

NEXT IAS

PTS (GS): CSE 2026

PTS (जी.एस.): सिविल सेवा परीक्षा 2026

GENERAL STUDIES

Test Code: 02090525

Paper-I | Sectional Test-9

DATE : 05/10/2025

History of Ancient India and Art & Culture
[Current Affairs (August 2025)]

Test Booklet Series

B

परीक्षण पुस्तिका अनुक्रम

सामान्य अध्ययन

पेपर-1 | सेक्शनल टेस्ट-9

प्राचीन भारत का इतिहास और कला एवं संस्कृति तथा
समसामयिक घटनाक्रम (अगस्त 2025)

Time Allowed: Two Hours

Maximum Marks: 200

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

समय : दो घण्टे

पूर्णांक : 200

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

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

अ नु दे श

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

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

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

INSTRUCTIONS

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

10. Penalty for wrong answers:

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

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

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

1. भारत के सर्वोच्च न्यायालय का आदर्श वाक्य, “यतो धर्मस्ततो जयः” निम्नलिखित में से किस भारतीय ग्रंथ से लिया गया है?
 - (a) ऋग्वेद
 - (b) मनुस्मृति
 - (c) मुंडक उपनिषद्
 - (d) महाभारत
2. भारतीय शैलकृत स्थापत्य (Indian Rock-Cut Architecture) के एक प्रसिद्ध स्थल के संबंध में निम्नलिखित जानकारी पर विचार कीजिए:
 1. ये महाराष्ट्र में स्थित हैं और यूनेस्को विश्व धरोहर स्थल का हिस्सा हैं।
 2. इन गुफाओं का अधिकांश उत्खनन इसा पूर्व दूसरी शताब्दी से लेकर पाँचवीं शताब्दी ईसवी के मध्य हुआ।
 3. ये स्मारक चट्टानों और गुफाओं में बनाए गए हैं, तथा इनका उपयोग मुख्यतः बौद्ध मठों के प्रयोजनों के लिए किया जाता है।
 4. इन गुफाओं के भित्तिचित्र (Frescoes) और भित्ति-चित्रकारी (Murals) जातक कथाओं तथा बुद्ध के जीवन के प्रसंगों को दर्शाते हैं।

उपर्युक्त कथनों में किस स्थल का वर्णन किया गया है?

- (a) एलोरा गुफाएँ
 - (b) अजंता गुफाएँ
 - (c) एलीफेंटा गुफाएँ
 - (d) बादामी गुफाएँ
3. निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

कथन-I:

मौर्य राज्य एक मानकीकृत सिक्का प्रणाली के माध्यम से समस्त व्यापार को नियंत्रित करता था।

कथन-II:

अधिकांश आहत (Punch-marked) सिक्के राज्य द्वारा प्रत्यक्षतः निर्गत (Issue) किए जाने के बजाय, संघों या स्थानीय अधिकारियों द्वारा निर्गत किए जाते थे।

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

- (a) कथन-I और कथन-II दोनों सही हैं और कथन-II, कथन-I की सही व्याख्या है।
- (b) कथन-I और कथन-II दोनों सही हैं और कथन-II, कथन-I की सही व्याख्या नहीं है।

(c) कथन-I सही है, किंतु कथन-II गलत है।

(d) कथन-I गलत है, किंतु कथन-II सही है।

4. गुप्त साहित्य के संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित युगमों पर विचार कीजिए:

	साहित्य	रचनाकार	विवरण
1.	अभिज्ञानशाकुंतलम्	कालिदास	संस्कृत साहित्य
2.	मृच्छकटिका	बाणभट्ट	हिंदी नाटक
3.	अमरकोष	अमरसिंह	संस्कृत कोश

उपर्युक्त पंक्तियों में से कितनी में उल्लिखित जानकारी सही सुमेलित है?

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

5. आरंभिक बौद्ध धर्म के संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

1. बौद्ध धर्म ने शाश्वत आत्मा का विचार अस्वीकार किया, लेकिन सृष्टि के एक रचयिता ईश्वर का अस्तित्व स्वीकार किया।
2. बौद्ध धर्म ने वेदों की प्रामाणिकता को अस्वीकार किया, लेकिन वर्ण-व्यवस्था को स्वीकार किया।

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

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

6. निम्नलिखित मौर्य स्थलों को उत्तर-से-दक्षिण की ओर व्यवस्थित कीजिए:

1. सोपारा
2. कल्सी
3. तक्षशिला
4. मास्की

नीचे दिए गए कूट का प्रयोग कर सही उत्तर चुनिए:

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

1. The motto of the Supreme Court of India, "Yato Dharmastato Jayah" has been taken from which one of the following Indian scriptures?
- Rigveda
 - Manusmriti
 - Mundaka Upanishad
 - Mahabharata
2. Consider the following information regarding a famous site of Indian rock-cut architecture:
- They are located in Maharashtra and are part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
 - Most of these caves were excavated between the 2nd century BCE and the 5th century CE.
 - The monuments are carved into cliff faces and caves, primarily serving Buddhist monastic purposes.
 - Frescoes and murals in these caves depict Jataka tales and scenes from the life of Buddha.

Which of the following sites is being described above?

- Ellora Caves
 - Ajanta Caves
 - Elephanta Caves
 - Badami Caves
3. Consider the following statements:

Statement I:

The Mauryan state controlled all trade through a standardized coinage system.

Statement II:

Most of the punch-marked coins were issued by guilds or local authorities rather than directly by the State.

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

- Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I

- Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

4. With reference to the Gupta Age Literature, consider the following pairs:

Literature	Author	Description
1. Abhijnanashakuntalam	Kalidasa	Sanskrit literature
2. Mrichchhakatika	Banabhatta	Hindi play
3. Amarakosha	Amarasimha	Sanskrit thesaurus

In how many of the above rows is the information correctly matched?

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

5. With reference to early Buddhism, consider the following statements:

- Buddhism rejected the idea of an eternal soul, but accepted the existence of a creator God.
- Buddhism rejected the authority of the Vedas, but accepted the varna system.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

6. Arrange the following Mauryan sites from North to South:

- Sopara
- Kalsi
- Taxila
- Maski

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- 3 – 2 – 4 – 1
- 2 – 3 – 4 – 1
- 3 – 2 – 1 – 4
- 2 – 1 – 3 – 4

7. निम्नलिखित युगमों पर विचार कीजिए:

प्राचीन भारत में बंदरगाह	संबंधित राजवंश
कावेरीपट्टि नम्	चोल
मुजिरिस	चेर
कोर्कई	पाण्ड्य

उपर्युक्त में से कितने युगम सही सुमेलित हैं?

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

8. निम्नलिखित में से कौन-सी घटना भारत में सबसे पहले घटित हुई?

- (a) ताँबे के औजारों और हथियारों का प्रयोग
- (b) कृषि की शुरुआत
- (c) नगरीय संस्कृति का उदय
- (d) लोहे के हल का प्रचलन

9. राष्ट्रकूटों के संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

1. दंतिरुग राष्ट्रकूट वंश का संस्थापक था।
2. एलोरा का कैलाश मंदिर एक एकाश्म शैल-कृत संरचना (Monolithic rock-cut structure) है, जिसका निर्माण राष्ट्रकूट काल में हुआ था।

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

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

10. सारनाथ के सिंह-शीर्ष (Lion capital) के संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित में से कौन-से कथन सही हैं?

1. यह शीर्ष बुद्ध के प्रथम उपदेश 'धर्मचक्रप्रवर्तन' का प्रतीक है।
2. यह घंटी के आकार के कमल के आधार पर स्थित है।
3. इस शीर्ष पर एक घोड़े, एक बैल, एक सिंह और एक हाथी की आकृतियाँ अंकित हैं।
4. इसे बुद्ध के परिनिर्वाण के उपलक्ष्य में बनवाया गया था।

नीचे दिए गए कूट का प्रयोग कर सही उत्तर चुनिए:

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

11. मैत्रक, मौखरी और वाकाटक साम्राज्य भारतीय इतिहास में किस काल में महत्वपूर्ण क्षेत्रीय शक्तियों के रूप में उभरे?

- (a) गुप्तोत्तर काल
- (b) मौर्य काल
- (c) मुग़ल काल
- (d) सल्तनत काल

12. सातवीं और आठवीं शताब्दी के दौरान निर्मित पट्टदकल स्थित 'पापनाथ मंदिर' और 'विरुपाक्ष मंदिर' निम्नलिखित में से किस राजवंश से संबंधित हैं?

- (a) पल्लव
- (b) चालुक्य
- (c) चोल
- (d) राष्ट्रकूट

13. निम्नलिखित में से किस राजवंश के शासकों ने अनेक अधीनस्थ शासकों पर अपनी संप्रभुता दर्शाने के लिए 'परमेश्वर', 'महाराजाधिराज' और 'परमभट्टारक' जैसी भव्य उपाधियाँ धारण कीं?

- (a) मौर्य
- (b) गुप्त
- (c) सातवाहन
- (d) कुषाण

14. आरंभिक जैन धर्म और बौद्ध धर्म के संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

1. महावीर और गौतम बुद्ध दोनों क्षत्रिय वंश के थे और उन्होंने ब्राह्मणों की सत्ता को चुनौती दी थी।
2. वैश्यों ने दोनों धर्मों का समर्थन किया, क्योंकि वे ब्याज पर धन उधार देने का विरोध करते थे और व्यापार तथा वाणिज्य को बढ़ावा देते थे।
3. बौद्ध और जैन भिक्षुओं के लिए भौतिक संपत्ति और विलासिता का त्याग करते हुए एक सन्न्यासी जीवन व्यतीत करना आवश्यक था।

उपर्युक्त में से कितने कथन सही हैं?

- (a) केवल एक
- (b) केवल दो

7. Consider the following pairs:

<i>Ports in Ancient India</i>	<i>Associated dynasty</i>
Kaveripattinam	Chola
Muziris	Chera
Korkai	Pandya

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one pair
 - (b) Only two pairs
 - (c) All three pairs
 - (d) None of the pairs
8. Which of the following events happened earliest in India?
- (a) Use of copper tools and weapons
 - (b) Beginning of agriculture
 - (c) Emergence of urban culture
 - (d) Introduction of iron ploughshare
9. With reference to the Rashtrakutas, consider the following statements:

1. Dantidurga was the founder of the Rashtrakuta dynasty.
2. The Kailasa temple at Ellora, a monolithic rock-cut structure, was built during the Rashtrakuta period.

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
10. With reference to the Lion Capital of Sarnath, which of the following statements is correct?
1. The capital symbolizes Dhammachakra Pravartana, the first sermon of the Buddha.
 2. It stands on a bell-shaped lotus base.
 3. The abacus depicts a horse, a bull, a lion, and an elephant in relief.
 4. It was erected to commemorate the parinirvana of the Buddha.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

11. The Maitrakas, Maukharies, and the Vakataka kingdoms emerged as important regional powers during which period in Indian history?
- (a) Post-Gupta period
 - (b) Maurya period
 - (c) Mughal period
 - (d) Sultanate period
12. The ‘Papanatha Temple’ and the ‘Virupaksha Temple’ at Pattadakal, built during the 7th and 8th centuries CE, are associated with which one of the following dynasties?
- (a) Pallavas
 - (b) Chalukyas
 - (c) Cholas
 - (d) Rashtrakutas
13. Which one of the following dynasties’ rulers adopted grand titles such as ‘Parameshvara’, ‘Maharajadhiraja’, and ‘Paramabhattaraka’ to denote their sovereignty over numerous subordinate rulers?
- (a) Mauryas
 - (b) Guptas
 - (c) Satavahanas
 - (d) Kushanas
14. With reference to early Jainism and Buddhism, consider the following statements:
1. Both Mahavira and Gautama Buddha belonged to the Kshatriya clan and challenged the authority of the Brahmanas.
 2. The Vaisyas supported both religions because they opposed lending money on interest and promoted trade and commerce.
 3. Buddhist and Jaina monks were required to lead an ascetic life, renouncing material wealth and luxury.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two

- (c) सभी तीन
(d) कोई भी नहीं
- 15.** आरंभिक वैदिक आर्यों के संबंध में, निम्नलिखित में से कौन-से कथन सही हैं?
1. उनका मुख्य व्यवसाय पशुपालन था और गायें उनकी अर्थव्यवस्था का केंद्र थीं।
 2. आरंभिक वैदिक आर्यों को कृषि का कोई ज्ञान नहीं था।
 3. वे सप्त-सिंधु क्षेत्र में रहते थे, जो दक्षिण एशिया के उत्तर-पश्चिमी भाग में सौजूद था।
- नीचे दिए गए कूट का प्रयोग कर सही उत्तर चुनिए:
- (a) केवल 1 और 2
 - (b) केवल 2 और 3
 - (c) केवल 1 और 3
 - (d) 1, 2 और 3
- 16.** ऑनलाइन गेमिंग अधिनियम, 2025 के संबंध में, निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:
1. इस अधिनियम ने ई-खेलों और वास्तविक पैसे वाले खेलों (Real Money Games – RGMs) पर प्रतिबंध लगा दिया है।
 2. यह केंद्र सरकार को ऑनलाइन खेलों की मान्यता, वर्गीकरण और पंजीकरण के लिए एक नियामक प्राधिकरण को अधिसूचित करने और गठित करने का अधिकार देता है।
 3. यह अधिनियम नाबालिगों को ऑनलाइन सोशल गेम खेलने से रोकता है।
- उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कौन-सा/से सही है/हैं?
- (a) केवल 1 और 3
 - (b) केवल 2
 - (c) केवल 2 और 3
 - (d) 1, 2 और 3
- 17.** हाल ही में समाचारों में रहा लिपुलेख दर्दा, निम्नलिखित में से किस भारतीय राज्य और अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सीमा के त्रि-संगम पर स्थित है?
- (a) सिक्किम, नेपाल और भूटान
 - (b) अरुणाचल प्रदेश, चीन और म्यांमार
 - (c) जम्मू, पाकिस्तान और चीन
 - (d) उत्तराखण्ड, नेपाल और चीन

- 18.** हाल ही में घोषित अगली पीढ़ी के GST सुधारों के संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:
1. इन सुधारों के तहत सौर पैनलों और फोटोवोल्टिक सैलों पर GST दर शून्य कर दी गई है।
 2. मानव उपभोग के लिए ऐल्कोहॉल और विद्युत को GST ढाँचे के अंतर्गत लाया गया है।
- उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कौन-सा/से सही है/हैं?
- (a) केवल 1
 - (b) केवल 2
 - (c) 1 और 2 दोनों
 - (d) न तो 1, न ही 2
- 19.** आयकर अधिनियम, 2025 के संदर्भ में, 'वर्चुअल डिजिटल स्पेस' की अवधारणा में निम्नलिखित में से क्या शामिल हैं?
1. ईमेल सर्वर
 2. क्लाउड सर्वर
 3. सोशल मीडिया अकाउंट
 4. ऑनलाइन ट्रेडिंग अकाउंट
- नीचे दिए गए कूट का प्रयोग कर सही उत्तर चुनिए:
- (a) केवल 1 और 2
 - (b) केवल 2, 3 और 4
 - (c) 1, 2, 3 और 4
 - (d) केवल 3 और 4
- 20.** निम्नलिखित में से कौन-सा कथन इसरो द्वारा हाल ही में आयोजित "एकीकृत एयर ड्रॉप परीक्षण (IADT-01)" के महत्व का सही वर्णन करता है?
- (a) यह आपदा प्रबंधन अभियानों के दौरान भारी राहत सामग्री को हवा से गिराने (एयर-ड्रॉपिंग) की प्रक्रिया का परीक्षण करने के लिए आयोजित किया गया था।
 - (b) इसने गगनयान क्रू मॉड्यूल के लिए पैराशूट-आधारित मंदन प्रणाली के संपूर्ण (एंड-टू-एंड) निष्पादन का प्रदर्शन किया।
 - (c) इसका उद्देश्य दीर्घकालिक अंतरिक्ष मिशनों के लिए हवाई ईंधन भरने (Aerial Refuelling) की प्रणालियों का मूल्यांकन करना था।
 - (d) इसने क्रू मॉड्यूल के अंतरिक्ष स्टेशन के साथ कक्षीय डॉकिंग प्रक्रिया (Orbital Docking Manoeuvre) का अनुकरण (सिमुलेशन) किया।

- (c) All three
 (d) None
- 15.** Which of the following statements are correct regarding the early Vedic Aryans?
1. Cattle rearing was their main occupation with cows central to their economy.
 2. The early Vedic Aryans did not have any knowledge of agriculture.
 3. They lived in Sapta-Sindhu, covering the northwestern part of South Asia .
- 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
- 16.** Consider the following statements regarding the Online Gaming Act, 2025:
1. The Act has banned e-sports and real money games (RMGs).
 2. It empowers the Central Government to notify and constitute a regulatory authority for the recognition, categorisation, and registration of online games.
 3. The Act prohibits minors from playing online social games.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 and 3 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) 2 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
- 17.** The Lipulekh Pass, recently in the news, is located at the trijunction of which one of the following Indian states and international borders?
- (a) Sikkim, Nepal and Bhutan
 - (b) Arunachal Pradesh, China and Myanmar
 - (c) Jammu, Pakistan and China
 - (d) Uttarakhand, Nepal and China
- 18.** With reference to the recently announced Next-Gen GST Reforms, consider the following statements:
1. The GST on solar panels and photovoltaic cells has been reduced to zero under the reforms.
 2. Alcohol for human consumption and electricity have been brought under the GST framework.
- 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
- 19.** In the context of the Income Tax Act, 2025, the concept of ‘Virtual Digital Space’ includes which of the following?
1. Email servers
 2. Cloud servers
 3. Social media accounts
 4. Online trading accounts
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 2, 3 and 4 only
 - (c) 1, 2, 3 and 4
 - (d) 3 and 4 only
- 20.** Which of the following correctly describes the significance of the “Integrated Air Drop Test (IADT-01) recently conducted by ISRO?
- (a) It was conducted to test the air-dropping of heavy relief materials during disaster management operations.
 - (b) It demonstrated the end-to-end performance of the parachute-based deceleration system for the Gaganyaan crew module.
 - (c) It was aimed at evaluating aerial refuelling systems for long-duration space missions.
 - (d) It simulated the orbital docking manoeuvre of the crew module with the space station.

21. निम्नलिखित में से किस प्राचीन भारतीय राजा ने अपनी पुत्री प्रभावती का विवाह ब्राह्मण जाति के वाकाटक राजकुमार से किया, जिससे मध्य भारत में स्थित वाकाटक साम्राज्य पर अप्रत्यक्ष नियंत्रण स्थापित हो गया?
- अशोक
 - समुद्रगुप्त
 - चंद्रगुप्त II
 - हर्ष
22. निम्नलिखित में से कौन-सी दार्शनिक मान्यताएँ जैन धर्म द्वारा स्वीकार की गई हैं?
- कर्म का सिद्धांत
 - पुनर्जन्म
 - सृष्टिकर्ता ईश्वर
- नीचे दिए गए कूट का प्रयोग कर सही उत्तर चुनिए:
- केवल 1 और 2
 - केवल 2 और 3
 - केवल 1 और 3
 - 1, 2 और 3
23. सिंधु घाटी की कलाकृतियों के संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:
- मोहनजोदड़ो से प्राप्त “नर्तकी” एक कांस्य प्रतिमा है, जिसमें एक लड़की को पारंपरिक नृत्य मुद्रा में दिखाया गया है, जो चूड़ियों और कौड़ी के हार से सुसज्जित है।
 - मोहनजोदड़ो से प्राप्त बैल की आकृति लाल बलुआ पत्थर से बनी है और इसमें बैल को खड़ी हुई मुद्रा में दिखाया गया है।
- उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कौन-सा/से सही है/हैं?
- केवल 1
 - केवल 2
 - 1 और 2 दोनों
 - न तो 1, न ही 2
24. संगम साहित्य के संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:
- संगम कविताओं में प्रायः योद्धाओं और सरदारों का नाम लिया जाता है तथा उनके सेन्य कारनामों का विस्तार से वर्णन किया जाता है।
 - संगम साहित्य के अंतर्गत धार्मिक साहित्य शामिल नहीं है।
 - पत्तुपात्रु और पथिनेनकील्कनककु संगम कविताओं के संग्रह हैं।

उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कौन-से सही हैं?

- केवल 1 और 2
- केवल 1 और 3
- केवल 2 और 3
- 1, 2 और 3

25. निम्नलिखित में से किस चोल शासक ने भारतीय समुद्री व्यापार की रक्षा और दक्षिण चीन के साथ प्रत्यक्ष व्यापारिक संबंधों को सुरक्षित रखने के लिए दक्षिण-पूर्व एशिया में श्रीविजय साम्राज्य के विरुद्ध एक प्रसिद्ध नौसैन्य अभियान आरंभ किया था?
- राजराज I
 - राजेंद्र I
 - कुलोत्तुंग I
 - विजयालय

26. भारत में एक पारंपरिक कठपुतली कला के संबंध में निम्नलिखित जानकारी पर विचार कीजिए:
- यह पारंपरिक छड़ कठपुतली (Rod puppetry) का एक रूप है।
 - कठपुतलियाँ लकड़ी से तराशी जाती हैं और विभिन्न कलात्मक शैलियों को प्रदर्शित करती हैं।
 - यह कठपुतली कला पश्चिम बंगाल क्षेत्र में लोकप्रिय है।

उपर्युक्त में किस कठपुतली कला का वर्णन किया गया है?

- कठपुतली
- पुतुल नाच
- पावकूथु
- तोलु बोम्मालाटा

27. निम्नलिखित में से कौन-सा संप्रदाय महायान बौद्ध धर्म से जुड़ा है?
- वैभाषिक
 - सौत्रान्तिक
 - योगाचार
 - चार्वाक

28. निम्नलिखित में से कौन-सा हाल ही में समाचारों में रही मेरिट (MERITE) योजना का मुख्य उद्देश्य है?
- तकनीकी शिक्षा में गुणवत्ता, समता और शासन में सुधार
 - राज्यों/संघ राज्यक्षेत्रों में प्राथमिक और माध्यमिक शिक्षा के बुनियादी ढाँचे का विस्तार करना

21. Which of the following ancient Indian kings married his daughter Prabhavati to a Vakataka prince of the Brahmana caste, thereby exercising indirect control over the Vakataka kingdom in central India?

- (a) Ashoka
- (b) Samudragupta
- (c) Chandragupta II
- (d) Harsha

22. Which of the following philosophical beliefs are accepted by Jainism?

1. Law of karma
2. Rebirth
3. Creator God

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

23. With reference to Indus Valley artefacts, consider the following statements:

1. The “Dancing Girl” from Mohenjodaro is a bronze figure depicting a girl in a traditional dance posture, adorned with bangles and a cowry necklace.
2. The bull figure from Mohenjodaro is made of red sandstone and shows the animal in a standing posture.

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

24. With reference to Sangam literature, consider the following statements:

1. Sangam poems often mention warriors and chiefs by name and describe their military exploits in detail.
2. Sangam literature does not constitute religious literature.
3. Pattuppattu and Patinenkilkankku are collections of Sangam poems.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

25. Who among the following Chola rulers launched a famous naval expedition against the Srivijaya kingdom in Southeast Asia to protect Indian maritime trade and secure direct trading connections with South China?

- (a) Rajaraja I
- (b) Rajendra I
- (c) Kulottunga I
- (d) Vijayalaya

26. Consider the following information regarding a traditional puppetry form in India:

1. It is a form of traditional rod puppetry.
2. The puppets are carved from wood and reflect various artistic styles.
3. This puppetry form is popular in the West Bengal region.

Which one of the following puppetry forms is described above?

- (a) Kathputli
- (b) Putul Nautch
- (c) Pavakoothu
- (d) Tholu Bommalata

27. Which one of the following sects is associated with Mahayana Buddhism?

- (a) Vaibhasika
- (b) Sautrantika
- (c) Yogacara
- (d) Carvaka

28. The MERITE Scheme, recently in the news, primarily aims at which one of the following?

- (a) Improving quality, equity, and governance in technical education
- (b) Expanding primary and secondary education infrastructure across States/UTs

- (c) केवल पॉलिटेक्निक संस्थानों में कौशल विकास को प्रोत्साहन देना
 (d) सार्वजनिक-निजी भागीदारी के माध्यम से नए IITs और IIIMs की स्थापना
- 29.** भारतीय पत्तन अधिनियम, 2025 के संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

1. यह केंद्र और तटीय राज्यों के बीच समन्वय स्थापित करने के लिए एक वैधानिक निकाय के रूप में राज्य समुद्रीय विकास परिषद् की स्थापना करता है।
2. यह मारपोल (MARPOL) और स्थिरक भार (Ballast) जल प्रबंधन अभियानों के अनुपालन को अनिवार्य बनाता है।
3. इसमें राज्य सरकारों से महापत्तनों से भिन्न पत्तनों के लिए विवाद समाधान समिति गठित करने की अपेक्षा की गई है।

उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कौन-से सही हैं?

- (a) केवल 1 और 2
 (b) केवल 2 और 3
 (c) केवल 1 और 3
 (d) 1, 2 और 3
- 30.** एशियाई विशालकाय कछुए के संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

1. यह मुख्यभूमि एशिया की सबसे बड़ी कछुआ प्रजाति है।
2. यह भारत के उत्तर-पूर्वी राज्यों में मूल रूप से पाया जाता है।
3. इसे IUCN की लालसूची में “गंभीर संकटापन” के रूप में सूचीबद्ध किया गया है।

उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कितने सही हैं?

- (a) केवल एक
 (b) केवल दो
 (c) सभी तीन
 (d) कोई नहीं
- 31.** जैन दर्शन के संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

1. स्याद्वाद के अनुसार, साधारण मनुष्यों का ज्ञान आंशिक और सापेक्ष होता है, और केवल मुक्त आत्मा ही वास्तविकता को पूर्ण रूप से जान सकती है।

2. मोक्ष की प्राप्ति तब होती है, जब आत्मा को अवरुद्ध करने वाले कर्मों का सारा मैल पूर्णतः हट जाता है।

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

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

- 32.** गुप्त काल के दौरान ‘उपरिकर’ और ‘उद्रंग’ पद निम्नलिखित में से किसके लिए प्रयुक्त होते थे?

- (a) कृषि करों के लिए
 (b) स्वर्ण सिक्कों के लिए
 (c) ग्राम प्रशासकों के लिए
 (d) राजाओं को स्वेच्छा से दिए जाने वाले उपहार के लिए

- 33.** बौद्ध धर्म में अर्हत (Arhat) की अवधारणा के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

1. हीनयान संप्रदाय अर्हत बनने के आदर्श पर अधिक बल देता है, बजाय बोधिसत्त्व (Bodhisattva) बनने के।
2. बोधिसत्त्व के विपरीत, अर्हत निर्वाण प्राप्त करने के बाद संसार के चक्र से अलग हो जाते हैं।

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

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

- 34.** भारत के पारंपरिक नाट्य रूपों और उनके क्षेत्रों के संबंध में दिए गए युगमों पर विचार कीजिए:

	नाट्य रूप	क्षेत्र
1.	नौटंकी	उत्तर प्रदेश
2.	यक्षगान	ओडिशा
3.	मुदियेट्टु	केरल
4.	भाओना	অসম

उपर्युक्त में से कितने युगम सही सुमेलित हैं?

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

- (c) Promoting skill development only in polytechnic institutions
 (d) Establishing new IITs and IIMs through public-private partnerships
- 29.** With reference to the Indian Ports Act, 2025, consider the following statements:
1. It establishes the Maritime State Development Council as a statutory body to coordinate between the Centre and the coastal States.
 2. It mandates compliance with MARPOL and Ballast Water Management conventions.
 3. It requires State Governments to set up a Dispute Resolution Committee for non-major ports.
- 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
- 30.** With reference to the Asian giant tortoise, consider the following statements:
1. It is the largest tortoise species of mainland Asia.
 2. It is native to northeastern States of India.
 3. It is listed as “critically endangered” in the IUCN Red List.
- How many of the above statements are correct?
- (a) Only one
 (b) Only two
 (c) All three
 (d) None
- 31.** With reference to Jaina philosophy, consider the following statements:
1. According to Syadvada, all human knowledge is partial and relative, and only a liberated soul can know reality in totality.
2. Moksha is attained when the karmic matter obstructing the soul is completely removed.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 (b) 2 only
 (c) Both 1 and 2
 (d) Neither 1 nor 2
- 32.** The terms ‘uparikara’ and ‘udranga’ during the Gupta period referred to which of the following?
- (a) Agricultural taxes
 (b) Gold coins
 (c) Village administrators
 (d) Voluntary offering to kings
- 33.** Consider the following statements with reference to the concept of Arhat in Buddhism:
1. The Hinayana school emphasises the ideal of becoming an Arhat rather than a Bodhisattva.
 2. Unlike a Bodhisattva, Arhats disappear from the cycle of Samsara after attaining nirvana.
- 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
- 34.** Consider the following pairs regarding the traditional Indian theatre forms and their regions:
- | | Theatre | Region |
|----|------------|---------------|
| 1. | Nautanki | Uttar Pradesh |
| 2. | Yakshagana | Odisha |
| 3. | Mudiyettu | Kerala |
| 4. | Bhaona | Assam |
- How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?
- (a) Only one pair
 (b) Only two pairs
 (c) Only three pairs
 (d) All four pairs



35. जैन दर्शन के निम्नलिखित उप-संप्रदायों पर विचार कीजिएः

- स्थानकवासी
- तेरापंथी

उपर्युक्त उप-संप्रदायों में से कौन-सा/से मूर्ति पूजा को स्वीकार करता/करते हैं/हैं और अपने मंदिरों में तीर्थकरों की प्रतिमाओं का उपयोग करता/करते हैं/हैं?

- केवल 1
- केवल 2
- 1 और 2 दोनों
- न तो 1, न ही 2

36. मथुरा कला शैली (Mathura School of Art) के संबंध में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिएः

- यह कुषाण काल के दौरान फली-फूली।
- इसमें मूर्तियों के लिए लाल बलुआ पत्थर (Red Sandstone) का प्रयोग किया गया।
- सारनाथ शैली के विपरीत, इसमें केवल बौद्ध प्रतिमाएँ ही तराशी गईं।

नीचे दिए गए कूट का प्रयोग कर सही उत्तर चुनिएः

- केवल 1
- केवल 1 और 2
- केवल 1 और 3
- केवल 2 और 3

37. समेद शिखरजी (Sammed Shikharji) को जैन धर्म में पवित्र क्यों माना जाता है?

- यह वह स्थल था, जहाँ महावीर ने अपना पहला उपदेश दिया था।
- यह प्रथम जैन परिषद् (First Jain Council) का स्थान था।
- माना जाता है कि अधिकांश तीर्थकरों ने यहाँ निर्वाण प्राप्त किया।
- यह महावीर का जन्मस्थान है।

38. हाल ही में सुर्खियों में रहे 'प्रोजेक्ट आरोहण' का मुख्य उद्देश्य क्या है?

- वनीकरण और जैव-विविधता संरक्षण को बढ़ावा देना
- हेल्थकेयर में एआई अनुप्रयोगों का विकास करना
- सार्वजनिक परिवहन अवसंरचना में सुधार करना
- टोल प्लाज़ा कर्मचारियों के बच्चों को छात्रवृत्ति प्रदान करना

39. ब्लू पिंकगिल मशरूम (एंटोलमा हॉचस्टेटरी) के संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिएः

- यह न्यूजीलैंड की देशज प्रजाति है।
- भारत में इसे खाने योग्य मशरूम के रूप में बड़े पैमाने पर उपयोग किया जाता है।

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

- केवल 1
- केवल 2
- 1 और 2 दोनों
- न तो 1, न ही 2

40. हाल ही में भारत के पहले एनिमल स्टेम सेल बायोबैंक और लेबोरेटरी को, निम्नलिखित में से किस स्थान पर उद्घाटित किया गया?

- बैंगलुरु
- हैदराबाद
- पुणे
- नई दिल्ली

41. निम्नलिखित युगमों पर विचार कीजिएः

	मंदिर	मंदिर वास्तुकला की शैली
1.	बृहदेश्वर मंदिर, तंजावुर	द्रविड़ शैली
2.	कंदरिया महादेव मंदिर, खजुराहो	नागर शैली
3.	चन्नकेश्वर मंदिर, बेलूर	वेसर शैली

उपर्युक्त में से कितने युगम सही सुमेलित हैं?

- केवल एक
- केवल दो
- सभी तीन
- कोई नहीं

42. भारतीय सांस्कृतिक परंपराओं के संदर्भ में, "जात्रा" को सर्वश्रेष्ठ रूप में किस प्रकार वर्णित किया जा सकता है?

- ओडिशा की एक युद्धकला, जो मंदिर उत्सवों के दौरान प्रदर्शित की जाती है।
- बंगाल का एक नाट्य रूप, जो प्रारंभ में भक्तिमूलक नाटक के रूप में आरंभ हुआ और बाद में सामाजिक एवं प्रेम संबंधी विषयों को भी सम्मिलित किया।

35. Consider the following sub-sects of Jain philosophy:

1. Sthanakvasis
2. Taranapantha

Which of the above accepts idol worship and uses images of Tirthankaras in their temples?

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

36. Which of the following statements regarding the Mathura School of Art is/are correct?

1. It flourished during the Kushan period.
2. It used red sandstone for sculptures.
3. Unlike Sarnath school, it carved out only Buddhist images

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

37. Sammed Shikharji is considered sacred in Jainism because:

- (a) It was the site where Mahavira delivered his first sermon.
- (b) It was the location of the First Jain Council.
- (c) Most of the Tirthankaras are believed to have attained Nirvana here.
- (d) It marks the birthplace of Mahavira.

38. Project Aarohan, recently in the news, primarily aims at:

- (a) Promoting afforestation and biodiversity conservation
- (b) Developing AI applications in healthcare
- (c) Improving public transport infrastructure
- (d) Providing scholarships to children of toll plaza employees

39. With reference to the blue pinkgill mushroom (*Entoloma hochstetteri*), consider the following statements:

1. It is native to New Zealand.
2. It is widely consumed in India as an edible mushroom.

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

40. The first Animal Stem Cell Biobank and Laboratory in India was recently inaugurated at which one of the following locations?

- (a) Bengaluru
- (b) Hyderabad
- (c) Pune
- (d) New Delhi

41. Consider the following pairs:

	<i>Temple</i>	<i>Style of temple architecture</i>
1.	Brihadeshwara Temple, Thanjavur	Dravida Style
2.	Kandariya Mahadev Temple, Khajuraho	Nagara style
3.	Chennakesava Temple, Belur	Vesara Style

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

42. In the context of Indian cultural traditions, Jatra can be best described as:

- (a) A martial art form of Odisha performed during temple festivals.
- (b) A theatre form of Bengal that originated as devotional play and later included social and romantic themes.

- (c) असम का एक लोकनृत्य, जो बिहू उत्सव के दौरान किया जाता है।
 (d) दक्षिण भारत की एक छाया-कठपुतली नाट्य परंपरा।
43. वैदिक साहित्य के संबंध में निम्नलिखित युगमों पर विचार कीजिए:

	वैदिक साहित्य	विवरण
1.	ब्राह्मण	दार्शनिक ग्रंथ, जो तात्त्विक प्रश्नों और परम वास्तविकता से संबंधित हैं
2.	अरण्यक	वैदिक मंत्रों की व्याख्या वाले ग्रंथ
3.	उपनिषद्	साधुओं द्वारा वन में छात्रों के लिए रचित ग्रंथ, जो कर्म और दर्शन के मध्य सेतु का कार्य करते हैं

उपर्युक्त में से कौन-सा/से युगम सही सुमेलित हैं?

- (a) केवल 1 और 2
 (b) केवल 2 और 3
 (c) केवल 1 और 3
 (d) उपर्युक्त में से कोई नहीं
44. निम्नलिखित में से कौन मध्यकालीन भारत का एक प्रसिद्ध न्यायशास्त्री था तथा मिताक्षरा, जो उत्तराधिकार कानूनों पर एक महत्वपूर्ण ग्रंथ है, का लेखक है?
- (a) जिमुतवाहन
 (b) विज्ञानेश्वर
 (c) हेमाद्री
 (d) याज्ञवल्क्य
45. बौद्ध वास्तुकला के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

- स्तूप एक गुंबदाकार संरचना है, जिसे बुद्ध के अवशेषों को रखने के लिए बनाया गया।
- विहार एक मठीय निवास है, जिसमें भिक्षुओं के लिए कक्ष (Cells) होते हैं।
- चैत्य एक प्रार्थना-हॉल है, जिसमें प्रायः एक छोर पर स्तूप होता है।

उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कौन-से सही हैं?

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

46. धर्मशास्त्रों के संबंध में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

- धर्मशास्त्रों में धर्मसूत्र और स्मृतियाँ उनके टीकों सहित शामिल हैं।
- ये नियम निर्धारित करते हैं कि संपत्ति को कैसे धारण किया जाए, बेचा जाए और विरासत में दिया जाए।
- धर्मशास्त्रों का एक बड़ा भाग कौटिल्य द्वारा लिखा गया था।

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

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

47. निम्नलिखित में से कौन बौद्ध धर्म में द्वादश निदान (Dvadasa Nidana) की अवधारणा को सही ढंग से समझाता है?

- बोधिसत्त्व द्वारा विकसित की जाने वाली बारह विशेषताएँ
- ज्ञान प्राप्ति के बारह चरण, जो निर्वाण की ओर ले जाते हैं।
- नैतिक अनुशासन के बारह सिद्धांत, जो आम अनुयायियों के लिए सही आचरण का मार्गदर्शन करते हैं।
- प्रतीत्यसमुत्पाद की शृंखला में बारह कड़ियाँ, जो पुनर्जन्म के चक्र की व्याख्या करती हैं।

48. प्राचीन भारत के गुप्त साम्राज्य की अर्थव्यवस्था के संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

- बलि नामक भूमि कर कुल उपज का 1/4 से 1/6 तक होता था।
- ग्रामीणों से ज़बरन मज़दूरी करवाई जाती थी, जिसे विष्टि कहा जाता था।
- गुप्तों द्वारा जारी सोने के सिक्के 'दिनार' थे।

- (c) A folk dance of Assam performed during the Bihu festival.
- (d) A shadow-puppet theatre tradition from southern India.
43. Consider the following pairs regarding Vedic literature:

	<i>Vedic Literature</i>	<i>Description</i>
1.	Brahmana	Philosophical texts dealing with metaphysical questions and the ultimate reality
2.	Aranyaka	Texts containing explanations of Vedic hymn
3.	Upanishad	Texts composed by hermits for students in forests, forming a bridge between karma and philosophy

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) None
44. Who among the following was a renowned jurist of medieval India and the author of *Mitakshara*, a significant treatise on the laws of inheritance?
- (a) Jimutavahana
- (b) Vijnaneshwara
- (c) Hemadri
- (d) Yajnavalkya
45. With reference to Buddhist architecture, consider the following statements:
1. A stupa is a dome-shaped structure built to house relics of the Buddha.
 2. A vihara is a monastic dwelling with cells for monks.
 3. A chaitya is a prayer hall that often contains a stupa at one end.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

46. Consider the following statements regarding Dharmashastras :

1. Dharmashastras comprise of Dharmasutras and Smritis along with their commentaries.
2. They prescribe the rules according to which property is to be held, sold and inherited.
3. A major portion of Dharmashastras was written by Kautilya.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

47. Which of the following correctly explains the concept of Dvadasa Nidana in Buddhism?

- (a) Twelve virtues cultivated by a Bodhisattva.
- (b) Twelve stages of enlightenment that lead to Nirvana.
- (c) Twelve principles of moral discipline that guide right conduct for lay followers.
- (d) Twelve links in the chain of dependent origination that explain the cycle of rebirth.

48. With reference to the Economy of Gupta Empire in ancient India, consider the following statements:

1. The land tax called Bali varied from 1/4th to 1/6th of the total produce.
2. The villagers were subjected to forced labour known as Vishti.
3. 'Dinaras' were the gold coins issued by Guptas.

- उपर्युक्त में से कौन-सा/से कथन सही है/हैं?
- केवल 1
 - केवल 2 और 3
 - केवल 1 और 2
 - 1, 2 और 3
- 49.** हाल ही में केंद्रीय जनजातीय मामलों के मंत्रालय द्वारा शुरू किया गया 'आदि कर्मयोगी अभियान' मुख्य रूप से किस उद्देश्य से है?
- जनजातीय क्षेत्रों में औद्योगिक विकास को बढ़ावा देना।
 - गाँवों में विकेंद्रीकृत जनजातीय नेतृत्व और शासन को सशक्त बनाना।
 - रोजगार के लिए जनजातीय युवाओं को शहरी क्षेत्रों में प्रवासित होने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करना।
 - जनजातीय क्षेत्रों में शासन सुधारने के लिए सरकारी अधिकारियों को प्रशिक्षित करना।
- 50.** नागोर्नो-कराबाख क्षेत्र हाल ही में निम्नलिखित में से किस कारण से चर्चा में था?
- यह यूरोप और एशिया के मध्य नए अंतर्राष्ट्रीय व्यापारिक गलियरे का स्थल बन गया।
 - यह इथियोपिया के तिग्राय (Tigray) क्षेत्र में लंबे समय से चल रहे जातीय और राजनीतिक विवादों के कारण विवाद का केंद्र बन गया।
 - कैस्पियन सागर को काला सागर से जोड़ने वाली नई पाइपलाइन परियोजना का उद्घाटन किया गया।
 - यह आर्मेनिया और अजरबैजान के बीच लंबे समय से चल रहे जातीय और राजनीतिक तनावों के कारण संघर्ष क्षेत्र बन गया।
- 51.** भारतीय प्रतिस्पर्धा आयोग (CCI) के संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:
- CCI एक वैधानिक निकाय है, जो भारतीय प्रतिस्पर्धा अधिनियम, 2002 के तहत स्थापित किया गया है।
 - CCI के पास ऐसे विलय और अधिग्रहण को अनुमोदित या अवरुद्ध करने का अधिकार है, जो बाजार प्रतिस्पर्धा को प्रभावित कर सकते हैं।
- उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कौन-से सही हैं?
- केवल 1 और 2
 - केवल 2
 - केवल 3
 - 1, 2 और 3
- 52.** निम्नलिखित युगमों पर विचार कीजिए:
- | | मूर्ति/शिल्प | काल/वंश |
|----|---|---------------------|
| 1. | अर्जुन की तपस्या
(Arjuna's Penance) | पल्लव
(Pallavas) |
| 2. | दीदारगंज यक्षी
(Didarganj Yakshi) | गुप्त (Guptas) |
| 3. | एलीफेंटा की त्रिमूर्ति
(Trimurti of Elephanta) | मौर्य (Mauryas) |
- उपर्युक्त में से कौन-से युगम सही सुमेलित हैं?
- केवल 1 और 2
 - केवल 2 और 3
 - केवल 1
 - 1, 2 और 3
- 53.** निम्नलिखित पंचांगों/कैलेंडरों को उनकी उत्पत्ति के सही कालानुक्रमिक अनुक्रम में व्यवस्थित कीजिए:
- विक्रम कैलेंडर
 - शक कैलेंडर
 - हिजरी कैलेंडर
 - ग्रेगोरियन कैलेंडर
- नीचे दिए गए कूट का प्रयोग कर सही उत्तर चुनिए:
- 2-4-3-1
 - 4-1-2-3
 - 3-4-2-1
 - 1-4-2-3
- 54.** तंजावुर का बृहदेश्वर मंदिर (Brihadeeswara Temple) के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:
- इसे राजेंद्र चोल प्रथम ने बनवाया था।
 - यह भगवान शिव को समर्पित है।

- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
 - 2 and 3 only
 - 1 and 2 only
 - 1, 2 and 3
- 49.** The Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan, recently launched by the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs, primarily aims to:
- Promote industrial development in tribal areas.
 - Strengthen decentralized tribal leadership and governance across villages.
 - Encourage urban migration of tribal youth for employment.
 - Train government officers to improve governance in tribal regions.
- 50.** Nagorno-Karabakh region was in the news recently because of which of the following reasons?
- It became the site of a new international trade corridor between Europe and Asia.
 - It became a flashpoint due to long-standing ethnic and political disputes in the Tigray region of Ethiopia.
 - A new pipeline project connecting the Caspian Sea to the Black Sea was inaugurated.
 - It became a conflict zone due to long-standing ethnic and political tensions between Armenia and Azerbaijan.
- 51.** With reference to the Competition Commission of India (CCI), consider the following statements:
- The CCI is a statutory body established under the Competition Act, 2002.
 - The CCI has the power to approve or block mergers and acquisitions that may affect market competition.
3. The CCI is under the administrative control of Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 and 2 only
 - 2 only
 - 3 only
 - 1, 2 and 3
- 52.** Consider the following pairs:
- | | Sculpture | Period/Dynasty |
|----|-----------------------|----------------|
| 1. | Arjuna's Penance | Pallavas |
| 2. | Didarganj Yakshi | Guptas |
| 3. | Trimurti of Elephanta | Mauryas |
- Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?
- 1 and 2 only
 - 2 and 3 only
 - 1 only
 - 1, 2 and 3
- 53.** Arrange the following calendars in the correct chronological order of their origin:
- Vikram Calendar
 - Saka Calendar
 - Hijri Calendar
 - Gregorian Calendar
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- 2-4-3-1
 - 4-1-2-3
 - 3-4-2-1
 - 1-4-2-3
- 54.** With reference to the Brihadeeswara Temple of Thanjavur, consider the following statements:
- It was built by Rajendra Chola I.
 - It is dedicated to Lord Shiva.

3. यह तीन 'महान जीवित चोल मंदिरों' (Great Living Chola Temples) में से एक है, जिन्हें यूनेस्को विश्व धरोहर स्थल में सूचीबद्ध किया गया है।

उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कौन-से सही हैं?

- (a) केवल 1 और 2
 - (b) केवल 2 और 3
 - (c) केवल 1 और 3
 - (d) 1, 2 और 3
55. विजयनगर साम्राज्य के सांस्कृतिक इतिहास के संदर्भ में 'पुष्कर्णी' शब्द का आशय निम्नलिखित में से किससे है?
- (a) मंदिर परिसर में सीढ़ीनुमा जलकुंड
 - (b) अनुष्ठानों में प्रयुक्त पारंपरिक बाँसुरी
 - (c) प्राचीन मुद्रा का एक प्रकार
 - (d) नगरों के चारों ओर बनी हुई किलेबंद दीवार
56. जैन धर्म के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:
1. अनुव्रत (Anuvratas) गृहस्थों (Grihasthas) और आम लोगों द्वारा लिए जाने वाले मध्यम या सीमित व्रत हैं।
 2. महाव्रत (Mahavrata) पाँच "महान व्रत" हैं, जिन्हें केवल सन्यासियों और मुनियों द्वारा जीवन भर के लिए लिया जाता है।

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

- (a) केवल 1
 - (b) केवल 2
 - (c) 1 और 2 दोनों
 - (d) न तो 1, न ही 2
57. निम्नलिखित में से कौन-से वैदिक यज्ञ में एक अनुष्ठानिक रथ दौड़ शामिल थी, जिसमें राजा ने अपने परिवार के सदस्यों के साथ प्रतिस्पर्धा की और उन्हें पराजित किया, जो शक्ति और समृद्धि की प्राप्ति का प्रतीक था?
- (a) राजसूय
 - (b) वाजपेय

(c) अश्वमेध

(d) अग्निष्टोम

58. भारत में मंदिर वास्तुकला के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

1. नागर शैली की मुख्य विशेषता वक्राकार शिखर (Curvilinear Shikhara) है, जबकि द्रविड़ शैली में पिरामिडाकार विमान पाया जाता है।
2. द्रविड़ शैली की मंदिर वास्तुकला की विशेषता यह है कि वह एक चारदीवारी (Compound wall) से घिरी होती है, जबकि नागर शैली में यह विशेषता सामान्यतः नहीं पाई जाती।

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

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

59. भारतीय कला और वास्तुकला के संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित शब्द रेखापीडा (Rekhapida), पीठदेउला (Pidhadeula) और खाकरा (Khakara) किससे संबंधित हैं?

- (a) मध्यकालीन भारत में लघु चित्रकला की शैलियाँ
- (b) संस्कृत काव्य छंदों के वर्गीकरण
- (c) ओडिशा में मंदिर वास्तुकला की शैलियाँ
- (d) बौद्ध स्तूपों में मूर्तिकला शैलियों के प्रकार

60. भारत की कला और पुरातात्त्विक इतिहास के संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित में से कौन-सा सर्वप्रथम निर्मित हुआ था?

- (a) तंजावुर का बृहदीश्वर मंदिर
- (b) बराबर की शैलकृत बौद्ध गुफाएँ
- (c) एलोरा के शैलकृत स्मारक
- (d) श्रवणबेलगोला में गोमटेश्वर की प्रतिमा

61. समुद्रगुप्त के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

1. वे चंद्रगुप्त प्रथम के उत्तराधिकारी थे।
2. उन्होंने शांति और अनाक्रमण की नीति को बढ़ावा दिया।
3. श्रीलंका के मेघवर्मन ने गया में एक बौद्ध मंदिर बनाने की अनुमति प्राप्त करने हेतु अपने दूत को उनके दरबार में भेजा।

3. It is one of the three ‘Great Living Chola Temples’ listed as UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

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

55. With reference to the cultural history of the Vijayanagara Empire, the term ‘Pushkarni’ refers to which of the following?

- (a) A stepped water tank in a temple complex
- (b) A traditional Indian flute used in ceremonies
- (c) A form of ancient currency
- (d) A fortified wall around cities

56. Consider the following statements with reference to Jainism:

1. ‘Anuvratas’ signify the moderate vows undertaken by the grihasthas (householders) and the common people.
2. ‘Mahavratas’ denote the five “great vows” undertaken for life only by the ascetics and monks.

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

57. Which one of the following Vedic sacrifices included a ritual chariot race in which the rajan competed with and defeated his kinsmen, symbolising the attainment of power and prosperity?

- (a) Rajasuya
- (b) Vajapeya

- (c) Ashvamedha
- (d) Agnishtoma

58. With reference to the temple architecture in India, consider the following statements:

1. The Nagara style is primarily characterized by a curvilinear shikhara while Dravida style features a pyramid-shaped vimana.
2. The Dravida style of temple architecture is characterized by its enclosure within a compound wall, a feature not commonly found in the Nagara style.

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. In the context of Indian art and architecture, the terms Rekhapiṭa, Pidhadeula and Khakara are associated with:

- (a) Styles of miniature painting in medieval India
- (b) Classifications of Sanskrit poetic metres
- (c) Styles of temple architecture in Odisha
- (d) Types of sculptural styles used in Buddhist stupas

60. With reference to the art and archaeological history of India, which one among the following was built first?

- (a) Brihadeeshwara Temple at Thanjavur
- (b) Rock-cut Buddhist caves at Barabar
- (c) Rock-cut Monuments at Ellora
- (d) Gommateshwara statue at Shravanabelagola

61. With reference to the Samudragupta, consider the following statements:

1. He was the successor of Chandragupta I.
2. He promoted a policy of peace and non-aggression.
3. Meghavarman of Sri Lanka sent a missionary to his court for permission to build a Buddhist temple at Gaya.

- उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कौन-सा/से सही है/हैं?
- केवल 1 और 2
 - केवल 2
 - केवल 1 और 3
 - 1, 2 और 3
- 62.** भारत के सांस्कृतिक इतिहास के संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित युगमों पर विचार कीजिए:
- | | कठपुतली रूप | क्षेत्र |
|----|---------------------------|----------|
| 1. | कठपुतली (Kathputli) | राजस्थान |
| 2. | बोम्मालट्टम (Bommalattam) | तमिलनाडु |
| 3. | पावकूथु (Pavakoothu) | ओडिशा |
- उपर्युक्त में से कितने युगम सही सुमेलित हैं?
- केवल एक
 - केवल दो
 - सभी तीन
 - कोई नहीं
- 63.** सिंधु घाटी सभ्यता (IVC) में प्राप्त मुद्राओं के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:
- कुछ मुद्राओं पर पशुओं से घिरी हुई पद्मासन (Cross-legged) मुद्रा में एक आकृति दिखाई देती है, जिसे प्रायः “प्रोटो-शिव” के रूप में पहचाना जाता है।
 - सिंधु घाटी की मुद्रा पर “प्रोटो-शिव” का चित्रण ऋग्वेद में वर्णित रुद्र के विवरण से पूरी तरह मेल खाता है।
- उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कौन-सा/से सही है/हैं?
- केवल 1
 - केवल 2
 - 1 और 2 दोनों
 - न तो 1 और न ही 2
- 64.** निम्नलिखित में से कौन-से जैन धर्म के संप्रदाय हैं?
- मूर्तिपूजक
 - बीस पंथ
 - लोकोत्तरवादी
 - तेरापंथ
- नीचे दिए गए कूट का प्रयोग करके सही उत्तर चुनिए:
- केवल 1, 2 और 4
 - केवल 1 और 3
 - केवल 2 और 3
 - 1, 2, 3 और 4
- 65.** ‘होयसल के पवित्र समूह’ जो कि यूनेस्को विश्व धरोहर स्थल हैं, के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:
- हलेबिड का होयसलेश्वर मंदिर द्रविड़ शैली की मंदिर वास्तुकला का एक उत्कृष्ट उदाहरण माना जाता है।
 - इन मंदिरों की विशेषता उनके अत्यंत मौलिक, तारे जैसी (Star-like) भूमिगत योजनाएँ हैं।
 - यूनेस्को विश्व धरोहर सूची में सम्मिलित तीनों होयसल मंदिर भगवान शिव को समर्पित हैं।
- उपर्युक्त में से कितने कथन सही हैं?
- केवल एक
 - केवल दो
 - सभी तीन
 - कोई नहीं
- 66.** प्राचीन भारत के इतिहास के संदर्भ में, “अग्रहारिक” शब्द का आशय था:
- राजमहल के रक्षकों का प्रमुख
 - सत्य की खोज में लगे बौद्ध धर्म के अनुयायी
 - राजशाही रसोई का पर्यवेक्षक
 - वह अधिकारी, जो दान में दी गई भूमि की देखभाल करता था
- 67.** निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:
- ये स्मारक चालुक्य वंश के तहत 7वीं और 8वीं शताब्दी में बनाए गए थे।
 - ये उत्तर और दक्षिण भारत की वास्तुकला शैलियों का मिश्रण प्रस्तुत करते हैं, और इनमें नौ हिंदू मंदिर और एक जैन मंदिर शामिल हैं।
 - विरुपाक्ष मंदिर (Temple of Virupaksha), जिसे रानी लोकमहादेवी ने लगभग 740 ईसवी में बनवाया था, सबसे प्रमुख स्थलचिह्न है।

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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

	Puppetry Form	Region
1.	Kathputli	Rajasthan
2.	Bommalattam	Tamil Nadu
3.	Pavakoothu	Odisha

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

63. With reference to the seals found in Indus Valley Civilization (IVC), consider the following statements:

1. A cross-legged figure surrounded by animals appears on some seals and is often identified as “proto-Shiva.”.
2. The depiction of “proto-Shiva” on the IVC seal exactly matches the description of Rudra in the Rigveda.

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

64. Which of the following are sects of Jainism?

1. Murtipujaka
2. Bisapantha
3. Lokottaravadin
4. Terapanth

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

65. With reference to the Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas, a UNESCO World Heritage site, consider the following statements:

1. Hoysaleshvara temple at Halebid is considered as one of the finest examples of Dravida style of temple architecture.
2. These temples are characterised by their highly original star-like ground plans.
3. All three Hoysala temples selected for the UNESCO World Heritage site list are dedicated to Lord Shiva.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

66. With reference to the history of ancient India, the term “Agrahaarika” referred to:

- (a) Chief of palace guards
- (b) Followers of Buddhism who strived for truth
- (c) Superintendent of the royal kitchen
- (d) Official who looked after the land given in charity

67. Consider the following statements:

1. These monuments were built in the 7th and 8th centuries under the Chalukya dynasty.
2. They exhibit a blend of architectural styles from northern and southern India, and consist of nine Hindu temples and a Jain sanctuary.
3. The Temple of Virupaksha, built around 740 CE by Queen Lokamahadevi, is the most prominent landmark.



- उपर्युक्त कथन किस स्मारक समूह का वर्णन करते हैं?
- हम्पी
 - पट्टदक्ळ
 - ममल्लापुरम्
 - चंपानेर-पावगढ़
- 68.** दिल्ली में निर्मित निम्नलिखित वास्तुशिल्प स्मारकों पर विचार कीजिए:
- लाल किला (Red Fort)
 - हुमायूँ का मकबरा (Humayun's Tomb)
 - कुतुब मीनार (Qutub Minar)
 - जंतर मंतर (Jantar Mantar)
- इनमें से कौन-से स्मारक यूनेस्को विश्व धरोहर स्थल सूची में शामिल हैं?
- केवल 1, 2 और 3
 - केवल 2, 3 और 4
 - केवल 1, 3 और 4
 - 1, 2, 3 और 4
- 69.** निम्नलिखित में से कौन-सा भारत सरकार द्वारा हाल ही में घोषित मिशन सुदर्शन चक्र के प्राथमिक महत्व को दर्शाता है?
- विनिर्माण और रक्षा क्षेत्रों में रोजगार सृजित करके राष्ट्रीय अर्थव्यवस्था को प्रोत्साहित करना।
 - नागरिक एवं सामरिक दोनों उद्देश्यों के लिए भारत के अंतरिक्ष अन्वेषण और उपग्रह प्रैद्योगिकी को आगे बढ़ाना।
 - पूर्वानुमान और प्रतिकार प्रैद्योगिकियों से युक्त पूर्णतः स्वदेशी प्रणाली के माध्यम से भारत की रक्षा क्षमताओं को सुदृढ़ करना।
 - उन्नत कृषि प्रैद्योगिकियों का उपयोग करके भारत की कृषि उत्पादकता का विकास करना।
- 70.** भारत की समुद्री रणनीति के संदर्भ में सागर (SAGAR) और महासागर (MAHASAGAR) सिद्धांतों के बीच का अंतर निम्नलिखित में से किस प्रकार सर्वश्रेष्ठ रूप से वर्णित किया जा सकता है?
- सागर का ध्यान नीली अर्थव्यवस्था (Blue Economy) के विकास पर केंद्रित था, जबकि महासागर मुख्य रूप से नौसैनिक सुरक्षा पर केंद्रित है।
 - सागर समुद्री सुरक्षा पर केंद्रित था, जबकि महासागर मुख्य रूप से सांस्कृतिक कूटनीति पर ध्यान केंद्रित करता है।
 - सागर ने द्विपक्षीय समुद्री सहयोग पर बल दिया, जबकि महासागर विशेष रूप से हिंद-प्रशांत में बहुपक्षीय नौसैनिक गठबंधनों पर ध्यान केंद्रित करता है।
 - सागर का ध्यान हिंद महासागर क्षेत्र पर केंद्रित था, जबकि महासागर वैश्विक समुद्री ढाँचे तक इसका विस्तार करता है।
- 71.** निम्नलिखित यात्रियों में से किनकी यात्रा विवरणों की तुलना बाणभट्ट की “हर्षचरित्र” के साथ की जा सकती है ताकि हर्षवर्धन के शासन के बारे में जानकारी प्राप्त की जा सके?
- फाहियान
 - मेगस्थनीज्ञ
 - इब्न बतूता
 - ह्वेन सांग
- 72.** निम्नलिखित में से कौन भारत की ढोकरा कला (Dhokra Artwork) का सबसे सटीक वर्णन करता है?
- मुग्ल संरक्षण के तहत विकसित लघु चित्रकला की एक शैली।
 - मध्य भारत में लोकप्रिय लकड़ी की नकाशी का एक रूप।
 - लॉस्ट-वैक्स तकनीक का उपयोग करके धातु ढलाई की एक विधि, जिसे पारंपरिक रूप से जनजातीय समुदाय अपनाते हैं।
 - मंदिर की मूर्तियों के लिए टेराकोटा मॉडलिंग की एक विधि।
- 73.** प्राचीन भारत के आजीवक संप्रदाय (Ajivika Sect) के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:
- आजीविकों का मानना था कि सब कुछ भाग्य (Destiny) से चलता है और कोई भी मानवीय क्रिया भविष्य के जन्म को प्रभावित नहीं कर सकती।
 - आजीविकों को मौर्य सम्राट अशोक और उनके पुत्र दशरथ ने संरक्षण दिया।

- Which of the following groups of monuments is being described above?
- Hampi
 - Pattadakal
 - Mamallapuram
 - Champaner-Pavgarh
- 68.** Consider the following architectural monuments built in Delhi:
- Red Fort
 - Humayun's Tomb
 - Qutub Minar
 - Jantar Mantar
- Which of the above monuments are included in the UNESCO World Heritage List?
- 1, 2 and 3 only
 - 2, 3 and 4 only
 - 1, 3 and 4 only
 - 1, 2, 3 and 4
- 69.** Which of the following represents the primary significance of the Mission Sudarshan Chakra recently announced by the Government of India?
- Boosting the national economy by creating jobs in the manufacturing and defence sectors.
 - Advancing India's space exploration and satellite technology for dual-use civilian and strategic purposes.
 - Enhancing India's defence capabilities through a fully indigenous system with predictive and counter-action technologies.
 - Developing India's agricultural productivity using advanced farming technologies.
- 70.** Which of the following best describes the difference between SAGAR and MAHASAGAR doctrines in the context of India's maritime strategy?
- SAGAR focused on blue economy development, whereas MAHASAGAR focuses primarily on naval security.
 - SAGAR focused on maritime security, while MAHASAGAR shifts focus primarily to cultural diplomacy.
 - SAGAR emphasised bilateral maritime cooperation, whereas MAHASAGAR focuses exclusively on multilateral naval alliances in the Indo-Pacific.
 - SAGAR focused on the Indian Ocean region, while MAHASAGAR expands to a global maritime framework.
- 71.** Which of the following travelers' accounts can be corroborated with Harshacharita by Banabhatta to gain insights into the reign of Harsha Vardhana?
- Fa Hien
 - Megasthenes
 - Ibn Battuta
 - Hsuan Tsang
- 72.** Which one of the following best describes Dhokra artwork of India?
- A style of miniature painting developed under Mughal patronage.
 - A form of wood carving popular in Central India.
 - A type of metal casting using the lost-wax technique, traditionally practised by tribal communities.
 - A method of terracotta modelling used for temple sculptures.
- 73.** In the context of Ajivika sect of Ancient India, consider the following statements:
- Ajivikas believed that everything was driven by destiny, and that no human action could affect one's future births.
 - Ajivikas were patronised by Mauryan emperor Ashoka and his son Dasaratha.

3. बाघ गुफाएँ (Bagh Caves) मुख्य रूप से आजीवक संप्रदाय के लिए बनाई गई शैल-कृत गुफाएँ थीं।

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

- (a) 1 और 2 केवल
 - (b) 1 और 3 केवल
 - (c) केवल 3
 - (d) केवल 2 और 3
74. प्रथम जैन तीर्थकर ऋषभदेव (Rishabhadeva) की जीवनी आदि पुराण (Adi Purana) किस जैन साधु ने लिखा था?
- (a) हेमचंद्र (Hemachandra)
 - (b) जिनसेन (Jinasena)
 - (c) भद्रभव (Bhadrabahu)
 - (d) सुधर्म स्वामी (Sudharma Swami)

75. प्राचीन भारत के ऋग्वैदिक और उत्तरवैदिक काल के संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

1. ऋग्वैदिक काल में सामाजिक संरचना लचीली थी, जबकि उत्तरवैदिक काल में वर्ण व्यवस्था का प्रभुत्व था।
2. अधिकांश वेद ऋग्वैदिक काल के हैं, जबकि उत्तरवैदिक काल में इनका संकलन कम हुआ।

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

- (a) केवल 1
 - (b) केवल 2
 - (c) 1 और 2 दोनों
 - (d) न तो 1, न ही 2
76. निम्नलिखित युगों पर विचार कीजिए:

वंश (Dynasty)	संस्थापक (Founder)
1. गुर्जर-प्रतिहार	ध्रुव
2. राष्ट्रकूट	दंतिदुर्ग
3. पाल	धर्मपाल
4. चोल	राजराज I

उपर्युक्त में से कितने युग सही हैं?

- (a) केवल एक
- (b) केवल दो

(c) केवल तीन

(d) सभी चार

77. गुप्त साम्राज्य के विभिन्न शासकों से संबंधित निम्नलिखित युगों पर विचार कीजिए:

गुप्त शासक	विवरण
1. चंद्रगुप्त प्रथम	भद्रबाहु नामक मुनि के मार्गदर्शन में जैन सन्न्यासी बन गए
2. चंद्रगुप्त द्वितीय	अपने दरबार में कवि कालिदास को 'नवरत्नों' में से एक के रूप में रखा
3. स्कंदगुप्त	नालंदा विश्वविद्यालय की स्थापना की

उपर्युक्त युगों में से कितने सही सुमेलित हैं?

(a) केवल एक

(b) केवल दो

(c) सभी तीन

(d) कोई नहीं

78. निम्नलिखित में से कौन-सा वंश पुराणों में 'आंध्र' के रूप में उल्लेखित है?

(a) सातवाहन (Satavahanas)

(b) चालुक्य (Chalukyas)

(c) पल्लव (Pallavas)

(d) राष्ट्रकूट (Rashtrakutas)

79. हड्ड्या सभ्यता में धार्मिक विश्वासों के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

1. हड्ड्याई धर्म प्रकृति-आधारित था, जिसमें कई मिट्टी की मूर्तियाँ मातृ देवी का प्रतिनिधित्व करती हैं।

2. अग्नि पूजा के प्रमाण हड्ड्या और मोहनजोदहो सहित सभी प्रमुख हड्ड्या स्थलों पर पाए गए हैं।

3. Bagh caves were rock-cut caves dedicated primarily to the Ajivika sect.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

74. The 'Adi Purana', a hagiography of the first Jaina Tirthankara Rishabhadeva, was written by which of the following Jaina monks?

- (a) Hemachandra
- (b) Jinasena
- (c) Bhadrabahu
- (d) Sudharma Swami

75. With respect to the Rig Vedic and Later Vedic Periods in ancient history of India, consider the following statements:

1. Rigvedic period had a fluid social structure, whereas the varna system dominated in Later Vedic period.
2. Most Vedas belong to Rig Vedic period, while Later Vedic period witnessed lesser compilations.

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

76. Consider the following pairs:

	<i>Dynasty</i>	<i>Founder</i>
1.	Gurjara-Pratiharas	Dhruva
2.	Rashtrakuta	Dantidurga
3.	Pala	Dharmapala
4.	Chola	Rajaraja I

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two

- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

77. Consider the following pairs regarding the various rulers of Gupta empire:

	<i>Gupta Ruler</i>	<i>Description</i>
1.	Chandragupta I	Became a Jain ascetic under the guidance of the monk Bhadrabahu
2.	Chandragupta II	Had the poet Kalidasa as one of the Navaratnas in his court
3.	Skandagupta	Founded Nalanda University

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

78. Which of the following dynasties was referred to as the Andhras in the Puranas?

- (a) Satavahanas
- (b) Chalukyas
- (c) Pallavas
- (d) Rashtrakutas

79. Consider the following statements regarding religious beliefs in the Harappan civilization:

1. Harappan religion was animistic, with many terracotta figurines representing the Mother Goddess.
2. Evidence of fire worship is found at all major Harappan sites including Harappa and Mohenjodaro.

3. दफनाने की प्रथाएँ मृत्यु के बाद जीवन में विश्वास को दर्शाती हैं, क्योंकि कुछ कब्रों में मिट्टी के बर्तन और अन्य वस्तुएँ पाई गई हैं।
उपर्युक्त में से कौन-से कथन सही हैं?
 (a) केवल 1 और 2
 (b) केवल 2 और 3
 (c) केवल 1 और 3
 (d) 1, 2 और 3
80. निम्नलिखित में से उत्तराखण्ड क्षेत्र का कौन-सा पारंपरिक आनुष्ठानिक रंगमंच है, जिसे यूनेस्को द्वारा अमूर्त सांस्कृतिक धरोहर (Intangible Cultural Heritage) की सूची में सम्मिलित किया गया है?
 (a) भवर्डि
 (b) रम्मन
 (c) स्वांग
 (d) भाओना
81. निम्नलिखित में से कौन-सा प्राचीन भारतीय ग्रंथ बौद्ध भिक्षुणियों (Buddhist Nuns) द्वारा रचित है और महिलाओं के सामाजिक तथा आध्यात्मिक अनुभवों के बारे में जानकारी प्रदान करता है?
 (a) नेत्तिपाकारण (Nettipakarana)
 (b) दिव्यावदान (Divyavadana)
 (c) थेरिगाथा (Therigatha)
 (d) दीपवंश (Dipavamsa)
82. मौर्यकाल की कला और वास्तुकला के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:
 1. स्तंभों के शीर्ष भाग (Pillar Capitals) में स्वदेशी तत्त्वों के साथ फ्रासी और हेलेनिस्टिक प्रभाव देखे जा सकते हैं।
 2. यह भारत में बड़े पैमाने पर पॉलिश किए गए पत्थर के प्रथम उपयोग का उदाहरण है।
 3. मूर्तियों ने पूरी तरह से मानव या पशु रूपों से परहेज़ किया और केवल ज्यामितीय पैटर्न पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया।
उपर्युक्त में से कौन-से कथन सही हैं?
 (a) केवल 1 और 2
 (b) केवल 2 और 3
- (c) केवल 1 और 3
 (d) 1, 2 और 3
83. निम्नलिखित गुफा स्थलों में से किस गुफा स्थल में विष्णु के वराह अवतार की प्रसिद्ध मूर्ति स्थित है?
 (a) उदयगिरि गुफाएँ
 (b) अजंता गुफाएँ
 (c) एलीफेंटा गुफाएँ
 (d) बादामी गुफाएँ
84. महाबलीपुरम में स्थित शोर मंदिर (Shore Temple) के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:
 1. इसे पल्लव राजा महेंद्रवर्मन I के शासनकाल में बनाया गया था।
 2. इस मंदिर में शिव और विष्णु दोनों को समर्पित देवस्थल हैं।
 3. यह एक संरचनात्मक मंदिर है, न कि चट्टान काटकर बनाया गया मंदिर।
उपर्युक्त में से कौन-से कथन सही हैं?
 (a) केवल 1 और 2
 (b) केवल 2 और 3
 (c) केवल 1 और 3
 (d) 1, 2 और 3
85. बौद्ध परिषदों (Buddhist Councils) के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:
 1. द्वितीय बौद्ध परिषद् के दौरान बौद्ध धर्म हीनयान (Hinayana) और महायान (Mahayana) में विभाजित हो गया।
 2. तृतीय बौद्ध परिषद् के दौरान सुत्त पिटक (Sutta Pitaka) और विनय पिटक (Vinaya Pitaka) का संकलन किया गया।
उपर्युक्त में से कौन-सा/से कथन सही है/हैं?
 (a) केवल 1
 (b) केवल 2
 (c) 1 और 2 दोनों
 (d) न तो 1, न ही 2

3. Burial practices indicate a belief in life after death, as some graves contain pottery and other goods.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- 1 and 2 only
 - 2 and 3 only
 - 1 and 3 only
 - 1, 2 and 3
80. Which of the following is a traditional ritual theater of the Uttarakhand region that has been included in the list of Intangible Cultural Heritage by UNESCO?
- Bhavai
 - Ramman
 - Swaang
 - Bhaona
81. Which of the following ancient Indian texts is composed by Buddhist nuns and provides insights into women's social and spiritual experiences?
- Nettipakaraṇa
 - Divyavadana
 - Therigatha
 - Dipavamsa
82. With reference to Art and Architecture of Mauryas, consider the following statements:
- Pillar capitals show indigenous elements with Persian and Hellenistic features.
 - It marked the first use of polished stone on a larger scale in India.
 - Sculptures entirely avoided human or animal forms while focusing solely on geometric patterns.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- 1 and 2 only
 - 2 and 3 only

- 1 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3

83. In which one of the following cave sites is the famous sculpture of Varaha, the boar incarnation of Vishnu, located?

- Udayagiri Caves
- Ajanta Caves
- Elephanta Caves
- Badami Caves

84. Which of the following statements are correct regarding the Shore Temple at Mahabalipuram?

- It was built during the reign of Pallava king Mahendravarman I.
- The temple houses shrines dedicated to both Shiva and Vishnu.
- It is a structural temple, not a rock-cut one.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

85. Consider the following statements with reference to the Buddhist Councils:

- Buddhism was divided into Hinayana and Mahayana during the Second Buddhist Council.
- The Sutta Pitaka and the Vinaya Pitaka were compiled during the Third Buddhist Council.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

86. निम्नलिखित में से कौन-से मंदिर ज्योतिर्लिंग मंदिर हैं?

1. सोमनाथ मंदिर
2. जगन्नाथ पुरी मंदिर
3. ओंकारेश्वर मंदिर
4. रामेश्वरम मंदिर

नीचे दिए गए कूट का उपयोग करके सही उत्तर चुनिए:

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

87. हड्ड्या लिपि के संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

1. अधिकांश हड्ड्या लेखन संक्षिप्त हैं, जिसमें सबसे लंबा लगभग 26 चिह्नों वाला है।
2. यह लिपि अब तक अज्ञात बनी हुई है, लेकिन माना जाता है कि इसे बूस्ट्रोफेडॉन (Boustrophedon) शैली में लिखा गया था।
3. धोलावीरा में एक बड़े लकड़ी के “साइनबोर्ड” के प्रमाण की खोज हुई है।

उपर्युक्त में से कौन-से कथन सही हैं?

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

88. प्राचीन भारत के संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित शब्द खिल, अप्रहत (Aprahata), पंकिला (Pankila) का अर्थ है:

- (a) भूमि मापन इकाइयाँ (Land measurement units)
- (b) विभिन्न धातुओं के सिक्के (Coins of different metals)
- (c) भूमि के वर्गीकरण के प्रकार (Types of land classification)
- (d) लगाए गए करों के प्रकार (Types of taxes imposed)

89. शारदा लिपि, एक प्राचीन लेखन प्रणाली, प्राचीन भारत के निम्नलिखित में से किस क्षेत्र में प्रचलित थी?

- (a) असम (Assam)
- (b) गुजरात (Gujarat)
- (c) कश्मीर (Kashmir)
- (d) तमिलनाडु (Tamil Nadu)

90. ऋग्वैदिक काल के संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

1. प्रसिद्ध ‘दस राजाओं का युद्ध’, जिसका उल्लेख ऋग्वेद में है, परुष्णी नदी के किनारे लड़ा गया था।
 2. ऋग्वेद में वर्णित परुष्णी नदी की पहचान आधुनिक झेलम नदी से की जाती है।
- उपर्युक्त में से कौन-सा/से कथन सही है/हैं?
- (a) केवल 1
 - (b) केवल 2
 - (c) 1 और 2 दोनों
 - (d) न तो 1, न ही 2

91. निम्नलिखित में से कौन-सा पल्लव शासक 7वीं शताब्दी ईसवी में महाबलीपुरम के पंच रथों के निर्माण का संरक्षण करता था?

- (a) महेंद्रवर्मन I
- (b) नरसिंहवर्मन I
- (c) नंदिवर्मन II
- (d) अपराजितवर्मन

92. आरंभिक बौद्ध ग्रंथों के संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

1. बुद्ध की शिक्षाएँ उनके जीवनकाल में मौखिक रूप से प्रसारित होती थीं और उनकी मृत्यु के बाद उन्हें त्रिपिटक में संकलित किया गया।
2. अधिधम्म पिटक में मठवासी नियमों का उल्लेख है और विनय पिटक दर्शनिक विषयों से संबंधित है।

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

- (a) केवल 1
- (b) केवल 2

- 86.** Which of the following temples is/are considered as Jyotirlinga temples?
- Somnath temple
 - Jagannath Puri temple
 - Omkarешwar temple
 - Rameshwaram temple
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- 1 and 3 only
 - 2 and 4 only
 - 2, 3 and 4 only
 - 1, 3 and 4 only
- 87.** With reference to the Harappan script, consider the following statements:
- Most Harappan inscriptions are short, with the longest containing about 26 signs.
 - The script remains undeciphered, but it is believed to have been written in Boustrophedon style.
 - Evidence of a large wooden “signboard” has been discovered at Dholavira.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- 1 and 2 only
 - 2 and 3 only
 - 1 and 3 only
 - 1, 2 and 3
- 88.** In the context of ancient India, the terms Khila, Aprahata, Pankila denotes:
- Land measurement units
 - Coins of different metals
 - Types of land classification
 - Types of taxes imposed
- 89.** Sharada script, an ancient writing system, was prevalent in which of the following regions of ancient India?
- Assam
 - Gujarat
 - Kashmir
 - Tamil Nadu
- 90.** With reference to the Rig Vedic Period, consider the following statements:
- The famous ‘Battle of Ten Kings’, mentioned in the Rig Veda, was fought on the banks of the Parushni River.
 - The Parushni River mentioned in the Rig Veda is identified with the modern Jhelum River.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
- 91.** Which of the following Pallava rulers patronised the construction of the Pancha Rathas at Mahabalipuram in the 7th century CE?
- Mahendravarman I
 - Narasimhavarman I
 - Nandivarman II
 - Aparajitavarman
- 92.** With reference to early Buddhist texts, consider the following statements:
- The Buddha’s teachings were transmitted orally during his lifetime and compiled into the Tipitaka after his death.
 - Abhidhamma Pitaka contains rules for the monastic order, and the Vinaya Pitaka deals with philosophical matters.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
 - 2 only

- (c) 1 और 2 दोनों
 (d) न तो 1, न ही 2
93. चालुक्य वंश के पुलकेशिन द्वितीय के संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिएः
- उसने नर्मदा नदी के तट पर हर्ष की सेना को पराजित किया था।
 - कवि रविकीर्ति द्वारा रचित ऐहोल शिलालेख उसके शासन का विवरण प्रदान करता है।
 - पल्लव शासक नरसिंहर्वर्मन प्रथम को पराजित करने के बाद उसने वातापीकोंड की उपाधि धारण की थी।
- उपर्युक्त कथनों में से कौन-से सही हैं?
- केवल 1 और 2
 - केवल 2 और 3
 - केवल 1 और 3
 - 1, 2 और 3
94. निम्नलिखित हड्प्पा स्थलों में से कौन-से, अपनी वर्तमान अवस्थिति से सही सुमेलित हैं?
- | | स्थल | वर्तमान अवस्थिति |
|----|-----------|------------------|
| 1. | धोलावीरा | गुजरात, भारत |
| 2. | हड्प्पा | पंजाब, पाकिस्तान |
| 3. | कालीबंगा | सिंध, पाकिस्तान |
| 4. | मोहनजोदहो | हरियाणा, भारत |
| 5. | राखीगढ़ी | राजस्थान, भारत |
- नीचे दिए गए कूट का प्रयोग कर सही उत्तर चुनिएः
- केवल 1, 3 और 5
 - केवल 1 और 2
 - केवल 2, 4 और 5
 - केवल 1, 2, 3 और 4
95. जैन धर्म के संदर्भ में, “सल्लेखना” शब्द निम्नलिखित में से किसे संदर्भित करता है?
- दीक्षा ग्रहण करने का संस्कार
 - भगवान महावीर का जन्मोत्सव
- (c) भिक्षुओं द्वारा किए जाने वाले ध्यान की एक विधि
 (d) स्वेच्छा से मृत्यु तक उपवास करने की धार्मिक प्रथा
96. प्राचीन भारतीय साहित्य की निम्नलिखित कृतियों पर विचार कीजिएः
- प्रियदर्शिका
 - रत्नावली
 - नागानंद
- उपर्युक्त रचनाओं में से कितनी हर्षवर्धन द्वारा रचित हैं?
- केवल एक
 - केवल दो
 - सभी तीन
 - कोई नहीं
97. प्राचीन भारतीय प्राकृत ग्रंथ गाथासप्तशती (गाथासत्तसर्दि) की रचना दक्कन भारत के निम्नलिखित में से किस शासक द्वारा की गई थी?
- पल्लव शासक सिंहविष्णु
 - शुंग शासक अग्निमित्र
 - इक्ष्वाकु शासक वीर
 - सातवाहन शासक हाल
98. गुप्त शासन व्यवस्था के संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिएः
- राजनीतिक सत्ता गुप्तकाल में मौर्यकाल की तुलना में अधिक केंद्रीकृत थी।
 - ‘भुक्ति’ एक प्रशासनिक इकाई के रूप में ‘विषय’ से बड़ी थी।
 - भुक्तियों का प्रशासन उपरिका (Uparika) नामक अधिकारियों द्वारा किया जाता था।
- उपर्युक्त में से कौन-सा/से कथन सही है/हैं?
- केवल 1
 - केवल 3
 - केवल 2 और 3
 - 1, 2 और 3

- (c) Both 1 and 2
 (d) Neither 1 nor 2
- 93.** With reference to Pulakeshin II of the Chalukya dynasty, consider the following statements:
1. He defeated Harsha's army on the banks of the river Narmada.
 2. Aihole inscription composed by the poet Ravikirti provides an account of his rule.
 3. He assumed the title of Vatapikonda after defeating Narasimhavarman I of the Pallavas.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only
 (b) 2 and 3 only
 (c) 1 and 3 only
 (d) 1, 2 and 3
- 94.** Which of the following Harappan sites are correctly matched with their present-day locations?
- | | Site | Present-day Location |
|----|--------------|----------------------|
| 1. | Dholavira | Gujarat, India |
| 2. | Harappa | Punjab, Pakistan |
| 3. | Kalibangan | Sindh, Pakistan |
| 4. | Mohenjo-daro | Haryana, India |
| 5. | Rakhigarhi | Rajasthan, India |
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1, 3 and 5 only
 (b) 1 and 2 only
 (c) 2, 4 and 5 only
 (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- 95.** In the context of Jainism, the term "Sallekhana" refers to which of the following?
- (a) A ceremony marking initiation into monkhood
 (b) Festival celebrating Lord Mahavir's birth
- (c) Form of meditation practiced by monks
 (d) Religious practice of voluntarily fasting to death
- 96.** Consider the following works of ancient Indian literature:
1. Priyadarshika
 2. Ratnavali
 3. Nagananda
- How many of the given above were authored by Harshavardhana?
- (a) Only one
 (b) Only two
 (c) All three
 (d) None
- 97.** The ancient Indian Prakrit text Gathasaptasati (Gathasattasai) was composed by which of the following kings of Deccan India?
- (a) Pallava king Simhavishnu
 (b) Shunga king Agnimitra
 (c) Ikshvaku king Vira
 (d) Satavahana king Hala
- 98.** With reference to the Gupta administration, consider the following statements:
1. Political authority was more centralised under the Guptas than during the Mauryan period.
 2. Bhukti was a larger administrative unit than Vishaya.
 3. Bhuktis were administered by officers called Uparikas.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 (b) 3 only
 (c) 2 and 3 only
 (d) 1, 2 and 3

99. भारत के पत्थर युग के प्रमुख स्थलों के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित युगमों पर विचार कीजिए:

	पुरातात्त्विक स्थल	राज्य/ केंद्र शासित प्रदेश	विवरण (Description)
1.	कोल्डहवा	महाराष्ट्र	चावल का सबसे प्राचीनतम प्रमाण
2.	बुर्जहोम	जम्मू और कश्मीर	आवासीय गड्ढे
3.	आदमगढ़	उत्तर प्रदेश	शैलकृत गुफा मंदिर/देवस्थल

उपर्युक्त पंक्तियों में से किसमें दी गई जानकारी सही प्रकार से सुमेलित है?

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

100. साँची के महास्तूप (Great Stupa at Sanchi) के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:

1. इसे मूल रूप से अशोक ने तीसरी शताब्दी ईसा पूर्व में बनवाया था।
2. इसमें बुद्ध के अवशेष (Relics) संरक्षित हैं।
3. चार तोरण (Toranas) मौर्यकाल के बाद जोड़े गए थे।
4. महास्तूप की रेलिंग पर चंद्रगुप्त द्वितीय का विजय शिलालेख (Victory inscription) है।

उपर्युक्त में से कौन-से कथन सही हैं?

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



99. Consider the following pairs regarding the important sites of stone age in India:

	Archaeological Site	State/UT	Description
1.	Koldhiwa	Maharashtra	Earliest evidence of Rice
2.	Burzahom	Jammu & Kashmir	Dwelling pits
3.	Adamgarh	Uttar Pradesh	Rock-cut cave shrines

In which of the above rows is/are the given information correctly matched?

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

100. Consider the following statements regarding the Great Stupa at Sanchi:

- 1. It was originally built by Ashoka in the 3rd century BCE.
- 2. It enshrines relics of the Buddha.
- 3. The four Toranas were added in the post-Mauryan period.
- 4. The railing of the Great Stupa bears a victory inscription of Chandragupta II.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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



Space for Rough Work



GENERAL STUDIES

CSE Prelims Test Series (PTS): 2026

05th October, 2025 | Test-9 [Sectional Test]

Answer Key

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

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General Studies

Test-9

Sectional Test:

History of Ancient India and Art & Culture
[Current Affairs (August 2025)]

1. (d)

- **Option (d) is the correct answer:** The motto of the Supreme Court of India is “Yato Dharmastato Jaya,” which means “Where there is Dharma (righteousness, justice), there will be Victory.” This motto is taken from the Mahabharata.
- **Additional information:** Other important Sanskrit phrases and their origin:
 - ◆ **Satyameva jayate (National motto of India):** Mundaka Upanishad (an Upanishad associated with Atharva Veda)
 - ◆ **Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (One Earth, One Family):** Maha Upanishad
 - ◆ **Aham Brahmasmi:** Brihadaranyaka Upanishad
 - ◆ **Tamso Ma Jyotirgamaya:** Brihadaranyaka Upanishad

2. (b)

- **Option (b) is the correct answer:** The above description is of Ajanta caves.
 - ◆ They are located in Maharashtra and form part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
 - ◆ They are excavated out of a vertical cliff above the left bank of the river Waghora in the hills of Ajanta.
 - ◆ Ajanta is particularly famous for its frescoes and murals, which depict Jataka tales (stories of the Buddha's previous lives) and scenes from the life of Buddha.
 - ◆ The excavation activity was carried out in two different phases separated by an interval of about four centuries. The first phase coincides with the rule of the Satavahana dynasty from about the 2nd

century BCE to the 1st century BCE, while the second phase corresponds to the Basim branch of the Vakataka dynasty with their Asmaka and Rishika feudatories in the 5th to 6th centuries CE.

- **Option (a) is not correct:** Ellora caves are also in Maharashtra, but date back to the 6th to 10th centuries CE, and represent a harmonious convergence of three major religions: Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism.
- **Option (c) is not correct:** The Elephanta Caves, also known as Gharapuri Caves, are a collection of cave temples predominantly dedicated to the Hindu god Shiva, located on Elephanta Island in Mumbai Harbour, India. These ancient rock-cut shrines, believed to have been constructed between the 5th and 7th centuries AD.
- **Option (d) is not correct:** Badami Caves are a group of 4 cave temples carved out of a hill, with 3 Brahmanical and 1 Jain, located in Badami, Karnataka.

3. (d)

- **Statement I is incorrect:** The Mauryan state did not control all trade through a standardized coinage system. Although the state was interested in gaining revenue from trade, it did not take an active role in regulating trade. This is indicated by the fact that they appear not to have issued metallic money of a distinctive kind.
 - ◆ However, the state attempted to maintain control over individual traders and guilds, inspecting their identity, their merchandise and their profits

- **Statement II is correct:** Most of the punch-marked coins found from the Mauryan period were likely issued by guilds or other local authorities, rather than directly by the state.
- 4. (b)**
- **Pair 1 is correctly matched:** Kalidasa was a renowned ancient Indian poet and playwright, believed to have lived during the 4th or 5th century CE. It is believed he was among the nine gems/navratnas, in the court of Chandragupta II. Abhijnana-Shakuntalam is a Sanskrit play written by Kalidasa and is based on a story from the Mahabharata. It narrates the love story of **King Dushyanta and Shakuntala**, whose son Bharata became a renowned ruler.
 - ◆ Some of his other works are Meghadutam, Raghuvamsha, Kumarasambhava and Ritusamhara.
 - **Pair 2 is not correctly matched:** Mrichchhakatika (*The Little Clay Cart*) is a Sanskrit drama written by Shudraka. The play deals with the love affair of a poor brahmana trader with a beautiful courtesan. Some scholars consider it an expansion of Bhāsa's earlier, incomplete work, Charudattam.
 - **Pair 3 is correctly matched:** Amarakosha, a **Sanskrit thesaurus**, was compiled by **Amarasimha**, a noted scholar in the court of **Chandragupta II**. The work is a lexicon and has traditionally been **memorized by students** learning Sanskrit.
- 5. (d)**
- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Buddhism rejected the idea of an eternal soul (Atman). It proposed the concept of **Anatta (no-soul)**, according to which there is no permanent, unchanging soul. However, Buddha neither accepted nor rejected the existence of creator God. His teachings focused more on individual spiritual development and ending suffering, rather on theological debates.
 - **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Buddhism rejected the authority of the Vedas as well as the rigid Varna system.
- 6. (c)**
- The correct North to South arrangement is **Taxila → Kalsi → Sopara → Maski**
 - **Taxila (3):** Located in present-day **Punjab province of Pakistan**, Taxila is the **northernmost** among the given sites.
 - **Kalsi (2):** Situated near **Dehradun in Uttarakhand**, Kalsi is known for the **Major Rock Edict of Ashoka**, inscribed in Prakrit language and Brahmi script.
 - **Sopara (1):** Located in **Maharashtra**, Sopara was an important port in Maurya times.
 - **Maski (4):** Situated in **Raichur district of Karnataka**, Maski is famous for the **Maski minor rock edict**, the first inscription that used the personal name, "Ashoka," alongside the title "Devanampiya".
- 7. (c)**
- **Pair 1 is correctly matched:** The Chola kingdom, located between the Pennar and the Velar rivers in present-day Tamil Nadu, had Kaveripattinam (Poompuhar) as its prominent port city and capital. It became a major centre of trade and commerce, with evidence of a large dock. King Karikala Chola (2nd century CE) is credited with founding Puhar and constructing extensive embankments along the Kaveri River.
 - **Pair 2 is correctly matched:** The **Chera kingdom** (Kerala region), situated to the west and north of the Pandya territory, gained prominence due to **Indo-Roman trade** in the early centuries CE. **Muziris** (Cranganore) was the key port of the Cheras, where the **Romans stationed two regiments** to safeguard their trade interests. They are also said to have built a **temple of Augustus** there.

- **Pair 3 is correctly matched:** Korkai, in the Tirunelveli district of Tamil Nadu, was an important Pandya port. It was famous for its pearls.
- 8. (b)**
- Among the given options, **the earliest event is the beginning of agriculture** during the Neolithic period.
 - **Agriculture:** The Neolithic age marked the beginning of agricultural activities. In the Indian subcontinent it is dated back to around 8000 BC.
 - **Use of Copper:** Copper was the first metal to be used by man for making tools. The end of the Neolithic period saw the use of metals. The metal first used was copper, and several cultures were based on the use of copper and stone implements. Such a culture is called Chalcolithic, which means the copper– stone phase. Technologically, the Chalcolithic stage is applied to the preHarappan phase.
 - **Urban culture:** Harappan civilization has been dated between 2600 B.C–1900 BC and is one of the oldest civilizations of the world. It is the first urban culture of India.
 - **Iron plough:** Archaeology has shown that iron began to be used around 1000 BC which is also the period of later Vedic literature.
- 9. (c)**
- **Statement 1 is correct:** In the south, Dantidurga was the founder of the dynasty called Rashtrakuta dynasty (8th AD). The capital of the Rastrakutas was Manyakheta or Malkhed near Sholapur. It was under the king Dhruva that the Rashtrakutas turned towards north India in a bid to control Kannauj, then the imperial city. And as mentioned above, it led to the beginning of ‘Tripartite struggle’.
 - **Statement 2 is correct:** One of the important kings of the Rashtrakuta
- dynasty was Krishna I. He built the famous Kailasha temple at Ellora (near Aurangabad, Maharashtra). It is dedicated to Lord Shiva and is monolithic i.e. made of one single piece of rock. The Arab accounts inform us that the Rashtrakutas were quite friendly with the Arab traders who visited their empire. These traders were allowed to build mosques and follow their religion without any hindrance. It testifies to the liberal attitude of the Rashtrakuta kings and also to their desire to draw economic benefit from the growing sea trade conducted by the Arabs at that time.
- 10. (c)**
- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Lion Capital of Sarnath was built by Emperor Ashoka to commemorate the **Dhammachakra Pravartana** — the **first sermon of the Buddha** at Sarnath. This event marks the turning of the Wheel of Dharma, symbolizing the spread of Buddhist teachings.
 - **Statement 2 is correct:** The capital originally stood on a **bell-shaped lotus base**. The lotus petals were sculpted with attention to density and curvature, showing the artistic excellence of the **Mauryan period**.
 - **Statement 3 is correct:** The abacus (the circular platform below the lions) depicts a **horse, a bull, a lion, and an elephant**, all proceeding clockwise, with **Dhammachakras (wheels with 24 spokes)** between them.
 - **Statement 4 is incorrect:** The capital was **not built to commemorate the Parinirvana (death) of the Buddha**. It was erected to celebrate his **first sermon**, not his passing away.
- 11. (a)**
- Maitrakas, Maukharies, and the Vakataka kingdoms rose to prominence after the

decline of the Gupta Empire, marking the decentralization of political authority in northern and central India. The Maitrakas ruled in Gujarat, the Maukharies in Kanauj, and the Vakatakas in the Deccan.

12. (b)

- The Chalukyas of Badami erected numerous temples at Aihole,** which has as many as seventy, from about AD 610. **The work was continued in the adjacent towns of Badami and Pattadakal.** Pattadakal has ten temples built in the seventh and eighth centuries, **the most celebrated of which are the Papanatha temple (c. AD 680) and the Virupaksha temple (c. AD 740).** The first of these, although 30 m long, has a low and stunted tower in the northern style; the second was constructed in purely southern style. The latter is about 40 m in length and has a very high square and storeyed tower (shikhara). The temple walls are adorned with beautiful pieces of sculpture, representing scenes from the Ramayana.

13. (b)

- Option (b) is the correct answer:** In contrast to the Maurya rulers, the Gupta kings adopted pompous titles such as **parameshvara, maharajadhiraja, and paramabhattaraka** which signify that they ruled over many lesser kings in their empire.
- Kingship in Gupta empire was hereditary, but royal power was limited by the want of a firm adherence to primogeniture. The throne did not always go to the eldest son, creating uncertainties of which the chiefs and high officials took advantage. The Guptas made munificent gifts to the brahmanas, who expressed their gratitude by comparing the king to different gods. He was looked upon as Vishnu, the protector and preserver. The goddess Lakshmi is invariably represented on Gupta coins as Vishnu's wife.

14. (b)

- Statement 1 is correct:** Both **Vardhamana Mahavira** (founder of Jainism) and **Gautama Buddha** (founder of Buddhism) belonged to the **Kshatriya clan.** They both **challenged the authority of the Brahmanas** and the ritualistic practices of the Vedic religion.
- Statement 2 is incorrect:** The **Vaisyas supported both Jainism and Buddhism, but not because these religions opposed lending money on interest.** In fact, the **Brahmanical Dharmasutras** condemned lending money on interest, which led to **Vaisyas being looked down upon** in the orthodox social order.
 - ◆ The Vaisyas supported Jainism and Buddhism because these religions **rejected the rigid varna hierarchy, preached non-violence (ahimsa) that encouraged peace and facilitated trade and commerce, and allowed them to enhance their social status through patronage and donations.**
- Statement 3 is correct:** Both **Buddhist and Jaina monks** were required to live a **simple, ascetic life**, renouncing material possessions and luxury. They were not allowed to **touch gold or silver** and were instructed to **accept only the bare minimum for survival.** This reflected their **rebellion against materialism** and attachment to worldly life.

15. (c)

- Statement 1 is correct:** **Pastoralism, centred on cattle-rearing,** was the dominant economic activity during the early Rig Vedic period. **Cattle** were considered a **primary measure of wealth and a source of conflict.** **Agriculture played a secondary role,** and crops like **barley** were grown but not extensively. Only in the later Vedic period did agriculture become more important with the use of iron tools and settled life.

- **Statement 2 is not correct:** While cattle rearing was their main occupation, the early Vedic Aryans did practice agriculture, though to a limited extent. They grew barley (yava) and possibly other cereals. The references to agriculture in the Rigveda are sparse but still exist, particularly for supplemental food production.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The early Vedic Aryans lived in the region known as Sapta-Sindhu, which covered the northwestern part of South Asia, near the seven rivers including the Sindhu (Indus) and others like the Jhelum, Chenab, and Ravi.

16. (b)

- **Statement 1 is not correct:** The Act has proposed three categories for online games — e-sports, social gaming and RMGs. While the Act aims to promote e-sports and social gaming segments, it seeks to ban all forms of RMGs and its advertisements.
- **Statement 2 is correct: The Act empowers the Central government to notify and constitute a regulatory authority to recognise, categorise, and register online games.** In 2023, the IT Ministry amended the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Amendment Rules, 2021, treating online gaming firms like intermediaries. The amended rules envisaged a system of self-regulated bodies with government oversight. Online gaming firms were required to comply with KYC norms, and uphold measures to safeguard children through measures for parental access control alongside age rating mechanisms based on the nature and type of content.
- **Statement 3 is not correct: The new Act makes no provisions to constrain minors from playing online social games or e-sports.** It also provides for a budget allocation from the Consolidated Fund of India to promote online social gaming in the country.

17. (d)

- **Context:** India recently rejected Nepal's objection to resumption of **India-China border trade through the Lipulekh Pass** in Uttarakhand, stating that Kathmandu's arguments are not based on "historical facts".
- Lipulekh Pass also known as Lipu-Lekh Pass/Qiangla or Tri-Corner is a high altitude mountain pass situated in the western Himalayas with an extraordinary height of 5,334 metre or 17,500 feet. It is a mountain pass in Uttaragadh near the trijunction of India, Nepal, and China.

18. (d)

- **Statement 1 is not correct:** The Government has announced a big relief for the citizens by making a significant tax reduction on Electronics and Solar Devices. The tax rate on devices like Air Conditioners, TV, and dishwashers has been slashed down to 18 per cent from the earlier 28 per cent.
- **Statement 2 is not correct:** One of the most prominent concerns for GST collection is the exclusion of key revenue-generating items such as petroleum products and alcoholic liquor for human consumption from the ambit of GST. This exclusion has led to a fragmented indirect taxation system, raising concerns among policy experts, businesses, and state governments.

19. (c)

- **Context:** Income Tax Act, 2025 introduces a streamlined and modernized framework for direct taxation in India. It focuses on clarity, simplification, and improved compliance through structural and procedural reforms. The Act is designed to enhance transparency, reduce litigation, and align with technological developments.
- **1, 2, 3, and 4 are correct:** Virtual Digital Space has been defined as an environment, area, or realm that is constructed and

experienced through computer technology. It includes email servers, cloud servers, social media accounts, online investment and trading accounts, and websites for storing details of asset ownership.

- **Additional information:** Other important features of Income Tax Act, 2025

- ◆ **Introduction of ‘Tax Year’ :** The Act simplifies tax terminology by replacing the previously used and often confusing terms ‘Assessment Year’ and ‘Previous Year’ with a single, unified concept called the ‘Tax Year’. It has been defined as the twelve-month period of the financial year commencing on the 1st April. This change is aimed at improving clarity and making it easier for taxpayers to understand which financial period their income and tax filings relate to, thereby reducing ambiguity in compliance and interpretation.

- ◆ **Power to Frame Schemes:** The Act authorizes the Central Government to design new schemes aimed at improving efficiency, transparency, and accountability in tax administration. This can be done by:
 - Eliminating the interface with the assessee or any other person to the extent technologically feasible, and
 - Optimising utilisation of the resources through economies of scale and functional specialisation.
- ◆ **Virtual Digital Assets:** The scope of Virtual Digital Assets has been broadened to cover any asset that holds value in digital form and operates using cryptographic ledger systems such as cryptocurrencies or similar technologies.

20. (b)

- **Context:** Recently, ISRO accomplished first Integrated Air Drop Test (IADT-01)

for Gaganyaan program at Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Sriharikota.

- **Option (b) is the correct answer:** IADT-01 successfully demonstrated the objective of end to end performance validation of the critical parachute-based deceleration system of the Crew Module for Gaganyaan mission in one of the typical mission scenarios. This test is part of system level qualification of parachute-based deceleration system, in which a simulated CM, encompassing the deceleration system is dropped using a helicopter.
- In Gaganyaan missions, parachute-based Deceleration system is employed during the terminal 3 phase of Crew Module (CM) descent to reduce the touchdown velocity of Crew Module to an acceptable limit for safe landing on sea. The parachute system and its layout, for IADT, was the same as that of Gaganyaan missions.

21. (c)

- **Option (c) is the correct answer:** The reign of Chandragupta II saw the high watermark of the Gupta empire. He extended the limits of the empire by marriage alliance and conquest. **Chandragupta married his daughter Prabhavati to a Vakataka prince of the brahmana caste and ruled in central India. The prince died, and was succeeded by his young son. Prabhavati thus became the virtual ruler.** As testified to by some of her land charters, which betray the influence of the eastern Gupta writing, she promoted the interests of her father Chandragupta. Thus Chandragupta exercised indirect control over the Vakataka kingdom in central India, and this afforded him great advantage.

22. (a)

- **1 is correct:** Jainism believes in the **Law of Karma**. According to this doctrine, every action (physical, verbal, or mental)

produces consequences that affect an individual's present and future lives. Liberation (moksha) can be achieved only by eliminating accumulated karma through right faith, right knowledge, and right conduct — the **Three Jewels (Triratnas) of Jainism**.

- **2 is correct: Jainism also accepts the concept of Rebirth.** According to Jainism, the self is polluted by karmic particles, bits of materials generated by a person's actions that attach to the soul and consequently bind the soul to material bodies through many births. If one successfully destroys all Karmas, and when karmic particles are wiped from the self, then one attains release from the bondage. Once it gets enlightenment the soul no longer faces rebirth.
- **3 is incorrect: Jainism is a non theistic religion. It does not believe in a Creator God.** For, it upholds that the reality of the Universe is explainable by the six substances: Jiva (Consciousness), Matter, Space, Motion-Ether, Resting Ether, Time. They are all eternal, having neither beginning nor end with respect to time. Accordingly, there is no need of God to create or manage the affairs of the universe. Universe is running on its own accord and by its own cosmic laws.

23. (a)

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The “**Dancing Girl**” from Mohenjodaro is one of the most famous artefacts of the Indus Valley Civilization. **It is a bronze (copper alloy) figure**, about four inches high, depicting a young girl in a traditional dance posture — her right hand on her hip and left hand in a dance gesture. She is adorned with numerous bangles on her left arm, a bracelet and amulet on her right arm, and a cowry shell necklace around her neck. The figure is noted for its expressive vitality and

naturalistic form, reflecting a high level of metallurgical and artistic skill.

- **Statement 2 is incorrect: The bull figure from Mohenjodaro is not made of red sandstone but is a bronze sculpture.** It represents a standing bull with its head turned to the right, displaying strength and movement, and has a cord around its neck.
- The Male Torso, on the other hand, is the red sandstone sculpture mentioned in Indus artefacts, not the bull.

24. (d)

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Many Sangam poems mention a warrior or a chief or a king by name and describe in detail his military exploits. The gifts made by him to bards and warriors are celebrated. These poems may have been recited in the courts. It is difficult to use these texts for historical purposes. Perhaps the proper names, titles, dynasties, territories, wars, and the like mentioned in the poems are partly real. Some of the Chera kings mentioned in the Sangam texts also appear as donors in inscriptions of the first and second centuries.
- **Statement 2 is correct: The Sangam texts are different from the Vedic texts, particularly the Rig Veda. They do not constitute religious literature.** The short and long poems were composed by numerous poets in praise of various heroes and heroines and are thus secular in nature. They are not primitive songs, but literature of high quality.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Sangam literature comprises about 30,000 lines of poetry arranged in eight anthologies called Ettuttokai. The poems are collected in groups of hundreds such as Purananuru (The Four Hundred of the Exterior). There are two main groups Patinenkil Kannakku (The Eighteen Lower Collections) and Pattupattu (The Ten Songs). The former is generally assumed to be older than the

latter, and hence is considered to be of great historical importance. The Sangam texts have several layers, but at present these cannot be established on the basis of style and content, but, as shown later, they can be detected on the basis of stages in social evolution.

25. (b)

- **Option (b) is correct:** Rajendra I, the son of Rajaraja I, succeeded his father around 1014 CE and ruled till 1044 CE. He is renowned for his **military conquests** both in India and overseas. The most remarkable among them was his **naval expedition against the Srivijaya kingdom** (in present-day Indonesia and Malaysia) in 1025 CE.
 - ◆ The campaign was undertaken to **protect Indian maritime trade routes** and to **secure direct commercial links with South China**, which had been obstructed by the Srivijayan control over sea routes in Southeast Asia.
 - ◆ The Chola navy successfully attacked key Srivijayan ports and reinstated Indian mercantile influence in the region. This victory enhanced the **Chola Empire's prestige as a dominant maritime power** of the Indian Ocean.

26. (b)

- **Option (b) is correct:** The description refers to **Putul Nautch**, the **traditional rod puppet form of West Bengal**. These puppets are **carved from wood** and designed according to the **artistic styles of different regions**.
 - ◆ In some areas like Nadia district, earlier puppets were **human-sized**, similar to the **Bunraku puppets of Japan**, though this form is now almost extinct.
 - ◆ The surviving Bengal rod-puppets are about **3–4 feet tall**, dressed like **Jatra theatre actors**, and usually have **three joints**—at the neck and shoulders.

- **Other options:**

- ◆ **Kathputli:** String puppetry of Rajasthan.
- ◆ **Pavakoothu:** Glove puppetry from Kerala.
- ◆ **Tholu Bommalata:** Shadow puppetry of Andhra Pradesh.

27. (c)

- **Option (c) is correct:** Yogācāra is one of the **two main philosophical sects of Mahāyāna Buddhism**, the other being Mādhyamika. The Yogācāra school emphasizes the role of **consciousness (vijñāna)** in perceiving reality and holds that the **external world is a projection of the mind** — hence it is also known as the “Mind-only” (Cittamātra) school.

- **Other options:**

- ◆ Vaibhāsika and Sautrāntika belong to the **Hīnayāna** (Theravāda) tradition, which is prevalent in **South and Southeast Asia**.
- ◆ Cārvāka is an ancient **materialist and atheistic philosophy**, part of the **heterodox (nāstika)** systems of Indian thought, but not connected to Buddhism.

28. (a)

- **Context:** The Union Cabinet recently has approved the proposal for implementation of the ‘Multidisciplinary Education and Research Improvement in Technical Education’ (MERITE) Scheme in 275 technical institutions comprising 175 engineering institutions and 100 polytechnics.
- **Option (a) is the correct answer:** The objective of the scheme is to improve the quality, equity and governance in technical education covering all States/UTs by implementing interventions aligned with the National Educational Policy-2020 (NEP-2020).

29. (d)

- Indian Ports Act, 2025 replaces the Indian Ports Act, 1908. It provides for regulating port operations and management, levy of fees and tariffs, and environmental safeguards.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** The new legislation provides for the creation of the Maritime State Development Council as a statutory consultative body to coordinate between the Centre and coastal States and prepare a National Perspective Plan for integrated development. It allows States to set up their own Maritime Boards for greater transparency and uniformity in governance, and establishes Dispute Resolution Committees for sector-specific redressal.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Act also mandates compliance with global environmental norms, including MARPOL and Ballast Water Management conventions, while ensuring ports maintain emergency preparedness systems. Digitalisation will be a core feature, with a Maritime Single Window and advanced vessel traffic systems aimed at cutting costs and delays.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** State Governments must set up a Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC) to adjudicate upon disputes between non-major ports, concessionaires, port users, and service providers.

30. (c)

- **Context: Largest Asian tortoise species reintroduced into Nagaland community reserve**
- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Asian giant tortoise (*Manouria emys*) is the largest tortoise species found in mainland Asia, reaching up to about 60 cm in shell length and weighing nearly 35–37 kg.
- **Statements 2 and 3 are correct:** It is a critically endangered species native to five northeastern States — Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Nagaland.

31. (c)

- **Statement 1 is correct:** According to the **Jaina doctrine of Syādvāda** (the theory of conditioned viewpoints), **all human knowledge is partial and relative**. Reality is complex and cannot be expressed from a single standpoint. Hence, every statement about truth must be qualified with “syāt” (meaning “in some respect” or “from a certain perspective”). Only a **liberated soul (kevalin)**, who has attained perfect knowledge, can perceive reality in its totality.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** In Jain philosophy, **Moksha (liberation)** is achieved when the **karmic matter (pudgala)** that obscures the soul is **completely removed**. The soul, inherently pure and omniscient, is bound by karma due to desire, attachment, and ignorance. Liberation occurs through the **Three Jewels (Triratna)** — *right faith, right knowledge, and right conduct*. Once liberated, the soul ascends to **Siddhashila**, the abode of perfected beings.
- **Additional information:** Anekantavada and Syadvada are foundational concepts in Jainism that are two sides of the same coin: Anekantavada is the metaphysical idea that reality has multiple facets, while Syadvada is the corresponding epistemological tool used to express this idea

32. (a)

- **Option (a) is the correct answer:** During the **Gupta period**, land taxes increased considerably. The land tax called bali varied from 1/4th to 1/6th of the total produce. **Two new agricultural taxes** that appear in Gupta inscriptions are **uparikara and udanga**. However, their exact nature is not clear.

33. (c)

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Hinayana upholds the Arhat ideal, where an individual seeks to eliminate personal suffering and achieve

nirvana. Whereas, Mahayana considers the **Bodhisattva ideal** as superior, where one postpones their own nirvana to help others attain enlightenment. A Bodhisattva embodies compassion and self-sacrifice.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** There is a crucial difference between the arhat and bodhisattva. The arhat is one who strives to attain nibbana, and having achieved this goal for himself, disappears from the cycle of samsara. The bodhisattva, on the other hand, is one who has attained great wisdom, but decides to refrain from taking the final step into nibbana, choosing to actively engage with the world for aeons on end in order to help others achieve this goal

34. (c)

- **Pair 1 is correctly matched: Nautanki is usually associated with Uttar Pradesh.** The most popular centres of this traditional theatre form are Kanpur, Lucknow and Haathras. There was a time when only men acted in Nautanki but nowadays, women have also started taking part in the performances. Among those remembered with reverence is Gulab Bai of Kanpur. She gave a new dimension to this old theatre form.
- **Pair 2 is not correctly matched: Yakshagaana, traditional theatre form of Karnataka, is based on mythological stories and Puranas.** The most popular episodes are from the Mahabharata i.e. Draupadi swayamvar, Subhadra vivah, Abhimanyu vadu, Karna-Arjun yuddh and from Ramayana i.e. Raajyaabhishek, Lav-kush Yuddh, Baali-Sugreeva yuddha and Panchavati.
- **Pair 3 is correctly matched: Mudiyettu, traditional folk theatre form of Kerala** is celebrated in the month of Vrischikam (November-December). It is usually performed only in the Kali temples of Kerala, as an oblation to the Goddess. It

depicts the triumph of goddess Bhadrakali over the asura Darika. The seven characters in Mudiyettu-Shiva, Narada, Darika, Danavendra, Bhadrakali, Kooli and Koimbindar (Nandikeshvara) are all heavily made-up.

- **Pair 4 is correctly matched: Bhaona** is a presentation of the Ankia Naat of Assam. 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.

35. (d)

- **1 is not correct:** In the early 3rd century BC, Jainism went through a schism which led to the emergence of two major sects - Digambaras (sky-clad, naked) and Svetambaras (wear white clothes). In the course of time, each of these sects got divided into subgroups. Sthanakvasi is one such subgroup associated with Svetambara Jainism. **Sthanakvasis do not perform rituals in temples.** Rather **they have prayer halls- called Sthanakas-** where religious observances are performed. **They do not believe in idol worship and do not have faith in the places of pilgrimage.** Further, Sthanakvasi ascetics have their mouths covered with cloth.
 - ◆ Another subsect of importance among Svetambar is of Murti-Pujakas. They believe in devotional worship and their temples - called derasars - contain idols of the Tirthankaras, unlike Sthanakas which are devoid of idols. They also don't cover their mouths with cloth-muhapatti. They are also known as Deravasi or Mandira-margi.
- **2 is not correct:** Taran Panth is a sect of Digambara Jainism founded by Taran Svami in Bundelkhand in central India in 16th century. They also denied the sanctity of idol worship in Jainism.

- ◆ Some of the prominent subsects of Digambara school are: Terapanthi, Bispanthi, Taranpanthi (or Samayiapanthi), Gumanapanthi, Totapanthi, and Kanjipanthi.

36. (b)

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Mathura School of Art flourished during the Kushan period (1st–3rd century CE). Under Kushana patronage, particularly during the reign of Kanishka, Mathura emerged as a major centre of sculptural art in northern India.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The artists of the Mathura School used **locally available red sandstone with black spots** for carving sculptures. This distinctive red stone gives Mathura art its recognizable color and texture, distinguishing it from other regional styles like Gandhara or Sarnath.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Mathura School did **not limit itself to Buddhist images**. It also produced numerous sculptures of **Jaina deities, Ayagapatas (votive slabs), and Brahmanical figures** such as **Vishnu, Kartikeya, and Kubera**. This diversity reflects the **religious syncretism** and artistic pluralism of the period.

37. (c)

- **Option (c) is correct:** Sammed Shikharji (also known as Parasnath Hills) is located in **Giridih district of Jharkhand** and is considered the **most sacred pilgrimage site in Jainism**. It is believed that **20 out of the 24 Tirthankaras**, including **Parshvanatha**, attained **Moksha (Nirvana)** on this hill.
- **Option (b):** The First Jain Council was held at **Pataliputra** under the leadership of **Sthulabhadra**, not at Sammed Shikharji.
- **Option (d):** **Mahavira's birthplace** was **Kundagrama** or Kundalpur (near Vaishali in Bihar), not Sammed Shikharji.

38. (d)

- **Option (d) is the correct answer:** National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has recently launched a Project Aarohan to support the educational aspirations of toll plaza employees. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways said that the initiative aims to remove financial barriers and provide equal access to quality education for students from economically weaker sections.

39. (a)

- **Context:** Forest staff patrolling the Puligundala forest area recorded the first-ever sighting of the blue pinkgill mushroom (*Entoloma hochstetteri*) in the Khammam division. Similar sightings were reported from Kagaznagar in Komaram Bheem Asifabad district earlier.
- **Statement 1 is correct, but statement 2 is not correct:** Commonly known as the **sky-blue mushroom**, *Entoloma hochstetteri* is noted for its vivid blue cap and contrasting pink to purplish gills. **Native to New Zealand**, its presence in **India is considered exceptionally rare**. While many species of the *Entoloma* genus are toxic, the edibility of this mushroom in India remains unknown. Scientists worldwide continue to study the biochemical basis of its unusual colouration.

40. (b)

- The Government of India recently launched the country's **first state-of-the-art Animal Stem Cell Biobank** and Animal Stem Cell Laboratory at the National Institute of Animal Biotechnology (NIAB), Hyderabad. The cutting-edge facility of Animal BioBank will focus on regenerative medicine and cellular therapies for livestock.
- Equipped with a stem cell culture unit, 3D bioprinter, bacterial culture lab, cryostorage,

autoclave rooms, advanced air handling systems, and uninterrupted power backup, the laboratory will advance research in disease modelling, tissue engineering, and reproductive biotechnology.

41. (c)

- **Pair 1 is correctly matched:** Brihadehwara Temple built by Rajaraja Chola I in the 11th century CE at Thanjavur (Tamil Nadu), is an example of the Dravida (South Indian) style of temple architecture. It features a **pyramidal vimana (tower)** rising above the sanctum, **massive gopurams**, and extensive sculptural decoration characteristic of the **Chola architectural tradition**.
- **Pair 2 is correctly matched:** Kandariya Mahadeva temple is known as the most elaborate and the idol **Nagara style temple**. It is undoubtedly the best and finest **temple of the Khajuraho group**. This temple is **dedicated to the lord Shiva**. Marble shivalingam is placed inside the sanctum.
- **Pair 3 is correctly matched:** Chennakesava Temple at Belur (Karnataka), built by Hoysalas in the 12th century CE, exemplifies the Vesara style, which is a hybrid form combining elements of both Dravida and Nagara styles.

42. (b)

- **Option (b) is correct:** Jatra is a traditional theatre form of Bengal, originally performed as musical plays in honour of gods during religious fairs and rituals. It began as a devotional performance, particularly associated with Krishna Jatra, which gained popularity under the influence of Sri Chaitanya in the 15th–16th centuries CE. Over time, Jatra evolved to include worldly and romantic themes, along with social and historical narratives, while retaining its musical and dramatic character.

43. (d)

- **Pair 1 is not correctly matched:** Brahmanas are texts that provide detailed explanations of the Vedic hymns, rituals, and ceremonies.
- **Pair 2 is not correctly matched:** Aranyakas are “forest texts” composed by hermits for students in forests, forming a bridge between karma and philosophy.
- **Pair 3 is not correctly matched:** Upanishads are the philosophical and metaphysical texts (the *Jnana Kanda* or knowledge section) that explore concepts like Brahman (Ultimate Reality) and Atman (Self).

44. (b)

- **Option (b) is the correct answer:** Traditionally, the family in India have been governed by two schools of Hindu law — Mitakshara and Dayabhaga. **Mitakshara is a commentary on Yajnavalkya smriti by Vijnaneshwara (12th century)**. Whereas, Dayabhaga is considered to be a digest for the leading smritis written by Jimutavahana.

● Additional information:

- ◆ **Diff. b/w two schools of Hindu law:**
 - Dayabhaga law prevailed in Bengal, Assam and most parts of Orissa, whereas Mitakshara prevailed in the rest of India.
 - Under Mitakshara school, right to Hindu joint family property is by birth. Therefore, a son immediately after birth gets the right to the property. So, the sons can claim the right to property even during the lifetime of the father. Under Dayabhaga school, the right to Hindu joint family property is not by birth but only after the death of the father.
- ◆ **Hindu Succession Act, 1956:** The Act was passed to codify the law relating to intestate (unwilled) succession among

Hindus. Buddhists, Jainas and Sikhs are also considered Hindus for the purposes of this law. The Act overrode the erstwhile uncodified Hindu Law, but still the gender discriminatory provisions were present.

- ◆ **Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act, 2005:** Its objective was to remove gender discriminatory provisions in the Hindu Succession Act, 1956 and confer equal inheritance rights on daughters too. It declared that a coparcener's daughter would become a coparcener in her own right by birth, in the same manner as a son; and would have the same rights that she would have, had she been a son.

45. (d)

- **Statement 1 is correct:** A stupa is a dome-shaped structure built to house the relics of the Buddha or other revered monks. Its key parts include the anda (dome), harmika, and chattra.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** A vihara refers to a monastic dwelling or residence for Buddhist monks. It typically consists of cells (kutis) arranged around a central courtyard.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** A chaitya is a prayer or worship hall, often with a stupa placed at one end for devotees to circumambulate.

46. (a)

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Dharmasutras and Smritis together with their commentaries are called Dharmashastras. The Dharmasutras were compiled in 500-200 B.C. and the principal Smritis were codified in the first six centuries of the Christian era.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** They provide the rules for marriages together with the laws according to which property was to be held, sold and inherited. They also prescribe

punishments for persons guilty of theft, assault, murder, adultery, etc.

- **Statement 3 is not correct:** Arthashastra, and not Dharmashastra, was written by Kautilya.

47. (d)

- **Option (d) is correct:** In Buddhism, the term "Dvadasa Nidana" refers to the "Twelve Nidanas" or the "Twelve Links of Dependent Origination." Buddha's belief in the theory of dependent origination (**Pratityasamutpada**) makes him able to trace back the origin of suffering finally in ignorance (Ajnana) through a twelve-linked chain (Dvadasa nidana), in which every consequent is dependent for its origin on the adjoining antecedent. Buddha thus explains suffering as belonging to chain of twelve bricks or links

Additional information: The root of the theory of dependent origination (pratityasamutpada vada) is found in the second noble truth of Buddha. The central theme of Buddha's teaching is inherent in the four noble truths or the truths of the nobles (Cattāri ariyasaccani in Pāli). These are as follows:

- ◆ There is suffering and the entire world is inflicted by it
- ◆ There is a cause for suffering. It is not one entity, but a cycle of twelve links
- ◆ There is a cessation of suffering. If the root cause of suffering, i.e., ignorance is dispelled, the dependent links are ceased one by one and ultimately human suffering also ceases
- ◆ There is a path of cessation of suffering. The path is known as the eight-fold path.

48. (d)

- **Statement 1 is correct:** During the Gupta period land taxes increased considerably. The land tax called bali varied from 1/4th to 1/6th of the total produce.

- Statement 2 is not correct:** During the Gupta period, the villagers were also subjected to forced labour (vishti). As Vishti is mentioned alongside taxes in land grant inscriptions, it is likely that the state regarded it as a form of tax that its citizens were required to pay. Most of the inscriptions referring to vishti were found in Madhya Pradesh and Kathiawar regions. It suggests that this practice was more prevalent in these areas.
- Statement 3 is correct:** The Guptas did issue a large number of gold coins called dinaras. But we notice that the gold coins of each successive Gupta ruler, after Chandragupta II, contain less of gold and more of alloy. After the Guptas very few coins of Kings of different dynasties have been found. Thus in the absence of coinage we can presume that a self-sufficient economic system with limited trade prevailed after the downfall of the Guptas.

49. (b)

- Option (b) is the correct answer: The Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan is a national movement to build a decentralized tribal leadership and governance ecosystem. Spearheaded by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, it empowers 20 Lakh tribal changemakers across 1 Lakh villages in 550 tribal-dominated districts through capacity building, convergence, and community participation.

• Key Objectives

- Train and mobilize 20 Lakh Tribal Leaders
- Establish 1 Lakh Adi Sewa Kendras – Single Window Tribal Service Centres
- Facilitate Village Vision 2030 Planning & Development Action Plan
- Promote last-mile convergence and effective service delivery
- Capture and amplify voices of tribal communities

• Three Pillars of Leadership:

- Adi Karmayogi — Government Officers – Key drivers of governance at State, District, Block, and Panchayat levels. They ensure convergence of schemes, institutional support, and responsive delivery.
- Adi Sahyogi — Youth, Teachers, Doctors – Motivated service providers and educated tribal youth who bridge access to education, health, awareness, and innovation.
- Adi Saathi — SHG Members (NRLM), Villagers, Tribal Elders – Grassroots changemakers and community anchors who mobilize people, preserve traditions, and uphold local wisdom.

50. (d)

- Option (d) is correct:** The Nagorno-Karabakh region has been the centre of a long-standing territorial and ethnic conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

- The region lies within the internationally recognized borders of Azerbaijan but has a majority ethnic Armenian population.
- Following the breakup of the Soviet Union, tensions escalated into a violent conflict in the early 1990s, and intermittent clashes have continued since then.
- In 2023, Azerbaijan launched a military offensive to regain full control over the region, leading to the mass exodus of ethnic Armenians from Nagorno-Karabakh and the capitulation of the local Armenian authorities.

51. (a)

- Statement 1 is correct:** The Competition Commission of India (CCI) is a statutory body established under the provisions of the Competition Act, 2002. It became fully

functional in **2009**. The Act was enacted to prevent practices having an adverse effect on competition, to promote and sustain competition, and to protect the interests of consumers.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** The CCI has the power to regulate combinations — i.e., mergers, acquisitions, and amalgamations — that may cause an appreciable adverse effect on competition in India. It can approve, modify, or block such combinations to ensure fair market practices.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The CCI functions under the administrative control of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, not under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

52. (c)

- **Pair 1 is correct:** The Arjuna's Penance (also interpreted as the Descent of the Ganga) is a massive rock-cut relief sculpture located at Mahabalipuram (Mamallapuram) in Tamil Nadu. It was built under the Pallava dynasty. Scholars interpret the scene variously — as Arjuna performing penance to obtain the Pashupata weapon from Shiva, or as the descent of the River Ganga to earth. The panel is also seen as a prashasti (royal eulogy) glorifying the Pallava king's power and devotion.
- **Pair 2 is not correct:** Didarganj Yakshi (also known as the Chauri Bearer) was discovered near Patna (Bihar) and dates to the **Mauryan period (3rd century BCE)**, not the Gupta period.
- **Pair 3 is not correct:** The Elephanta Caves, near Mumbai, originally Buddhist but later Shaivite, are famed for the 20-foot Trimurti, depicting Shiva's three faces—creator, preserver, and destroyer. The rock-cut Elephanta Caves were not constructed during Mauryas, but much later about the mid-5th to 6th centuries AD.

53. (d)

- **Option (d) is the correct Answer:** The correct sequence is 1-4-2-3.
- **Vikram calendar:** Vikram Samvat began in **58 BCE** and is traditionally associated with Gupta king, **Chandragupta II**, who had founded it as a **mark of victory over the Shkas** and assumed the title of **Vikramaditya**.
- **Gregorian calendar:** At present, the **Gregorian calendar** is commonly used worldwide. In the West, the conventional year for Jesus Christ's birth has generally been taken to be the starting point for this calendar. Years are counted forward from this point and used to be marked with "**AD- Anno Domini**" (an abbreviation for a Latin phrase that refers to the years after Jesus' birth). Similarly, the years before the conventional date for the birth of Jesus are counted backward and used to be marked with **BC (or Before Christ)**.
- **Saka, or Salivāhana calendar:** An era with its initial date in **A.D. 78** has popularly come to be regarded as the Saka Era and this date seems to be the most likely date for Kanishka's accession. The national calendar of India is also based on the Saka Era
- **Islamic calendar or Hijri Calendar:** It is the dating system used in the Islamic world for religious purposes. Years are reckoned from the **Hijrah, the date of the Prophet Muhammad's migration (622 CE) from Mecca to Yathrib (Medina)** upon invitation in order to escape persecution.

54. (b)

- **Statement 1 is not correct:** The Brihadeeswara Temple was built by King Rajaraja Chola I around 1010 AD.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Brihadeeswara Temple is dedicated to **Lord Shiva**. The main idol in the temple is a huge Shiva Lingam.

- Statement 3 is correct:** The Brihadeeswara Temple is part of the three ‘Great Living Chola Temples’ along with the Gangaikondacholeeswaram Temple and Airavatesvara Temple. These temples are listed as UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

55. (a)

- Option (a) is the correct answer:** The Pushkaranis in Hampi are the sacred water tanks that are attached to the temples. Most of the major temples in Hampi have a pushkarani built near them. The pushkaranis were a prominent feature of the ruined town.
- The sacred tanks were related to various rituals and functional aspects of the temples and the people surrounding the temples. The tanks were considered to be sacred places by the people of Hampi in ancient times.

56. (c)

- Statement 1 is correct:** In Jainism, ‘Anuvratas’ are the **five minor or moderate vows** prescribed for the **grihasthas (householders)** and common people. These vows are essentially a milder version of the more rigorous vows taken by ascetics. The anuvratas include non-violence (**Ahimsa**), truth (**Satya**), non-stealing (**Asteya**), celibacy (**Brahmacharya**), and non-possessiveness (**Aparigraha**), but practiced in a limited and practical way suitable for a layperson’s life.
- Statement 2 is correct:** The ‘Mahavratas’ are the **five great vows** undertaken by **Jain monks and ascetics**, meant to be **followed strictly and for life**. These include **absolute adherence to non-violence, truth, non-stealing, celibacy, and non-possessiveness, with complete renunciation of worldly life**. These vows form the ethical foundation of monastic life in Jainism.

57. (b)

- Option (b) is correct:** Vajapeya sacrifice included a ritual chariot race in which the raja raced against his kinsmen and defeated them. The vajapeya sacrifice was connected with the attainment of power and prosperity, and also contained a number of fertility rites. Whereas, rajasuya sacrifice was the royal consecration ceremony. Apart from a number of agrarian fertility rites, it included a ritual cattle raid, in which the raja raided the cattle of his kinsmen, and also a game of dice, which the king won.

58. (c)

- Statement 1 is correct:** The shape of the main dravida temple tower known as **Vimāna** is similar to a stepped pyramid that rises up geometrically rather than the curving śikhara of north India.
- Statement 2 is correct:** Unlike the nagara temple, the Drāviḍa temple is enclosed within a compound wall. The front wall has an entrance gateway in its centre, known as gopuram.

59. (c)

- The main architectural features of Odisha temples are classified in three orders, i.e., rekha - da, pidhadeula and khākarā.**
- Most of the main temple sites are located in ancient Kalinga—modern Puri District, including Bhubaneswar or ancient Tribhuvanesvara, Puri and Konark.

60. (b)

- Option (b) is the correct answer:** Barabar Caves in Bihar are the **ancient rock-cut Buddhist chambers** that **date back to 3rd Century A.D.** and are renowned as the place of origin of the Ajivika sect. The temple was built during the Gupta period in the 7th Century A.D. The local legends attribute the construction of the temple to Bana Raja. (the father-in-law of the legendary king Jarasandha of Rajgir).

- **Option (c): Ellora Caves** comprises 34 monasteries and temples, extending over more than 2 km at Aurangabad, in Maharashtra. Ellora, with its uninterrupted sequence of monuments **dating from A.D. 600 to 1000**, brings the civilization of ancient India to life. Not only is the Ellora complex a unique artistic creation and a technological exploit but, with its sanctuaries devoted to Buddhism, Hinduism and Jainism, it illustrates the spirit of tolerance that was characteristic of ancient India.
 - **Option (d): Ganga Ruler Rachamall's able General and Commander-in-Chief Chavundaraya** commissioned the curving of the Gommateshwara statue at Shravankelagola from a granite monolith under the **supervision of sage Arishtanemi between 980 and 983 AD**. The north-facing stone sculpture of Lord Gommateshwara is depicted in the upright posture of meditation known as Kayotsarga that is practiced to attain salvation by practicing renunciation, self-restraint and complete dominance of ego.
 - **Option (a):** One of the largest temples in India, the Brihadeeswara Temple also known as Peruvudaiyar Kovil is located in Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu. Dedicated to Lord Shiva represented as a huge ‘Lingam’, the temple was built around **1010 AD by the Chola king Rajaraja Chola I**. Considered as one of the three ‘Great Living Chola Temples’ along with the Gangaikondacholeeswaram Temple and Airavatesvara Temple, the complex is also listed as a part of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites.
- 61. (c)**
- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Gupta kingdom was enlarged enormously by **Chandragupta's son and successor Samudragupta (AD 335–80)**.
 - **Statement 2 is not correct:** Samudragupta was the opposite of Ashoka. Ashoka believed in a policy of peace and non-aggression, but **Samudragupta delighted in violence and conquest**. His court poet Harishena wrote a glowing account of the military exploits of his patron, and, in a long inscription, the poet enumerate the peoples and countries that were conquered by Samudragupta. The inscription is engraved at Allahabad on the same pillar that carries the inscriptions of the peace-loving Ashoka.
 - **Statement 3 is correct:** According to a Chinese source, **Meghavarman, the ruler of Sri Lanka, sent a missionary to Samudragupta for permission to build a Buddhist temple at Gaya**. This was granted, and the temple was developed into a huge monastic establishment. If we are to believe the eulogistic inscription at Allahabad, it would appear that Samudragupta never knew defeat, and because of his bravery and generalship he is called the Napoleon of India. There is no doubt that Samudragupta forcibly unified the greater part of India under him, and his power was felt in a much larger area than that of his predecessors.

62. (b)

- **Pair 1 is correctly matched: 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 colourfully dressed. Their costumes and headgears are designed in the medieval Rajasthani style of dress, which is prevalent even today.
- **Pair 2 is correctly matched: 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.

- **Pair 3 is not correctly matched:**
Pavakoothu, Kerala

- ◆ In Kerala, the traditional glove puppet play is called Pavakoothu. It came into existence during the 18th century due to the influence of Kathakali, the famous classical dance-drama of Kerala, on puppet performances.

63. (a)

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Some **Indus Valley Civilization seals** depict a **cross-legged figure seated in a yogic posture**, often surrounded by **animals**. Archaeologists have interpreted this figure as “**Proto-Shiva**” or “**Pashupati**”, suggesting an early representation of the later Hindu deity **Shiva**, who is regarded as the **Lord of Animals (Pashupati)**.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The depiction of “**Proto-Shiva**” on IVC seals does **not match** the description of **Rudra** in the **Rigveda**. In the Rigveda (1500–1000 BCE), Rudra is described as a **god of storms, healing, and destruction**, but **not** as a **yogi or Pashupati** (lord of animals).

64. (a)

- **1 is correct:** **Murtipujaka** sect is a major sub-sect of the **Shvetambara** tradition of Jainism. The term literally means “**idol-worshippers**”, as they believe in the **worship of images (murtis)** of the Tirthankaras in temples.
- **2 is correct:** **Bisapantha** is a sub-sect of the **Digambara** Jains. This sect allows **ritualistic worship** of Tirthankara idols and accepts the use of offerings such as flowers and lamps during worship. They differ from the **Terapanthis**, who oppose such rituals.

- **3 is not correct:** **Lokottaravadin** sect belongs to **Buddhism**, not Jainism. It was a branch of the **Mahayana Buddhist school**, particularly within the **Mahasanghika** tradition, emphasizing that the Buddha was **transcendental (lokottara)** and beyond worldly attributes.
- **4 is correct:** **Terapanth** is a **reformist sect within the Shvetambara** tradition of Jainism

65. (a)

- **Statement 1 is not correct:** The Hoysaleshvara temple (Lord of the Hoysalas) at Halebid in Karnataka was built in dark schist stone by the Hoysala king in 1150. Hoysala temples are sometimes called hybrid or Vesara as their unique style seems neither completely dravida nor nagara, but somewhere in between.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** They are easily distinguishable from other medieval temples by their highly original star-like ground-plans and a profusion of decorative carvings.
- **Statement 3 is not correct:** Hoysaleswara temple in Halebidu is dedicated to Lord Shiva, but Chennakeshava temple at Belur is dedicated to Lord Vishnu

66. (d)

- **Agrahara:** An agrahara was land granted to a Brahmana, who was usually exempted from paying land revenue and other dues to the king, and was often given the right to collect these dues from the local people.
- **Agrahaarika:** They were the officials who looked after such land given as part of charity.

67. (b)

- **Option (b) is the correct answer:** **Pattadakal**, in **Karnataka**, represents the high point of an eclectic art which, in the **7th and 8th centuries under the Chalukya dynasty**, achieved a harmonious

blend of architectural forms from northern and southern India.

- An impressive series of **nine Hindu temples, as well as a Jain sanctuary**, can be seen there.
- One masterpiece from the group stands out – the **Temple of Virupaksha, built c. 740 by Queen Lokamahadevi** to commemorate her husband's victory over the kings from the South.

68. (a)

- **1, 2 , and 3 are correct:** Among the given sites in Delhi, Red fort, Humayun's tomb, Qutub Minar are part of UNESCO world heritage site. But Jantar Mantar in Delhi, built by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II in 1724, is not part of the UNESCO World Heritage list (although the Jaipur Jantar Mantar is a World Heritage Site).

69. (c)

- In his 2025 Independence Day speech, PM Modi announced the **Sudarshan Chakra Mission**, a futuristic defence programme. Its goals are threefold: to ensure the entire system is researched, developed, and manufactured in India; to anticipate future warfare scenarios through predictive technologies; and to create precise, targeted systems for counter-action. By 2035, the aim is to provide a comprehensive national security shield for both strategic and civilian assets.
- It aims at developing a **multi-layered indigenous air-defence / aerial shield** system to counter and neutralize incoming threats like missiles, drones, aircraft, etc. The mission will involve surveillance, detection, soft kills, hard kills, and integration of cyber and physical defences.

70. (d)

- The **SAGAR** doctrine (Security and Growth for All in the Region) is India's maritime strategy that emphasizes **maritime**

security, cooperation, and sustainable development in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). The newer MAHASAGAR initiative, announced in 2025, is meant to be an “upgrade” or expansion beyond SAGAR — broadening India's maritime outlook from the Indian Ocean to a global context. It includes economic, geopolitical, security, and developmental dimensions across a wider maritime domain.

71. (d)

- **Option (d) is correct:** The Chinese Buddhist pilgrim Hsuan Tsang (Xuanzang) visited India during the reign of **Harsha Vardhana (7th century CE)**. His detailed account, the “**Si-yu-ki**” (**Records of the Western World**), provides valuable information on Harsha's administration, religious policies, economy, and society. His account corroborates several details found in **Banabhatta's Harshacharita**, a court biography that glorifies Harsha's rule.
- **Other options:**
- **Fa Hien:** Visited India during **Gupta ruler Chandragupta II's** time (4th–5th century CE).
- **Megasthenes:** Came to India during the **Mauryan period** (Chandragupta Maurya's reign).
- **Ibn Battuta:** Travelled to India during the **Delhi Sultanate** under **Muhammad bin Tughlaq** (14th century CE).

72. (c)

- **Option (c) is correct:** **Dhokra art** is a traditional form of **metal casting** that uses the **lost-wax (cire perdue) technique**, one of the oldest known methods of metal casting in the world. The craft is named after the **Dhokra Damar tribes**, the traditional metal-smiths of **central and eastern India**, mainly found in **West Bengal, Odisha, Jharkhand, and Chhattisgarh**.

73. (a)

- **About Ajivikas:** It was an **ancient Indian ascetic sect founded by Makkali Gosala**. It emerged around the **same time as Buddhism and Jainism**.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Ajivikas believed in total determinism, the idea that **everything is predetermined by fate (niyati)** and that **no human actions or deeds can affect one's future births or destiny**. Ajivikas believed that all people are driven by destiny, chance and nature.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Ajivikas were popular till the Mauryan period and were **patronised by the Mauryan emperor Ashoka and his successor, Dasaratha**. After the Mauryas, in north India, the Ajivika community lost its influence and soon became insignificant.
- **Statement 3 is not correct:** The **Barabar Caves in Gaya, Bihar**, are the **only remaining evidence of the Ajivika sect**. They were **constructed by Emperor Ashoka for Ajivika ascetics**. On the other hand, the **Bagh caves** are known for their Buddhist art and architecture and were **primarily used as Buddhist monasteries**; they were not a prominent hub for the Ajivika monks.

74. (b)

- **Option (b) is correct:** The '**Adi Purana**' is a **Jain Sanskrit text composed by the Digambara monk Acharya Jinasena**. It is a **hagiographical account** of the life of **Rishabhadeva (Adinatha)**, the **first Tirthankara** of Jainism.

75. (a)

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Rig Vedic society was relatively less hierarchical. While the varna system existed, it was fluid and not rigidly enforced. People could change their varna based on occupation and abilities. The Later Vedic period saw the rigid varna system,

- **Statement 2 is not correct:** The Rig Vedic period saw the composition of the Rig Veda, the oldest and most significant of the four Vedas. The Later Vedic period saw the compilation of the Yajur Veda, Sama Veda, and Atharva Veda, along with Brahmanas, Aranyakas, and Upanishads.

76. (a)

- **Pair 1 is not correctly matched:** The **Gurjara Pratihara dynasty** was founded by **Nagabhatta I** in the region of Malwa in the 8th century.
- **Pair 2 is correctly matched:** **Dantidurga** was the founder of the **Rashtrakuta dynasty**. It was founded in the 8th century AD. The capital of the Rastrakutas was Manyakheta or Malkhed near Sholapur.
- **Pair 3 is not correctly matched:** In eastern India, **Pala dynasty** was founded by **Gopala** (8th century).
- **Pair 4 is not correctly matched:** The founder of the **Chola dynasty** was **Vijayalaya** (9th century AD) but the real architects of the glory of the dynasty were Rajaraja I (AD 985–AD 1014).

77. (a)

- **Pair 1 is not correctly matched:** It was **Chandragupta Maurya**, not **Chandragupta I (Gupta ruler)**, who became a **Jain ascetic** under the guidance of the monk **Bhadrabahu**.
- **Pair 2 is correctly matched:** Chandragupta II (Vikramaditya) presided over a golden age of Indian culture, marked by achievements in art, science, and literature. The legendary Navaratnas (Nine Gems), including Kalidasa, Varahamihira, and Amarasingha, are associated with his court.
- **Pair 3 is not correctly matched:** Nalanda University was founded during the reign of Kumaragupta I, not Skandagupta.

78. (a)

- **Option (a) is correct:** The **Satavahanas** were referred to as the "**Andhras**" in the

Puranas. They were an ancient Indian dynasty that ruled over large parts of central and southern India between the 1st century BCE and the 3rd century CE.

79. (c)

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Harappan religion is generally described as **animistic**, involving the **worship of natural elements such as trees and stones**. Numerous **terracotta figurines of women** have been discovered at Harappan sites, often interpreted as representations of the **Mother Goddess**, symbolizing **fertility and earth**. Some figurines show a plant growing out of a woman's womb, likely representing an **earth or fertility goddess**. This reflects the Harappans' reverence for fertility and nature.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** While evidence of fire worship (fire altars) has been found at **Kalibangan and Lothal**, such evidence is not present at all major Harappan sites like **Harappa and Mohenjodaro**. This suggests **regional variations in religious practices** within the civilization rather than a uniform ritual tradition.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The burial practices of the Harappans indicate a **belief in life after death**. Dead bodies were generally placed in a **north-south orientation**, and graves often contained **earthen pots, ornaments, bangles, and copper mirrors**. The inclusion of such grave goods suggests that the Harappans believed these items would be useful in an **afterlife**. The discovery of **joint burials** (male and female) and **symbolic burials** (graves without skeletons) at sites like **Lothal and Kalibangan** also highlights the diversity of funerary customs.

80. (b)

- Ramman is a religious festival and ritual theatre in the state of Uttarakhand. The religious festival is in honour of the tutelary

god, Bhumiyal Devta, a local divinity whose temple houses most of the festivities.

- This event is made up of highly complex rituals: the recitation of a version of the epic of Rama and various legends, and the performance of songs and masked dances.

81. (c)

- **Option (c) is the correct answer:** **Therigatha is a part of the Sutta Pitaka**. It is a collection of verses composed by bhikkhunis (Buddhist nuns). It provides an insight into women's social and spiritual experiences.

82. (a)

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Mauryan pillars reflect a blend of Indian, Persian, and Hellenistic influences. The capital designs, especially the use of lions and bulls, are heavily inspired by Persian motifs, while the detailed carving techniques show Hellenistic influence. The pillars at Sarnath and Vaishali display these cross-cultural interactions.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Mauryan period is renowned for the first large-scale use of polished stone in Indian architecture. Ashoka's pillars, made from fine sandstone, were polished to a high sheen, a hallmark of Mauryan craftsmanship. This use of polished stone was unprecedented in India and set a new standard for architectural finesse.
- **Statement 3 is not correct:** Mauryan sculptures did not avoid human or animal forms. In fact, animal sculptures, like the lion capital of Sarnath and Yaksha figures, are some of the most iconic Mauryan art. These detailed depictions of animals, along with some human figures, reflect both symbolic and religious motifs, illustrating the artistic diversity of the Mauryan era.

83. (a)

- **Udayagiri Caves** (near Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh) are noted for the sculpture of **Varaha, the boar incarnation of Vishnu**. This striking relief illustrates Vishnu rescuing the Earth, personified as the goddess **Bhudevi**, showcasing the divine's role in cosmic balance and protection.
- Patronised by Gupta Emperor Chandragupta II, these rock cut caves are adorned with magnificent sculptures reflecting Hindu and Jain traditions.
- The site also features carvings dedicated to other deities, including Shiva, **Narasimha (the half-lion, half-man avatar)**, and **Skanda**, highlighting the rich tapestry of Hindu mythology.

84. (b)

- **Statement 1 is not correct, but statement 2 is correct:** The shore temple at Mahabalipuram was built **probably in the reign of Narasimhavarman II**, also known as Rajasimha who reigned from 700 to 728 CE. It is specially known because of its location on the sea-shore. It houses **three shrines, two to Shiva, one facing east and the other west, and a middle one to Vishnu who is shown as Anantashayana**. This is unusual, because temples generally have a single main shrine and not three areas of worship.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Shore temple though very similar stylistically to the Dharmaraja ratha of Mahabalipuram, differs from it in an important respect that it is a structural temple and not a rock-cut one

85. (d)

- **Statement 1 is not correct:** The **fourth Buddhist Council** was held in **Kashmir** under the presidency of **Vasumitra**. In this council, **Buddhism got split into Hinayana and Mahayana**.

- **Statement 2 is not correct:** Immediately after the death of Buddha, the **first Buddhist council** was convened by Magadha king **Ajatasatru** near **Rajagrha**. It was held under the **presidency of Maha Kassapa**, in which compilations were made of **Vinaya Piataka (rules of monastic discipline)**, under the direction of Upali, and of the **Sutta Pitaka (teachings of Buddha)**, under the direction of Ananda.

- **Additional information:**

- ◆ The **second council** was held at **Vaisali**, for settling differences over the practices followed by the monks of **Vaisali**. This council marked the first open schism in Buddhism, which came to be divided into 18 sub-sects.
- ◆ Ashoka organised the **third Buddhist council** under the presidency of monk **Moggaliputta Tissa** at Pataliputra. In this council it was decided to dispatch missionaries to different countries for the propagation of Buddhism. Consequently, missions were sent to Gandhara, Kashmir, Mysore, Suvarnabhumi (Malay and Sumatra) etc. Asoka sent his son **Mahendra** and daughter **Sanghamitra** to **Ceylon**. Efforts of Asoka were largely responsible for the spread of Buddhism in distant parts of the country and outside the country.

86. (d)

- **About:** The **jyotirlingas** are revered shrines dedicated to Lord Shiva, one of the main deities in Hinduism. There are **12 jyotirlingas** that are spread across different regions of India.
- **1 is correct:** Somnath Temple in Gujarat is considered the first jyotirlinga temple. The name Somnath means **Lord of the Moon**.
- **2 is not correct:** Jagannath Puri temple is located in the state of **Odisha**. It is one

of the most revered **Vaishnava sites of worship** in India. It is not among the Jyotirlinga temples.

- **3 is correct:** Omkareshwar Jyotirlinga is a shiva temple in **Madhya Pradesh**. It is on Omkar mountain, an island in mid Narmada.
- **4 is correct:** **Ramanathaswamy** or **Rameshwaram temple** is a popular place of worship in **Tamil Nadu**. It is dedicated to Lord Shiva and is one of the twelve jyotirlinga temples in India.

87. (d)

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Harappan script is found on seals, pottery, copper tablets, and other objects. Most inscriptions are short, the longest containing about 26 signs.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The **Harappan script remains undeciphered**, and while its language affiliation is still debated, scholars believe it might have been written in the **Boustrophedon style** — a pattern in which **one line is written from right to left and the next from left to right**, similar to how an ox ploughs a field.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Excavations at **Dholavira** (in Gujarat) have revealed evidence of a **large wooden “signboard”** that contained **ten massive Indus script symbols** (one of the longest Indus inscriptions).

88. (c)

- **Option (c) is the correct answer:** The terms Khila, Aprahata, Pankila denote different types of land classification during Gupta empire.
- Amarakosha lists 12 types of land—urvara (fertile), ushara (barren), maru (desert), aprahata (fallow), shadvala (grassy), pankila (muddy), jalaprayamanupam (wet), kachcha (adjacent to water), sharkara (full of pebbles and pieces of limestone),

sharkavati (sandy), nadimatrika (watered by a river), and devamatrika (watered by rain)

- In inscriptions, the term kshetra is used for a field, especially a cultivated field. Khila means untilled land or cultivable wasteland. Aprahata too means cultivable wasteland. The term aprada refers to unsettled land. Vastu was habitat land.

89. (c)

- **Sharada script was a writing system used for the Kashmiri language.** It evolved from the Western branch of Brahmi nearly 1200 years ago, when the language of Kashmir was developing into Kashmiri, with its peculiar intonations, variations and sounds.
- As a result, Sharda was imprinted with these vocal peculiarities, and became unfit for Sanskrit. Sharda, however, continued to be used for writing Sanskrit in Kashmir.

90. (a)

- **Statement 1 is correct, but Statement 2 is not correct:** The ‘battle of ten kings’ (dasharajna), recounted in Book 7 of the Rig Veda Samhita may be based on an actual historical incident. In this battle, the Bharata chief Sudas, grandson of Divodasa, fought against a confederacy of 10 tribes. **The great battle took place on the banks of the river Parushni which is identified with the modern Ravi river.**

● Additional information:

- ◆ The Vedic Aryans lived in the area known as sapta-sindhu meaning area of seven rivers.
- ◆ The seven rivers included **Sindhu**, **Vitasta (Jhelum)**, **Asikni (Chenab)**, **Parushni (Ravi)**, **Vipash (Beas)**, **Shutudri (Sutlej)** and the **Sarasvati**.

91. (b)

- **Option (b) is correct:** The **Pancha Rathas** (also known as the **Five Rathas**)

or Pandava Rathas) at **Mahabalipuram (Mamallapuram)** in Tamil Nadu were constructed during the reign of **Pallava ruler Narasimhavarman I**, also known as **Mamalla**, after whom the site is named. These five rathas are known after the famous five Pandava brothers of the Mahabharata fame. These monuments are carved out a single rock with choice of all known forms of plan and elevations. While the Dharmaraja, Arjuna and Draupadi rathas are square on plan, the Bhima and Ganesha rathas are rectangular and Sahadeva ratha apsidal.

92. (a)

- **Statement 1 is correct:** During the lifetime of the Buddha, his teachings were **transmitted orally** — through **discussion, debate, and recitation**. None of his discourses were written down at that time.
 - ◆ After his death (around **5th–4th century BCE**), his followers **compiled his teachings at the First Buddhist Council** held at Vesali (**Vaishali**).
 - ◆ These teachings were organized into the **Tipitaka (Three Baskets)** — the **Vinaya Pitaka, Sutta Pitaka, and Abhidhamma Pitaka**.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:**
 - ◆ The **Vinaya Pitaka** contains the **rules and regulations for monks and nuns of the Buddhist Sangha** — not philosophical discussions.
 - ◆ The **Abhidhamma Pitaka**, on the other hand, deals with **philosophical and psychological analyses** of the Buddha's teachings.
- **Additional information:**
 - ◆ The **Sutta Pitaka** records the **actual sermons and discourses** of the Buddha.
 - ◆ Later, Buddhist scholars wrote **commentaries and regional**

chronicles such as the **Dipavamsa** and **Mahavamsa** in Sri Lanka.

93. (a)

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The first important event in this long conflict took place during the reign of Pulakeshin II (AD 609–42), the most famous Chalukya king. He is known to us from the eulogy written on him by the court poet Ravikirti in the Aihole inscription. This inscription is an example of the poetic excellence achieved in Sanskrit, and despite its exaggeration is a valuable source for the life of Pulakeshin. He subjugated the Kadamba capital at Banavasi and compelled the Gangas of Mysore to acknowledge his suzerainty.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** He also defeated Harsha's army on the Narmada and checked his advance towards the Deccan. In his conflict with the Pallavas, he almost reached the Pallava capital, but the Pallavas purchased peace by ceding their northern provinces to Pulakeshin II. Around AD 610 Pulakeshin II also conquered the entire area between Krishna and the Godavari, which came to be known as the province of Vengi. Here, a branch of the main dynasty was set up and is known as the eastern Chalukyas of Vengi.
- **Statement 3 is not correct:** However, Pulakeshin's second invasion of Pallava territory ended in failure. The Pallava king Narasimhavarman (AD 630–68) occupied the Chalukya capital at Vatapi in about AD 642, when Pulakesin II was probably killed in a battle against the Pallavas. Narasimhavarman assumed the title of Vatapikonda or the conqueror of Vatapi. He is also said to have defeated the Cholas, the Cheras, the Pandyas, and the Kalabhras.

94. (b)

- **Pair 1 is correctly matched:** Dholavira is located in the **Kutch district of Gujarat, India**. It is one of the **largest and best-**

preserved Harappan urban settlements, known for its unique **water conservation system** and recently declared a **UNESCO World Heritage Site (2021)**.

- **Pair 2 is correctly matched:** Harappa, the site that gave the entire civilization its name, is located on the **banks of the Ravi River** in **Punjab province of Pakistan**.
- **Pair 3 is not correctly matched:** Kalibangan is located on the banks of the Ghaggar River in Rajasthan, India, not in Sindh (Pakistan).
- **Pair 4 is not correctly matched:** Mohenjodaro is situated in **Sindh, Pakistan**, on the **right bank of the Indus River**, not in Haryana.
- **Pair 5 is not correctly matched:** Rakhigarhi is located in **Hisar district of Haryana, India**, not in Rajasthan. It is one of the **largest Harappan sites in India**.

95. (d)

- Jainism emphasizes **Sallekhana** (also called **Santhara**), a ritual of death by fasting while facing north, practiced by figures like Bhadrabahu and Chandragupta Maurya.
- Historically, similar acts of self-starvation, called **vadakirutthal**, were adopted during the Sangam age, often as expiation for failure, influenced by Jain culture.

96. (c)

- **1,2,3 are correct:** Harsha(Harshavardhana) wrote three well-known Sanskrit plays: Nagananda, Ratnavali, and Priyadarshika.
 - ◆ **Priyadarshika:** A romantic drama describing the love story between King Udayana and Princess Priyadarshika.
 - ◆ **Ratnavali:** Another romantic play centered on the same King Udayana and Princess Ratnavali, known for its graceful expression and wit.
 - ◆ **Nagananda:** A unique play with a **Buddhist theme**, depicting the story

of Prince Jimutavahana who sacrifices himself to save a serpent—symbolizing compassion and selflessness.

97. (d)

- The official language of the Satavahanas was Prakrit. All their inscriptions were composed in this language and written in the Brahmi script, as was the case in Ashokan times. Some Satavahana kings may have composed Prakrit books. **One Prakrit text called Gathasattasai, or the Gathasaptasati, is attributed to a Satavahana king called Hala.** It consisted of 700 verses, all written in Prakrit, but it seems to have been finally re-touched much later, possibly after the sixth century.

98. (c)

- **Statement 1 is not correct:** In the Mauryan period, the political authority was concentrated in the hands of the king. **But, the Gupta administration was decentralized in nature.** It means that feudatories i.e. local Kings and smaller chiefs ruled a large part of their empire.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct: Provinces were known as desha, rashtra or bhukti and their head was called uparika. **The provinces were divided into a number of districts called pradesha or vishaya.** The administrative head of the vishaya was known as vishayapati. **The vishayas were further divided into villages.** The village headman called gramadhyaksha looked after the affairs of the village with the help of village elders.

99. (b)

- **Pair 1 is not correct:** Koldihwa is located in **Uttar Pradesh, not in Maharashtra**. It is a Neolithic site that provides the earliest evidence of rice cultivation in India
- **Pair 2 is correct:** Burzahom, located in **Jammu & Kashmir**, is a Neolithic site known for its **unique pit dwellings** dug

into the ground, which provided insulation against the cold climate.

- **Pair 3 is not correct:** Adamgarh is located in **Madhya Pradesh, not Uttar Pradesh**. It is famous for its Mesolithic rock shelters and cave paintings, not for rock-cut shrines. It has one of the earliest evidence of domestication of animals.

100.(d)

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The **Great Stupa at Sanchi** was originally **commissioned by Emperor Ashoka** in the **3rd century BCE**. It was one of the earliest and most important Buddhist monuments built to **preserve and spread the relics and teachings of the Buddha**. The original structure was a simple brick stupa built during Ashoka's reign.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The stupa was constructed to **enshrine the relics of the Buddha**.

- **Statement 3 is correct:** The most elaborate additions to the Great stupa were made during the Satavahana period from the first century BC to the second century AD. Four stone gateways or toranas were added to the stupa in the four cardinal directions.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** Further additions to Sanchi were made during the Gupta period. These include a Buddhist temple and a lion pillar. The victory inscription of Chandragupta II is carved on the railing of the Great Stupa, dating to the fourth century A.D. The site is said to have been a thriving religious centre from the third century BC to the thirteenth century AD. Its decline as a prominent religious site coincided with the decline of Buddhism in the Indian subcontinent.

