

ForumIAS

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## Prelims Marathon

10<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2023

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*HISTORY  
ECONOMICS  
POLITY  
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT*

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FORUMIAS



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## *Early Janpath's & Mauryan Empire*

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**Q.1) Consider the following statements:**

1. 6th century BCE is marked by the beginning of the Northern Black Polished Ware and second urbanization in India.
2. Northern Black Polished Ware, which was a glossy, shining type of pottery made from very fine fabric.

**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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Archaeologically, 6th century BCE is marked by the beginning of NBPW phase and the second urbanisation in India (after the Harappan Civilisation).

- This is derived on the basis of literary testimony of the early Buddhist Pali texts, Sanskrit Sutra literature, and archaeological evidence from early NBPW sites.
- NBPW refers to Northern Black Polished Ware, which was a glossy, shining type of pottery made from very fine fabric and probably used as tableware by the wealthy.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.2) Which of the following is/are familiar with Northern Black Polished Ware (NBPW)?**

1. Metal money
2. Burnt bricks
3. Ring wells

**Choose the correct answer from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The NBPW phase also marks the beginning of the use of money in the subcontinent, as early series of punch-marked coins have been excavated from NBPW Sites.

Along with metal money, burnt bricks and ring wells too appeared in the middle of the NBPW Phase.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.3) The term “nigama” was associated with which of the following?**

- a) Religious town
- b) Market town
- c) Village panchayat
- d) Priestly class

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** During c.600 300 BCE, there was significant expansion in the number and size of village settlements, towns, and corresponding population growth in the Ganga Valley.

- Numerous villages and towns are mentioned in the Pali and Sanskrit texts. There was a great degree of differentiation in case of towns.
- Pura or nagara meant a fortified town or city; nigama referred to a market town which was at an intermediate level between grama and nagara;
- rajdhani referred to capital city; nagarka was a small town and mahanagara was a big city.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding material life of Mahajanapadas:**

1. The setthi was a high level businessman, associated with trade and money lending.
2. The artisans and merchants lived in fixed localities in towns known as vessas.

**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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The setthi was a high level businessman, associated with trade and money lending. Both artisans and merchants lived in fixed localities in towns known as vessas (merchant streets). Generally crafts were hereditary, and the son used to learn his family trade from his father.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding two major trans-regional routes of mahajanapada's:**

1. Uttarapatha stretching from the north-west across the Indo-Gangetic plains to the port city of lothal.
2. Dakshinapatha stretching from Pataliputra in Magadha to Pratishthana on the Godavari.

**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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** All the major cities were situated on river banks and trade routes, and were connected with each other.

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The two major trans-regional routes of the time were known as Uttarapatha (of northern India, stretching from the north-west across the Indo-Gangetic plains to the port city of Tamralipti on the Bay of Bengal) and Dakshinapatha (of southern India, stretching from Pataliputra in Magadha to Pratishthana on the Godavari, and connected to ports on the western coast).

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.6) Which of the following pair/s is/are correctly matched?**

1. Kammikas : toll officials
2. Shaulkikas : custom officials
3. Rajabhatas : royal officials

**Choose the correct answer from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Pali texts also mention sea travel and trade. Custom officials (Kammikas) and Toll officials (Shaulkika/Shulkadhyaksha) levied taxes on merchandise, and special royal officials called Rajabhatas were deputed to safeguard the lives and property of travellers.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.7) Which of the following pair/s is/are correctly matched?**

1. Vaddhaki : carpenter
2. Nalakara : reed-maker
3. Lonakara : salt – maker

**Choose the correct answer from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Suburban villages, which were in the nature of craft villages. For example, carpenters' village (vaddhaki-grama), reedmakers' village (nalakara-grama), saltmakers' village (lonakara-grama), and chariotmakers' villages are mentioned in the texts of the period. These villages served as markets for other villages and linked the towns with the countryside.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.8) The term “dasa-kammakara” is associated with which of the following?**

- a) Agricultural labours
- b) Slaves
- c) Royal spies
- d) Priests

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The village lands were divided into cultivable plots and were allotted family-wise, though the size of landholdings varied.

The plots were cultivated by the family on its own as well as with hired agricultural labourers (dasa-kammakara).

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.9) “Namdapha Tiger reserve” is recently seen in news is located at?**

- a) Assam
- b) Nagaland
- c) Arunachal Pradesh
- d) Meghalaya

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Namdapha, a National Park and Tiger Reserve, a true wilderness and enchanting beauty of lush green vegetation, impenetrable pristine and virgin forests covered an area of 1985.23 square kilometres having diverse flora and fauna lies in the international border between India and Myanmar (Burma) within Changlang District in the state of Arunachal Pradesh in the northeast India.

Namdapha National Park is located at a few kilometre away from Miao amidst misty blue hills along the turbulent Noa-Dihing river lies in the sprawling tropical rain forest. It was declared as Tiger Reserve by the Government in 1983.

**Source:** <https://changlang.nic.in/namdapha-national-park/>

**Q.10) “Jambughoda Wildlife Sanctuary” is recently seen in news is located at?**

- a) Gujarat
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Madhya Pradesh
- d) West Bengal

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Jambughoda is a Wildlife Sanctuary situated in Jambughoda Tehsil, in the South-Central part of Gujarat, and the Khathiar-Gir dry deciduous forests' ecoregion in India. It is located 70 km from Vadodara and 20 km from prominent tourist places such as Pawagadh and Champaner.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

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## *Buddhism and Jainism and their contributions to Indian culture*

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**Q.1) Buddhism and Jainism were emphasized on which of the following?**

1. Performance of rituals
2. Non – violence
3. Frugality

**Choose the correct answer from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Sixth century BCE was a period of great religious upheaval. Great teachers like Confucius in China, Zoroaster in Iran, and Parmenides in Greece questioned the established socio-religious norms and focused more on ethical and moral values. In India, the scenario was no different.

- India witnessed the growth of two great alternative religions: Buddhism and Jainism.
- These religions emphasized that true happiness does not lie in material prosperity or performance of rituals, but in nonviolence, charity, frugality, and good social conduct.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.2) Which of the following was/were cause/s of origin of Buddhism & Jainism?**

1. The Kshatriyas' reaction against domination of the Brahmanas.
2. Rise of new agricultural economy which demanded animal husbandry.
3. Patronizing of Buddhism and Jainism by Vaishyas and other mercantile groups.

**Choose the correct answer from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The Kshatriyas' reaction against domination of the Brahmanas: The post Vedic society was clearly divided into four varnas: Brahmanas, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas, and Shudras. Kshatriyas (who functioned as rulers and warriors) were ranked second in the varna hierarchy. They reacted strongly against the ritualistic domination of the Brahmanas and the various privileges enjoyed by the priestly class.

- Rise of new agricultural economy which demanded animal husbandry: The agricultural economy based on iron ploughshare required the use of bullocks, and thus could only flourish with animal husbandry. But the Vedic practice of animal sacrifice resulted in killing of cattle indiscriminately and stood in the way of the progress of the new agricultural economy.



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- Patronising of Buddhism and Jainism by Vaishyas and other mercantile groups who wanted better social status and a reign of peace.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding Buddhist literature:**

1. Canonical texts are those texts that are directly linked to Gautama Buddha.
2. Non-canonical texts are commentaries and observations on canonical texts.

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

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Early Buddhist literature is generally divided into canonical and noncanonical texts.

- Canonical texts are those texts that are directly linked to Gautama Buddha in one way or another.
- They can simply be understood as books which lay down the basic tenets and principles of Buddhism, such as, the Tipitakas (Three Pitakas, also known as the Pali canon).
- Non-canonical texts or semi canonical texts are texts that are not the sayings of the Buddha, but commentaries and observations on canonical texts, treatise on the Dharma/Dhammapada, historical information, quotes, definitions, grammars, and other writings in Pali, Tibetan, Chinese, and other East Asian languages.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.4) Which of the following Buddhist texts is related to the Book of Guidance, which gives a connected account of the Buddha's teachings?**

- a) Milindapanho
- b) Nettipakarana
- c) Visuddhimagga
- d) Nidanakatha

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Some important non-canonical texts are Milindapanho (written in Pali, it consists of a dialogue on various philosophical issues between the IndoGreek king Milinda/Menander and the monk Nagasena).

- Nettipakarana (The Book of Guidance, which gives a connected account of the Buddha's teachings).
- Visuddhimagga (The Path to Purity, written by Buddhaghosa, deals with development from purity of discipline to nibanna/enlightenment), Nidanakatha (first connected life story of Buddha).

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding Buddhist texts “dipavamsa & mahavamsa”:**

1. They are written prakrit language.
2. Both contain the arrival of Buddhism to Sri Lanka.

**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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The Dipavamsa and the Mahavamsa (written in Pali, both contain historical cum mythical account of the Buddha’s life, Buddhist councils, Ashoka, and arrival of Buddhism to Sri Lanka).

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.6) Which of the following pitaka contains rules for monks and nuns of the monastic order (Sangha)?**

- a) Sutta pitaka
- b) Vinaya pitaka
- c) Abhidamma pitaka
- d) Both B & C

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The Vinaya Pitaka (Discipline Basket): This contains rules for monks and nuns of the monastic order (Sangha).

- It includes the Patimokka – a list of transgressions against monastic discipline and atonements for these.
- Apart from monastic rules, the Vinaya texts also include doctrinal expositions, ritual texts, biographical stories, and some elements of the ‘Jatakas’ or ‘birth stories’.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.7) Which of the following was associated with songs of Buddhist monks?**

- a) Theragatha
- b) Niddesa
- c) Patisambhida
- d) Buddhavamsa

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The Khuddaka Nikaya is further subdivided into fifteen books, the prominent among them being the Jatakas (stories of the previous births of the Buddha), Dhammapada (verses dealing with ethical sayings), Niddesa (expositions), Buddhavamsa (the history of Buddha), Patisambhida (analytical knowledge), the Theragatha and Therigatha (songs of Buddhist monks and nuns).

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**



**Q.8) Who among the following was founded the Madhyamaka school of Buddhism?**

- a) Ashvaghosa
- b) Nagarjuna
- c) Asanga
- d) Vasubandhu

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Nagarjuna is considered to be the founder of the Madhyamaka school of Mahayana Buddhism. He was a friend and contemporary of Satvahana King Gautamiputra of Andhra.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.9) “Dampa Tiger Reserve” is recently seen in news is located at?**

- a) Assam
- b) Arunachal Pradesh
- c) Mizoram
- d) Meghalaya

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Of the eight Project Tiger reserves, Assam has four reserves - Manas National Park, Orang National Park, Pakke Tiger Reserve and Kaziranga National Park; Arunachal Pradesh has three - Kamlang Tiger Reserve, Namdapha Tiger Reserve, Pakke Tiger Reserve; Mizoram has the Dampa Tiger Reserve.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

**Q.10) “Ranthambore National Park” is recently seen in news is located at?**

- a) Gujarat
- b) Rajasthan
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Madhya Pradesh

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Ranthambore National Park is a vast wildlife reserve near the town of Sawai Madhopur in Rajasthan, northern India.

- It is a former royal hunting ground and home to tigers, leopards and marsh crocodiles.
- Its landmarks include the imposing 10th-century Ranthambore Fort, on a hilltop, and the Ganesh Mandir temple.
- Also in the park, Padam Talao Lake is known for its abundance of water lilies.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

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## *Buddhism and Jainism and their contributions to Indian culture*

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**Q.1) Which of the following is/are representation of form/s of Buddha?**

1. Elephant
2. Horse
3. Footprints

**Choose the correct answer from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Buddha is represented in five forms:

- Lotus and Bull – Birth
- Horse – Renunciation
- Bodhi Tree – Mahabodhi
- Dhammachakra Pravartana – First Sermon
- Footprints – Nirvana

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.2) Which of the following is/are pillar/s of Buddha teachings?**

1. Buddha
2. Sangha
3. Dhamma

**Choose the correct answer from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Buddha explains that his teachings are just like a raft, which helps one to cross over the turbulent river of Life and Suffering. Once across, we do not need to cart the raft around with us.

- In other words, Buddha urges that one should not cling to anything, including his teachings.
- The teachings are only Upaya (skillful means or expedient tools) and are thus not dogma: “It is fingers pointing at the moon and one should not confuse the finger for the moon.”

His teachings contain three important pillars:

- Buddha – Founder/ Teacher
- Dhamma – Teachings

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- Sangha – Order of Buddhist monks/nuns (who act as torch bearers of Dhamma worshippers or Upasakas and are a major factor in the dissemination of the Buddha's doctrine)

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.3) Which of the following is NOT part of four Noble truths of Buddha?**

- a) Dukkha
- b) Nirodha
- c) Astangika-Marga
- d) Moksha

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** While struggling for Enlightenment, Buddha had discovered Dhamma/Four Noble Truths which form the central teachings of Buddhism. The Four Noble Truths are:

- The Truth of Suffering (Dukkha): Buddha taught that everything is suffering (sabbam dukkham). It refers not only to the actual pain and sorrow experienced by an individual, but also to the potential to experience these things.
- The Truth of the Cause of Suffering (Samudaya): Suffering is part of living and there is a reason behind it. Desire (Trishna) is main cause of suffering.
- The Truth of the End of Suffering (Nirodha): This suffering can be ended by attaining Nirvana/Nibbana.
- The Truth of the Path Leading to the End of Suffering (Astangika-Marga): There is a path that leads to the end of suffering.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.4) Consider the following statements:**

1. The path taught by the Buddha is often referred to as the Middle Path.
2. Buddhism accepts the transmigration and impermanence, and the idea of God and soul.

**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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The path taught by the Buddha is often referred to as the Middle Path (the one between extreme indulgence and extreme asceticism.) It should be noted that 'Right' here signifies 'proper', 'whole', 'thorough', 'integral', 'complete', and 'perfect'.

- It does not necessarily mean 'right', as opposed to 'wrong'. For instance, the opposite of 'Right Awareness' is not necessarily 'Wrong Awareness'.
- It may simply be 'incomplete'. Buddha had emphasized that if a person follows this Eight-Fold Path, then he will reach his destination of attaining Nibbana/Nirvana without the machinations of the priests.
- It should be noted that Buddhism accepts the transmigration and impermanence, but rejects the idea of God and soul (atman). According to Buddha, the soul is a myth.
- In the Buddhist universe, there are many realms (worlds) and many different kinds of beings; one can be born as any one of them.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.5) The term “Mahabhiraskramana” of Buddhism is associated with which of the following?**

- a) The birth of Buddha
- b) He cut his hair and sent it along with his discarded garments and jewellery to his father.
- c) Buddha delivered his first sermon in a deer park in Sarnath near Varanasi.
- d) Death of Buddha.

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Buddha was riding on his chariot with his charioteer one day outside the palace, he saw an old man, a sick man, a corpse and finally a religious mendicant.

- Overcome by remorse at the misery of people, he left his palace in the dead of night in search of eternal truth.
- He rode in his chariot pulled by his favourite horse Kanthaka and driven by his charioteer Channa far away from the city.
- He cut his hair and sent it along with his discarded garments and jewellery to his father. This is known as Mahabhiraskramana or the Great Going Forth.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.6) Who among the following is/are disciple/s of Buddha?**

1. Sariputta
2. Mahakaccayana
3. Ananda

**Choose the correct answer from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The prominent disciples of Buddha were Sariputta, Maha moggallana, Mahakaccayana and Ananda. Buddha had a huge following among both the royalty and lay persons.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.7) Which of the following is/are sect/s of Buddhism?**

1. Sthaviravadins
2. Sarvastivadins
3. Nirgranthas

**Choose the correct answer from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** In course of time, Sthaviravadins, Mahasanghikas and Sarvastivadins emerged as major sects of Buddhism.

New ideas emerged among the Sarvastivadins and Mahasanghikas. It led to the emergence of Mahayana and Hinayana (the Great and Lesser Vehicles) in Buddhism.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.8) Which of the following is NOT part of triratnas of Jainism?**

- a) Right faith
- b) Right knowledge
- c) Right conduct
- d) Right awareness

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Jain discipline requires adherence to certain rigorous rules. The Jains are required to follow three principles called Triratnas or Three Gems.

- Right faith (samyag-darshana);
- Right knowledge (samyag-jnana);
- Right conduct (samyag-mahavratas)

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.9) Which of the following is/are tenet/s of Jainism?**

1. Promotion of non – violence.
2. Denies the existence of God.
3. Support of human emotions.

**Choose the correct answer from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The central tenet of Jainism is non-violence. No other religion lays as much emphasis on non-violence as does Jainism.

- It also criticizes human emotions. Jainism denies the existence of God. In its early stages, deity was not worshipped in Jainism.
- It emphasizes that salvation cannot be attained by worshipping god or by sacrifices. It stipulates that one can escape misery only by performing austerities.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.10) “Simlipal Tiger reserve” often seen in news is located at?**

- a) Chhattisgarh
- b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Odisha
- d) West Bengal

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Mayurbhanj District (Odisha) holds the major population of tiger within the state. Less than thirty tigers were surviving here in the year 1975.



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- Sustainable protection measures and management initiatives have resurrected the dwindling population of tigers.
- Recent census of tigers conducted by the use of both pugmark and camera trap techniques in the year 2016 shows presence of 29 tigers.
- Similipal is the only place in the world that houses the source population of melanistic tigers.
- Most of the tigers from North Similipal are moving to south Similipal that remains a better habitat, and the leopards, more adaptable than the tiger, are appearing in most of the habitats vacated by the tiger.
- These observations suggest that Similipal habitat may be reaching the maximum of its carrying capacity for tiger.
- The future seems dependent on adjoining forests of Hadgarh and Kuldiha that are better known for being elephant habitats.

**Source:** <https://wildlife.odisha.gov.in/projecttiger>

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## *Buddhism & Jainism*

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**Q.1) Which of the following is/are cause/s for the spread & popularity of Buddhism?**

1. It was open to people of all castes and women were admitted to the Sangha.
2. The Buddha's personality and his rationale doctrine helped immensely in the popularity of Buddhism.
3. The Buddha's teachings were in Prakrit which aided in the spread of Buddhism.

**Choose the correct answer from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Buddhism left an abiding mark on the history of India and it gradually became popular in Magadha and other parts of the country.

With the support of Emperor Ashoka, it further spread its wings to Central Asia, West Asia and Sri Lanka, gradually transforming into a world religion. Various reasons are attributed to its spread:

- Buddhism appealed to the common man as, unlike Brahmanism, it was far more liberal and democratic. Since it attacked the varna system, it particularly won the support of the lower classes. It was open to people of all castes, and even women were admitted to the Sangha.
- The Buddha's personality and his rationale doctrine helped immensely in the popularity of Buddhism.
- Unlike Brahmanism, whose texts were in Sanskrit and hence accessible only to a few Brahmanas. The Buddha's teachings were in Pali (the language of the common man), which further aided in the spread of Buddhism.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.2) Which of the following Buddhist school was associated with the "doctrine of elders"?**

- a) Vajrayana
- b) Mahayana
- c) Theravada
- d) Madhyamika

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Theravada signifies 'Doctrine of the Elders'. Theravada was the original school of Buddhist philosophy. Its scriptures are in Pali, the language that Buddha taught in.

At present, Theravada Buddhism is to be found in Sri Lanka, its main bastion, and also in Myanmar, Thailand, and other parts of South East Asia.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.3) The term “Ganadharas” was associated with which of the following?**

- a) The Ashoka
- b) The Buddha
- c) The Mahavira
- d) The Ajivikas

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Lord Mahavira’s immediate disciples were known as Ganadharas (these disciples were mendicants, as the Jina is, and have followed him since before his enlightenment).

- All Ganadharas possessed perfect knowledge (keval-gyan). They orally compiled the direct preaching of Lord Mahavira into 12 main texts (sutras).
- These texts are known as Angas (limbs or main texts) and are the oldest religious scriptures and the backbone of Jaina literature.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding “Jainism”:**

1. The early Jainas adopted Prakrit language of the common people to preach their doctrines.
2. Under the leadership of Bhadrabahu, Jainism spread to South India.

**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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Jainism gradually spread to western India where the Brahmanical religion was weak.

- The early Jainas adopted Prakrit language of the common people to preach their doctrines and discarded Sanskrit language (which was mainly patronised by the Brahmanas). This greatly helped in widening the follower base of Jainism.
- And, with the support of kings who greatly patronised Jainism, like Chandragupta Maurya (he himself became a Jaina ascetic and spent his last years in Karnataka), it became popular in southern India too.
- The great famine that occurred in Magadha after 200 years of the death of Mahavira also contributed to its spread in southern India.
- According to tradition, the famine lasted for about 12 years; and in order to protect themselves, many Jaina followers under the leadership of Bhadrabahu (who later came to be known as Digambaras) went South and spread Jainism there.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.5) The “Bisapantha & Terapantha” is related to which of the following?**

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Jain order had divided into two major sects.

- The Digambara sect

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- The Svetambar sect

The Digambara sub-sects

The Digambara sect, in recent centuries, has been divided into the following sub-sects: Major sub-sects:

- Bisapantha
- Terapantha
- Taranapantha or Samaiyapantha

Minor sub-sects:

- Gumanapantha
- Totapantha

**Source:** <https://jainworld.com/societies-sanghs/jain-sects/>

**Q.6) The word “tirthankara” is related to which of the following?**

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The Jaina doctrine is much older than Buddhism and it is accepted that in each half cycle of time there are total 24 Tirthankaras.

- It is rather interesting to note that the Jaina conception of time is divided into endless sequence of progressive (utsarpinis) and regressive half cycles (avasarpinis) in terms of degree of happiness. These vast spans of time are further divided into 6 kalas (stages).
- The first founder Tirthankara Rishabhadeva (symbol – bull), whose reference is also found in Rig Veda and Vayu Purana, belongs to our current half cycle of avasarpini (i.e., a period of regressive happiness).
- The historicity of all the Tirthankaras is not easy to establish. Neminatha belonging to Saurashtra (Gujarat) is believed to be the 22nd Tirthankara, and the 23rd Tirthankara is believed to be Parshvanatha (of Benaras) having the emblem of the snake.
- The 24th Tirthankara was Mahavira, who had the emblem of the lion.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding “digambaras”:**

1. They stress the practice of nudity as an absolute pre-requisite to the mendicant’s path and to the attainment of salvation.
2. It holds that a woman lacks the body and rigid will necessary to attain moksha.

**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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Literally means ‘sky clad’. Digambaras stress the practice of nudity as an absolute pre-requisite to the mendicant’s path and to the attainment of salvation.

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- According to tradition, during the famous Magadha Famine (200 years after the death of Mahavira), they are the ones who under the leadership of Bhadrabahu migrated south and lived in the old traditional way.
- On the point of liberation of women, Digambara tradition holds that a woman lacks the body and rigid will necessary to attain moksha, i.e., liberation; hence she has to be reborn as a man before such an attainment is possible.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding “Ajivikas”:**

1. It was founded by Makkhali Gosala.
2. It held that the affairs of the entire universe were ordered by a cosmic force called niyati.

**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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Ajivika was founded by Makkhali Gosala. Ajivikas were very popular in Magadha in the third century BCE and Mauryan kings donated several caves in the honour of Ajivika monks.

The Ajivikas, who were rigid fatalists and determinists, supposedly held that the affairs of the entire universe were ordered by a cosmic force called niyati (meaning ‘rule’ or ‘destiny’ in Sanskrit) that determined all events, including an individual’s fate, to the last detail and that barred personal efforts to change or accelerate improvement toward one’s spiritual destiny.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.9) The Saddle peak national park is recently seen in news is located at?**

- a) Andaman Island
- b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Kerala
- d) Lakshadweep Island

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Saddle Peak National Park is a national park in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in India. It was set up in 1979 on surrounding areas of Saddle Peak.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

**Q.10) “M-STrIPES” is often seen in news is related to which of the following?**

- a) Tigers
- b) Elephant
- c) Snow Leopard
- d) Rhinos

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** M-STrIPES (Monitoring System for Tigers - Intensive Protection and Ecological Status) is an app based monitoring system, launched across Indian tiger reserves by the NTCA in 2010.

**Source: FORUMIAS**



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## *The Mauryan Empire*

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**Q.1) Which of the following is/are source/s for description of the mauryan period?**

1. Arthashastra of Kautilya
2. Indica of Megasthenes
3. Junagarh Inscription of Rudradaman I

**Choose the correct answer from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The sources of the Maurya period are more varied and considered more authentic than the earlier periods.

For the first time now, we have at our disposal a number of sources (literary sources like Arthashastra of Kautilya, Indica of Megasthenes, and the Junagarh Inscription of Rudradaman I, which attributes to the beginning of construction of a Sudarshana lake during Chandragupta's reign), and edicts issued by Ashoka that throw a clearer light on the history of this period.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.2) Which of the following pair/s is/are correctly matched?**

1. Parishishtaparvan : Hemachandra
2. Mudrarakshasa : Dandin
3. Dashakumaracharita : Vishakhadatta

**Choose the correct answer from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The other major literary sources for the mauryan period include Hemachandra's Parishishtaparvan (establishing Chandragupta's connections with Jainism); Vishakhadatta's Mudrarakshasa from the 5th century (a historical drama describing the clever machinations of Chanakya against Chandragupta's enemies); Dandin's Dashakumaracharita; Banabhatta's Kadambari.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.3) Which of the following literary source/s is/are give an account of Ashoka?**

1. Ashokavadana
2. Dipavamsa
3. Mahavamsa

**Choose the correct answer from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The trinity of Buddhist texts that give us an account of Chandragupta's life, namely, the Mahavamsa, Milindapanho, and Mahabhashya; the Buddhist Dipavamsa, Ashokavadana, Divyavadana (these three texts, as well as the Mahavamsa, give us an account of Ashoka).

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.4) "The happiness of the subjects is the happiness of the king; their welfare is his. His own pleasure is not his good but the pleasure of his subjects is his good" – description related to?**

- a) Megasthene's Indica
- b) Kautilya's Arthashastra
- c) Niccolo Machiavelli's The Prince
- d) Mamulanar's Vamsatthapakasini

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The ideas expressed by Kautilya in the Arthashastra are completely practical and unsentimental.

- Kautilya openly writes about controversial topics such as assassinations, when to kill family members, how to manage secret agents, when it is useful to violate treaties, and when to spy on ministers.
- However, he also writes about the moral duty of the king and stresses on paternal despotism as he summarises the duty of a ruler, saying, "The happiness of the subjects is the happiness of the king; their welfare is his. His own pleasure is not his good but the pleasure of his subjects is his good".

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.5) Who among the following was called as "Sandrocottus"?**

- a) Chandragupta Maurya
- b) Bindusara
- c) Ashoka
- d) Brihadratha

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Mauryan dynasty founded by Chandragupta Maurya with the help of his mentor Chanakya/Kautilya.

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- Chandragupta in all likelihood first established himself in Punjab and then moved eastwards until he gained control over the Magadha region.
- According to traditional belief, Chandragupta adopted this strategy on the basis of a moral drawn from an instance where he witnessed a woman scolding her child for eating from the centre of a dish, because it is bound to be hotter than the sides.
- Called Sandrocottus by the Greek scholars (identified by William Jones).

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding the king Ashoka:**

1. Buddhism for the first time went outside India during his reign.
2. Appointed Dharma Mahamattas to propagate dharma among various social groups including women.

**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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The Ashoka was a great proponent of Buddhism. According to tradition, and as mentioned in the Mahavamsa and Dipavamsa, he was converted to Buddhism by his nephew Nigrodha (who had become a monk at the tender age of 7).

- According to the Divyavadana, Samudra (a merchant - turned-monk) converted him. Buddhism for the first time went outside India during his reign.
- He sent his son Mahendra and daughter Sanghamitra to Ceylon (Sri Lanka).
- Appointed Dharma Mahamattas to propagate dharma among various social groups including women (in the 14th year of his reign).

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.7) Which of the following language/s is/are used in Ashokan inscriptions?**

1. Brahmi
2. Kharosthi
3. Prakrit

**Choose the correct answer from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** In Ashokan inscriptions, Brahmi, Kharosthi, Prakrit, Aramaic, and Greek languages (deciphered by James Prinsep in c.1837 CE) have been used.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.8) Who among the following was deciphered the Ashokan inscriptions?**

- a) James Prinsep
- b) Alexander Cunningham
- c) William Jones
- d) George Bailey

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Ashokan inscriptions, Brahmi, Kharosthi, Prakrit, Aramaic, and Greek languages (deciphered by James Prinsep in c.1837 CE) have been used.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.9) “Mount Harriet National Park” is recently seen in news is located at?**

- a) Andaman & Nicobar Islands
- b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Kerala
- d) Goa

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Mount Harriet National Park' is a national park located in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands union territory of India. The park, established in 1969, covers about 4.62 km<sup>2</sup>.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

**Q.10) “Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary” is often seen in news is located at?**

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Madhya Pradesh
- c) Gujarat
- d) Bihar

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Nal Sarovar literally translates to ‘Tap Lake’. The resemblance is in the fact that this famous tourist attraction houses various different kinds of bird species which in turn are attracted to this lake.

- It has many small islands (records say 36) and the region is spread over a large area such that the birds can roam about without any conflict among the different species.
- This bird sanctuary is located at about 64 km to the west of Ahmedabad near Sanand village, Gujarat.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

## *The Mauryan Empire*

**Q.1) Which of the following is/are basic attribute/s of dhamma illustrated on Ashokan edicts?**

1. Compassion
2. Charity
3. Purity

**Choose the correct answer from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Ashokan policy of dhamma included the state's concern for the welfare of its people.

- It was a code of conduct or ideal social behaviour common to all religions of the world, which he appealed to his subjects to follow.
- A closer look at Ashokan edicts illustrates that basic attributes of dhamma included compassion (daya), charity (dana), truthfulness, purity, and gentleness.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.2) Which of the following pair/s is/are correctly matched?**

1. First major rock edict : Prohibition of animal sacrifice
2. Second major rock edict : Appointment of Dhamma Mahamattas
3. Third major rock edict : Religious tolerance amongst all sects

**Choose the correct answer from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** First Edict: Declared prohibition of animal sacrifice

- Second Edict: Medical treatment of human and animals, planting beneficial medicinal herbs and roots, fruits, and the digging of wells.
- Third Edict: Mentions Pradeshikas, Rajukas, and Yuktas and their need for going on tours of inspection every five years as part of their other duties, preaching dhamma, and also adopting liberal attitude towards Brahmanas and Shramanas.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**



**Q.3) “Bheri Ghosha (war drum) replaced by Dhamma Ghosha and King Ashoka attached greatest value to this duty” – is related to which of the following major rock edict?**

- a) Fourth rock edict
- b) Sixth rock edict
- c) Seventh rock edict
- d) Ninth rock edict

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Fourth Edict: Bheri Ghosha (war drum) replaced by Dhamma Ghosha and King Ashoka attached greatest value to this duty.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.4) In which of the following place/s, the pillar edict/s is/are found?**

1. Lauriya-Araraj
2. Lauriya Nandangarh
3. Sarnath

**Choose the correct answer from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The majestic free-standing Ashokan pillars probably signify the axis of the world (axis mundi) that separated heaven and earth.

Pillar edicts have been found at Lauriya-Araraj, Lauriya Nandangarh, Rampurva, Nigali Sagar, Sarnath, Topra, and Meerut.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.5) Which of the following pillar edict/s was/were moved to Delhi by Feroz Shah Tughlaq?**

1. Meerut
2. Topar
3. Sarnath

**Choose the correct answer from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The majestic free-standing Ashokan pillars probably signify the axis of the world (axis mundi) that separated heaven and earth.

- Pillar edicts have been found at Lauriya-Araraj, Lauriya Nandangarh, Rampurva, Nigali Sagar, Sarnath, Topra, and Meerut.
- It is rather interesting to note that two pillars, one from Topra and the other from Meerut, were shifted to Delhi by Feroz Shah Tughlaq.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.6) Which of the following is/are basically found on Ashokan pillars?**

1. Lotus
2. Lion
3. Horse

**Choose the correct answer from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The motifs associated with the Ashokan pillars have a rich and varied symbolism in resonance with many prevailing Indian religious traditions.

For instance, the most found motifs were of lotus (symbolised, purity and fecundity in Indian tradition), lion (is a solar symbol and represents the Buddha too, as he is referred to as Sakyasimha, i.e., lion among the Sakyas), bull (symbol of fertility), elephant (relevant in Buddhism as according to Buddhist tradition, Buddha entered his mother's womb in the form of a white elephant), spoked wheel (represents dharmachakra, i.e., the wheel of dharma and also associated with sovereignty), and horse (symbolises departure of Siddhartha from his home).

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.7) Which of the following statement/s regarding Allahabad pillar inscription is/are correct?**

1. Ashoka warns members of the Sangha against causing division in the ranks is mentioned on the pillar.
2. Samudragupta's inscription is on this edict itself.
3. Firoz Shah Tughlaq was probably responsible for its removal to the fort at Allahabad.

**Choose the correct answer from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Allahabad – Kosam/Queen's Edict / Kausambi or Schism Edict:

- Ashoka warns members of the Sangha against causing division in the ranks.
- Samudragupta's inscription is on this edict itself.
- Jahangir was probably responsible for its removal to the fort at Allahabad.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.8) Which of the following pillar/rock inscription is/are located in present India?**

1. Girnar Rock Inscription
2. Nigali Sagar Inscription
3. Rummindei Inscription

**Choose the correct answer from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Girnar Rock Inscription of Rudradaman (Kathiawar): Mentions the Sudarshan Lake constructed by Pushyagupta, a rashtriya (means provincial governor) of Saurashtra during Chandragupta Maurya's reign.

- Nigali Sagar Inscription (Nepal): To record the first enlargement of stupa (14 years after his consecration) and later Ashoka's visit to the site (20 years after his consecration).
- Rummindei Inscription (Nepal): To commemorate the birthplace of the Buddha, Ashoka visited Lumbini, worshipped here and gave tax concessions to the villagers. It records that the village of Lumbini was exempted from bali and was to pay only one-eighth of bhaga.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.9) "Mudumalai National Park" is often seen in news is located at?**

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Andhra Pradesh
- c) Assam
- d) West Bengal

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Primarily nestled in the western side of Tamil Nadu, the national park shares borders with the states of Kerala and Karnataka.

- A part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, the sanctuary is crusted with other national parks including Bandipur, Nagarhole, Wayanad, Mukurthi and Silent Valley national parks.
- These parks and reserve forests together are spread across a whopping area of 3300 sq.km of forest land.
- Mudumalai is home to 55 species of mammals, 227 species of birds, 50 species of fishes, 21 species of amphibians and 34 species of reptiles.
- This includes many endangered species of animals including elephants, tigers, gaur and Indian Leopards.
- Around 8% of the total bird species in India can be found in the region. When it comes to the flora of Mudumalai, you will come across a rich diversity of rare plants and trees that add to the natural charm and ecological balance of the park.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

**Q.10) “Singalila National Park” is recently seen in news is located at?**

- a) West Bengal
- b) Odisha
- c) Assam
- d) Arunachal Pradesh

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Singalila National Park is a National park of India located on the Singalila Ridge at an elevation of more than 2300 metres above sea level, in the Darjeeling district of West Bengal. It is well known for the trekking route to Sandakphu that runs through it.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

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## *Revision*

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**Q.1) Which of the following is/are sramanic religion/s?**

1. Buddhism
2. Jainism
3. Lokayatas

**Choose the correct answer from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** From the sixth century to the third century BCE, North India passed through major political and social changes.

- Buddhism and Jainism emerged as prominent religions having a large number of followers.
- Sramana traditions in ancient India were brought about by the ascetics who renounced worldly life to search for the truth about life and the universe.
- They included many groups, sects and varieties of opinions. The most famous among them were the Buddhists, the Jains, the materialist Lokayatas and groups like the Ajivikas.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.2) Consider the following statements:**

1. The play Mudrarakshasa by Visakhadatta was written during the Mauryan period.
2. It narrates Chandragupta's accession to the throne of the Magadha Empire and the exploits of his chief advisor Chanakya.

**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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The play Mudrarakshasa by Visakhadatta was written during the Gupta period, sometime after the 4th century CE.

- It narrates Chandragupta's accession to the throne of the Magadha Empire and the exploits of his chief advisor Chanakya or Kautilya by listing the strategies he used to counter an invasion against Chandragupta.
- This play is often cited as a corroborative source since it supports the information gathered from other contemporary sources about Chandragupta.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**



**Q.3) Consider the following statements:**

1. The first known ruler of Magadha was Bimbisara of the Shisunaga dynasty.
2. He extended the territory of Magadhan Empire by conquests only.

**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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Among the 16 mahajanapadas, Kasi was initially powerful. However, Kosala became dominant later.

- A power struggle broke out between Magadha, Kosala, Vrijji and Avanti. Eventually Magadha emerged as the dominant mahajanapada and established the first Indian empire.
- The first known ruler of Magadha was Bimbisara of the Haryanka dynasty. He extended the territory of Magadhan Empire by matrimonial alliances and conquests.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.4) The famous “Hathigumpha inscription” is located at?**

- a) Madhya Pradesh
- b) Odisha
- c) West Bengal
- d) Bihar

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** During the process of empire building, Nandas exterminated many kshatriya clans and subjugated kshatriya-ruled kingdoms, which had still retained a degree of autonomous authority, thus creating a centralised state.

An inscription known as the Hathigumpha (elephant cave) from Udayagiri near Bhubaneswar, Odisha, records the aqueduct built by King Nanda three hundred years earlier.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.5) Consider the following statements Taxila:**

1. It was brought to light by the excavation carried out in the 1940s by Sir John Marshall.
2. Panini seems to have compiled his wellknown work, Ashtadhyayi at Taxila.

**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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Takshashila or Taxila is situated in presentday Pakistan. Between the fifth century and fourth century BCE, it was part of the Achaemenid Empire of Persia.

- Because of its strategic location on the trade route between the East and the West, it emerged as an important centre of learning and culture.

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- Students came from far and wide to Taxila in search of knowledge. The city was brought to light by the excavation carried out in the 1940s by Sir John Marshall.
- Taxila is considered “one of the greatest intellectual achievements of any ancient civilization”. Panini seems to have compiled his wellknown work, Ashtadhyayi, here.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.6) “The battle of Hydaspes” was fought between the Alexander and?**

- a) The Mahapadma Nanda
- b) The Chandra Gupta Maurya
- c) The Porus
- d) The Ambhi

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** In 326 BCE when Alexander entered the Indian subcontinent after defeating the Persians, Ambhi, the ruler of Taxila, surrendered and accepted the suzerainty of Alexander.

- The most famous of Alexander’s encounters was with Porus, ruler of the region between Jhelum and Beas.
- The two armies met in the battle of Hydaspes in which Porus was imprisoned. Later, impressed by the Porus’s dignity, Alexander restored his throne on the condition of accepting his suzerainty.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.7) Kautilya’s intrigues and brilliant strategy to subvert the intended invasion of Magadha is the theme of which of the following?**

- a) Mudrarakshasa
- b) Mahavamsa
- c) Kadambari
- d) Dashakumaracharita

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Chanakya, also known as Kautilya and Vishnugupta, was a Brahmin and a sworn adversary of the Nandas.

- He is credited with having devised the strategy for overthrowing the Nandas and helping Chandragupta to become the emperor of Magadha.
- He is celebrated as the author of the Arthashastra, a treatise on political strategy and governance.
- His intrigues and brilliant strategy to subvert the intended invasion of Magadha is the theme of the play, Mudrarakshasa.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.8) Consider the following statements:**

1. The Third Buddhist sangha (council) in 250 BCE in the capital Pataliputra was convened by the Ashoka.
2. Ashoka sent his two children, Mahinda and Sanghamitta, to Sri Lanka to propagate Buddhism.

**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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** One of the major events of Ashoka's reign was the convening of the Third Buddhist sangha (council) in 250 BCE in the capital Pataliputra.

- Ashoka's deepening commitment to Buddhism meant that royal patronage was extended to the Buddhist establishment.
- An important outcome of this sangha was the decision to expand the reach of Buddhism to other parts of the region and to send missions to convert people to the religion.
- According to popular belief, Ashoka sent his two children, Mahinda and Sanghamitta, to Sri Lanka to propagate Buddhism. It is believed that they took a branch of the original bodhi tree to Sri Lanka.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.9) "The Nanda Devi National Park" is recently seen in news is located at?**

- a) Uttar Pradesh
- b) Uttarakhand
- c) Bihar
- d) Himachal Pradesh

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The Nanda Devi National Park or Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve, established in 1982 is a national park situated around the peak of Nanda Devi in Chamoli Garhwal district of Uttarakhand, in northern India. The entire park lies at an elevation of more than 3,500 m above mean sea level.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

**Q.10) "Chandoli National Park" is recently seen in news is located at?**

- a) Madhya Pradesh
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Andhra Pradesh

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Chandoli National Park is one of the most popular national parks not only in Maharashtra but in entire India.

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- Chandoli Sanctuary is located in the western part of Maharashtra, at the junction of Sangli, Kolhapur, Satara, and Ratnagiri District.
- Chandoli Wildlife Sanctuary in Sangli has sprawling vegetation making it an ideal habitation for a wide variety of mammals, reptiles, and bird species.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

