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Test Booklet Series

TEST BOOKLET

C

GENERAL STUDIES (P) 2026 – Test – 6314

Time Allowed: Two Hours

Maximum Marks: 200

INSTRUCTIONS

1. IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE EXAMINATION, YOU SHOULD CHECK THAT THIS BOOKLET DOES **NOT** HAVE ANY UNPRINTED OR TURN OR MISSING PAGES OR ITEMS, ETC. IF SO, GET IT REPLACED BY A COMPLETE TEST BOOKLET.
2. ENCODE CLEARLY THE TEST BOOKLET SERIES **A, B, C** OR **D** AS THE CASE MAY BE IN THE APPROPRIATE PLACE IN THE ANSWER SHEET.
3. You have to enter your Roll Number on the Test Booklet in the Box provided alongside. **Do NOT** write anything else on the Test Booklet.
4. This Test Booklet contains **100** items (Questions). Each item is printed in **English**. 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 with 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 direction in the answers sheet.
6. All items carry equal marks. Attempt all items. Your total marks will depend only on the number of **correct responses** marked by you in the answer sheet. For **every incorrect** response **1/3rd of the allotted marks** will be deducted.
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 sheets as per instruction sent to you with your Admission Certificate.
8. After you have completed filling in all responses on the answer sheet and the examination has concluded, you should hand over to Invigilator only the answer sheet. You are permitted to take away with you the Test Booklet.
9. Sheet for rough work are appended in the Test Booklet at the end.

DO NOT OPEN THIS BOOKLET UNTIL YOU ARE ASKED TO DO SO

1. Consider the following statements regarding the Jataka stories of Buddhism:
 1. Events from previous lives of Buddha are depicted in these stories.
 2. They are depicted on the railings and torana of the stupas.
 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

2. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Razmnama was the Persian version of Ramayana.

Statement-II: Akbar commissioned translation of revered Sanskrit texts into Persian.

 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

3. With respect to Delhi Sultanate, consider the following statements:
 1. He set up Diwan-i-Arz department
 2. He organised of ceremonies of sijada and paibos to emphasize that his nobles were not his equals
 3. He excluded Indian Muslims from positions of power and authority.
 Which of the following personalities has been described in the statements given above?
 - (a) Alauddin Khilji
 - (b) Balban
 - (c) Firoz Shah Tughlaq
 - (d) Muhammad bin Tughlaq

4. Consider the following pairs:

Solar Probes	Country
1. Advanced Space-based Solar Observatory	: India
2. Hinode	: Japan
3. Solar and Heliospheric Observatory	: China

 How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?
 - (a) Only one pair
 - (b) Only two pairs
 - (c) All three pairs
 - (d) None of the pairs

5. Consider the following statements:
 1. Ajivika sect is one of the orthodox (astik) school of Indian philosophy
 2. Makkhali Ghosa is considered as the founder of Ajivika sect.
 3. The Lomas Rishi caves were patronized by Chandragupta Maurya for the Ajivika sect.
 How many of the statements given above is/are correct?
 - (a) Only one
 - (b) Only two
 - (c) All three
 - (d) None

6. Consider the following pairs:

Terms	Description
1. Uluq	: Foot postal system
2. Dahsala	: Land revenue system
3. Zimmis	: Religious scholars

 How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?
 - (a) Only one pair
 - (b) Only two pairs
 - (c) All three pairs
 - (d) None of the pairs

7. With reference to Greek and Roman accounts of the first and second century A.D., consider the following statements:

1. Ptolemy's *Geography*, written in Greek gives valuable data on India's geography and commerce.
2. Pliny's *Naturalis Historia*, written in Latin gives valuable data on trade between India and Italy.

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

8. Consider the following statements regarding Padmaja Naidu Zoological Park:

1. It is India's highest-altitude zoological park, located in Leh at an altitude of over 7,000 feet.
2. It is the first zoo in India to preserve DNA samples of wildlife found exclusively in snowy regions.
3. It received the Earth's Heroes Award in 2014 for its conservation work.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

9. The Sahyog Portal, recently launched by the Government of India, is primarily aimed at:

- (a) Promoting cooperative farming and agricultural support services across states.
- (b) Facilitating communication between disaster response teams during national emergencies.
- (c) Enabling authorized agencies to issue content takedown requests and coordinate cybercrime investigations.
- (d) Providing an online grievance redressal mechanism for banking and financial fraud victims.

10. *It is an important cave site having many images belonging to Vajrayana Buddhism. Buddhist caves are big in size and are of single, double, and triple storey. The Brahmanical caves have many sculptures and Ravana shaking Mount Kailash is one of them.*

Which of the following cave sites is being described by the above-given passage?

- (a) Ajanta
- (b) Ellora
- (c) Kanheri
- (d) Junnar

11. Which of the following belongs to the tradition of shadow puppetry?

1. Kathputli
2. Gombeyatta
3. Bommalattam
4. Ravanchhaya

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

12. Which of the following statements are correct with respect to the Paleolithic Age?

1. The Paleolithic culture of India developed in the Pleistocene period of the Ice Age.
2. The Paleolithic sites are absent in the alluvial plains of the Indus and the Ganga.
3. The characteristic tools of the Paleolithic Age were flakes and microliths.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

13. Consider the following statements regarding Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS):
1. Biodiversity Heritage Sites are notified as protected areas under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
 2. The central Governments have the power to notify BHS in consultation with the state government.
 3. Kasampatty Sacred Grove was the first Biodiversity Heritage Site of India, declared in 2007.
- How many of the statements given above are correct?
- (a) Only one
 - (b) Only two
 - (c) All three
 - (d) None
14. With reference to the history of India, consider the following pairs:
- | <i>Mahajanapadas</i> | <i>Capitals</i> |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Chedi | : Viratanagara |
| 2. Vatsa | : Kaushambi |
| 3. Matsya | : Suktimati |
- How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?
- (a) Only one
 - (b) Only two
 - (c) All three
 - (d) None
15. With respect to Muhammad bin Tughlaq, consider the following statements:
1. The Qarachil expedition was launched during reign Muhammad bin Tughlaq.
 2. He was defeated by Mongols near Jhelum thus never extended his empire beyond Indus.
- 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

16. Consider the following statements regarding the condition of women during the Gupta period:
1. Women of the upper varna were free to earn their livelihood.
 2. Women were allowed to listen to religious texts.
- 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
17. Consider the following statements regarding the Euclid Space Telescope:
1. The Euclid Telescope is a space mission led by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency.
 2. Its primary objective is to investigate dark matter and dark energy in the universe.
 3. The telescope is placed in a low Earth orbit to minimize atmospheric interference.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 2 only
 - (b) 1 and 2 only
 - (c) 2 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
18. Consider the following statements:
1. Ambitious kings and ministers
 2. Presence of Elephants in army
 3. Presence of iron mines
- How many of the above factors were responsible for Magadha to emerge as the most powerful of the sixteen mahajanapadas?
- (a) Only one
 - (b) Only two
 - (c) All three
 - (d) None

19. The Dx-EDGE (Digital Excellence for Growth and Enterprise) initiative, recently launched in India, aims to:
- (a) Provide digital banking facilities to rural self-help groups.
 - (b) Promote digital literacy among the industry in tribal regions.
 - (c) Facilitate the digital transformation of MSMEs.
 - (d) Establish digital courts and legal-tech platforms in small enterprises.

20. Consider the following statements regarding the Nagara architecture and Dravida architecture:

1. The vimana of the Dravida architecture has a step-like structure as compared to the Nagara style which is curved in shape.
2. Dvarapalas (doorkeepers) at the entrance are a common feature of the temples of the Nagara school of architecture.
3. In Dravida architecture, the garbhagriha of the main temple is sometimes located in one of the smallest towers as it is the oldest part of the temple.

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

21. Consider the following musical form:

1. Suladi
2. Jatiswaram
3. Thumri
4. Khayal

How many of the above are forms of Carnatic music?

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

22. Consider the following statements:

1. Satavahana dynasty was founded by Gautamiputra Satakarni by defeating the Kanva dynasty in the post-Maurya era.
2. Satavahana kings were the first rulers to grant tax-free lands to Buddhists and Brahmanas to gain religious merit.

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

23. In the context of early medieval India, in the Tripartite Struggle for the occupation of Kannauj, which of the following kingdoms was not involved?

- (a) Chalukya
- (b) Pala
- (c) Pratihara
- (d) Rashtrakutas

24. Consider the following statements in the context of social and educational reforms introduced by the Mughal emperor Akbar:

1. Akbar legalised widow remarriages.
2. He raised the age of marriage to 14 for girls and 16 for boys.
3. Akbar issued a blanket ban on Sati.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

25. Which of the following types of villages were found during the ancient period in South India?

1. Ur
2. Sabha
3. Nagaram

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

26. Consider the following statements regarding the Khyal, a Hindustani classical music:

1. The Khyal singing is more lyrical than the Dhrupad.
2. The Khyal singing is divided into different schools based on vanis.

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. Consider the following statement with reference to the market control and agrarian policy of Allauddin Khilji:

1. Allauddin Khilji fixed the cost of a wide range of commodities.
2. He set up a common market for all commodities.

Which of the statements given above is/are **not** correct?

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

28. He ruled not only over Sindh, Kutch and Gujarat, but had also recovered from the Satavahanas Konkan, the Narmada valley, Malwa and Kathiawar. He is famous in history because of the repairs he undertook to improve the Sudarshan lake in the semi-arid zone of Kathiawar. He was a great lover of Sanskrit. Although a foreigner settled in India, he issued the first-ever long inscription in chaste Sanskrit.

Which of the following is best described in the passage given above?

- (a) Gondophernes
- (b) Rudradaman I
- (c) Kanishka
- (d) Narasimhavarman

29. Consider the following statements about the Nayanars:

1. Nayanars were leaders who were devotees of Vishnu.
2. The hymns of Nayanars saints are compiled into a canon known as Periya puranam.

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

30. The term "AI Washing," recently seen in the news, refers to:

- (a) The process of cleaning large datasets before feeding them into AI models.
- (b) A method of using artificial intelligence to detect money laundering activities.
- (c) The practice of exaggerating or falsely claiming the use of AI in products or services to attract investment.
- (d) The ethical use of AI technologies in environmental sustainability projects.

31. With reference to Kathak dance, consider the following statements:
1. It was introduced by Sankaradeva as a medium for the propagation of the Vaishnava faith.
 2. It is the only form of classical dance associated with 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

32. In the context of Firoz Shah Bahami, consider the following statements:
1. He encouraged the pursuit of astronomy and built an observatory near Daulatabad.
 2. He was a contemporary of King Deva Raya I of the Vijayanagara kingdom.
- 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

33. Union Government has announced the establishment of National Gene Bank (NGB) to conserve 10 lakh crop germplasm. In this regard, consider the following statements:
1. Gene banks are biorepositories that store genetic material of plants, animals, and microorganisms.
 2. It is the only gene bank in India for the conservation of genetic resources.
 3. It is managed by the Indian Council of Medical Research under the Ministry of Health.
- How many of the statements given above are correct?
- (a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

34. Consider the following statements with respect to the Mansabdari System:
1. This system was used by Iltutmish in order to maintain a strong army.
 2. Under this system, the Mansabdars were supposed to maintain their own military force.
- 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

35. With reference to the Chishti order, consider the following statements:
1. The Chishti order in India was established by Khwaja Muinuddin Chishti.
 2. The Chishtis avoided accepting any kind of donation.
 3. The Chishti saints believed in leading a life of austerity.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3
(d) 3 only

36. Consider the following pairs:

<i>Name of exercise</i>	<i>Participating Countries</i>
1. Prachand Prahar	: India and Nepal
2. INIOCHOS-25	: India and Greece
3. Exercise INDRA	: India and Japan

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

(a) 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) None

37. Consider the following statements regarding the rock art of Bhimbetka:

1. The caves of Bhimbetka were discovered by archaeologist V. S. Wakankar.
2. The mesolithic paintings of Bhimbetka are smaller than the upper paleolithic paintings.
3. In mesolithic paintings, animals were painted in a naturalistic style whereas humans were depicted only in a stylistic manner.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

38. Consider the following statements regarding the reign of Harshavardhana:

1. He made Kannauj the seat of his power.
2. Land grants to priests were stopped during his reign.

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

39. Consider the following pairs:

<i>Rulers</i>		<i>Origin</i>
1. Shakas	:	Tamilakam
2. Cheras	:	Central Asia
3. Kushana	:	Western India

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

40. Consider the following statements about the reign of Akbar:

1. Akbar divided the empire into twelve provinces called Subas.
2. Batai and Nasaq were the administrative posts during the Akbar reign.

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

41. Recently, the Clean Air Fund Report highlighted the contribution of various sectors to black carbon emissions. According to this, arrange the following sources in descending order of their contribution to black carbon emission:

1. Agriculture waste Burning
2. Industry
3. Forest fire
4. Residential Energy

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

42. Consider the following statements about the Ibn Battuta:

1. Ibn Battuta was a Moroccan traveler who visited India in the fourteenth century.
2. He was appointed as qazi of Delhi by Alauddin Khalji.
3. He wrote a book of travels called 'Rihla' in Arabic.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

43. Consider the following statements regarding Pulakeshin II:

1. He defeated King Harshavardhan.
2. He patronized several scholars, including Ravikirti, who composed his Aihole inscription.
3. He subjugated the Kadamba capital at Banavasi and compelled the Gangas of Mysore to acknowledge his suzerainty.

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

44. With reference to the cultural history of India, 'Arabesque' was:

- (a) a form of artistic decoration.
- (b) a style of calligraphy used in royal manuscripts.
- (c) symmetrical patterned Persian-style garden layout.
- (d) a decorative element in Rajput palace paintings.

45. Consider the following statements regarding the Mahajanapadas:

1. All the mahajanapadas were monarchies and ruled by kings.
2. Some Mahajanpadas acquired standing armies and maintained regular bureaucracies.

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

46. Consider the following statements regarding Chandragupta II:

1. He adopted the title of Vikramaditya.
2. His court was adorned by numerous scholars including Kalidasa.
3. Chinese pilgrim Hiuen Tsang visited India during his reign.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

47. In the context of Sufi tradition, the term *Malufuzat* refers to

- (a) text containing conversations of sufi saints.
- (b) biographical accounts of sufi saints.
- (c) the practice of pilgrimage to the dargah of the Sufi saint on his death anniversary.
- (d) letters written by Sufi masters to their disciples.

48. With reference to Kundhei, a form of puppetry, consider the following statements:

1. It belongs to the state of West Bengal.
2. The puppets are made of light wood and have no legs.

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

49. Consider the following statements regarding the influence of Central Asian powers during the post-Mauryan period:
1. Shakas and Kushans introduced better cavalry than the Mauryan period.
 2. They issue gold coins on a wide scale in the Indian subcontinent.
 3. The Satrap system of government was started by Kushanas in India.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3
50. Nalayira Divya Prabandham, a collection of Tamil verses composed by the twelve Alvars was compiled in its present form by which one of the following?
- (a) Nathamunigal
(b) Appar
(c) Sundarar
(d) Nambiyandar Nambi
51. The first discovery of rock paintings was made in India in 1867–68 by which of the following archaeologists?
- (a) Archibold Carlleyle
(b) V. S. Wakankar
(c) John Cockburn
(d) G. W. Anderson
52. The *Kalpasutra* and the *Kalakacharya-Katha*, the two very popular texts belong to which of the following sects?
- (a) Buddhism
(b) Jainism
(c) Ajivika
(d) Vaishnavism

53. 'Pung Choloms' and 'Kartal Choloms' are the essential musical instruments used in which of the following performing arts?
- (a) Odissi
(b) Bhavai
(c) Manipuri Sankirtana
(d) Kuchipudi
54. Consider the following:
1. Maukharies
 2. Pushyabhutis
 3. Maitrakas
- How many of the above dynasties emerged as a result of decline of the Gupta empire?
- (a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None
55. Consider the following statements regarding The Ajanta and Ellora caves:
1. While the Ajanta caves have double-storeyed caves, the Ellora caves have unique three-storeyed caves.
 2. While the images of Padmapani and Vajrapani are present in Ajanta caves, they are absent in Ellora caves.
- 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
56. In the context of ancient India, which of the following rulers appeared earliest?
- (a) Bindusara
(b) Bimbisara
(c) Ajatshatru
(d) Kanishka

57. Consider the following statements with respect to the Harappan seals:
1. The Harappan seals were mostly made of iron.
 2. Goats and bison are some of the animals used on seals.
 3. The standard Harappan seal was circular in shape.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1, 2 and 3
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 only
(d) 3 only
58. With reference to the Rig Vedic Period, consider the following statements:
1. Cattle rearing was the dominant occupational activity.
 2. The most important god during this period was Indra.
- 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. With reference to Ancient India, 'Kumaramatyas' and 'Ayuktas' were
- (a) Provincial administrators appointed in the Gupta empire.
(b) court administrators during the Mauryan period
(c) revenue officials in the Chola period
(d) officers of espionage in the Maurya period
60. The Global Energy Review is published by the:
- (a) International Renewable Energy Agency
(b) World Energy Council
(c) International Energy Agency
(d) United Nations Environment Programme

61. With reference to the Vijayanagar empire, consider the following statements:
1. The empire consisted of seven lines of forts which encircled not only the city but also its agricultural hinterland and forests.
 2. Cementing agents like mortar or cement were employed extensively in the construction of walls.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 and 2
62. Which of the following rulers assumed the title of Vatapikonda?
- (a) Rudradaman
(b) Mayurasharma
(c) Pulakeshin
(d) Narasimhavarman I
63. Consider the following statements regarding the Pahari school of painting:
1. The earliest center of painting in the Pahari region was Kangra painting.
 2. The Basohli painting developed out of the Guler style.
 3. Paintings of the Kangra style are attributed mainly to the Nainsukh family.
- How many of the statements given above are correct?
- (a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

64. Which of the following states hosts the sites of ancient Jorwe culture?
- Rajasthan
 - Maharashtra
 - Tamil Nadu
 - Bihar

65. Consider the following:

- Mining
- Sale of liquor
- Manufacture of arms

In how many of the above areas of the economy did the Mauryan state maintain a monopoly?

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

66. Which of the following statements about the Virashaiva or the Lingayat movement is/are correct?

- It supported the post-puberty marriage and the remarriage of widows.
- The Lingayats did not believe in the theory of rebirth.
- The Lingayats did not advocate the worship of idols.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- 1 and 3 only
- 1 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3

67. 'YuWaah Initiative', sometimes seen in the news, is related to:

- A nationwide programme for promoting organic farming among youth
- A global alliance for climate action led by young innovators
- A multi-stakeholder initiative to empower youth with skills, employment, and participation opportunities
- A Digital literacy campaign targeting school dropouts in rural India

68. With reference to chronicles commissioned by Mughal Emperors, consider the following statements:

- Razmnama was the Persian version of Ramayana.
- The center of manuscript production was known as 'Kitab khana'.
- All the books during the Mughal rule were handwritten.

How many statements given above are correct?

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

69. The illustrated manuscript of the *Nimat Nama*, a blend of Indian and Persian styles is a/an:

- autobiography of Birbal.
- a cookery book at the time of Ghiyas-ud-din Khilji.
- biography of Akbar
- recorded history of all Mughal rulers

70. With reference to the development of Chaityas and Viharas, consider the following statements:

- Chaitya and vihara were part of Jain monastic complexes.
- Rock-cut Chaitya and Viharas originated under Satavahana ruler.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

71. With reference to Jainism philosophy, consider the following statements:

1. While Jainism recognizes the existence of gods, it places them lower than Jina.
2. Right knowledge, action, and faith are considered to be the three gems or ratnas of Jainism.

Which of the statements given above is/are **not** correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 and 2

72. Which of the following components are part of the Sarnath Lion Capital?

1. The crowning element, Dharmachakra
2. The lotus bell base
3. The shaft
4. The drum on the bell base with four animals proceeding clockwise

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

73. In the context of ancient India, 'Sannidhata' refers to:

- (a) The chief custodian of the state treasury and storehouse during Mauryan period
- (b) The highest officer-in-charge for the administration of justice during the Mahajanapadas
- (c) Head of district in the Satvahana dynasty
- (d) The highest executive official in charge of assessment during the central asian ruling dynasties

74. The term "Green Grabbing" has recently seen in the context of:

- (a) The illegal cutting down of forests in ecologically sensitive zones
- (b) The appropriation of land and natural resources under the guise of environmental protection.
- (c) The conversion of agricultural land into greenhouses to increase crop productivity.
- (d) The excessive use of green subsidies by developed countries in international trade.

75. Consider the following statements regarding trade and economy during the Gupta period:

1. This period witnessed the decline of a class of priestly landlords.
2. The Gupta period saw an increase in long-distance trade.
3. The Guptas issued the largest number of gold coins in ancient India.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

76. Consider the following statements regarding Sonic Weapons:

1. Sonic weapons are devices that deliver very loud sounds over long distances.
2. Currently, there is no specific international treaty regulating the use of sonic weapons.

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

77. The terms 'HAM', 'BOT', and 'EPC', sometimes mentioned in the news, are related to
- agricultural marketing and procurement systems
 - public-private partnership models in infrastructure development
 - telecommunication standards for mobile networks
 - disaster management strategies in coastal areas

78. Consider the following statements regarding the Preventive Detention:

- It involves detaining a person without trial, based on a reasonable belief.
- Parliament has exclusive authority to make laws on preventive detention (PD) related to state security and public order.
- The Constitution of India does not specify the period for preventive detention.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1 and 2 only
- 1, 2 and 3

79. Consider the following:

- Discovery of cause of solar and lunar eclipse
- First use of decimal system by the Indians
- Adoption of Indian numeral system by the Arabs

Which of the above is/are the contribution/s of the ancient Indians in the field of mathematics and astronomy?

- 1 and 2 only
- 3 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3

80. Which of the statements given below is **not** correct regarding the agricultural practices in the Indus Valley Civilization?

- The Indus people harvested wheat, barley, rai, peas, rice and mustard.
- Finger millet was not known to the people of Indus Valley civilization.
- Cotton was also produced during this phase.
- The ploughshare was discovered in Dholavira.

81. Which of the Chola king had adopted the title of Gangaikonda Chola, after successfully leading military campaigns that expanded the Chola authority in northern regions?

- Karikala Chola
- Parantaka I
- Rajaraja Chola I
- Rajendra Chola I

82. With reference to the chalcolithic age, consider the following statements:

- People were aware of the art of writing during this period and used a pictographic script.
- During this age, copper (metal) was used by the people.

Which of the statements given above is/are **not** correct?

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

83. Consider the following statements:
Statement-I: Sri Krishnadevaraya built a new city called Nagalapuram.
Statement-II: He built a new city after his victory over combined forces of Deccan Sultanates.
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
84. Which one of the following statements best reflects the meaning of the Doctrine of 'Eminent Domain'?
- (a) It authorizes the government to regulate the functioning of private educational institutions.
 - (b) It empowers the government to acquire private property for public purpose with fair compensation.
 - (c) It allows individuals to challenge arbitrary taxation by the state.
 - (d) It permits the judiciary to review legislative actions affecting citizens' rights.
85. With reference to Firuz Shah Tughlaq, which one of the following statements is **not** correct?
- (a) During his reign, Jizyah became a separate tax.
 - (b) He extended the principle of heredity to the army.
 - (c) He transferred the capital from Delhi to Deogir.
 - (d) He took steps to have Hindu religious works translated from Sanskrit into Persian.

86. Consider the following statements with reference to Kulhadhar Paintings:
- 1. It is completely indigenous without any Persian influence.
 - 2. The style of these painting is characterized by subtle tones and minimal color contrast.
 - 3. It was a popular mural painting of the Mughal period.
- How many of the statements given above are correct?
- (a) Only one
 - (b) Only two
 - (c) All three
 - (d) None
87. Consider the following statements:
- 1. Vakataka bronze images are contemporary to the Mauryan period.
 - 2. The lost-wax technique of sculpture-making was introduced in India by Indo-Greeks ruler in the 2nd century BC.
 - 3. The Vakataka bronze sculptures were portable and carried by monks to different regions.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 and 3 only
 - (c) 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
88. The Blue Flag Tag, recently seen in the news, is awarded to:
- (a) Ports that meet international standards for cargo handling and trade efficiency.
 - (b) Beaches, marinas, and tourism boats that meet strict environmental, safety, and accessibility criteria.
 - (c) Cities that demonstrate excellence in waste segregation and plastic-free initiatives.
 - (d) Hotels and resorts that implement 100% wastewater recycling systems.

89. Which foreign traveller in medieval India compared the city of Vijayanagar with Rome?
- (a) Francois Bernier
(b) Jean Baptiste Tavernier
(c) Nikitin
(d) Domingo Paes
90. The BioSaarthi Initiative, recently launched in India, primarily aims to:
- (a) Provide financial grants to biotech companies for the large-scale manufacturing of vaccines.
(b) Offer structured mentorship to emerging biotech entrepreneurs to strengthen industry-academia collaboration.
(c) Create a digital marketplace for biotechnology products and services.
(d) Establish international biotech research hubs across Indian metros.
91. Alexander's invasion coincides with which of the following dynasty's rule?
- (a) Haryanka
(b) Gupta
(c) Shunga
(d) Nanda
92. With reference to medieval Sultans in India, consider the following statements:
1. Balban was responsible for setting up a separate department of slaves.
 2. Alauddin Khalji introduced the system of branding horses in his military.
- 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

93. With reference to the administration of the Delhi Sultanate, Diwan-i-Isha referred to which of the following departments?
- (a) Correspondence
(b) Chief judicial office
(c) Revenue office
(d) Agriculture
94. Consider the following statements regarding Dasyus mentioned in the Rig Veda:
1. They were primarily hunter-gatherers.
 2. They worshipped the same gods as the Aryans.
- 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
95. Consider the following:
1. Navigation and scientific research
 2. Earth observation
 3. Telecommunication
 4. Satellite imaging
- How many of the above categories of satellites are necessarily placed in the Geostationary orbit?
- (a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four
96. In the context of Indian history, what does the term "Apabhramsa" most accurately refer to?
- (a) An early form of Hindi used in devotional poetry during the medieval period
(b) A transitional form of language evolving from Prakrit to modern Indian languages
(c) A classical Sanskrit poetic style used in royal inscriptions
(d) An ancient Brahmi-based script used in Ashokan edicts

97. *Kavirajamarga* was considered as the earliest Kannada work, which among the following rulers was associated with it?
- Amoghavarsha I
 - Krishna III
 - Pulakeshin II
 - Gopala
98. Arrange the following components of temple architecture in the correct sequence while entering a Nagara Style temple.
- Garbhagriha
 - Mandapa
 - Antarala
- Select the correct answer using the code given below.
- 1-2-3
 - 2-3-1
 - 1-3-2
 - 3-2-1
99. Consider the following pairs:
- | <i>Theatre Forms</i> | <i>State/UTs</i> |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Bhaand Pather | : Jammu and Kashmir |
| 2. Maach | : West Bengal |
| 3. Bhaona | : Gujarat |
- Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?
- 1 only
 - 1, 2 and 3
 - 2 and 3 only
 - 2 only

100. Consider the following statements regarding the Chalcolithic phase:
- Copper and stone objects were prevalent during this period.
 - The people of the Chalcolithic period were well acquainted with the manufacture of cloth.
 - Painted Grey Ware pottery was the most commonly used type of pottery.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- 1, 2 and 3
 - 1 and 2 only
 - 1 and 3 only
 - 2 and 3 only



ANSWERS & EXPLANATIONS

GENERAL STUDIES (P) TEST – 6314 (2026)

Q 1.C

- The Jataka stories are a voluminous body of literature **concerning the previous births of Buddha in both human and animal form. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- Among the Jataka stories that are frequently depicted are Chhadanta Jataka, Vidurpundita Jataka, Ruru Jataka, Sibi Jataka, Vessantara Jataka and Shama Jataka.
- Jataka stories were depicted on the **railings and torans of the stupas. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- Mainly synoptic narrative, continuous narrative and episodic narrative are used in the pictorial tradition. While events from the life of the Buddha became an important theme in all the Buddhist monuments, the Jataka stories also became equally important for sculptural decorations. The main events associated with the Buddha's life which were frequently depicted were events related to the birth, renunciation, enlightenment, dhammachakra- pravartana, and mahaparinibbana (death).

Q 2.D

- Translations of Sanskrit texts such as the Mahabharata and the Ramayana into Persian were commissioned by the Mughal emperors. The Mahabharata was translated as the Razmnama (Book of Wars).
- Akbar commissioned translation and illustration of revered Sanskrit texts into Persian. **Hence statement-II is correct.**
- The Persian translation and illustrated version of the Hindu epic Mahabharata did this period came to be known as RazmNama. This was completed in 1589 under the supervision of master artist Daswant. This manuscript was scribed in ornate calligraphy and contained 169 paintings. **Hence statement-I is not correct.**
- All books in Mughal India were manuscripts, that is, they were handwritten. The centre of manuscript production was the imperial kitabkhana.
- Although kitabkhana can be translated as library, it was a scriptorium, that is, a place where the emperor's collection of manuscripts was kept and new manuscripts were produced.

Q 3.B

- **Ghiyasuddin Balban (of the Slave Dynasty)** He ruled Delhi from 1266AD to 1286AD.
- **Balban tried to strengthen his claim to the throne by declaring that he was the descendant of the legendary Iranian king Afrasiyab.** To prove his claim to noble blood, Balban stood forth as the champion of the Turkish nobility. He refused to entertain important government posts for anyone who did not belong to a noble family. **This virtually meant the exclusion of Indian Muslims from all positions of power and authority.**
- **To emphasize that the nobles were not his equals, he insisted on the ceremony of sijada and paibos (prostration and kissing the monarch's feet).** These and many other ceremonies which he copied were Iranian in origin and were considered un-Islamic.
- **Ghiyasuddin Balban introduced a separate military department (Diwan-i-Ariz) and appointed Kotwal.**
- **Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.**

Q 4.A

- **Context: ISRO releases second set of scientific data from Aditya-L1 mission**
 - The Advanced Space-based Solar Observatory (ASO-S), also known as Kuafu-1, is a Chinese satellite mission launched in October 2022, designed to study the Sun and its activity, including solar flares

and coronal mass ejections. Equipped with three payloads, it tracked and recorded the recent X-class solar flare, providing crucial data to solar physicists. These payloads have the capability to monitor solar flares, coronal mass ejections, and the sun's magnetic field concurrently, contributing significantly to solar research. **Hence, Pair 1 is not correctly matched.**

- Hinode (formerly known as Solar-B) is a solar observation satellite developed by JAXA (Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency) in collaboration with NASA, the UK, and the European Space Agency (ESA). It was launched in 2006 to study the Sun's magnetic field and its role in solar flares and coronal mass ejections. **Hence, Pair 2 is correctly matched.**
- SOHO is a joint project of NASA and the European Space Agency (ESA). It was launched in 1995 and is designed to observe the Sun's atmosphere, surface, and solar wind. **Hence, Pair 3 is not correctly matched.**

Q 5.A

- Ajivika is one of the nāstika or "heterodox" schools of Indian philosophy. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- Makkhali Gosala is considered as its founder in 5th century BCE. Several rock-cut caves belonging to Ajivika are dated to the times of the Mauryan emperor Ashoka who patronized the Ajivika sect. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- The rock-cut cave carved at Barabar hills near Gaya in Bihar is known as the Lomas Rishi cave. The facade of the cave is decorated with the semicircular chaitya arch as the entrance. It was carved during the Ashokan period of the Maurya Empire in the 3rd century BC. **Hence statement 3 is not correct.**
- The elephant frieze carved in high relief on the chaitya arch shows considerable movement. The interior hall of this cave is rectangular with a circular chamber at the back.

Q 6.B

- **Hindu subjects during Delhi Sultanate period had been given the status of zimmi or protected people i.e., those who accepted the Muslim rule and agreed to pay tax called jizyah. Hence, pair 3 is correctly not matched.**
- Ibn Battuta in his book 'Rihla' explained the unique system of communication of India which impressed him very much. **In India, the postal system was of two kinds. The horse post, called uluq, is run by royal horses stationed at a distance of every four miles. The foot-post has three stations per mile; it is called dawa. Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- **In 1580, Akbar instituted a new land revenue system called dahsala. Under this system, the average produce of different crops as well as average prices prevailing over the last ten (dah) years were calculated. One-third of the average share was state's share. Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**

Q 7.C

- Greek and Roman accounts of the first and second century A.D. mention many Indian ports and enumerate items of trade between India and the Roman empire.
- **The Periplus of the Erythrean Sea and Ptolemy's Geography both written in Greek, provide valuable data for the study of Indian geography and commerce.**
- **Pliny's Naturalis Historia, which belongs to 1st century A.D., written in Latin tells us about trade between India and Italy.**
- **Hence both the statements are correct.**

Q 8.C

- **Context: Cryogenic Conservation Initiative Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park (PNHZZP) in West Bengal's Darjeeling has become India's first zoo to preserve DNA samples of wildlife found exclusively in snowy regions.**
- The Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling is dedicated to conservation of Wildlife. It started work on captive breeding project of this rare species in the year 1983. It is situated at an altitude of approximately 7,000 feet (2,150 meters), making it the highest-altitude zoological park in India. It was selected as an ideal site for this captive breeding project. It is well-known for its conservation programs for Snow Leopard and Red Panda. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The zoo has initiated a project to preserve DNA samples of wildlife native to the Himalayan region, becoming the first zoo in India to undertake such an initiative. This effort aims to aid in the conservation of species found in snowy habitats. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- In 2014, the Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park was honored with the Earth Heroes Award by the Royal Bank of Scotland, recognizing its significant contributions to conservation. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Q 9.C

- **Context: Central and State governments are issuing orders to block online content through the Sahyog portal.**
- **About Sahyog portal Mission**
- 'Sahyog' Portal has been developed to automate the process of sending notices to intermediaries by the Appropriate Government or its agency under IT Act, 2000 to facilitate the removal or disabling of access to any information, data or communication link being used to commit an unlawful act. It will bring together all Authorized Agencies of the country and all the intermediaries on one platform for ensuring immediate action against the unlawful online information. This portal will help achieve a clean cyber space for the Citizens of India.
- **Hence option (c) is the correct answer.**

Q 10.B

- **Ellora cave site is located in Aurangabad District.** It is located a hundred kilometers from Ajanta and has thirty-four **Buddhist, Brahmanical, and Jain caves**. It has monasteries associated with the three religions dating from the fifth century CE onwards to the eleventh century CE.
- There are twelve Buddhist caves having many images belonging to **Vajrayana Buddhism** like Tara, Mahamayuri, Akshobhya, Avalokiteshwara, Maitreya, Amitabha, etc.
- **Ajanta also has excavated double-storeyed caves but at Ellora, the triple storey is a unique achievement.**
- Buddha images are big in size; they are generally guarded by the images of Padmapani and Vajrapani. Cave No. 12, which is a triple-storey excavation, has images of Tara, Avalokiteshwara, Manushi Buddhas, and the images Vairochana, Akshobhya, Ratnasambhava, Amitabha, Amoghsiddhi, Vajrasatva, and Vajraraja.
- Many caves are dedicated to Shaivism, but the images of both Shiva and Vishnu and their various forms according to Puranic narrative are depicted. **Among the Shaivite themes, Ravana shaking Mount Kailash, Andhakasurvadha, and Kalyanasundaram are profusely depicted whereas, among the Vaishnavite themes, the different avatars of Vishnu are depicted.**
- Cave No. 16 is known as **Kailashleni**. A rock-cut temple has been carved out of a single rock.
- **Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**

Q 11.C

- The different types of puppetry are:
 - **Kathputli, Rajasthan:** The traditional marionettes of Rajasthan are known as Kathputli. Carved from a single piece of wood, these puppets are like large dolls that are colorfully dressed. Their costumes and headgears are designed in the medieval Rajasthani style of dress, which is prevalent even today. The Kathputli is accompanied by a highly dramatized version of regional music. Oval faces, large eyes, arched eyebrows, and large lips are some of the distinct facial features of these string puppets. These puppets wear long trailing skirts and do not have legs. Puppeteers manipulate them with two to five strings which are normally tied to their fingers and not to a prop or support.
 - **Kundhei, Orissa:** The string puppets of Orissa are known as Kundhei. Made of light wood, the Orissa puppets have no legs but wear long flowing skirts. They have more joints and are, therefore, more versatile, articulate, and easy to manipulate. The puppeteers often hold a wooden prop, triangular in shape, to which strings are attached for manipulation. The costumes of Kundhei resemble those worn by actors of the Jatra traditional theatre. The music is drawn from the popular tunes of the region and is sometimes influenced by the music of Odissi dance.
 - **Gombeyatta, Karnataka:** The string puppets of Karnataka are called Gombeyatta. They are styled and designed like the characters of Yakshagana, the traditional theatre form of the region. The Gombeyatta puppet figures are highly stylized and have joints at the legs, shoulders, elbows, hips, and knees. These puppets are manipulated by five to seven strings tied to a prop. Some of the more complicated movements of the puppet are manipulated by two to three puppeteers at a time. Episodes enacted in Gombeyatta are usually based on Prasangas of the Yakshagana plays. The music that accompanies is dramatic and beautifully blends folk and classical elements. While Togalu Gombeyatta is shadow puppetry.

- **Bommalattam, Tamil Nadu:** Puppets from Tamil Nadu, known as Bommalattam combine the techniques of both rod and string puppets. They are made of wood and the strings for manipulation are tied to an iron ring which the puppeteer wears like a crown on his head. A few puppets have jointed arms and hands, which are manipulated by rods. The Bommalattam puppets are the largest, heaviest, and most articulate of all traditional Indian marionettes. A puppet may be as big as 4.5 feet in height weighing about ten kilograms. Bommalattam theatre has elaborate preliminaries which are divided into four parts - Vinayak Puja, Komali, Amanattam, and Pusenkanattam.
- **Ravanachhaya, Orissa:** It is a type of shadow puppetry. The most theatrically exciting is the Ravanachhaya of Orissa. The puppets are in one piece and have no joints. They are not colored, hence throwing opaque shadows on the screen. The manipulation requires great dexterity since there are no joints. The puppets are made of deerskin and are conceived in bold dramatic poses. Apart from human and animal characters, many props such as trees, mountains, chariots, etc. are also used. Although Ravanachhaya puppets are smaller in size-the largest not more than two feet have no jointed limbs, they create very sensitive and lyrical shadows. **Hence only option 4 is correct.**

Q 12.A

- **The old stone age or the Palaeolithic culture of India developed in the Pleistocene period of the Ice Age. The Pleistocene is the geological epoch that lasted from about 2,580,000 to 11,700 years ago, spanning the world's most recent period of repeated glaciations. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- People from the Paleolithic period were hunters and food gatherers. The Puranas speak of these people who lived on roots and fruits, some of these people have been living in the hills and caves till modern times. Domestication of animals only started in the Mesolithic period. The Mesolithic people lived on hunting, fishing, and food gathering and at a later stage they also domesticated animals.
- The Middle Palaeolithic industries were mainly based upon flakes. These flakes were found in different parts of India and show regional variations. The principal tools were varieties of blades, points, borers, and scrapers made of flakes. **The microlithic industry developed during the Mesolithic phase. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- **The Upper Paleolithic phase was less humid. It coincided with the last phase of the ice age when the climate became comparatively warm. The Paleolithic sites are found in hilly slopes and river valleys of the country and are absent in the alluvial plains of the Indus and the Ganga. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

Q 13.D

- **Context: Kasampatty Sacred Grove is declared as Tamil Nadu (TN)'s second BHS (Arittapatti in Madurai being the first in TN). It is located near the Alagarmalai Reserve Forest in Dindigul district. About Biodiversity Heritage Site**
 - BHS are unique, ecologically fragile ecosystems having rich biodiversity comprising - species richness, high endemism, presence of rare, endemic and threatened species, keystone species, etc. They are important for conserving biodiversity, including species richness, high endemism, rare and threatened species, keystone species, and species of evolutionary significance.
 - Under Section 37 of Biological Diversity Act, 2002, State Government in consultation with local bodies may notify areas of biodiversity importance as BHS. Also, State Government in consultation with Central Government may frame rules for management and conservation of BHS. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
 - National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) advises the State Government in the selection and management of heritage sites under section 37. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
 - NBA is an Autonomous and Statutory Body of the MoEFCC.
 - NBA (Headquartered in Chennai) was established in 2003 by the Central Government to implement India's Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
 - Nallur Tamarind Grove in Bengaluru, Karnataka was the first Biodiversity Heritage Site of India, declared in 2007. Kasampatty Sacred Grove is declared as Tamil Nadu (TN)'s second BHS (Arittapatti in Madurai being the first in TN). It is located near the Alagarmalai Reserve Forest in Dindigul district. **Hence statement 3 is not correct.**

Q 14.A

- Mahajanapadas were powerful and independent territorial states that emerged in ancient India from the 6th to 4th centuries BCE. These entities marked a transition from tribal societies to organized political units. The Mahajanapadas played a significant role in shaping early Indian political and cultural history, influencing the subsequent development of larger kingdoms and empires.

- **Chedi :**
 - > **Capital: Suktimati. Hence, pair 1 is not correctly matched.**
 - > Present State: Madhya Pradesh
 - > Chedi was prosperous with Shuktimati as a significant center for trade and cultural exchanges.
- **Vatsa :**
 - > **Capital: Kaushambi. Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**
 - > Present State: Uttar Pradesh
 - > Vatsa was economically prosperous. Kaushambi was a major center for commerce and arts.
- **Matsya :**
 - > **Capital: Viratanagara. Hence, pair 3 is not correctly matched.**
 - > Present State: Rajasthan
 - > Matsya is associated with the Mahabharata. Viratanagara is where the Pandavas spent their last year of exile.

Q 15.A

- **In the early years of Muhammad bin Tughlaq's reign, the Mongols under their leader Tarmashrin burst into Sind, and a force reached up to Meerut, about 65 km from Delhi. Muhammad Tughlaq not only defeated the Mongols in a battle near the Jhelum, but also occupied Kalanaur and for some time his power extended beyond the Indus up to Peshawar. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **During the year 1333, Muhammad bin Tughlaq commanded the Qarachil expedition to the Kullu Kangra region of present-day Himachal Pradesh in India. According to historical accounts from Badauni and Ferishta, Tughlaq's initial plan was to cross the Himalayas and launch an attack on China.**
- **Despite his intentions, Muhammad bin Tughlaq encountered opposition from the locals in Himachal. The army of Tughlaq, which was not accustomed to fighting in the hills, was defeated by Prithvi Chand II of the Katoch clan, a Hindu Rajput kingdom of Kangra. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

Q 16.B

- The position of women had also become miserable during the Gupta period. The subjection of women to men was thoroughly regularized. But it was insisted that they should be protected and generously treated by men.
- Women of higher-order did not have access to independent sources of livelihood in Gupta times. **Women of lower varna were free to earn their livelihood gave them considerable freedom which was denied to women of upper varnas. But women were allowed to listen to religious texts.**
- **Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.**

Q 17.A

- **Context: Euclid telescope has captured high-resolution images of 26 million galaxies.**
 - The Euclid mission is developed and led by the European Space Agency (ESA). It is part of ESA's Cosmic Vision programme, and was launched on July 1, 2023. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - Euclid's main scientific aim is to help solve two of the biggest mysteries in cosmology. Dark matter, which affects the movement of galaxies through its gravitational pull but does not emit light. Dark energy which is thought to be driving the accelerating expansion of the universe. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - Euclid uses visible and near-infrared imaging and spectroscopy to create a 3D map of the universe, observing billions of galaxies across a large part of the sky. By studying the shapes, distributions, and redshifts of galaxies, Euclid helps scientists understand the structure and evolution of the universe.
 - Euclid is not in low Earth orbit (LEO). It is located at the Sun–Earth Lagrange Point 2 (L2), about 1.5 million kilometers from Earth. L2 offers a stable, cold, and dark environment ideal for deep-space observations with minimal thermal and atmospheric interference. This position allows Euclid to observe distant galaxies continuously without obstruction from Earth or its atmosphere, which is crucial for precision cosmological measurements. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

Q 18.C

- The Mahājanapadas were sixteen kingdoms or oligarchic republics that existed in Northern ancient India from the sixth to fourth centuries BCE.
- Magadha (in present-day Bihar) became the most powerful mahajanapada. Various factors responsible were:
 - Magadha was a region where agriculture was especially productive.

- Besides, iron mines (in present-day Jharkhand) were accessible and provided resources for tools and weapons.
- Elephants, an important component of the army, were found in forests in the region.
- Also, the Ganga and its tributaries provided a means of cheap and convenient communication.
- Advancement in education and growth of revolutionary ideas like Buddhism and Jainism.
- However, early Buddhist and Jaina writers who wrote about Magadha attributed its power to the policies of individuals: ruthlessly ambitious kings of whom Bimbisara, Ajatasatru, and Mahapadma Nanda are the best known, and their ministers, who helped implement their policies.
- Initially, Rajagaha was the capital of Magadha. Interestingly, the old name means —house of the king. Rajagaha was a fortified settlement, located amongst hills. Later, in the fourth century BCE, the capital was shifted to Pataliputra, present-day Patna, commanding routes of communication along the Ganga.

Q 19.C

- Context: DX-EDGE (Digital Excellence for Growth and Enterprise) initiative was launched by CEO, NITI Ayog.
- About DX-EDGE
 - DX-EDGE, or "Empowering Excellence and Growth through Digital Transformation," is a national initiative by NITI Aayog, in collaboration with CII and AICTE, to empower India's MSMEs through digital transformation, enhancing their resilience, competitiveness, and technological capabilities.
 - Anchored in the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, Dx-EDGE aims to empower MSMEs with the tools, knowledge, and ecosystem needed to become future-ready, competitive, and resilient. By fostering partnerships between industry, academia, technology solution providers, and government, the initiative creates a robust platform for digital adoption, innovation, and inclusive economic growth across the country.
- Hence option (c) is the correct answer.

Q 20.C

- Statement 1 is correct: The shape of the main temple tower known as vimana in Tamil Nadu is like a stepped pyramid that rises up geometrically rather than the curving shikhara of North India. In the South Indian temple, the word 'shikhara' is used only for the crowning element at the top of the temple which is usually shaped like a small stupa or an octagonal cupola— this is equivalent to the amlak and kalasha of North Indian temples.
- Statement 2 is not correct: At the entrance to the North Indian temple's garbhagriha, it would be usual to find images such as mithunas and the river goddesses, Ganga and Yamuna, in the south you will generally find sculptures of fierce dvarapalas or the door-keepers guarding the temple. It is common to find a large water reservoir, or a temple tank, enclosed within the complex in the Dravida style temple.
- Statement 3 is correct: At some of the most sacred temples in South India, the main temple in which the garbhagriha is situated has, in fact, one of the smallest towers. This is because it is usually the oldest part of the temple. With the passage of time, the population and size of the town associated with that temple would have increased, and it would have become necessary to make a new boundary wall around the temple. This would have been taller than the last one, and its gopurams would have been even loftier. So, for instance, the Srirangam temple in Tiruchirappalli has as many as seven 'concentric' rectangular enclosure walls, each with gopurams. The outermost is the newest, while the tower right in the center housing the garbhagriha is the oldest.

Q 21.B

- The course of the evolution of Indian music saw the emergence of two different sub-systems as Hindustani and Carnatic music. In Haripala's "Sangeeta Sudhakara", written in the 14th century A.D., the terms Carnatic and Hindustani are found for the first time. The two distinct styles, Hindustani and Carnatic came into vogue after the advent of the Muslims, particularly during the reign of the Mughal Emperors of Delhi.
- Both systems of music received their nourishment from the same original source. Whereas the Indian music of the Northern part of India assimilated some features of the music of the Persian and Arabic musicians who adorned the courts of the Mughal rulers of Delhi, the music of the South continued to

develop along its own original lines. But the fundamental aspects of both the systems of the North and South have been the same. Following are some of the significant forms of Carnatic music:

- **GITAM:** Gitam is the simplest type of composition. Taught to beginners of music, the gitam is very simple in construction, with an easy and melodious flow of music. The music of this form is a simple melodic extension of the raga in which it is composed. The tempo is uniform. It has no sections dividing one part of the song from the other. It is sung without repetition from the beginning to the end. There are no intricate variations in the music. Purandaradasa's introductory gitas in praise of Ganesha, Maheswara and Vishnu, collectively referred to as Pillari gitas, form the very first set of gitas taught to the students of music.
- **SULADI:** Very much like the gitam in musical structure and arrangement, the Suladis are of a higher standard than the gitam. The Suladi is a talamalika, the sections being in different talas. The sahitya syllables are fewer than in the gitas and there is a profusion of vowel extensions. The theme is devotional. Suladis are composed in different tempos vilambita, madhya and druta. Purandaradasa has composed many Suladis. **Hence option 1 is correct.**
- **SVARAJATI:** This is learned after a course in gitams. More complicated than the gitas, the Svarajati paves the way for the learning of the Varnams. It consists of three sections, called Pallavi, Anupallavi and Charanam. The theme is either devotional, heroic or amorous. It originated as a dance form with jatis (tala, solfa syllables like taka tari kita naka tatin gina tam) tagged on.
- **JATISVARAM:** Very similar to the svarajati in musical structure, this form- Jatisvaram-has no sahitya or words. The piece is sung with solfa syllables only. It is noted for its rhythmical excellence and the jati pattern used in it. This is a musical form belonging to the realm of dance music. In some Jatisvarams, the Pallavi and Anupallavi are sung to jatis and the Charanas are sung to a mixture of svaras and jatis. There are also Ragamalika Jatisvarams. **Hence option 2 is correct.**
- **PADA:** Padas are scholarly compositions in Telugu and Tamil. Though they are composed mainly as dance forms, they are also sung in concerts, on account of their musical excellence and aesthetic appeal. A padam also has the sections, pallavi, anupallavi and charana. The music is slow-moving and dignified. There is a natural flow of music and, a sustained balance between the words and the music is maintained throughout. The theme is madhura bhakti, portrayed as bahir sringara and antar bhakti.
- **Khyals and Thumri are musical forms of Hindustani music.** The pride of place in classical Hindustani Music is occupied by the Khyal. As sung today, the khyal has two varieties: the slow or vilambit khyal and the fast or drut khyal. In form both are similar, they have two sections – the asthayee and the antara. The vilambit is sung in slow tempo and the drut at a faster speed. In technique, the exposition is less grave than the dhrupad. There are more delicate gamkas and ornamentations. **Hence option 3 and 4 is not correct.**
- **Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.**

Q 22.B

- **Satavahanas became prominent in the Indian political scene sometime in the middle of the first century BC. Gautamiputra Satakarni (first century AD) is considered to be the greatest of the Satavahana rulers. He is credited with the extension of Satavahana dominions by defeating Nahapana, the Shaka ruler of Western India. Simuka was the founder of the Satavahana Dynasty. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- His kingdom is said to have extended from river Krishna in the south to river the Godavari in the north. The Satavahanas had their capital at Pratishthana (modern Paithan) near Aurangabad in Maharashtra. The Satavahana kingdom was wiped out in the first quarter of the third century AD and the Satavahanas kings were succeeded by the Kings of the Ikshvaku dynasty.
- Satavahana Society:
- The Satavahanas originally seems to have been a Deccan tribe. They however were so brahmanized that they claimed to be Brahmanas. Their most famous king, Gautamiputra Satakarni, described himself as a brahmana and claimed to have established the fourfold varna system which had fallen into disorder. He boasted that he had put an end to the intermixture between the people of different social orders. He considered it their primary duty to uphold the varna system i.e. the fourfold division of social structure.
- Indigenous tribal people were increasingly acculturated by the Buddhist monks who were induced by land grants to settle in western Deccan. It is suggested that traders too supported the Buddhist monks, for the earliest caves seem to have been located on the trade routes.
- **Satavahanas kings were the first in Indian history to make tax-free land grants to Buddhists and Brahmanas to gain religious merit. This practice became more prominent in succeeding periods. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

Q 23.A

- **The Tripartite Struggle refers to a significant period of political conflict and rivalry among three major Indian dynasties: the Gurjara-Pratiharas, the Rashtrakutas, and the Palas.** This struggle occurred during the 8th to 10th centuries AD and primarily centered around the control of northern and central India, particularly over Kannauj.
- Since the days of Harsha, Kannauj was considered the symbol of the sovereignty of north India—a position that Delhi was to acquire later. Control of Kannauj also implied control of the upper Gangetic Valley and its rich resources in trade and agriculture.
- **Hence option (a) is the correct answer.**

Q 24.A

- **Akbar introduced a number of Social and Educational Reforms:**
 - **He stopped sati-unless, she herself, of her free will persistently desire for it. This led to a restriction on sati, not a blanket ban.**
 - **Widow marriages were legalized.**
 - **The age of marriage was raised to 14 for girls and 16 for boys.**
 - The sale of wines and spirits was restricted.
 - Akbar, was also against having more than one wife unless the first wife was barren.
 - He revised the education syllabus, laying more emphasis on Moral education and mathematics and on secular subjects. **Hence option (a) is the correct answer.**

Q 25.A

- **Rural expansion:** In South India, during the ancient period we come across **three types of villages; ur, sabha, and nagaram.**
 - **Ur was the usual type of village** inhabited by peasant castes, who perhaps held that in common; it was the responsibility of the village headman to collect and pay taxes on their behalf. These villages were mainly found in Southern Tamil Nadu.
 - The **sabha type of village** consisted of brahamadeya villages or those granted to the Brahmanas, and of agrahara villages. The brahmana owners enjoyed individual rights in the land but carried on their activities collectively.
 - The **nagaram type of village** consisted of the village settled and dominated by combinations of traders and merchants.
- **Hence option (a) is the correct answer.**

Q 26.A

- Dhrupad is one of the oldest and grandest forms of Hindustani Classical Music. The essential quality of the dhrupadic approach is its sombre atmosphere and emphasis on rhythm.
 - **There were four schools or vanis of singing the dhrupad.**
 - > **The Gauhar vani** developed the raga or unadorned melodic figures.
 - > **The Dagarvani** emphasized melodic curves and graces.
 - > **The Khandar vani** specialised in quick ornamentation of the notes.
 - > **Nauhar vani** was known for its broad musical leaps and jumps.
 - > These vanis 'are now indistinguishable.
- Today the pride of place in classical Hindustani Music is occupied by **the Khyal**. The word is alien and means 'imagination'. **It is more lyrical than the dhrupad. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- **Comparable to the vanis of the dhrupad, we have gharanas, in the khyal.** These are schools of singing founded or developed by various individuals or patrons such as kings or noblemen. The oldest of these is the Gwalior gharana. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**

Q 27.B

- **Allauddin Khalji (1296-1316) introduced market policy,** which was a groundbreaking and distinctive measure that garnered the interest of both domestic and international historians.
 - During the early 14th century, Allauddin Khalji implemented a series of reforms that included price controls throughout his empire. **This involved setting fixed prices for a wide range of commodities, such as grains, cloth, slaves, and animals. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
 - According to Barani, Allauddin set up three markets in Delhi, first for food grains, the second for cloth and expensive items such as sugar, ghee, oil, dry fruits, etc., and the third for horses, slaves, and cattle. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**

Q 28.B

- Although Sakas established their rule in different parts of the country, only those who ruled in western India held power for any considerable length of time, for about four centuries or so. The most famous **Saka ruler in India was Rudradaman I (AD 130-150) He ruled not only over Sindh, Kutch and Gujarat, but had also recovered from the Satavahanas Konkan, the Narmada valley, Malwa and Kathiawar.**
- He is famous in history because of the repairs he undertook to improve the Sudarsana lake in the semi-arid zone of Kathiawar.
- This lake had been in use for irrigation for a long time and was as old as the time of the Mauryas. Rudradaman was a great lover of Sanskrit. Although a foreigner settled in India, he issued the first ever long inscription in chaste Sanskrit.
- **Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.**

Q 29.B

- **Nayanars were leaders who were devotees of Shiva.** They traveled from place to place singing hymns in Tamil in praise of their gods. During their travels, the Nayanars identified certain shrines as abodes of their chosen deities. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- **The Periyapurāṇam is a Tamil poetic account depicting the lives of the sixty-three Nayanars, the canonical poets of Tamil Shaivism.** It was compiled during the 12th century by Sekkilar. The Periya Puranam is part of the corpus of Shaiva canonical works. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

Q 30.C

- **Context: Venture capitalists are concerned about AI washing used by startups to secure funding. About AI Washing**
- AI washing is a marketing tactic companies employ to exaggerate the amount of AI technology they use in their products. The goal of AI washing is to make a company's offerings seem more advanced than they are and capitalize on the growing interest in AI technology. AI washing takes its name from greenwashing, which is when companies make false or misleading claims about the positive impact they have on the environment.
- AI washing is the practice of overstating or misrepresenting the use of AI in products, services or business strategies. AI washing takes its name from greenwashing, which is when companies make false or misleading claims about positive impact they have on the environment. Examples of AI Washing: Mislabelling automation as AI, Superficial AI claims, Using buzzwords phrases like "AI-driven" etc.
- **Hence option (c) is the correct answer.**

Q 31.B

- **Kathak Dance:** It is one of the eight major forms of Indian classical dance.
- Its origin is traditionally attributed to the traveling bards in the North of Ancient India known as **Kathakars or storytellers.**
 - Sankaradeva was the Vaishnava saint and reformer of Assam who introduced Sattriya dance as a powerful medium for the propagation of the Vaishnava faith. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Kathak evolved during the Bhakti movement, particularly by incorporating the childhood and stories of the Hindu god Krishna, as well as independently in the courts of north Indian kingdoms.
- Kathak is found in three distinct forms, called "gharanas", named after the cities where the Kathak dance tradition evolved – Jaipur, Banaras and Lucknow.
- Features:
 - It emphasizes rhythmic foot movements, adorned with small bells (Ghungroo) and the movement harmonized to the music.
 - The legs and torso are generally straight, and the story is told through a developed vocabulary based on the gestures of arms and upper body movement, facial expressions, neck movements, eyes and eyebrow movement, stage movements, bends and turns.
- **It is the only classical dance of India having links with Muslim culture. It represents a unique synthesis of Hindu and Muslim genius in art.**
- **Kathak is the only form of classical dance wedded to Hindustani or North Indian music.** Both of them have had a parallel growth, each feeding and sustaining the other. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

Q 32.C

- The most remarkable figure in the Bahmani kingdom during the period was **Firuz Shah Bahmani (1397 1422)**.
- **Firuz Shah Bahmani encouraged the pursuit of astronomy and built an observatory near Daulatabad.** He paid much attention to the **principal ports of his kingdom, Chaul and Dabhol**, which attracted trading ships from the Persian Gulf and the Red Sea, and brought in luxury goods from all parts of the world. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **In 1419, the Bahmani kingdom received a setback when Firuz Shah Bahmani was defeated by Deva Raya I.** This defeat weakened the position of Firuz. He was compelled to abdicate in favour of his brother, Ahmad Shah I, who is called a saint (wali) on account of his association with the famous sufi saint, Gesu Daraz. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

Q 33.A

- Context: The Union Government has announced the establishment of the second National Gene Bank (NGB) to conserve 10 lakh crop germplasm, ensuring future food and nutritional security.
- Gene banks function as biorepositories preserving genetic material from various organisms, including plants, animals, and microorganisms. They store seeds, tissues, sperm, eggs, and other biological materials under controlled conditions to conserve genetic diversity. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- While the National Gene Bank at the ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR) in New Delhi is a primary facility for conserving plant genetic resources, it is not the sole gene bank in India. There are other regional gene banks and institutions. Other Gene Banks in India Animal Gene Bank: ICAR-National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR), Haryana. Microbial Gene Bank: ICAR-National Bureau of Agriculturally Important Microorganisms (NBAIM), Uttar Pradesh. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The National Gene Bank is managed by the ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR), which operates under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

Q 34.B

- **The Mansabdari system** was a unique administrative system developed by the Mughals in India. **It was designed and established by Mughal Emperor Akbar. Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- **The term Mansabdar referred to an individual who holds a mansab, meaning a position or rank.** It was a grading system used by the Mughals to fix Zat or rank, Salary and Sawar or military responsibilities. **The Mansabdars had to maintain their own force. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- The salaries of the mansabdars were stated in rupees but they were generally not paid in cash, but by assigning them a jagir. Mansabdars preferred a jagir because cash payments were likely to be delayed and sometimes entailed a lot of harassment. However, Jagirs were not hereditary and were transferred by rulers at any time.

Q 35.B

- **The Chishti order was established in India by Khwaja Muinuddin Chishti** who came to India around 1192, shortly after the defeat and death of Prithvi Raj Chauhan. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- **A major feature of the Chishti tradition was austerity, including maintaining a distance from worldly power.** However, this was by no means a situation of absolute isolation from political power. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- **The Chishtis accepted donations in cash and kind.** Rather than accumulate donations, they preferred to use these fully on immediate requirements such as food, clothes, living quarters and ritual necessities (such as sama). **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**

Q 36.A

- **Context: The bilateral Naval Exercise INDRA 2025 between Indian and Russian navies was held from 28 Mar to 02 Apr 2025.**
- Exercise Prachand Prahar Indian Armed Forces (Army, Navy, Air Force) conducted a tri-service integrated multi-domain exercise, Prachand Prahar, in Arunachal Pradesh. It validated integrated planning, command and control, and seamless execution of surveillance and firepower platforms across the three services. **Hence Pair 1 is not correctly matched.**
- Indian Air Force to Participate in Multinational Air Exercise in Greece. About INIOCHOS-25 It is an annual multinational air exercise hosted by Greece's Hellenic Air Force. It serves as a platform for air

forces to hone their skills, exchange tactical knowledge, and strengthen military ties. **Hence Pair 2 is correctly matched.**

- The bilateral Naval Exercise INDRA 2025 between Indian and Russian navies was held from 28 Mar to 02 Apr 2025. This 14th edition of the exercise included a wide range of activities and structured drills designed to enhance interoperability towards countering common maritime threats. The operations involved complex coordinated manoeuvres and simulated engagements showcasing the combined combat power of the participating navies. **Hence Pair 3 is not correctly matched.**

Q 37.C

- The caves of Bhimbetka were discovered in **1957–58** by eminent archaeologist **V. S. Wakankar** and later on, many more were discovered. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- 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.
- **The largest number of Bhimbetka paintings belong to Period II which covers the Mesolithic paintings.**
 - **During this period the themes are multiple but the paintings are smaller in size compared to Upper Palaeolithic paintings. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
 - Hunting scenes predominate. The hunting scenes depict people hunting in groups, armed with barbed spears, pointed sticks, arrows and bows. In some paintings, these primitive men are shown with traps and snares probably to catch animals.
 - The hunters are shown wearing simple clothes and ornaments. Sometimes, men have been adorned with elaborate headdresses, and sometimes painted with masks also.
 - Elephant, bison, tiger, boar, deer, antelope, leopard, panther, rhinoceros, fish, frog, lizard, squirrel, and at times birds are also depicted.
 - The Mesolithic artists loved to paint animals. In some pictures, animals are chasing men. In others, they are being chased and hunted by men. Some of the animal paintings, especially in the hunting scenes, show fear of animals, but many others show a feeling of tenderness and love for them.
 - **Though animals were painted in a naturalistic style, humans were depicted only in a stylistic manner. Hence statement 3 is correct.**
 - Women are painted both in the nude and clothed. The young and the old equally find their place in these paintings. Children are painted running, jumping, and playing. Community dances provide a common theme.
 - There are paintings of people gathering fruit or honey from trees, and of women grinding and preparing food.
 - Some of the pictures of men, women, and children seem to depict a sort of family life. In many of the rock shelters, we find handprints, fist prints, and dots made by the fingertips.
 - **The artists of Bhimbetka used many colors, including various shades of white, yellow, orange, red ochre, purple, brown, green, and black. But white and red were their favorite colors.**

Q 38.A

- The Guptas with their seat of power in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar ruled over north and western India for about 160 years, till the middle of the sixth century A.D. Then north India again split up into several kingdoms. The white Hunas established their supremacy over Kashmir, Punjab and western India from about A.D. 500 onwards. North and western India passed under the control of about half a dozen feudatories who parcelled out Gupta empire among themselves. Gradually, one of these dynasties ruling at Thanesar in Haryana extended its authority over all the other feudatories. The ruler who brought it about was Harshavardhana (A.D. 606-647).
- **Harsha made Kanauj the seat of his power and there from extended his authority in all directions. During this period Pataliputra fell on bad days and Kanauj came to the forefront. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The early history of Harsha's reign is reconstructed from a study of Banabhatta, who was his court poet and who wrote a book called - Harshacharita. This can be supplemented by the account of the Chinese pilgrim Hsuan Tsang, who visited India in the seventh century "A.D. and stayed in the country for about 15 years.
- Harsha governed his empire on the same lines as the Guptas did, except that his administration had become more feudal and decentralized.

- Land grants continued to be made to priests for special services rendered to the state. In addition, Harsha is credited with the grant of land to the officers by charters. These grants allowed the same concessions to priests as were allowed by the earlier grants. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- The feudal practice of rewarding and paying officers with grants of land seems to have begun under Harsha. This is natural because we do not have many coins issued by Harsha.

Q 39.D

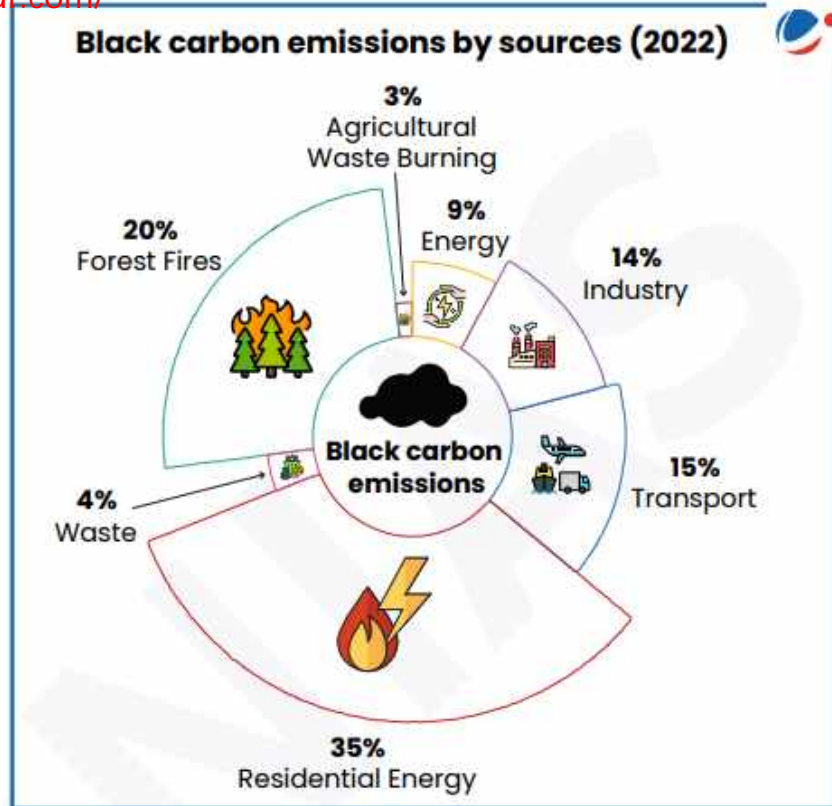
- Some of the new kingdoms that emerged in the Deccan and further south, including the chiefdoms of the Cholas, Cheras and Pandyas in Tamilakam (the name of the ancient Tamil country, which included parts of present-day Andhra Pradesh and Kerala, in addition to Tamil Nadu), proved to be stable and prosperous.
- The Cheras ruled over large parts of modern-day Kerala with their capital at Vanji. Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.
- Shakas were people of Central Asian origin who established kingdoms in the north-western and western parts of the subcontinent, derived revenues from long-distance trade. Hence, pair 1 is not correctly matched.
- Kushanas ruled over a vast kingdom extending from Central Asia to northwest India. They are considered to be one of the five branches of the Yuezhi tribe who lived in the Chinese frontier or central Asia. Kanishka is considered as the greatest Kushana king and also a great king of ancient India. Hence, pair 3 is not correctly matched.

Q 40.A

- Akbar divided the empire into twelve provinces called Subhas in 1580. These were Bengal, Bihar, Allahabad, Awadh, Agra, Delhi, Lahore, Multan, Kabul, Ajmer, Malwa and Gujarat. A governor (subedar), a diwan, a bakhshi, a sadr, a qazi, and a waqia-navis were appointed to each of the provinces. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- Akbar followed the old batai or ghalla-bakshi system. In this system, the produce was divided between peasants and the state in a fixed proportion. The crop was divided after it has been thrashed, or when it has been cut and tied in stacks, or while it was standing in the field. Akbar also followed nasaq system. It meant a rough calculation of the amount payable by the peasant on the basis of what he has been paying in the past. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

Q 41.A

- **Recent Context:** Climate and Clean Air Benefits Report released by Clean Air Fund Report highlighted that reducing black carbon alongside other super pollutants is fastest way to achieve near-immediate climate gains while improving air quality, public health, and the economy.
- Tackling Black Carbon: How to Unlock Fast Climate and Clean Air Benefits Report released by Clean Air Fund Report highlighted that reducing black carbon alongside other super pollutants is fastest way to achieve near-immediate climate gains while improving air quality, public health, and the economy. What is Black Carbon? Black carbon, commonly known as soot, is a component of fine particulate air pollution (PM2.5). Black carbon is a Short-Lived Climate Pollutant (SLCP) and lasts only days to weeks in the atmosphere. Top emitters: India is second largest black carbon emitter in the world after China.
- Based on the Clean Air Fund Report and other authoritative sources, the contributions of various sectors to black carbon emissions are ranked as follows:
 - **Residential Energy:** Approximately 35% of global black carbon emissions originate from the residential sector, primarily due to the use of solid fuels like wood, charcoal, agricultural residues, dung, and coal for heating and cooking.
 - **Industry:** Industrial processes and power generation contribute about 14% of black carbon emissions, often from smaller boilers and industrial activities.
 - **Agricultural Waste Burning:** Open biomass burning, which includes agricultural waste burning, accounts for approximately 3% of black carbon emissions.
 - **Forest Fires:** While forest fires are a significant source of black carbon.



- Hence option (a) is the correct answer.

Q 42.D

- Ibn Battuta** was born in Tangier into one of the most respectable and educated families known for their expertise in Islamic religious law or sharia.
- Traveling overland through Central Asia, **Ibn Battuta reached Sind in 1333**. He had heard about **Muhammad bin Tughlaq**, the Sultan of Delhi, and lured by his reputation as a generous patron of arts and letters, set off for Delhi, passing through Multan and Uch. **The Sultan was impressed by his scholarship, and appointed him the qazi or judge of Delhi. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Ibn Battuta's book of travels, called Rihla, written in Arabic, provides extremely rich and interesting details about the social and cultural life in the subcontinent in the fourteenth century. Hence, statements 1 and 3 are correct.**

Q 43.D

- Pulakeshin II (609–642 CE) was the most famous Chalukya king. He is known to us from his eulogy written by the court poet Ravikirti in the Aihole inscription.** This inscription is an example of poetic excellence reached in Sanskrit, and in spite of its exaggeration is a valuable source for the biography of Pulakeshin. **He subjugated the Kadamba capital at Banavasi and compelled the Gangas of Mysore to acknowledge his suzerainty.** In his conflict with the Pallavas, he almost reached the Pallava capital, but Pallavas purchased peace by ceding their northern provinces to Pulakeshin II.
- The most notable military achievement of Pulakeshin was his victory over the powerful northern emperor Harsha-Vardhan, whose failure to conquer the Chalukya kingdom is attested by the Chinese pilgrim Hiuen Tsang who visited his kingdom. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.**
- About King Harsha - Harshavardhana belonged to the Pushyabhuti dynasty, founded by Naravardhana close of the 5th or beginning of the 6th century A.D. It was only under the king of Thaneswar Prabhakarvardhana (father of Harshavardhana), the Pushyabhuti dynasty flourished and he assumed the title of Maharajadhiraja. Harshavardhana succeeded the throne in 606 A.D. at the age of sixteen after his elder brother Rajyavardhana was killed by Sasanka while going to suppress the kings of Gauda and Malwa.

Q 44.A

- Arabesque is a form of artistic decoration consisting of "surface decorations based on rhythmic linear patterns of scrolling and interlacing foliage, tendrils" or plain lines, often combined with other elements. It was extensively used in Indo-Islamic architecture. Hence option (a) is the correct answer.**

- The 'arabesque' is a French term derived from the Italian word arabesco meaning Arabic style. The design can be 'tiled' or repeated seamlessly to create an endless pattern in the eyes of the viewer. The arabesques made in the West are based on either ancient Roman ornament or derived from Islamic art. The patterns are used to mostly decorate architecture and seem to disappear under a framing edge without an ending.

Q 45.B

- The sixth century BCE is often regarded as a major turning point in early Indian history. It is an era associated with early states, cities, the growing use of iron, the development of coinage, etc.
- It also witnessed the growth of diverse systems of thought, including Buddhism and Jainism. Early Buddhist and Jaina texts mention, amongst other things, sixteen states known as mahajanapadas.
- **Although the lists vary, some names such as Vajji, Magadha, Koshala, Kuru, Panchala, Gandhara, and Avanti occur frequently. Clearly, these were amongst the most important mahajanapadas. While most mahajanapadas were ruled by kings, some, known as ganas or sanghas, were oligarchies, where power was shared by a number of men, often collectively called rajas. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Both Mahavira and the Buddha belonged to such ganas. In some instances, as in the case of the Vajji sangha, the rajas probably controlled resources such as land collectively. Although their histories are often difficult to reconstruct due to the lack of sources, some of these states lasted for nearly a thousand years.
- Each mahajanapada had a capital city, which was often fortified. Maintaining these fortified cities as well as providing for incipient armies and bureaucracies required resources. Brahmanas began composing Sanskrit texts known as the Dharmasutras. These laid down norms for rulers (as well as for other social categories), who were ideally expected to be Kshatriyas. Rulers were advised to collect taxes and tribute from cultivators, traders, and artisans.
- **Raids in neighboring states were recognized as a legitimate means of acquiring wealth. Gradually, some states acquired standing armies and maintained regular bureaucracies. Others continued to depend on the militia, recruited, more often than not, from the peasantry. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**



Q 46.B

- The reign of Chandragupta II saw the high watermark of the Gupta empire. He extended the limits of the empire by marriage alliance and conquests.
- Chandragupta exercised indirect control over the Vakataka kingdom in central India. Chandragupta II conquered western Malwa and Gujarat, which gave Chandragupta the western sea coast famous for trade and commerce.
- **Chandragupta II adopted the title of Vikramaditya. The court of Chandragupta II was adorned by numerous scholars including Kalidasa and Amarasingha.**
- **It was in Chandragupta's time that the Chinese pilgrim Fa-Hsien (399-414) visited India and wrote an elaborate account of the life of its people.**
- Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

Q 47.A

- **Malfuzats are the texts containing the conversations of sufi saints.** An early text on malfuzat is the Fawa'id-al-Fu'ad, a collection of conversations of Shaikh Nizamuddin Auliya, compiled by Amir Hasan Sijzi Dehlavi, a noted Persian poet. **Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.**
- **Maktubats are the collection of letters written by sufi masters,** addressed to their disciples and associates.
- **Tazkiras are the biographical accounts of saints.** The 14th century Siyar-ul-Auliya of Mir Khwurd Kirmani was the first sufi tazkira written in India. It dealt principally with the Chishti saints.
- **The practice of pilgrimage to the dargah (shrine or tomb) of a Sufi saint on his death anniversary is called Ziyarat.**

Q 48.B

- The **string puppets of Odisha are known as Kundhei. Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- The puppets are **made of light wood, and have no legs but wear long flowing skirts. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- They have **more joints and are, therefore, more versatile, articulate, and easy to manipulate.** The puppeteers often hold a wooden prop, triangular in shape, to which strings are attached for manipulation.
- **The costumes of Kundhei resemble those worn by actors of the Jatra traditional theatre.** The music is drawn from the popular tunes of the region and is sometimes influenced by the music of Odisha dance.

Q 49.A

- Cultural consequences of contact of Central Asian powers over India:
 - **Better Cavalry: The Shakas and Kushans added new ingredients to Indian culture and enriched it immensely. They settled in India for good and completely identified themselves with its culture. As they did not have their own script, written language, or any organized religion, they adopted these components of culture from India and became an integral part of Indian society to which they contributed considerably. They introduced better cavalry and the use of riding horse on a large scale. They popularized the use of reins and saddles, which appear in the Buddhist sculpture of the second and third centuries AD. The Shakas and the Kushans were excellent horsemen. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - Their passion for horsemanship is shown by numerous equestrian terracotta figures of Kushan times discovered from Begram in Afghanistan. Some of these foreign horsemen were heavily armoured and fought with spears and lances. Presumably, they also used some form of toe stirrup made of rope which facilitated their movements.
 - Trade: The coming of the Central Asian people established intimate contacts between Central Asia and India. India received a great fund of gold from the Altai mountains in Central Asia. Gold may also have been received by it through trade with the Roman empire.
 - The Kushans controlled the Silk Route, which started from China and passed through their empire in Central Asia and Afghanistan to Iran, and western Asia which formed part of the Roman empire in the eastern Mediterranean zone.
 - This route was a source of substantial income for the Kushans, and they built a large prosperous empire on the strength of the tolls levied from traders. **It is significant that the Kushans were the first rulers in India to issue gold coins on a wide scale. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - **Political administration: The Kushans strengthened the satrap system of government adopted by the Shakas.** The empire was divided into numerous satrapies, and each was placed under the rule of a satrap. Some curious practices such as hereditary dual rule, that is, two kings ruling in the

same kingdom simultaneously, were begun, with instances of father and son ruling jointly at the same time. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

- It thus appears that there was less of centralization under these rulers. The Greeks also introduced the practice of military governorship, the governors called strategos. Military governors were necessary to maintain the power of the new rulers over the conquered people.

Q 50.A

- **Nalayira Divya Prabandham: It is a collection of 4,000 Tamil verses composed by the 12 Alvars, and was compiled in its present form by Nathamuni/Nathamunigal during the 9th – 10th centuries.** These were sung by the Alvars in devotional ecstasy in various shrines of Vishnu, made famous as Magalashasana sthalas.
- They are in praise of Narayana (Vishnu) and his many forms, sung by Alvars at sacred shrines called Divya Desams. **Nalayira Divya Prabandham was described as the Tamil Veda and claimed the text was as important as the four Vedas.**
- **Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.**

Q 51.A

- Prehistoric paintings have been found in many parts of the world. We do not really know if Lower Palaeolithic people ever produced any art objects. But by the Upper Palaeolithic times, we see a proliferation of artistic activities. Around the world, the walls of many caves of this time are full of finely carved and painted pictures of animals that the cave-dwellers hunted. The subjects of their drawings were human figures, human activities, geometric designs, and animal symbols.
 - **In India, the earliest paintings have been reported from the Upper Palaeolithic times.**
- **The first discovery of rock paintings was made in India in 1867–68 by an archaeologist, Archibald Carlleyle, twelve years before the discovery of Altamira in Spain. Hence option (a) is the correct answer.**
 - Cockburn, Anderson, Mitra, and Ghosh were the early archaeologists who discovered a large number of sites in the Indian sub-continent.
- Archibald Carlleyle discovered rock paintings at **Sohagihat in the Mirzapur district of Uttar Pradesh** in 1867 and 1868.
- In 1881 Cockburn had found fossilized rhinoceros bones in the valley of the Ken River in the Mirzapur region as well as a painting of a rhinoceros hunted by three men in a shelter near Roap Village. F Fawcett in the cave of Edakal in Kozhikode district of Kerala made the earliest discoveries of rock engravings. A few years later A Silberrad published a pictorial description of the rock paintings in the Banda district.
- C W Anderson discovered a painted shelter of Singhanpur in the Raigarh district in Madhya Pradesh.

Q 52.B

- **The Kalpa Sutra and the Kalakacharya-Katha, the two very popular Jain texts were repeatedly written and illustrated with paintings.**
 - Kalakacharya Katha tells the story of a great Jain muni of the Shwetambar school called Kalak. His sister and he joined the Jain monastic order at an early age. He was extremely knowledgeable and she was extremely beautiful. Even though she was a nun, she was abducted by the king of Ujjaini.
 - The story of Kalak Acharya Katha was added as an appendix to the Kalpasutra, which tells the story of the three types of special beings of the Jain universe: the heroic Vasudeva, the regal Chakravartthy, and the wise Tirthankaras. Kalpasutra describes the cosmogony of the Jain world.
- **Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**

Q 53.C

- **Manipuri** is one of the main styles of Indian Art or Classical Dances that originated in the state of Manipur.
- The dance in Manipur is associated with rituals and traditional festivals, there are legendary references to the dances of Shiva and Parvati and other gods and goddesses who created the universe.
- **Lai Haraoba** is one of the main festivals still performed in Manipur which has its roots in the pre-Vaishnavite period. Lai Haraoba is the earliest form of dance which forms the basis of all stylized dances in Manipur.
- **Manipur dance has a large repertoire, however, the most popular forms are the Ras, the Sankirtana and the Thang-Ta.** There are five principal Ras dances of which four are linked with specific seasons,

while the fifth can be presented at any time of the year. In Manipuri Ras, the main characters are Radha, Krishna and the gopis.

- The Kirtan form of congregational singing accompanies the dance which is known as **Sankirtana in Manipur**.
 - The male dancers play the Pung and Kartal while dancing. The masculine aspect of dance - the Choloms are a part of the Sankirtana tradition. The **Pung and Kartal choloms are performed at all social and religious festivals**.
- Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

Q 54.C

- **The decline of the Gupta empire resulted in the emergence of numerous ruling dynasties in different parts of northern India. The prominent among them were the Pushyabhutis of Thanesar, Maukharis of Kanauj, and the Maitrakas of Valabhi.**
- **Maitrakas:** The Maitrakas were tributary chiefs of the Guptas, who established an independent kingdom in western India. Dhruvasena II was the most important ruler of the Maitrakas. He was a contemporary of Harshavardhana. Ruling over Saurashtra in Gujarat, the Maitrakas developed Valabhi as their capital. This city became an important center of learning.
- **Maukharis:** The Maukharis ruled over Kanauj, a city in western Uttar Pradesh, which gradually replaced Pataliputra as a political center of north India. Maukharis were also the subordinate rulers of the Guptas and used the title of samanta.
- **Pushyabhutis:** An important ruling family to gain prominence after the fall of the Gupta was that of the Pushyabhutis who had their capital at Thanesar (Thanesvara in Kurukshetra). The dynasty became influential with the accession of Prabhakarvardhana, who was able to defeat the Hunas and strengthen his position in the regions of Punjab and Haryana.
- Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

Q 55.A

- The Ajanta and Ellora caves are the finest examples of cave architecture in Ancient India. While Ajanta is mostly about beautiful paintings made on cave walls on the theme of Buddhism, Ellora is all about sculpture and architecture belonging to three different religions prevailing in the country during those times—Buddhism, Hinduism and Jainism.
- **Ajanta is a cluster of 30 caves of different sizes excavated in a horseshoe-shaped stretch of rock embedded in a hill facing a narrow stream called Waghora. Each cave was connected to the stream by a flight of steps, which are now demolished with few remnants left behind. The caves were built in two phases—starting around the 2nd century BC, with the second group of caves built around 400–650 AD. While Ajanta has two-storeyed caves, three-storeyed caves in Ellora is a unique achievement. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Both Ajanta and Ellora have elaborate Buddhist paintings and structures. At Ajanta, The themes of the paintings are the events from the life of the Buddha, the Jatakas and the Avadanas. Some paintings such as Simhala Avadana, Mahajanaka Jataka and Vidharpundita Jataka cover the entire wall of the cave. It is worth noting that Chaddanta Jataka has been painted in the early Cave No. 10 with many details and events grouped according to their geographical locations. Events that happened in the jungle and events that happened in the palace are separated by their locations. The best-preserved images of Padmapani and Vajrapani are in cave no. 1 of Ajanta.
- **Ellora is also unique in terms of stylistic eclecticism, i.e., the confluence of many styles at one place. The caves of Ellora and Aurangabad show the ongoing differences between the two religions—Buddhism and Brahmanical. There are twelve Buddhist caves having many images belonging to Vajrayana Buddhism like Tara, Mahamayuri, Akshobhya, Avalokiteshwara, Maitreya, Amitabha, etc. Buddhist caves are big in size and are of single, double and triple storeys. Their pillars are massive. The shrine Buddha images are big in size; they are generally guarded by the images of Padmapani and Vajrapani. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

Q 56.B

- **Bimbisara was an early ruler of the Magadha kingdom, known for his reign in the 6th century BCE. He was the son of King Bhattiya and is considered one of the earliest and most important monarchs of the Haryanka dynasty. Bimbisara's reign is significant for its political and diplomatic maneuvers, including his alliance with the Buddha, which is believed to have**

strengthened the Magadha kingdom. His reign marked the beginning of the expansion of the Magadha empire in ancient India. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

- Bindusara was the son of Chandragupta Maurya and succeeded him as the second Mauryan emperor. His reign is estimated to have begun around 297 BCE. Bindusara continued the policies of his father and expanded the Mauryan Empire further into southern India. His reign saw the consolidation of Mauryan power and the empire's continued prosperity.
- Kanishka was a Kushan emperor who ruled from around 127 to 150 CE. He is known for his military conquests and his patronage of Buddhism. Kanishka's reign saw the expansion of the Kushan Empire into Central Asia, Afghanistan, and northern India. He convened the Fourth Buddhist Council in Kashmir and played a significant role in the spread of Buddhism along the Silk Road.
- Ajatashatru was the son of King Bimbisara and succeeded him as the ruler of the Magadha kingdom. His reign is estimated to have begun around the late 6th century BCE or early 5th century BCE. Ajatashatru is known for his military campaigns, including the conquest of the kingdom of Kosala. He played a crucial role in expanding the Magadha empire and strengthening its position in ancient India

Q 57.C

- Archaeologists have discovered thousands of seals, mostly made of steatite, and occasionally of agate, chert, copper, faience. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- It was decorated with beautiful figures of animals, such as unicorn bull, rhinoceros, tiger, elephant, bison, goat, buffalo, etc. Some seals have also been found in ivory. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The realistic rendering of these animals in various moods is remarkable. The purpose of producing seals was mainly commercial.
- It appears that the seals were also used as amulets, carried on the persons of their owners, perhaps as modern-day identity cards.
- The standard Harappan seal was a square plaque 2×2 square inches and rectangular made from steatite. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- Every seal is engraved in a pictographic script which is yet to be deciphered.

Q 58.C

- **The Rig Vedic society (1500 B.C. to 1000 B.C) was pastoral, cattle rearing being the dominant occupational activity. A pastoral society relies more on its animal wealth than on agricultural produce. Thus, Cattle rearing rather than agriculture was of overwhelming importance during this period. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- Agriculture was the chief means of subsistence of the later Vedic people. Late Vedic texts speak of six, eight, twelve and even twenty-four oxen yoked to the plough.
- **The most important divinity in the Rig Veda is Indra, who is called Purandara or destroyer of dwelling units. Indra played the role of a warlord, leading the Aryan soldiers to victory against the demons, and has 250 hymns devoted to him. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- The second position is held by Agni (Fire God) to whom 200 hymns are devoted. In Vedic times, Agni acted as a kind of intermediary between the gods, on the one hand, and people on the other.

Q 59.A

- **Gupta Administration**
 - The king was assisted in his administration by a council consisting of a chief minister, a Senapati or commander-in-chief of the army, and other important officials. A high official called Sandivigraha was mentioned in the Gupta inscriptions, most probably minister for foreign affairs.
 - **The king maintained close contact with the provincial administration through a class of officials called Kumaramatyas and Ayuktas. They were important officers in the Gupta administration and were appointed by the king. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.**
 - Provinces in the Gupta Empire were known as Bhuktis and provincial governors as Uparikas. They were mostly chosen from among the princes.
 - Bhuktis were subdivided into Vishyas or districts. They were governed by Vishyapatis. Nagara Sreshtis were the officers looking after the city administration. The villages in the district were under the control of Gramikas.

Q 60.C

- **Context: The International Energy Agency published its Global Energy Review 2025 report. Key Highlights of the Report**
- Global Energy Demand Growth: Increased by 2.2%, with emerging economies contributing 80% of the rise.
- Rise of Renewables & Natural Gas: Renewables accounted for 38% of growth, adding a record 700 GW. China (340 GW solar, 80 GW wind) and India (30 GW solar) were key contributors.
- Natural gas demand rose 2.7%, led by China's LNG adoption.
- Coal Demand Trends: Globally rose 1%, with China (60% electricity from coal) and India (75%) as top consumers.
- Coal's global electricity share fell to 35%, the lowest since 1974.
- Crude Oil Demand Slows: Growth was 0.8%, primarily due to the petrochemical sector, while EVs, LNG trucks, and high-speed rail reduced transport-related oil consumption.
- **Hence option (c) is the correct answer.**

Q 61.A

- **Abdur Razzaq**, an ambassador sent by the ruler of Persia to Calicut (present-day Kozhikode) in the fifteenth century and **mentioned seven lines of forts. These encircled not only the city but also its agricultural hinterland and forests.** The outermost wall linked the hills surrounding the city. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The massive masonry construction was slightly tapered. **No mortar or cementing agent was employed anywhere in the construction.** The stone blocks were wedge-shaped, which held them in place, and the inner portion of the walls was of earth packed with rubble. Square or rectangular bastions projected outwards. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

Q 62.D

- **Narasimhavarman I:**
 - **Narasimhavarman I, surnamed Mahamalla (630-668 A.D.), was the son and successor of Mahendravarman I and considered as the greatest of the Pallava rulers. He is credited with repelling the second invasion of Pulakesin II, killing him and capturing the Chalukyan capital Vatapi and won thereby the title of Vatapikonda (conqueror of Vatapi). Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.**
 - It was possibly in his struggle with Pulakesin II that he received aid from the Sinhalese Prince Manavamma whom he afterward assisted in securing the crown of Ceylon. Hiuen Tsang visited Kanchi about the year 642 A.D. during the reign of Narasimhavarman I. He is also said to have defeated the Cholas, the Cheras, the Pandyas, and the Kalabhras.
 - He was an ardent lover of art and consecrated cave temples at different places such as Trichinopoly and Pudukkottai. His name is, however, best known in connection with the so-called Rathas of Mahabalipuram. The original name of the place, Mahamallapura commemorates its royal founder, Mahamalla, i.e., Narasimhavarman I.

Q 63.A

- The Pahari region comprises the present State of Himachal Pradesh, some adjoining areas of Punjab, the area of the Union Territory of Jammu in the Jammu and Kashmir State, and Garhwal in Uttar Pradesh. The whole of this area was divided into small states ruled by the Rajput princes and was often engaged in warfare. These States were centers of great artistic activity from the latter half of the 17th to nearly the middle of the 19th century.

Basohli:

- The earliest center of painting in the Pahari region was Basohli where under the patronage of Raja Kripal Pal, an artist named Devidasa executed miniatures in the form of the Rasamanjari illustrations in 1694 A.D. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- An illustration from a series of Gita Govinda painted by artist Manaku in 1730 A.D. shows further development of the Basohli style.
- There is a change in the facial type which becomes a little heavier and also in the tree forms which assume a somewhat naturalistic character, which may be due to the influence of the Mughal painting. Otherwise, the general features of the Basohli style like the use of strong and contrasting colors, monochrome background, large eyes, bold drawing, use of beetle wings for showing diamonds in ornaments, narrow sky, and the red border are observable in this miniature also.

Kangra:

- The Guler style was followed by another style of painting termed the "Kangra style", representing the third phase of the Pahari painting in the last quarter of the 18th century.
- The Kangra style developed out of the Guler style. It possesses the main characteristics of the latter style, like the delicacy of drawing and the quality of naturalism. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
- The name Kangra style is given to this group of paintings for the reason that they are identical in style to the portraits of Raja Sansar Chand of Kangra.
- In these paintings, the faces of women in profile have the nose almost in line with the forehead, the eyes are long and narrow and the chin is sharp. There is, however, no modeling of figures, and hair is treated as a flat mass.
- The Kangra style continued to flourish in various places namely Kangra, Guler, Basohli, Chamba, Union Territory of Jammu, Nampur, Garhwal, etc.
- Paintings of the Kangra style are attributed mainly to the Nainsukh family. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

Q 64.B

- During the second millennium B.C. several regional cultures sprang up in different parts of the Indian subcontinent. These were non-urban, non-Harappan and were characterized by the use of stone and copper tools. Hence, these cultures are termed chalcolithic cultures. The chalcolithic cultures are identified on the basis of their geographical location.
- **The Jorwe culture is the most important and characteristic chalcolithic culture of Maharashtra, extending almost all over the present state, excepting the coastal strip on the west and Vidarbha in the northeast. The culture is named after the type site of Jorwe in the Ahmednagar district, of Maharashtra.**
- **Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**

Q 65.C

- Mauryan state controlled almost all the economic activities in the realm. The state brought new land under cultivation with the help of cultivators and sudra labourers.
- The virgin land which was opened to cultivation yielded handsome income to the state in the form of revenue collected from the newly settled peasants.
- It seems that taxes collected from the peasants varied from one-fourth to one-sixth of the produce. Those who were provided with irrigation facilities by the state had to pay for it.
- In addition to this in times of emergency peasants were compelled to raise more crops. Tolls were levied on commodities brought to town for sale, and they were collected at the gates. **Moreover, the state enjoyed a monopoly mining, sale of liquor, manufacture of arms, etc. This naturally brought money to the royal exchequer. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.**

Q 66.D

- **The Virashaiva Tradition emerged during the twelfth century in Karnataka. Basavanna (1106-68) is regarded as the founder of this Virashaiva tradition. He was a minister in the court of a Kalachuri ruler.**
 - Lingayats believe that **on death the devotee will be united with Shiva and will not return to this world. Thus they do not believe in the theory of rebirth.** Therefore they do not practice funerary rites such as cremation, prescribed in the Dharmashastras. Instead, they ceremonially bury their dead. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - **The Lingayats also encouraged certain practices disapproved in the Dharmashastras, such as post puberty marriage and the remarriage of widows. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - **Virashaivism did not advocate the worship of idols and the worship of a multitude of Gods and Goddesses. It emphasized the worship of only one God namely Lord Shiva. Shiva was the only Supreme Being to be worshipped in the form of a Linga. Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Q 67.C

- **Context: The Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) YuWaah have signed a Statement of Intent (SOI) to empower rural women and youth across India.**
- **About (UNICEF) YuWaah**
 - Launched in 2019, YuWaah (Generation Unlimited in India) at UNICEF has benefited over 76 million young people to date through opportunities for skills development and employment, social innovation and entrepreneurship, career guidance, civic action and volunteering avenues.

- YuWaah, as a collaboration between the public, private sectors, and youth, integrates youth-focused initiatives throughout its activities, partnerships, and decision-making processes. It brings together partners from various sectors to foster ecosystem transformation. YuWaah acts as a convener, facilitator, and co-creator, harnessing the strengths of its partners to enhance socio-economic outcomes for young people. It also prioritizes listening to and amplifying the voices of youth, striving to understand their needs and aspirations.
- Objective: Building skills and creating socio-economic and changemaking opportunities for young people, with a special focus on women and marginalized groups. It will unlock the potential of India's 350 million young people. It fosters Public-Private-Youth Partnerships to drive innovative solutions, creating pathways for learning to earning transition and youth-led climate action.
- **Hence option (c) is the correct answer.**

Q 68.B

- Translations of Sanskrit texts such as the Mahabharata and the Ramayana into Persian were commissioned by the Mughal emperors. **The Mahabharata was translated as the Razmnama (Book of Wars).**
- **Akbar commissioned translation and illustration of revered Sanskrit texts into Persian.** The Persian translation and illustrated version of the Hindu epic Mahabharata did this period came to be known as RazmNama. **This was completed in 1589 under the supervision of master artist Daswant.** This manuscript was scribed in ornate calligraphy and contained 169 paintings. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- **All books in Mughal India were manuscripts, that is, they were handwritten. The centre of manuscript production was the imperial kitabkhana.** Although kitabkhana can be translated as library, it was a scriptorium, that is, a place where the emperor's collection of manuscripts was kept and new manuscripts were produced. **Hence statements 2 and 3 are correct.**

Q 69.B

- During the 15th century, the Persian style of painting started influencing the Western Indian style of painting as is evident from the Persian facial types and hunting scenes appearing on the borders of some of the illustrated manuscripts of the Kalpasutra (a Jain text).
- The introduction of the use of ultramarine blue and gold color in the Western Indian manuscripts is also believed to be due to the influence of the Persian painting. These Persian paintings, which came to India, were in the form of illustrated manuscripts.
- An illustrated manuscript of the **Nimat Nama** (Cookery Book) which exists in the Indian Office Library, London is marked by a new trend of painting at Malwa.
 - The manuscript was started in the time of Ghiyas-ud-din Khilji of Malwa (1469-1500 A.D.)
 - It shows Ghiyas-ud-din Khilji supervising cooking being done by maids.
 - In the *Nimat Nama* style, the Persian influence is visible in the scroll-like clouds, flowering trees, grassy tufts and flowering plants in the background, female figures, and costumes. Indian elements are noticeable in some female types and their costumes and ornaments and colors. In this manuscript, one can notice the first attempt towards the evolution of new styles of painting by the fusion of the Persian style of Shiraz with the indigenous Indian style.
- **Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**

Q 70.A

- There are mainly two types of distinct architecture related to the caves, i.e. Chaitya and Viharas. Stupa, vihara and chaitya are part of Buddhist and Jaina monastic complexes but the largest number belong to the Buddhist religion. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Chaitya:** It is a rectangular prayer hall with a stupa placed in the centre. The Chaitya was divided into three parts, and had an apsidal ending, that is, a semicircular rear end, The central part of the hall (also called the nave) was separated from the two aisles by two rows of pillars, The chaityas also had polished interior walls, semicircular roofs and horse-shoe shaped windows called the Chaitya windows.
- **Viharas:** They were dwelling place of monks. Pali texts indicate the structure of the viharas. The earlier structures were made of wood & soon developed from the primitive thatched huts into large Sangharamas. In course of time the sangharamas developed into educational institutions & centres of Buddhist learning, such as those at Nalanda, Vikramasila, Somapura.
- **Origin of Chaitya and Viharas:** Both early Chaityas and Viharas were made by woods and later stone-cut Chaityas and Viharas were made.

- The practice of making rock-cut caves was started during the Mauryan period and reached its zenith during the 2nd century AD under the Satavahana rule. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Ashoka constructed eight rock-cut halls in the Barabar & Nagarjuni hills and the one near Rajgir dedicated to Jaina monks. The Lomas Rishi, the Sudama (both in the Barabar hills) and the Sitamarhi (Nagarjuni hills) caves are fine examples of the Chaityas which resembled the wooden buildings of the period.
- The final form of rock-cut architecture that developed from these early forms can be seen all over India in Andhra Pradesh, Kathiawar in Gujarat and in Ajanta & Ellora.

Q 71.D

- Jainism recognized the existence of the gods but placed them lower than Jina. Jina, in Jainism, means a great teacher who has attained liberation from karma. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- It did not condemn the varna system, as Buddhism did. According to Mahavira, a person is born in a high or in lower varna in consequence of the sins or the virtues acquired by him in the previous birth, Mahavira looks for human values even in a chandala. In his opinion through pure and meritorious life members of the lower casts can attain liberation. Jainism mainly aims at the attainment of freedom from worldly bonds. It is not necessary to use any ritual for acquiring such liberation. It can be attained through full knowledge and action. Right knowledge, action, and faith are considered to be the three gems or ratnas of Jainism. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

Q 72.D

- The Lion Capital discovered more than a hundred years ago at Sarnath, near Varanasi, is generally referred to as Sarnath Lion Capital. This is one of the finest examples of sculpture from the Mauryan period.
- Built in commemoration of the historical event of the first sermon or the Dhammachakrapravartana by the Buddha at Sarnath, the capital was built by Ashoka.
- The capital originally consisted of five component parts:
 - the shaft (which is broken in many parts now),
 - a lotus bell base,
 - a drum on the bell base with four animals proceeding clockwise,
 - the figures of four majestic adorsed lions, and
 - the crowning element, Dharmachakra, a large wheel, was also a part of this pillar. However, this wheel is lying in a broken condition and is displayed in the site museum at Sarnath.
- The capital without the crowning wheel, shaft, and the lotus base has been adopted as the National Emblem of Independent India.
- Hence option (d) is the correct answer.

Q 73.A

- The Mauryan Empire had an efficient and centralized administrative system. The chief source of information regarding administration under the Mauryan Empire is Chanakya's work, Arthashastra. Megasthenes also gives some information in his book Indika.
- Revenue in the Mauryan Empire was collected on land, irrigation, shops, customs, forests, ferries, mines, and pastures. License fees were collected from artisans and fines were charged in the law courts.
- The Mauryas attached greater importance to assessment than to storage and depositing. The samaharta was the highest executive official in charge of assessment and the sannidhata was the chief custodian of the state treasury and storehouse.
- Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

Q 74.B

- Context: Asian Development Bank-funded Assam Solar Park is opposed by local communities for 'Green Grabbing' indigenous land.
- About Green Grabbing
 - It is the appropriation of land and resources in the name of environmental goals and has emerged as an issue of rising concern. Green grabs occur when land is repurposed for projects like carbon offsetting, biodiversity reserves, afforestation, or clean energy production. They often displace local communities, threaten livelihoods, undermine food security, and erode the local knowledge systems that protect agrobiodiversity.
- Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

Q 75.A

- The Gupta Empire existed from the mid-to-late 3rd century CE to 543 CE. This period is considered the Golden Age of India by historians.
- It was founded by Sri Gupta and some of the notable rulers of the dynasty were Chandragupta I, Samudragupta, and Chandragupta II alias Vikramaditya.
- We get some idea of the economic life of the people of Gupta times from the accounts of Fa-Hsien, who visited different parts of the Gupta empire.
- **Statement 1 is not correct: The striking development of the Gupta period was the emergence of priestly landlords at the cost of local peasants.** Land grants made to priests brought many virgin lands under cultivation. But these beneficiaries were imposed from above on the tribal peasants.
- **Statement 2 is not correct: Compared to the earlier period we notice a decline in long-distance trade.** Till 550 AD India carried on some trade with the Eastern Roman Empire to which it exported silk. Around 550 AD the people of the Eastern Roman Empire learned from the Chinese the art of growing silk, which adversely affected the export trade of India.
- **Statement 3 is correct: In ancient India, the Guptas issued the largest number of gold coins, which were called dinaras in their inscriptions.** They vividly portray Gupta kings, indicating later love for war and art.

Q 76.C

- **Context: Serbia denied using a banned 'sonic weapon' to disperse protesters in Belgrade.**
- Sonic weapons (also known as acoustic weapons or sound cannons) are devices that use sound waves to cause pain, disorientation, or damage to targets. They can emit high-decibel sounds over long distances, and are often used for crowd control, area denial, or psychological warfare. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Acoustic weaponry is broadly defined in two parts. Firstly, the use of sound itself as the main component of a weapon, such as in Long Range Acoustic Devices (LRADs). Secondly, the use of sound as a fear-inducing component of a larger weapon, such as through drone noise or acoustic booms caused by aircraft. Acoustic weapons are also often termed "sonic weapons" and can involve sound within or the human hearing range.
- As of now, there is no specific international treaty or legal framework that directly regulates the development or use of sonic/acoustic weapons. While general humanitarian laws (like the Geneva Conventions) may apply to their use in conflict situations, there is no targeted regulation for these technologies at the international level. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

Q 77.B

- **Context: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the 4-lane access-controlled Patna–Arrah–Sasaram corridor under the Hybrid Annuity Model.**
- The terms HAM, BOT, and EPC refer to models used in infrastructure development, particularly for highways and road construction under Public-Private Partnership (PPP) frameworks:
 - HAM – Hybrid Annuity Model
 - > A mix of EPC (Engineering, Procurement, Construction) and BOT (Build-Operate-Transfer) models. The government pays 40% of the project cost upfront, while the private player bears 60% and is paid back over time. Used to balance risk-sharing between the government and private sector.
 - BOT – Build-Operate-Transfer
 - > The private player finances, builds, and operates the infrastructure for a specified period and recovers investment through toll collection. After the period, the asset is transferred to the government.
 - EPC – Engineering, Procurement, and Construction
 - > The government fully funds the project. The private contractor is responsible for designing, procuring materials, and constructing the infrastructure. No long-term operation by the contractor.
- **Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**

Q 78.A

- **Context: SC recently quashed a preventive detention order by Nagaland's home department, stressing that authorities must independently assess the need for detention.**
- Preventive Detention refers to the detention of a person without a trial, not for a crime already committed, but to prevent the possibility of them committing an act prejudicial to public order or state security. It is based on suspicion or reasonable apprehension, not proven guilt. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**

- Parliament has exclusive authority to make laws on preventive detention (PD) related to defense, foreign affairs, and security of India. Both Parliament and state legislatures can legislate on matters related to state security and public order. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
- Constitutional Provisions Article 22(3) allows authorities to detain individuals for preventive reasons, such as maintenance of public order or national security. Article 22(4) limits preventive detention to three months unless an Advisory Board justifies an extension. **Hence statement 3 is not correct.**

Q 79.D

- In the field of mathematics, Indians made distinct contributions:
 - **The notational/numeral system - The Indian notational system was adopted by the Arabs who spread it in the western world.** The Indian numerals were called Arabic in English, but the Arabs themselves called their numerals as hindsa. We cannot establish that Indians were the first ones to use the numeral system.
 - **The decimal system - The Indians were the first to use the decimal system. The earliest epigraphic evidence of the use of decimal system could be traced to the beginning of 5th C A.D. Aryabhatta was acquainted with it**
 - **The great mathematician and astronomer of the Gupta period, Aryabhatta, is credited with: discovery of earth's rotation on its axis; discovery of the cause of eclipses; approximation for the value of π).**
 - **Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.**

Q 80.D

- The Indus people sowed seed in the flood plains in November, when the floodwater receded, and reaped their harvest of wheat and barley in April, before the advent of the next flood. **They produced wheat, barley, rice, peas, sesame, mustard and rice.**
- Foodgrains were stored in huge granaries in both Mohenjodaro and Harappa. Probably, cereals were received as taxes from peasants and stored in granaries for the payment of wages as well as use during emergencies.
- No hoe or ploughshare has been discovered, but the furrows discovered in the pre-Harappan phase at kalibangan show that the fields were ploughed in Rajasthan in the Harappan period. **The Harappans probably used the wooden ploughshare.** We do not know whether the plough was drawn by men or oxen. Stone sickles may have been used for harvesting the crops. **Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.**
- **The Indus people were the earliest people to produce cotton. Because cotton was first produced in this area the Greeks called it —sindon, which is derived from Sindh.**
- **Ragi or finger millet is not known so far to any of the Harappan sites in north India.**

Q 81.D

- **Rajendra Chola I was a Chola emperor of South India who succeeded his father Rajaraja Chola I in 1014 CE. One of the most remarkable exploits in the reign of Rajendra Chola I was the march across Kalinga to Bengal in which the Chola armies crossed the river Ganga, and defeated two local kings. This expedition, which was led by a Chola general, took place in 1022 and followed in reverse the same route that the great conqueror Samudragupta had followed.**
- **To commemorate this occasion, Rajendra I assumed the title of Gangaikondachola ('the Chola who conquered the Ganga'). He built a new capital near the mouth of the Kaveri River and called it Gangaikondacholapuram ('the city of the Chola who conquered the Ganga').**
- **Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.**

Q 82.A

- **The Chalcolithic age began in different parts of India, after the Neolithic age. During this people used metal (copper) for the first time. Hence it is known as the stone copper age. However, people were not aware of the art of writing during this period and no specimens of the pictographic script have been found. The pictographic script belongs to the Indus Valley Civilization.**
- The Chalcolithic people had a better knowledge of agriculture compared to the Neolithic culture and thus cultivated far more crops than the latter. In particular, they cultivated barley, wheat, and lentil in western India, and rice in southern and eastern India. Their cereal food was supplemented by nonvegetarian food.
- **Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.**

Q 83.C

- **Krishnadevaraya was an emperor of the Vijayanagara Empire reigning from 1509 to 1529.** He was the third monarch of the Tuluva dynasty and is considered one of the greatest rulers in Indian history. He built a large number of Rayagopurams.
- **Contributions of Sri Krishnadevaraya:**
 - Sri Krishna Devaraya built the famous Vittalaswamy and Hazara temples at Vijayanagar.
 - **He also built a new city called Nagalapuram in memory of his mother Nagaladevi. Hence, Statement-I is correct and Statement-II is not correct.**
- **Battle of Talikota (1565 A.D.):** The successors of Krishnadeva Raya were weak. **The combined forces of Ahmednagar, Bijapur, Golconda and Bidar declared war on Vijayanagar during the rule of Aliya Rama Raya.**

Q 84.B

- **Context: Doctrine of 'Eminent Domain'** Supreme Court in (DAMB v. Bhagwan Devi, 2025) ruled that land acquired for public use under eminent domain cannot be reversed by third-party claims or private agreements.
- Eminent domain is a legal principle that allows governments to take private property for public use, also known as forced acquisition or expropriation. This principle highlights the balance between promoting societal welfare and protecting private property rights. The historical background, legal foundations, ethical implications, and practical application of eminent domain have been the subject of intense scholarly and public debate. Governments can only acquire private lands if it is reasonably shown that the property is to be used for public purposes only. The central government, the state government, and local governments can seize people's homes under eminent domain laws as long as the property owner is compensated at fair market value. The government can only exercise this power if it provides just compensation to the property owners.
- **Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.**

Q 85.C

- **Firoz Shah Tughlaq ascended the throne of Delhi (1351-88)** after the demise of his cousin Muhammad-bin-Tughlaq.
 - **Firuz Tughlaq was the first ruler who took steps to have Hindu religious works translated from Sanskrit into Persian,** so that there may be a better understanding of Hindu ideas and practices. Many books on music, medicine and mathematics were also translated from Sanskrit into Persian during his reign.
 - **Firuz Shah Tughlaq extended the principle of heredity to the army.** Old soldiers were allowed to rest in peace and to send in their place their sons or sons-in-law, and if they were not available, their slaves.
 - **During the time of Firuz Shah Tughlaq, Jizyah became a separate tax.**
- **Muhammad bin Tughlaq transferred the capital from Delhi to Deogir.** As Deogir had been a base for the expansion of Turkish rule in South India. The attempt to bring entire South India under control had led to serious political difficulties. Later Deogir was renamed to Daulatabad. Soon he decided to abandon Daulatabad. **Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.**

Q 86.A

- Kulhadar Painting is a miniature painting originated in the 16th Century A.D. **Hence statement 3 is not correct.**
- It is completely indigenous i.e. it has no tinge of either Persian or Mughal style of painting. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- The style of these miniatures is marked by the use of brilliant contrasting colours, vigorous and angular drawing, transparent drapery and the appearance of conical caps 'Kulha' on which turbans are worn by the male figures. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
- This group of painting includes illustrations of the 'Chaurapanchasika' – Fifty Verses of the Thief by Bilhan, the Gita Govinda, the Bhagavata Purana and Ragamala.
- An example of the Chaurapanchasika miniature shows Champavati standing near a lotus pond.
- **Hence option (a) is the correct answer.**

Q 87.C

- Indian sculptors had mastered the bronze medium and the casting process as much as they had mastered terracotta sculpture and carving in stone. The cire-perdu or 'lost-wax' process for casting was learned as long ago as the Indus Valley Culture. Along with it was discovered the process of making an alloy of metals by mixing copper, zinc and tin which is called bronze. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Vakataka bronze images of the Buddha from Phophnar, Maharashtra, are contemporary with the Gupta period bronzes. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- They show the influence of the Amaravati style of Andhra Pradesh in the third century CE and at the same time there is a significant change in the draping style of the monk's robe. Buddha's right hand in abhaya mudra is free so that the drapery clings to the right side of the body contour. The result is a continuous flowing line on this side of the figure. At the level of the ankles of the Buddha figure the drapery makes a conspicuous curvilinear turn, as it is held by the left hand.
- The additional importance of the Gupta and Vakataka bronzes is that they were portable and monks carried them from place to place for the purpose of individual worship or to be installed in Buddhist viharas. In this manner, the refined classical style spread to different parts of India and to Asian countries overseas. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Q 88.B

- **Context: Rushikonda Beach wins back the Blue Flag tag which was earlier withdrawn due to poor maintenance.**
- Rushikonda Beach in Visakhapatnam is the only Blue Flag beach in Andhra Pradesh and is among the 13 Blue Flag beaches in India.
- The Blue Flag certification is an eco-label awarded by the Denmark-based Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE). It recognizes clean, safe, and environmentally sustainable beaches, marinas, and tourism boats.
- India currently has 13 Blue Flag-certified beaches. These beaches are:
 - Shivrampur Beach – Gujarat
 - Ghoghla Beach – Diu
 - Kasarkod Beach – Karnataka
 - Padubidri Beach – Karnataka
 - Kappad Beach – Kerala
 - Eden Beach – Puducherry
 - Kovalam Beach – Tamil Nadu
 - Radhanagar Beach – Andaman and Nicobar Islands
 - Golden Beach – Odisha
 - Rushikonda Beach – Andhra Pradesh
 - Minicoy Thundi Beach – Lakshadweep
 - Kadmat Beach – Lakshadweep
 - Rushikonda Beach- Andhra Pradesh
- **Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.**

Q 89.D

- **Domingo Paes was a Portuguese traveller who visited Vijayanagara Empire around the year 1520. Paes visited the capital under the rule of Krishna Deva Raya.**
 - **Paes recorded his impressions of Vijayanagara state in his Chronica dos reis de Bisnaga.** This chronicle is dated around 1525, and talks about the history of Vijayanagara but gives much more weight to other aspects of the Empire and its commercial dimension, architecture, religion and customs, bureaucracy and in ultimately, every day of the city and its empire.
 - **He describes a busy market of precious stones. The city of Vijayanagara was prospering and its size, in the eyes of the narrator, was comparable to Rome, with abundant vegetation, aqueducts and artificial lakes. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.**
 - **There are references to the "great feast" in the writings of the medieval traveller Domingo Paes.** Referring to the "great feast of nine days", Domingo Paes refers to a structure as the House of Victory which historians equate with the Mahanavami Dibba.

Q 90.B

- **Context: Ministry of Science and Technology unveiled the BioSaarthi Mentorship Initiative for Biotech Startups**
- **About the BioSaarthi Initiative:**
- It is a six-month cohort program, will provide structured mentor-mentee engagements, offering personalized guidance to emerging biotech entrepreneurs. It will strengthen industry-academia collaboration. Under it, overseas experts will be engaged, particularly from the Indian diaspora as international mentors.
- **India's Bioeconomy Status:**
 - \$165.7 billion in 2024 (witnessed growth from \$10 billion in 2014, marking a 16-fold increase)
 - Contribution to GDP (Nominal): 4.3%
 - Sectors-wise Contribution: Bioindustrial (largest contributor with 47.2%) followed by BioPharma, Bio Services and BioAgri.
 - Regional contribution: South Zone contributed 45.40% to the national BioEconomy, followed by the West Zone, North and East Zone.
 - State Wise Contribution: States like Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat, etc. are key contributors.
 - Startup: The Biotech startup ecosystem has grown from just 50 startups a decade ago to over 10,075.
- **Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.**

Q 91.D

- Magadha came to prominence under the leadership of Bimbisara, who belonged to the Haryanka dynasty. He was a contemporary of the Buddha. He started the policy of conquests and aggrandizement which ended with the Kalinga war of Asoka.
- Magadha's most serious rival was Avanti with its capital at Ujjain. Its king Chanda Pradyota Mahasena fought Bimbisara but ultimately the two thought it wise to become friends. Later when Pradyota was attacked by jaundice at the Avanti king's request Bimbisara sent the royal physician Jivaka to Ujjain.
- **The Sisunagas of Magadhas were succeeded by the Nandas, who proved to be the most powerful rulers of Magadha. So great was their power that Alexander, who invaded Punjab at that time, did not dare to move towards the east.**
- All this took place in the reign of Mahapadma Nanda, He claimed to be ekarat, the sole sovereign who destroyed all the other ruling princes.
- It seems that he acquired not only Kalinga but also Kosala which had probably rebelled against him. **Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.**

Q 92.C

- The Delhi Sultanate was an Islamic empire based in Delhi that stretched over large parts of the Indian subcontinent for 320 years. Five dynasties ruled over the Delhi Sultanate sequentially: the Mamluk dynasty, the Khalji dynasty, the Tughlaq dynasty, the Sayyid dynasty, and the Lodi dynasty
- **Firoz Tughlaq made iqta system hereditary and introduced a separate department of slaves called Diwan-i-Bandagan.** However, Ghiasuddin Balban introduced a separate military department (Diwan-i-Ariz) and appointed Kotwal. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct**
- **The Dagh and Chehra system was introduced by Alauddin Khilji (1296–1316) and consisted of two practices: Ala-ud-din introduced a system of chehra, an identity card system for every soldier, and dagh to brand horses to be used specifically for wars. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

Q 93.A

- The establishment and expansion of the Delhi Sultanate led to the evolution of a powerful and efficient administrative system. The Sultan was assisted by a number of departments and officials in his administration.
- **Diwan-i-Insha was the department that dealt with all state correspondence-formal and confidential-between ruler and sovereign of other states, with subordinate officials, etc.**
- **Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.**

Q 94.A

- Dasyus were a group of people often mentioned in the Rig Veda. They represent the original inhabitants of India.
- **Dasyus worshipped non-Aryan deities, while Aryans worshipped Devas. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The Rig Veda accuses the Dasyus of worshipping non-Aryan deities, such as the demon Vritra.
- The Dasyus are often associated with monsters and evil forces in the Rig Veda.
- The Aryans frequently fought against the Dasyus, who were seen as a threat to their culture and gods.
- **Dasyus were primarily hunter-gatherers and did not engage in settled agriculture or animal husbandry. As a result, they did not keep cattle for dairy products. Instead, they relied on hunting and gathering for their food. Hence, statement 1 is correct**

Q 95.A

- The most frequent type of satellite transfer orbit is a geostationary one utilized to migrate from a transition orbit to GEO. Geostationary Orbit (GEO) is a circular orbit 35,786 km above the Earth's equator where satellites rotate in sync with Earth's rotation, appearing stationary relative to a fixed point on Earth. It is ideal for applications that require continuous coverage of a particular region.
 - Navigation: Navigation satellites (like GPS, Galileo, IRNSS/NavIC) are typically in Medium Earth Orbit (MEO) or Geosynchronous Inclined Orbits. Scientific research satellites are usually in Low Earth Orbit (LEO) or other specialized orbits depending on the mission (e.g., Lagrange points for solar study).
 - Earth Observation: Most Earth observation satellites (for land use, agriculture, environment, etc.) are in LEO for high spatial resolution. Only weather-monitoring satellites like INSAT or GOES are in GEO — but not all Earth observation satellites require GEO.
 - **Telecommunication: For 24/7 fixed coverage over a region, telecommunication satellites (TV broadcasting, internet services, radio) rely heavily on geostationary orbit, as the satellite stays fixed relative to a point on Earth.**
 - Satellite Imaging: High-resolution imaging requires LEO, as satellites must be close to Earth. Some broad-scale weather imaging is done from GEO, but high-resolution and most imaging satellites are not in GEO.
- **Hence option (a) is the correct answer.**

Q 96.B

- **Apabhramsha refers to a medieval form of the Prakrit language, which was a vernacular language used in medieval India.** It emerged as a result of the transformation of classical Sanskrit and was commonly spoken in various regions of India during the medieval period. Apabhramsha, the so-called corrupt or transitional languages were the forerunners of the various modern Indian languages. The great apabhramsha poet, Svayambhu, and his son probably lived at the Rashtrakuta court.
- Apabhramsha played a significant role in the development of medieval Indian literature, particularly in the composition of narrative poetry, songs, and folk literature.
- **Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.**

Q 97.A

- **Amoghavarsha I** was an accomplished poet and scholar. He is credited with writing the first Kannada book on poetics. **He wrote the Kavirajamarga, the earliest extant literary work in Kannada,** and Prashnottara Ratnamalika, a religious work in Sanskrit.
- **Amoghavarsha was the longest ruling King of the Rashtrakuta dynasty** who ruled for 64 years between 814-878 AD. His reign of 64 years is one of the longest precisely dated monarchical reigns on record. **Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.**

Q 98.B

- Three main styles of temple architecture are the Nagara or the Northern style, the Dravida or the Southern style and the Vesara or Mixed style.
- Some features of Nagara Style are:
 - It is common here to build an entire temple on a stone platform with steps leading up to it.
 - It doesn't usually have elaborate boundary walls or gateways.
 - Earliest temples had only one shikhara (tower), but in the later periods, multiple shikharas came.
 - The garbhagriha is always located directly under the tallest tower.

- The basic elements that comprise a Nagara Temple are given below:

- **Jagati:** This is common in north Indian temples and is a raised platform where devotees can sit and pray.
- **Mandapa:** The entrance to the temple or a hall where worshippers stand.
- **Antarala:** It is a vestibule between the Garbhagriha and the Mandapa.
- **Garbhagriha:** Literally means womb-house. It is a cave-like sanctum which houses the main icon of the temple. In earlier times, it was a small cubicle with one entrance. In later periods, it grew into a larger chamber.
- **Shikhara/Vimana:** Noticed from the 5th century CE. It is a mountain-like spire on top. In north India, it is called Shikhara and is curving in shape. In the south, it is like a pyramidal tower and is called Vimana.
- **Amalaka:** Stone-like disc seen at the top of the temple. Mostly in north Indian temples.
- **Kalasha:** It is the topmost part of the temple. Mainly seen in north Indian styles.
- **Vahana:** It is the vehicle of the main deity which along with the standard pillar or Dhvaj which are placed axially.
- The sequence of parts of the temple is depicted below as one starts moving inside the temple.



- Hence option (b) is the correct answer.

Q 99.A

- **Bhand Pather:**
 - **The traditional theatre form of Kashmir** is a unique combination of dance, music, and acting. Satire, wit, and parody are preferred for inducing laughter. **Hence pair 1 is correctly matched.**
 - In this theatre form, music is provided with surnai, nagaara, and dhol. Since the actors of Bhand Pather are mainly from the farming community, the impact of their way of living, ideals, and sensitivity is discernible.
- **Maach:**
 - It is the traditional **theatre form of Madhya Pradesh**. The term Maach is used for the stage itself as also for the play. In this theatre, form songs are given prominence in between the dialogues. **Hence pair 2 is not correctly matched.**
 - The term for dialogue in this form is bol and rhyme in narration is termed vanag. The tunes of this theatre form are known as rangat.
- **Bhaona:**
 - **It is a presentation of the Ankia Naat of Assam.** Hence pair 3 is not correctly matched.

- In Bhaona cultural glimpses of Assam, Bengal Orissa, Mathura and Brindavan can be seen. The Sutradhaar or narrator begins the story, first in Sanskrit and then in either Brajboli or Assamese.

Q 100.B

- **The end of the Neolithic period saw the use of metals. The metals to be used first was copper and several cultures were based on the use of stone and copper implements. The Chalcolithic people mostly used copper and stone objects but they also occasionally used low-grade bronze. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- These people were expert coppersmiths and also good workers in stone. We have tools, weapons, and bangles of copper of this age. They manufactured beads of steatite, carnelian, and quartz crystal.
- **People knew the art of spinning and weaving because spindle whorls have been discovered in Malwa. Cotton, flax, and silk threads made of cotton silk of semal/silk have been found in Maharashtra. This shows that these people were well acquainted with the manufacture of cloth. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **The people of the chalcolithic phase used different types of pottery: black and red were the most prevalent, others were black-on-red (found in Jorwe) and ochre-colored pottery (OCP) which roughly covered the period between 2000 B.C and 1500 B.C. The OCP people were junior contemporaries of the Harappans and the area in which they lived was not far removed from that of the Harappans. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**