

# NEXT IAS

PTS (GS): CSE 2026

PTS (जी.एस.): सिविल सेवा परीक्षा 2026

## GENERAL STUDIES

Test Code: 02101225

Paper-I | Sectional Test-10

DATE : 12/10/2025

History of Medieval India and Art & Culture  
[Current Affairs (September 2025)]

Test Booklet Series

B

परीक्षण पुस्तिका अनुक्रम

## सामान्य अध्ययन

पेपर-1 | सेक्शनल टेस्ट-10

मध्यकालीन भारत का इतिहास और कला एवं संस्कृति  
समसामयिक घटनाक्रम (सितंबर 2025)

**Time Allowed: Two Hours**

**Maximum Marks: 200**

Before attempting paper please read the instructions given on page no. 2 or 3 carefully and follow them.

समय : दो घण्टे

पूर्णांक : 200

कृपया प्रश्न-पत्र हल करने से पहले पृष्ठ संख्या 2 अथवा 3 पर दिए गए अनुदेशों को ध्यानपूर्वक पढ़े तथा उनका अनुसरण करें।

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जब तक आपको यह परीक्षण पुस्तिका खोलने को न कहा जाए तब तक न खोलें।

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## अ नु दे श

- परीक्षा प्रारम्भ होने के तुरन्त बाद आप इस परीक्षण पुस्तिका की पड़ताल अवश्य कर लें कि इसमें कोई बिना छपा, फटा या छूटा हुआ पृष्ठ अथवा प्रश्नांश आदि न हो। यदि ऐसा है, तो इसे सही परीक्षण पुस्तिका से बदल लें।
- कृपया ध्यान रखें कि OMR उत्तर-पत्रक में उचित स्थान पर रोल नम्बर और परीक्षण पुस्तिका अनुक्रम A या B को ध्यान से एवं बिना किसी चूक या विसंगति के भरने और कूटबद्ध करने की जिम्मेदारी उम्मीदवार की है। किसी भी प्रकार की चूक/विसंगति की स्थिति में उत्तर-पत्रक निरस्त कर दिया जाएगा।
- इस परीक्षण पुस्तिका पर साथ में दिए गए कोष्ठक में आपको अपना अनुक्रमांक लिखना है। परीक्षण पुस्तिका पर और कुछ न लिखें।
- इस परीक्षण पुस्तिका में 100 प्रश्नांश (प्रश्न) दिए गए हैं। प्रत्येक प्रश्नांश हिन्दी और अंग्रेज़ी दोनों में छपा है। प्रत्येक प्रश्नांश में चार प्रत्युत्तर (उत्तर) दिए गए हैं। इनमें से एक प्रत्युत्तर को चुन लें, जिसे आप उत्तर-पत्रक पर अंकित करना चाहते हैं। यदि आपको ऐसा लगे कि एक से अधिक प्रत्युत्तर सही हैं, तो उस प्रत्युत्तर को अंकित करें जो आपको सर्वोत्तम लगे। प्रत्येक प्रश्नांश के लिए केवल एक ही प्रत्युत्तर चुनना है।
- आपको अपने सभी प्रत्युत्तर अलग से दिए गए उत्तर-पत्रक पर ही अंकित करने हैं। उत्तर-पत्रक में दिए गए निर्देश देखें।
- सभी प्रश्नांशों के अंक समान हैं।
- इससे पहले कि आप परीक्षण पुस्तिका के विभिन्न प्रश्नांशों के प्रत्युत्तर उत्तर-पत्रक पर अंकित करना शुरू करें, आपको प्रवेश प्रमाण-पत्र के साथ प्रेषित अनुदेशों के अनुसार कुछ विवरण उत्तर-पत्रक में देने हैं।
- आप अपने सभी प्रत्युत्तरों को उत्तर-पत्रक में भरने के बाद तथा परीक्षा के समापन पर केवल उत्तर-पत्रक अधीक्षक को सौंप दें। आपको अपने साथ परीक्षण पुस्तिका ले जाने की अनुमति है।
- कच्चे काम के लिए पत्रक, परीक्षण पुस्तिका के अन्त में संलग्न हैं।
- गलत उत्तरों के लिए दण्ड:**  
सभी प्रश्नों में उम्मीदवार द्वारा दिए गए गलत उत्तरों के लिए दण्ड दिया जाएगा।
  - प्रत्येक के लिए चार वैकल्पिक उत्तर हैं। उम्मीदवार द्वारा प्रत्येक के लिए दिए गए एक गलत उत्तर के लिए हेतु नियत किए गए अंकों का एक-तिहाई दण्ड के रूप में काटा जाएगा।
  - यदि कोई उम्मीदवार एक से अधिक उत्तर देता है, तो इसे गलत उत्तर माना जाएगा, यद्यपि दिए गए उत्तरों में से एक उत्तर सही होता है, फिर भी उस के लिए उपर्युक्तानुसार ही उसी तरह का दण्ड दिया जाएगा।
  - यदि उम्मीदवार द्वारा कोई हल नहीं किया जाता है अर्थात् उम्मीदवार द्वारा उत्तर नहीं दिया जाता है, तो उस के लिए कोई दण्ड नहीं दिया जाएगा।
- प्रश्नों से संबंधित चुनौती/आपत्ति:** यदि छात्रों को लगता है कि या तो प्रश्न/उत्तरों को संशोधित करने की आवश्यकता है या स्पष्टीकरण की आवश्यकता है, तो वे pts@nextias.com पर ई-मेल कर सकते हैं।

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जब तक आपको यह परीक्षण पुस्तिका खोलने को न कहा जाए तब तक न खोलें।

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**DO NOT OPEN THIS TEST BOOKLET UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD TO DO SO**

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## **INSTRUCTIONS**

1. IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE EXAMINATION, YOU SHOULD CHECK THAT THIS TEST BOOKLET DOES **NOT** HAVE ANY UNPRINTED OR TORN OR MISSING PAGES OR ITEMS, ETC. IF SO, GET IT REPLACED BY A COMPLETE TEST BOOKLET.
2. Please note that it is the candidate's responsibility to encode and fill in the Roll Number and Test Booklet Series A or B carefully and without any omission or discrepancy at the appropriate places in the OMR Answer Sheet. Any omission/kdiscrepancy will render the Answer Sheet liable for rejection.
3. You have to enter your Roll Number on the Test Booklet  
in the box provided alongside.
4. This Test Booklet contains **100** items (Questions). Each item is printed in **Hindi** and **English** only. Each item comprises four responses (Answers). You will select the response which you want to mark on the Answer Sheet. In case you feel that there is more than one correct response, mark the response which you consider the best. In any case, choose **ONLY ONE** response for each item.
5. You have to mark all your responses **ONLY** on the separate answer sheet provided. See directions in the Answer Sheet.
6. **All** items carry equal marks.
7. Before you proceed to mark in the Answer Sheet the response to various items in the Test Booklet, you have to fill in some particulars in the Answer Sheet as per instructions sent to you with your Admission Certificate.
8. After you have completed filling in all your responses on the Answer Sheet and the examination has concluded, you should hand over to the invigilator **only the Answer Sheet**. You are permitted to take away with you the Test Booklet.
9. Sheets for rough work are appended in the Test Booklet at the end.

**10. Penalty for wrong answers:**

**THERE WILL BE PENALTY FOR WRONG ANSWERS MARKED BY A CANDIDATE IN THE OBJECTIVE.**

- (i) There are four alternatives for the answer to every question. For each question for which a wrong answer has been given by the candidate, **one-third** of the marks assigned to that question will be deducted as penalty.
  - (ii) If a candidate gives more than one answer, it will be treated as a **wrong answer** even if one of the given answers happens to be correct and there will be same penalty as above to that question.
  - (iii) If question is left blank, i.e., no answer is given by the candidate, there will be **no penalty** for that question.
- 11. CHALLENGE THE QUESTION:** If students feel that either the question(s)/kanswer(s) needs to be modified or require clarification, they can email at [pts@nextias.com](mailto:pts@nextias.com)

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1. “संसार की सभी भौतिक वस्तुएँ कणों से बनी होती हैं, जो और भी छोटे भागों में विभाजित की जा सकती हैं, और ये अंततः ‘अणु’ (परमाणु) नामक सबसे सूक्ष्म अविभाज्य कणों से निर्मित होती हैं।”

उपर्युक्त कथन निम्नलिखित में से किस दार्शनिक प्रणाली के एक प्रमुख सिद्धांत को अभिव्यक्त करता है?

- (a) सांख्य
- (b) वैशेषिक
- (c) न्याय
- (d) मीमांसा

2. प्राचीन भारत के वैज्ञानिक और गणितीय ग्रंथों के संबंध में निम्नलिखित युगमों पर विचार कीजिए-

ग्रंथ	लेखक	विषय-वस्तु
1. बृहत्सौहिता	वराहमिहिर	खगोलशास्त्र
2. लीलावती	आर्यभट्ट	गणित
3. अष्टांग हृदय	चरक	चिकित्सा

उपर्युक्त में से कितने युगम सही हैं?

- (a) केवल एक
  - (b) केवल दो
  - (c) सभी तीन
  - (d) कोई नहीं
3. भारत के निम्नलिखित भक्ति संतों पर विचार कीजिए:
1. कबीर
  2. तुकाराम
  3. मीराबाई
  4. नामदेव

निम्नलिखित में से कौन-सा विकल्प उनके कालानुक्रमिक क्रम को सही ढंग से प्रदर्शित करता है?

- (a) 1 – 4 – 3 – 2
  - (b) 4 – 3 – 1 – 2
  - (c) 4 – 1 – 3 – 2
  - (d) 1 – 3 – 4 – 2
4. विजयनगर के शासक कृष्णदेव राय के संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:
1. वे विजयनगर साम्राज्य के संस्थापक थे।

2. उन्होंने तुंगभद्रा और कृष्णा नदियों के बीच की भूमि पर अधिकार किया, जिसे रायचूर दोआब कहा जाता है।

3. उन्होंने राजव्यवस्था पर तेलुगु में ‘अमुक्तमाल्यद’ नामक ग्रंथ की रचना की।

4. वे तुलुव वंश से संबंधित थे।

उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कितने सही हैं?

- (a) केवल एक
- (b) केवल दो
- (c) केवल तीन
- (d) सभी चार

5. निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

1. वे प्राचीन भारत के एक प्रसिद्ध संस्कृत नाटककार थे।
2. उन्होंने उत्तररामचरित, महावीरचरित और मालतीमाधव की रचना की।
3. उन्होंने कन्नौज के राजा यशोवर्मन के दरबारी कवि के रूप में कार्य किया।

उपर्युक्त कथन निम्नलिखित में से किस ऐतिहासिक व्यक्तित्व से संबंधित हैं?

- (a) कालिदास
- (b) भवभूति
- (c) भास
- (d) विशाखदत्त

6. मराठा प्रशासन के संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

1. चौथे और सरदेशमुखी मराठों द्वारा उन प्रांतों पर लगाए जाने वाले कर थे, जो उनके प्रत्यक्ष नियंत्रण में नहीं थे।
2. ‘गणपति-पंतप्रधान रूपया’ एक मराठा सिक्का था, जिनमें देवनागरी और फ़ारसी दोनों लिपियों में अभिलेख अंकित थे।

उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कौन-सा/से सही है/हैं?

- (a) केवल 1
- (b) केवल 2
- (c) 1 और 2 दोनों
- (d) न तो 1, न ही 2

1. "All material objects of the world are composed of parts which are divisible into smaller parts, and these, in turn, are made up of the smallest indivisible particles called Anu (atoms)."

The above statement reflects one of the core beliefs of which one of the following philosophical systems?

- (a) Samkhya
- (b) Vaisheshika
- (c) Nyaya
- (d) Mimamsa

2. Consider the following pairs regarding the scientific and mathematical texts of ancient India:

	<i>Book</i>	<i>Author</i>	<i>Subject matter</i>
1.	Brihat-samhita	Varaha-mihira	Astronomy
2.	Lilavati	Aryabhatta	Mathematics
3.	Ashtanga Hridaya	Charak	Medicine

How many of the pairs given above are correct?

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

3. Consider the following Bhakti saints of India:

1. Kabir
2. Tukaram
3. Mirabai
4. Namdev

Which of the following correctly represents their chronological order?

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

4. With reference to Krishnadeva Raya, the ruler of Vijayanagar, consider the following statements :

1. He was the founder of the Vijayanagara Empire.

2. He acquired the land between the Tungabhadra and Krishna rivers, known as the Raichur Doab.
3. He composed a work on statecraft in Telugu titled 'Amuktamalyada'.
4. He belonged to the Tuluva dynasty.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

5. Consider the following statements:

1. He was a renowned Sanskrit dramatist of ancient India.
2. He authored *Uttararamacharita*, *Mahaviracharita*, and *Malatimadhava*.
3. He served as a court poet under King Yashovarman of Kannauj.

The above statements refer to which one of the following historical personalities?

- (a) Kalidasa
- (b) Bhavabhuti
- (c) Bhasa
- (d) Vishakhadatta

6. With reference to Maratha administration, consider the following statements:

1. Chauth and Sardeshmukhi were the taxes levied by Marathas on provinces that were not directly under them.
2. 'Ganapati-Pantapradhan rupee' was a Maratha coin that featured inscriptions in both Devanagari and Persian scripts.

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

7. मध्यकालीन भारत के संदर्भ में, 'बुरंजी' शब्द संदर्भित करता है:

- (a) भक्ति आंदोलन के दौरान संस्कृत में लिखी गई धार्मिक टीकाओं को
- (b) अहोमों द्वारा असमिया भाषा में लिखे गए ऐतिहासिक वृत्तांत को
- (c) मुग्गल काल में फ़ारसी में लिखी गई दरबारी कविताओं के संग्रह को
- (d) विजयनगर साम्राज्य की प्रशासनिक नियमावलियों को

8. चोल साम्राज्य के विभिन्न शासकों के संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित युगमों पर विचार कीजिए:

	चोल शासक	विवरण
1.	कुलोतुंग	दक्षिण में चोल वंश के संस्थापक
2.	राजराज प्रथम	श्रीलंका पर आक्रमण किया और उसके उत्तरी भाग पर अधिकार कर लिया
3.	राजेंद्र प्रथम	'गंगाइकोंडचोलपुरम्' नामक नई राजधानी का निर्माण किया

उपर्युक्त युगमों में से कितने सही सुमेलित हैं?

9. प्रारंभिक मध्यकालीन भारत में त्रिपक्षीय संघर्ष के संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

- 1. यह संघर्ष गुर्जर-प्रतिहारों, पालों और राष्ट्रकूटों के बीच हुआ था।
- 2. इस संघर्ष का मुख्य उद्देश्य गंगा क्षेत्र, विशेषकर कन्नौज पर नियंत्रण स्थापित करना था।
- 3. यह संघर्ष अंततः पालों के द्वारा उत्तरी भारत पर पूर्ण प्रभुत्व के साथ समाप्त हुआ।

उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कितने सही हैं?

- (a) केवल एक
- (b) केवल दो

(c) सभी तीन

(d) कोई नहीं

10. विजयनगर साम्राज्य के प्रशासनिक विभाजनों के संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित में से कौन-सा आकार के संदर्भ में इकाइयों का सही अवरोही क्रम है?

- (a) मंडलम - स्थल - नाडु - ग्राम
- (b) मंडलम - नाडु - स्थल - ग्राम
- (c) नाडु - मंडलम - स्थल - ग्राम
- (d) नाडु - मंडलम - ग्राम - स्थल

11. निम्नलिखित में से कौन-से "षट्दर्शन" या भारतीय दर्शन की छह रूढ़िवादी प्रणालियों में सम्मिलित हैं?

1. लोकायत
2. योग
3. बौद्ध धर्म
4. वेदांत
5. सांख्य

नीचे दिए गए कूट का प्रयोग कर सही उत्तर चुनिए:

- (a) केवल 1, 2 और 3
- (b) केवल 1, 3 और 5
- (c) केवल 2, 4 और 5
- (d) 1, 2, 4 और 5

12. मेवाड़ के राणा कुंभा के संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

- 1. उन्होंने बाबर के विरुद्ध खानवा का युद्ध लड़ा था।
- 2. उन्होंने गुजरात पर अपनी विजय की स्मृति में चित्तौड़ में कीर्ति स्तंभ का निर्माण करवाया था।

उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कौन-सा/से सही है/हैं?

- (a) केवल 1
- (b) केवल 2
- (c) 1 और 2 दोनों
- (d) न तो 1, न ही 2

13. भक्ति आंदोलन की निर्गुण और सगुण परंपरा के संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

- 1. सगुण भक्ति शिव और विष्णु जैसे सगुण देवताओं की भक्ति पर बल देती थी।

7. With reference to medieval India, the term 'Buranjis' refers to?
- Religious commentaries written in Sanskrit during the Bhakti movement
  - Historical chronicles written in the Assamese language by the Ahoms
  - Collections of court poems written in Persian during the Mughal period
  - Administrative manuals of the Vijayanagara Empire
8. Consider the following pairs regarding the various rulers of Chola empire:

	<i>Chola Ruler</i>	<i>Description</i>
1.	Kullotunga	Founder of the Chola dynasty in South
2.	Rajaraja I	Invaded Sri Lanka and annexed its northern part
3.	Rajendra I	Built new capital called 'Gangaikondacholapuram'

- How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?
- Only one pair
  - Only two pairs
  - All three pairs
  - None of the pairs
9. Consider the following statements regarding the Tripartite Struggle in early medieval India:

- It was a conflict among the Gurjara-Pratiharas, Palas, and Rashtrakutas.
- The principal objective of the struggle was to control the Gangetic region, particularly Kannauj.
- The conflict eventually led to the complete domination of the Palas over northern India.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- Only one
- Only two

- All three
- None

10. With reference to administrative divisions under Vijayanagara empire, which one of the following correctly represents the descending order of units in terms of size?
- Mandalam - sthala - nadu - grama
  - Mandalam - nadu - sthala - grama
  - Nadu - mandalam - sthala - grama
  - Nadu - mandalam - grama - sthala

11. Which of the following are included among the Shad-Darshanas or six orthodox systems of Indian philosophy?
- Lokayata
  - Yoga
  - Buddhism
  - Vedanta
  - Samkhya

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- 1, 2 and 3 only
- 1, 3 and 5 only
- 2, 4 and 5 only
- 1, 2, 4 and 5 only

12. Consider the following statements about Rana Kumbha of Mewar:
- He fought the Battle of Khanwa against Babar.
  - He erected Kirti Stambha in Chittor in commemoration of his victory over Gujarat.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

13. Consider the following statements regarding Nirguna and Saguna tradition of Bhakti movement :
- Saguna bhakti emphasized devotion to deities with attributes such as Shiva and Vishnu.

2. निर्गुण भक्ति निराकार और निर्गुण ईश्वर की उपासना को समर्पित थी।
3. संत कबीर दास सगुण भक्ति परंपरा से संबंधित थे।

उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कौन-से सही हैं?

- (a) केवल 1 और 2
- (b) केवल 2 और 3
- (c) केवल 1 और 3
- (d) 1, 2 और 3
14. प्राचीन भारतीय साहित्य के संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

1. अष्टाध्यायी पाणिनि द्वारा रचित एक संस्कृत व्याकरण ग्रंथ है।
2. महाभाष्य कात्यायन द्वारा रचित अष्टाध्यायी पर एक टिप्पणी है।

उपर्युक्त में से कौन-सा/से कथन सही है/हैं?

- (a) केवल 1
- (b) केवल 2
- (c) 1 और 2 दोनों
- (d) न तो 1, न ही 2
15. दक्षिण भारत में पल्लव वंश के इतिहास के संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

1. पल्लव, वातापी के चालुक्यों के समकालीन थे।
2. चीनी बौद्ध यात्री ह्वेनसांग ने पल्लवों की राजधानी कांचीपुरम का दौरा किया था।
3. पल्लव शासकों के काल में संस्कृत और तमिल दोनों भाषाओं का विकास हुआ।

उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कितने सही हैं?

- (a) केवल एक
- (b) केवल दो
- (c) सभी तीन
- (d) कोई नहीं
16. कभी-कभी ख़बरों में रहने वाले पिंक टैक्स मुद्दे का निम्नलिखित में से कौन-सा कथन सर्वश्रेष्ठ वर्णन करता है?
- (a) यह सरकार द्वारा महिलाओं के उत्पादों और सेवाओं पर लगाया जाने वाला एक प्रकार का करता है।

- (b) यह एक मूल्य निर्धारण प्रक्रिया है, जिसमें महिलाओं को उनके लिए विशेष रूप से डिज़ाइन किए गए उत्पादों या सेवाओं के लिए अधिक भुगतान करना पड़ता है।

- (c) यह भारतीय सीमा शुल्क कानून के तहत आयातित सौंदर्य प्रसाधनों और सौंदर्य उत्पादों पर लगाया जाने वाला शुल्क है।

- (d) यह महिलाओं को व्यक्तिगत देखभाल की वस्तुओं के उपभोग हेतु प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए दी जाने वाली छूट है।

17. पॉलीमेटैलिक सल्फाइड (PMS) और भारत के अन्वेषण के संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

1. पॉलीमेटैलिक सल्फाइड समुद्र तल पर पाए जाने वाले निक्षेप हैं, जो ताँबा, जस्ता, सीसा, स्वर्ण और रजत जैसी धातुओं से समृद्ध हैं।
2. भारत द्वारा हिंद महासागर के काल्सर्बर्ग रिज क्षेत्र में PMS के अन्वेषण के लिए इंटरनेशनल सीबेड अथॉरिटी (ISA) के साथ किया गया 15 वर्षों का अनुबंध है।
3. PMS निक्षेप मुख्यतः मध्य-महासागरीय कटकों के साथ जलतापीय छिप्रों (Hydrothermal vents) में पाए जाते हैं।

उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कौन-से सही हैं?

- (a) केवल 1 और 2
- (b) केवल 2 और 3
- (c) केवल 1 और 3
- (d) 1, 2 और 3

18. वैश्विक नवाचार सूचकांक (GII), 2025 के संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

1. यह सूचकांक विश्व बौद्धिक संपदा संगठन (WIPO) द्वारा प्रतिवर्ष जारी किया जाता है।
2. विगत् एक दशक में वैश्विक नवाचार रैंकिंग में भारत की स्थिति में उल्लेखनीय सुधार हुआ है।

उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कौन-सा/से सही है/हैं?

- (a) केवल 1
- (b) केवल 2

2. Nirguna Bhakti was devoted to the worship of a formless and attributeless concept of God.
3. Sant Kabir Das belonged to the saguna tradition.

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

14. With reference to the ancient Indian literature, consider the following statements:

1. Ashtadhyayi is a Sanskrit grammar text composed by Panini.
2. Mahabhashya is a commentary on the Ashtadhyayi written by Katyayana.

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

15. With reference to the history of Pallava dynasty in South India, consider the following statements:

1. The Pallavas were the contemporaries of the Chalukyas of Vatapi.
2. Chinese Buddhist traveller Hieun Tsang visited the Pallava capital Kanchipuram.
3. Both Sanskrit and Tamil languages flourished during Pallava rulers.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

16. Which one of the following statements best describes the issue of Pink Tax, sometimes mentioned in the news?

- (a) It is a type of tax imposed by the government on women's products and services.

- (b) It is a pricing phenomenon where women pay more for products or services designed specifically for them.
- (c) It is a surcharge levied on imported cosmetics and beauty products under Indian customs law.
- (d) It is a rebate provided to women on personal care items to encourage their consumption.

17. Consider the following statements regarding Polymetallic Sulphides (PMS) and India's exploration:

1. Polymetallic Sulphides are ocean-floor deposits rich in metals such as copper, zinc, lead, gold, and silver.
2. India has a 15-year contract with the International Seabed Authority (ISA) to explore PMS in the Carlsberg Ridge region of the Indian Ocean.
3. PMS deposits are primarily found near hydrothermal vents along mid-ocean ridges.

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

18. Consider the following statements regarding the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2025:

1. The index is released annually by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).
2. India's position in global innovation rankings has improved significantly over the last decade.

Which of the statements above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only

- (c) 1 और 2 दोनों  
 (d) न तो 1, न ही 2

**19. निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिएः**

**कथन-I:**

भारत की वर्ष 2027 की जनगणना में, प्रत्येक भवन को उसकी सटीक स्थिति को चिह्नित करने के लिए अक्षांश और देशांतर निर्देशांक का उपयोग करके जियो-टैग किया जाएगा।

**कथन-II:**

जनगणना में जियोटैगिंग का उद्देश्य भूमि विवादों का समाधान करने के लिए सभी संपत्तियों के स्वामित्व का विवरण दर्ज करना है।

उपर्युक्त कथनों के संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित में से कौन-सा सही है?

- (a) कथन-I और कथन-II दोनों सही हैं तथा कथन-II, कथन-I की सही व्याख्या है।  
 (b) कथन-I और कथन-II दोनों सही हैं तथा कथन-II, कथन-I की सही व्याख्या नहीं है।  
 (c) कथन-I सही है, लेकिन कथन-II गलत है।  
 (d) कथन-I गलत है, लेकिन कथन-II सही है।
- 20. 'विकसित भारत रोडमैप के लिए एआई' के अंतर्गत घोषित 'फ्रंटियर 50 इनिशिएटिव' का प्राथमिक महत्व क्या है?**

- (a) वैश्विक बाजार विस्तार के लिए 50 निजी क्षेत्र के एआई स्टार्ट-अप्स की पहचान करना और उन्हें मार्गदर्शन प्रदान करना।  
 (b) सेवा की पहुँच और प्रभाव में तेजी लाने के लिए 50 आकांक्षी जिलों/ब्लॉकों में अग्रणी प्रौद्योगिकियों को तैनात करना।  
 (c) उन्नत एआई अनुसंधान के लिए समर्पित 50 अत्याधुनिक राष्ट्रीय अनुसंधान प्रयोगशालाएँ स्थापित करना।  
 (d) केंद्रीय मंत्रालयों में 50,000 सरकारी कर्मचारियों को विशिष्ट एआई प्रशिक्षण प्रदान करना।

- 21. पाल वंश के संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिएः**

1. पाल शासक बौद्ध धर्म के संरक्षक थे और उन्होंने कई मठों तथा मंदिरों का निर्माण करवाया।  
 2. विक्रमशिला विश्वविद्यालय की स्थापना पाल वंश के शासक गोपाल ने की थी।

उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कौन-सा/से सही है/हैं?

- (a) केवल 1  
 (b) केवल 2  
 (c) 1 और 2 दोनों  
 (d) न तो 1, न ही 2

- 22. निम्नलिखित में से कौन-सा क्रम दिल्ली सल्तनत पर शासन करने वाले राजवंशों का सही कालानुक्रमिक अनुक्रम है?**

- (a) खिलजी → मामलूक → तुगलक → सैयद → लोदी  
 (b) मामलूक → खिलजी → तुगलक → सैयद → लोदी  
 (c) मामलूक → तुगलक → खिलजी → लोदी → सैयद  
 (d) खिलजी → तुगलक → मामलूक → सैयद → लोदी

- 23. निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिएः**

1. अलवार विष्णु के भक्त थे, जबकि नयनार शिव के भक्त थे।  
 2. अलवारों के संकलन, नलयिर दिव्यप्रबंधम् को प्रायः तमिल वेद माना जाता है।

उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कौन-सा/से सही है/हैं?

- (a) केवल 1  
 (b) केवल 2  
 (c) 1 और 2 दोनों  
 (d) न तो 1, न ही 2

- (c) Both 1 and 2  
 (d) Neither 1 nor 2
- 19.** Consider the following statements:
- Statement I:*
- In the 2027 Census of India, every building will be geotagged to mark its precise location using latitude and longitude coordinates.
- Statement II:*
- The purpose of geotagging in the Census is to record ownership details of all properties in order to resolve land disputes.
- Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?
- Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
  - Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
  - Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
  - Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct
- 20.** What is the primary significance of the ‘Frontier 50 Initiative’ announced under the ‘AI for Viksit Bharat Roadmap’?
- To identify and mentor 50 private-sector AI startups for global market expansion.
  - To deploy frontier technologies in 50 Aspirational Districts/Blocks to accelerate service saturation.
  - To establish 50 state-of-the-art national research labs dedicated to advanced AI research.
  - To provide specialized AI training to 50,000 government employees in central ministries.
- 21.** With reference to the Pala dynasty, consider the following statements:
- The Pala rulers were patrons of Buddhism and established several monasteries and temples.
  - Vikramashila University was founded by King Gopala of the Pala dynasty.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
  - 2 only
  - Both 1 and 2
  - Neither 1 nor 2
- 22.** Which of the following sequences correctly represents the chronological order of the dynasties that ruled the Delhi Sultanate?
- Khaljis → Mamluks → Tughlaqs → Sayyids → Lodis
  - Mamluks → Khaljis → Tughlaqs → Sayyids → Lodis
  - Mamluks → Tughlaqs → Khaljis → Lodis → Sayyids
  - Khaljis → Tughlaqs → Mamluks → Sayyids → Lodis
- 23.** Consider the following statements:
- Alvars were Vishnu’s devotees, while Nayanars were Shiva’s followers.
  - The Alvars’ anthology, Nalayira Divyaprabandham, is often regarded as the Tamil Veda.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
  - 2 only
  - Both 1 and 2
  - Neither 1 nor 2

24. शास्त्रीय नृत्य रूपों और उनके संबंधित राज्यों के निम्नलिखित युगमों पर विचार कीजिए-

	शास्त्रीय नृत्य रूप	राज्य
1.	सत्रिया	असम
2.	भरतनाठ्यम्	तमिलनाडु
3.	कुचिपुड़ी	आंध्र प्रदेश
4.	मोहिनीअट्टम	केरल

उपर्युक्त में से कितने युगम सही हैं?

- (a) केवल एक  
 (b) केवल दो  
 (c) केवल तीन  
 (d) सभी चार
25. निम्नलिखित में से कौन-सा कथन भारतीय इतिहास में शर्कीं वंश के महत्व का सर्वश्रेष्ठ वर्णन करता है?

- (a) इसने गंगा के मैदान में इक्ता प्रणाली की शुरुआत की।  
 (b) इसने जौनपुर को शिक्षा और विशिष्ट स्थापत्य कला का महत्वपूर्ण केंद्र बनाया।  
 (c) इसने पूर्वी और उत्तरी भारत को सफलतापूर्वक एक शासन के अंतर्गत एकीकृत किया।  
 (d) इसने उत्तर भारत में अङ्गगान प्रभुत्व की शुरुआत की।

26. वेदांगों के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

1. वेदांगों को पवित्र स्तोत्र माना जाता है और यह प्रत्येक वेद का मुख्य भाग बनाते हैं।  
 2. कल्प वेदांग वैदिक अनुष्ठानों और यज्ञों को करने के नियम और प्रक्रियाओं से संबंधित हैं।

उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कौन-सा/से कथन सही है/हैं?

- (a) केवल 1  
 (b) केवल 2  
 (c) 1 और 2 दोनों  
 (d) न तो 1, न ही 2

27. मध्यकालीन भारतीय इतिहास के संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

1. इल्लुतमिश के शासनकाल के दौरान चंगेज़ खान के नेतृत्व में मंगोलों का संगठित होना दिल्ली

सल्तनत की उत्तर-पश्चिमी सीमा के लिए एक बड़ा ख़तरा बन गया था।

2. अलाउद्दीन खिलजी के शासनकाल के दौरान, कुतुलुग ख्वाजा के नेतृत्व में मंगोलों ने दिल्ली की घेराबंदी की और इसे अत्यधिक क्षति पहुँचाई।

उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कौन-सा/से सही है/हैं?

- (a) केवल 1  
 (b) केवल 2  
 (c) 1 और 2 दोनों  
 (d) न तो 1, न ही 2

28. भारत में हाल की जीएसटी सुधारों के संबंध में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

1. अब जीएसटी दरें 5% और 18% के दो-स्तरीय ढाँचे में सरलीकृत कर दी गई हैं।  
 2. विलासिता और हानिकारक वस्तुओं (Luxury and Sin goods) पर 40% कर लगाया जाएगा।

उपर्युक्त में से कौन-सा/से कथन सही है/हैं?

- (a) केवल 1  
 (b) केवल 2  
 (c) 1 और 2 दोनों  
 (d) न तो 1, न ही 2

29. हाल ही में सुर्खियों में रही ओजू जलविद्युत परियोजना निम्नलिखित में से किस नदी पर प्रस्तावित है?

- (a) ब्रह्मपुत्र नदी  
 (b) सुबनसिरी नदी  
 (c) गंगा नदी  
 (d) तीस्ता नदी

30. निम्नलिखित रामसर स्थलों का उनसे संबंधित राज्यों से मिलान कीजिए:

	सूची-I ( आद्रभूमि/पक्षी अभयारण्य )	सूची-II ( राज्य )
1.	गोकुल जलाशय	उत्तर प्रदेश
2.	उदयपुर झील	राजस्थान
3.	थेर्थगल पक्षी अभयारण्य	तमिलनाडु
4.	उधवा झील पक्षी अभयारण्य	बिहार

24. Consider the following pairs regarding classical dance forms and their associated States:

	<i>Classical Dance Form</i>	<i>State</i>
1.	Sattriya	Assam
2.	Bharatanatyam	Tamil Nadu
3.	Kuchipudi	Andhra Pradesh
4.	Mohiniyattam	Kerala

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one pair
  - (b) Only two pairs
  - (c) Only three pairs
  - (d) All four pairs
25. Which of the following statements best describes the significance of the Sharqi dynasty in Indian history?
- (a) It introduced the system of Iqta in the Gangetic plain.
  - (b) It made Jaunpur an important centre of learning and distinctive architecture.
  - (c) It successfully unified eastern and northern India under one rule.
  - (d) It marked the beginning of Afghan dominance in North India.

26. Consider the following statements regarding the Vedangas:
1. The Vedangas are considered sacred hymns forming the main component of each Veda.
  2. Kalpa Vedanga deals with the rules and procedures for performing Vedic rituals and sacrifices.

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
27. With reference to the history of medieval India, consider the following statements:
1. The rise of the Mongols under Chengiz Khan posed a major threat to the north-

western frontier of the Delhi Sultanate during the reign of Iltutmish.

2. During the reign of Alauddin Khalji, the Mongols under Qutlugh Khwaja besieged Delhi and inflicted considerable damage.

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

28. Consider the following statements regarding the latest GST reforms in India:

1. GST rates are now simplified to a two-slab structure of 5% and 18%
2. Luxury and sin goods will be taxed at 40%.

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

29. The Oju hydroelectric project, which was in news recently, is proposed on which of the following rivers?

- (a) Brahmaputra river
- (b) Subansiri river
- (c) Ganga river
- (d) Teesta river

30. Consider the following Ramsar sites and their respective states:

	<i>List I (Wetlands / Bird Sanctuaries)</i>	<i>List II (States)</i>
1.	Gokul Jalashaya	Uttar Pradesh
2.	Udaipur Jheel	Rajasthan
3.	Therthangal Bird Sanctuary	Tamil Nadu
4.	Udhwa Lake Bird Sanctuary	Bihar

- उपर्युक्त युगमों में से कितने सही सुमेलित हैं?
- केवल एक
  - केवल दो
  - केवल तीन
  - सभी चार
- 31.** शिवाजी महाराज के संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिएः
- उनका जन्म भोंसले वंश में शाहजी और जीजाबाई के यहाँ हुआ था।
  - उन्होंने रायगढ़ किले में राज्याभिषेक के पश्चात् ‘श्री राजा शिव छत्रपति’ की उपाधि ग्रहण की।
  - उन्होंने राज्याभिषेक शक संवत् की शुरुआत की।
- उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कितने सही हैं?
- केवल एक
  - केवल दो
  - सभी तीन
  - कोई नहीं
- 32.** प्रसिद्ध चित्रकला ‘भारत माता’, जिसे सिस्टर निवेदिता ने “आधुनिक भारतीय कला की पहली उत्कृष्ट कृति” कहा, निम्नलिखित में से किस कलाकार ने चित्रित की थी?
- नंदलाल बोस
  - राजा रवि वर्मा
  - जामिनी रॉय
  - अबनींद्रनाथ टैगोर
- 33.** विजयनगर साम्राज्य के संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित राजवंशों पर विचार कीजिएः
- तुलुव वंश
  - सालुव वंश
  - संगम वंश
  - अराविडु वंश
- इन राजवंशों के विजयनगर साम्राज्य पर शासन करने का सही कालानुक्रमिक अनुक्रम क्या है?
- 1-2-3-4
  - 1-3-4-2
  - 3-2-1-4
  - 3-4-2-1
- 34.** भारत के सांस्कृतिक इतिहास के संदर्भ में, मुत्तुस्वामी दीक्षितर, त्यागराज और श्यामा शास्त्री निम्नलिखित में से किससे जुड़े थे?
- हिंदुस्तानी शास्त्रीय संगीत
  - दक्षिण भारत में शास्त्रीय नृत्य रूपों का विकास
  - कर्नाटक शास्त्रीय संगीत
  - तमिल भाषा में भक्ति कविता
- 35.** दिल्ली सल्तनत की प्रशासनिक व्यवस्था के संदर्भ में, ‘आमिल’ एक ऐसा अधिकारी था, जो मुख्य रूप से निम्नलिखित के लिए जिम्मेदार था:
- शहरों में कानून और व्यवस्था बनाए रखना
  - इकता में सैन्य टुकड़ियों का पर्यवेक्षण करना
  - प्रांतीय न्यायालयों में न्याय प्रशासन
  - भू-राजस्व एकत्र करना
- 36.** गुरु नानक के संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिएः
- उन्होंने निर्गुण भक्ति के एक रूप का समर्थन किया।
  - उन्होंने कर्मकांडीय बलि और मूर्ति पूजा को अस्वीकार किया।
  - गुरु अर्जन देव ने गुरु नानक की वाणी को बाद के गुरुओं की वाणियों के रूप में आदि ग्रंथ साहिब में संकलित किया।
- उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कौन-से सही हैं?
- केवल 1 और 2
  - केवल 2 और 3
  - केवल 1 और 3
  - 1, 2 और 3
- 37.** ममल्लापुरम के गुफा मंदिरों में निम्नलिखित में से क्या चित्रित किया गया है?
- रावण कैलाश पर्वत हिला रहा है
  - देवी दुर्गा महिषासुर का वध कर रही हैं
  - सिंहविष्णु का शाही चित्र
- नीचे दिए गए कूट का प्रयोग करके सही उत्तर चुनिएः
- केवल 1 और 2
  - केवल 1 और 3

- How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?
- Only one
  - Only two
  - Only three
  - All four
- 31.** With reference to the Shivaji Maharaj, consider the following statements:
- He was born in the Bhonsle clan to Shahji and Jijabai.
  - He assumed the title ‘Shri Raja Shiva Chhatrapati’ after the coronation at Raigad fort.
  - He started the Rājyābhisheka shaka era.
- How many of the statements given above are correct?
- Only one
  - Only two
  - All three
  - None
- 32.** The famous painting ‘Bharat Mata’, hailed by Sister Nivedita as the “first masterpiece of modern Indian art,” was painted by which one of the following artists?
- Nandalal Bose
  - Raja Ravi Varma
  - Jamini Roy
  - Abanindranath Tagore
- 33.** With reference to the Vijayanagara empire, consider the following dynasties :
- Tuluvas
  - Saluvas
  - Sangama
  - Aravidu
- Select the correct chronological order in which these dynasties ruled the Vijayanagara Empire:
- 1-2-3-4
  - 1-3-4-2
  - 3-2-1-4
  - 3-4-2-1
- 34.** With reference to the cultural history of India, Muthuswami Dikshitar, Tyagaraja, and Syama Sastri were associated with which one of the following?
- Hindustani classical music
  - Development of classical dance forms in South India
  - Carnatic classical music
  - Bhakti poetry in the Tamil language
- 35.** With reference to the administrative system of the Delhi Sultanate, ‘Amil’ was an official who was primarily responsible for:
- Maintaining law and order in towns
  - Supervising military contingents in the Iqta
  - Administering justice in the provincial courts
  - Collecting land revenue
- 36.** With reference to Guru Nanak, consider the following statements:
- He advocated a form of Nirguna Bhakti.
  - He rejected ritualistic sacrifices and image worship.
  - Guru Arjan compiled Guru Nanak’s hymns along with those of later Gurus in the Adi Granth Sahib.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- 1 and 2 only
  - 2 and 3 only
  - 1 and 3 only
  - 1, 2 and 3
- 37.** Which of the following have been depicted in the cave temples of Mamallapuram?
- Ravana shaking mount Kailasa
  - Goddess Durga killing Mahishasura
  - Royal portrait of Simhavishnu
- Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
- 1 and 2 only
  - 1 and 3 only



- (c) केवल 3  
 (d) केवल 2 और 3
- 38.** केंद्रीय फ़िल्म प्रमाणन बोर्ड (CBFC) के संबंध में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:
1. CBFC एक सांविधिक (Statutory) संस्था है, जो सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय के अंतर्गत कार्य करती है।
  2. भारत में कोई भी फ़िल्म तभी सार्वजनिक रूप से प्रदर्शित की जा सकती है जब उसे CBFC द्वारा प्रमाणित किया गया हो।
  3. बोर्ड के अध्यक्ष और सदस्य केंद्र सरकार द्वारा नियुक्त किए जाते हैं।
- उपर्युक्त में से कौन-से कथन सही हैं?
- (a) केवल 1 और 2  
 (b) केवल 2 और 3  
 (c) केवल 1 और 3  
 (d) 1, 2 और 3
- 39.** हाल ही में यूनेस्को बल्ड नेटवर्क ऑफ बायोस्फियर रिज़र्व में शामिल किया गया कोल्ड डेज़र्ट बायोस्फियर रिजर्व किस भारतीय राज्य/केंद्र-शासित प्रदेश में स्थित है?
- (a) जम्मू और कश्मीर  
 (b) लद्दाख  
 (c) हिमाचल प्रदेश  
 (d) उत्तराखण्ड
- 40.** शंघाई सहयोग संगठन (SCO) के संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:
1. SCO की स्थापना वर्ष 2001 में शंघाई में चीन और रूस सहित छह देशों द्वारा की गई थी।
  2. भारत SCO के संस्थापक सदस्यों में से एक है।
  3. SCO की आधिकारिक भाषाएँ रूसी और चीनी हैं।
- उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कौन-सा/से सही है/हैं?
- (a) केवल 1  
 (b) केवल 2 और 3
- 41.** प्राचीन भारतीय इतिहास के संदर्भ में अपभ्रंश भाषा के संबंध में निम्नलिखित में से कौन-सा कथन सही है?
- (a) यह प्राकृत भाषाओं के प्रारंभिक चरण का प्रतिनिधित्व करती है, और मुख्य रूप से बौद्ध ग्रंथों में प्रयुक्त होती थी।
  - (b) यह एक अत्यधिक अलंकारिक संस्कृत उपभाषा थी, जो केवल वैदिक अनुष्ठानों में प्रयोग होती थी।
  - (c) यह प्राकृत भाषाओं का अंतिम चरण है, जिससे कई आधुनिक उत्तर भारतीय भाषाएँ विकसित हुईं।
  - (d) यह केवल जैन ग्रंथों में महाराष्ट्री उपभाषा में प्रयुक्त होती थी।
- 42.** निम्नलिखित में से किसने अपनी कृति आज्ञापत्र (राजकीय आदेश) में शिवाजी के अधीन प्रशासन और वित्त के विभिन्न पहलुओं की व्याख्या की?
- (a) बालाजी आवजी  
 (b) रामचंद्रपंत अमात्य  
 (c) नाना फड़नवीस  
 (d) मोरोपंत त्र्यंक पिंगले
- 43.** बहमनी साम्राज्य के संबंध में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:
1. इसे 14वीं सदी में हसन गंगू द्वारा दक्कन क्षेत्र में स्थापित किया गया था।
  2. इनकी पड़ोसी राज्यों के साथ वैवाहिक संधि (Matrimonial alliance) थी।
  3. गोवा और दाभोल वे पोर्ट थे जो विजयनगर से बहमनियों ने जीते।
- उपर्युक्त में से कितने कथन सही हैं?
- (a) केवल एक  
 (b) केवल दो  
 (c) सभी तीन  
 (d) कोई नहीं

- (c) 3 only  
 (d) 2 and 3 only
- 38.** Consider the following statements regarding the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC):
1. The CBFC is a statutory body functioning under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
  2. No film can be publicly exhibited in India unless it has been certified by the CBFC.
  3. The Chairperson and members of the Board are appointed by the Central Government.
- 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
- 39.** The Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve, recently inducted into the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves, is located in which Indian state/union territory?
- (a) Jammu & Kashmir  
 (b) Ladakh  
 (c) Himachal Pradesh  
 (d) Uttarakhand
- 40.** Consider the following statements regarding the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO):
1. The SCO was established in 2001 in Shanghai by six countries including China and Russia.
  2. India is one of the founding members of the SCO.
  3. The official languages of the SCO are Russian and Chinese.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only  
 (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only  
 (d) 1, 2 and 3
- 41.** Which of the following statements is correct regarding the Apabhramsha language in the context of Ancient Indian history?
- (a) It represents an early stage of the Prakrit languages, used primarily in Buddhist texts.
  - (b) It was a highly ornamental Sanskrit dialect used exclusively in Vedic rituals.
  - (c) It represents the last stage of the Prakrit languages, from which many modern Indian languages evolved.
  - (d) It was exclusively used in Jain texts written in the Maharashtri dialect.
- 42.** Who among the following, in his work Adnyapatra (“The Royal Edict”), explained various aspects of administration and finance under Shivaji?
- (a) Balaji Avaji  
 (b) Ramchandrapant Amatya  
 (c) Nana Phadnavis  
 (d) Moropant Trimbak Pingle
- 43.** With reference to the Bahmani Kingdom, consider the following statements:
1. It was founded by Hasan Gangu in the Deccan region in the 14th century.
  2. They had a matrimonial alliance with the neighboring kingdom.
  3. Goa and Dhabol were Vijayanagar ports conquered by Bahmanis.
- How many of the statements given above are correct?
- (a) Only one  
 (b) Only two  
 (c) All three  
 (d) None



44. निम्नलिखित में से कौन-सा शास्त्रीय नृत्य रूप हिंदुस्तानी संगीत से घनिष्ठ रूप से जुड़ा माना जाता है?

- (a) ओडिसी
- (b) सत्रिया
- (c) मणिपुरी
- (d) कथक

45. मुगल शासक अकबर के संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

1. बुलंद दरवाजा अकबर की गुजरात विजय के उपलक्ष्य में बनवाया गया था।
2. उसके शासनकाल में, “सुलह-ए-कुल” की नीति प्रशासनिक विकेंद्रीकरण से संबंधित थी।
3. उसने जजिया कर और तीर्थयात्रा पर लगने वाले कर को समाप्त कर दिया था।

उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कौन-से सही हैं?

- (a) केवल 1 और 2
- (b) केवल 2 और 3
- (c) केवल 1 और 3
- (d) 1, 2 और 3

46. निम्नलिखित में से कौन-सा/से कथन मुगल लघुचित्र (Mughal Miniature Painting) के संबंध में सही है?

1. यह अकबर के शासनकाल में विकसित हुई, जिसमें भारतीय पारंपरिक तकनीकों को फ़रासी प्रभावों के साथ मिलाया गया।
2. मुगल चित्रकला ने जहाँगीर के संरक्षण में प्राकृतिवाद (Naturalism) और उच्च वैज्ञानिक सटीकता हासिल की।
3. मनकु और नैनसुख अकबर के दरबार के प्रसिद्ध चित्रकार थे।

नीचे दिए गए कूट का प्रयोग कर सही उत्तर चुनिए:

- (a) केवल 1 और 2
- (b) केवल 2 और 3
- (c) केवल 1 और 3
- (d) 1, 2 और 3

47. भारत में लोक चित्रकला के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित युगमों पर विचार कीजिए:

	चित्रकला	राज्य
1.	सोहराई	गुजरात
2.	पिछवाई	राजस्थान
3.	मंजुषा	बिहार
4.	सौरा	महाराष्ट्र

उपर्युक्त युगमों में से कौन-से सही सुमेलित हैं?

- (a) केवल 2 और 3
- (b) केवल 1 और 2
- (c) केवल 1, 2 और 4
- (d) केवल 2, 3 और 4

48. विजयनगर साम्राज्य के निम्नलिखित शासकों में से किसने अपनी माता के नाम पर विजयनगर के पास ‘नागलपुरम्’ नामक उपनगर की स्थापना की?

- (a) देवराय I
- (b) कृष्णदेव राय
- (c) वीर विजय
- (d) हरिहर II

49. मनरेगा के तहत जल सुरक्षा पर राष्ट्रीय पहल (National Initiative on Water Security) के संबंध में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

1. यह पहल जल संरक्षण और जल संचयन गतिविधियों पर न्यूनतम ख़र्च की हिस्सेदारी सुनिश्चित करती है।
2. ‘अत्यधिक दोहन’ (Over-exploited) या डार्क जोन ब्लॉकों में, मनरेगा की 50% से अधिक धनराशि जल संरक्षण के लिए आवंटित की जानी चाहिए।
3. जल संकट वाले ब्लॉकों में भी, कुल धनराशि का कम-से-कम 30% जल संरक्षण गतिविधियों पर ख़र्च किया जाएगा।

उपर्युक्त में से कौन-सा/से कथन सही है/हैं?

- (a) केवल 1 और 2
- (b) केवल 2 और 3
- (c) 1, 2 और 3
- (d) केवल 1 और 3

44. Which of the following is considered the only classical dance form closely associated with Hindustani music?

- (a) Odissi
- (b) Sattriya
- (c) Manipuri
- (d) Kathak

45. With reference to the Mughal King Akbar, consider the following statements :

1. Buland Darwaza was constructed to commemorate Akbar's victory in Gujarat.
2. During his reign, the policy of "Sulh-i-kul" was related to administrative decentralisation.
3. He abolished the jizya and the tax on pilgrimage.

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

46. Which of the following statements are correct regarding the Mughal miniature painting?

1. It evolved during the reign of Akbar while blending indigenous Indian techniques with Persian influences.
2. Mughal paintings achieved naturalism and high scientific accuracy under Jahangir's patronage.
3. Manaku and Nainsukh were the famous painters of Akbar court.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

47. Consider the following pairs regarding the folk paintings in India:

	<i>Painting</i>	<i>State</i>
1.	Sohrai	Gujarat
2.	Pichhvai	Rajasthan
3.	Manjusha	Bihar
4.	Saura	Maharashtra

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

48. Who among the following rulers of Vijayanagar Empire founded a suburban township near Vijayanagar called 'Nagalapuram' after his mother?

- (a) Devaraya I
- (b) Krishnadeva Raya
- (c) Vira Vijaya
- (d) Harihara II

49. Consider the following statements regarding the National Initiative on Water Security under MGNREGA:

1. The initiative mandates a minimum share of expenditure on water conservation and harvesting activities.
2. In 'over-exploited' or dark zone blocks, more than 50% of MGNREGA funds are to be allocated for water conservation.
3. Even in blocks without water scarcity, at least 30% of the total funds will be utilized for water conservation activities.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

50. हाल ही में चर्चा में रहे 'ऑपरेशन ब्लैक फ़ॉरेस्ट' का उद्देश्य निम्नलिखित में से क्या था?
- छत्तीसगढ़ में नक्सली समूहों के विरुद्ध उग्रवाद-रोधी अभियान चलाना
  - मध्य भारत के बाढ़ प्रभावित क्षेत्रों में आपदा राहत प्रदान करना
  - नक्सल प्रभावित जिलों में टीकाकरण अभियान चलाना
  - दूरस्थ पहाड़ी क्षेत्रों में सड़क अवसंरचना का विकास करना
51. 'हिंदू सुरत्राण' (Hindu Suratrana) की उपाधि निम्नलिखित में से किस वंश के शासकों ने अपनाई थी?
- विजयनगर साम्राज्य
  - चोल साम्राज्य
  - मराठा साम्राज्य
  - चालुक्य साम्राज्य
52. "इस शासक के संरक्षण में, महाभारत एवं कल्हण की राजतरंगिणी का फ़ारसी में अनुवाद किया गया। उन्होंने 'कुत्ब' उपनाम से काव्य भी लिखा और बुलर झील पर जैन-ए-लंक द्वीप महल बनवाया।"
- उपर्युक्त वर्णन किस शासक के लिए है?
- अकबर
  - गियासुद्दीन तुग़लक
  - जैन-उल-आबिदिन
  - अहमद शाह
53. 'गंधर्व वेद', जो संगीत, नृत्य और कलाओं से संबंधित है, किस वेद का उपवेद है?
- ऋग्वेद
  - सामवेद
  - यजुर्वेद
  - अथर्ववेद
54. मध्यकालीन भारत में, 'जागीर' शब्द किसके लिए प्रयोग किया जाता था?
- राजा द्वारा किसानों पर लगाया जाने वाला कर
  - राजा द्वारा कुलीनों को उनकी सेवा के बदले प्रदान की गई भूमि

- (c) सल्तनत द्वारा बनाए गए किले या सैन्य चौकी
- (d) वह बाज़ार शहर जहाँ राजा राजस्व एकत्र करता था
55. मध्यकालीन भारत में बंगाल के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:
- बंगाल के शासक गियासुद्दीन आज़म ने चीन के राजा के साथ मैत्रीपूर्ण संबंध बनाए, जिससे विदेशी व्यापार में वृद्धि हुई।
  - लखनौती, सातगाँव और सोनारगाँव बंगाल के प्रशासनिक विभाग थे।
- उपर्युक्त में से कौन-सा/से कथन सही है/हैं?
- केवल 1
  - केवल 2
  - 1 और 2 दोनों
  - न तो 1, न ही 2
56. दिल्ली सल्तनत के प्रशासन के संबंध में, निम्नलिखित युगमों पर विचार कीजिए:
- |    | विभाग         | संबंध           |
|----|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. | दीवान-ए-अर्ज़ | सैन्य           |
| 2. | दीवान-ए-इंशा  | न्याय           |
| 3. | दीवान-ए-रसालत | राजकीय पत्राचार |
- उपर्युक्त में से कितने युग्म सही सुमेलित हैं?
- केवल एक युग्म
  - केवल दो युग्म
  - सभी तीन युग्म
  - कोई भी युग्म नहीं
57. वे गुर्जर-प्रतिहारों के अधीनस्थ शासकों में से एक थे और 10वीं से 13वीं शताब्दी ईसवी के मध्य भारत पर शासन करते थे। उनके क्षेत्र को जेजाकभुक्ति कहा जाता था, और इस वंश के संस्थापक ननुक थे।"
- उपर्युक्त गद्यांश में निम्नलिखित में से किस राजवंश का वर्णन किया गया है?
- परमार वंश
  - चंदेल वंश
  - कलचुरी वंश
  - गढ़वाल राजवंश

- 50.** Which of the following was the objective of ‘Operation Black Forest’, which was recently in the news?
- To conduct counter-insurgency operations against Naxal groups in Chhattisgarh
  - To provide disaster relief in flood-affected areas of central India
  - To carry out a vaccination drive in Naxal-affected districts
  - To develop road infrastructure in remote hilly regions.
- 51.** The title of ‘Hindu Suratrana’ was adopted by the rulers of which one of the following dynasties?
- Vijayanagara dynasty
  - Chola dynasty
  - Maratha dynasty
  - Chalukya dynasty
- 52.** “Under the patronage of this ruler, the Mahabharata and Kalhana’s Rajatarangini were translated into Persian. He also composed poetry under the pen name ‘Qutb’ and built the island palace of Zaina Lanka on Wular Lake.”
- Which of the following rulers is being described above?
- Akbar
  - Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq
  - Zain-ul-Abidin
  - Ahmad Shah
- 53.** ‘Gandharva Veda’, which deals with music, dance and performing arts, is an Upaveda associated with which one of the following Vedas?
- Rigveda
  - Samaveda
  - Yajurveda
  - Atharvaveda
- 54.** With reference to medieval India, the term ‘Jagir’ referred to which of the following?
- Type of tax levied on peasants by the king
  - Piece of land granted by the ruler to nobles in return for their service
- 55.** Fortress or military outpost maintained by the Sultanate
- 56.** Market town where the king collected revenue
- 57.** With reference to the Bengal in medieval India, consider the following statements:
- Bengal ruler Ghiyasuddin Azam maintained friendly relations with the king of China which led to the rich foreign trade.
  - Lakhnauti, Satgaon and Sonargaon were the administrative divisions of Bengal.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
  - 2 only
  - Both 1 and 2
  - Neither 1 nor 2
- 58.** Consider the following pairs regarding the administration of Delhi Sultanate:
- |    | Department      | Related to           |
|----|-----------------|----------------------|
| 1. | Diwan-i-Arz     | Military             |
| 2. | Diwan-i-Insha   | Justice              |
| 3. | Diwan-i-Rasalat | State correspondence |
- How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?
- Only one pair
  - Only two pairs
  - All three pairs
  - None of the pairs
- 59.** “They were one of the feudatories of the Gurjara-Pratiharas and ruled over Central India between the 10th and 13th centuries CE. Their territory was known as Jejakabhukti, and the founder of this dynasty was Nannuk.”
- Which one of the following dynasties is described in the above passage?
- Paramara dynasty
  - Chandela dynasty
  - Kalachuri dynasty
  - Gahadavala dynasty

58. भरतनाट्यम् नृत्य के संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

1. यह एक एकहार्य (Ekaharya) नृत्य शैली है, जिसमें एक ही नर्तक एक प्रदर्शन में कई पात्रों की भूमिका निभाता है।
2. नंदिकेश्वर का अभिनय दर्पण भरतनाट्यम् में शारीरिक गतियों की तकनीक और व्याकरण के बारे में जानकारी प्रदान करता है।

उपर्युक्त में से कौन-सा/से कथन सही है/हैं?

- (a) केवल 1
- (b) केवल 2
- (c) 1 और 2 दोनों
- (d) न तो 1, न ही 2

59. BHARATI (भारत हब फॉर एग्रीटेक, रिसाइलेंस, एडवांसमेंट और इनक्यूबेशन फॉर एक्सपोर्ट इनेबलमेंट) के संबंध में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

1. इसे खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग मंत्रालय के तहत कृषि और प्रसंस्कृत खाद्य उत्पाद निर्यात विकास प्राधिकरण (APEDA) द्वारा लॉन्च किया गया है।
2. इसका उद्देश्य कृषि-खाद्य स्टार्टअप्स का समर्थन करना और 2030 तक निर्यात को 50 बिलियन डॉलर तक बढ़ाना है।

उपर्युक्त में से कौन-सा/से कथन सही है/हैं?

- (a) केवल 1
- (b) केवल 2
- (c) 1 और 2 दोनों
- (d) न तो 1, न ही 2

60. निम्नलिखित में से कौन-सा देश दुनिया में पहला देश बना जिसने अपनी सरकार में औपचारिक रूप से AI-जनित मंत्री को शामिल किया?

- (a) एस्टोनिया
- (b) सिंगापुर
- (c) अल्बानिया
- (d) दक्षिण कोरिया

61. भारतीय शास्त्रीय संगीत के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

1. कर्नाटक शास्त्रीय संगीत ने फ़ारसी और अरबी संगीत की कुछ विशेषताओं को आत्मसात किया जबकि हिंदुस्तानी शास्त्रीय संगीत अपनी मूल भारतीय परंपरा के अनुसार विकसित होता रहा।
2. कर्नाटक संगीत में सामान्यतः विस्तृत रूप से आशुरचना (त्वरित कविता रचना) को हिंदुस्तानी संगीत की तुलना में अधिक महत्व दिया जाता है।

उपर्युक्त में से कौन-सा/से कथन सही है/हैं?

- (a) केवल 1
- (b) केवल 2
- (c) 1 और 2 दोनों
- (d) न तो 1, न ही 2

62. निम्नलिखित ऐतिहासिक घटनाओं पर विचार कीजिए:

1. बहमनी राज्य का पतन
2. अहमदनगर, बीजापुर और बरार के सल्तनतों का उदय
3. विजयनगर साम्राज्य की स्थापना
4. बाबर द्वारा मुगल साम्राज्य की स्थापना

उपर्युक्त घटनाओं का सही कालानुक्रमिक अनुक्रम कौन-सा है?

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

63. प्रारंभिक मध्यकालीन भारत के इतिहास के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

#### **कथन-I:**

साम्राज्यवादी चोल दक्षिण भारत से परे एक मज़बूत साम्राज्य बनाने में सक्षम थे।

#### **कथन-II:**

चोलों ने एक कुशल प्रशासनिक प्रणाली को शक्तिशाली नौसेना और मालदीव व श्रीलंका में व्यापक व्यापार नेटवर्क से संलग्नित किया।

- 58.** With reference to the Bharatnatyam dance, consider the following statements:
1. It is an ekaharya dance style where one dancer takes on many roles in a single performance.
  2. Nandikeshwara's Abhinaya Darpana provides insights into the techniques and grammar of body movements in Bharatanatyam.

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

- 59.** Consider the following statements regarding the BHARATI (Bharat's Hub for Agritech, Resilience, Advancement and Incubation for Export Enablement) initiative:

1. It is launched by Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) under the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.
2. It aims to support agri-food startups and boost exports to 50 billion dollars by 2030.

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

- 60.** Which one of the following countries became the first in the world to formally induct an AI-generated minister into its government?

- (a) Estonia
- (b) Singapore
- (c) Albania
- (d) South Korea

- 61.** With reference to Indian classical music, consider the following statements:

1. While Carnatic classical music assimilated certain features of Persian and Arabic music, Hindustani classical music continued to evolve along its own indigenous lines.
2. Carnatic music generally gives more importance to elaborate improvisation as compared to Hindustani music.

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

- 62.** Consider the following historical events:

1. Collapse of the Bahmani kingdom.
2. Emergence of the Sultanates of Ahmadnagar, Bijapur and Berar.
3. Establishment of the Vijayanagara Empire.
4. Establishment of the Mughal empire by Babur.

Which of the following is the correct chronological sequence of the above events?

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

- 63.** With reference to the history of early medieval India, consider the following statements:

*Statement-I:*

The Imperial Cholas were able to build a strong empire extending beyond South India.

*Statement-II:*

Cholas combined an efficient administrative system with a powerful navy and extensive trade network in Maldives and Sri Lanka.

- उपर्युक्त कथनों के संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित में से कौन-सा एक सही है?
- कथन-I और कथन-II दोनों सही हैं तथा कथन-II, कथन-I की व्याख्या करता है
  - कथन-I और कथन-II दोनों सही हैं, किंतु कथन-II, कथन-I की व्याख्या नहीं करता है
  - कथन-I सही है, किंतु कथन-II सही नहीं है
  - कथन-I सही नहीं है, किंतु कथन-II सही है
- 64.** मध्यकालीन भारत में सल्तनत काल के संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:
- सुल्तानों के उत्तराधिकारियों ने राजनीतिक स्थिरता सुनिश्चित करने के लिए उन्हीं कुलीनों को सेवा में बनाए रखा।
  - इकातादारों को अपने सैनिकों के भरण-पोषण के लिए केंद्रीय खजाने से नक़द वेतन दिया जाता था।
- उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कौन-सा/से सही है/हैं?
- केवल 1
  - केवल 2
  - 1 और 2 दोनों
  - न तो 1, न ही 2
- 65.** भारतीय संस्कृति के संदर्भ में, 'दसकठिया', 'कृष्णनाट्टम' और 'कूडियाट्टम' निम्नलिखित में से किससे संबंधित हैं?
- शास्त्रीय नृत्य रूप
  - प्राचीन मार्शल आर्ट्स
  - पारंपरिक रंगमंच/नाट्य कला
  - लोक संगीत
- 66.** निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:
- सूफ़ीवाद ने बौद्ध धर्म और हिंदू यौगिक प्रथाओं से प्रेरणा ली।
  - बाशरा इस्लामी शरिया कानून के अनुयायी नहीं थे, जबकि बेशरा उसके अनुयायी थे।
- उपर्युक्त में से कौन-सा/से कथन सही है/हैं?
- केवल 1
  - केवल 2
- (c) 1 और 2 दोनों
- (d) न तो 1, न ही 2
- 67.** मुगल प्रशासन के संदर्भ में, 'परती', 'चाचर' और 'पोलज' शब्द निम्नलिखित से संबंधित थे:
- राजस्व अधिकारियों की श्रेणियाँ
  - भूमि के प्रकार
  - सिंचाई कार्यों के प्रकार
  - कृषक वर्ग
- 68.** "इन प्रागैतिहासिक गुफ़ा चित्रों को सात ऐतिहासिक कालों में वर्गीकृत किया जा सकता है। कुछ स्थानों पर, एक के ऊपर एक, चित्रों की 20 परतें भी हैं। इन चित्रों में शिकार के दृश्य प्रमुख हैं। हालाँकि जानवरों को प्राकृतिक शैली में चित्रित किया गया, मनुष्यों को केवल शैलीबद्ध तरीके से दिखाया गया है।"
- उपर्युक्त पैराग्राफ में वर्णित चित्रकला निम्नलिखित में से कौन-सी है?
- भीमबेटका चित्र
  - अजंता चित्र
  - कांगड़ा चित्र
  - बराबर गुफ़ा चित्र
- 69.** हुमायूँ का मकबरा के संबंध में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:
- इसे शाहजहाँ के शासनकाल में लाल संगमरमर से बनवाया गया था।
  - इसे यूनेस्को की अमूर्त सांस्कृतिक धरोहर (Intangible Cultural Heritage) के रूप में मान्यता दी गई है।
  - यह आगरा में यमुना के किनारे स्थित है।
- उपर्युक्त में से कितने कथन सही हैं?
- केवल एक
  - केवल दो
  - सभी तीन
  - कोई नहीं
- 70.** संशोधित ग्रीन क्रेडिट प्रोग्राम (GCP) नियमों के संबंध में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:
- वृक्षारोपण के लिए ग्रीन क्रेडिट केवल पाँच वर्ष की अवधि के बाद ही दिए जाएँगे, और यह कम-से-कम 40 प्रतिशत सत्यापित कैनोपी घनत्व (Canopy density) पर आधारित होगा।

- Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?
- Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
  - Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, but Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
  - Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect
  - Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct
- 64.** With reference to Sultanate period in medieval India, consider the following statements:
- Successors of the Sultans retained the same nobles in service to ensure political stability.
  - Iqtadars were paid their salaries in cash from the central treasury to maintain their troops.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
  - 2 only
  - Both 1 and 2
  - Neither 1 nor 2
- 65.** With reference to Indian culture, the terms ‘Daskathia’, ‘Krishnattam’, and ‘Koodiyettam’ pertain to which of the following?
- Classical dance forms
  - Ancient martial arts
  - Traditional theatre
  - Folk music
- 66.** Consider the following statements:
- Sufism drew inspiration from Buddhism and Hindu yogic practices.
  - Basharas did not adhere to the Islamic law of Sharia, whereas Besharas were its followers.
- Which of the given statements is/are correct?
- 1 only
  - 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2  
(d) Neither 1 nor 2
- 67.** With reference to the Mughal administration, the terms ‘Parauti’, ‘Chachar’ and ‘Polaj’ were related to:
- Categories of revenue officials
  - Types of land
  - Types of irrigation works
  - Classes of peasantry
- 68.** “These prehistoric rock paintings can be categorised into seven historical periods. In some places, there are as many as 20 layers of paintings, one on top of another. Hunting scenes predominate in these paintings. Though animals were painted in a naturalistic style, humans were depicted only in a stylistic manner.”
- Which of the following paintings have been described in the above paragraph?
- Bhimbetka paintings
  - Ajanta paintings
  - Kangra paintings
  - Barabar cave paintings
- 69.** Consider the following statements regarding the Humāyūn’s Tomb:
- It was built with red marble during the reign of Shahjahan.
  - It is designated as a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage.
  - It is situated in Agra at the bank of Yamuna.
- How many of the statements given above are correct?
- Only one
  - Only two
  - All three
  - None
- 70.** Consider the following statements regarding the revised Green Credit Programme (GCP) rules:
- Green credits for tree plantation will be awarded only after a period of five years, based on a verified canopy density of at least 40 per cent.

2. ये क्रेडिट लाभ कमाने के उद्देश्य से खुले बाजार में स्वतंत्र रूप से व्यापार योग्य हैं।
3. ग्रीन क्रेडिट को एक बार प्रतिपूर्ति वनारोपण (Compensatory afforestation) या अन्य कानूनी वृक्षारोपण दायित्वों को पूरा करने के लिए बदला जा सकता है।

उपर्युक्त में से कौन-से कथन सही हैं?

- (a) केवल 1  
 (b) केवल 1 और 3  
 (c) केवल 2  
 (d) केवल 2 और 3
71. कथकली के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

1. इसके गीत मणिप्रवालम भाषा में लिखे गए हैं।  
 2. परंपरागत रूप से पुरुष ही महिला पत्रों की भूमिका निभाते थे।  
 3. त्रिभंग मुद्रा नृत्य का एक महत्वपूर्ण पहलू है।

उपर्युक्त में से कौन-सा/से कथन सही है/हैं?

- (a) केवल 3  
 (b) केवल 1 और 2  
 (c) केवल 2 और 3  
 (d) 1, 2 और 3
72. मध्यकालीन भारत की मुद्रा प्रणाली के संबंध में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:
- सल्तनत काल में, टंका ताँबे का सिक्का था, जबकि जीतल चाँदी का सिक्का था।
  - मुग़ल काल में, मोहर सोने का सिक्का था, और दाम ताँबे का सिक्का था।

उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कौन-सा/से सही हैं?

- (a) केवल 1  
 (b) केवल 2  
 (c) दोनों 1 और 2  
 (d) न तो 1, न ही 2

73. मुग़ल साम्राज्य के क्षेत्रीय विभाजन के संबंध में, निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:
- जागीरें कुलीनों और शाही परिवार के सदस्यों को आवंटित की जाती थीं।
  - खालसा गाँव विद्वानों और धार्मिक व्यक्तियों को आवंटित किए जाते थे।
  - इनाम भूमि से होने वाली आय प्रत्यक्षतः शाही खजाने में जाती थी।

उपर्युक्त में से कितने कथन सही हैं?

- (a) केवल एक  
 (b) केवल दो  
 (c) सभी तीन  
 (d) कोई नहीं

74. दिल्ली सल्तनत के दौरान प्रांतीय प्रशासन के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:
- मुक्ति या वलि अपने प्रांतों में कानून और व्यवस्था बनाए रखने, राजस्व संग्रह और समग्र प्रशासन के लिए जिम्मेदार थे।
  - प्रांतीय अधिकारियों के पद उत्तराधिकार आधारित थे ताकि प्रशासन में निरंतरता और दक्षता बनी रहे।

उपर्युक्त में से कौन-सा/से कथन सही है/हैं?

- (a) केवल 1  
 (b) केवल 2  
 (c) 1 और 2 दोनों  
 (d) न तो 1, न ही 2

75. भारत के धार्मिक इतिहास के संदर्भ में, मत्तमयूर, कालमुख तथा कापालिक संप्रदाय निम्नलिखित में से किससे संबंधित हैं?
- वैष्णव धर्म
  - वज्रयान बौद्ध धर्म
  - शैव धर्म
  - शाक्त धर्म

76. मध्यकालीन भारत में व्यापार और वाणिज्य को बढ़ावा देने के लिए शेरशाह सूरी ने निम्नलिखित में से कौन-सी पहल/पहलें की/कीं?
- ग्रांड ट्रंक रोड का जीर्णोद्धार।
  - सीमा शुल्क संरचना का सरलीकरण।
  - एकसमान मानक के सोने, चाँदी और ताँबे के सिक्कों का प्रचलन।

2. These credits are freely tradable in the open market for profit-making purposes.
3. Green credits may be exchanged once for meeting compensatory afforestation or other statutory tree planting obligations.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

- 71.** With reference to Kathakali, consider the following statements:

1. The songs are written in the Manipravalam language.
2. Traditionally, men performed even the roles of female characters.
3. The Tribhang posture is an important aspect of the dance.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

- 72.** Consider the following statements regarding the coinage system of medieval India:

1. Under the Sultanate, the tanka was a copper coin, while the jital was a silver coin.
2. During the Mughal period, the mohur was a gold coin, and the dam was a copper coin.

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

- 73.** Consider the following statements with respect to the divisions of the territory of the Mughal empire:

1. Jagirs were allotted to nobles and members of the royal family.
2. Khalisa villages were allotted to learned and religious men.
3. Income from inam lands went directly to the royal exchequer.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

- 74.** With reference to the provincial administration during the Delhi Sultanate, consider the following statements:

1. Muqtis or Walis were responsible for maintaining law and order, collection of revenue, and overall administration of their provinces.
2. The offices of provincial officials were hereditary to ensure continuity and efficiency in administration.

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

- 75.** With reference to the religious history of India, the Mattamayura, Kalamukha, and Kapalika sects are associated with which of the following?

- (a) Vaishnavism
- (b) Vajrayana Buddhism
- (c) Shaivism
- (d) Shaktism

- 76.** Which of the following initiatives were taken by Sher Shah Suri to promote trade and commerce in medieval India?

1. Restoration of the Grand Trunk Road.
2. Simplification of the customs duty structure
3. Introduction of gold, silver and copper coins of uniform standard.

- नीचे दिए गए कूट का प्रयोग कर सही उत्तर चुनिए:
- केवल 1
  - केवल 2
  - केवल 1 और 3
  - 1, 2 और 3
77. निम्नलिखित में से कौन-सा ग्रंथ, जो मणिप्रवालम भाषा (संस्कृत और प्रारंभिक मलयालम का मिश्रण) में रचित है, व्याकरण और काव्यशास्त्र से संबंधित है?
- कुरल
  - लीलातिलकम
  - मणिमैखलई
  - कुट्टनीमाता
78. प्राचीन भारतीय दर्शनशास्त्र के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:
- सांख्य दर्शन के अनुसार, वास्तविकता दो स्वतंत्र और परम सिद्धांतों - प्रकृति (Prakriti) और पुरुष (Purusha) - से बनी है।
  - मीमांसा दर्शन वेद के संहिता और ब्राह्मण भागों के ग्रंथों का विश्लेषण, व्याख्या और अनुप्रयोग पर केंद्रित है।
- उपर्युक्त में से कौन-सा/से कथन सही है/हैं?
- केवल 1
  - केवल 2
  - 1 और 2 दोनों
  - न तो 1, न ही 2
79. हाल ही में भारत की पहली विदेशी रक्षा विनिर्माण इकाई (Overseas Defence Manufacturing Facility) निम्नलिखित में से किस देश में उद्घाटित की गई है?
- मिस्र (Egypt)
  - मोरक्को (Morocco)
  - संयुक्त अरब अमीरात (United Arab Emirates)
  - दक्षिण अफ्रीका (South Africa)
80. निम्नलिखित में से कौन-सा विकल्प "बायोफ़ाउंड्री" (Biofoundry) शब्द का सबसे उपयुक्त वर्णन करता है, जो प्रायः समाचारों में देखा जाता है?
- जैविक प्रणालियों के स्वचालित डिजाइन और परीक्षण के लिए एक केंद्र
  - आनुवंशिक रूप से परिवर्तित बीजों के भंडारण केंद्र
  - रोग निगरानी के लिए एक प्रयोगशाला नेटवर्क
  - जैविक (ऑर्गेनिक) खेती को बढ़ावा देने वाला एक कार्यक्रम
81. प्रसिद्ध चित्रकला 'बणी-ठणी' के संबंध में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए-
- यह राजस्थानी लघुचित्रकला शैली के किशनगढ़ स्कूल से संबंधित है।
  - इसे राजा सावंत सिंह के दरबार के चित्रकार निहाल चंद ने चित्रित किया।
- उपर्युक्त में से कौन-सा/से कथन सही हैं?
- केवल 1
  - केवल 2
  - 1 और 2 दोनों
  - न तो 1, न ही 2
82. मध्यकालीन भारत के विभिन्न दिल्ली सुल्तानों के संबंध में, निम्नलिखित युगमों पर विचार कीजिए:
- |    | दिल्ली सुल्तान    | विवरण  |
|----|-------------------|--|
| 1. | कुतुबुद्दीन ऐबक   | 'चालीस का सप्तम' (तुकर्न-ए-चहलगानी) की स्थापना |
| 2. | अलाउद्दीन खिलजी   | खिलजी वंश की स्थापना                           |
| 3. | मुहम्मद बिन तुगलक | अपनी राजधानी दिल्ली से देवगीर स्थानांतरित      |
- उपर्युक्त में से कितने युगम सही सुमेलित हैं?
- केवल एक युगम
  - केवल दो युगम
  - सभी तीन युगम
  - कोई भी युगम नहीं

- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1 only  
 (b) 2 only  
 (c) 1 and 3 only  
 (d) 1, 2 and 3
- 77.** Which one of the following texts, composed in the Manipravalam language, a blend of Sanskrit and early Malayalam, deals with grammar and poetics?
- (a) Kural  
 (b) Lilatilakam  
 (c) Manimekalai  
 (d) Kuttanimata
- 78.** Consider the following statements with reference to ancient Indian philosophies:
1. The Samkhya philosophy holds that reality is constituted of two independent and absolute principles of Prakriti and Purusha.
  2. Mimamsa philosophy focuses on analysis, interpretation and application of the text of the Samhita and Brahmana portions of the Veda.
- 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
- 79.** India's first overseas defence manufacturing facility was recently inaugurated in which one of the following countries?
- (a) Egypt  
 (b) Morocco  
 (c) United Arab Emirates  
 (d) South Africa
- 80.** Which one of the following best describes the term "Biofoundry", often seen in the news?
- (a) A facility for automated design and testing of biological systems  
 (b) A storage centre for genetically modified seeds  
 (c) A laboratory network for disease surveillance  
 (d) A programme promoting organic farming
- 81.** Consider the following statements regarding the famous painting 'Bani Thani':
1. It belongs to the Kishangarh school of the Rajasthani style of miniature painting.
  2. It was painted by Nihal Chand, a court artist of Raja Sawant Singh.
- 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
- 82.** Consider the following pairs regarding the various Delhi Sultans of medieval India:
- |    | <i>Delhi Sultan</i>  | <i>Description</i>                                 |
|----|----------------------|--|
| 1. | Qutbuddin Aibak      | Established 'Group of Forty' (Turkan-i-Chahalgani) |
| 2. | Alauddin Khalji      | Laid the foundation of the Khalji dynasty          |
| 3. | Muhammad bin Tughlaq | Transferred his capital from Delhi to Deogir       |
- How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?
- (a) Only one pair  
 (b) Only two pairs  
 (c) All three pairs  
 (d) None of the pairs

83. प्रारंभिक मध्यकालीन भारत में गुर्जर-प्रतिहारों के संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

1. उहोंने मध्य और पूर्वी राजस्थान में अपनी रियासतें स्थापित कीं।
2. इस राजवंश के महान शासकों में से एक, मिहिर भोज, ने 'आदिवराह' की उपाधि धारण की।
3. संस्कृत कवि और नाटककार राजशेखर को एक प्रतिहार शासक ने संरक्षण दिया।

उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कौन-सा/से सही है/हैं?

- (a) केवल 1
- (b) केवल 2
- (c) केवल 1 और 2
- (d) 1, 2 और 3

84. भारत में मध्य काल में विविध विचारों और धार्मिक मान्यताओं का संगम देखा गया, जैसा कि देवी मारीची की मूर्ति में परिलक्षित होता है। यह देवी किस संप्रदाय या विश्वास से संबंधित है?

- (a) बौद्ध धर्म
- (b) शैव धर्म
- (c) जैन धर्म
- (d) वैष्णव धर्म

85. "यह ग्रंथ नृत्य पर माना जाने वाला सबसे प्राचीन ग्रंथ है और इसे भारत में नाटक, नृत्य और संगीत कला का मौलिक स्रोत माना जाता है। यह एक प्राचीन मुनि द्वारा रचित है, सामान्यतः इसे इसा पूर्व दूसरी शताब्दी से ईसा पश्चात् दूसरी शताब्दी के बीच का माना जाता है, और इसे प्रायः 'पाँचवा वेद' कहा जाता है।"

निम्न में से कौन-सा युगम सही रूप से इस ग्रंथ और उसके लेखक की पहचान करता है?

- (a) नाट्यशास्त्र - भरत मुनि
- (b) अभिनय दर्पण - भरत मुनि
- (c) नाट्यशास्त्र - नृदिकेश्वर
- (d) अभिनय दर्पण - नृदिकेश्वर

86. मुगल शासन के तहत मनसबदारी व्यवस्था के संबंध में, निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

1. मनसबदार राज्य के सैन्य और नागरिक, दोनों मामलों के लिए ज़िम्मेदार थे।

2. सभी मनसबदारों को नक्कद भुगतान किया जाता था।

3. इसकी प्रकृति वंशानुगत थी।

उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कौन-सा/से सही है/हैं?

- (a) केवल 1 और 2
- (b) केवल 2 और 3
- (c) केवल 1 और 3
- (d) केवल 1

87. मराठा प्रशासन में बरगीर और शिलेदार निम्नलिखित में से कौन थे?

- (a) राजस्व अधिकारी
- (b) घुड़सवार सैनिक
- (c) गाँव के मुखिया
- (d) दरबार के कवि

88. भारत सरकार ने हाल ही में अपनी पहली भू-तापीय ऊर्जा नीति (Geothermal Energy Policy) जारी की है। इस संदर्भ में भू-तापीय ऊर्जा के संबंध में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए-

1. पृथक्षी द्वारा अवशोषित सौर विकिरण (Solar radiation) भू-तापीय ऊर्जा का प्राथमिक स्रोत है।
2. सौर ऊर्जा के विपरीत, भू-तापीय ऊर्जा चौबीसों घंटे (Round-the-clock) बिजली उत्पादन प्रदान कर सकती है।

उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कौन-सा/से सही है/हैं?

- (a) केवल 1
- (b) केवल 2
- (c) दोनों 1 और 2
- (d) न तो 1, न ही 2

89. निम्नलिखित में से कौन-सा कथन हवांगयान द्वीप (Huangyan Island) से जुड़ी समस्या को सबसे सही तरीके से दर्शाता है, जिसे कभी-कभी समाचारों में उल्लेखित किया जाता है?

- (a) ऐसा माना जाता है कि इसे पूर्वी चीन सागर में चीन द्वारा बड़े पैमाने पर भूमि पुनर्प्राप्ति (Land reclamation) के माध्यम से बनाया गया है।
- (b) यह दक्षिण चीन सागर में चीन और फ़िलीपींस के बीच समुद्री विवाद का स्थल है।

- 83.** With reference to the Gurjara-Pratiharas in early medieval India, consider the following statements:
- They established their principalities in central and eastern Rajasthan.
  - Mihir Bhoja, one of the greatest rulers of the dynasty, adopted the title of 'Adivaraha'.
  - The Sanskrit poet and dramatist Rajashekhar was patronized by a Pratihara ruler.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

- 84.** The medieval period in India exhibited a confluence of diverse ideas and religious beliefs, as reflected in the sculpture of Goddess Marichi. To which sect or belief does this Goddess belong?
- (a) Buddhism
  - (b) Shaivism
  - (c) Jainism
  - (d) Vaishnavism

- 85.** "This text is regarded as the earliest treatise on dance and is considered the foundational source for the art of drama, dance, and music in India. Authored by an ancient sage, it is generally dated between the 2nd century BCE and 2nd century CE, and is often referred to as the 'Fifth Veda'."

Which one of the following pairs correctly identifies the text and its author?

- (a) Natyashastra — Bharata Muni
- (b) Abhinaya Darpana — Bharata Muni
- (c) Natyashastra — Nandikeshvara
- (d) Abhinaya Darpana — Nandikeshvara

- 86.** With respect to the Mansabdari system under the Mughal rule, consider the following statements :

- Mansabdars were responsible for both the military and civil affairs of the state.

- All mansabdars were paid in cash.
- It was hereditary in nature.

Which of these statements is/are correct ?

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

- 87.** In the Maratha administration, Bargirs and Shiledars were:

- (a) Revenue officers
- (b) Cavalry soldiers
- (c) Village headmen
- (d) Court poets

- 88.** The Government of India has recently released its first Geothermal Energy Policy. In this context, consider the following statements regarding Geothermal energy:

- Solar radiation absorbed by the Earth is the primary source of geothermal energy.
- Unlike solar energy, geothermal energy can provide round-the-clock electricity generation.

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

- 89.** Which one of the following statements best reflects the issue with Huangyan Island, sometimes mentioned in the news?

- (a) It is believed to have been created through large-scale land reclamation by China in the East China Sea.
- (b) It is a site of maritime dispute between China and the Philippines in the South China Sea.

- (c) यहाँ आसियान (ASEAN) देशों द्वारा संयुक्त रूप से एक समुद्री अनुसंधान केंद्र स्थापित किया गया है, जो मूँगा (Coral) पारिस्थितिक तंत्र का अध्ययन करता है।
- (d) यद्यपि अंतर्राष्ट्रीय समुद्री कानून न्यायाधिकरण (International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea) ने उस पर चीन के दावे को अस्वीकार कर दिया है, फिर भी बीजिंग उस पर अपनी संप्रभुता का दावा करता रहता है।
- 90.** निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

**कथन-I:**

मत्स्यपालन सब्सिडी पर विश्व व्यापार संगठन समझौते का उद्देश्य नियंत्रित सब्सिडी के माध्यम से वैश्विक मछली उत्पादन को बढ़ाना है।

**कथन-II:**

यह उन सब्सिडी पर रोक लगाता है जो अत्यधिक मछली पकड़ने (Overfishing) में योगदान देती हैं और पर्यावरणीय स्थिरता को बढ़ावा देता है।

उपर्युक्त कथनों के संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित में से कौन-सा एक सही है?

- (a) कथन-I और कथन-II दोनों सही हैं तथा कथन-II, कथन-I की व्याख्या करता है
- (b) कथन-I और कथन-II दोनों सही हैं, किंतु कथन-II, कथन-I की व्याख्या नहीं करता है
- (c) कथन-I सही है, किंतु कथन-II सही नहीं है
- (d) कथन-I सही नहीं है, किंतु कथन-II सही है
- 91.** भगवान बसवन्ना के संबंध में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए-

1. उन्होंने (12वीं) शताब्दी ईसवी में कलचुरी शासक के दरबार में मंत्री के रूप में कार्य किया था।
2. लिंगायत संप्रदाय अपनी उत्पत्ति बसवन्ना की शिक्षाओं से मानता है।

उपर्युक्त में से कौन-सा/से कथन सही है/हैं?

- (a) केवल 1
- (b) केवल 2

- (c) 1 और 2 दोनों

- (d) न तो 1, न ही 2

- 92.** निम्नलिखित में से दिल्ली के किस सुल्तान ने चाँदी के सिक्के 'टंका' के स्थान पर 'जीतल' नामक ताँबे का सिक्का चलाया और आदेश दिया कि इसे टंका के समकक्ष स्वीकार किया जाए?

- (a) इल्तुतमिश
- (b) अलाउद्दीन खिलजी
- (c) फ़िरोज़ शाह तुग़लक
- (d) मुहम्मद बिन तुग़लक

- 93.** विजयनगर साम्राज्य के संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

1. विजयनगर शासकों ने भगवान विरुपाक्ष की ओर से शासन करने का दावा किया।
2. कल्याण मंडप इस काल के दौरान मंदिर वास्तुकला की विशिष्ट विशेषता थे।
3. अमर-नायक प्रणाली विजयनगर साम्राज्य का एक प्रमुख राजनीतिक नवाचार था।

उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कौन-से सही हैं?

- (a) केवल 1 और 2
- (b) केवल 2 और 3
- (c) केवल 1 और 3
- (d) 1, 2 और 3

- 94.** चोल वंश के परांतक प्रथम के शासनकाल के दौरान जारी उत्तरमेझर शिलालेख महत्वपूर्ण है, क्योंकि यह निम्नलिखित के बारे में विस्तृत जानकारी प्रदान करता है:

- (a) चोलों के अधीन राजस्व संग्रह और भू-आकलन की प्रक्रिया
- (b) स्थानीय स्वशासी ग्राम सभाओं की संरचना और कार्यप्रणाली
- (c) चोल सैन्य व्यवस्था का संगठन और पदानुक्रम
- (d) चोल मंदिरों की स्थापत्य रचना और अनुष्ठान प्रथाएँ

- (c) A marine research station jointly operated by ASEAN nations has been established there to study coral ecosystems.
- (d) Although the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea rejected China's claim over it, Beijing continues to assert sovereignty.

**90.** Consider the following statements:

*Statement I:*

The WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies aims to increase global fish production through controlled subsidies.

*Statement II:*

It prohibits subsidies that contribute to overfishing and promotes environmental sustainability.

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

**91.** Consider the following statements regarding Lord Basavanna:

1. He served as a minister in the court of a Kalachuri ruler in the twelfth century CE.
2. The Lingayat sect traces its origin to the teachings of Basavanna.

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

**92.** Which of the following Delhi Sultans introduced a copper coin called 'Jittal' in place of silver coin Tanka, and ordered that it should be accepted as equivalent to the Tanka?

- (a) Iltutmish
- (b) Allauddin Khilji
- (c) Firoz bin Tuglaq
- (d) Muhammad bin Tughlaq

**93.** With reference to the Vijayanagara Empire, consider the following statements :

1. Vijayanagara kings claimed to rule on behalf of the God Virupaksha.
2. Kalyana mandapas were the distinctive feature of the temple architecture during this period.
3. The amara-nayaka system was a major political innovation of the Vijayanagara Empire.

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

**94.** The Uttaramerur inscription, issued during the reign of Parantaka I of Chola dynasty, is significant because it provides detailed information regarding:

- (a) The procedure for revenue collection and land assessment under the Cholas
- (b) The composition and functioning of local self-governing village assemblies
- (c) The organization and hierarchy of the Chola military system
- (d) The architectural design and ritual practices of Chola temples

95. निम्नलिखित युगमों पर विचार कीजिए:

दर्शन	प्रतिपादक
1. पुष्टिमार्ग	वल्लभाचार्य
2. विशिष्टाद्वैत	माधवाचार्य
3. अद्वैत	शंकराचार्य

उपर्युक्त में से कौन-से युगम सही सुमेलित हैं?

- (a) केवल 1 और 2  
 (b) केवल 2 और 3  
 (c) केवल 1 और 3  
 (d) 1, 2 और 3
96. 'बीजक' निम्नलिखित में से किस एक भक्ति संत की शिक्षाओं का संकलन है?

- (a) रैदास  
 (b) कबीर  
 (c) नामदेव  
 (d) दादूदयाल

97. निम्नलिखित में से कौन-सा कवि छत्रपति शिवाजी महाराज का समकालीन था और उसने उनकी प्रशंसा में कविताएँ लिखीं?

- (a) केशवदास  
 (b) भूषण  
 (c) तुलसीदास  
 (d) मलिक मुहम्मद जायसी
98. भारत आने वाले निम्नलिखित विदेशी यात्रियों पर विचार कीजिए:

1. निकोलो दे कोटी
2. अब्दुर रज्जाक
3. अफ़ानासी निकितिन
4. मेगास्थनीज़
5. दुआर्ते बरबोसा

6. डोमिंगो पेस

7. फर्नाओ नुनीज़

उपर्युक्त यात्रियों में से कितने विजयनगर साम्राज्य में नहीं आए?

- (a) केवल एक  
 (b) केवल दो  
 (c) केवल तीन  
 (d) कोई नहीं

99. कालिदास के निम्नलिखित प्रसिद्ध संस्कृत नाटकों में से कौन-सा शुंग वंश के एक राजा और उसकी मुख्य रानी की दासी की प्रेम-कथा पर आधारित है?

- (a) अभिज्ञानशकुन्तलम्  
 (b) देवीचंद्रगुप्तम्  
 (c) मृच्छकटिकम्  
 (d) मालविकाग्निमित्रम्

100. निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

#### कथन-I:

न्याय भारतीय दर्शन का एक आस्तिक संप्रदाय है, जबकि जैन धर्म एक नास्तिक दर्शन है।

#### कथन-II:

न्याय दर्शन सृष्टिकर्ता ईश्वर के अस्तित्व में विश्वास रखता है, जबकि जैन धर्म ईश्वर के अस्तित्व को नहीं मानता।

उपर्युक्त कथनों के संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित में से कौन-सा एक सही है?

- (a) कथन-I और कथन-II दोनों सही हैं तथा कथन-II, कथन-I की व्याख्या करता है  
 (b) कथन-I और कथन-II दोनों सही हैं, किंतु कथन-II, कथन-I की व्याख्या नहीं करता है  
 (c) कथन-I सही है, किंतु कथन-II सही नहीं है  
 (d) कथन-I सही नहीं है, किंतु कथन-II सही है



95. Consider the following pairs:

	<i>Philosophy</i>	<i>Propounded by</i>
1.	Pushti Marg	Vallabhacharya
2.	Vishista advaita	Madhavacharya
3.	Advaita	Shankaracharya

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

96. ‘Bijak’ is a compilation of the teachings of which one of the following Bhakti saints?

- (a) Ravidas
- (b) Kabir
- (c) Namdev
- (d) Dadu Dayal

97. Which of the following poets was contemporary of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and composed poems in his praise?

- (a) Keshavdas
- (b) Bhushan
- (c) Tulsidas
- (d) Malik Muhammad Jayasi

98. Consider the following foreign travellers who visited India:

1. Nicolo de Conti
2. Abdur Razzaq
3. Afanasii Nikitin
4. Megasthenes
5. Duarte Barbosa

6. Domingo Paes

7. Fernao Nuniz

How many of the above travellers did **not** visit the Vijayanagara Empire?

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

99. Which one of the following famous Sanskrit plays of Kalidasa is based on the love story between a king of the Shunga dynasty and the handmaiden of his chief queen?

- (a) Abhijnanasakuntalam
- (b) Devichandraguptam
- (c) Mrichchhakatika
- (d) Malavikagnimitram

100. Consider the following statements:

*Statement I:*

Nyaya is an Astika school of Indian philosophy, whereas Jainism is a Nastika school.

*Statement II:*

Nyaya school believes in the existence of a creator God, whereas Jainism does not.

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, but 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



*Space for Rough Work*



## GENERAL STUDIES

### CSE Prelims Test Series (PTS): 2026

12<sup>th</sup> October, 2025 | Test-10 [Sectional Test]

#### Answer Key

1. (b)	21. (a)	41. (c)	61. (d)	81. (c)
2. (a)	22. (b)	42. (b)	62. (b)	82. (a)
3. (c)	23. (c)	43. (c)	63. (a)	83. (d)
4. (c)	24. (d)	44. (d)	64. (d)	84. (a)
5. (b)	25. (b)	45. (c)	65. (c)	85. (a)
6. (c)	26. (b)	46. (a)	66. (a)	86. (d)
7. (b)	27. (c)	47. (a)	67. (b)	87. (b)
8. (b)	28. (c)	48. (b)	68. (a)	88. (b)
9. (b)	29. (b)	49. (c)	69. (d)	89. (b)
10. (b)	30. (a)	50. (a)	70. (b)	90. (d)
11. (c)	31. (c)	51. (a)	71. (b)	91. (c)
12. (b)	32. (d)	52. (c)	72. (b)	92. (d)
13. (a)	33. (c)	53. (b)	73. (a)	93. (d)
14. (a)	34. (c)	54. (b)	74. (a)	94. (b)
15. (c)	35. (d)	55. (c)	75. (c)	95. (c)
16. (b)	36. (d)	56. (a)	76. (d)	96. (b)
17. (d)	37. (d)	57. (b)	77. (b)	97. (b)
18. (c)	38. (d)	58. (c)	78. (c)	98. (a)
19. (c)	39. (c)	59. (b)	79. (b)	99. (d)
20. (b)	40. (c)	60. (c)	80. (a)	100. (b)

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## GENERAL STUDIES

### CSE Prelims Test Series (PTS): 2026

12<sup>th</sup> October, 2025 | Test-10 [Sectional Test]

#### Answer Key

1. (b)	21. (a)	41. (c)	61. (d)	81. (c)
2. (a)	22. (b)	42. (b)	62. (b)	82. (a)
3. (c)	23. (c)	43. (c)	63. (a)	83. (d)
4. (c)	24. (d)	44. (d)	64. (d)	84. (a)
5. (b)	25. (b)	45. (c)	65. (c)	85. (a)
6. (c)	26. (b)	46. (a)	66. (a)	86. (d)
7. (b)	27. (c)	47. (a)	67. (b)	87. (b)
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9. (b)	29. (b)	49. (c)	69. (d)	89. (b)
10. (b)	30. (a)	50. (a)	70. (b)	90. (d)
11. (c)	31. (c)	51. (a)	71. (b)	91. (c)
12. (d)	32. (d)	52. (c)	72. (b)	92. (d)
13. (a)	33. (c)	53. (b)	73. (a)	93. (d)
14. (a)	34. (c)	54. (b)	74. (a)	94. (b)
15. (c)	35. (d)	55. (c)	75. (c)	95. (c)
16. (b)	36. (d)	56. (a)	76. (d)	96. (b)
17. (d)	37. (d)	57. (b)	77. (b)	97. (b)
18. (c)	38. (d)	58. (c)	78. (c)	98. (a)
19. (c)	39. (c)	59. (b)	79. (b)	99. (d)
20. (b)	40. (c)	60. (c)	80. (a)	100. (b)

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# General Studies

## Test-10

### Sectional Test:

History of Medieval India and Art & Culture  
[Current Affairs (Sept. 2025)]

#### 1. (b)

**Option (b) is the correct answer:** The statement reflects the core belief of the **Vaisheshika school of Indian philosophy**, founded by **Rishi Kanada**.

Vaisheshika system is one of the six orthodox (Astika) schools of Indian philosophy. The atomic theory of the Vaisesika explains that the smallest, indivisible, indestructible part of the world is an atom (anu). All physical things are a combination of the four types of atoms of earth, water, fire, and air. Inactive and motionless in themselves, the atoms are put into motion by God's will, through the unseen forces of moral merit and demerit.

#### 2. (a)

**Pair 1 is correctly matched:** **Brihat Samhita**, written by **Varahamihira**, deals with **astronomy, astrology, meteorology, architecture, and natural sciences**.

**Pair 2 is not correctly matched:** **Lilavati** (**Lilavati**) was composed by renowned astronomer and mathematician Bhaskaracarya (**Bhaskara II**). **Lilavati** is a comprehensive exposition of arithmetic, algebra, geometry, mensuration, number theory and related topics.

**Pair 3 is not correctly matched:** **Ashtanga Hridaya** is a classical Sanskrit text on Ayurveda (medicine) written by **Vaghbata**, not **Charaka**. **Charaka Samhita**, authored by **Charaka**, is another separate foundational text on medicine.

#### 3. (c)

The correct chronological order of the given Bhakti saints is as follows: **Namdev** → **Kabir** → **Mirabai** → **Tukaram**

#### Namdev:

- Namdev (1270–1350) was an important bhakti saint from Maharashtra.
- He is considered to be the link between the Maharashtrian bhakti movement and North Indian monotheistic movement.

- He lived in Pandharpur (Maharashtra) but travelled to North India, including Punjab. His bhakti songs have also been included in the Adi Granth.
- In Maharashtra, Namdev is considered to be a part of the Varkari tradition (Vaishnava devotional tradition), but in the North Indian monotheistic tradition he is remembered as a nirguna saint.

#### Kabir:

- Kabir (c. 1440-1518) was the earliest and the most powerful figure of the monotheistic movements that began in the 15th century.
- He belonged to a family of weavers (Julaha – who were indigenous converts to Islam). He spent a greater part of his life in Banaras (Kashi).
- He was a **Nirguna Bhakti** saint who rejected both orthodox Hinduism and Islam.
- His verses, collected in the **Bijak**, emphasize the unity of God and criticize empty rituals and caste discrimination.
- His verses were included in the Sikh scripture, the Adi Granth, in large numbers than those of other monotheists.

#### Mirabai:

- A **Rajput princess of Mewar**, Mirabai (1503–1573) was a devotee of **Lord Krishna** and is one of the most prominent **Saguna Bhakti** saints.

#### Tukaram:

- Tukaram (1598-1650) was another important Bhakti saint of Maharashtra.
- He was famous for his devotional poetry known as ‘abhangas’ and spiritual songs known as ‘kirtanas’. His work is central to the Warkari sect in Maharashtra. His Abhangas in Marathi focused on devotion to Lord Vithoba and social equality.

## 4. (c)

**Statement 1 is not correct :** According to tradition and epigraphic evidence **two brothers, Harihara and Bukka, founded the Vijayanagara Empire in 1336.** This empire included within its fluctuating frontiers peoples who spoke different languages and followed different religious traditions.

**Statement 2 is correct :** Krishnadeva Raya (ruled 1509-29) was the most famous ruler of Vijayanagara. Krishnadeva Raya's rule was characterised by expansion and consolidation. This was the time when 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). Although the kingdom remained in a constant state of military preparedness, it flourished under conditions of unparalleled peace and prosperity.

**Statement 3 is correct :** He composed a work on statecraft in Telugu known as the **Amuktamalyada**.

**Statement 4 is correct :** Within the polity, claimants to power included members of the ruling lineage as well as military commanders. The first dynasty, known as the Sangama dynasty exercised control till 1485. They were supplanted by the Saluvas, military commanders, who remained in power till 1503 when they were replaced by the Tuluvas. **Krishnadeva Raya belonged to the Tuluva dynasty.**

## 5. (b)

**The given statements refer to Bhavabhuti.**

- Bhavabhuti was a renowned Sanskrit dramatist and poet of ancient India.
- He authored the famous "Uttararamacharita," which depicts the later life of Lord Rama, including his separation from Sita and their eventual reunion.
- In Bhavabhuti's Uttararamacharitam, a lot of exaggeration (Atishyokti) has been used while presenting Sita as an ideal character. Bhavabhuti's Sita is an embodiment of idealism.
- He also wrote "Malatimadhava" and "Mahaviracharita."

- Bhavabhuti served as a court poet under King Yashovarman of Kannauj (8th century CE).

## 6. (c)

**Statement 1 is correct:** The Marathas often levied taxes called chauth (25 per cent) and sardeshmukhi (an additional 10 per cent to chauth) from provinces that were not directly under them, including places in the Deccan and north India. In return, the Marathas protected those provinces and did not intervene in their internal administration. The Mughals also approved of this arrangement through various treaties, and over time, some of these provinces became a part of the Maratha Empire.

**Statement 2 is correct:** In the 18th century, the Marathas often adopted the Mughal style of coinage owing to its popularity, but added their own cultural symbols to it. For instance, this rare Maratha coin known as the 'Gaṇapati-Pantapradhān rupee', minted in the early 19th century by the Patwardhans (generals under the Peshwa), features inscriptions in two scripts — Devanagari and Persian. One side is an invocation to Gaṇapati (Gaṇeśha) while the other declares loyalty to the Peshwa (often referred to as 'Pantapradhān' in Marathi).

## 7. (b)

**Option (b) is the correct answer:** Buranjis are historical chronicles written in the Assamese and Ahom languages by the Ahom dynasty, which ruled over Assam for nearly 600 years.

## 8. (b)

**Pair 1 is not correctly matched:** In South India, the Chola Kings founded a mighty empire during AD 1000–AD 1200. The relationship between these Cholas, called the "Imperial Cholas" with the earlier Cholas mentioned in the Sangam literature is not clear. The Cholas came to power after overthrowing the authority of the Pallavas in South India. **The founder of the Chola dynasty was Vijayalaya (9th century AD)** but the real architects of the glory of the dynasty were **Rajaraja I (AD 985–AD 1014)** and his son **Rajendra I (AD 1014–AD 1044)**. Kullotunga was not the founder of the dynasty but rather ruled much later, during the decline of the Chola power.

**Pair 2 is correctly matched:** The greatest Chola rulers were Rajaraja (985–1014) and his son Rajendra I (1014–1044). Rajaraja destroyed the Chera navy at Trivandrum, and attacked Quilon. He then conquered Madurai and captured the Pandyan king. **He also invaded Sri Lanka and annexed its northern part to his empire.** These moves were partly motivated by his desire to bring the trade with the Southeast Asian countries under his control. One of his naval exploits was the conquest of the Maldives. Rajaraja, annexed the northwestern parts of the Ganga kingdom in Karnataka, and overran Vengi.

- The conquest of Sri Lanka was also completed by Rajendra I, with the crown and royal insignia of the king and the queen of Sri Lanka being captured in a battle.

**Pair 3 is correctly matched: Rajendra I (1014–1044 CE),** son of Rajaraja I, extended the empire further north and carried his campaigns up to the **Ganga River in Bengal** after defeating the **Pala king Mahipala**. To commemorate his victory, he established a new capital named **Gangaikondacholapuram** and assumed the title **“Gangai-konda” (Conqueror of the Ganga)**.

#### 9. (b)

**Statement 1 is correct:** After the death of Harshavardhan (647A.D), the process of political fragmentation in North India started. The first phase was marked by the growth of three important political powers in India. These were Gurjara Pratiharas in north India, Palas in eastern India and Rashtrakutas in South India.

**Statement 2 is correct:** These powers were constantly fighting with each other with an aim to set up their control over the Gangetic region in northern India, especially the city of Kannauj. This armed conflict among these three powers is known as ‘Tripartite struggle’.

**Statement 3 is not correct:** The conflict did not lead to the Palas' complete domination of northern India. In fact, in the second phase, we notice the break up of these three powers. It resulted in the rise of many smaller kingdoms all over the country. For

example, in northern India, the disintegration of the Pratihara empire brought to the forefront various Rajput states under the control of different Rajput dynasties such as the Chahmanas (Chauhans), Chandellas, Paramaras, etc.

#### 10. (b)

**Option (b) is the correct answer :** In the Vijayanagara kingdom, the kingdom was divided into rajyas or mandalam (provinces) below which were nadu (district), sthala (sub-district) and grama (village).

#### 11. (c)

Schools of Indian philosophy are broadly categorized as orthodox (astika) or heterodox (nastika).

- Āstika schools accepted the **authority of the Vedas**, and came to be known as the **Shad-Darshanas** (Six Systems of Philosophy).

The Nāstika schools, such as **Buddhism, Jainism, and Lokayata (Charvaka)**, rejected Vedic authority.

**2, 4 and 5 are correct:** Six orthodox schools or Shad Darshana are Nyaya, Vaisheshika, Sankhya, Yoga, Purva Mimamsa, and Uttara Mimamsa (Vedanta).

**1 and 3 are not correct:** Lokayata (Charvaka) and Buddhism rejected the authority of Vedas and they are considered heterodox (nastika) schools.

#### 12. (d)

**Statement 1 is not correct:** The Battle of Khanwa (1527) was fought between the forces of the Mughal Emperor Babur and the Rajput confederacy led by Rana Sanga of Mewar.

**Statement 2 is not correct:** The tower Rana Kumbha built in Chittor is the Vijaya Stambha (Tower of Victory). He built the Vijay Stambha (Tower of Victory) in Chittorgarh to commemorate his victory over Mahmud Khalji of Malwa. He defeated the combined forces of Malwa and Gujarat. Vijay Stambh is often confused with the Kirtistambha, which is an older, smaller Jain tower located within the same Chittor Fort complex, built by a Jain merchant.

- **Note:** Some sources refer to the Victory Tower built by Rana Kumbha as Kirti Stambha as well. However, the given answer key follows the UPSC's official interpretation, as reflected in its answer to a similar question in one of its previous examinations.

**13. (a)**

**Statements 1 and 2 are correct :** Historians of religion often classify bhakti traditions into two broad categories: saguna (with attributes) and nirguna (without attributes). The former included traditions that focused on the worship of specific deities such as Shiva, Vishnu and his avatars (incarnations) and forms of the goddess or Devi, all often conceptualised in anthropomorphic forms. Nirguna bhakti on the other hand was worship of an abstract form of god.

**Statement 3 is not correct :** Kabir belonged to the nirguna tradition of the Bhakti Movement.

**14. (a)**

**Statement 1 is correct:** The earliest and the most important work on grammar is the Ashtadhyayi written by Panini (composed towards the end of the 4th century BCE). Panini's grammar consists of over 4,000 grammatical rules.

**Statement 2 is incorrect:** Mahabhashya is a commentary on Panini's Ashtadhyayi written by Patanjali. Katyayana wrote the Vartikas, which are explanatory notes and critical additions to Panini's sutras.

**15. (c)**

**Statement 1 is correct:** The Imperial Pallavas rose to power around the 6th century CE and ruled from their capital Kanchipuram in Tamil Nadu. They were contemporaries of the Chalukyas of Vatapi (Badami), and their political history is marked by frequent conflicts with the Chalukyas.

**Statement 2 is correct:** The famous Chinese Buddhist traveller Hiuen Tsang (Xuanzang) visited the Pallava capital Kanchipuram in 642 CE, during the reign of Narasimhavarman I

**Statement 3 is correct:** The literature during the period of the Pallavas was both religious

and secular but largely religious in nature. Both Sanskrit and Tamil literature flourished during this time. The court of the Pallava rulers granted royal patronage to Sanskrit literature (Sanskrit was their court language). Tamil literature received an impetus with the growth of Bhakti movement. Several Nayannar or Nayanmar (devotees of Shiva) poet saints as well as Alvar (devotees of Vishnu) poet saints wrote literary works of great importance which we will look at now.

**16. (b)**

**Option (b) is the correct answer:** Pink tax is neither a real tax, nor is it a government-imposed fee. It's just a pricing phenomenon wherein women pay more for buying a product exclusively made for them or enjoying a service tailor-made for them. As there is no outright ban on pink tax, firms reap benefits by pocketing extra revenue generated out of selling the items, without contributing to the government's coffers.

E.g. Pink toys, haircuts, drycleaning, razors, shampoos, body lotions, deodorants, facial care, skincare items, beauty care, clothing, T-shirts, jeans, salon services etc. suffer the tax.

While there are no specific laws in India to address the issue of Pink Tax, the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission ruled that companies must follow fair pricing policies and avoid gender-based price discrimination.

**17. (d)**

**Statement 1 is correct: Polymetallic Sulphides (PMS)** are mineral-rich deposits found on the ocean floor, containing strategic and critical metals such as copper, zinc, lead, gold, and silver, along with trace amounts of rare and precious elements.

- These metals are vital for renewable energy systems, high-technology applications, and green technologies, making PMS exploration crucial for India's resource and strategic security.

**Statement 2 is correct:** India has signed a 15-year contract with the International Seabed Authority (ISA) for exclusive rights to explore

**Polymetallic Sulphides in the Carlsberg Ridge** of the Indian Ocean.

- With this agreement, India has become the **first country in the world to hold two active ISA contracts** for PMS exploration — one signed earlier in **2016** for the **Central Indian Ridge and Southwest Indian Ridge**, and the latest one for the **Carlsberg Ridge**.
- India now commands the largest area allocated in the international seabed for PMS exploration — a scientific achievement with strategic importance.

**Statement 3 is correct:** PMS deposits are generally found near hydrothermal vents along mid-ocean ridges.

- These vents are **hot springs on the ocean floor**, where **cold seawater interacts with magma beneath the Earth's crust**, becoming enriched with minerals and depositing them as **solid sulphide formations** on the seabed.
- PMS exploration is **technically challenging**, as these regions are **rocky, uneven, and located at depths of 2,000–5,000 meters**, requiring **specialized deep-sea vessels, ROVs, and AUVs** for survey and sample collection.

#### 18. (c)

**Statement 1 is correct:** **Global Innovation Index (GII)** is released **annually by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)**. It serves as a key benchmarking tool for policymakers and businesses to **assess innovation performance across economies**.

**Statement 2 is correct:** India's innovation ranking has significantly improved, climbing to 38th place out of 139 economies in the World Intellectual Property Organization's Global Innovation Index 2025. This marks a substantial advancement from its 81st position in 2015.

- Globally, Switzerland topped the index, followed by Sweden (2nd), and the United States (3rd)

#### 19. (c)

**Statement I is correct:** In the upcoming **Census of India, 2027**, every building across the country

will be **geotagged** — that is, marked with its precise latitude and longitude coordinates using a **Geographic Information System (GIS)**. **Geotagging** helps provide each structure with a **unique locational identity** that can be pinpointed with high accuracy. This marks the **first time** in India's Census history that such an extensive geospatial mapping exercise will be conducted.

- The Census 2027 will also be the **first digital census** with **self-enumeration** and the **first caste-wise count since 1931**.

**Statement II is incorrect:** The purpose of geotagging is **not** to record **ownership details** or to **resolve land disputes**. Instead, it aims to create a **comprehensive spatial database** for accurate **mapping and data collection**, ensuring that every building, whether residential or commercial, is properly identified and enumerated.

#### 20. (b)

**Option (b) is the correct answer:** The 'Frontier 50 Initiative' has been launched by NITI Aayog under its Frontier Tech Hub as part of the 'AI for Viksit Bharat Roadmap'. Under Frontier 50 initiative, NITI Aayog will support 50 Aspirational Districts / Blocks to pick use cases from the Repository and deploy those frontier technologies that have potential to accelerate saturation of services across Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) and Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP) themes.

#### 21. (a)

**Statement 1 is correct:** The Pala kings were the followers of Buddhism. They greatly promoted this religion by making monasteries (viharas) and temples in eastern India.

**Statement 2 is not correct:** Dharmapala is known to have founded the famous **Vikramashila university** near **Bhagalpur in Bihar**. Like Nalanda university, it attracted students from all parts of India and also from Tibet. Many Sanskrit texts were translated into Tibetan at this monastery. The most celebrated name associated with Vikramashila University was that of Atisha Dipankara who was greatly respected in Tibet.

**22. (b)**

The Delhi Sultanate (1206–1526 CE) was ruled successively by five dynasties. These dynasties in the chronological order were:

- Mamluks (AD 1206–AD 1290) (popularly known as slave dynasty)
- Khaljis (AD 1290–AD 1320),
- Tughlaqs (AD 1320–AD 1412),
- Sayyids (AD 1412–AD 1451)
- Lodis (AD 1451–AD 1526).

**23. (c)**

**Statement 1 is correct :** Some of the earliest bhakti movements (c. sixth century) were led by the Alvars (literally, those who are “immersed” in devotion to Vishnu) and Nayanars (literally, leaders who were devotees of Shiva). They travelled from place to place singing hymns in Tamil in praise of their gods.

**Statement 2 is correct :** The importance of the traditions of the Alvars and Nayanars was sometimes indicated by the claim that their compositions were as important as the Vedas. For instance, one of the **major anthologies of compositions by the Alvars, the Nalayira Divyaprabandham, was frequently described as the Tamil Veda**, thus claiming that the text was as significant as the four Vedas in Sanskrit that were cherished by the Brahmanas.

**24. (d)**

**All pairs are correctly matched:** The list of **classical dances of India** along with their respective **states of origin** is as follows:

- **Bharatanatyam:** Tamil Nadu
- **Kuchipudi:** Andhra Pradesh
- **Sattriya:** Assam
- **Mohiniyattam:** Kerala
- Kathak: Uttar Pradesh
- Manipuri: Manipur
- Odissi: Odisha
- Kathakali: Kerala

**25. (b)**

**About Sharqi dynasty:** Jaunpur was a prosperous province in the eastern part of Delhi Sultanate.

Malik Sarwar was the Governor of Jaunpur. Soon he became the ruler of Kanauj, Kara, Awadh, Sandeela, Dalmau, Bahraich, Bihar and Tirhut. Though Malik Sarwar did not assume the title of Sultan, but he laid down the foundation of the Sharqi Dynasty. After the death of Malik Sarwar in AD 1399, his adopted son Malik Karanphul succeeded to the throne. He assumed the title of Mubarak Shah and thus was the first ruler of the Sharqi dynasty.

**Option (b) is the correct answer:** On Mubarak Shah's death in AD 1402 his younger brother Ibrahim ascended the throne. He ruled for 34 years. During Ibrahim's reign the relations between Delhi and Jaunpur became worse. Ibrahim was the greatest ruler of Sharqi dynasty under whom Jaunpur became an important centre of learning. Under him Jaunpur evolved a distinct architecture which is known as Sharqi style of architecture. The most famous of their buildings was the Atala Masjid at Jaunpur.

**Additional information:** Ibrahim's successor Mahmud conquered the fort of Chunar. He also tried to conquer Kalpi but failed. He invaded Delhi but was defeated by Bahlol Lodi. After Mahmud, Jaunpur saw the rule of Muhammad Shah and Husain Shah. Husain Shah died in AD 1500 and with him ended the Sharqi dynasty.

**26. (b)**

**Statement 1 is not correct:** The **Vedangas** are not sacred hymns forming part of the Vedas. Instead, they are **auxiliary disciplines** developed to help understand and interpret the Vedic texts properly. They are considered the limbs (angas) of the Vedas, not the hymns themselves. Vedangas are also known as **shadangas**, which means six organs. In order to understand the Vedas, it is necessary to learn the Vedangas or the limbs of the Vedas.

- The Vedangas include six branches — **Shiksha (phonetics), Kalpa (rituals), Vyakarana (grammar), Nirukta (etymology), Chandas (metrics), and Jyotisha (astronomy/astrology)**.

**Statement 2 is correct:** The **Kalpa Vedanga** deals with the rules, procedures, and guidelines for performing Vedic rituals and sacrifices.

27. (c)

**Statement 1 is correct:** During the reign of **Iltutmish (AD 1211–1236)**, the rise of the **Mongols under Chengiz Khan** posed a serious threat to the north-western frontier of the **Delhi Sultanate**. After destroying the **Khwarizm Empire (AD 1220)**, Chengiz Khan advanced toward the Indus region. When **Jalaluddin Mangbarani**, the son of the defeated Shah of Khwarizm, sought refuge at Iltutmish's court, the Sultan prudently **refused asylum** to avoid direct conflict with the Mongols. This diplomatic decision **saved the Delhi Sultanate from a possible Mongol invasion** at that critical juncture.

**Statement 2 is correct:** During Khalji's time, Mongols under Qutlugh Khwaja even besieged Delhi and caused a lot of damage. The last significant attack of Mongols was by Tarmashirin during the reign of Muhammad Tughlaq. A lot of energy and resources of the Sultans were spent in facing these invasions but they could not destroy the sultanate.

28. (c)

**Statement 1 is correct:** As per the Next-Generation GST Reforms (2025) approved in the **56th GST Council Meeting**, the structure of GST has been **simplified to a two-slab system — 5% and 18%**. This replaced the earlier four-tier structure of 5%, 12%, 18%, and 28%, aiming to make taxation more transparent and compliance easier for citizens and businesses.

**Statement 2 is correct:** The reforms also provide that **luxury and sin goods** — such as **tobacco, pan masala, aerated drinks, high-end cars, yachts, and private aircraft** — will now be **taxed at 40%**.

**Other important points:**

- GST reforms cut taxes on household essentials (soaps, toothpaste, Indian breads) to 5% or Nil boosting affordability
- Life-saving drugs, medicines reduced from 12% to Nil or 5% making healthcare affordable

- Two-wheelers, small cars, TVs, ACs, cement cut from 28% to 18% bringing relief to the middle-class.

29. (b)

**Context:** An expert panel of the Union Environment Ministry has recommended environmental clearance for the 2,220 MW Oju hydroelectric project.

Option (b) is the correct answer: The Oju Hydroelectric Project is proposed on the Subansiri River, located near Taksing block in Upper Subansiri district of Arunachal Pradesh, close to the India-China border. It is being developed by Oju Subansiri Hydro Power Corporation Pvt. Ltd. With an approved capacity of 2,220 MW, it will be the largest hydroelectric project in the Subansiri basin.

It is the uppermost project in a planned cascade of hydroelectric projects on the Subansiri river, which also includes Niare, Naba, Nalo, Dengser, Upper Subansiri, and Lower Subansiri projects.

30. (a)

**Pair 1 is not correctly matched:** Gokul Jalashaya is an oxbow lake located on the southern edge of the Ganga (Ganges) River in the state of Bihar.

**Pair 2 is not correctly matched:** Udaipur Jheel lies in West Champaran District of Bihar. The Site is an oxbow lake bordered to the north and west by the dense forest of Udaipur Wildlife Sanctuary.

**Pair 3 is correctly matched:** Therthangal Bird Sanctuary is a marshy lake located within Therthangal village in southern Tamil Nadu.

**Pair 4 is not correctly matched:** Udhwa Lake Bird Sanctuary is in the state of Jharkhand. The Site comprises two interconnected wetlands, Pataura Lake and Barhel Lake, which are surrounded by the hillocks of the Rajmahal Hills and linked by a channel to the Ganga River.

31. (c)

**Statement 1 is correct:** Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj was born in 1630 at the **fort of Shivneri** near Junnar in present-day Maharashtra. He was born into the **Bhonsle clan** of Marathas. His father

was **Shahji Bhonsle**, a Maratha general in the Deccan Sultanates, and his mother was **Jijabai**.

**Statement 2 is correct:** Shivaji was formally crowned at Raigad Fort in 1674, assuming the title ‘Shri Raja Shiva Chhatrapati’.

**Statement 3 is correct:** On the occasion of his coronation, Shivaji introduced a new era called the Rājyābhiṣeka Shaka, marking the formal beginning of his rule.

### 32. (b)

**Option (d) is the correct answer:** The famous painting ‘**Bharat Mata**’ was created by **Abanindranath Tagore** in **1905**, during the period of the **Swadeshi Movement** in Bengal. y Sister Nivedita hailed it as the “first masterpiece of modern Indian art.”

### 33. (c)

**Option (c) is the correct answer:** The correct chronological order of the dynasties that ruled the **Vijayanagara Empire** is — **Sangama** → **Saluva** → **Tuluva** → **Aravidu**

The first dynasty, known as the Sangama dynasty, exercised control till 1485. They were supplanted by the Saluvas, military commanders, who remained in power till 1503 when they were replaced by the Tuluvas. By 1542 control at the centre had shifted to another ruling lineage, that of the Aravidu, which remained in power till the end of the seventeenth century.

### 34. (c)

**Option (b) is the correct answer:** **Muthuswami Dikshitar, Tyagaraja, and Syama Sastri** are revered as the **Trinity of Carnatic Music (Carnatic Sangeeta Trimurti)**.

The birth of the **Musical Trinity - Tyagaraja, Muthuswami Dikshitar and Syama Sastri** - at Tiruvarur between the years 1750 to 1850 CE ushered in an **era of dynamic development in Carnatic music**. The Trinity were not only contemporaries among themselves but, also contemporaries of great composers of Western Music, such as Beethoven, Mozart, Wagner and Haydn. It was the ‘**Golden Age**’ of music

**throughout the world.** Carnatic music reached its pinnacle of artistic excellence during this period.

### 35. (d)

**Option (d) is the correct answer:** In the administrative system of the Delhi Sultanate, the Amil was the revenue collector at the Pargana level. Village was the smallest unit of administration in the Delhi Sultanate. The functioning and administration of the village remained more or less the same as it had existed in pre Turkish times. The main village functionaries were khut, Muqaddam and Patwari. A number of villages formed the Pargana. The important Pargana officials were **Chaudhary, Amil (revenue collector) and Karkun (accountant)**.

### 36. (d)

**Statement 1 is correct :** The message of Baba Guru Nanak is spelt out in his hymns and teachings. These suggest that he advocated a form of **nirguna bhakti**. He firmly repudiated the external practices of the religions he saw around him.

**Statement 2 is correct :** He rejected sacrifices, ritual baths, image worship, austerities and the scriptures of both Hindus and Muslims. For Baba Guru Nanak, the absolute or “rab” had no gender or form. He proposed a simple way to connect to the Divine by remembering and repeating the Divine Name, expressing his ideas through hymns called “shabad” in Punjabi, the language of the region.

**Statement 3 is correct :** The fifth preceptor, Guru Arjan, compiled Baba Guru Nanak’s hymns along with those of his four successors and other religious poets like Baba Farid, Ravidas (also known as Raidas) and Kabir in the Adi Granth Sahib. In the late seventeenth century the tenth preceptor, Guru Gobind Singh, included the compositions of the ninth guru, Guru Tegh Bahadur, and this scripture was called the Guru Granth Sahib.

### 37. (d)

**About Mahabalipuram (or Mamallapuram):** It was a celebrated port city of the Pallavas. The group of monuments there consists of rockcut cave temples, monolithic temples, basrelief sculptures,

and structural temples as well as the excavated remains of temples.

- The Pallava dynasty, which ruled this area between 6th and 9th centuries CE, created these majestic edifices.

It is a UNESCO World Heritage site.

**Statement 1 is not correct:** The popular depiction of ‘Ravana Shaking Mount Kailash’ is depicted in Ellora caves.

**Statement 2 is correct:** Mahisuramardini Mandapa, a rock cut cave temple at Mamallapuram depicts Goddess Durga killing Mahishasura.

**Statement 3 is correct:** In the Mamallapuram complex, there are at least three royal portraits. Inside the Adivaraha cave-temple, there are two life-size portraits, in the form of relief panels. One is that of Simhavishnu (A.D. 550-580), flanked by two of his queens, and the other is that of his son Mahendravarman (A.D. 580-630), also with two queens. There is a lone portrait of Narasimhavarman I (A.D. 630-668) in Dharmaraja Ratha (one of the five monolithic temples).

#### 38. (d)

**Statement 1 is correct:** Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) is a statutory body under Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, regulating the public exhibition of films under the provisions of the Cinematograph Act 1952.

**Statement 2 is correct:** Films can be publicly exhibited in India only after they have been certified by the Central Board of Film Certification.

**Statement 3 is correct:** The Board consists of non-official members and a Chairman ,all of whom are appointed by Central Government.

The film Certification process by the board is in accordance with The Cinematograph Act, 1952, The Cinematograph (certification) Rules, 1983, and the guidelines issued by the Central government u/s 5 (B).

#### 39. (c)

**Option (c) is the correct answer:** The Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve in Himachal Pradesh has been inducted into the UNESCO World Network of

Biosphere Reserves. The announcement was made at the World Congress of Biosphere Reserves in Hangzhou, China, underscoring the region's value as a model for sustainable development. Cold Desert has now become India's 13th site in the global network. It includes protected areas like Pin Valley National Park and Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary, and is home to around 12,000 people.

#### 40. (c)

**Statement 1 is correct and Statement 2 is not correct:** The Shanghai Cooperation Organization is a permanent intergovernmental international organization **established on June 15, 2001 in Shanghai (PRC) by the Republic of Kazakhstan, the People's Republic of China, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan**. Its predecessor was the mechanism of the Shanghai Five.

**Statement 3 is correct:** The official languages of the SCO are Russian and Chinese.

**Additional information:** Currently, the SCO countries includes:

- 10 Member States — Belarus, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan.
- 2 Observer states - Afghanistan, Mongolia

#### 41. (c)

Option (c) is the correct answer: The Apabhramsha language represents the final stage in the linguistic evolution of the Prakrit languages before the emergence of the modern Indo-Aryan languages such as Hindi, Gujarati, Marathi, Bengali, and others.

#### 42. (b)

Option (b) is the correct answer: Ramachandrapant Amatya, the finance minister of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, authored Ādnyāpatra (“The Royal Edict”), in which he described principles of administration, revenue, and statecraft during Shivaji’s reign.

#### 43. (c)

**Statement 1 is correct: In the fourteenth century two powerful kingdoms arose in South India.**

**One was the Bahmani Sultanate and the second kingdom was the Vijayanagar Empire that ruled for 300 years. An independent state in the Deccan in 1347 with the capital at Gulbarga in Andhra Pradesh was established. Its founder Hasan Gangu assumed the title Alauddin Hasan Bahman Shah as he traced his descent from the mythical hero of Iran, Bahman Shah and the kingdom was named after him, the Bahmani Sultanate. The kingdom was divided into four administrative units called ‘taraf’ or provinces. These provinces were Daultabad, Bidar, Berar and Gulbarga. Every province was under a **tarafdar** who was also called a subedar.**

**Statement 2 is correct:** Firoz Shah Bahmani ruled from 1397-1422. He was married with the daughter of Deva Raya I. The kingdom was divided into four administrative units called ‘taraf’ or provinces. These provinces were Daultabad, Bidar, Berar and Gulbarga. One of the most important personalities in the Bahmani kingdom was Mahmud Gawan. He was given the title of ‘Khwaju-i-Jahan’. The history of the Bahmani kingdom after this period is actually the record of the achievements of Mahmud Gawan.

**Statement 3 is correct:** Gawan conquered the Vijayanagar territories up to Kanchi. **On the western coast, Goa and Dhabol were conquered. Losing these important ports was a great loss for Vijayanagar.**

#### 44. (d)

**Option (d) is the correct answer:** Kathak is the only form of classical dance wedded to Hindustani or the North Indian music. Moreover, being the only classical dance of India having links with Muslim culture, it represents a unique synthesis of Hindu and Muslim genius in art.

#### 45. (c)

**Statement 1 is correct :** Buland Darwaza, or Victory Gate, is a massive, red sandstone gateway in Fatehpur Sikri. It was built to commemorate Akbar's conquest of Gujarat in 1573.

**Statement 2 is not correct :** Abu'l Fazl describes the ideal of sulh-i kul (absolute peace) as the

cornerstone of enlightened rule. In sulh-i kul all religions and schools of thought had freedom of expression but on condition that they did not undermine the authority of the state or fight among themselves. Instructions were sent to officers of the empire to follow the precept of sulh-i kul in administration.

**Statement 3 is correct :** Akbar abolished the tax on pilgrimage in 1563 and jizya in 1564 as the two were based on religious discrimination. However, during the reign of Aurangzeb, the jizya was reimposed on non-Muslim subjects.

#### 46. (a)

**Statement 1 is correct:** The origin of the Mughal School of Painting is considered to be a landmark in the history of painting in India. With the establishment of the Mughal empire, the Mughal School of painting originated in the reign of Akbar in 1560 A.D.

**Statement 2 is correct:** Under Jahangir's patronage, the Mughal painting achieved naturalism and scientific accuracy of the highest degree. The curiosity and wonderment that the Emperor had for nature and people around him is reflected in the works that he commissioned. Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri, the memoirs of Jahangir, tells about his great interest in arts and his efforts of achieving scientific correctness in the rendering of flora and fauna that interested the Emperor the most.

**Statement 3 is not correct:** Manaku and Nainsukh are prominent painters of the Guler school (of Pahari painting). Some of the famous painters in Akbar's court were Dasvanth, Miskina, Nanha, Knha, Basawan, Manohar, Doulat, Mansur, Kesu, Bhim Gujarati, Dharam Das, Madhu, Surdas, Lal, Shankar Goverdhan and Inayat.

#### 47. (a)

**Pair 1 is not correctly matched:** Sohrai is a ritualistic wall-painting tradition practised by tribal communities in Jharkhand. It is typically created by women during harvest and festive seasons.

**Pair 2 is correctly matched:** Pichhvai paintings are done on cloth and serve as painted backdrops

for installed icons of Shrinathji at **Nathadwara in Rajasthan**.

There are three different types of Pichhvais—those made for specific festivals (celebrating the life of Krishna); those made for specific seasons (monsoon and winter); and tho

**Pair 3 is correctly matched:** Manjusha painting is a traditional folk art form that originates from the Bhagalpur region in the Indian state of Bihar. The term “Manjusha” means a box or a chest, and the paintings are created in a box-like structure using bamboo sticks, jute ropes, and cloth. The paintings typically depict mythological stories and are known for their vivid colours and bold lines.

**Pair 4 is not correctly matched:** Saura painting is a tribal wall painting tradition of Odisha. Recently, paintings of Lanja Saura from Odish earned GI tag.

#### 48. (b)

**Option (b) is the correct answer:** Krishnadeva Raya is credited with **building some fine temples and adding impressive gopurams** 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 Vijayanagara come from his time or just after.

#### 49. (c)

**Statement 1 is correct:** The **National Initiative on Water Security**, launched by the Government of India under **MGNREGA**, mandates a **minimum share of expenditure on water conservation and harvesting activities** across all districts.

**Statement 2 is correct:** As per the new guidelines, in ‘over-exploited’ or dark zone blocks, **65% of MGNREGA funds** will be allocated for **water conservation and water-related works**.

**Statement 3 is correct:** Even in blocks without water scarcity, the guidelines mandate that at least 30% of total MGNREGA funds must be used for water conservation and harvesting activities to promote sustainability and long-term resource management.

- And in ‘semi-critical’ blocks, 40% of funds will be earmarked for water-related works.

#### 50. (a)

**Option (a) is the correct answer:** Operation Black Forest was a major counter-insurgency operation launched jointly by the CRPF, Chhattisgarh Police, District Reserve Guard (DRG), and CoBRA forces in Chhattisgarh. The operation aimed to neutralize Maoist cadres, destroy their base camps, disrupt supply lines, and dismantle their strongholds in the dense Karreguttalu hills, near the Telangana border. Conducted over 21 days (April–May 2024), the operation resulted in the elimination of 31 Maoists. The government has described it as one of the largest anti-Naxal operations in recent years.

#### 51. (a)

**Option (a) is the correct answer:** Vijayanagar rulers indicated their close links with the gods by using the title “Hindu Suratrana”. This is also said to be Sanskritisation of the Arabic term Sultan, meaning king, so it literally meant Hindu Sultan.

#### 52. (c)

**Option (c) is the correct answer:** The ruler described is **Sultan Zain-ul-Abidin** (r. 1420–1470 CE), the **greatest ruler of the Shah Mir dynasty of Kashmir**, often remembered as ‘**Budshah**’ (the Great King) for his benevolent and enlightened rule.

##### About Zain-ul-Abidin:

- He was a great scholar of Persian, Sanskrit, Tibetan and Arab languages and patronised the Sanskrit and Persian scholars. Under his patronage, the Mahabharat and Kalhana’s Rajatarangini were translated into Persian and many Persian and Arabic works were translated into Hindi.
- He himself was a poet and wrote poetry under the pen name ‘Qutb’.
- His chief engineering achievement was the Zaina Lanka, an artificial island in the Woolur Lake on which he built his palace and mosque

- He abolished jaziya and prohibited cow slaughter and gave the Hindus important state posts.
- Some scholars call Zainul Abidin as the Akbar of Kashmir.
- He introduced carpet and shawl making, which make Kashmir famous till day.

53. (b)

**Option (b) is the correct answer:** The **Gandharva Veda** is an **Upaveda** associated with the **Samaveda**, and it deals with **music, dance, and performing arts**.

54. (b)

In medieval India, Jāgīr was a piece of land given by a king or ruler to someone (usually a noble or soldier) as a reward for their service. The person who got the jāgīr could collect taxes from the land and use the money to take care of their needs or help the king when needed.

55. (c)

**Statement 1 is correct:** During the medieval period, Ghiyasuddin Azam Shah, the ruler of Bengal, is known to have maintained friendly relations with the king of China, which promoted foreign trade and prosperity in Bengal. His diplomatic ties with the Ming dynasty enhanced Bengal's commercial connections with Southeast Asia and China, contributing to Bengal's reputation as a rich trading centre.

**Statement 2 is correct:** To manage Bengal effectively, Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq of the Delhi Sultanate had earlier divided Bengal into three administrative divisions — Lakhnauti, Satgaon, and Sonargaon.

56. (a)

**Pair 1 is correctly matched:** **Diwan-i-Arz department was set up to look after the military organization of the empire.** It was headed by Ariz-i-Mumalik. He was responsible for the administration of military affairs. He maintained a royal contingent, recruited the soldiers, ensured the discipline and fitness of the army, inspected the

troops maintained by the Iqta-holders, examined the horses and branded them with the royal insignia.

**Pair 2 is not correctly matched:** **Diwan-i-Insha department looked after the state correspondence.** It was headed by Dabir-i-Khas. He drafted and dispatched royal orders and received reports from various officers. The Dabir was the formal channel of communication between the centre and other regions of the empire. He was also a sort of private secretary of the Sultan and was responsible for writing the farmans. The Barid-i-Mumalik was the head of the state news gathering and dealt with intelligence.

**Pair 3 is not correctly matched:** Diwan-i-Rasalat department dealt with the administration of Justice. It was headed by Sadr-us-Sadr who was also the qazi-i-mumalik. He was the highest religious officer and took care of ecclesiastical affairs. He also appointed the qazis (judges) and approved various charitable grants like waqf, wazifa, Idrar, etc. The Sultan was the highest court of appeal in both civil and criminal matters. Next to him was Qazi-i-mumalik. The Muhtasibs (Public Censors) assisted the judicial department.

57. (b)

**Option (b) is the correct answer:** The dynasty described in the passage is the **Chandela dynasty**, which ruled over **Jejakabhukti** (modern **Bundelkhand** region of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh) between the **10th and 13th centuries CE**. Chandelas were once the feudatories of Gujarat Pratiharas, but became independent by tenth century.

The founder of the dynasty was Nannuk. Other famous rulers of the dynasty were King Dhanga, Vidyadhar and Yashovarman.

Chandelas were well known for their interest in art and architecture. They are best known for building the magnificent group of temples at Khajuraho, which are today recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Although followers of Shaivism, the Chandelas were also said to have been inclined towards Vaishnavism and Jainism as well.

**58. (c)**

Bharatnatyam Dance is considered to be over 2000 years old. Several texts beginning with Bharata Muni's Natya Shastra (200 B.C.E. to 200 C.E.)

**Statement 1 is correct:** Bharatnatyam dance is known to be ekaharya, where one dancer takes on many roles in a single performance.

**Statement 2 is correct:** Abhinaya Darpana by Nandikesvara is one of the main sources of textual material, for the study of the technique and grammar of body movement in Bharatnatyam Dance

**59. (b)**

**Statement 1 is not correct:** BHARATI initiative is launched by Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) **under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.** BHARATI stands for Bharat's Hub for Agritech, Resilience, Advancement and Incubation for Export Enablement.

**Statement 2 is correct:** BHARATI has been designed to support 100 agri-food startups, promote innovation and boost exports to 50 billion dollars by 2030.

**60. (c)**

**Option (c) is the correct answer:** Recently, **Albania** became the **first country in the world** to formally **induct an AI-generated minister** into its government cabinet. The AI minister, named "**Diella**" (meaning sun in Albanian), was introduced by **Prime Minister Edi Rama** as part of his new cabinet team. Diella was appointed as Minister for Public Procurement, with the goal of ensuring that public tenders are 100% free from corruption. Her role involves **using AI to monitor and manage procurement processes**, thereby improving **transparency, accountability, and efficiency** in governance.

**61. (d)**

**Statement 1 is not correct:** It was Hindustani classical music, not Carnatic, that assimilated Persian and Arabic influences. In contrast, Carnatic classical music of South India retained its indigenous

and devotional character, remaining relatively unaffected by Persian or Islamic influences.

**Statement 2 is not correct:** Hindustani music gives more importance to improvisation (alap, taan, etc.), while Carnatic music places greater emphasis on composition (kritis), which is the central, structured piece. In Carnatic music, improvisation exists, but it always revolves around the main composition.

**62. (b)**

**Option (b) is correct: The correct chronology of the events is as follows:**

- Establishment of the Vijayanagara Empire (**1336**)
- Emergence of the Sultanates of Ahmadnagar, Bijapur and Berar (**1490**)
- Collapse of the Bahmani kingdom (**1518**)
- Establishment of the Mughal empire by Babur (**1526**)

**63. (a)**

**Statement-I is correct:** The Imperial Cholas (especially under rulers like Rajaraja I and Rajendra I) established a vast empire that extended beyond South India, encompassing regions of Sri Lanka, the Maldives, and parts of Southeast Asia. Rajendra I's naval expeditions even reached the Srivijaya kingdom (in modern Indonesia and Malaysia), demonstrating the Cholas' imperial reach.

**Statement-II is correct and correctly explains Statement I:** The Cholas built a highly efficient administrative system, with features such as village self-governance, a well-organized revenue system, and a centralized bureaucracy under the king. They also developed a powerful navy, which not only safeguarded their maritime trade but also enabled expeditions to Sri Lanka and the Maldives. Their trade networks extended across the Indian Ocean, dealing in goods like spices, textiles, and precious metals with Southeast Asia and China. All this contributed to Imperial Chola's ability to build and sustain an empire extending beyond South India.

**64. (d)**

Statement 1 is not correct: Slaves and clients were loyal to their masters and patrons, but not to their

heirs. Sultans had their own servants. As a result the accession of a new monarch often saw conflict between the old and the new nobility.

Statement 2 is not correct: Khalji and Tughluq monarchs appointed military commanders as governors of territories of varying sizes. These lands were called iqta and their holder was called iqadar or muqtis. The duty of the muqtis was to lead military campaigns and maintain law and order in their iqtas. In exchange for their military services, the muqtis collected the revenues of their assignments as salary. They also paid their soldiers from these revenues.

#### 65. (c)

**Option (c) is the correct answer:** **Daskathia, Krishnattam and Koodiyettam are forms of traditional Indian theatre.**

**Krishnattam** as a theatre form, came into existence in the middle of the 17th century under the patronage of King Manavada of Calicut.

- Krishnattam is performed every year at the famous Guruvayur temple of North **Kerala**. The traditional costume, stage decor and presentation have been maintained over a long period. Krishnattam is a cycle of eight plays performed for eight consecutive days.

**Koodiyaattam** is one of the oldest traditional theatre forms of **Kerala** and the roots of this theatre form can be traced to the Sanskrit theatre traditions.

- In the development of Odia drama, **Daskathia** is one of the existing trends of folk drama.
- The subject of Daskathia is generally collected from the myth throwing lights upon the classical essence of it. This popular art of **Odisha** has taken birth in Ganjam district of South Odisha. The period of Daskathia may be dated back to the first part of the seventeenth century.

#### 66. (a)

**Statement 1 is correct :** The monastic organisation of the Sufis, and some of their practices such as penance, fasting and holding the breath are sometimes traced to the Buddhist and Hindu yogic influence.

**Statement 2 is not correct :** The Sufi orders are broadly divided into two; Ba-shara that is, those which followed the Islamic Law (sharia) and be-shara, that is, those which were not bound by it. Both types of orders prevailed in India, the latter being followed more by wandering saints.

#### 67. (b)

**Option (b) is the correct answer:** In the **Mughal land revenue system**, terms such as **Polaj, Parauti, Chachar, and Banjar** were used to classify **land types** based on their **cultivation status and productivity**.

Parauti is land left out of cultivation for a time that it may recover its strength.

Chachar is land that has lain fallow for three or four years. Banjar is land uncultivated for five years and more.

Polaj is land which is annually cultivated for each crop in succession and is never allowed to lie fallow.

#### 68. (a)

**Option (a) is the correct answer:** **Bhimbetka** is the most spectacular rock shelter located in the **Vindhya hills in Madhya Pradesh**. The themes of paintings found here are of great variety, ranging from mundane events of daily life in those times to sacred and royal images. The rock art of Bhimbetka has been classified into various groups on the bases of style, technique and superimposition. The drawings and paintings can be categorized into seven historical periods. **Period I, Upper Palaeolithic; Period II, Mesolithic; and Period III, Chalcolithic.** After Period III there are four successive periods.

- **Hunting scenes predominate.** The hunting scenes depict people hunting in groups, armed with barbed spears, pointed sticks, arrows and bows.
- The artists of Bhimbetka used many colours, including various shades of white, yellow, orange, red ochre, purple, brown, green and black. But white and red were their favourite colours. The paints were made by grinding

various rocks and minerals. **Though animals were painted in a naturalistic style, humans were depicted only in a stylistic manner.**

#### 69. (d)

Statement 1 is not correct: Humāyūn's Tomb was built during the reign of Emperor Akbar, not Shahjahan. It was commissioned in 1569, long before Shahjahan's time (who reigned from 1628 to 1658). The tomb is primarily built with red sandstone, not red marble.

**Statement 2 is not correct:** Humāyūn's Tomb is a UNESCO World Heritage site, but it is recognized for its physical architectural significance, not as an Intangible Cultural Heritage. Intangible heritage refers to practices, expressions, and traditions

**Statement 3 is not correct:** Humāyūn's Tomb is located in Delhi, not Agra, and it is not situated on the banks of the Yamuna River.

**Other important information about Humayun's tomb:**

- It is a well-developed specimen of the double-domed elevation. This building tradition culminated in the Taj Mahal, constructed a century later.
- Represents the synthesis of Persian architecture and Indian traditions
- The tomb itself is in the centre of a large garden, laid out in char bagh (four-fold) style, with pools joined by channels
- Called as 'dormitory of the Mughals' (and necropolis of the Mughal dynasty) as over 150 Mughal family members are buried in the cells here.
- Last Mughal emperor Bahadur Shah II was captured by Lieutenant Hudson here.
- First structure to use red sandstone at such a scale.

#### 70. (b)

**About Green credit programme:** Green Credit Programme (GCP) is an initiative by the Government of India to encourage industries, companies, and individuals to undertake voluntary

environmental measures, particularly tree plantation, resulting in the award of Green Credits. It was notified by the Government of India in 2023 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

**Statement 1 is correct:** As per the revised Green Credit Programme (GCP) rules notified in August, 2025, green credits for tree plantation will be awarded only after a minimum of five years, and that too based on verified restoration showing a minimum canopy density of 40% and tree survival. This replaces the earlier rule of granting credits within two years, based on planting 1,100 trees per hectare.

**Statement 2 is not correct:** Under the new methodology, tree plantation credits are now non-tradable and non-transferable. The only exception is a transfer between a holding company and its subsidiary companies. This marks a major change from the earlier framework, where market-based trading of green credits was a key incentive of the programme.

**Statement 3 is correct:** Those engaged in tree plantation under GCP will still be allowed a one-time exchange of the green credit — to meet compensatory afforestation requirements, CSR obligations, or other legal tree-planting obligations.

**Additional information:** The green credits earned can be used for ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) reporting, allowing companies to showcase their sustainability efforts under SEBI's Business Responsibility and Sustainability framework.

#### 71. (b)

**Statement 1 is correct:** Manipravalam, a hybrid language used as a literary style by the medieval poets and music composers in South India. Manipravalam had its genesis in the then Tamilakam as an admixture of Tamil and Sanskrit, which incidentally gave rise to the transition to the early Malayalam from Tamil prevalent in the then Kerala region. Kerala's prestigious dance form, Viz.Kathakali is an area where Manipravala is used by their lyricists extensively.

**Statement 2 is correct:** Kathakali is traditionally performed by **boys and men**, even for female roles. The costumes and makeup are especially elaborate, with faces made to look like painted masks and enormous headdresses.

**Statement 3 is incorrect:** **Tribhanga** posture is a prominent feature of **Odissi dance**. The techniques of movement in Odissi are built around the two basic postures of the Chowk and the Tribhanga. The tribhanga is a very feminine stance where the body is deflected at the neck, torso and the knees.

#### 72. (b)

**Statement 1 is not correct:** During the Delhi Sultanate, the **tanka** was a **silver coin**. The **jital and dang**, on the other hand, was a **copper coin**, used for smaller transactions.

**Statement 2 is correct:** Examples of different coins of Mughal period are:

- Gold coins: Muhar, Ilahi, Sahanshah etc.
- Silver coins : Shahrukhi, Rupiya, Nisar, Misqal etc.
- Copper coins: Dam, Adhela, Damri, Jital, Tanka etc.

#### 73. (a)

**Statement 1 is correct :** The territory of the Mughal empire was divided into jagir, khalisa and inam. Jagir lands were allotted to nobles and members of the royal family including the queens.

**Statement 2 is not correct :** The inam lands were allotted to learned and religious men.

**Statement 3 is not correct :** The income from Khalisa villages went directly to the royal exchequer. The alamgurzar (officer responsible for assessment and collection of the land revenue) was required to exercise a general supervision over all types of land holdings so that the imperial rules and regulations for the assessment and collection of land revenue were followed uniformly.

#### 74. (a)

**Statement 1 is correct:** Under the Delhi Sultanate, the Muqtis (also called Walis) were

appointed as the commanders and administrators of the Iqta (territorial units). They were responsible for the overall administration, including the maintenance of law and order, collection of revenue, and management of military forces in their respective territories.

**Statement 2 is not correct:** The offices of provincial officials, including Muqtis, were not hereditary under the Delhi Sultanate. They were appointed and frequently transferred by the Sultan. Since the officials were frequently transferred and not familiar with the areas, they were generally dependent on local officials to perform their duties.

#### 75. (c)

**Option (c) is the correct answer:** The **Mattamayura, Kalamukha, and Kapalika** sects are associated with **Shaivism**, the religious tradition devoted to the worship of **Lord Shiva**.

- Mattamayuras were an influential Shiva monastic tradition that emerged about the 7th-century. They built many temples and monasteries in central, west and north India.
- Kalamukha and Kapalika were Shaivite sects most prominent in India from the 8th through the 13th century. Kapalikas (Skull-bearers) practised extreme asceticism and Tantric rituals, often carrying a skull (kapala) as a symbol of renunciation and devotion to Shiva in his fierce form (Bhairava).

#### 76. (d)

**Sher Shah Suri** was the founder of the Suri dynasty. He paid great attention to the fostering of trade and commerce and the improvement of communications in the kingdom.

**1 is correct :** He restored the old imperial road called the Grand Trunk Road, from the river Indus in the west to Sonargaon in Bengal. He also built a road from Agra to Jodhpur and Chittor and a third road from Lahore to Multan. He built about 1700 sarais (fortified lodging or inn) for the convenience of travellers, where they could pass the night and also keep their goods in safe custody.

**2 is correct :** He also simplified the custom duty structure. In the entire kingdom, custom duty for

goods was only paid at two places: goods produced in Bengal or imported from outside paid custom duty at the border of Bengal and Bihar at Sikrigali, and goods coming from west and central Asia paid customs duty at the Indus. No one was allowed to levy customs at roads, ferries or anywhere else. The duty was paid a second time at the time of sale of goods.

**3 is correct :** He undertook currency reforms. He struck fine coins of gold, silver and copper of uniform standard in place of the earlier debased coins of mixed metals.

**77. (b)**

**Option (b) is the correct answer:** The Līlātilakam is a 14th-century treatise written in the Manipravalam language, which is a blend of Sanskrit and early Malayalam. It deals with grammar, poetics, and literary conventions used in Manipravalam compositions.

**78. (c)**

**Statement 1 is correct:** The Samkhya philosophy holds that reality is constituted of two principles, one female and the other male, i.e. Prakriti, and 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.

**Statement 2 is correct:** 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 fulfilment of duties prescribed by the Vedas.

**79. (b)**

**Option (b) is the correct answer:** India's first overseas defence manufacturing facility was inaugurated in Berrechid, Morocco, by Tata Advanced Systems Ltd (TASL). The facility

will undertake the production of indigenously developed Wheeled Armoured Platform, jointly designed by TASL and Defence Research and Development Organization.

**80. (a)**

**Option (a) is the correct answer:** A Biofoundry is a high-tech facility that enables the automated design, construction, and testing of biological systems — such as genetic circuits, enzymes, microbes, or biomaterials — using tools of synthetic biology, automation, and artificial intelligence.

**81. (c)**

**Statement 1 is correct:** The famous painting 'Bani Thani' belongs to the Kishangarh school of the Rajasthani style of miniature painting.

- Kishangarh school flourished during the 18th century under Raja Sawant Singh who wrote devotional poetry in praise of Krishna, under the assumed name of Nagari Das.
- The style is named after an elegant woman, Bani Thani, often hailed as the "Mona Lisa of India" for her enigmatic and serene expression.

**Statement 2 is correct:** The painting 'Bani Thani' was created by Nihal Chand, the court painter of Raja Sawant Singh of Kishangarh.

**82. (a)**

**Pair 1 is not correctly matched:** Iltutmish established 'Group of Forty' (Turkan-i-Chahalgani). These were Turkish amirs (nobles) who advised and helped the Sultan in administering the Sultanate. After the death of Iltutmish, this group assumed great power in its hands. For a few years they decided on the selection of Sultans one after the other. The group was finally eliminated by Balban.

**Pair 2 is not correctly matched:** Jalaluddin Khalji (AD 1290–1296) laid the foundation of the Khalji dynasty. He ascended the throne at the age of 70 years. Jalaluddin ruled only for a short span of six years. Alauddin Khalji was Jalaluddin's ambitious nephew and son-in-law. He had helped his uncle in his struggle for power and was appointed as Amir-i-Tuzuk (Master of Ceremonies). In July AD 1296,

he murdered his uncle and father-in-law Jalaluddin Khalji and crowned himself as the Sultan.

### 83. (d)

**Statement 1 is correct:** The Gurjara-Pratiharas initially established their **principalities in central and eastern Rajasthan**. From there, they expanded eastward and made Kannauj (in present-day Uttar Pradesh) their imperial capital under later rulers.

**Statement 2 is correct:** Mihir Bhoja (c. 836–885 CE) was one of the greatest rulers of the Gurjara-Pratihara dynasty. He adopted the title “Ādivarāha” (the boar incarnation of Lord Vishnu) — a title that appears on his coins and inscriptions. This reflected his devotion to **Vishnu** and also symbolized royal power and divine sanction for his rule.

**Statement 3 is correct:** The famous Sanskrit poet and dramatist Rajashekhar was patronized by a Gurjara-Pratihara ruler, Mahendrapala I.

Rajashekhar wrote several literary works, including Karpūramañjarī, Bālabhārata, and Kāvyamīmāmsā, which provide valuable insight into the cultural life of the Pratihara court.

### 84. (a)

**Option (a) is the correct answer:** Marichi is the sculpture of a Buddhist goddess found from Bihar in the tenth century. It is an example of the process of **integration of different religious beliefs and practices**. The goddess stands in a warrior pose (**alidhasana**) on a chariot drawn by seven horses. Her principle right-hand brandishes a scepter (**vajra**), and the left hand is held near the breast in a threatening gesture (**tarjanipasha mudra**).

### 85. (a)

**Option (a) is the correct answer:** The Nātyaśāstra, authored by **Bharata Muni**, is the **earliest known treatise on dance, drama, and music** in India and serves as the **foundational text** for all forms of Indian performing arts. The Natyashastra is believed to have been composed **between the 2nd century BCE and 2nd century CE**.

**Additional information:** Nandikeshvara was a major theatrologist of ancient India. He was the author of the Abhinaya Darpana.

### 86. (d)

**Statement 1 is correct :** The Mughal administrative system had at its apex a military-cum-bureaucratic apparatus (mansabdari) which was responsible for looking after the civil and military affairs of the state.

**Statement 2 is not correct :** Some mansabdars were paid in cash (naqdi), while the majority of them were paid through assignments of revenue (jagirs) in different regions of the empire.

**Statement 3 is not correct :** They were transferred periodically. The office and the privileges of the Mansabdars were not hereditary.

### 87. (b)

**Option (b) is the correct answer:** The Maratha armed forces were divided into three parts — infantry, cavalry and navy. **The cavalry was made up of two types of soldiers** — the bārgīrs, whose horses and equipment were paid for by the state, and the shiledārs, whose horses and equipment were paid for by the soldiers themselves. In the 18th century, the Marathas also noticed the superiority of Europeanstyle disciplined troops and artillery, and they tried to raise and recruit such troops. In particular, Mahadji Shinde had a large European-style army.

### 88. (b)

**Statement 1 is not correct:** The primary source of geothermal energy is not solar radiation, but the internal heat of the Earth. This heat originates mainly from the radioactive decay of elements (like uranium, thorium, and potassium) and the residual heat from the planet's formation.

- Solar energy heats only the surface and atmosphere of the Earth, but geothermal energy comes from deep beneath the Earth's crust — from hot rocks, magma, and underground water reservoirs.

**Statement 2 is correct:** Geothermal energy is one of the few renewable energy sources capable of providing round-the-clock (24×7) electricity generation. Unlike solar or wind power, which depend on weather or daylight, geothermal systems

continuously tap into the Earth's internal heat, offering a stable and reliable energy supply.

### 89. (b)

**Option (b) is the correct answer:** Huangyan Island, known internationally as Scarborough Shoal, is located in the South China Sea, about 120 nautical miles west of Luzon (Philippines). It has been a long-standing maritime dispute between China and the Philippines, as both countries claim sovereignty over the area.

- The region was again the news because China has decided to establish a nature reserve at a disputed shoal in the South China Sea, a step that will likely inflame tensions with Manila in the resource-rich waterway.

### 90. (d)

**Statement I is incorrect:** The WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies does not aim to increase global fish production. The WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies does not aim to increase global fish production.

**Statement II is correct:** The Agreement explicitly prohibits subsidies that encourage overfishing, fishing overexploited stocks, or illegal fishing activities. It represents the first multilateral WTO agreement with environmental sustainability as its central objective. By reducing such subsidies, the agreement aims to protect marine biodiversity, restore fish stocks, and ensure sustainable fishing practices globally.

### 91. (c)

**Statement 1 is correct:** Lord Basavanna (Basaveshwara) lived in the 12th century CE and served as the chief minister (Mahamantri) in the court of the Kalachuri ruler Bijjala at Kalyana (in present-day Karnataka).

**Statement 2 is correct:** The Lingayat sect traces its origin to the teachings of Basavanna. He rejected ritualism, caste hierarchy, and temple-based worship, instead emphasizing personal devotion (bhakti) to Shiva in the form of Ishtalinga worn on the body. His followers, known as Lingayats, practice egalitarian and ethical monotheism, and

uphold work as worship (Kayaka) and sharing of earnings (Dasoha).

### 92. (d)

**Option (d) is the correct answer:** It was Muhammad bin Tughlaq (r. 1325–1351 CE) who introduced a copper token currency, called Jittal, in place of the standard silver Tanka, and ordered that it should be accepted as its equivalent throughout the empire.

According to Barani, the contemporary historian, Muhammad bin Tughlaq introduced token currency because:

- The royal treasury was nearly empty due to the Sultan's lavish spending and costly schemes of conquest.
- There was a worldwide shortage of silver at the time, which affected the Indian currency supply.

The idea of token currency was new to India, and people lacked confidence in its legitimacy. The government failed to introduce effective measures to prevent counterfeiting, leading to massive forgery — people began minting fake copper coins in their homes. Markets were flooded with these counterfeit coins, disrupting trade and collapsing public trust. Ultimately, Muhammad bin Tughlaq was forced to withdraw the token currency

### 93. (d)

**Statement 1 is correct :** The Vijayanagara kings claimed to rule on behalf of the god Virupaksha. All royal orders were signed "Shri Virupaksha", usually in the Kannada script. Rulers also indicated their close links with the gods by using the title "Hindu Suratrana". This was a Sanskritisation of the Arabic term Sultan, meaning king, so it literally meant Hindu Sultan.

**Statement 2 is correct :** In terms of temple architecture, by this period certain new features were in evidence. These included structures of immense scale that must have been a mark of imperial authority, best exemplified by the raya gopurams (or royal gateways that often dwarfed the towers on the central shrines, and signalled the presence

of the temple from a great distance. They were also probably meant as reminders of the power of kings, able to command the resources, techniques and skills needed to construct these towering gateways.

**Other distinctive features include mandapas or pavilions and long, pillared corridors that often ran around the shrines within the temple complex.**

**Statement 3 is correct :** The amara-nayaka system was a major political innovation of the Vijayanagara Empire. It is likely that many features of this system were derived from the iqta system of the Delhi Sultanate. The amara-nayakas were military commanders who were given territories to govern by the raya. They collected taxes and other dues from peasants, craftspersons and traders in the area. They retained part of the revenue for personal use and for maintaining a stipulated contingent of horses and elephants.

94. (b)

**Option(d) is the correct answer:** The **Uttaramerur inscription**, issued during the reign of **Parantaka I** (early 10th century CE) of the **Chola dynasty**, provides detailed information about the structure, composition, and functioning of local self-governing institutions (village assemblies) in South India.

The inscription, found at **Uttaramerur in Chingleput district (Tamil Nadu)**, describes the working of the **Sabha** — the village assembly of **Brahmadeya (Brahmin villages)** under the Cholas.

95. (c)

**Pair 1 is correctly matched:** The **Pushti Marg** was founded by **Vallabhacharya (1479-1531 CE)**. It emphasizes **Bhakti (devotion)** towards **Lord Krishna** — especially in his child form (**Bala Krishna**). Vallabhacharya advocated Shuddhadvaita (Pure Non-dualism), which teaches that the world is a real manifestation of God and not an illusion.

**Pair 2 is not correctly matched:** Vishishta Advaita (Qualified Non-dualism) was propounded by Ramanujacharya, not Madhavacharya.

Visistadvaita philosophy believes that the supreme reality is Saguna Brahman, a personal being with countless auspicious attributes, and it is a qualified whole of which Brahman is the soul, and the Jiva and the Jagat (the soul and material nature) constitute the body, which has an inseparable relationship with the whole.

- Madhavacharya (or Madhva), on the other hand, founded the Dvaita (Dualism) school, which maintains a complete distinction between God and soul.

**Pair 3 is correctly matched:** **Adi Shankaracharya (8th century CE)** propounded **Advaita Vedanta (Non-dualism)**. According to this philosophy, **Brahman (the Absolute)** is the only reality; the world is **Maya (illusion)**, and the individual soul (Atman) is not different from Brahman.

96. (b)

**Option (b) is the correct answer:** The ‘**Bijak**’ is a compilation of the teachings and verses of the Bhakti saint **Kabir**, who lived in the 15th–16th century CE. It is regarded as the most authentic collection of Kabir’s philosophical and devotional compositions.

97. (b)

The famous Hindi poet Bhushan specifically came to Maharashtra to meet Shivaji and composed poems in his praise, some of which remain famous to this day.

98. (a)

Among the given options, Megasthenes did not visit the Vijayanagara Empire.

A large number of inscriptions of the kings of Vijayanagara and their nayakas recording donations to temples as well as describing important events have been recovered. Several travellers visited the city and wrote about it. Notable among their accounts are those of an Italian trader named **Nicolo de Conti**, an ambassador named **Abdur Razzaq** sent by the ruler of Persia, a merchant named **Afanassi Nikitin** from Russia, all of whom visited the city in the fifteenth century, and those of **Duarte Barbosa, Domingo Paes and Fernao**.

**Nuniz** from Portugal, who came in the sixteenth century.

**Megasthenes**, ancient Greek historian and diplomat, was sent by the Hellenistic king Seleucus I, on embassies to the Mauryan emperor Chandragupta Maurya.

**99. (d)**

**Option (d) is the correct answer:** The Sanskrit play Malavikagnimitram, composed by Kalidasa, is based on the love story between King Agnimitra of the Shunga dynasty and Malavika, the handmaiden (attendant) of his chief queen.

**100. (b)**

**Statement I is correct:**

- The Nyaya school is one of the six Astika (orthodox) schools of Indian philosophy. Astika schools accept the authority of the Vedas as a valid source of knowledge (pramana). Other Astika schools include Samkhya, Yoga, Vaisheshika, Mimamsa, and Vedanta.

- Jainism, on the other hand, is a Nastika (heterodox) school because it does not accept the Vedic authority.

**Statement II is correct:**

- The Nyaya school believes in the **existence of Ishvara (a creator God)**, who is responsible for the creation and order of the universe.
- Jainism, however, **does not believe in a creator God**.
- Statement II does not explain Statement I: The classification of Nyaya as **Astika** and Jainism as **Nastika** is **not based on belief in God**, but on **acceptance or rejection of the Vedas' authority**. Therefore, while both statements are factually correct, **Statement II does not explain Statement I**.

