stories, social issues, and cultural celebrations.

Impact and Preservation: Influence on modern theatre, challenges, and efforts for preservation.

9. UNESCO related initiatives like World Heritage Sites, List of Intangible Cultural Heritage, GI tag art and crafts.



Art and Culture

Buddhism/Jainism - Total No. of Questions - 10

2017

Q.1. With reference to the religious history of India, consider the following statements:

1. Sautrantika and Sammitiya were the sects of Jainism.
2. Sarvastivadin held that the constituents of phenomena were not wholly momentary, but existed forever in a latent form.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER B

Explanation

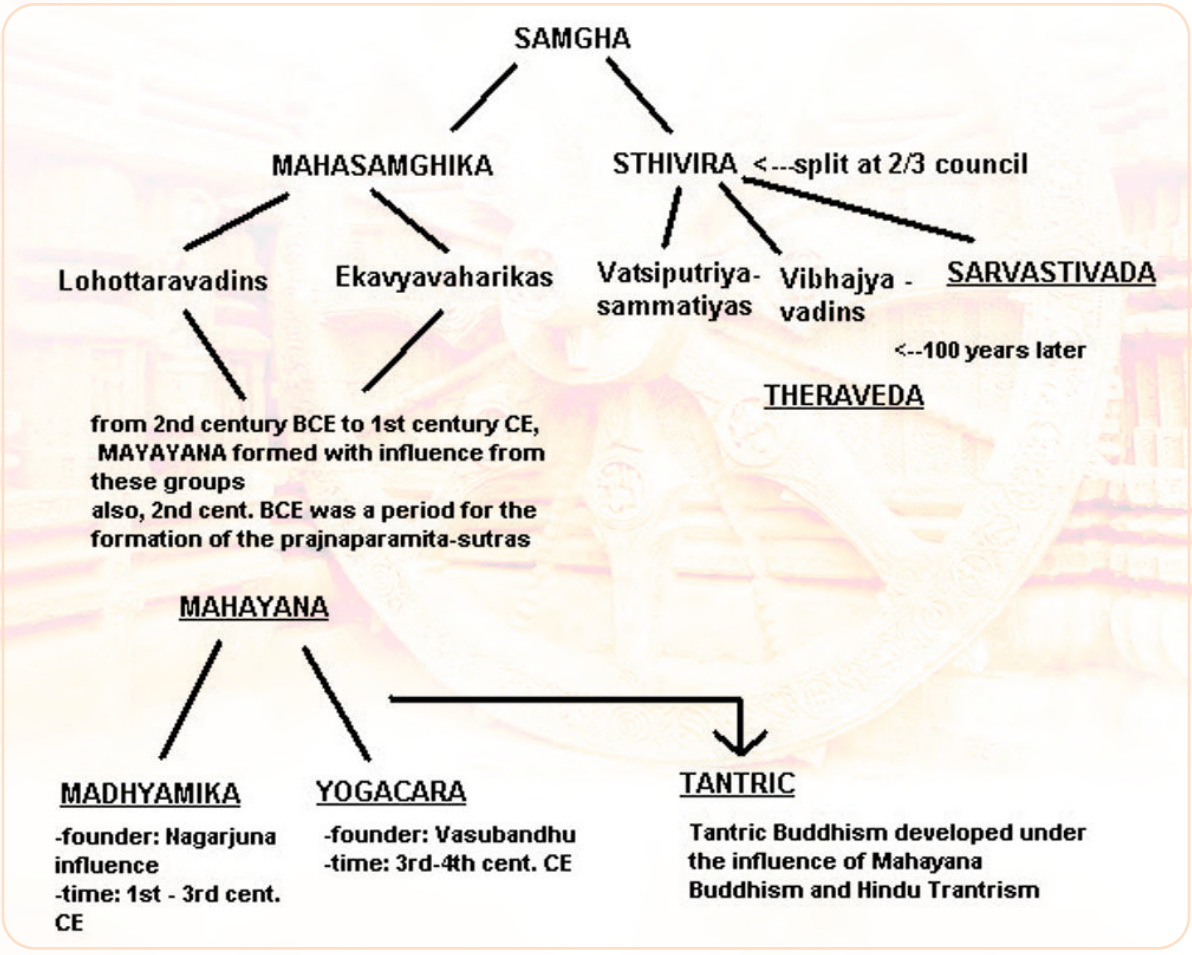


- ★ Sautrantika and Sammitiya were the the sects of Buddhism. **Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
- ★ Sarvastivadins (They who say "All is"), had the view that the constituents of phenomena (dharmas) were not wholly momentary, but existed forever in a latent form. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

Source



THE WONDER THAT WAS INDIA: A L Basham page 272



Sects of Buddhism

Hinayana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Known as lesser wheel ★ Orthodox school ★ Does not believe in idol worship and deification of Buddha ★ Patronized by Ashoka ★ Used Pali as a mode of propagation ★ Sthaviravada is a subsect ★ Sautrāntika, school that emerged in India about the 2nd century bc as an offshoot of the Sarvāstivāda ("All-Is-Real Doctrine").
Mahayana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Known as Greater Wheel ★ Liberal school of Buddhism which interprets Buddha logically ★ Believes in idol worship ★ Patronized by Kanishka ★ Idea of Bodhisattva is a result of Mahayana School ★ Paramitas (Six perfections) under Lotus sutra ★ Uses Sanskrit as a mode of propagation ★ Madhyamika school- as subsect based on sunyata doctrine
Theravada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Developed in Sanskrit in Sri Lanka around 3rd century BC ★ Concept of Vibhajjawa (teaching of analysis) ★ Visuddhimagga (meaning the path of purification): A treatise by Buddhghosa
Vajrayana School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ One of the subsects of Mahayana later developed to be Vajrayana ★ Influenced by Hinduism ★ Emphasizes on Tantra
Zen Buddhism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Focuses on spiritual breakthroughs and lesser on principles ★ Famous in Japan



Hinayana

Mahayana

Theravada

Vajrayana
SchoolZen
Buddhism

2018

Q.2. Which reference to Indian history, who among the following is a future Buddha, yet to come to save the world?

- (a) Avalokiteshvara
- (b) Lokeshvara
- (c) Maityera
- (d) Padmapani



ANSWER C

Explanation



- ★ The universe of the Great Vehicle contains numerous Bodhisattvas, chief of whom, from the earthly point of view, is **Avalokiteshwar ("The Lord who Looks Down")**, also called **Padmapani ("The Lotus- Bearer")** also called **Lokeshvara in Sanskrit (The Lord of the World)**. His special attribute is compassion, and his helping hand reaches even to Avici, the deepest and most unpleasant of the Buddhist purgatories.
- ★ **Another important Bodhisattva is Manjusri**, whose special activity is to stimulate the understanding, and who is depicted with a naked sword in one hand, to destroy error and falsehood, and a book in the other, describing the ten paramilas, or great spiritual perfections, which are the cardinal virtues developed by Bodhisattvas.
- ★ **Vajrapani, a sterner Bodhisattva**, is the foe of sin and evil, and, like the god Indra, bears a thunderbolt in his hand.
- ★ **The gentle Maitreya, the future Buddha**, is worshipped as a Bodhisattva.
- ★ Also worthy of mention is **Ksitigarbha, the guardian of the purgatories**, who is thought of not as a fierce torturer, but rather as the governor of a model prison, doing his best to make life tolerable for his charges, and helping them to earn remission of sentence.

Source



AL Basham's "Wonder That Was India" Chapter Religion: cults, doctrines and metaphysics, pg 276

THE MIND OF A BODHISATVA

THE FOUR VOWS

SENTIENT BEINGS ARE
LIMITLESS
I Vow to **Liberate** Them

AFFLICTIONS ARE ENDLESS
I Vow to **Eradicate** Them

TEACHINGS ARE INFINITE
I Vow to **Learn** Them

BUDDHAHOOD IS SUPREME
I Vow to **Attain** it

*TEACHING DHARMA IS MY
DUTY. BENEFITING
SENTIENT BEINGS IS MY
MISSION."*



THE FIVE PATHS

ACCUMULATION

You possess a strong desire to overcome *Duḥkha*, and have renounced the worldly life.

PREPARATION

You start practicing meditation, and have analytical knowledge of emptiness.

SEEING

You practice profound meditative concentration on the nature of reality, and realize the emptiness of reality.

MEDITATION

You purify yourself and accumulate wisdom.

CONSUMMATION

You have completely purified yourself

THE SIX PERFECTIONS (PĀRAMITA'S)

**GIVING
(DANA)**

**MORALITY
(SILA)**

**PATIENCE
(KṢANTI)**

**DILIGENCE
(VIRYA)**

**CONCENTRATION
(DHYANA)**

**WISDOM
(PRAJNA)**

Bodhisattva	Sanskrit Name	Attributes and Associations
Manjushri	Mañjuśrī	★ Wisdom, intelligence, sword, and the Prajnaparamita
Samantabhadra	Samantabhadra	★ Practice of the Perfection of Generosity
Avalokiteshvara	Avalokiteśvara	★ Compassion, mercy, and the practice of Karuna
Kshitigarbha	Ksitigarbha	★ Protector of beings in the hell realms
Maitreya	Maitreya	★ Future Buddha, embodiment of loving-kindness
Akashagarbha	Ākāśagarbha	★ The Bodhisattva who makes the vow to lead sentient beings to enlightenment, represented as holding a vase containing the wisdom of the Buddha
Sarvanivarana-vishkambhin	Sarvanīvaranaviskambhin	★ Bodhisattva who removes all obstacles
Vajrapani	Vajrapāni	★ Power and protection, often depicted holding a vajra

2018

Q.3. Which reference to the religious practices in India, the "Sthanakvasi" sect belongs to

- (a) Buddhism
- (b) Jainism
- (c) Vaishnavism
- (d) Shaivism

ANSWER B

Explanation



- ★ Sthānakavāsī is a sect of Śvētāmbara Jainism founded by a merchant named Lavaji in 1653 AD. It believes that idol worship is not essential in the path of soul purification and attainment of Nirvana/Moksha. The sect is essentially a reformation of the one founded on teachings of Lonka, a fifteenth-century Jain reformer. Sthānakavāsins accept thirty-two of the Jain Agamas, the Śvētāmbara canon. **Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.**

Source



<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/hyderabad/-jains-chant-navkar-manthra-36-lakh-times-for-world-peace/articleshow/59620073.cms>

Sects of Jainism: Digambara and Shvetambara

Digambara subjects



★ Bisapantha:

- Support authority of Bhattarakas (Dharma gurus)
- Worship idols of tirthankaras and kshetrapalas
- **Region:** Maharashtra, all Southern states and large number of digambar jainas from Rajasthan and Gujarat follow this sect

★ Terapantha:

- Arose as a revolt against Bhattarakas
- Idols of tirthankras not kshetrapalas
- Reformists: Oppose various religious practices, ban on caste restrictions

★ Gumanapantha

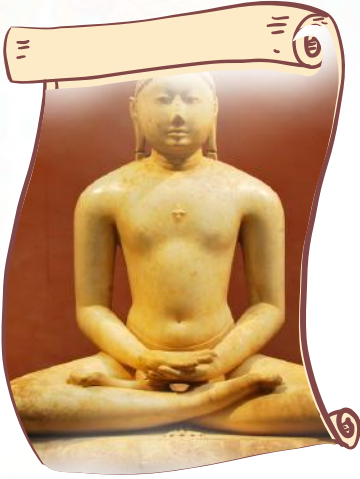
- Very little known
- Became famous in the name of shuddha amnaya (sacred tradition)
- Followers focus on purity of conduct and strict adherence to principles
- Practised in Rajasthan

Sects of Jainism: Digambara and Shvetambara

★ Totapantha

- Came into existence as a result of differences between the Bisapantha and Terapantha sub-sects
- followers believe in a mix of both doctrines

Svetambara sub-sects



★ Murtipujaka

- Original stock of the Svetambaras as they are idol worshipers
- Ascetics cover their mouth with colth strip; stay in temples known as upasrayas

★ Sthanakvasi

- Arose not directly from svetambaras but as a reformers of an older sect of Jainism known as Lonka
- Except for the crucial point of idol-worship, they are not different from svetambaras
- Do not believe in idol worship at all.
- They have sthanakas i.e. prayer halls
- Ascetics cover their mouth with colth strip

★ Terapanthi

- Believes in 13 principles set by Bhuakkajani Maharaj
- Are non-idolatrous and are very finely organized under the complete direction of one Acharya
- Observe a distinctive festival known as Maryada Mahotsava
- Sadhus and Sadhvis voluntarily give up worldly life
- Reformist who observe simplicity of religion. They don't even construct monasteries to live

अभ्यास

प्रीलिम्स 2024

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पंजीकरण करें: www.visionias.in/abhyaas

2019

Q.4. Consider the following statements:

1. Deification of the Buddha
2. Trading the path of Bodhisattvas
3. Image worship and rituals

Which of the above is/are the feature/features of Mahayana Buddhism?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3



ANSWER D

Elimination strategy



Solvability

Image worship and rituals are important feature of Mahayana Buddhism hence student can easily eliminate option (a) and (b) in which option 3 is not given. Also in Mahayana Buddha is considered as god and deification or the belief in the Buddha's divine nature is indeed a feature of Mahayana Buddhism. Hence option (c) is also eliminated.

Explanation



- ★ The emergence of Bodhisattva is central to Mahayana sect of Buddhism, which emerged during the fourth council of Buddhism held in 1st century A.D at Kashmir during the reign of Kanishka.
- ★ **Deification of the Buddha:** In Mahayana Buddhism, there is a tendency to elevate the Buddha to the status of a transcendent, eternal being, often viewed as embodying ultimate reality. Deification or the belief in the Buddha's divine nature is indeed a feature of Mahayana Buddhism.
- ★ **Tracing the path of Bodhisattvas:** Bodhisattvas are beings who have attained enlightenment but choose to remain in the cycle of rebirth to help others achieve enlightenment. The path of the Bodhisattva, which emphasizes compassion and altruism, is a central feature of Mahayana Buddhism.
- ★ **Image worship and rituals:** Mahayana Buddhism often involves rituals and practices that include image worship, such as offering prayers and making offerings at temples and shrines. Thus, image worship and rituals are indeed a feature of Mahayana Buddhism.
- ★ **Hence all the statements are related to Mahayana Buddhism and correct.**

Source



Themes in Indian History Part -II

2020

Q.5. With reference to the religious history of India, consider the following statements:

1. Sthaviravadins belong to Mahayana Buddhism.
2. Lokottaravadin sect was an offshoot of Mahasanghika sect of Buddhism.
3. The deification of Buddha by Mahasanghikas fostered the Mahayana Buddhism.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

ANSWER **B**



Explanation

- ★ The division of the Buddhist community in India in the first three centuries following the death of the Buddha in c. 483 BC. **The first division in the Buddhist community occurred as a result of the second council**, said to have been held 100 years after the Buddha's death, at Vaisali (Bihar state) this Council was called to condemn certain practices of some monks which were contrary to the Vinaya or Monk's Code of conduct., when the **Acariyavadins (followers of the traditional teaching) split away from the Sthaviravadins (followers of the Way of the Elders) and formed their own school, known as the Mahasanghikas.**
- ★ These Sthaviravadins followed a realist line, stating that all phenomena exist and are unstable compounds of elements. They taught that it is necessary for all humans to strive for Arahantship or release from the constant round of rebirth (Samsara). They taught that Buddhas are men - pure and simple, rejecting any notion of their being transcendental.
- ★ The other group, which were in the majority, were known as the Mahasanghikas. Like the Sthaviravadins, they accepted the fundamental doctrines as taught by the Buddha, such as: the Four Noble Truths, the Noble Eightfold Path etc but they differed in believing that Buddhas are supramundane and transcendental. They also believed that the original nature of the mind is pure and that it is contaminated when it is stained by passions and defilements. **It was from the Mahasanghikas that the Mahayana was to evolve. Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- ★ They differed or came to differ significantly from the Sthaviravada in how they understood the nature of the Buddha, and they are the first to **attribute divinity to him and represent him in anthropomorphic form** in statuary, setting a precedent which has continued to the present day. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- ★ **Further subdivisions of the Mahasanghikas** over the next seven centuries included **sect of Lokottaravadin whose philosophy was based on the concept of Lokottara Buddha or Supernatural Buddha.**, the Ekavyavaharikas, and the Kaukkutikas. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

Source



AL BASHAM: WONDER THAT WAS INDIA

<https://www.ancient.eu/Mahasanghika/>

2020

Q.6. With reference to the cultural history of India, consider the following pairs:

1. Parivrajaka : Renunciant and Wanderer
2. Shramana : Priest with a high status
3. Upasaka : Lay follower of Buddhism

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

ANSWER B

Elimination strategy



Solvability:

Sramana tradition was against Brahmanical ritualism and hierarchy. Can be eliminated options (a), (c) and (d).

Explanation



- ★ The word **Parivrajaka** means "roaming ascetic". **A wandering religious mendicant**. Although this term occurs in the early Brahmanic tradition of the Upaniṣads, it is also applicable to Buddhist and Jain monks, as well as to Hindu saṃnyāsins. The Pāli equivalent is paribbājaka. Vedic Brahmanism - drawing its identity from the Vedic corpus - was a religious form associated with socially dominant groups, supporting practices and beliefs that could be seen as an orthodoxy, there have been movements that have distanced themselves in various ways from Vedic Brahmanism. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- ★ **The Shramana group - Buddhism, Jainism and various 'heterodox' sects - is one such well-established group.** shramanas did not regard the brahmins as being of the highest status. The shramanas included a variety of ascetics, as well as the monks and lay followers of various sects - Buddhist, Jaina, Ajivika and others. Monks renounced social obligations to take on an alternative life when they joined the Order. They lived as equal members of the Order, denying caste distinctions. But they lived in monasteries near villages and towns so that they could draw on the support of the lay community, namely, those who were Buddhists or Jainas but were not initiated into renunciatory groups. **Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.**
- ★ Lay followers were referred to as upasaka and upasika. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**

Source



History of Early India: From the Origins to AD 1300-Romila Thapar, Page. no. 62,172,294.

2020

Q.7. With reference to the cultural history of India, which one of the following is the correct description of the term paramitas?

- (a) The earliest Dharmashastra texts written in aphoristic (sutra) style
- (b) Philosophical schools that did not accept the authority of Vedas
- (c) Perfections whose attainment led to the Bodhisattva path
- (d) Powerful merchant guilds of early medieval South India

ANSWER C**Explanation**

- ★ The Fourth Noble Truth, the Noble Eightfold Path, gives what the Buddhist pilgrim (or practitioner) has to practice, and the path which he has to follow, to achieve Enlightenment and realize Nibbana.
- ★ **There is a parallel path which consists of perfecting certain qualities, which leads the pilgrim to becoming a Samma Sambuddha, a self Enlightened Universal Buddha.** The qualities are called the **Paramis (perfections) in the Southern traditions and the Paramitas in the Eastern and Northern traditions.** The elements of the Noble Path and the Paramis are similar.

The ten Paramis are

Dana	Generosity - giving help and benefit to other living beings
Sila	Morality - live an ethical life
Nekhamma	Renunciation - renounce worldly pleasures
Panna	Wisdom - achieve a right understanding of life and the world
Viriya	Energy - persistent effort and not being discouraged by failures
Khanti	Patience - patiently accept life's ups and downs
Sacca	Truthfulness - honesty and truthfulness in all things
Adhitthanna	Determination - unwavering determination to progress on the path
Metta	Loving-kindness - show benevolence and compassion to all things
Upekkha	Equanimity - develop a perfect mental equilibrium

- ★ **The ten Paramitas of the Eastern and Northern traditions are;** Generosity, Morality, Patience, Energy, Meditation, Wisdom, Skillful means, Resolution, Power, Knowledge. Despite slight differences in the wording, the two sets of qualities are similar. **Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.**

Source



Al Basham : Wonder That Was India Ch- Religion: cults, doctrines and metaphysics Upinder Singh 8th impression(2016) pages 440-441

2022

Q.8. With reference to Indian history, consider the following texts:

1. Nettipakarana
2. Parishishtaparvan
3. Avadanashataka
4. Trishashtilakshana Mahapurana

Which of the above are Jaina texts?

- (a) 1, 2 and 3
- (b) 2 and 4 only
- (c) 1, 3 and 4
- (d) 2, 3 and 4

ANSWER B

Elimination strategy



Solvability:

Avadanas are mentioned in basic source (RS Sharma ancient History) as Buddhist texts. It Can be easily eliminated.

Explanation



- ★ **The Nettipakarana** (Pali: -pakara a, also called Nettippakarana or just Netti): It is a Buddhist scripture. Nettipakarana is a guide to help those who already understand the teaching present it to others. The Netti methods were taught by the Buddha's disciple Kaccana (also Katyayana or Kaccayana).

- ★ **Avadana texts:** The emergences of the Avadana may have been compiled between second Century A.D to the 11th Century A.D. The earlier product of Avadana texts like Avadana-sataka, Divyavadana etc., which are of Hinayanic character and the later Avadanas like Suvarnavarnavadana, Kalpadrumavadanamala, Vratavadanamala are earmarked as Mahayanic in character. Avadanas are non canonical Buddhist texts about previous lives and karma, example Divyavadana(4th century) and Avadanashataka (2nd century) written in sanskrit. It deal wth stories and tales related to Buddha.
- ★ **The Parishishtaparvan:** Also known as the Sthaviravalicharitra, is a 12th-century Sanskrit mahakavya by Hemachandra which details the histories of the earliest Jain teachers.
- ★ **Mahapurana or Trishashthilkshana:** Mahapurana is a major Jain text composed largely by "Acharya" Jinasena during the rule of Rashtrakuta ruler Amoghavarsha and completed by his pupil Gunabhadra in the 9th century CE. Mahapurana consists of two parts. The first part is Ādi purā a written by "Acharya" Jinasena. The second part is Uttarapurana which is the section composed by Gunabhadra. **Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**

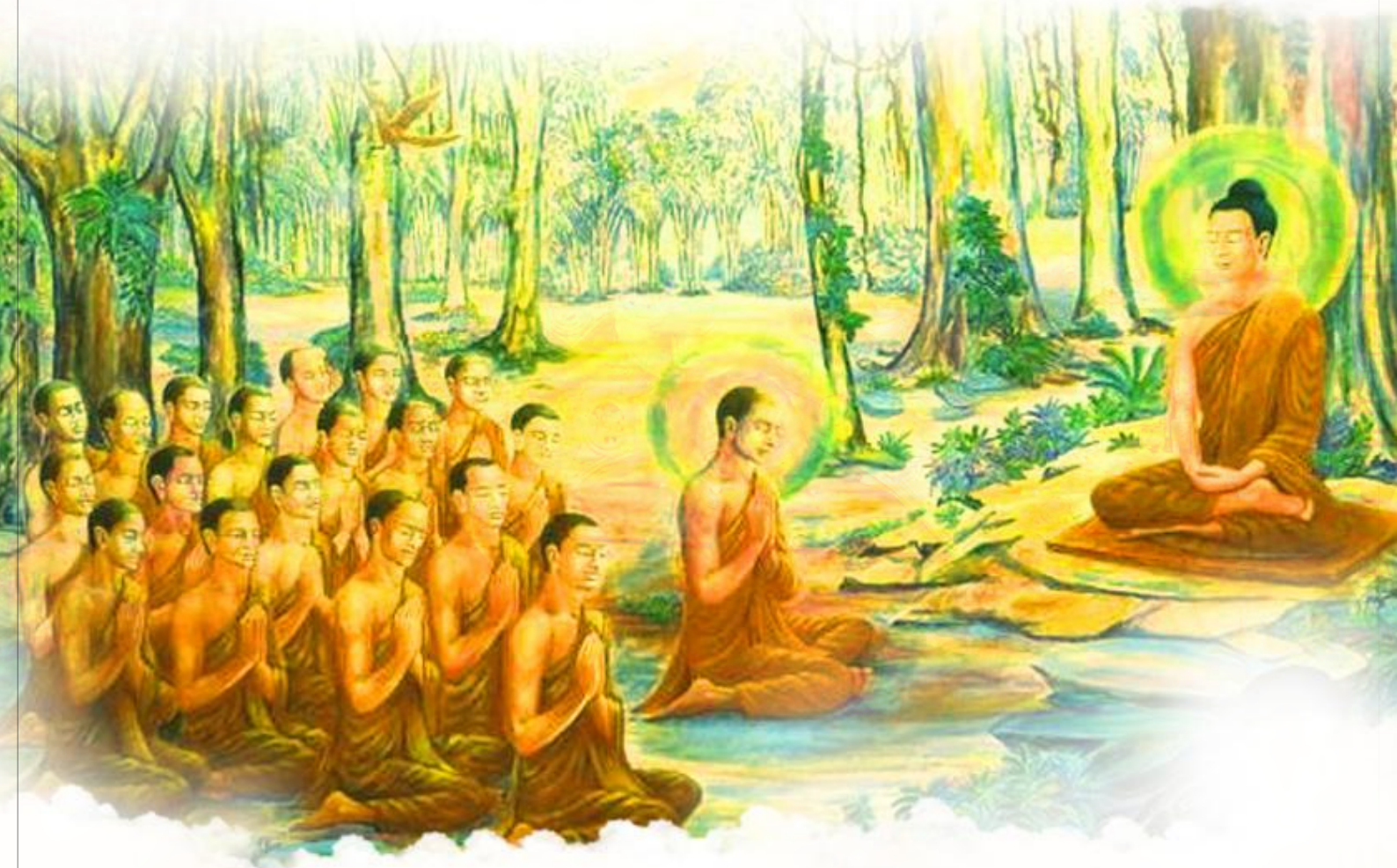
Source



A History of Ancient and Early Medieval India: From the Stone Age to the 12th Century-Upinder singh-Page no.29

<https://tipitaka.fandom.com/wiki/Nettipakarana>

https://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/156514/7/07_chapter%203.pdf



2022

Q.9. With reference to Indian history, consider the following pairs:

Historical person	Known as
1. Aryadeva	- Jaina scholar
2. Dignaga	- Buddhist scholar
3. Nathamuni	- Vaishnava scholar

How many pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) None of the pairs
- (b) Only one pair
- (c) Only two pairs
- (d) All three pairs

ANSWER C



Explanation

- ★ Āryadeva (3rd century), was a **Mahayana Buddhist monk**, a disciple of Nagarjuna and a Madhyamaka philosopher. is a central figure in the development of early Indian Madhyamaka philosophy. **Hence, pair 1 is not correctly matched.**
- ★ **Dignaga** was the early 6th century Indian Buddhist Monk and was also the founder of Indian logic, Hetu Vidya. He was born in Simhavakta near Kanchipuram. **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**
- ★ **Sri Ranganathamuni, popularly known as Sriman Nathamuni**, was a Vaishnava theologian who collected and compiled the Nalayira Divya Prabandham. Considered the first of Sri Vaishnava āchāryās, Nathamuni is also the author of Yogarahasya, and Nyāyatattva. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**



Source



<https://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/view/document/obo-9780195393521/obo-9780195393521-0065.xml>

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Dignaga>

https://www.himalayanacademy.com/media/books/south-india-bhakti-saints_ei/web/ch01.html

2023

Q.10. "Souls are not only the property of animal and plant life, but also of rocks, running water and many other natural objects not looked on as living by other religious sects."

The above statement reflects one of the core beliefs of which one of the following religious sects of ancient India?

- (a) Buddhism
- (b) Jainism
- (c) Shaivism
- (d) Vaishnavism

ANSWER B**Explanation**★ **Jaina Metaphysics**

- Jaina metaphysics is both realistic and pluralistic. It draws a sharp distinction between animate substances (jivas : souls) and inanimate substances (ajivas : non-souls).
- Jainism is basically dualistic. It is also pluralistic (anekantavada) in that it recognizes the existence of an infinite number of animate and inanimate substances, each possessing an infinite number of characteristics of its own.
- Since it teaches that the infinite number of substances exists independently of our perceptions or awareness of them, Jainism may also be described as epistemological and metaphysical realism.
- The universe functions through the interaction of living souls and the five categories of non-living entities: ether (akasa), the means or condition of movement (dharma), the means or condition of rest (adharmā), time (kala), and matter (pudgala). It says that souls are not only the property of animal and plant life, but also of entities such as stones, rocks, running water, and many other natural objects not looked upon as living by other sects. **Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**

Source

Upinder Singh: A History of Ancient and Early Medieval India RS Sharma Ancient India

<https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/35228/1/Unit-2.pdf>

Solvability: Repeated concept of soul

Jaina theory of soul has been repeated from a PYQ (2013)

Which of the following statements is/are applicable to Jain doctrine?

1. The surest way of annihilating Karma is to practice penance.
2. Every object, even the smallest particle has a soul.
3. Karma is the bane of the soul and must be ended.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Five Doctrines of JAINISM

(Pancha Mahavaratas)

1. **Ahimsa** : Non-injury to a living being
2. **Satya** : Do not speak a lie
3. **Asteya** : Do not steal
4. **Aparigraha** : Do not acquire property
5. **Brahmacharya** : Observe continence



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AHMEDABAD: 8 JAN

BHOPAL: 5 APR

CHANDIGARH: 5 APR

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Architecture-Total No. of Questions - 4

2018

Q.1. With reference to the cultural history of India, consider the following statements:

1. White marble was used in making Buland Darwaza and Khankah at Fatehpur Sikri.
2. Red sandstone and marble were used in making Bara Imambara and Rumi Darwaza at Lucknow.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER D

Solvability:

Scholar Rana Safvi's articles on medieval Art and Architecture in The Hindu newspaper should be carefully read. Direct question from one of the articles preceding that year.

Explanation

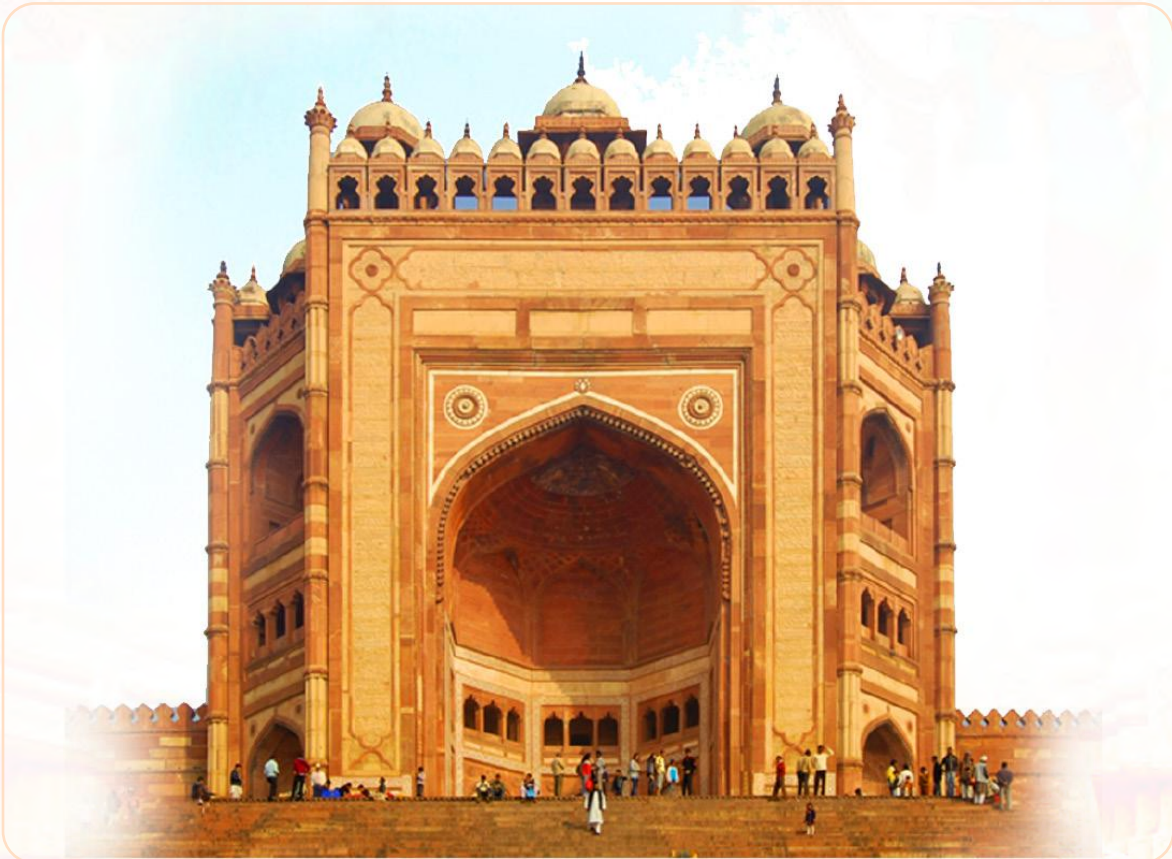


- ★ **Buland Darwaza at Fatehpur Sikri** is the most iconic architectural accomplishment of Akbar's reign. It incorporates almost all the essential features of Akbar's architectural traditions: red sandstone, stone carvings, etc. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- ★ This monumental gate, however, was probably less intended to commemorate a military victory than to underscore Akbar's links with the Chishti order. Its surface is covered by marble slabs inscribed with Quranic verses promising paradise to true believers, appropriate for the entrance into a khanqah, a complex intended for meditation and devotion.
- ★ **Asafi Imambara, or Bara Imambara, of Lucknow** was built to give employment and revenue to the public. Resources were strained, a peak had been reached in architectural style, and a certain decadence had crept in. To overcome these, the Nawabs used a more economical style in architecture, which also gave a touch of lightness to the buildings. Instead of stones and marble, brick and lime were used. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- ★ Stucco ornamentation (gajkari) was used to decorate the monuments, giving it a deep relief effect even on flat walls. Mother of pearl and shells deposited in lake beds were used in the stucco ornamentation to give a shine finer than marble. The local masons cleverly used the brick, with its small size and thickness, to form remarkably fine details on the wall and column surfaces.

- ★ It's a testimony to their skill that they could adapt lowly material to such wonderful effect: balusters were imitated in clay supported on iron rods. Similarly, pottery was used for roof finials and ornaments. This skill can be seen in the delicately built Rumi Darwaza that was the main gateway to the Bara Imambara. It was called so because the design of the structure bears resemblance to an ancient gateway at Constantinople. It's also called the "Turkish Gateway". The word Rumi means Roman, and the name was probably given due to the gateway's design having traces of Roman architecture.

Source

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/columns/buland-darwaza-and-rumi-darwaza-gateways-to-heaven/article19700177.ece>



2019

Q.2. Building 'Kalyaana Mandapas' was a notable feature in the temple construction in the kingdom of

- (a) Chalukya
- (b) Chandela
- (c) Rashtrakuta
- (d) Vijayanagara

ANSWER D



Explanation

★ **Vijayanagara architecture:** Vijayanagara architecture of 1336–1565 CE was a famous building idiom that developed during the rule of the imperial Hindu Vijayanagara Empire. The empire ruled South India, from their regal capital at Vijayanagara, on the banks of the Tungabhadra River in modern Karnataka, India.

- Architecture attained a certain fullness and freedom of expression during the Vijaynagar rule. Though often characterized as Dravida style, it had its own distinct features. This new style of architecture called **as Provida style**.

★ **Features of temples:**

- Large temple complex
- Temples were elaborate structures and process of horizontal elaboration continued.
- Ornamentation became rich and heavy.
- Huge compound wall.
- A new structure known as **Amman Shrine appeared**. Here spouse of the chief deity was kept. eg: Amman shrine of Hazara temple.
- **Mandapa:** Mandapa or open pavilion with a raised platform meant for sitting deities.
 - **The new structure was Kalyan Mandapa where the union of God and spouse was done on special occasions. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.**
 - Thousand Pillar mandap became popular. It was a huge hall having numerous rows of pillars.
- **Pillars:** Unique pillars which are highly carved and characterized by various kinds of designs. eg: Pillar hall at Lepakshi temple.
- **Gopurams:** Most Gopurams were added by the most famous king of the Vijaynagara empire, Krishna Deo Raya. The Gopurams were in several storied pyramidal structures. **Larger and taller Gopurams are known as Raya Gopuram.**
- The climax of temple architecture at Vijayanagara occurred under the Tuluva rulers. The architectural tradition was accompanied by a vibrant sculptural tradition that used many mythological figures and narratives. The shrines on Hemakuta hill, Virupaksha temple, and the Hazara Rama temple are examples of Vijayanagara temple architecture.

- Krishnadevaraya built some fine stone temples and added impressive gopurams or gateways to many important South Indian temples. **He also founded a suburban township near Vijayanagara called Nagalapuram after his mother.** Some of the most detailed descriptions of Vijayanagar come from his period. Tirupati's famous temple developed greatly during his period as the deity there was his titular deity.

Source



NCERT-Themes in Indian History Part-II



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2021

Q.3. With reference to Chausath Yogini Temple situated near Morena, consider the following statements:

1. It is a circular temple built during the reign of Kachchhapaghata Dynasty.
2. It is the only circular temple built in India.
3. It was meant to promote the Vaishnava cult in the region.
4. Its design has given rise to a popular belief that it was the inspiration behind the Indian Parliament building.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 4
- (d) 2, 3 and 4

ANSWER **C**

Motivation



Central Vista Project was in the news. Many newspaper articles were mentioning Chausath Yogini temple.

Explanation



- ★ The Chausath Yogini temple, also known as Ekattarso Mahadeva Temple, is in Morena of Madhya Pradesh. According to an inscription dated to 1323 CE (Vikram Samvat 1383), the temple was built by the Kachchhapaghata king Devapala (1055 – 1075). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- ★ The cells and the main shrine are flat topped, but it is believed that initially each had a shikhara on top. While the 64 Yoginis originally placed in the 64 subsidiary shrines are now missing, a Shiva linga has taken their places in each cell. The central shrine also holds a Shivalinga.
- ★ The uniqueness of this Yogini temple is its circular shape that is popularly believed to have inspired the design of the Indian Parliament, though there are no historical proofs for this. The circular shape is likely to have represented a Sri-Yantra in which the Yoginis reside, with the Supreme Yogini or Maha Sakti residing in the centre (represented by the circular central main shrine). **Hence statement 3 is not correct and statement 4 is correct.**
- ★ Chausath Yogini temple is not the only one circular temples across India. Currently, there are four surviving circular Yogini temples. The temples are believed to have been built between the 9th and 12th centuries, during the reign of the Kalachuri, Chandel, and Pratihara dynasties, and are characterised by their unique circular shape and open-air design.

- ★ The other three temples:
- ★ The Chausath Yogini temple of Hirapur, near Bhubaneswar in Odisha
- ★ The Ranipur-Jharial temple complex in Balangir district of Odisha
- ★ The Khajuraho temple complex in Chhatarpur district of Madhya Pradesh
- ★ **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**

Source



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<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/travel/destinations/exploring-the-incredible-64-yogini-temples-in-india/articleshow/100226156.cms>



TEMPLE ARCHITECTURE:

★ Types of temple architecture in India:

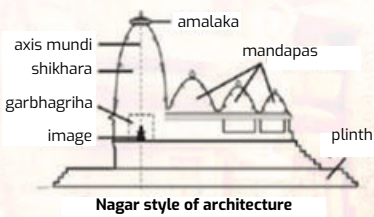
- Nagara style
- Dravida Style.
- Vesara style.



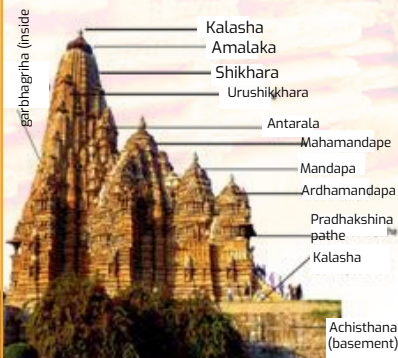
Nagara	Dravida	Vesara
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Nagara style: From the fifth century A.D. onwards, a distinct style of temple architecture developed in the northern part of India, known as the Nagara style of architecture ★ In North India, it is common for an entire temple to be built on a stone platform with steps leading up to it. ★ The temples generally followed the Panchayatan style of temple making, which consisted of subsidiary shrines laid out in a crucified ground plan with respect to the principal shrine. ★ Further, unlike in South India it does not usually have elaborate boundary walls or gateways. ★ While the earliest temples had just one tower or shikhara, later temples had several. ★ Shikharas were generally of three types: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Latina or Rekha-prasad: They were square at the base and the walls curve inward to a point on the top. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Dravidian Style: The style of temple architecture that became popular in southern India is known as the Dravidian Style of temple architecture. This style of temple architecture flourished roughly from the 8th century to about the 13-14 century A.D. ★ The main features of the Dravida style are. ★ Temples of Dravidian style were built on levelled ground without any raised platform. ★ Unlike the nagara temple, the Dravida temple is enclosed within a compound wall. ★ The front wall has an entrance gateway in its centre, which is known as a gopuram. ★ The shape of the main temple tower known as Vimana in South India is like a stepped pyramid that rises up geometrically rather than the curving shikhara of North India. ★ In the South Indian temple the word 'shikhara' is used only for the crowning element at the top of the temple which is usually shaped like a small stupika or an octagonal cupola— this is equivalent to the amlak and kalasha of North Indian temples. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ In the southern part of Deccan, in the region of Karnataka are some of the most experimental hybrid styles of Vesara temple architecture are found. It is also known as Karnataka school. ★ It combined the features of both Nagara school and Dravidian School of temple architecture. ★ Three prominent dynasties that made temples in Vesara styles are Chalukyas, Rashtrakutas, and Hoysala Dynasties. ★ The Chalukyas were great patrons of art. They developed the vesara style in the building of structural temples like Aihole and Pattadakal. ★ However, the vesara style reached its culmination only under the Rashtrakutas and the Hoysalas (Halebid, Belur, Somnathapura

Nagara

- **Phamsana:** They had a broader base and were shorter in height than the Latina ones. The slope upwards on a straight line.
- **Valabhi:** They had a rectangular base with the roof rising into vaulted chambers. They were also called wagon-vaulted roofs.
- ★ There were no water tanks or reservoirs present on the temple premises.
- ★ The Garbhagriha is always located directly under the tallest tower.
- ★ Whereas at the entrance to the North Indian temple's garbhagriha, it would be usual to find images such as mithunas and the river goddesses, Ganga and Yamuna.



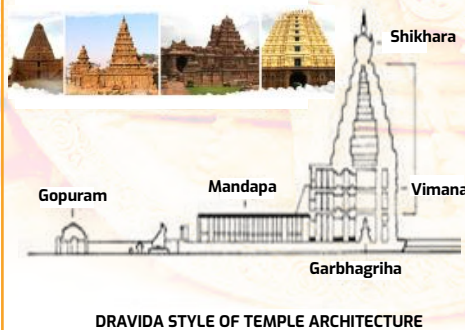
Nagara style of architecture



North Indian Temple Architecture (Nagara Style)

Dravida

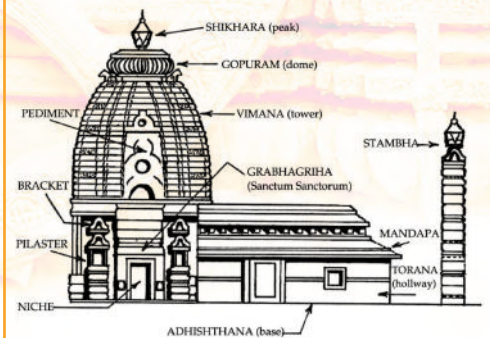
- ★ In the south you will generally find sculptures of fierce dvarapalas or the door-keepers guarding the temple.
- ★ It is common to find a **large water reservoir** or a temple tank enclosed within the complex. Subsidiary shrines are either incorporated within the main temple tower, or located as distinct, separate small shrines beside the main temple.
- ★ The North Indian idea of multiple shikharas rising together as a cluster was not popular in South India.
- ★ The subdivisions of dravida temples are based on five different shapes:
 - square, usually called kuta, and also caturasra;
 - rectangular or shala or ayatasra;
 - elliptical, called gaja-prishta or elephant-backed, or also called vrittayata, deriving from wagon vaulted shapes of apsidal chaityas with a horse-shoe shaped entrance facade usually called a nasi;
 - circular or vritta; and
 - octagonal or ashtasra.



DRAVIDA STYLE OF TEMPLE ARCHITECTURE

Vesara

- ★ Some of the important features of Vesara style temples are:
 - More emphasis is given on vimana and mandapa.
 - Open the Ambulatory passageway around the main shrine.
 - Pillars, doorways, and ceilings were decorated with intricate carvings.



2023

Q.4. With reference to ancient India, consider the following statements:

1. The concept of Stupa is Buddhist in origin.
2. Stupa was generally a repository of relics.
3. Stupa was a votive and commemorative structure in Buddhist tradition.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

ANSWER **B**

Motivation



Votive stupas (offered in fulfillment of a vow) were discovered by the Archeologic al Survey of India near Sarai Tila mound within the premises of Nalanda Mahavihara in Bihar.

Explanation



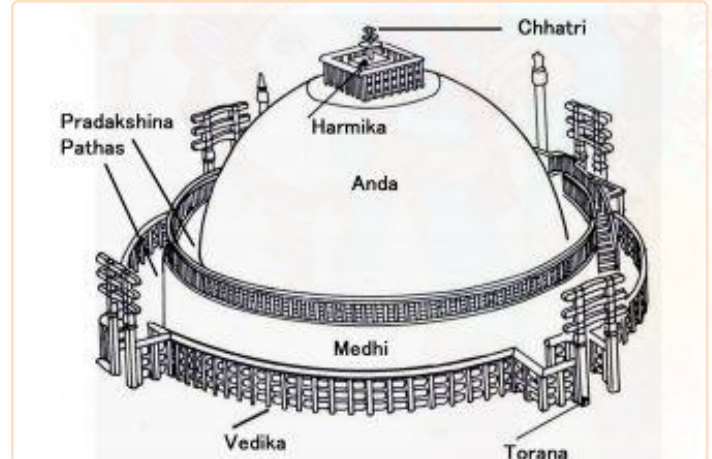
- ★ Stupa, Sanskrit for heap, is a mound-like (hemispherical) burial structure **containing relics of Buddhist monks**. E.g. Sanchi Stupa built over Buddha relics. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- ★ **However, concept of stupa doesnot have Buddhist origin. The word Stupa is mentioned in the Rigveda, Atharvaveda, Vajasaneyi Samhita, Taittiriya Samhita, etc. Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- ★ **Rigveda refers to a Stupa raised by the King Varuna above the forest in a place having no foundation.**The word 'estuka' is also used in the same sense in Rigveda, probably by then anything raised on the ground like a heap/pile might have been known as Stupa.
- ★ **However the Pali word 'thupa' is quite similar to the term 'Stupa'. Thupa means a conical heap, a pile or a mound or a conical or bell shaped shrine containing a relic.** Stupa is regarded as a monument for veneration. But as Stupa seems to be associated with votive and commemorative and offering purposes; Stupa thus gradually was related to the **ritualistic and commemorative with sectarian, affiliation with school of philosophical obligatory and was bound by aspects of social- economic life. Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- ★ The Buddhist texts like the Avadana Satakam, Mahavadana and Stupavadanam mentions about the commemorative aspects of the Stupa even the Jaina literature like Raya Pasenaiya Sutta refers to it. Probably in the later period, due to deep desire of the common mass to worship the lord for the sake of salvation, Stupa acquired its votive character as well.

Source



Upinder Singh: A History of Ancient and Early Medieval India
Introduction to Indian art Part 1

https://www.lkouniv.ac.in/site/writereaddata/siteContent/202004201518298907anitya_gaurav_aih_origin_and_development_of_stupa.pdf



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Music -Total No. of Questions - 2

2018

Q.1. With reference to cultural history of India, consider the following statements:

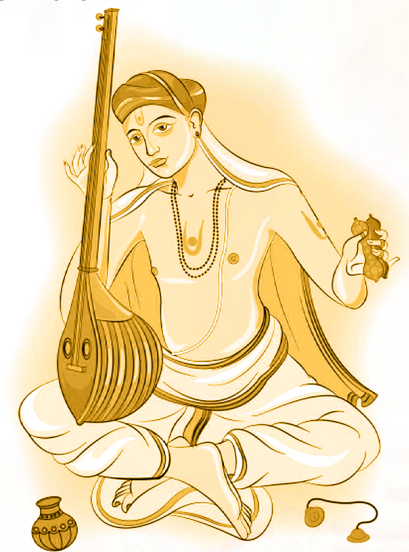
1. Most of the Tyagaraja Kritis are devotional songs in praise of Lord Krishna.
2. Tyagaraja created several new ragas.
3. Annamacharya and Tyagaraja are contemporaries.
4. Annamacharya kirtanas are devotional songs in praise of Lord Venkateshwara.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 2 and 4 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 3
- (d) 2, 3 and 4

ANSWER

B



Motivation



- ★ 250TH Birth Anniversary of Tyagaraja 515 Death Anniversary of Annamacharya.
- ★ Also-Covered under rural tourism scheme of Ministry of Tourism.
- ★ <https://www.rural.tourism.gov.in/Annamayya-Kshetram-attraction.html>

Explanation



- ★ Born on May 14, 1767 in the village of Thiruvayaru in Tamil Nadu's Thanjavur. Tyagaraja was named Tyagabrahmam at birth, in honour of lord Shiva who is worshipped as Tyagaraja in the temple at his birth-place. He is widely regarded as one of three major composers – known as the Trinity – of Carnatic Music who flourished at Tanjore or Thanjavur in the early 19th century, the others being Muthuswami Dikshitar and Syama Sastri.
- ★ **Tyagaraja is said to have composed the music and penned the lyrics of thousands of kritis, mostly in praise of lord Rama**, who is believed to be an incarnation of the god Vishnu. He is known to have created musical innovations, including the use of a structured variation of musical lines within a performance, a practice that may have been derived from improvisatory techniques.. **Hence statement 1 is not correct and statement 2 is correct.**

- ★ **Annamācārya was a 15th-century Hindu saint** and is the earliest known Indian musician to compose songs called **sankirtanas in praise of the god Venkateswara, a form of Vishnu**. He was a contemporary of Purandara Dasa of Karnataka. He is widely regarded also as Andhra Pada kavita Pitāmaha (Godfather of Telugu song writing). **Hence, Statement 3 is not correct but statement 4 is correct.**

Source



1. <https://www.thehindu.com/entertainment/music/the-saint-composers-possessions/article23759797.ece>

2. <https://www.thehansindia.com/posts/index/Commoner/2017-12-13/Annamacharya-The-poet-saint-of-Tirumala/344956>

3. <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/tyagaraja-carnatic-musician-poet-saint-jairam-ramesh-venkaiah-naidu-parliament-8080294/>

2019

Q.2. With reference to Mian Tansen, which one of the following statements is not correct?

- (a) Tansen was the title given to him by Emperor Akbar.
- (b) Tansen composed Dhrupada on Hindu gods and goddesses.
- (c) Tansen composed songs on his patrons.
- (d) Tansen invented many Ragas.

ANSWER

A

Explanation



- ★ Tansen was the most important musician during the reign of Akbar & is credited with composing many ragas. Tansen was one of the best known dhrupad singers and one of the nine jewels of Emperor Akbar's court. He composed many dhrupads on Ganesha, Shiva, Parvati and Rama. He also composed songs on his patrons. He also composed songs on his patrons.
- ★ He invented the night raga Darbari Kanhra, morning raga Mian Ki Todi, mid-day raga, Mian ki Sarang, seasonal raga Mian ki Malhar. His descendants and disciples are called Seniyas.
- ★ **Tansen was the title given to him by Raja Vikramjit of Gwalior.** Tansen was a court musician in the darbar of Raja Ramachandra of Bandavagarh (Rewa). Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.
- ★ When Akbar heard of his prodigious talent, he sent a 'firman' to the king asking for Tansen and made him one of the Navaratnas in his court. **He gave him the title of 'Mian'.**

Source



<https://www.thehindu.com/entertainment/music/the-legend-of-mian-tansen/article22893454.ece>

Hindustani Vs Carnatic Music

Hindustani Music



- Have influence of Arab, Persian and Afghan
- Scope provided to artists for variation and improvisation
- several sub-styles which lead to emergence of 'Gharanas'
- 6 major ragas
- Instruments are equally important as vocals
- Main emphasis on Ragas
- Mainly associated with north india
- Major instrument used: Tabla, Sarangi, Sitar and Santoor

Carnatic Music



- Indegenous system of music
- Less scope of improvisation
- Only one particular prescribed style of singing
- 72 melakartas, ragas and janya ragas
- More emphasis given on vocal music
- Mainly based on Tala or Taal
- Mainly prevalent in south india
- Instruments used: Veena, Mrindangum and Mandolin

Music in India

Origin

- ★ Vedas contain oldest music which had grammar
- ★ Sama veda is considered veda of music
- ★ Natyashastra of Bharata written between 200BC to 200 AD: information about scales, melody, tala and musical instruments

Basics of Indian music

Swara

- ★ Seven pure notes: sa (sadj), re (reshaba), Ga (Gandharva), Ma (Madhyama), Pa (Panchama), Dha (Dhavaiva), Ne (Nishadh)
- ★ Shruti: feeblest sound which human ears can perceive. There are 22 shrutis



Rag

- ★ Different combination of swara
- ★ For raga to form, at least 5 distinct swaras' must be there.
- ★ Types based on distinct notes: Odhava raga (5 distinct swaras), Sadhav raga (6 distinct swaras), Sampurna raga (all 7 swaras)

Taal

- ★ A rhythmic cycle or arrangements of beats in a cyclical manner
- Types based on number of cycles: Thisra (3), Chatusara (4), Khanda (5), Misra (6), Sankirtana (7)

Hindusthani and Carnatic Music

Hindusthani music:

- ★ Differentiation between Hindustani and carnatic started with Delhi sultanate period
- ★ Amir Khusrau is a pioneer of Hindustani music
- ★ In Haripala's "Sangeeta Sudhakara", written in the 14th century A.D., the terms Carnatic and Hindustani are found for the first time.



Types of Hindusthani music

Classical music

Dhrupad

- ★ It is the **oldest classical music** in India that emerged from the temples of Braj and Awadh.
- ★ It is a **simple and sober composition** that requires effort from the lungs and vocal cords
- ★ It involves a **very high levels of frequency**.



- ★ Dhrupad performance starts with Alaap followed by: **Alaap->Jod->Sthayi->Antara->Sanchari->Abhaga**
- ★ **Raja Mansingh Tomar** of Gwalior popularized Dhrupad.
- ★ In the court of Akbar, there were many famous Dhrupad singers like **Baiju Bawra and the most famous Tansen.**
- ★ Tansen was originally known as Ramtanu Pandey, impressed by his singing **Akbar gave him the title of Miyan (Master of Dhrupad)**
- ★ **The popular gharanas of Dhrupad include:** Dagari Gharana, Darbhanga Gharana, Betiah Gharana, Vishnupur Gharana

Khayal

- ★ Khayal is a **Persian** word that means **thought or imagination.**
- ★ The origin of Khayal can be attributed to **Amir Khusrau.**
- ★ As compared to Dhrupad there is **more freedom to singers** in Khayal in terms of structure and form but they need to emphasize on thought.
- ★ Khayal is **romantic** in nature.
- ★ **Khayal performances take place in 2 stages:** Chota Khayal and Bada Khayal.
- ★ The popular gharana of Khayal includes : Kairana Gharana, Gwalior Gharana, Patiala Gharan, Jaipur Gharana and Agra Gharana.

Semi classical music

Thumri

- ★ It was **developed by Bhakti saints** of North India.
- ★ It is a **semi-classical form** that is semi-devotional and semi-romantic.
- ★ The singing highlights **love and devotion** at the same point in time.
- ★ **Two types based on tempo:** **Purbi Thumri** (Slow tempo), **Punjabi Thumri** (fast tempo)
- ★ **Benaras and Lucknow** are 2 popular Gharanas of Thumri

Dhamar

- ★ It is specifically performed during the festival of **Holi**, played in Barsana, Mathura Brindaban area.
- ★ It highlights the **love affair of Lord Krishna with the Gopis.**

Tarana

- ★ It **also evolved from North India** and it was very popular among the **aristocratic class** of North India.
- ★ It was created for the purpose of **entertainment only.**
- ★ As such it had **very few meaningful words.**

Tappa

- ★ It was developed by the **camel riders of North West** who used **local idioms and phrases** for the purpose of singing.
- ★ It is noted for the **quick turn of the phrases.**
- ★ Later singers of Punjab started songs with higher tempo under this category.

Kawali

- ★ It was another contribution of **Amir Khusrau** who composed small couplets in the praise of Allah, the prophet, and Sufi saints.
- ★ It is specifically performed during the festival of **Urs**

Ghazal

- ★ It is another product of **Persian influence**.
- ★ It is mainly **romantic poetry** but many a time there exist an **underlying Sufi element** with God as the beloved
- ★ **Mirza Ghalib and Mir Taki Mir** were the famous initial Ghazal composers

Carnatic Music

Origin

- ★ Sangitsara of Vidyanaraya is considered as a forerunner of **Carnatic Music**
- ★ In the **middle of 17th century**, **Venkatamukhi** wrote **Chaturdandi Prakashika** which became the bedrock of Carnatic classical music. This book mentions **72 Raga Systems** known as **Melakarta Raga System**. They are **highly scientific** in nature

Features

- ★ Carnatic singing takes place in **3 stages**: It starts with **Ragam** which is an improvised Alaapana in free time followed by **Tanam**, it is rhythmic inter-connector, and then **Pallavi** which sets melody to a Taal
- ★ There are **2 popular versions of Carnatic** : **Kriti**: the song is emphasized; **Kritanayi**: Music is emphasized

Compositions

Gitam:

- ★ Simplest type of composition.
- ★ Taught to beginners of music, the Gitam is very simple in construction, with an easy.
- ★ Melodious flow of music.

Suladi

- ★ Very much like the Gitam in musical structure.
- ★ Arrangement, the suladis are of a higher standard than the Gitam.

Varnam

- ★ A beautiful creation of musical craftsmanship of a high order, combining in itself all the characteristic features of the raga in which it is Composed.
- ★ Practice in Varnam singing helps a musician to attain mastery in presentation & command over raga, tala and bhava.

Svarajati

- ★ Learnt after a course in gitams.
- ★ More complicated than the gitams, the svarajati paves the way for the learning of the varnams.
- ★ Theme is either devotional, heroic or amorous.

Jatisvaram

- ★ Very similar to the svarajati in musical structure, this form- jatisvaram – has no sahitya or words.
- ★ The piece is sung with solfa syllables only.

Kirtanam

- ★ Had its birth about the latter half of the 14th century.
- ★ It is valued for the devotional content of the sahitya.
- ★ Clothed in simple music, the kirtanam abounds in bhakti bhava.
- ★ It is suited for congregational singing as well as individual presentation.

Kriti

- ★ A development from the kirtana.
- ★ It is a highly evolved musical form.
- ★ The highest limit of aesthetic excellence is reached in the kriti composition.
- ★ The raga bhava is brought out in all the rich and varied colours in this form

Pada

- ★ Scholarly compositions in telugu & tamil.
- ★ Though they are composed mainly as dance forms, they are also sung in concerts, on account of their musical excellence & aesthetic appeal.
- ★ The music is slow-moving & dignified.

Javali

- ★ Composition belonging to the sphere of light classical music.
- ★ Sung both in concert programmes & dance concerts, the javalis are popular because of the attractive melodies in which they are composed.
- ★ In contrast to the padas which portray divine love, javalis are songs which are sensuous in concept and spirit.

Tillana

- ★ Corresponding to the tarana of hindustani music is a short and crisp form.
- ★ It is mainly a dance form, but on account of its brisk and attractive music, it sometimes finds a place in music concerts as a conclusion piece.

Pallavi

- ★ Most important branch of creative music.
- ★ Branch of manodharma sangeeta, that the musician has ample opportunities of displaying his or her creative talents, imaginative skill, & musical intelligence.

Tanam

- ★ A branch of raga alapana in madhyamakala or medium speed.
- ★ There is perceptible rhythm in this.
- ★ The rhythmical flow of music, flowing in fascinating patterns, makes tanam singing the most captivating part of raga exposition.

Famous personalities:

- ★ Male trinity: Thyagaraja, Shyamsastri, Muthuswami Dikshitar
- ★ Female Trinity: DK Pattawal, ML Vasanthkumari, MS Subbalakshmi

Folk Music Of India



Dance - Total No. of Questions - 1

2017

Q.1. With reference to Manipuri Sankirtana, consider the following statements:

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

- ★ Sankirtana encompasses an array of arts performed to mark religious occasions and various stages in the life of the Vaishnava people of the Manipur plains.
- ★ Sankirtana practices centre on the temple, where performers narrate the lives and deeds of Krishna through song and dance. **Hence, statement 1 and 3 are correct.**
- ★ In a typical performance, two drummers and about ten singerdancers perform in a hall or domestic courtyard encircled by seated devotees. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- ★ Sankirtana has two main social functions: it brings people together on festive occasions throughout the year, acting as a cohesive force within Manipur's Vaishnava community; and it establishes and reinforces relationships between the individual and the community through life-cycle ceremonies. It is thus regarded as the visible manifestation of God.
- ★ It has been inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity of UNESCO in 2013.



Source



<https://ccrtindia.gov.in/manipuri.php>

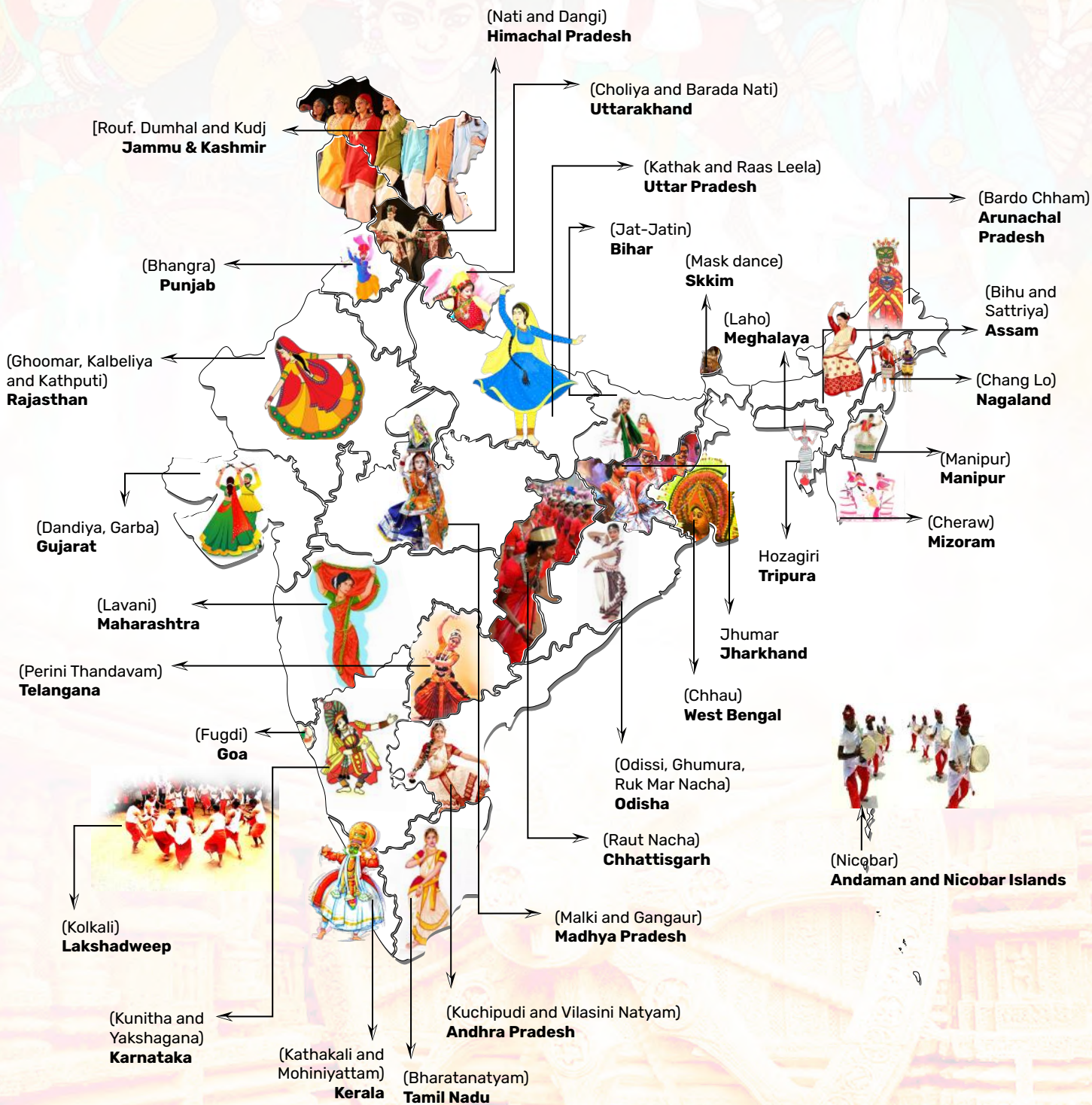
<https://ich.unesco.org/en/RL/sankirtana-ritual-singing-drumming-and-dancing-of-manipur-00843>



Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity

Sr No	Heritage	Year
1	Garba of Gujarat	2023
2	Durga Puja in Kolkata	2021
3	Kumbh Mela	2017
4	Nawroz	2016
5	Yoga	2016
6	Traditional brass and copper craft of utensil making among the Thatheras of Punjab	2014
7	Sankirtana, ritual singing, drumming and dancing of Manipur	2013
8	Buddhist chanting of Ladakh	2012
9	Chhau Dance	2010
10	Kalbelia folk song and dance of Rajasthan	2010
11	Mudiyettu: ritual theatre in Kerala	2010
12	Ramman, religious festival of Himachal Pradesh	2009
13	Kutiyattam, Sanskrit theatre	2008
14	Traditional vedic chanting	2008
15	Ramlila	2008

Famous dances of India



Eight classical dances of India recognised by Sangeet Natak Academy

Bharathanatyam
Tamil Nadu



Kathakali
Kerala



Kathak
Northern India



Kuchipudi
Andhra Pradesh



Manipuri
Manipur



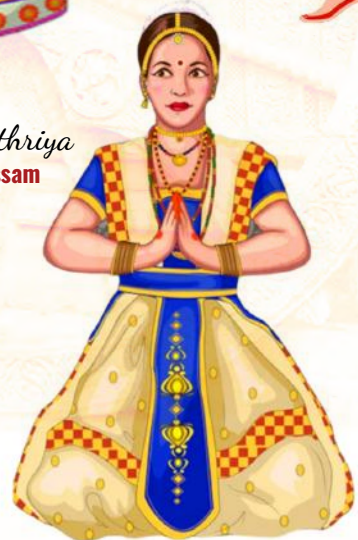
Mohiniattam
Kerala



Odissi
Odisha



Sattriya
Assam



Painting- Total No. of Questions - 3

2017

Q.1. The painting of Bodhisattva Padmapani is one of the most famous and oft-illustrated paintings at

- (a) Ajanta
- (b) Badami
- (c) Bagh
- (d) Ellora

ANSWER A



Explanation

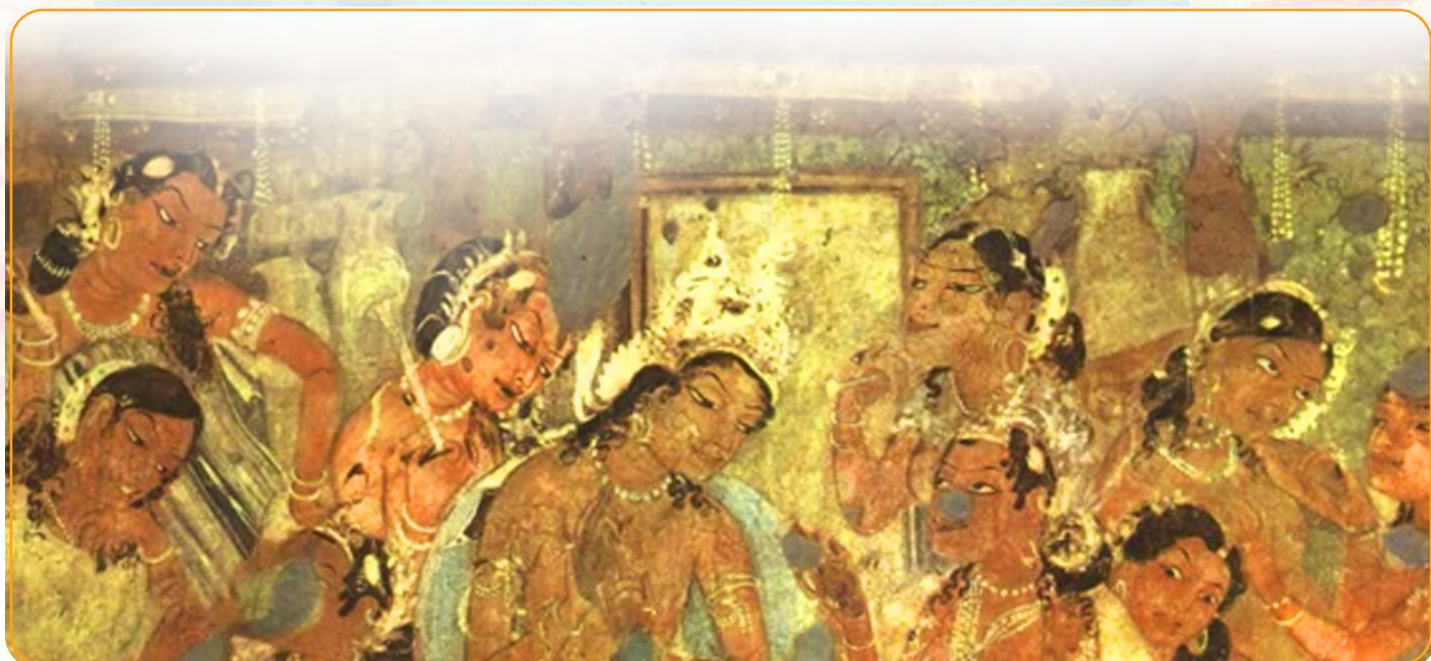
- ★ The painting is on the back wall of the interior hall before the shrine - antechamber in Cave No. 1 at Ajanta dating back to the late fifth century CE. The Bodhisattva is holding a padma (lotus), has large shoulders, and has three bends in the body creating a movement in the picture space. The modelling is soft. The figure of the Bodhisattva is wearing a big crown in which detailed rendering is visible. **Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.**



Source



AN INTRODUCTION TO INDIAN ART, page 54



2018

Q.2. The well-known painting "Bani Thani" belongs to the

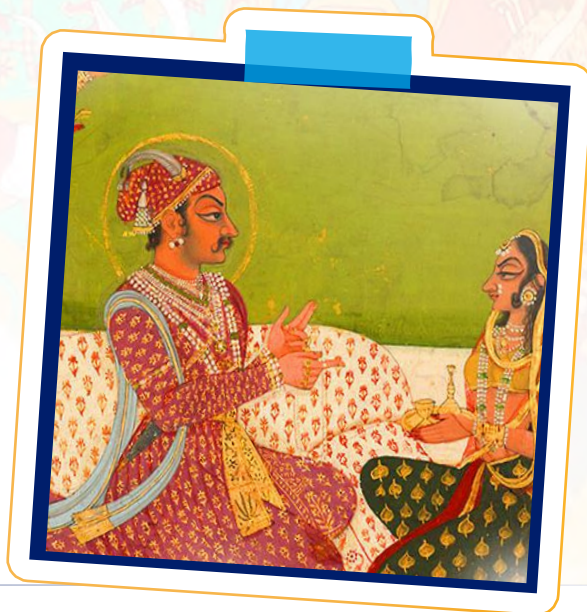
- (a) Bundi school
- (b) Jaipur school
- (c) Kangra school
- (d) Kishangarh school

ANSWER D

Motivation



- ★ There will be a display of famous Bani Thani paintings of Kishangarh style in the galleries and halls of the newly built Kishangarh airport.



Explanation



- ★ Bani Thani is an Indian painting in the Kishangarh school of paintings. Bani Thani was painted by an artist by the name of Nihâl Chand. The painting's subject, Bani Thani, was a singer and poet in Kishangarh in the time of king Savant Singh.

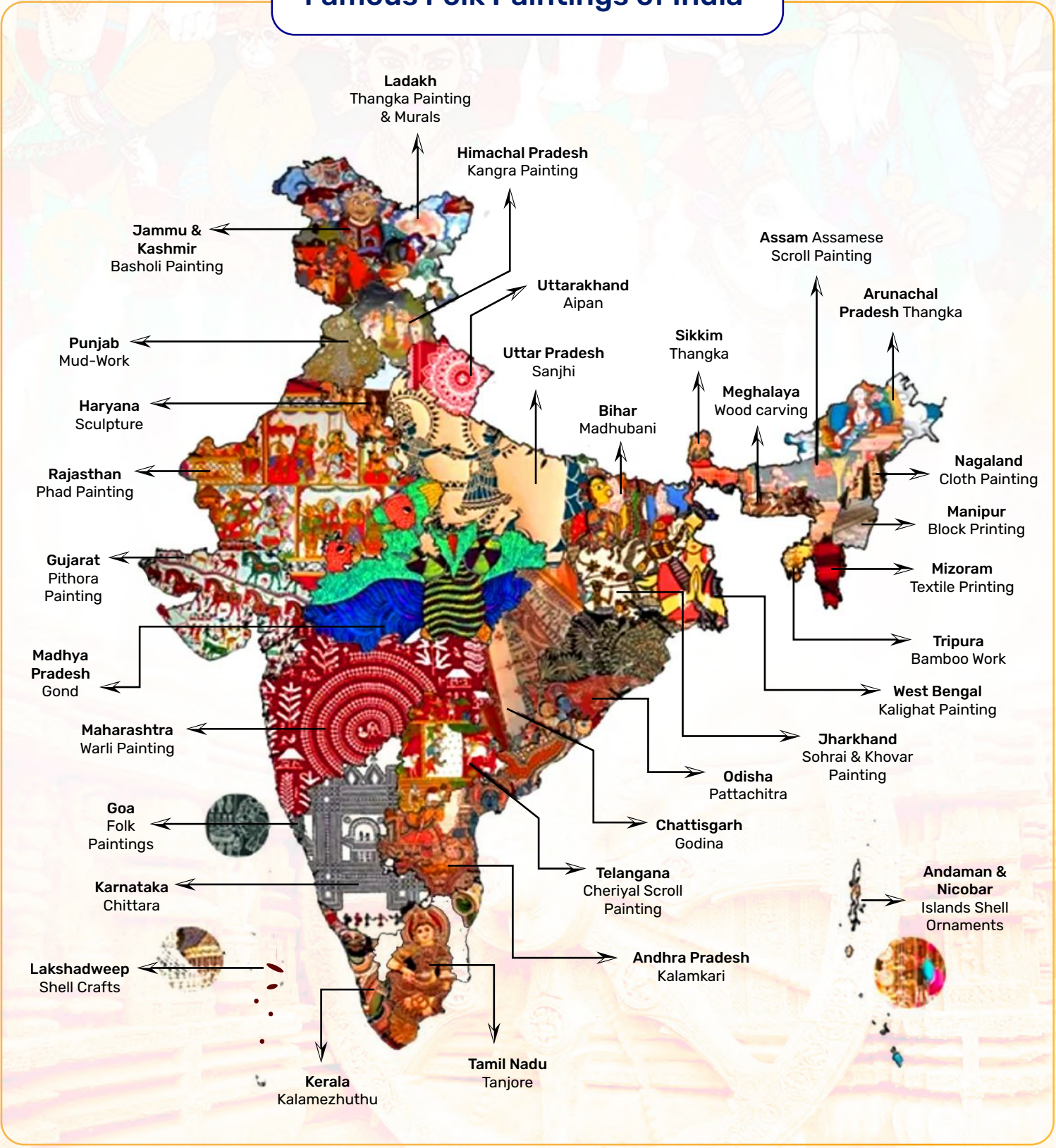
Source



<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/jaipur/bani-thani-paintings-to-welcome-passengers-at-kishangarh-airport/articleshow/58451262.cms>

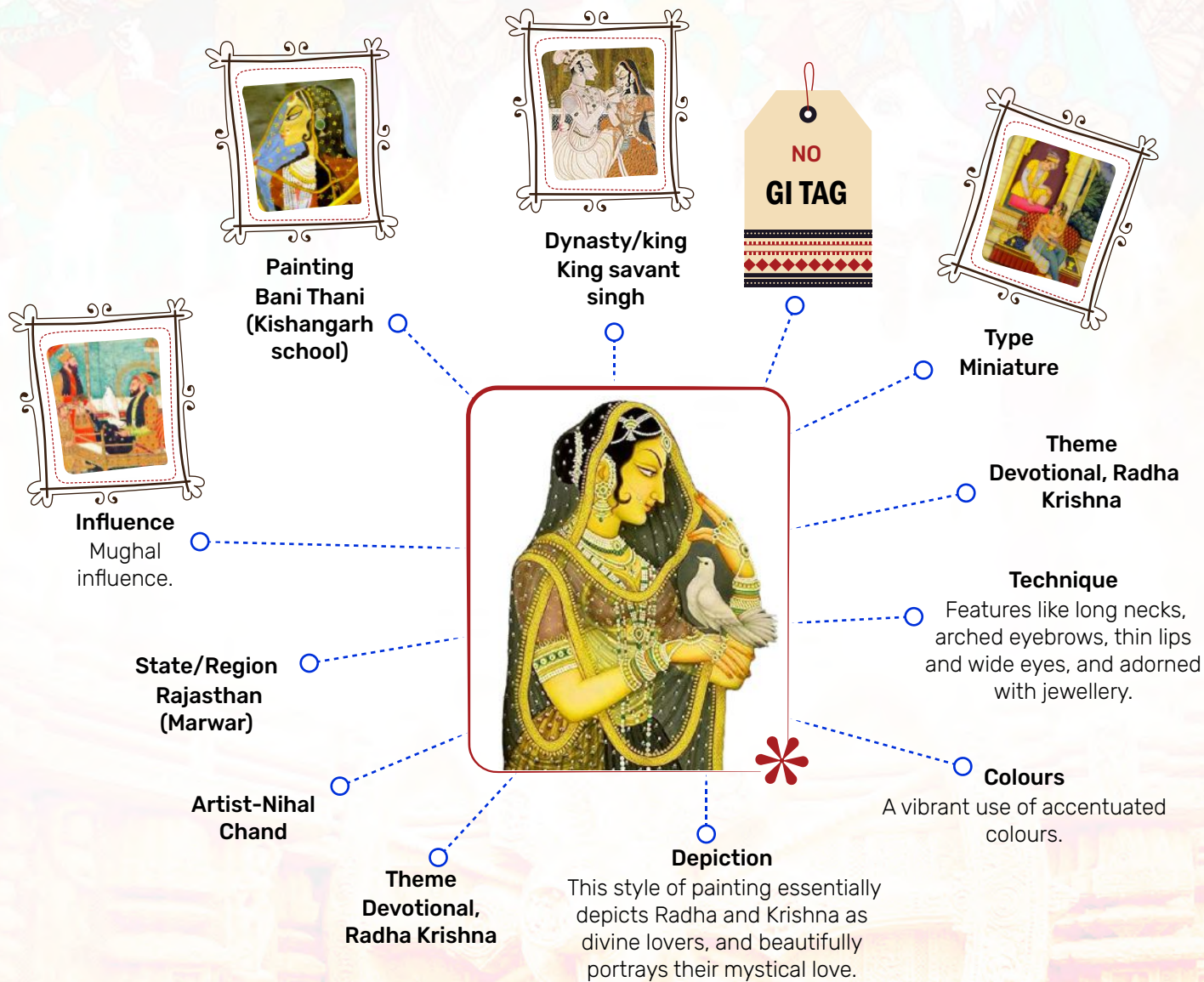


Famous Folk Paintings of India





Approach for Covering Paintings Topic



While studying paintings for the UPSC prelims exam, it's essential to cover certain important aspects. For example, let's consider the Bani Thani painting.



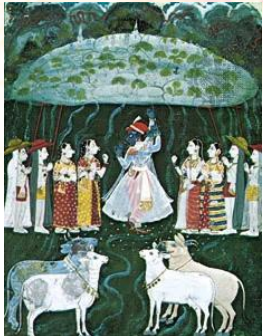
Early Miniatures

<p>Pala school</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ 750 CE to the mid-twelfth century. ★ Related to Buddhism, centers like Nalanda and Vikramsila. ★ Use of palm leaves and mostly belong to the Vajrayana School. ★ Astasahasrika Prajnaparamita ('Perfection of Wisdom') ★ Characterised by sinuous line and subdued tones of colour. 	
<p>Apabhramsa School</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Gujarat, Rajasthan and Malwa. ★ Inspired by the ideals of Jainism. ★ Mainly Patronized by Chalukya Dynasty. ★ Early one on palm leaf and then on paper. Reduced dimension Murals. ★ Kalpasutra and Kalakacharya-Katha are popular. 	

Miniatures of South India

<p>GI TAG Tanjore Paintings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Special decorative paintings. ★ Mostly created on glass and wooden planks. ★ Brilliant use of colour and liberal use of gold. ★ Maratha patronage and mainly under Maharaja Serfoji II. 	
<p>GI TAG Mysore Painting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Depiction of Hindu gods and goddesses. ★ One figure predominates all the others. ★ Use the 'gesso paste'. 	

Regional Paintings

<p>Mewar School</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Depiction of Ragamala, the Ramayana and the Bhagavata Purana. ★ Tamasha paintings ★ Later became secular and courtly. 	
----------------------------	---	---

Amber-Jaipur School

- ★ Also known as 'Dhundar' school.
- ★ Palace walls and mausoleum of Amer Palace in Rajasthan.
- ★ Themes like Bhagwata Purana, Ramayana, Ragamala.



Marwar School

- ★ Region of Jodhpur and Bikaner.
- ★ Colourful clothing.
- ★ Themes like Shiva Purana, Natacharitra, Durgacharitra, Panchtantra, etc.
- ★ Kishangarh School and Bundi School are its sub-school.



Kishangarh School

- ★ Devotional and amorous relations between Radha and Krishna (Bani thani)
- ★ Features like long necks, arched eyebrows, thin lips and wide eyes, and adorned with jewellery



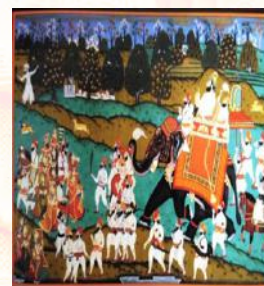
Bundi School

- ★ Krishna-bhakti plays.
- ★ Manuscript of the Bhagawata Purana.
- ★ Element of naturalism.



Kotah School

- ★ Quite similar to Bundi school.
- ★ Themes of tiger and bear hunt were very popular at Kotah.
- ★ Krishna Bhakti reflected.
- ★ Bundi and Kota are also referred to as Hadoti School.

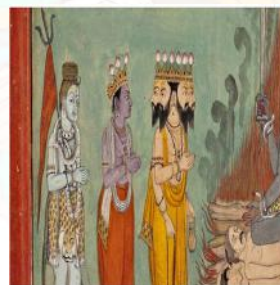


Pahari Paintings

GI TAG

**Basohli
School**

- ★ Earliest centre of painting in the Pahari region. Patronage of Raja Kripal Pal.
- ★ Devidasa executed miniatures in the form of the Rasamanjari.
- ★ Vigorous and bold line and strong glowing colours



Guler School

- ★ Extension of Basohli style to Jammu.
- ★ Portraits of Raja Balwant Singh of Jasrota.
- ★ New naturalistic paintings with soft and cool colours



GI TAG

**Kangra
School**

- ★ The third phase of the Pahari painting. Developed out of the Guler style.
- ★ Possessed delicacy of drawing and quality of naturalism.
- ★ Portraits of Raja Sansar Chand of Kangra.



**Kulu-Mandi
school**

- ★ Folk style of painting in the Kulu-Mandi area.
- ★ Bold drawing and the use of dark and dull colours



Folk Painting

GI TAG

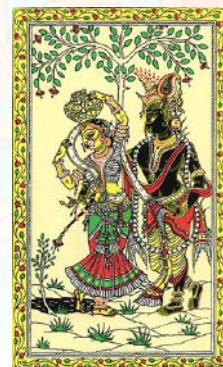
**Madhubani
or Mithila
Paintings**

- ★ Bihar
- ★ Geometric patterns and use two-dimensional imagery.
- ★ Depicts scenes from Hindu epics.
- ★ Symbolic figures like fish for good luck and fertility, etc.
- ★ Natural objects like sun, moon and sacred plants are common.
- ★ Paint is made from a powdered rice paste and coloured with natural dyes and pigments.



Pattachitra Painting

- ★ Odisha
- ★ Inspired from Jagannath and Vaishnava cult. Painters are known as chitrakar.
- ★ Mix of classical and folk elements.
- ★ Base is treated cloth and natural colours used. Pattachitra on palm leaf is known as talapattachitra



Patua Art

- ★ Bengal
- ★ Mangal Kavyas tradition.
- ★ Pats or scrolls for paintings.
- ★ Story telling through paintings.
- ★ Present day usage for political and social issues. Huge inclusion of Muslim community.



Paitkar Painting

- ★ Jharkhand
- ★ Scroll paintings by Tribal.
- ★ Cultural association with Ma Mansa.
- ★ Common theme is 'human life post death'.



- ★ Andhra Pradesh
- ★ Pen (Kalam) and craftsmanship (Kari).
- ★ Sharp pointed bamboo used.
- ★ Base is cotton fabric.
- ★ Vegetable dyes colours.
- ★ Existed from Vijayanagara Empire



- ★ Gujarat-Maharashtra
- ★ Ancient tribal art 2500-3000 BC.
- ★ Ritualistic paintings.
- ★ Scenes portraying fishing, hunting, farming, dances, animals, trees and festivals.
- ★ Traditionally done on walls, with Geometric symbols like triangle, a circle and a square.
- ★ Base made up from mud, cow dung, etc.
- ★ Painted by white pigment, made of a mixture of gum and rice powder



Thangka Painting

- ★ Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Ladakh, etc
- ★ Related to Buddhism.
- ★ Base of cotton canvas.
- ★ Significance of colours like Red for intensity of passion, white for serenity, black depicts anger, green represents consciousness.



Manjusha Painting or Angika art

- ★ Bihar
- ★ Snake painting.
- ★ Executed on boxes of jute and paper.
- ★ Related to Anga Mahajanpada.



2019

Q.3. Who among the following Mughal Emperors shifted emphasis from illustrated manuscripts to album and individual portrait?

- (a) Humayun
- (b) Akbar
- (c) Jahangir
- (d) Shah Jahan

ANSWER C

Explanation



- ★ The Mughal rule was established in India by Babar in 1526. The art of painting was initiated in Humayun's time. It was carried further by Emperor Akbar in a big way. It was in the time of Jahangir the superb art works turned out. Shahajahan also promoted the art of painting along with his architectural venture.
- ★ Babur had a keen eye on portraiture and this is also recorded in his memoirs.
- ★ Humayun invited two Persian artists—Mir Sayyid Ali and Abd us Samad to establish a studio in his court and carry out royal paintings. . He founded the Nigaar Khana (painting workshop), which was also a part of his library. it is known that he started the project of illustration of Hamza Nama that was continued by his son and successor Akbar.



- ★ Emperor Akbar was keenly interested in the art of painting and architecture. **During his reign, an illustrated manuscript of the Tuti-nama appears to be the first work of the Mughal School.** Akbar envisioned cultural integration and commissioned translation of several revered Hindu texts. Akbar envisioned cultural integration and commissioned translation of several revered Hindu texts. Akbar had formalised the Mughal miniature style and set standards, which were further taken to new heights by his son Jahangir.
- ★ **Under Jahangir, painting acquired greater charm, refinement and dignity. He had great fascination for nature and took delight in the portraiture of birds, animals and flowers.** Under his patronage, the Mughal painting achieved naturalism and scientific accuracy of the highest degree. Jahangir's atelier gave preference to a lesser number and better quality of artworks produced by a single master artist. The Muraqqas individual paintings to be mounted. in albums became popular under Jahangir's patronage. **Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.**
- ★ The Son of Jahangir, Shah Jahan encouraged the artists in the atelier to create magnificent works that were a blend of imagination and documentation. Idealisation and great stylisation were preferred over naturalistic rendering and accurate depiction.

Source



<https://ccrtindia.gov.in/miniaturepainting.php>
<https://ncert.nic.in/textbook/pdf/lefa103.pdf>

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Literature -Total No. of Questions - 6

2020

Q.1. With reference to the scholars/litterateurs of ancient India, consider the following statements:

1. Panini is associated with Pushyamitra Shunga.
2. Amarasimha is associated with Harshavardhana.
3. Kalidasa is associated with Chandra Gupta-II.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

ANSWER **C**



Explanation

- ★ **Panini (4th century BCE or "6th to 5th century BCE") was an ancient Sanskrit grammarian**, and a revered scholar in ancient India. Considered the father of linguistics, Panini likely lived in the northwest Indian subcontinent during the Mahajanapada era. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- ★ He is said to have been born in Shalatula of ancient Gandhara, a small town at the junction of the Indus and Kabul rivers, Pakistan. Panini is known for his text Ashtadhyayi, a sutra-style treatise on Sanskrit grammar, 3,959 "verses" or rules on linguistics syntax and semantics "eight chapters" which is the foundational text of the Vyākara a branch of the Vedanga.
- ★ Ashtadhyayi is admired for its simplicity and its rigorous and consistent use of meta language. Sutras are like mathematical formulae. So, a lot of information can be given using a few words. And since Panini uses sutras, the Ashtadhyayi is crisp.
- ★ Panini also lays down rules to resolve conflicts between sutras. Ashtadhyayi is augmented with ancillary texts such as Sivasutras (special order of phonemes); dhatupatha (list of verbal roots); ganapatha (various sets of nouns) and linganusasana (system for deciding the gender).
- ★ Pushyamitra Sunga (185 BC TO 151 BC): Pushyamitra Shunga was the founder and first ruler of the Shunga Empire in East India. He was a follower of Hinduism. Pushyamitra was originally a Senapati "General" of the Maurya Empire. In 185 BCE he assassinated the last Mauryan Emperor, Brihadratha Maurya, during an army review, and proclaimed himself emperor.

- ★ Chandragupta II, also called Vikramaditya, powerful emperor (reigned c. 380–c. 415 ce) of northern India. He was the son of Samudra Gupta and grandson of Chandragupta I. During his reign, art, architecture, and sculpture flourished, and the cultural development of ancient India reached its climax. Chandragupta-II was known for his deep interest in art and culture and nine gems or Navratna adorned his court. The group comprised of Kalidasa, Vetala Bhatta, Varahamihira, Vararuchi, Amarasimha, Dhanvantari, kshapanak, Shanku, Ghatakarpara.
- ★ **Kalidasa was a famous Sanskrit writer and poet in the court of Chandragupta II (Vikramaditya).** Kalidasa was the author of the following famous plays:
- ★ Abhijnanasakuntalam :tells the story of King Dushyanta and Shakuntala Malavikagnimitram-tells the story love of King Agnimitra with Malavika Raghuvamsa ("Raghu Dynasty ") and Kumarasambhava . **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- ★ **Amarasimha:** Amarasimha was one of the nine Gems in the court of Vikramaditya of Gupta era. He is notably known for his famous Sanskrit thesaurus Amarakosha. It is also known as Namalinganushasana. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

Source



NCERT Class 6 History-Our past-1, page. no.116-117(NEW EMPIRES AND KINGDOMS, chapter-11)



2021

Q.2. With reference to the history of ancient India, Bhavabhuti, Hastimalla and Kshemeshvara were famous

- (a) Jain monks
- (b) playwrights
- (c) temple architects
- (d) philosophers

ANSWER **B**

Explanation



- ★ **Bhavabhuti**, a major dramatist of the later Sanskrit dramatic period, was the court poet of King Yashovarman of Kannauj, in north India in 8th CE. He wrote plays based on the Ramayana, such as the Mahaviracharita (Exploits of a Great Hero), which depicts the early life of Rama and Uttaramcharita (The Latter History of Rama), which shows the final years of Rama's life as written in the Uttara Kanda of the Ramayana. Both the plays consist of seven acts written in the Nataka style. His third drama, Malatimadhava (Malati and Madhava), is a Prakarana play centered on the love story of Malati, the daughter of a minister and Madhavaya, her beloved.
- ★ **Hastimalla is a kannada poet and playwright during the reign of Hoysalas.**
- ★ **Kshemeshwara (Kshemendra) was an 11th centurysanskrit polymath- poet, satirist, dramatist and philosopher. His work k Samaymatrika written by Kshemendra gives us useful information about the topographical details of the country. The heroine of the text namely Kankali travels throughout Kashmir and mentions many places of the regions which can be traced out with the help of the map. His 'Three Satires: From Ancient Kashmir' has been translated by A.N.D. Haksar.**

Source



- ★ <https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/64648/1/Unit1.pdf>
- ★ <https://www.pramanaresearch.org/gallery/prj-p1082.pdf>

2022

Q.3. "Yogavasistha" was translated into Persian by Nizamuddin Panipati during the reign of:

- (a) Akbar
- (b) Humayun
- (c) Shahjahan
- (d) Aurangzeb

ANSWER **A**

Motivation



- ★ **Motivation:** <https://thewire.in/politics/narendra-modi-nine-covid-19-lights>
- ★ **Hidden in Plain Sight in PM Modi's New Coronavirus Action Call, a Pattern of Nines. A former head of the Indian Medical Association, Dr K.K. Aggarwal, took to social media to "explain the science" behind the prime minister's announcement – but his explanation, if it can be called that, led only to further confusion.**

Explanation



- ★ Yoga Vasistha (also known as Vasistha's Yoga) is a Hindu spiritual text traditionally attributed to Valmiki. It recounts a discourse of the sage Vasistha to a young Prince Rama, during a period when the latter is in a dejected state.
- ★ The contents of Vasistha's teaching to Rama is associated with Advaita Vedanta, the illusory nature of the manifest world and the principle of non-duality. The book has been dated between the 11th and 14th century AD) and is generally regarded as one of the longest texts in Sanskrit (after the Mahabharata) and an important text of Yoga.
- ★ Originally written in Sanskrit, the Yoga Vasistha has been translated into most Indian languages, and the stories are told to children in various forms. The number of Muslim scholars who collaborated with Hindu pandits in making Sanskrit works available was considerable.
- ★ During the Moghul Dynasty the text was translated into Persian several times, **as ordered by Akbar, Jahangir and Dara Shikoh. Nizam al-Din Panipati rendered the widely influential Yoga Vasistha into Persian late in the sixteenth century at the behest of the Mughal ruler Jahangir while he was still a crown prince.** The translation, known as the Jug-Basisth, has since become popular in Persia among intellectuals interested in Indo-Persian culture.
- ★ **Hence option (a) is the correct answer.**

Source



- ★ https://religion.fandom.com/wiki/Yoga_Vasistha#Translations
- ★ <https://www.wisdomlib.org/shop/books/hinduism/the-yogavasistha-of-valmiki-with-commentary/doc225484.html>

2023

Q.4. With reference to ancient Indian History, consider the following pairs:

Literary work	Author
1. Devichandragupta	: Bilhana
2. Hammira-Mahakavya	: Nayachandra Suri
3. Milinda-panha	: Nagarjuna
4. Nitivakyamrita	: Somadeva Suri

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

ANSWER B

Student Note

UPSC has asked a question in Prelims 1997: Milinda Panho is in the form of dialogue between King Milind and which Buddhist monk? **(a) Nagasena (b) Nagarjuna (c) Nagbhata (d) Kumarilbhata.**

According to UPSC the answer was Nagasena. So when UPSC in this particular question distinguished Nagasena with Nagarjuna, then we should also consider Nagasena different from Nagarjuna. That is why we have given the answer as B.

Explanation

- ★ Devichandragupta - Vishakadatta.
 - Hence pair 1 is not correctly matched.
- ★ Hammira-Mahakavya - Nayachandra Suri.
 - Hence pair 2 is correctly matched.
- ★ Milinda-panha - Nagarjuna.
 - Hence pair 3 is not correctly matched.
- ★ Nitivakyamrita - Somadeva Suri.
 - Hence pair 4 is correctly matched.
- ★ For Clarification: The Indian philosopher Acharya Nagarjuna (c. 150-250 CE) was the founder of the Madhyamaka (Middle Path) school of Mahayana Buddhism and arguably the most influential Buddhist thinker/philosopher. Whereas the **old NCERT Ancient India book by R.S. Sharma** mentions that Menander who was an Indo-Greek Ruler (165-145 B.C.) also known **as Milinda was converted to Buddhism by Nagasena** (who was also known as Nagarjuna). He asked many questions to Nagasena which were recorded in a book called '**Milinda Panho**'.

Source

- ★ Ancient India RS Sharma
- ★ AL Basham's Wonder that was India

2022

Q.5. Which one of the following statements about Sangam literature in ancient South India is correct?

- (a) Sangam poems are devoid of any reference to material culture.
- (b) The social classification of Varna was known to Sangam poets.
- (c) Sangam poems have no reference to warrior ethic.
- (d) Sangam literature refers to magical forces as irrational.

ANSWER B

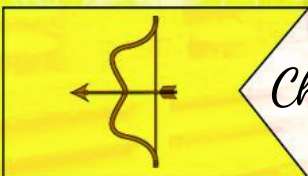


Explanation

- ★ The era spanning from the 3rd century B.C. to the 3rd century A.D. in South India, specifically the region south of the Krishna and Tungabhadra rivers, is denoted as the Sangam Period. **The era spanning from the 3rd century B.C. to the 3rd century A.D.** During the Sangam Age, South India was ruled by three dynasties – **Cheras, Cholas and Pandyas.**
- ★ Traditionally, three Sangams or assemblies are believed to have been convened one after the other. **All the three Sangams took place at different places under the patronage of the Pandya kings of Madurai.**
- ★ According to Tamil legends, three sangams (gatherings of Tamil poets) were held in ancient South India, called **Muchchangam.**
 - **The first Sangam** is believed to have been held in **Madurai.** Deities and great saints were involved in this confluence. No literary texts of this Sangam are available.
 - **The second Sangam** was held at **Kapatapuram,** the only Tamil grammar text of this Sangam available in Tolkappiyam.
 - **The third Sangam** was also held in Madurai, left behind a few Tamil literary compositions that serve as valuable sources for understanding the historical context of the Sangam period.
- ★ **Sangam Literature:** The corpus of Sangam literature includes Tolkappiyam, Ettutogai, Pattuppattu, Pathinenkilkanakku, and the **two epics – Silappathigaram and Manimegalai.**
- ★ **Both Ettutogai and Pattuppattu** were divided into two main groups – **Aham (love) and Puram (valour).** Pathinenkilkanakku contains eighteen works mostly dealing with ethics and morals. The most important among them is **Tirukkural authored by Thiruvalluvar.** Silappathigaram written by Elango Adigal and Manimegalai by Sittalai Sattanar also provides valuable information on the Sangam polity and society.

Sangam Polity

- ★ Hereditary monarchy was the form of government during the Sangam period.
- ★ The king had also taken the advice of his minister, court poet and the imperial court or avai.
- ★ **The Chera kings assumed titles like**
 - Vanavaramban, Vanavan, Kuttuvan, Irumporai and Villavar.
- ★ **The Chola kings like**
 - Senni, Valavan and Killi and
- ★ **The Pandya kings**
 - Thennavar and Minavar.
- ★ **Each of the Sangam dynasties had a royal emblem – carp for the Pandyas, tiger for the Cholas and bow for the Cheras.**
- ★ The king was assisted by a large body of officials who were divided into five councils.
 - **They were ministers (amaichar), priests (anthanar), military commanders (senapathi), envoys (thuthar) and spies (orral).**
- ★ The military administration was also efficiently organized during the Sangam Age. Each ruler had a regular army and their **respective Kodimaram (tutelary tree)**.
- ★ **Land revenue** was the chief source of state's income while custom duty was also imposed on foreign trade.
- ★ The **Pattinappalai refers to the custom officials** employed in the seaport of Puhar.
- ★ Booty captured in wars was also a major income to the royal treasury. Roads and highways were well maintained and guarded night and day to prevent robbery and smuggling.



Chera



Chola



Pandya

Sangam Society

Tolkappiyam refers to the five- fold division of lands,

- ★ **Kurinji (hilly tracks)**
- ★ **Mullai (pastoral)**
- ★ **Marudam (agricultural)**
- ★ **Neydal (coastal) and**
- ★ **Palai (desert)**
- ★ The people living in these five divisions had their respective chief occupations as well as gods for worship.
 - Kurinji – chief deity was Murugan – chief occupation, hunting and honey collection.
 - Mullai – chief deity Mayon (Vishnu) – chief occupation, cattle-rearing and dealing with dairy products.
 - Marudam – chief deity Indira – chief occupation, agriculture.
 - Neydal – chief deity Varunan – chief occupation fishing and salt manufacturing.
 - Palai – chief deity Korravai – chief occupation robbery.
- ★ The social classification of varna was known to Sangam poets. **Tolkappiyam also refers to four castes namely arasar, anthanar, vanigar and vellalar.**
 - The ruling class was called arasar.
 - Anthanars played a significant role in the Sangam polity and religion.
 - Vanigars carried on trade and commerce.
 - The vellalas were agriculturists.
- ★ Other tribal groups like Parathavar, Panar, Eyinar, Kadambar, Maravar and Pulaiyar were also found in the Sangam society. Ancient primitive tribes like Thodas, Irulas, Nagas and Vedars lived in this period.
- ★ The Brahmanas are also mentioned, some of them closely associated with the courts of kings and patronized by ruling elites. They are described as performing yajnas, including ones on the battlefield, to ensure victory. In the Padirrapattu, the sage Kapila advises kings that they should give important jobs such as those of advisers to Brahmanas. **Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**
- ★ Sangam poems contain several incidental references to material culture, often as part of the poem's setting or in similes and allusions. There are references to farming (rice and barley are mentioned), cattle rearing, and fishing. **Hence option (a) is not correct.**
- ★ They also speak of the Yavanas (foreigners) coming in their own vessels purchasing pepper with gold and supplying wine and women slaves to the natives. This trade is not known only from Latin and Greek writings but also from archaeological records.
- ★ Aṅāṅku is a phenomenon of sacred power described in ancient Tamil literature such as the Sangam literature. This sacred magical forces were supposed to inhabit various objects, which eventually determined their association with the society. **Hence option (d) is not correct.**
- ★ The class of warriors was an important element in society during the Sangam age. Captains of the army were invested with the title of 'enadi' at a formal ceremony. Civil and military officers were held under both the Cholas and the Pandyas by vellalas or rich peasants. The ruling class was called arasar and its members had marriage relations with the vellalas. **Hence option (c) is not correct.**

Women during the Sangam age

- ★ Women in the Sangam period appear to have been educated. This is testified by many poems contributed by women poets to the Sangam literature. Women are also described as engaged in various economic activities such as paddy plantation, cattle rearing, basket-making, spinning, etc.
- ★ However, the cruel practice of Sati was also prevalent in Tamil society, and it was known as tippayadal. But it was not obligatory as there are references to widows present in society. However, their position was miserable as they were prohibited to decorate themselves or participate in any form of amusement.

Source



Class XI NCERT, Ancient India, Chapter-3, Page No.-17-18 India Ancient's Past-R.S Sharma- (Chapter 22)-The dawn of history in the deep south.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/chennai/early-tamil-society-was-free-of-caste/article7262547.ece>

2023

Q.6. Which one of the following explains the practice of 'Vattakirutal' as mentioned in Sangam poems?

- Kings employing women bodyguards
- Learned persons assembling in royal courts to discuss religious and philosophical matters
- Young girls keeping watch over agricultural fields and driving away birds and animals
- A king defeated in a battle committing ritual suicide by starving himself to death

ANSWER D



Explanation

- ★ Sangam poems are pervaded with a warrior ethic. The goal of the hero of the puram poems was pukaal (glory, fame) and a heroic death was greatly valued. It was believed that the spirit of a warrior who died in battle dwelt in paradise.
- ★ A poem in the Purananuru suggests that the bodies of warriors who did not die in battle were cut with swords before the funerary rites, to simulate death in battle.

- ★ The **practice of vattakirutal** was one in which a defeated king committed ritual suicide by starving himself to death, accompanied by those who had been close to him during his lifetime.
- ★ **The worship of memorial stones (natukal)** was a corollary of the importance of the heroic ideal. Memorial stones were erected in honour of heroes who died fighting valiantly in battle; the spirit of the fallen hero was believed to reside in these stones. **Hence option (d) is the correct answer.**

Source

A History of Ancient and Early Medieval India by Upinder Singh - Ch
Sangam Literature and Later Tamil Works



Important Sites/Places - Total No. of Questions - 6

2017

Q.1. Which of the following is/are famous for Sun temples?

1. Arasavalli
2. Amarakantak
3. Omkareshwar

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

ANSWER **A**



Explanation

- ★ **The Sri Suryanarayana Swamy Temple, dedicated to the sun god, located in Arasavalli,** is one of the two temples of its kind, the other being the most popular and magnificent Konark Sun Temple in Odisha. However, the temple in Arasavalli is an older structure that was built by the same Eastern Ganga Dynasty that Commissioned the temple in Konark as well. Sun temples are found only in the Kalin-gandhra (now Odisha and Andhra Pradesh) region In India.
- ★ Omkareshwar Temple is one of the most famous and highly revered Hindu temples in India, located in Madhya Pradesh. The temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva and is also one of the 12 Jyotirlingas. Omkareshwar Temple is in the Peshwa architectural style and features intricate carvings and beautiful spires.
- ★ At Amarkantak, the Machhendranath and Pataleshwar temples Kalachuri king, Karnadeva (1042-1072). Narmada Udgam, a temple built at the source of the Narmada, is considered the holiest spot in the town.



Source



<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhrapradesh/Arasavalli-templewears-afestivelook/article17150240.ece>

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/travel/destinations/-facts-about-omkareshwar-temple-that-will-leave-you-stunned/articleshow/104630070.cms>

<https://www.chhattisgarhtourism.in/pdf/publications/001.pdf>



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हिन्दी माध्यम में भी उपलब्ध

2018

Q.2. Consider the following pairs:

Tradition	State
1. Chapchar Kut festival	- Mizoram
2. Khongjom Parba ballad	- Manipur
3. Thang-Ta dance	- Sikkim

Which of the pairs given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 2 and 3

ANSWER B



Explanation



- ★ **Chapchar Kut is the biggest festival of the Mizos** and is celebrated in March after completion of jhum operation. It is a spring festival. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- ★ **Khongjom Parva is a traditional musical art of Manipur** that involves ballad singing accompanied with the sounds of a dholak or drum. The art form depicts stories of the heroic battle of Khongjom, fought by the people of Manipur against the British empire in April 1891. The narrators of Khongjom Parva focus on the brave Manipuri soldiers who gave up their lives for their country. Now, even great epics such as the Ramayana and Mahabharata are sung in this manner, along with the traditional Manipuri stories of Khamba and Thoibi as well as those about the exploits of Manipur's great rulers.. **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**
- ★ **Thang-Ta is a martial arts dance from Manipur.** Thang means 'sword' and Ta is 'spear'. It is a weapon based martial artform created by the Meitei of Manipur. Vaishnavism had set-up its deep roots in Manipur during the time of King Bhagyachandra in the 18th Century, when the worship of Radha and Krishna became prevalent.
- ★ History of Manipur is the history of a war ravaged state surrounded by hostile neighbours. Hence the need to develop a protective shield was as necessary as bread and butter. Therefore Thang Ta which is basically the art of wielding the spear and the sword were of prime importance, though the art of battle did not develop without envisioning a value system of fighting a just battle. Thang Ta became an expression of the strength of Manipur. **Hence, pair 3 is not correctly matched.**

Source



- ★ 1 <https://manipurimes.com/reviving-the-dying-traditional-manipuri-music-khongjom-parva-padma-shri-awardee-nameirakpam-ibemni/>
- ★ 2 https://www.nios.ac.in/media/documents/tourism_337_courseE/Tourism_Book-02.pdf
<https://www.incredibleindia.org/content/incredible-india-v2/en/destinations/imphal/khongjom-parva.html>
- ★ 3 <https://ccrtindia.gov.in/manipuri-dance/>
https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/manipur-youngsters-impart-training-in-thang-ta-and-folk-dances-114050200820_1.html

2019

Q.3. Consider the following pairs:

Famous Place	River
1. Pandharpur	: Chandrabhaga
2. Tiruchirappalli	: Cauvery
3. Hampi	: Malaprabha

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

ANSWER **A**

Explanation



- ★ **Pandharpur** is a well known pilgrimage town on the banks of Chandrabhaga River in solapur district, Maharashtra, India.
- ★ **Tiruchirapalli District** is located along the Kaveri River in Tamil Nadu, India.
- ★ **Hampi is city** near the Tungabhadra River, with numerous temples, farms and trading markets.

Source



Atlas



2020

Q.4. With reference to the history of India, consider the following pairs:

Famous Place	:	Present State
1. Bhilsa	:	Madhya Pradesh
2. Dwarasamudra	:	Maharashtra
3. Girinagar	:	Gujarat
4. Sthanesvara	:	Uttar Pradesh

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 1 and 4 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 2 and 4 only

ANSWER **A**

Explanation



★ Vidisha:

★ Vidisha is an ancient city in Madhya Pradesh state in India. It is also the administrative capital of the district with the same name. It was known as Besnagar in ancient times. **Vidisha city was known as Bhelsa during the medieval period.** Heliodorus Pillar It is a 20 feet and 7 inches tall stone column, believed to be erected by the Greek ambassador of King Antialcidas, the Indo-Greek King of ancient times.

★ It is located on the northern banks of River Vais. The inscriptions on this stone pillar tells us that it was built to pay homage to Lord Vishnu. Emperor Ashoka the Great of Maurya Dynasty, served as the governor of Vidisha during his father's regime. Shunga dynasty was established by Pushyamitra Shunga, after the fall of the Maurya Empire. Its capital was Pataliputra, but later emperors such as Bhagabhadra also held court at Besnagar (modern Vidisha) in eastern Malwa.

★ Dwarasamudra:

★ The Hoysala empire ruled a large part of modern day Karnataka and parts of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu from the 10th to the 14th century. Hoysalas had their capital at Dwarasamudra, the modern Halebidu in Belur Taluk.

★ Girinagar:

★ Girnar, also known as Girinagar, is one of the most ancient 22th jain Tirthankar lord Neminath prabhu kshetras in India. Lord Neminath performed penance and salvation at the top of the hill.

★ The group temples of Jainism are situated on the Mount Girnar situated near Junagadh in Junagadh district, Gujarat, India. There temples are sacred to the Digambara and the Svetambara branches of Jainism.

★ **Sthaneswara:**

- ★ **Sthaneswara (sometimes called Thaneswar and, archaically, Sthanishvara) is a historic town and an important Hindu pilgrimage centre on the banks of the Saraswati River in the state of Haryana in northern India.** Prabhakarvardhana was a ruler of Thanesar in the early seventh-century CE and was succeeded by his sons, Rajyavardhana and Harshavardhana.

Source



<https://vidisha.nic.in/en/about-district/>

<https://junagadh.nic.in/tourist-place/girnar/><https://www.deccanherald.com/sunday-herald/twin-treasures-nagalapura-720961.html>



2021

Q.5. Which one of the following statements is correct?

- (a) Ajanta Caves lie in the gorge of Waghora river.
- (b) Sanchi Stupa lies in the gorge of Chambal river.
- (c) Pandu-lena Cave Shrines lie in the gorge of Narmada river.
- (d) Amaravati Stupa lies in the gorge of Godavari river.

ANSWER A



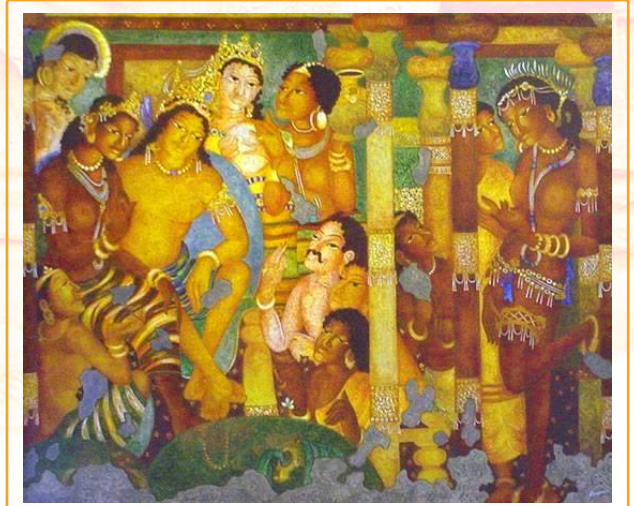
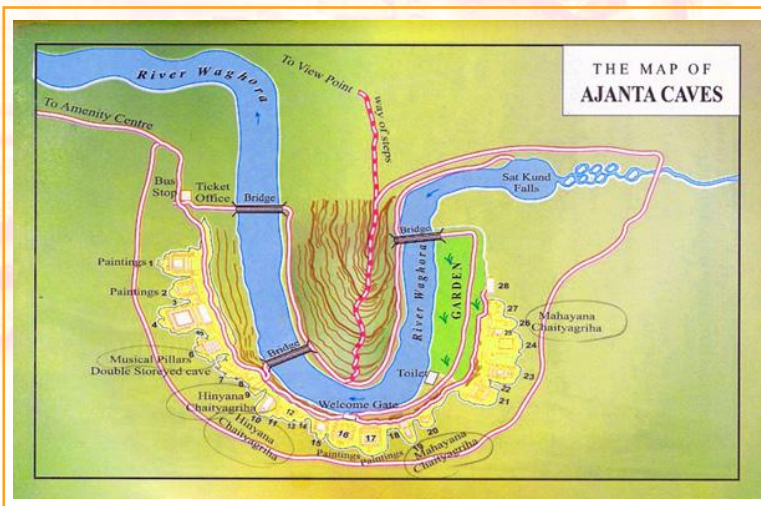
Explanation

- ★ The most prominent examples of the rock-cut architecture of this period are found at Ajanta and Bagh (Huntington, 1985: 239–74). The spectacular Buddhist site of **Ajanta** consists of several caves nestled in a curving section of the Sahyadri hills, **overlooking the Waghora river**. There are 28 caves at Ajanta. **Hence option (a) is the correct answer.**

Source



<https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/pune/where-history-is-written-in-rocks-ajanta-caves-bhaja-5723414/> <https://www.maharashtra-tourism.gov.in/-/ajanta>



2023

Q.6. Consider the following pairs:

Site	Well known for
1. Besnagar	: Shaivite cave shrine
2. Bhaja	: Buddhist cave shrine
3. Sittanavasal	: Jain cave shrine

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

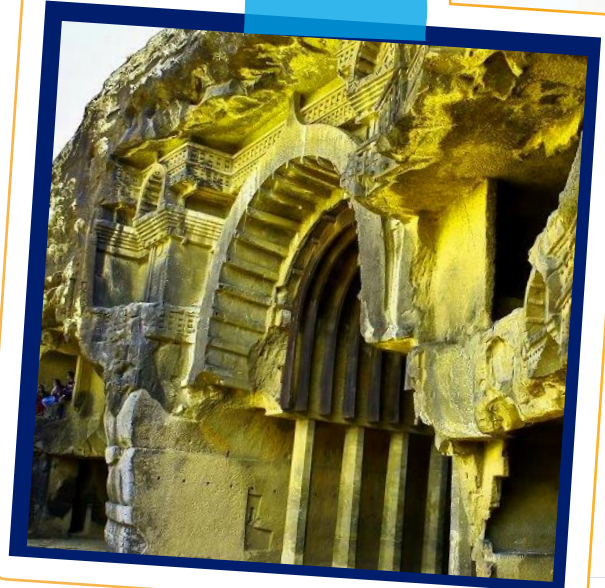
- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

ANSWER B

Motivation



<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/sittanavasal-jain-monuments-weathering-the-elements-and-public-apathy/article65931192.ece>



Explanation



- ★ **Besnagar:** It is a Vaishnavite cave shrine. During the second century BC to third century AD, many rulers from West Asia and Central Asia like the Indogreeks, the Shakas, the Parthians, the Kushans assimilated into Indian culture and adopted Indian religions. Some adopted Vaishnavism, which means they worship Lord Vishnu, the God of protection and preservation. The Greek ambassador called Heliodorus set up a pillar in honour of Lord Vasudeva at Besnagar near Vidhisā in MP around the middle of the second century BC. **Hence, pair 1 is not correctly matched.**



- ★ **Bhaja:** The Bhaja Caves are some of the oldest Buddhist rock-cut caves in Deccan. The Bhaja cave complex consists of a group of 22 rock-cut caves. These rock-cut caves are further divided into two main groups – Chaityas (prayer halls) and Viharas (monastic caves). Out of the 22 caves, Caves 12-14 are the prayer halls, and the rest are Buddhist monastic caves. **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**



- ★ **Sittannavasal:** It is a prominent Jain cave shrine in Tamil Nadu. In ancient days, the Jain monks used to live in cave and hillocks so as to perform their ascetic life. They polished the hill for the purpose of poojas and penance in the open shelter. Such a type of Jain temple and Jain beds are found in Sittannavasal and surrounding places. On the Eastern side of the sittannavasal hill have more than 17 beds. The rare Brahmi Tamil script inscriptions are found near the beds. The Jain Beds are collectively known as Ezhadi pattam. The paintings at Sittannavasal are of early Pandya period from 11th century. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**



Source



Bhaja Caves - NCERT 'Introduction to Indian Art Part-I; Chapter 4. <https://ncert.nic.in/ncerts/l/kefa104.pdf> Sittannavasal Caves - NCERT 'Introduction to Indian Art Part -I; Ch - 5

<https://ncert.nic.in/textbook/pdf/kefa105.pdf>





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Philosophy - Total No. of Questions- 1

2022

Q.1. The World's second tallest statue in sitting pose of Ramanuja was inaugurated by the Prime Minister of India at Hyderabad recently. Which one of the following statements correctly represents the teachings of Ramanuja?

- (a) The best means of salvation was devotion.
- (b) Vedas are eternal, self-existent and wholly authoritative.
- (c) Logical arguments were essential means for the highest bliss.
- (d) Salvation was to be obtained through mediation.

ANSWER A

Motivation



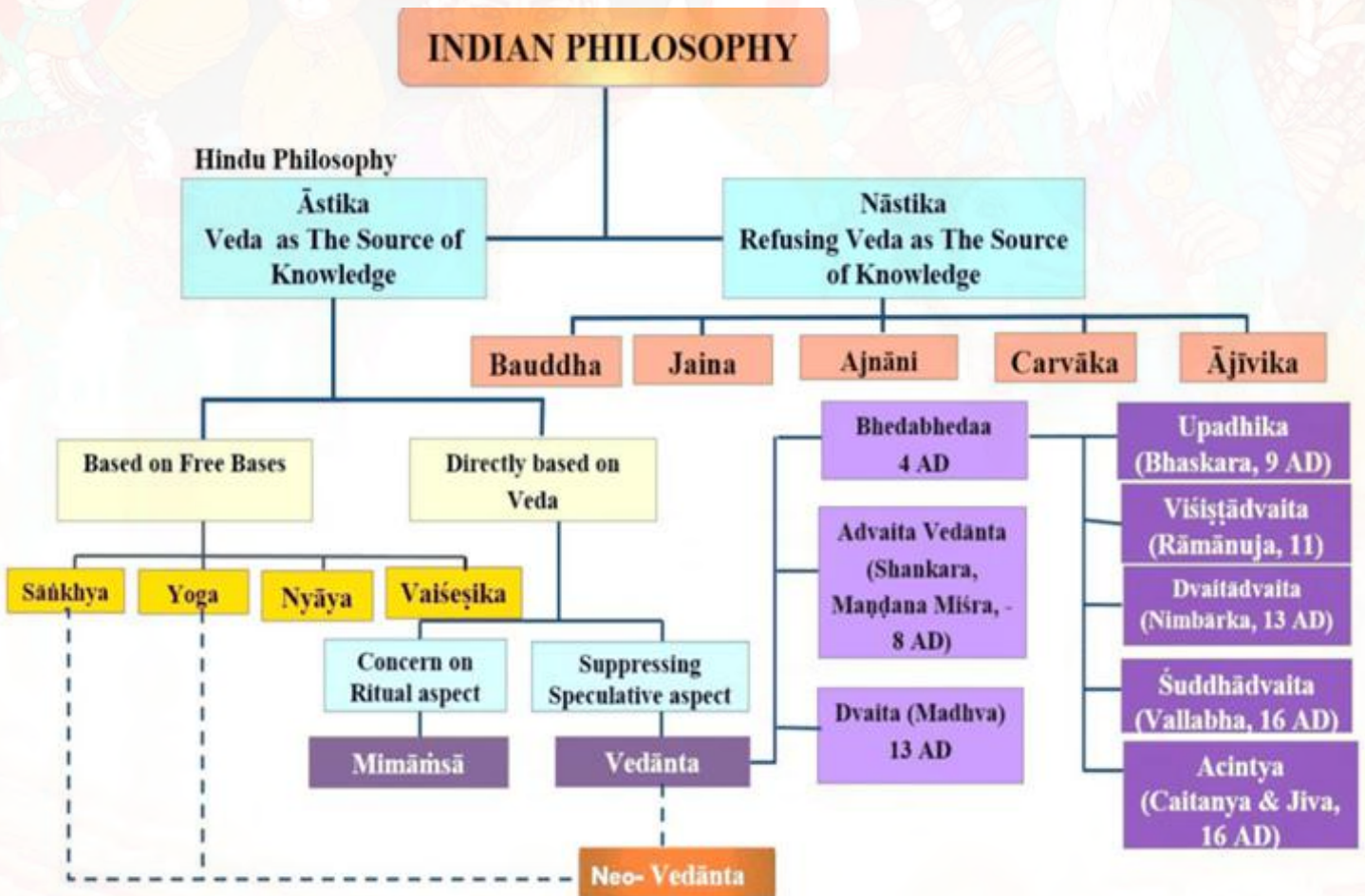
216 feet tall 'Statue of Equality commemorating Sri Ramanujacharya was recently dedicated to the nation. The statue has been inaugurated at Hyderabad in the backdrop of celebrations of the 'Festival of equality', marking the 1000th birth anniversary of the Saint.

Explanation



- ★ 216-feet tall 'Statue of Equality commemorating Sri Ramanujacharya was recently dedicated to the nation. The statue has been inaugurated at Hyderabad in the backdrop of celebrations of the 'Festival of equality', marking the 1000th birth anniversary of the Saint. The statue has been conceptualized by Sri Chinna Jeeyar Swami of Sri Ramanujacharya Ashram. It is made of 'panchaloha', a combination of five metals: gold, silver, copper, brass, and zinc and is among one of the tallest metallic statues in sitting position, in the world.
- ★ About Sri Ramanujacharya: Born in Tamil Nadu in the 11th century, Ramanujacharya is revered as a Vedic philosopher and social reformer. He was deeply influenced by the Alvars (Vishnu worshippers) and according to him the best means of attaining salvation was through intense devotion to Vishnu. He propounded the doctrine of Vishishtadvaita or qualified oneness.
- ★ He spoke of universal salvation through devotion to God, compassion, humility, equality, and mutual respect, which is known as Sri Vaishnavam Sampradaya. He is considered to be the inspiration for Bhakti poets like Annamacharya, Ramdas, Thyagaraja, Kabir, and Meerabai. **Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.**

Six school of Indian Philosophy



★ India's intellectual exploration of truth over the centuries has come to be represented by the **six orthodox systems of Indian philosophy** which are **Vaishesika, Nyaya, Samkhya, Yoga, Purva Mimansa and Vedanta**.

★ **Nyaya philosophy** is considered as a technique of logical thinking. According to Nyaya valid knowledge is defined as real knowledge that is one knows about the object as it exists. For example, it is when one knows a snake as a snake or a cup as a cup. Nyaya's system of philosophy considers God who creates, sustains, and destroys the universe. Gautama is said to be the author of the Nyaya Sutras.

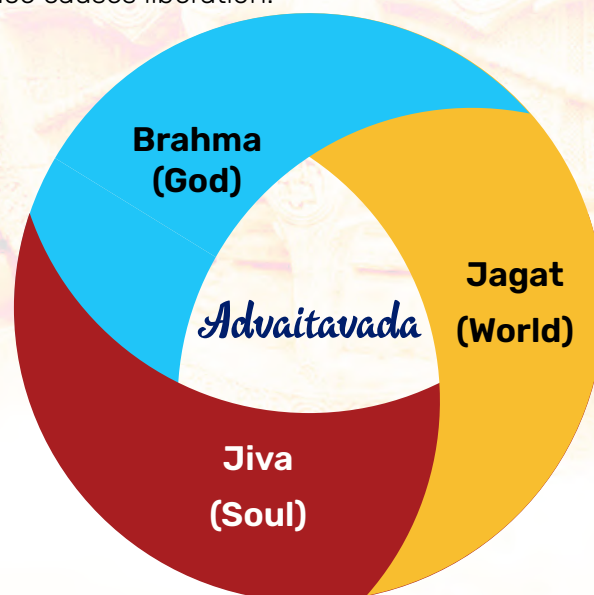
★ **The Samkhya philosophy** holds that reality is constituted of two principles one female and the other male i.e. Prakriti, Purusha respectively. Prakriti and Purusha are completely independent and absolute. According to this system, Purusha is mere consciousness, hence it cannot be modified or changed. Prakriti on the other hand is constituted of three attributes, thought, movement, and the change or transformation of these attributes brings about the change in all objects. The Samkhya philosophy tries to establish some relationship between Purusha and Prakriti for explaining the creation of the universe. The propounder of this philosophy was Kapila, who wrote the Samkhya sutra.

- ★ **Yoga** literally means the union of two principal entities. Yogic techniques control body, mind & sense organs, thus considered as a means of achieving freedom or mukti.
 - Identified in the Yoga Sutras of Patanjali, the five Kleshas or 'afflictions' are Avidya (ignorance), Asmita (egoism), Raga (attachment), Dvesa (aversion or hatred), and Abinivesah (clinging to life and fear of death).
 - Overcoming the kleshas is thought to lead to the end of suffering, and the ultimate liberation from the repeated cycle of birth, death and rebirth, known as the wheel of Samsara.
 - Yoga philosophy has described the path to getting rid of these kleshas by attaining the highest stage of samadhi through Ashtanga yoga (Yama-Niyama-Asana-Pranayama-Pratyahara-Dharan-Dhyan and Samadhi).
 - This philosophy admits the existence of God as a teacher and guide hence consider God as a means not as an end to achieve salvation.

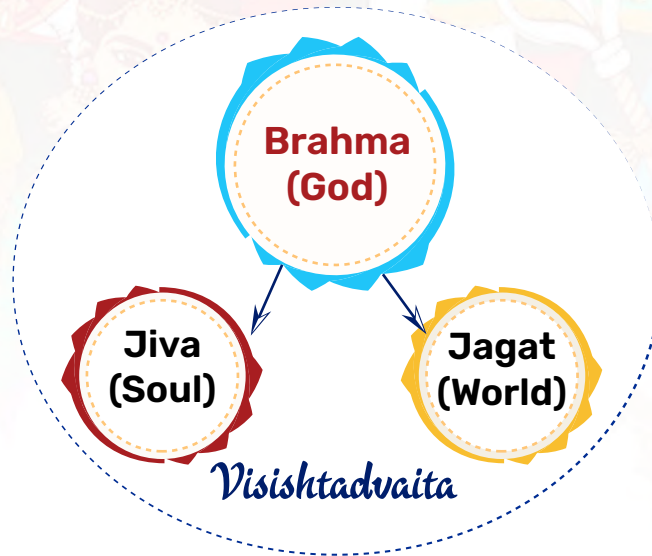
- ★ **Mimamsa philosophy** is basically the analysis of interpretation, application, and the use of the text of the Samhita and Brahmana portions of the Veda. According to Mimamsa philosophy Vedas are eternal and possess all knowledge, and religion means the fulfillment of duties prescribed by the Vedas. This philosophy encompasses the Nyaya-Vaisheshika systems and emphasizes the concept of valid knowledge. Its main text is known as the sutras of Gaimini which have been written during the third century BC.

- ★ **Vaisheshika system** is considered as the realistic and objective philosophy of the universe. The reality according to this philosophy has many bases or categories which are substance, attribute, action, genus, distinct quality, and inherence. Vaisheshika thinkers believe that all objects of the universe are composed of five elements—earth, water, air, fire, and ether. They believe that God is the guiding principle. The living beings were rewarded or punished according to the law of karma, based on actions of merit and demerit. The creation and destruction of the universe was a cyclic process and took place in agreement with the wishes of God. Kanada wrote the basic text of Vaisheshika philosophy.

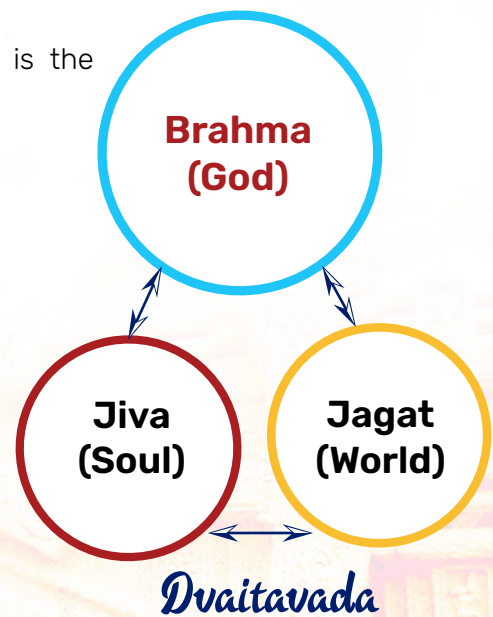
- ★ **The Vedanta, or Uttara Mimamsa**, school concentrates on the philosophical teachings of the Upanishads (mystic or spiritual contemplations within the Vedas), rather than the Brahmanas (instructions for ritual and sacrifice). The school separated into six sub-schools, each interpreting the texts in its own way and producing its own series of sub-commentaries:
 - **Advaita (Adi Shankara):** It states that both the individual self (Atman) and Brahman are the same, and knowing this difference causes liberation.



- **Visishtadvaita (Ramanuja):** It believes that all diversity is subsumed to a unified whole.



- **Dvaita (Madhvacharya):** It considers Brahman and Atman as two different entities, and Bhakti as the route to eternal salvation.
- **Dvaitadvaita (Nimbarka):** It states that the Brahman is the highest reality, the controller of all.
- **Shuddhadvaita (Vallabhacharya):** It states that both God and the individual self are the same, and not different.
- **Achintya Bheda Abheda (Chaitanya Mahaprabhu):** It emphasizes that the individual self (Jivatman) is both different and not different from Brahman.



Source



<https://statueofequality.org/about-bagwad-sri-ramanujacharya-history-philosophy/>

Other Hetrodox school

- ★ **The Charvaka school** was the main expounder of the materialistic philosophy. This philosophy came to be known as the Lokayata which means the ideas derived from common people. The tenets of the school are contained in a sutra composed by Brihaspati, but no such text has survived. Whatever we know about Charvaka is through references in texts of rival schools.
 - Its followers rejected the authority of the Vedas and the Brahmanas.
 - It also rejected the ideas of an eternal soul, rebirth, and the laws of karma and punya (merit). Its materialist doctrine asserted that the body and consciousness were products of combinations of matter.
 - Charvaka accepted only one basis of knowledge—that which is perceived by the senses.
 - Charvakas do not recognize God, soul, or heaven because they cannot be perceived. The Charvakas do not recognize ether as one of the five elements (earth, water, fire, air, and ether) because it is not perceived. According to them, the entire cosmos is made up of four elements.
 - Rejecting the distinction between good and bad actions, the followers of Charvaka philosophy urged that the pleasures of life should be enjoyed—atleast this is how their rival schools present their ideas.

- ★ **Ajivika school:** The school was founded by Makkhali Gosala in 5th century BC. The school revolves around the Niyati (Fate) doctrine of absolute determinism.
 - It believes that there is no free will and whatever has happened, is happening or will happen is entirely pre-ordained or predecided and is based on cosmic principles. Hence there was no use of Karma.
 - They opposed Buddhism and Jainism. They did not believe in the Karma doctrine, unlike Jainism and Buddhism. They consider Karma a fallacy.

- ★ **Ajnanas:** The ajnana sect believed in radical scepticism. The school believed that it is impossible to attain knowledge about nature. Even if it is possible, it is useless for attaining salvation. This school was a major rival of Jainism and Buddhism.
 - They specialised in refutation and were considered ignorant.
 - They believed that " Ignorance is Best.

Miscellaneous - Total No. of Questions - 11

2017

Q.1. Consider the following pairs:

Traditions

Communities

1. Chaliha Sahib Festival – Sindhis
2. Nanda Raj Jaat Yatra – Gonds
3. Wari-Warkari – Santhals

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) None of the above

ANSWER A

Explanation



- ★ Chalia sahib is the festival of the Sindhis which involves devotees fasting for days. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- ★ The Nanda Devi Jat is celebrated every year in the Nanda Devi temples spread across Garhwal and Kumaon. The festival commences on the day earmarked for the Devi's visit to her maiti or parents' home and culminates with the return to her husband's home. This tradition is beautifully expressed in the folk songs of Uttarakhand. **Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.**
- ★ Pandharpur Wari or Wari (Vari) is an annual pilgrimage to Pandharpur – the seat of the god Vitthoba in Maharashtra, in honour of the deity. Palakhiscarrying the paduka (foot prints) of various saints – most-notably Dnyaneshwar and Tukaram – from the Warkari sect are taken from their respective shrines to Pandharpur. **Hence, pair 3 is not correctly matched.**

Source



- ★ <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/pune/An-unusual-Warkari-at-the-Wari/articleshow/52951360.cms>
- ★ <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/jhulelal-festival/articleshow/134353.cms>

2017

Q.2. Consider the following pairs:

Craft	Heritage of
1. Puthukkuli shawls	- Tamil Nadu
2. Sujni embroidery	- Maharashtra
3. Uppada Jamdani saris	- Karnataka

Which of the pairs given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 2 and 3

ANSWER **A**

Explanation



- ★ Toda tribe of Tamil Nadu do intricate Pithukuli work on cream coloured shawls. The colours are always red and black, and the shawl can be used both sides. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- ★ Sujani (also known as Sujini) is a form of embroidery originating from the Bhusura village of Bihar in India. **Hence, Pair 2 is not correctly matched.**
- ★ Uppada jamdani sarees are diaphanous silk saree that trace its origin to Uppada in Andhra Pradesh. Jamdani itself is a hand woven fabric that is also known as muslin. **Hence, Pair 3 is not correctly matched.**

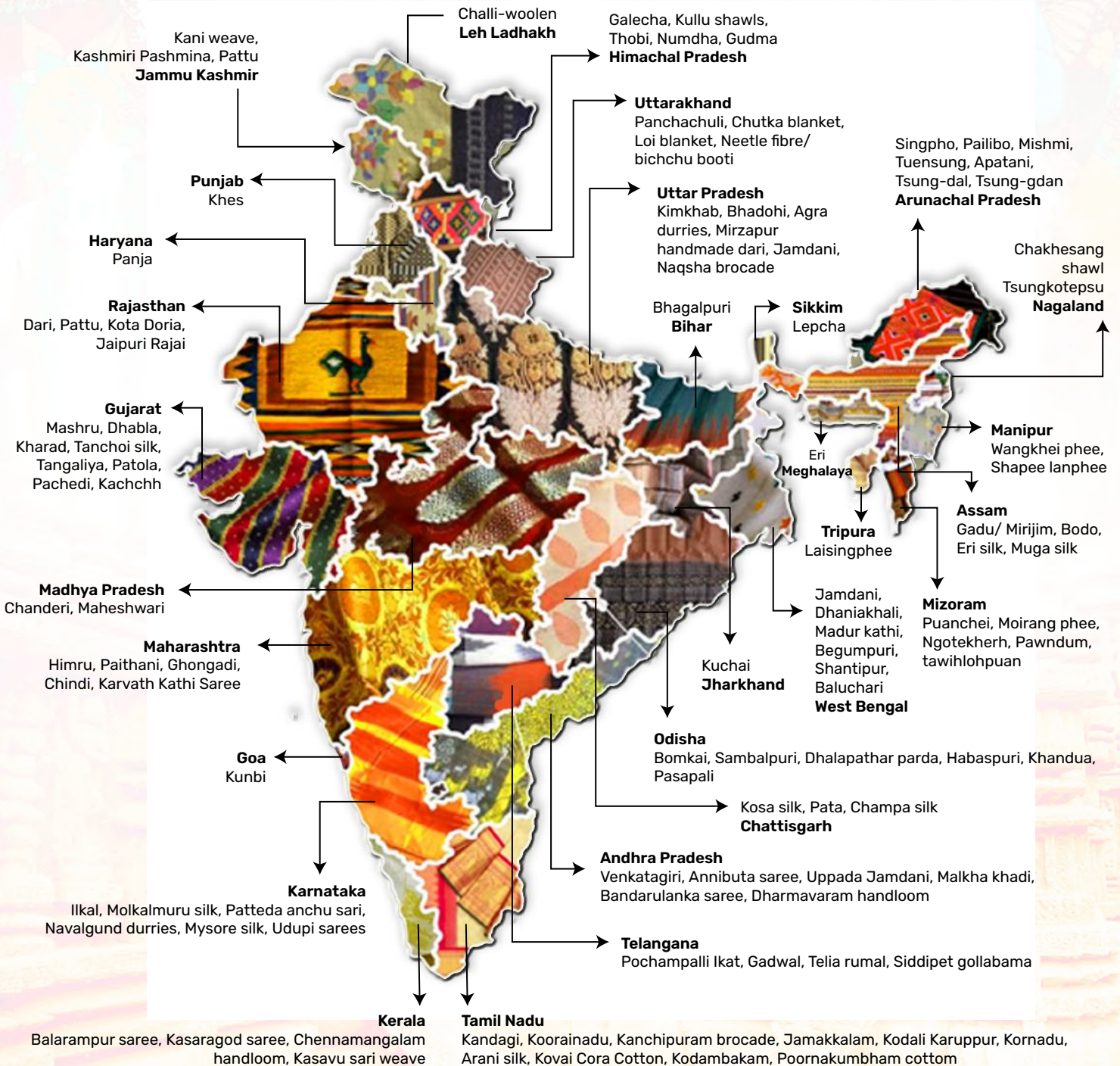
Source



- ★ <https://www.thehindu.com/society/bihars-sujani-embroidery-has-a-gi-tag-but-why-does-no-one-know-about-it/article22917781.ece>
- ★ <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/ap-toy-makers-up-beat-over-gi-tag/article19971677.ece>



Famous crafts of India



2021

Q.3. Consider the following statements

1. St. Francis Xavier was one of the founding members of the Jesuit Order.
2. St. Francis Xavier died in Goa and a church is dedicated to him there.
3. The Feast of St. Francis Xavier is celebrated in Goa each year.

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 C

Motivation



- ★ ASI to begin restoration of St. Francis xavierscasket in Goa.
- ★ <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/goa/asi-to-begin-restoration-of-st-francis-xaviers-casket-in-go-7098607/>

Explanation



- ★ St. Francis Xavier, one of the founders of the Society of Jesus, arrived in Goa in 1542 and travelled as far as Thoothukudi and Punnakayal to baptize the converts. Xavier established a network of Jesuit mission centres. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- ★ He died of a fever on a Chinese island in 1552, at just 46 years old, and was brought back to Goa a few years later. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- ★ Each year, on 3rd December, marks the anniversary of St Francis Xavier's death, when thousands gather at the Basilica of Bom Jesus. This annual festival, known as the Feast of St Francis Xavier is the biggest of all the Christian festivals in Goa. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Source



<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/goa-s-famous-annual-feast-of-st-francis-xavier-to-go-online-this-year-amid-covid-19/story-H3KBpy22t0ztcVxzScf6RO.html> <https://www.egyankosh.ac.in/bit-stream/123456789/44485/1/Unit-29.pdf>

2021

Q.4. With reference to India, the terms 'Halbi, Ho and Kui' pertain to

- (a) dance forms of Northwest India
- (b) musical instruments
- (c) pre-historic cave paintings
- (d) tribal languages

ANSWER D

Motivation



- ★ <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/first-survey-in-tribal-languages-in-maoist-hit-areas-most-prefer-peaceful-resolution/articleshow/78499381.cms>
- ★ <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/padma-award-for-tribal-mystic-from-odisha/article33668430.ece>

Explanation



- ★ Some of the popular languages spoken by the tribes of India are as follows: Bhatri, Bhilli, **Halbi, Ho, Kui etc.** Halabi is spoken by over 5.25 Lakh people in the states of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. It belongs to the group of Indo Aryan Tribal languages. Important Dravidian Tribal languages are Kolami, Kui, Konda, Koya, Gondi, Oraon/Kurukh, Parji. **Hence option (d) is the correct answer.**

Source



<https://www.egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/69309/1/Unit-4.pdf>

Q.5. Consider the following statements in respect of the Laureus World Sports Award which was instituted in the year 2000 :

1. American golfer Tiger Woods was the first winner of this award.
2. The award was received mostly by 'Formula One' players so far.
3. Roger Federer received this award maximum number of times compared to others.

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



- ★ **Statement 1 is correct:** American golfer Tiger Woods was the first winner of this award in 2000.
- ★ **Statement 2 is not correct:** Tennis players dominate the winners list, with eleven awards, while athletes and Formula One drivers have won four times, and golfers twice.
- ★ **Statement 3 is correct:** In 2018 Tennis legend Roger Federer became the most decorated winner in the history of Laureus World Sports Awards after his sixth award.

Source



<https://www.thehindu.com/sport/tennis/laureus-awards-nadal-osaka-take-the-top-honours/article34509261.ece>

Q.6. Consider the following statements in respect of the 32nd Summer Olympics:

1. The official motto for this Olympics is 'A New World'.
2. Sport Climbing, Surfing, Skateboarding, Karate and Baseball are included in this, Olympics.

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



- ★ **Statement 1 is not correct:** The Olympic motto was amended to "faster, higher, stronger - together" during the International Olympic Committee's session in July 2021. The word "together" after a hyphen has been added to the earlier motto, which was made up of three Latin words -- Citius, Altius, Fortius, translating to "Faster Higher Stronger" in English.
- ★ **Statement 2 is correct:** Under new IOC rules first introduced for the Tokyo Games, Olympic host cities can hand-pick sports and propose them for inclusion in those Games if they are popular in that country and add to the Games appeal. The Tokyo Olympics saw six new sports that were not on the programme in Rio, out of which four made their debut, along with repackaged disciplines and the introduction of the mixed team events in traditional sports.
- ★ Baseball and softball, surfing, skateboarding, karate and sports climbing will become part of the Olympic roster in Tokyo. Additionally, the Tokyo Olympics will also feature several existing sports in new forms in basketball and cycling.

Source



<https://www.thehindu.com/sport/olympics-surfing-and-break-dancing-among-four-sports-to-win-paris-2024-spot/article33273806.ece>

<https://www.thehindu.com/sport/fasterhigherstronger-andnow-togetherioc-addsfourtholympicmotto/article35424036.ece>

Q.7. Consider the following statements in respect of the ICC World Test Championship :

1. The finalists were decided by the number of matches they won.
2. New Zealand was ranked ahead of England because it won more matches than England.

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 **D**



Explanation

- ★ **Statement 1 is not correct:** The ICC considered percentage of points earned from the contested matches in deciding the finalists of the inaugural World Test Championship (WTC), which had been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. As per the current regulations WTC league standings would be determined by the percentage of points (PCT) earned by teams. PCT is the percentage of points won out of the total number of points contested by each team.
- ★ **Statement 2 is not correct:** New Zealand finished in the second spot with 70 percentage of points, including seven wins and four loses, while England was at 4th with 61. percentage of points, including 11 wins and 7 losses.

Source



<https://www.firstpost.com/firstcricket/sports-news/icc-world-test-championship-points-table-india-face-new-zealand-in-final-after-3-1-series-win-over-england-7228451.html>

2022

Q.8. The Prime Minister recently inaugurated the new Circuit House near Somnath Temple at Veraval. Which of the following statements are correct regarding Somnath Temple?

1. Somnath Temple is one of the Jyotirlinga shrines.
2. A description of Somnath Temple was given by Al-Biruni.
3. Pran Pratishtha of Somnath Temple (installation of the present day temple) was done by President S. Radhakrishnan.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

ANSWER **A**

Motivation



- ★ **PM to inaugurate new Circuit House near Somnath Temple in January 2022**

Solvability:

- ★ **Third Statement:** Pran Pratishtha of Somnath Temple (installation of the present day temple) was done by , India's first President Dr. Rajendra Prasad. Through this knowledge we can eliminate three options (b), (c) and (d) easily.

Explanation



- ★ Somnath is a magnificent temple the location of Somanatha was earlier referred to as Prathasa Pattana, a well known Tirtha or place of pilgrimage in Saurashtra. It is situated on the west coast of Kathiawar and is at present under Junagadh. It was associated with the nearby confluence of three rivers and it adjoined the port of Veraval. **One of the 12 holy Jyotirlingas of Lord Shiva is in Jyotirlinga here in Somnath. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- ★ Somnath mean "the protector of moon god". It is known as the "shrine external" as although the temple has been destroyed six times it has been rebuilt every single time. Somnath is also mentioned in Rigveda. This temple of Somnath has been very attractive in front of many destructive foreign invaders who want to lure and convert to the temple glory. Mahmud began series of seventeen invasions into northwestern India at the end of the 10th century his 16th expedition was the plunder of Somnath temple (dedicated to Shiva) in 1025 A.D.

- ★ Mahmud of Ghazni plundered the Somanath temple and there are multiple versions of the event in Turko-Persian sources. Al-Beruni writes that the temple was built of stone and 'constructed about 100 years prior to Mahmud's attack (which would date it to the 10th century) that it was set in a fortress surrounded by the sea on 3 sides – presumably; its wealth had to be guarded. **Al-Beruni states** that the upper part of the icon was broken at the orders of Mahmud and parts of it were taken back as look to Ghazni and placed so that people would walk on it. Mahmud's raids caused economic devastation and the Turks were hated among the people who suffered because of these raids. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- ★ India's Iron Man and first Deputy Prime Minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on November 13, 1947 promised to rebuild the temple. Today's Somnath Temple is built on its original place in seventh place. In 1951, India's first President Dr. Rajendra Prasad proposed to purify Jyotirling, he said, "This temple of Somnath is a symbol of victory over construction on destruction". He performed the Pran prathistha of the Somnath Mandir. **Hence statement 3 is not correct.**
- ★ The temple is built under Shri Somnath Trust and this trust is now monitoring the temple. Sardar Patel was the first chairman of this trust.

Source



- ★ <https://girsomnath.nic.in/history/#::-:text=Somnath's%20first%20temple%20is%20said,temple%20and%20destroyed%20the%20temple>.
- ★ <http://www.indiancommunities.org/2016/10/10/expedition-of-somnath/>
- ★ <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/pm-to-inaugurate-new-circuit-house-near-somnath-temple/article38296560.ece>
- ★ <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/pm-modi-virtual-inauguration-of-few-projects-of-somnath-temple-in-gujarat/article36012049.ece>



2023

Q.9. Consider the following statements in respect of the National Flag of India according to the Flag Code of India, 2002 :

Statement-I : One of the standard sizes of the National Flag of India is 600 mm x 400 mm.

Statement-II : The ratio of the length to the height (width) of the Flag shall be 3:2.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- (d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

ANSWER **D**

Motivation



'Har Ghar Tiranga' is a campaign under the aegis of Azadi Ka AmritMahotsav .

Explanation



- ★ The hoisting/use/display of the Indian National Flag is governed by the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971 and the Flag Code of India, 2002. As per , the flag code states that the tricolour can be of nine standard dimensions – 6300 x 4200, 3600 x 2400, 2700 x 1800, 1800 x 1200, 1350 x 900, 900 x 600, 450 x 300, 225 x 150 and 150 x 100 (all sizes in mm). So, the National Flag cannot be in the dimension of 600mm x 400mm. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- ★ The National Flag shall be rectangular in shape and the ratio of the length to the height (width) of the Flag shall be 3:2. **Hence Statement 2 is correct.**
- ★ **Hence option (d) is the correct answer.**

Source



- ★ https://www.mha.gov.in/sites/default/files/flagcodeofindia_070214.pdf
- ★ <http://dghindia.gov.in/assets/downloads/62ea6817a672fsalient-featuresofindiannationalflag.pdf>

- ★ <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-indias-flag-code-and-rules-governing-display-of-the-tricolour-7453678/>



वस्त्र मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
TEXTILES



FLAG CODE OF INDIA

DOs



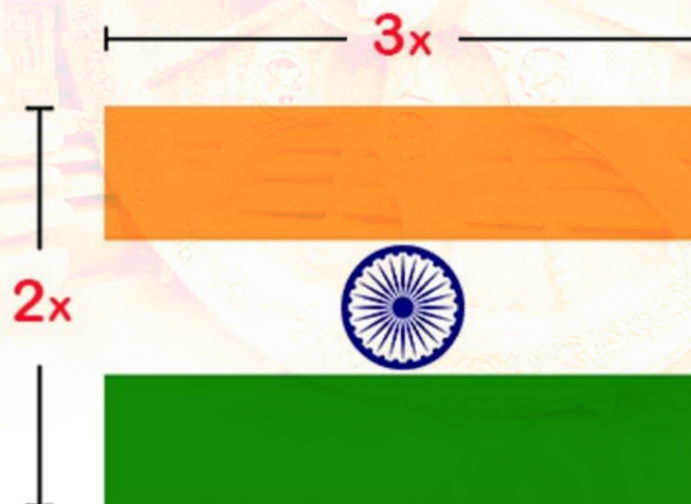
The National Flag shall be made of hand spun and hand woven or machine made, cotton/polyester/wool/silk khadi bunting.

DON'Ts



A damaged or dishevelled Flag shall not be displayed.

#KNOWYOURTIRANGA




For illustration

Length $\rightarrow 3 \times 16 \text{ cm}$ \leftarrow

Width \downarrow

$\therefore \text{Area} = \text{Length} \times \text{Width}$
 $= 48 \text{ cms} \times 32 \text{ cms}$
 $= \underline{1536 \text{ cms}^2}$

Length $= 3 \times 16 = 48 \text{ cms}$  **Width** $= 2 \times 16 = 32 \text{ cms}$

$\therefore \text{Perimeter} = 2(\text{Length} + \text{Width})$
 $= 2(48 \text{ cms} + 32 \text{ cms})$
 $= 2 \times 80 \text{ cms}$
 $= \underline{160 \text{ cms}}$

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Q.10. Consider the following pairs with regard to sports awards:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| 1. Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award | ▪ | For the most Spectacular and outstanding performance by a sportsperson over period of last four years |
| 2. Arujna Award | ▪ | For the lifetime achievement by a sportsperson |
| 3. Dronacharya Award or teams | ▪ | To honour eminent coaches who have successfully trained sportspersons or teams |
| 4. Rashtriya Khel Protshan Puraskar | ▪ | To recognize the contribution made by sportspersons even after their retirement |

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one
 (b) Only two
 (c) Only three
 (d) All four

ANSWER B

Explanation



- ★ National Sports Awards are given every year to recognize and reward excellence in sports.
- ★ **Following are included in list of National Sports Awards:**
- ★ **Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award is given for the spectacular and most outstanding performance over a period of the previous four years. Hence pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- ★ **Arjuna Award for outstanding performance in Sports and Games is given for good performance over a period of the previous four years** and showing qualities of leadership, sportsmanship and a sense of discipline. **Hence pair 2 is not correctly matched.**
- ★ Dronacharya Award is given to coaches for doing outstanding and meritorious work on a consistent basis and enabling sportspersons to excel in International event. **Hence pair 3 is correctly matched.**
- ★ Dhyan Chand Award for Lifetime Achievement in Sports and Games is given to honour sportspersons who have contributed to sports by their performance and continue to contribute to the promotion of sports events after their retirement.
- ★ **Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar is given to corporate entities (both in the private and public sector), sports control boards, NGOs** including sports bodies at the state and national level who have played a visible role in the area of sports promotion and development. **Hence pair 4 is not correctly matched.**

Source



<https://www.thehindu.com/sport/othersports/sharath-kamal-tore-ceive-majordhyan-chandkhel-ratna-onnovember30/article66136577.ece>
 PIB-<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1880090>

Q.11. Consider the following statements in respect of the 44th Chess Olympiad, 2022 :

1. It was the first time that Chess Olympiad was held in India.
2. The official mascot was named 'Thambi'.
3. The trophy for the winning team in the open section is the Vera Menchik Cup.
4. The trophy for the winning team in the women's section is the Hamilton-Russell Cup.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

ANSWER B

Motivation



Recently, the Prime Minister declared the 44th Chess Olympiad at JLN Indoor Stadium, Chennai.



Explanation



- ★ **About the 44th Chess Olympiad**
- ★ The prestigious competition, which has been organized since 1927, is being hosted in India for the first time and in Asia after 30 years. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- ★ It has the highest ever number of countries participating.
- ★ It has the highest ever number of teams participating.
- ★ It has the highest number of entries in the women's section.
- ★ The first ever Torch Relay of the Chess Olympiad started this time.

- ★ Mascot: The official mascot was named "Thambi", a chess knight dressed in the traditional Tamil male attire vetti with a white shirt. He was depicted with folded hands, extending the Tamil greeting "Vanakkam". **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- ★ Winner in the Open section: Hamilton-Russel Cup. **Hence statement 3 is not correct.**
- ★ Winner in the Women's section: Vera Menchik Cup. **Hence statement 4 is not correct.**
- ★ 1st place in combined classification: Nona Gaprindashvili Trophy
- ★ Number of teams: Open: 188 Women: 162.

Source



<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/sports/all-eyes-on-india-ahead-of-the-44th-chess-olympiad/article65688498.ece>



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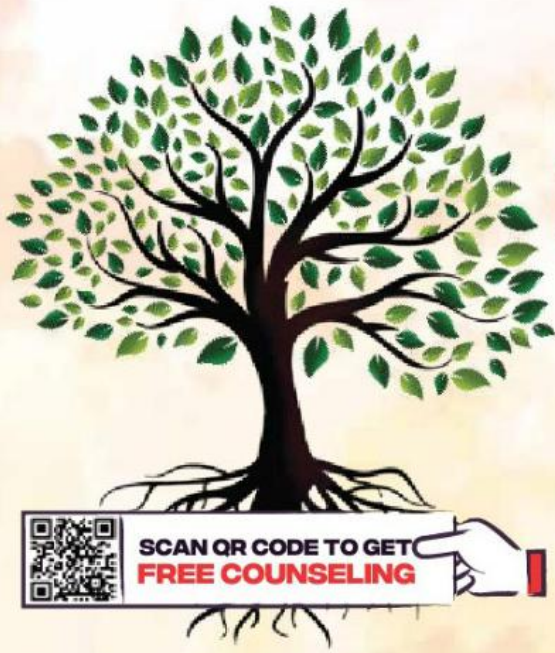
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