

ForumIAS

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# Prelims Marathon

April, 2023

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*HISTORY  
ECONOMICS  
POLITY  
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT*

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FORUMIAS



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## *Pre Historic India and Indus Valley Civilization*

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**Q.1) Who among the following was discovered probably the first Paleolithic tool discovered in India — the Pallavaram hand axe?**

- a) Robert Bruce Foote
- b) Sir Mortimer Wheeler
- c) James Princep
- d) Alexander Cunningham

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The history and identity of human settlements in India go back to prehistoric times.

The credit for doing an early extensive study of Indian pre-history go to Robert Bruce Foote, who discovered what was probably the first Paleolithic tool discovered in India — the Pallavaram handaxe.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.2) Which of the following is/are correct about Paleolithic age?**

- 1. It was developed in the Pleistocene period or the Ice Age.
- 2. It was spread in practically all parts of India except the alluvial plains of the Indus and Ganga.
- 3. The Paleolithic man of India is belonged to the Negrito race.

**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 Paleolithic Age is the earliest period of the Stone Age, which developed in the Pleistocene period or the Ice Age.

- It was spread in practically all parts of India except the alluvial plains of the Indus and Ganga.
- The Paleolithic man of India are said to have belonged to the Negrito race and lived in caves and rock shelters.
- They were food gathering people who lived on hunting and gathering wild fruits and vegetables.
- They had no knowledge of agriculture, house building, pottery, or any metal.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2023**

**Q.3) Which of the following pair/s is/are correctly matched?**

<b>Paleolithic Site location</b>	<b>:</b>	<b>Present State</b>
1. Hiran Valley	:	Gujarat
2. Bhimbetka	:	Maharashtra
3. Belan Valley	:	Rajasthan

**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:** Paleolithic Sites are found in Soan and Sohan river valley (now in Pakistan), Kashmir, Thar Desert (Didwana, Rajasthan), Hiran Valley (Gujarat), rock shelters of Bhimbetka (MP), and Belan Valley Mirzapur (UP).

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding “Upper Paleolithic Age”:**

- 1. Bone tools found only at cave sites of Kurnool and Muchchatla Chintamani Gavi in Andhra Pradesh.
- 2. Homo sapiens first appeared at the end of this phase.

**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:** Upper Paleolithic sites are found in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Central MP, Southern UP and Chhotanagpur Plateau.

- Bone tools found only at cave sites of Kurnool and Muchchatla Chintamani Gavi in Andhra Pradesh.
- Homo sapiens first appeared at the end of this phase. Coincided with the last phase of the Ice Age, when the climate became comparatively warm and less humid.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.5) “Nevasan industry” was belonged to which of the following?**

- a) Lower Paleolithic Age
- b) Middle Paleolithic Age
- c) Upper Paleolithic Age
- d) Mesolithic Age

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Middle Paleolithic Age was established only in 1960 by H.D. Sankalia and was named Nevasan industry after the site of Nevasa (Maharashtra).

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.6) The “Microliths” term was associated with which of the following?**

- a) Lower Paleolithic Age
- b) Upper Paleolithic Age
- c) Mesolithic Age
- d) Neolithic Age

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** One of the key aspects of the Mesolithic Age was the reduction in size of well-established tool types.

- The characteristic tools of this age were microliths (miniature stone tools usually made of crypto-crystalline silica, chalcedony, or chert, both of geometrical and non-geometrical shapes).
- They were not only used as tools in themselves but also to make composite tools, spearheads, arrowheads, and sickles after hafting them on wooden or bone handles.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

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

1. Pottery is absent at most of the Mesolithic sites.
2. The Mesolithic era initiated rock art in pre-history.

**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:** Pottery is absent at most Mesolithic sites, but it is present at Langhnaj in Gujarat and in the Kaimur region of Mirzapur (UP). The last phase of this age saw the beginning of plant cultivation.

- The Mesolithic era initiated rock art in pre-history. In 1867, the first rock paintings in India were discovered at Sohagighat (Kaimur Hills, UP).
- Now, over 150 Mesolithic rock art sites have been discovered across India, with rich concentration in Central India such as the Bhimbetka Caves, Kharwar, Jaora, and Kathotia (M.P.), Sundargarh and Sambalpur (Orissa), Ezhuthu Guha (Kerala).
- Animals dominate the scenes at most Mesolithic rock art sites. However, no snakes are depicted in Mesolithic Paintings.

**Source: Tamil Nadu History**

**Q.8) The “Burzahom Neolithic Site” is located at which of the following?**

- a) Madhya Pradesh
- b) Uttar Pradesh
- c) Jammu & Kashmir
- d) Maharashtra

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Burzahom (unique rectangular chopper, domestic dogs buried with their masters in graves) and Gufkraal in Jammu and Kashmir (famous for pit dwelling, stone tools, and graveyards located within households).

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2023**

**Q.9) Which of the following site has unique in terms of the presence of a three-fold Neolithic, Chalcolithic and Iron Age settlements?**

- a) Koldihwa
- b) Chirand
- c) Mehrgarh
- d) Paiyampalli

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Koldihwa, in Belan valley (unique in terms of the presence of a three-fold Neolithic, Chalcolithic and Iron Age settlements), Koldihwa and Mahagara, south of Allahabad (many strata of circular huts along with crude hand-made pottery; earliest evidence of rice cultivation in the world).

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.10) “Nameri Tiger Reserve” is recently seen in news is located at?**

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Assam
- c) Arunachal Pradesh
- d) Andhra Pradesh

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Nameri National Park is a national park located in the foothills of the Eastern Himalayas in the Sonitpur District of Assam, India, about 35 kilometres from Tezpur. Nameri shares its northern boundary with the Pakhui Wildlife Sanctuary of Arunachal. Together they constitute an area of over 1000 km<sup>2</sup> of which nameri has a total area of 200 km<sup>2</sup>.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

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## *Pre Historic India and Indus Valley Civilization*

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**Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding “Chalcolithic Age”:**

1. It was marked the emergence of the use of metal along with stone tools.
2. Chalcolithic people domesticated cows, sheep, goats, pigs and buffaloes, and hunted deer.

**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 Chalcolithic age marked the emergence of the use of metal along with stone tools. The first metal to be used was copper, though they also occasionally used bronze.

- Technologically, the Chalcolithic stage largely applies to the settlements of pre-Harappans, but in various parts of country, it appears after the end of the bronze Harappa culture.
- Some prominent sites of preHarappan Chalcolithic culture are Ganeshwar, near the Khetri Mines of Rajasthan, Kalibangan in Rajasthan, Banawali in Haryana, Kot Diji in Sindh (Pakistan).
- Chalcolithic people domesticated cows, sheep, goats, pigs and buffaloes, and hunted deer.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

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

1. The Chalcolithic people were expert coppersmiths.
2. The Chalcolithic age people cooked their food.

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

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Chalcolithic-era people did not know the use of writing. Their villages were small, with huts close to each other. Chalcolithic age people cooked their food.

- The Chalcolithic people were expert coppersmiths. They knew the art of copper-smelting and were good stone workers as well.
- They manufactured beads of semi-precious stones such as carnelian, steatite, and quartz crystal.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding “Harappan civilization”:**

1. It was the first urban civilization in South Asia.
2. It was occupied lesser area than Mesopotamia and Egypt civilizations.

**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 Harappan civilisation was the first urban civilisation in South Asia, contemporaneous with the civilisations of Mesopotamia and Egypt.

- Of the three aforementioned civilisations, the Harappan civilisation occupied most area (about 8,00,000 sq km).
- Earlier historians had called this civilisation the Indus Valley Civilisation, but since then, major settlements have been excavated in the Ghaggar-Hakra belt that spread far beyond the Indus region.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

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

1. Late Harappan settlements were large compared to mature Harappan ones.
2. The Late Harappan settlements were also more in number and more of rural.

**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 Late Harappan phase comprises five geographical zones each having distinct phases — the West Punjab Phase (Cemetery- H Culture), the East Punjab Phase, the Jhukar Phase, the Rangpur Phase, and the Ganga Yamuna Doab Phase. Late Harappan settlements were small compared to mature Harappan ones.

- The transition from the mature phase does not show any sudden discontinuity as such, but there is a gradual change in seals, pottery confined writing, in the frequency of cubical weights, and so on.
- The Late Harappan settlements were also more in number, but they were smaller and more rural, though marked by a diverse agricultural base.
- Important Jhukar sites are Jhukar, Chanhudaro, and Amri. Rangpur Phase sites are in Kutch, Saurashtra and mainland Gujarat.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2023**

**Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding “town planning” of Harappan Civilization”:**

1. Harappan city was divided into two parts, citadel and lower part.
2. City planning followed a grid pattern.

**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:** Harappan civilisation is known for its urban outlook and sophisticated sense of civic planning and organisation.

- In most cases the Harappan city was divided into two parts: Citadel/raised part and lower part.
- City planning roughly followed a grid pattern and streets ran from north and cut at right angles.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.6) Which of the following is/are distinguishing feature/s of harappan town planning?**

1. The main street of city were ten meters wide and dividing the town into rectangular and square blocks.
2. There were lamp-posts at regular intervals.
3. The drains of city were made of mortar, lime and gypsum and covered with large brick slabs for easy cleaning.

**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:** Distinguishing aspects of Harappan town planning are as follows:

- The streets were wide, the main street being ten metres wide and dividing the town into rectangular and square blocks.
- There were lamp-posts at intervals. They used burnt bricks of good quality and the unique feature of this brick was its identical ratio of 1:2:4 in terms of thickness: width: length across all Harappan structures.
- Equally striking was the uniformity in the average size of bricks —  $7 \times 14 \times 28$  cm<sup>3</sup> for houses and  $10 \times 20 \times 40$  cm for city walls.
- They had an excellent drainage system — drains were made of mortar, lime and gypsum and covered with large brick slabs for easy cleaning.
- Houses were often of two or more storeys, though varied in size but quite monotonous. No window faced the streets and the houses had tiled bathrooms. Some houses had their own wells.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**



**Q.7) Which of the following is/are characteristic features of the Harappan society?**

1. Harappans were great experts in artistic works of stone.
2. A lot of terracotta figurines have been found at many sites.
3. They were good at metallurgy and producing alloys.

**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 Harappans were great experts in the use of the potter's wheel but were poor in artistic works of stone.

- A lot of terracotta has been found at many sites, including figurines of animals such as bulls, buffaloes, dogs, monkeys, toy carts, and humans.
- Terracotta bangles have also been found. It is important to note that more female figurines have been uncovered in comparison to male figurines.
- The Harappans refined the art of bead-making, and jewellery excavated includes gold and silver jewellery, including necklaces, bracelets, pendants, earrings, brooches.
- Copper, bronze, silver, and gold were metals known and used by Harappans, but iron was not. They were also good at metallurgy and producing alloys.
- The craftsmen used to both make artifacts out of pure copper as well as bronze such as spears, knives, short swords, mirrors, axes, needles, rings, and bangles.
- Harappan people generally wore garments of cotton / wool. The Harappans relished non-vegetarian food. Fish-eating was common. Milk and curd was also consumed.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

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

1. The Harappan script was pictographic and logosyllabic.
2. The Harappan writing was boustrophedon.

**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 Harappan script was pictographic and logosyllabic (each symbol stood for a word/syllable).

- Harappan writing was boustrophedon, that is to say, right to left and left to right in alternate lines.
- The Harappan script has not been deciphered so far.
- The evidence of a common script however points to great cultural integration, and its virtual disappearance by c.1700 BCE hints at the lack of sufficient downward percolation of writing.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2023**

**Q.9) Who among the following was called Indus region as “Meluhha”?**

- a) Mesopotamians
- b) Egyptians
- c) Persians
- d) Romans

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The inferences about Harappan Economy have been derived from its flourishing trade relations with its contemporary Mesopotamian and Persian civilisations.

The Mesopotamians called the Indus Region ‘Meluhha’.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

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

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Andhra Pradesh
- c) Uttar Pradesh
- d) Uttarakhand

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Rajaji National Park is an Indian national park and tiger reserve that encompasses the Shivaliks, near the foothills of the Himalayas.

It is spread over 820 km<sup>2</sup> and includes three districts of Uttarakhand: Haridwar, Dehradun and Pauri Garhwal.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

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## *Early and Later Vedic Civilization*

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**Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding “trade in harappan cities”:**

1. They carried out internal and external trade.
2. Metallic money was used for trade exchanges.

**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 inferences about Harappan Economy have been derived from its flourishing trade relations with its contemporary Mesopotamian and Persian civilisations.

- The Mesopotamians called the Indus Region ‘Meluhha’. The Mesopotamian texts speak of three intermediate trading stations called Dilmun (probably Bahrain on Persian Gulf), Makan (probably the Makran coast, Oman) and, Meluhha.
- They carried out internal and external trade. There was no metallic money in circulation and trade was conducted by means of barter. Inland transport primarily employed bullock carts.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.2) Which of the following statements is/are correct about Harrappan trade?**

1. There were bead-making factories at Chanhudaro and Lothal.
2. Three cylinder seals of the Mesopotamian type have been found at Mohenjo-Daro.
3. The Dockyard has been excavated at Lothal.

**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:** Harappans seals have been found in Mesopotamian cities like Susa and Ur. In Nippur, a seal has been found bearing Harappan script and a unicorn.

- Recently, some ancient sites in the Persian Gulf like Failaka and Bahrain have also yielded Harappan seals.
- In Mohenjo-Daro, three cylinder seals of the Mesopotamian type have been found, which underlines their trading relations. In Lothal, a button seal has been found.
- There were bead-making factories at Chanhudaro and Lothal. The products of these factories were items of export.
- A dockyard has been excavated in Lothal and sea ports have been found at Rangpur, Somnath and Balakot.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2023**

**Q.3) Which of the following pair/pairs is/are correctly matched about Harappan Imports?**

- |                 |   |               |
|-----------------|---|---------------|
| Metal           | : | Source region |
| 1. Gold         | : | Afghanistan   |
| 2. Copper       | : | Khetri        |
| 3. Lapis lazuli | : | Khorasan      |

**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:**

 **Harappan Imports**

Metals	Source Region
Gold	Afghanistan, Iran, Kolar (South India)
Copper	Khetri (Rajasthan), Baluchistan
Tin	Afghanistan, Iran
Lapis lazuli	Afghanistan
Jade	Pamir
Turquoise	Khorasan
Steatite	Tapi Chahya (Iran)
Bitumin	Baluchistan, Mesopotamia
Lead	South India

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding religion of Harappan people?**

- 1. Idolatry was practiced by harappan people.
- 2. The Harappan people generally worshipped Mother Goddess and Pashupati Mahadeva.

**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:** Harappan civilization is considered as a secular society as not a single structure qualifying as temple has been found.

- Sacred ritual spots included the Great Bath at Mohenjo-Daro, where the elite in all likelihood undertook ritual activity that included ceremonial bathing. Idolatry was practiced.
- The Harappan people generally worshipped: Mother goddess Pashupati Mahadeva or proto-Shiva.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2023**

**Q.5) Which of the following animal is not surrounded the seal of Pashupati Mahadeva?**

- a) Horse
- b) Tiger
- c) Rhino
- d) Deer

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The seal of Pashupati Mahadeva is surrounded by an elephant, a tiger, a rhino, a buffalo, and a deer, and it is likely that these animals were also worshipped.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.6) Consider the following statements:**

1. The Harappan civilization was the earliest known civilization to produce cotton.
2. The Harappans domesticated animals on a large scale.

**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 Harappan civilisation was the earliest known civilisation to produce cotton. Known as 'Sindon' by the Greeks as from Sindh.

- In the Indus plain, people sowed seeds in the flood plains in November, when the flood water receded and reaped their harvests of wheat and barley in April, before the advent of the next flood.
- They produced sufficient food grains to feed themselves and the surplus food grains were stored in granaries.
- The Harappans domesticated animals on a large scale. Besides cattle (oxen, buffaloes, goats, humped bulls, sheep, pigs, asses, and camels), cats and dogs were also domesticated.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.7) Which of the following sit of Harappan Civilization is also called as "Mound of the dead"?**

- a) Mohenjo Daro
- b) Kalibangan
- c) Chanhu Daro
- d) Koti-Diji

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The name Mohenjo-daro is reputed to signify "the mound of the dead." The archaeological importance of the site was first recognized in 1922, one year after the discovery of Harappa.

Subsequent excavations revealed that the mounds contain the remains of what was once the largest city of the Indus civilization.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2023**

**Q.8) Who among the following propounded the European theory of Aryan migration to Indus valley?**

- a) Sir William Jones
- b) Max Muller
- c) Dr. Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- d) Swami Dayanand Saraswati

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:**

Theory	Postulates	Supported by
European Theory	Continent of Europe is the home land of Aryans. On the basis of comparative linguistics of Greek, Latin, German, Gothic, Celtic, and Sanskrit (Indo-European family of languages), we find certain structural similarities and cognates (similar related words). For example, the Sanskrit words <i>matri</i> and <i>pitri</i> are similar to the Latin <i>mater</i> and <i>pater</i> . Similarly, <i>Inar</i> of the Hittite (Turkey) language is similar to <i>Indra</i> of the Vedas. <i>Suryyas</i> and <i>Maruttash</i> of the Kassite (Mesopotamia) inscriptions are equivalent of the Vedic <i>Surya</i> and <i>Marut</i> .	Sir William Jones (1786) Giles – Hungary Shroeder – France P. Nehring – Steppes (S. Russia) Morgan – Western Siberia

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

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

- a) Kerala
- b) Karnataka
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Telangana

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Periyar National Park, also known as Periyar Tiger Reserve, is in the mountainous Western Ghats of Kerala, southern India.

- This wildlife sanctuary is home to tigers and a significant elephant population, as well as rare lion-tailed macaques, sambar deer, leopards and Indian bison.
- In the park's north, Periyar Lake is popular for boat rides. Farther north, spice plantations surround the town of Kumily.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

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

- a) Jharkhand
- b) Chhattisgarh
- c) West Bengal
- d) Bihar

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The Palamau Tiger Reserve is one of the nine original tiger reserves in Jharkhand, India and the only one in this state.

It forms part of Betla National Park and Palamau Wildlife Sanctuary. As of 2022, the reserve is reported to be largely under Naxal control.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

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## *Early and Later Vedic Civilization*

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**Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding “Rig Vedic society”:**

1. It was a tribal society and its people lived a semi nomadic life.
2. Aryan tribes were called Janas.

**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:** Rig Vedic society was a tribal society and its people lived a seminomadic life. Aryan tribes were called Janas.

- Their chief (rajan) was known as the Gopati or Gopa (protector of cows), and the chief queen was called the Mahisi.
- The Janas often had conflicts with the Panis, who used to hide the cattle of Aryans in the forest and were thus deemed the enemies of Aryans.
- In order to get their cattle back, the Vedic God ‘Indra’ was invoked and many battles known as Gavisthi, Gaveshana, Goshu, or Gavyat (to search for cows) were fought between the Aryans and the Panis.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding “rig vedic society”:**

1. The society was divided on caste lines.
2. Occupation was based on birth.

**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:** The society’s political structure was somewhat similar to the monarchical form, but the Gopati’s office was not hereditary and he was selected among the clan’s men.

- The society was not divided on caste lines and even the Rajans, the Purohits, the artisans, etc., were part of the clan networks.
- Occupation was not based on birth. Members of a family could adopt different occupations.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**



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

1. The only mention of the four varnas was found in the Purusashukta of the tenth mandal of the Rig Veda.
2. The Rig Vedic people were not familiar with slavery.

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

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Thus, even though a socially organised “varna system” was not prevalent and tribal elements were stronger in the society, yet Rig Vedic society can still not be considered a totally egalitarian society as social stratification was based on the division of labour and gender.

The only mention of the four varnas was found in the Purusashukta of the tenth mandal of the Rig Veda, which makes one conclude that the varna system was probably introduced at the end of the Rig Vedic age and that there was social mobility and the absence of strict social hierarchy. However, the Rig Vedic people were familiar with slavery.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.4) Which of the following statements is/are correct about rig vedic society?**

1. The society was patriarchal in nature.
2. Women were educated and had access to the assembly.
3. Girls were free to choose their life partners.

**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 the Rig Veda, no desire is expressed for daughters, though the desire for children and cattle is a recurrent theme in the hymns.

- The society was patriarchal in nature, though the women had important positions in the society since they were educated and had access to the assembly.
- They composed hymns and received Upanayana. Women attended the meetings of the Vidatha.
- Girls were free to choose their life partners. There are no instances of child marriage, sati, or purdah in the Rig Veda.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2023**

**Q.5) Which of the following pair/pairs is/are correctly matched?**

- |            |   |                           |
|------------|---|---------------------------|
| 1. Sabha   | : | Elite body                |
| 2. Samiti  | : | Tribal assembly           |
| 3. Vidatha | : | Broad based folk assembly |

**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:**

Some important tribal assemblies of this period were:

- a. *Sabha* → Smaller body meant for elites (exclusive body).
- b. *Samiti* → Broad-based folk assembly, presided over by the *Rajan*
- c. *Vidatha* → Tribal assembly with diverse functions.
- d. *Gana* → Assembly or troop

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.6) Consider the following statements Rig Vedic society economy:**

- 1. It was predominantly based on agriculture.
- 2. Concept of private property was properly established.

**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:** Since the Rig Vedic society was a pastoral society, cattle rearing were their dominant activity.

- The chief measure of wealth was cattle and a wealthy man was known as Gomat, that is to say, one who owned many cattle.
- A large number of words are derived from the word 'gau', meaning cow.
- Evidence of trade and commerce is meagre, and there was no concept of private property based on land ownership. The clan as a whole enjoyed rights over the resources.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.7) The term "niskha" was associated with which of the following?**

- a) Currency
- b) Rituals
- c) Defense forces
- d) Horse chariots

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The unit of currency was niskha, which was made of gold. Barter was the model of exchange and the cow was an important unit of value.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.8) Consider the following statements rig vedic society:**

1. Shifting agriculture was practiced and fire was used to burn down forest cover.
2. They use iron technology.

**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:** Gift exchange and redistribution had an important economic role in the Rig Vedic society. Such exchanges, known as 'prestations', were done not on an individual level but at the group level.

- Apart from economic goods, this also included the exchange of other things such as women, courtesies, hospitality, and military assistance.
- The priests received dana (gifts) and dakshina (sacrificial offering) for their ritualistic services.
- Shifting agriculture was practiced and fire was used to burn down forest cover and the patch of land thus cleared was then sown. Apart from yava or barley, no other grain is mentioned.
- They did not use iron technology, but were familiar with copper. Also, there have been very less references to metallurgical activities.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding "rig vedic religion":**

1. There was neither temple nor idol worship in the Early Vedic age.
2. The Rig Veda reflects naturalistic polytheism.

**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:** There was neither temple nor idol worship in the Early Vedic age.

- The Rig Veda reflects naturalistic polytheism (similar to primitive animism) as they venerated natural forces like the wind, rain, water, thunder, etc. Very few temple divinities were venerated.
- They generally worshipped in the open air through yajnas.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2023**

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

- a) Uttar Pradesh
- b) Himachal Pradesh
- c) Arunachal Pradesh
- d) Andhra Pradesh

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Pin Valley National Park is the only National Park in Himachal Pradesh which is situated in the cold desert area. The park covering an area of 675 sq km as core zone and 1150 km as buffer zone.

- There are about 17 villages situated in the periphery of the park with a total population of about 1600 people.
- Besides this there are about 17 Dogharies (Summer settlements) with some cultivation inside the park. These Dogharies are used as summer residences by these people.
- The local residents in the whole Pin Valley consists of scheduled tribes belonging to Buddhist community.
- There is a famous Gompa in the Kungri vilage which is situated on the buffer zone of this park.
- The Chham dance and Buchen dance by the Lamas of this Gompa are very famous dances in the valley.

**Source:** <https://hplahaulspiti.nic.in/pin-valley-national-park/>

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## *Later Vedic Civilization*

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**Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding “Later Vedic Civilization”:**

1. In Later Vedic Period, the tiny tribal settlements of the Vedic period were replaced by stronger kingdoms.
2. The wars were fought for cows not for territories.

**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 Later Vedic Age is characterized by more complexities in social, political, and economic life.

- In terms of the political context, the tiny tribal settlements of the Vedic period were replaced by comparatively stronger kingdoms, while royal power increased.
- The term ‘Rashtra’ first appeared in this period. The wars were no longer fought for cows, but for territories.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding “Later Vedic Society”:**

1. Later Vedic society came to be known as Varna-ashrama-dharma society.
2. Caste exogamy was extensively practiced in Later Vedic Society.

**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 most important changes from the Rig Vedic society was the rise and growth of social differentiation in the form of the varna system.

- The Later Vedic society was clearly divided into four varnas: Brahmanas, Rajanyas or Kshatriyas, Vaishyas and Shudras.
- Another important institution that began to take shape was ashrama or the different stages of life.
- Together with varna, Later Vedic society came to be known as Varna-ashrama-dharma society.
- The upper three classes known as Dvija (twice born) discriminated against both Shudras and Chandalas.
- Caste exogamy was extensively practiced and a rigid social hierarchy developed, which restricted the social mobility of the earlier period.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding later vedic society:**

1. The families are became joint family.
2. The institution of gotra appeared in the Later Vedic culture.

**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 Later Vedic family became large enough to be called a joint family, with three or four generations living together.

- The rows of hearths discovered at Atranjikhhera and at Ahichchhtra (both in western Uttar Pradesh) show that these were meant for communal feeding or for cooking the food of large families.
- The institution of gotra appeared in the Later Vedic culture. Literally it means 'cow pen' or the place where cattle belonging to whole clan are kept, but in course of time it meant descent from a common ancestor.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding later vedic age economy:**

1. It was called as Painted Gray Ware – Iron Phase culture.
2. Agriculture emerged as the chief means of livelihood of the Later Vedic people.

**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 Later Vedic culture is also called as PGW–Iron Phase culture, as a particular kind of pottery (painted grey ware) was used during that phase.

- The main factor in the expansion of the Aryan culture during the Later Vedic period was the beginning of the use of iron, which was introduced around 1000 BCE and is mentioned as Krishna Ayas/Shyama Ayas.
- The Rig Vedic people knew of a metal, called ayas, which was either copper or bronze.
- The society was largely rural. However, towards the end of the period, there are traces of the beginning of urbanism (as nagar in the sense of a town is mentioned in the Taittiriya Aranyaka).
- Agriculture emerged as the chief means of livelihood of the Later Vedic people.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2023**

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

- a) Clan
- b) Marriage
- c) Education
- d) Women status

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The land was still communally owned over which the ‘vish’ (clan) had many participatory rights, but it was recognized as property and the head of the household who owned the land was termed as ‘Grahpati’.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.6) Which of the following metal/s is/are familiar by later vedic people?**

- 1. Tin
- 2. Lead
- 3. Copper

**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:** Diverse arts and crafts were practiced in the Later Vedic period. Tin, lead, silver, Iron, gold, bronze, and copper were known to Later Vedic people.

- There were probably good smiths and smelters as a lot of copper objects have been found at PGW Sites.
- People had obtained knowledge of glass manufacturing too.
- Shresthins indicate the guilds or organization of merchants.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.7) The term “sangrihitri” of later vedic period is known as?**

- a) Treasurer
- b) Land tax
- c) Army commander
- d) Spies

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Unlike the Rig Vedic age where only voluntary offerings were taken and per se no revenue collection was done, in the Later Vedic age, collection of taxes and tributes was made mandatory and were done by Sangrihitri.

It is equally interesting to note that the Vaishyas appear to be the only tribute payers in Later Vedic times.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding later vedic religion:**

1. It was focused on the centrality of the cult of sacrifice.
2. Yajnas involved the killing of animals on a large scale and the destruction of cattle wealth.

**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 Later Vedic culture was focused on the centrality of the cult of sacrifice.

- Sacrifice became more important and elaborate, and assumed both public and domestic character.
- There was an increase in the frequency and number of the yajnas, which generally involved the killing of animals on a large scale and the destruction of cattle wealth.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.9) “Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park” is recently seen in news is located at?**

- a) Gujarat
- b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Andaman & Nicobar Islands
- d) West Bengal

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park is a national park of India near Wandoor on the Andaman Islands. It belongs to the South Andaman administrative district, part of the Indian union territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

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

- a) Goa
- b) Odisha
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Kerala

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The Cotigao Wildlife sanctuary was set up in 1968 to protect the exposed stretch of woodland on the Goa-Karnataka border, which was home to a number of species of animal and bird life, as well as some rare, old trees.

- The 86 sq.km stretch of woodland boasts impressively tall trees which reach up to 30m and whose branches obscure the sun.
- So dense is this patch of woods that the sunlight is merely able to dapple the forest floor.
- Most of the vegetation in this area is of the moist-deciduous type, interspersed with semi-evergreen and evergreen patches.
- The residents of the forest are shy and do not often come out to inspect the visitors, but the area is a veritable feast for tree lovers and nature lovers with its abundance of vegetation and perennial streams.

**Source:** <https://goa-tourism.com/wildlife/cotigao-wildlife-sanctuary/>



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## *Early Janpath's*

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

1. The sixth century BCE is known as an era of Second Urbanization in the Indian Subcontinent.
2. After the decline of the Harappan towns the centre of economic and political activity shifted to Ganga basin.

**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 sixth century BCE is known as an era of 'Second Urbanisation' in the Indian Subcontinent.

- After the decline of the Harappan towns and nearly after a gap of more than a thousand years, urban centres emerged again but not in the Indus plain.
- The centre of economic and political activity shifted from the North-West, Punjab, Haryana, and Western UP, to Eastern UP and Bihar (Ganga Basin).
- This region was not only fertile on account of better rainfall and river systems, but was also closer to the iron production centres.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.2) According to Buddhist texts, Anguttara Nikaya, which of the following is/are mahajanapada/s?**

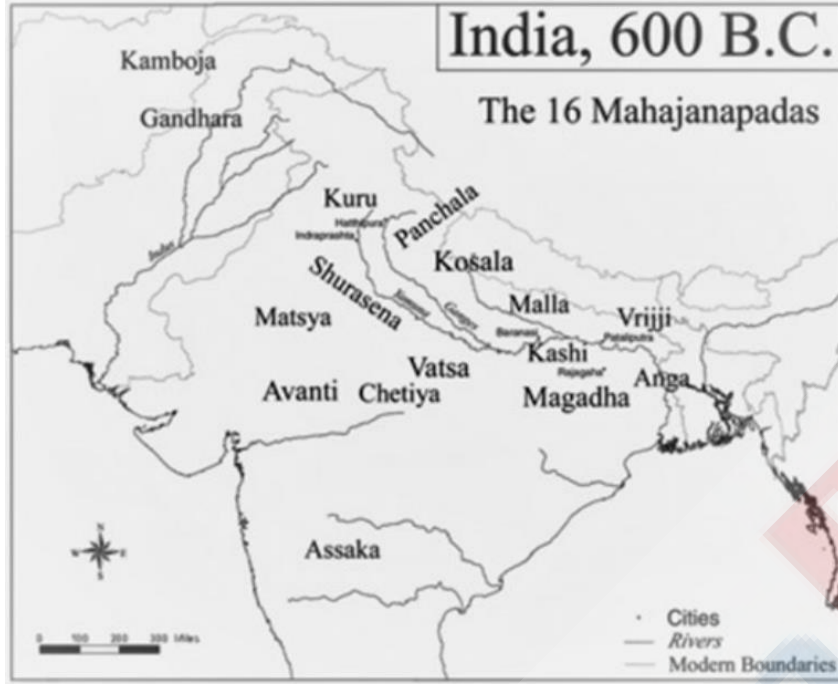
1. Anga
2. Vatsa
3. Dwarasamudra

**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:** According to Buddhist texts, Anguttara Nikaya (the land between Himalayas and Narmada) was divided into 16 independent states (Mahajanapadas):



**Mahajanapadas**

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.3) Which of the following mahajanapada/s is/are gana sanghas?**

1. Kosala
2. Vajji
3. Malla

**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:** It should be noted that the most powerful states in the 6th century were Magadha, Kosala, Vatsa, and Avanti and two of the Mahajanapads, the Vajji and Malla were Gana-Sanghas.

- The Gana-Sanghas (literally meaning an assembly of Gana, those who claim to be of equal status) were an alternative polity to the kingdoms.
- Unlike kingdoms where they had a single hereditary monarch, the Gana-Sanghas had a government by assembly and within this assembly too, they had an oligarchy.
- Some of the Ganas were of one clan, e.g., the Shakyas and the Mallas; while the others were confederation of several clans, e.g., Vajjis.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.4) Which of the following is/are the characteristic/s of gana sanghas?**

1. Gana-Sanghas were tolerated to unorthodox views and more open to individualistic opinion.
2. The Gana-Sanghas had only two strata—the ruling families and the slaves and labourers.
3. They were based in smaller geographical areas and had more representative government.

**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 chief office was not hereditary and was known as Ganapati or Ganaraja. The power was vested in an aristocratic council comprising heads of leading Kshatriya families and the authority structure of ganas had greater elements of tribal organisation.

- Most of the ganas were located in or near the Himalayan foothills in eastern India, which also suggests that probably their establishment predated the transition to kingdoms as clearing wooded low-lying hills was comparatively easier than the marshy jungles of the plain.
- The corporate aspect of government was a major attribute of Gana-Sanghas. They were based in smaller geographical areas and had more representative government.
- The Gana-Sanghas had only two strata—the kshatriya rajakula (ruling families) and the dasa-karmakara (slaves and labourers).
- Gana-Sanghas were more ready to tolerate unorthodox views and more open to individualistic or independent opinion than the kingdoms. This tolerance was the major reason that two of the most venerated gurus of the heterodox sects, i.e., Mahavira (Jainism, belonged to Vajji confederacy) and Buddha (Buddhism, belonged to Shakya clan) were able to propagate their philosophy in a more unrestricted way in Gana-Sanghas as compared to kingdoms.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

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

1. Magadha's rise to political supremacy began with Bimbisara.
2. Bimbisara was a contemporary of both Buddha and Mahavira.

**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:** Magadha's rise to political supremacy began with Bimbisara, who belonged to the Haryanka dynasty, and ruled for 52 years, from 544 to 492 BCE.

- In the Mahavamsa, it is stated that he was anointed as the king by his father at the age of 15, which suggests that he was not the founder of his dynasty.
- He was a contemporary of both Buddha and Mahavira, and paid equal respect to them.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.6) Which of the following dynasty was the earliest?**

- a) Shishunaga dynasty
- b) Haryanka dynasty
- c) Mauryan dynasty
- d) Nanda dynasty

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Haryanka dynasty was the earliest one.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding Ajatashatru:**

- 1. The Buddha died during his reign.
- 2. Arranged the first Buddhist council.

**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:** Ajathashatru was Son of Bimbisara, being impatient to rule Magadha, is believed to have killed his father and seized the throne.

- Most powerful and aggressive ruler of Haryanka dynasty and followed his father's expansionist policy through military conquest.
- The Buddha died during his reign, he arranged the first Buddhist council.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.8) Who among the following was organized the second Buddhist council?**

- a) Shishunaga
- b) Kalasoka
- c) Mahapadma Nanda
- d) Dhanananda

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Kalasoka is son and successor of Shishunaga, Also known as Kakarvarna (according to the Puranas). Second Buddhist Council held at Vaishali.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

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

- a) Ladakh
- b) Himachal Pradesh
- c) Uttar Pradesh
- d) Arunachal Pradesh

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Hemis National Park is a high-elevation national park in Ladakh, India. Globally famous for its snow leopards, it is believed to have the highest density of them in any protected area in the world.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2023**

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

- a) Arunachal Pradesh
- b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Meghalaya
- d) Assam

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Balpakram National Park is a national park to the south of Garo Hills in Meghalaya, India, located at an altitude of about 910 m close to the international border with Bangladesh.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

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## *Revision*

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**Q.1) Which of the following factor/s is/are responsible for making Magadha a success over other areas?**

1. Advantageous geographical position.
2. It had fertile alluvium and received heavy rainfall.
3. It had benefitted from numerous able and ambitious rulers.

**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:** Magadha could gradually establish its dominance over all other Mahajanapads on account of several factors.

- Firstly, Magadha enjoyed an advantageous geographical position. Due to its proximity and control over richest iron deposits (found around south Bihar), Magadhan weapons were far superior and effective.
- Secondly, Magadha lay at the centre of the middle Gangetic plain, which had fertile alluvium and received heavy rainfall. Thus, this area could be made more productive even without much irrigation.
- Thirdly, Magadha certainly benefitted from numerous able and ambitious rulers such as Bimbisara, Ajatashatru, and Mahapadma Nanda. They employed all fair and foul means at their disposal to enlarge their kingdoms.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.2) Which of the following is/are king/s of Haryanka dynasty?**

1. Bimbisara
2. Ajatashatru
3. Kalasoka

**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:** Magadha's rise to political supremacy began with Bimbisara, who belonged to the Haryanka dynasty, and ruled for 52 years, from 544 to 492 BCE.

- Ajatashatru (492 BCE – 460 BCE): Son of Bimbisara, being impatient to rule Magadha, is believed to have killed his father and seized the throne.
- Most powerful and aggressive ruler of Haryanka dynasty and followed his father's expansionist policy through military conquest.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2023**

**Q.3) Alexander attacked Punjab during reign of which of the following Magadhan king?**

- a) Ajatashatru
- b) Kalasoka
- c) Mahapadma Nanda
- d) Dhanananda

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Dhanananda: Last important king of the Nanda dynasty. Identified with the Agrammes or Xandrames of Greek classical writers.

- Credited with a huge army; it is believed that Alexander attacked Punjab during his reign but his huge army checked them from advancing towards Magadha.
- Credited with the invention of Nandopakramani (a particular measuring standard).

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

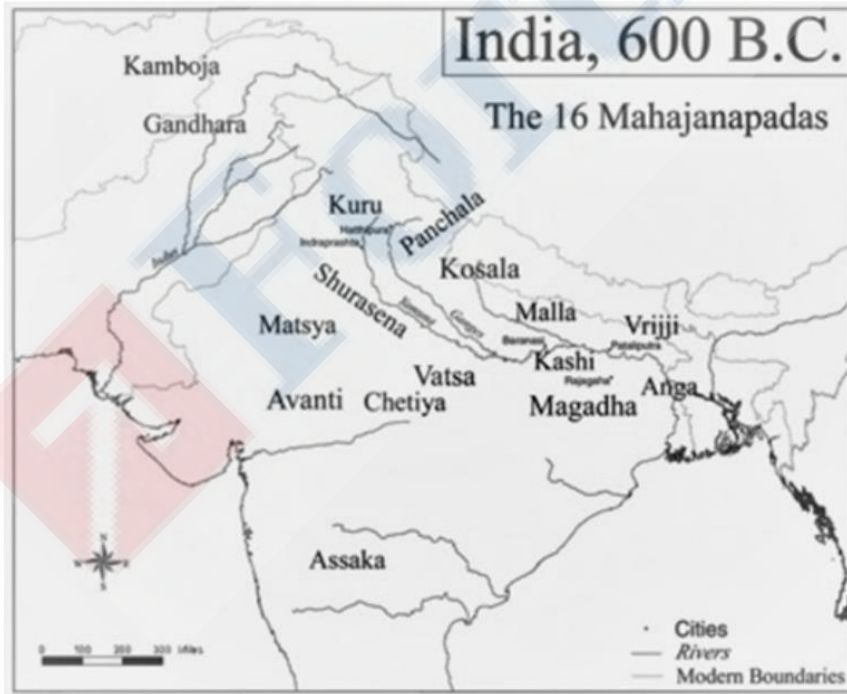
**Q.4) Which of the following Mahajanapada is NOT located at North – Western side of the Indian Subcontinent?**

- a) Avanti
- b) Kamboja
- c) Gandhara
- d) Madra

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** In north-east India, Magadha emerged as a formidable power and gradually smaller principalities and republics merged within it.

The situation in north-western India did not allow for such consolidation. The Mahajanapadas of Kamboja, Madra, and Gandhara were continuously fighting with each other.



**Mahajanapadas**

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2023**

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

1. The Achaemenid king Cyrus was the first ruler to invade the sub-continent.
2. The Persian king Darius annexed Punjab, the west of Indus, and Sindh.

**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:** Taking advantage of this political disunity, the Persian (Iranian) empire in the 6th century BCE penetrated into north-western India.

- The Achaemenid king Cyrus (558–529 BCE) was the first ruler to invade the sub-continent.
- He led a military expedition that destroyed the city of Kapisha (lying south east of the Hindu Kush Mountains) and received tribute from the people of Kamboja and Gandhara.
- Later, Persian king Darius, in 516 BCE, annexed Punjab, the west of Indus, and Sindh.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding Persian impact on Indian subcontinent:**

1. Introduction of the Kharoshthi script in North Western India.
2. The bell-shaped capitals and the preamble of Ashoka's edicts, have a lot of Iranian influence.

**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 200 years of Indo-Persian contact resulted in not only political influence, but also socioeconomic acculturation.

- Along with providing impetus to Indo-Persian trade and commerce, it resulted in forging cultural ties.
- The introduction of the Kharoshthi script, which was derived from Aramaic (the official script of the Persian Empire, written right to left like Arabic) in north-western India, is a fine example highlighting the Persian impact.
- Some of the Ashokan inscriptions in north-western India are written in this script. Persian sigloi-type coins were copied in India.
- It is possible that the rock inscriptions used by Ashoka in the 3rd century BCE was inspired by the Persian King Darius.
- The monuments of Ashoka's time, especially the bell-shaped capitals and the preamble of Ashoka's edicts, have a lot of Iranian influence.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**



**Q.7) On which of the following river bank, the king Alexander erected 12 huge stone altars to mark the farthest point of his advance?**

- a) River Beas
- b) River Indus
- c) River Ganga
- d) River Sutlej

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** When Alexander reached Beas, his soldiers, being war-weary, homesick and diseased, refused to go further. Therefore, he was forced to retreat.

To mark the farthest point of his advance, he erected 12 huge stone altars on northern bank of Beas.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.8) Which of the following is/are impact/s of Alexander's invasion on Indian subcontinent?**

- 1. Alexander's historians have left valuable geographical and historical/ chronological accounts of ancient Indian history.
- 2. It exposed India to Europe by opening up four distinct lines of communication — three by land and one by sea.

**3. Establishment of a cosmopolitan school of arts at Mathura.**

**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:** Alexander's invasion was the first occasion when ancient Europe came into close contact with ancient India and it produced significant outcomes.

- One of the most important outcomes of the invasion was the establishment of direct contact between India and Greece in different fields. Alexander's historians have left valuable geographical and historical/ chronological accounts of ancient Indian history.
- One of the other long-term effects of Alexander's campaign was that he exposed India to Europe by opening up four distinct lines of communication — three by land and one by sea (as Alexander sent his admiral Nearchus via sea route to Iran).
- Another significant cultural development was the establishment of a cosmopolitan school of arts at Gandhara.
- An indirect effect of Alexander's invasion was that it paved the way for unification of north India under Chandragupta Maurya.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

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

- a) Karnataka
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Madhya Pradesh
- d) Andhra Pradesh

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Kali Tiger Reserve is located in Uttara Kannada District of Karnataka State. Covering the taluks of Haliyal, Karwar and Joida, the Kali Tiger Reserve (KTR) is part of the Uttara Kannada district of Karnataka.

- It lies between latitudes 14° 57' 23.04" N longitudes 74° 15' 7.56" East and latitude 15° 9' 56.16" North longitude 74° 43' 10.56" East.
- The Tiger Reserve comprises of two important protected areas of the region viz., Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary and Anshi National Park.
- Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary (475.018 sq km) and Anshi National Park (339.866 sq km) are contiguous to each other and form a single tract of protected area located in biologically sensitive Western Ghats.
- These two protected areas are administratively unified under Dandeli-Anshi Tiger Reserve.

**Source:** [https://aranya.gov.in/aranyacms/\(S\(2tbdygdvwaalnkiyag32mlr\)\)/English/TigerReserves.aspx#explore](https://aranya.gov.in/aranyacms/(S(2tbdygdvwaalnkiyag32mlr))/English/TigerReserves.aspx#explore)

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

- a) Chhattisgarh
- b) Bihar
- c) Jharkhand
- d) West Bengal

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Guru Ghasidas National Park Guru Ghasidas (Sanjay) National park is a beautiful place, located in the Koriya district of the state of Chhattisgarh.

Total area of Park is about 1440.71 km<sup>2</sup>. It was declared as a National park in the year of 1981. The park has been renamed after the Satnami reformist hero, Guru Ghasidas.

**Source: 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.

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2023**

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.

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2023**

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.

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2023**

- 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**



**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2023**

**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**

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2023**

**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

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2023**

- 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?**

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

- Sariputta
- Mahakaccayana
- Ananda

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

- 1 only
- 1 and 2 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 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?**

- Sthaviravadins
- Sarvastivadins
- Nirgranthas

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

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

**ANS: B**

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

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2023**

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.

## PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2023

- 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>

## *Buddhism & Jainism*

**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?**



**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2023**

- 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
- The Svetambar sect

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2023**

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.

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2023**

- 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**

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2023**

**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.

- Chandragupta in all likelihood first established himself in Punjab and then moved eastwards until he gained control over the Magadha region.

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2023**

- 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**

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2023**

**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**

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2023**

**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.

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2023**

- 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.

- Chandoli Sanctuary is located in the western part of Maharashtra, at the junction of Sangli, Kolhapur, Satara, and Ratnagiri District.



**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2023**

- 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**



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## *The Mauryan & Post Mauryan Kingdoms*

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**Q.1) Which of the following is/are the achievements of the king Ashoka?**

1. He unified the country on political lines.
2. He adopted and preached tolerance & respect.
3. He promoted cultural contacts among different regions.

**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:** Ashoka was not only a great missionary ruler in the history of ancient India, but of the world too. He has great and path-breaking innovative achievements to his credit, such as:

- Political unification of the country: He not only added Kalinga to Mauryan dynasty but also bound the whole country together by one dhamma, one language, and practically one script of Brahmi (which is used in most of his inscriptions).
- Spread of tolerance and respect: He adopted and preached tolerance in not only the religious sphere (did not try to force his Buddhist faith on his subjects and made gifts to nonBuddhist sects as well, such as, donating Barbara caves to Ajivika ascetics), but in the case of scripts (other than Brahmi, he respected other scripts like Kharosthi, Aramaic, and Greek), and languages (Greek, Prakrit, and Sanskrit) too.
- Promotion of cultural contacts: He not only brought innovative administrative changes, but also promoted cultural contacts between Indian states and between India and the outer world too. It would not be an exaggeration if Ashoka is considered the first global cultural ambassador of India.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding “Mauryan Administration”:**

1. The Mauryas had a vast and de-centralized bureaucratic rule with king as the fountainhead of all powers.
2. Ashoka’s empire was probably divided into provinces with a viceroy in each province.

**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 Maurya period was marked by innovative administrative changes and an elaborate administration.

- It is generally believed that the Mauryas had a vast and highly centralised bureaucratic rule with king as the fountainhead of all powers;

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2023**

- Though it is claimed that Mauryan kings (especially Ashoka) claimed paternal despotism rather than divine rule.
- Ashoka's empire was probably divided into provinces with a viceroy in each province.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.3) "Pativedakas and Pulisani" are associated with which of the following?**

- Special reporters
- Female bodyguards
- Agricultural labors
- Domestic slaves

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** There is also mention of Pativedakas and Pulisani who functioned as special reporters of the king and kept him informed of public opinion.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.4) Which of the following pair/s is/are correctly matched?**

- Samahartri : Chief collector of revenue
- Samnidhatri : Treasurer
- Dauvarika : Records-cum-audit office

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

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Among all the executive officials, Samahartri (chief collector of revenue) was the most important and his responsibility involved maintaining accounts and collection of taxes from all types of sources.

Most of the superintendents mentioned above functioned on his orders. There was also the office of Samnidhatri (treasurer) who was also in charge of the royal stores, akshapatala (records-cum-audit office), and dauvarika (chief of the palace attendants).

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.5) Which of the following is/are province/s of Ashokan Empire?**

- Taxila
- Tosali
- Suvarnagiri

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

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Apart from Magadha with its capital at Pataliputra, the Mauryan Empire was divided into four other provinces, with capitals at Taxila (north-western India), Suvarnagiri

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2023**

(southern India), Tosali (eastern India), and Ujjain (western India). During Ashoka's reign, a fifth province of Kalinga was added.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.6) The city administration of Pataliputra was conducted by six committees, which of the following is/are committee/s?**

1. Industry
2. Tax collection
3. Agriculture

**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 municipal administration of Pataliputra, the capital city of Mauryas, was of a unique character.

- The city administration of Pataliputra, according to Megasthenes and corroborated by Arthashastra, was conducted by six committees of five members each.
- Each committee was assigned different subjects such as industry, foreigners, birth and death registration, trade and market regulations, and tax collection to look after.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.7) The term "Maula" was associated with which of the following?**

- a) Hereditary warriors
- b) Mercenaries
- c) Security of frontier forts
- d) Slave soldiers

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** In Arthashastra, there is mention of periodic levies of troops such as Maula (hereditary warriors), Bhartiakas (mercenaries), and forest tribe soldiers, and allies (furnished by friends).

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding "Mauryan Administration":**

1. Soldiers and officials were paid in cash.
2. Taxes were levied in both cash and kind.

**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 Mauryas maintained a huge standing army and employed a large number of state officials.

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2023**

- Since these soldiers and officials were paid in cash, the state taxes were not considered sufficient to meet all the needs of the state.
- Hence it had to undertake and regulate numerous economic activities to generate more and more resources. Taxes were levied in both cash and kind.
- The mainstay of economy in this period was agriculture (animal husbandry and trade were other main occupations), and the land revenue was the main source of income.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding Mauryan Administration:**

1. The notion of private property of Kshetra had emerged and got established during this time.
2. The bali was the main item of revenue and was levied at the rate of one-sixth of the produce.

**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 mainstay of economy in this period was agriculture (animal husbandry and trade were other main occupations), and the land revenue was the main source of income.

- Principal crops were various varieties of rice, barley, millet, wheat, sugarcane, and most of the pulses, peas, and oilseeds.
- The notion of private property of Kshetra (land which could be sold under certain regulations) had emerged and got established during this time.
- The bali (land tax or tax on the area of land) was the main item of revenue and was levied at the rate of one-sixth of the produce.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.10) “Mrugavani National Park” often seen in news is related to which of the following?**

- a) Andhra Pradesh
- b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Telanagana
- d) Karnataka

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Mrugavani National Park is a national park located in Hyderabad, Telangana State, India.

- It is situated at Chilkur in Moinabad mandal, 20 km from MGBS and covers an area of 3.6 square kilometres or 1211 acres.
- It is home to a 600 different types of plant life. The Park is home to around 350 spotted deer.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

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## *Post Mauryan Kingdoms and the Early Kingdoms in Southern India*

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**Q.1) With reference to the mauryan administration, which of the following was/were the tax/taxes?**

1. Kara
2. Pindakara
3. Hiranya

**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:** Peasants had to pay many other taxes like Pindakara (assessed on groups of villages), Hiranya (paid only in cash), Kara (levied on fruits and flower gardens), etc., but the exact nature of all of them is still not very clear.

Land tax was collected by a class of officials called Agranomoi (by Megasthenes).

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.2) The term “udaka-bhaga” is associated with which of the following?**

- a) Water tax
- b) Taxes on trade
- c) Slavery trade
- d) Agricultural tax

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The importance of irrigation was fully realised and peasants had to pay more tax on irrigated land known as udaka-bhaga (water rate, and generally levied at one-fifth to one-third of the produce).

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.3) With reference to mauryan administration, the term “Sitadhyaksha” is associated with which of the following?**

- a) Superintendent of agriculture
- b) Treasurer
- c) Village tax official
- d) Village head

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** People from overpopulated areas, slaves, and prisoners of war were brought to these new settlements to work on the fields.

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2023**

These villages belonged to the king and were looked after by government officials called Sitadhyaksha (Superintendent of agriculture).

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.4) Which of the following was/were the textile manufacturing centre/s of Mauryan Empire?**

1. Mathura
2. Ujjain
3. Gandhara

**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:** Trade and urban economy received great impetus under the Mauryas and influenced almost all parts of the empire.

The main centres of textile manufacturing were Varanasi, Mathura, Bengal, Gandhara, and Ujjain.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.5) Which of the following pair/s is/are correctly matched?**

- |                  |   |                   |
|------------------|---|-------------------|
| 1. Sutradhyaksha | : | textile workshops |
| 2. Rathadhyaksha | : | chariot workshops |
| 3. Akaradhyaksha | : | Mining workshops  |

**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 state also functioned as entrepreneur and state-run textile workshops were placed under Sutradhyaksha, and chariot workshops under a Rathadhyaksha.

Mining and metallurgy was another important economic activity and the mine officer was called Akaradhyaksha.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.6) The “Tamralipti”, famous ancient sea port is located at?**

- a) West Bengal
- b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Broach
- d) Kochi

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Pataliputra was also connected through various trade routes with all parts of the subcontinent.

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2023**

- The main centre of trade in the northwest was Taxila, which was further connected with central Asian markets.
- Tamralipti (Tamluk in West Bengal) in the east and Broach in the west were important seaports.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

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

1. Karamakara : Wage labor
2. Visthi : Forced labor
3. Dasas : Bonded labor

**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:** Artisans living in towns had to pay taxes either in cash or kind or work free for the king (visthi, i.e., forced labour).

Arthashastra mentions wage labour (karamakara), bonded labour and slave labour (dasas and ahitakas, i.e., those pledged to creditors when contracting a debt).

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

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

- a) Guilds
- b) Slave labors
- c) Spies
- d) Agriculture credit

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Traders and artisans were organized in corporate associations called shrenis or guilds or puga to protect their rights. The guilds were headed by Jesthaka.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

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

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Chhattisgarh
- d) Bihar

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Chandoli National Park is a national park established in Sangli district on May 2004. Earlier it was a Wildlife Sanctuary declared in 1985.

Chandoli Park is notable as the southern portion of the Sahyadri Tiger Reserve, with Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary forming the northern part of the reserve.

**Source: FORUMIAS**



**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2023**

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

- a) Assam
- b) Gujarat
- c) Tripura
- d) Odisha

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The Deepor Beel Wildlife Sanctuary, in the Kamrup district of the lower Brahmaputra valley, is a perennial freshwater lake just outside Guwahati, Assam. It is the state's only Ramsar site.

- The Ramsar Convention on wetlands conservation is an international treaty signed in 1971 named after Ramsar in Iran.
- The Deepor Beel is also the only central storm-water storage basin for Guwahati and is well-known locally as a tourist spot.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

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## *Post Mauryan Kingdoms and the Early Kingdoms in Southern India*

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**Q.1) With reference to mauryan administration, which of the following pair/s is/are correctly matched?**

- |                    |   |                            |
|--------------------|---|----------------------------|
| 1. Panyadhyaksha   | : | Officer in charge of trade |
| 2. Rupadarshaka    | : | Superintendent of markets  |
| 3. Pautavadhyaksha | : | Inspector of coins         |

**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:** Certain important officials of mauryan administration were:

- Panyadhyaksha (Officer in charge of trade, price fixation, and sale of goods produced by state-run manufacturing units)
- Sansthadyaksha (Superintendent of markets)
- Rupadarshaka (Inspector of coins)
- Pautavadhyaksha (In charge of standardised weights and measures)

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

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

- 1. The Mauryas were responsible for introduction of iron on a large scale in different parts of the sub-continent.
- 2. Loha – adyaksha was responsible for large scale production of iron.

**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 Mauryas were responsible for introduction of iron on a large scale in different parts of the sub-continent.

They maintained a monopoly over the production of iron, which was in great demand by the army, industry, and agriculture. It was done through the official called Loha-adyaksha.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2023**

**Q.3) Which of the following Ashokan pillar/s is/are made out of stone sculptures?**

1. Sarnath
2. Lauriya Nandangarh
3. Rampurva

**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:** Ashoka's greatest innovation was the substitution of stone for wood and brick. Ashokan pillars at Rampurva, Lauriya Nandangarh, and Sarnath present excellent examples of stone sculptures that developed in this period.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.4.) Which of the following kingdoms was/were formed arose on the ruins of the Maurya Empire?**

1. Shungas
2. Kanvas
3. Rashtrakutas

**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 anti-sacrifice attitude of Buddhism and deriding of the superfluous rituals performed by them by Ashoka must have brought loss to the income and livelihood options of Brahmanas who used to live on the varied gifts made to them.

They wanted a ruler who would uphold their existing interests and privileges. It is rather interesting to note that some of the new kingdoms that arose on the ruins of the Maurya Empire were ruled by Brahmanas such as the Shungas and the Kanvas in Central India and the Satavahanas in the Deccan.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.5) "Patanjali", the notable grammarian who wrote the Mahabhasya was a contemporary of?**

- a) Pushyamitra Sunga
- b) Brihadratha
- c) Agnimitra
- d) Bhagabhadra

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Patanjali, the notable grammarian who wrote the Mahabhasya was a contemporary of Pushyamitra Sunga.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.6) Around 200 BCE, we witness invasions by various groups of people based in Central Asia and western China, which of the following group/s was/were invaded Indian Subcontinent?**

1. Shakas
2. Pahlavas
3. Kushanas

**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:** Around 200 BCE, we witness invasions by various groups of people based in Central Asia and western China.

These were Indo-Greeks, the Scythians or the Shakas, the Parthians or the Pahlavas and the Kushanas.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.7) Who among the following was converted the Indo-Greek ruler Menander to Buddhism?**

- a) Kalidasa
- b) Panini
- c) Patanjali
- d) Nagasena

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Menander was converted to Buddhism by Nagasena has been identified with the King Milinda mentioned in the famous Buddhist text Milindapanho (Question of Milinda), which contains philosophical questions that Milinda asked Nagasena (the Buddhist author of the text). The text claims that impressed by the answers, the king accepted Buddhism as his religion.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding Indo – Greek rule:**

1. The Indo-Greeks were the first rulers to issue gold coins in India.
2. The Indo-Greek coins were miniatures of aesthetic excellence, of precise economic value.

**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 Indo-Greeks were the first rulers in India to issue coins (gold, silver, copper, and nickel) which can be definitely attributed to any dynasty and were also the first to issue gold coins in India (which increased in number under the Kushanas).

- Interestingly, the coins of the Shakas, Parthians and the Kshatrapas followed the basic features of Indo-Greek coinage, including the bilingual and bi-script legends.

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2023**

- Indo-Greek coins were miniatures of aesthetic excellence, of precise economic value and also providing useful information on emerging religious sects and cults (specially Shaiva and Bhagvata sects) that were prominent in that area.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.9) Which of the following kingdom was also called as “Yueh-Chis”?**

- a) Kushans
- b) Pahalvas
- c) Shakas
- d) Pratiharas

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The Kushanas were also referred as Yueh-Chis (Moon tribe) or Tocharians, who were one of the five clans (Kuei-shang) into which the Yue-chi tribe was divided.

They were nomadic tribal people who were originally from the steppes of north Central Asia.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

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

- a) Kerala
- b) Karnataka
- c) Andhra Pradesh
- d) Goa

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Mathikettan Shola National Park is a 12.82 km<sup>2</sup> national park in Poopara village of Udumbanchola taluk in Idukki district of Kerala state, South India. It notified area national park in 21 November 2003.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

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## *Post Mauryan Kingdoms and the Early Kingdoms in Southern India*

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**Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding “Kanishka”:**

1. He was adopted the title of devanampiya.
2. He held the fourth Buddhist council under the presidency of Nagarjuna.

**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:** Kanishka was the son of Kadphises II and is perhaps the most famous Kushana king, under whose reign the Kushana Empire reached its zenith.

- Adopted the title of ‘Devputra’, and has been shown wearing a ‘peaked helmet’ on some coins.
- Held the fourth Buddhist council at Kundalavana (near Srinagar in Jammu and Kashmir) under the presidency of Vasumitra.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

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

1. Ashvagosha : Saundarananda
2. Charaka : Mahavibhasa
3. Vasumitra : Sasruta

**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:** Ashvagosha: A Buddhist scholar who wrote the hagiographic Buddhacharita (the sacred biography of the Buddha) and composed the Saundarananda (a Sanskrit kavya).

- Charaka: He is known as the father of Ayurveda who wrote a book on medicine called Charaksamhita and also wrote the Sasruta.
- Vasumitra: An eminent philosopher who authored the encyclopaedia of Buddhist philosophy called Mahavibhasa.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.3) Who among the following repairs the Sudharshan Lake from Chandragupta Maurya's reign?**

- a) Rudradaman I
- b) Chashtana
- c) Vishvasena
- d) Nahapana

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Rudradaman I (c.130 CE–152 CE): The most famous of all the Shaka kshtarapa rulers, who ruled in the middle of second century CE.

- His empire was spread over almost whole of western India which included Sindh, Gujarat, Konkan, Narmada Valley, Malwa and Kathiawar except the Nashik and Pune areas.
- He is famous in history because of the repairs he undertook to improve the Sudarshan Lake from Chandragupta Maurya's reign, located in the semi-arid zone of Kathiawar, and this task is described in the famous Junagarh or Girnar Inscription (dated in the Shaka year 72, i.e., 150– 151 CE).

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.4) Who among the following introduced the 'Satrap' system of government?**

- a) Kushans
- b) Indo – Greeks
- c) Mauryans
- d) Satavahanas

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The Central Asian conquerors introduced new styles in administration. For instance, the Indo-Greeks introduced the practice of military governorship wherein they appointed military governors called strategos while the Kushanas introduced the 'Satrap' system of government, under which the empire was divided into numerous satrapis and each satrapi was placed under the rule of a satrap.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.5) Who among the following is/are patronized the Amravati school of art?**

- 1. Kushans
- 2. Satavahanas
- 3. Ikshavaku

**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:** The Amravati school of art flourished in Andhra Pradesh between the lower valleys of the rivers Krishna and Godavari.

The main patrons of this art form were the Satavahanas, but it carried on even later, patronised by their successor Ikshavaku rulers.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.6) Which of the following is/are the characteristic feature/s of the Amravati school of art?**

1. The Narrative art.
2. Use of white marble stone.
3. Prominent use of human figures.

**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 Amravati school of art flourished in Andhra Pradesh between the lower valleys of the rivers Krishna and Godavari.

- This school of art is said to have flourished between 150 BCE and 350 CE. Sculptures of this school are mainly found on the railings, plinths, and other parts of stupas.
- The thematic representations include the stories from the life of the Buddha.
- An important characteristic of the Amravati school is the 'narrative art'. The medallions were carved in such a manner that they depict an incident in a natural way.
- For example, one medallion depicts a whole story of 'taming of an elephant by the Buddha'.
- Another important feature of Amravati art is the use of white marble-like stone to carve out the figures.
- There is a prominence of human figures in comparison to figures drawn from nature.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.7) Which of the following sea port/s was/were the bone of contention between the Satavahana and Shaka Kshatrapas of Western India?**

1. Bhargukachcha
2. Suparaka
3. Tamralipti

**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 earliest Satavahana inscriptions belong to the 1st century BCE, when they defeated the Kanvas and established their rule over parts of central India.

- It is also pertinent to note that the early Satavahana kings appeared not in Andhra but in north Maharashtra (the fertile basin of the upper Godavari valley), where their earliest coins and inscriptions have been found. Gradually, they extended their power over Karnataka and Andhra.
- Their greatest competitors were the Shaka Kshatrapas of Western India, who had established themselves in the upper Deccan and western India.



**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2023**

- Control of the prominent seaports such as Bhargukachcha (Broach), Kalyan, and Suparaka (Sopara) must have been a bone of contention between the two.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.8) Who among the following was the founder of Satavahana Dynasty?**

- Gautamiputra Satkarni
- Vashishthiputra Pulumayi
- Simuka
- Yajna Sri Satakarni

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Simuka: Founder of the Satavahana Dynasty and was immediately active after Ashoka's death.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.9) "Mount Manipur National Park" is recently seen in news is located at?**

- Manipur
- Andaman & Nicobar Islands
- Lakshadweep Islands
- Tripura

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Mount Harriet National Park, officially renamed as Mount Manipur 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) "Singalila National Park" is recently seen in news is located at?**

- West Bengal
- Arunachal Pradesh
- Nagaland
- Assam

**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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## *Post Mauryan Period & the Gupta Empire and their Successors*

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**Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding the “Satavahanas”:**

1. The Satavahanas assumed the title of Dakshinapathapati.
2. The Satavahanas are known in history for starting the practice of giving royal grants of land to Brahmanas and Buddhist 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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The Satavahanas claimed Brahmana descent and performed Vedic rituals and worshipped gods like Krishna, Vasudeva, as evident in the Naneghat cave inscription of Naganika (1st century BCE), which mentions the great sacrifices performed by Satkarni I.

- Another striking feature of the kings pertaining to this dynasty was that they used matronyms such as Gautamiputra and Vashishthiputra, although they were not matrilineal or matriarchal in any sense.
- The Satavahanas assumed the title of Dakshinapathapati (Lord of the Dakshinapatha).
- The Satavahanas are also known in history for starting the practice of giving royal grants of land to Brahmanas and Buddhist monks, including those associated with tax exemptions.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.2) “In Nasik inscription, he is described as the destroyer of the Shakas, Pahlavas, and the Yavanas, as the uprooter of the Kshaharatas and as the restorer of the glory of the Satvahanas” – describes who among the following?**

- a) Gautamiputra Satkarni
- b) Pulumayi II
- c) Vashishthiputra Pulumayi
- d) Yajna Sri Satakarni

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Gautamiputra Satkarni achievements are described and eulogised after his death, during his son Pulumayi II's reign, in a Nashik Inscription of his mother Gautami Balashri (written in Prakrit).

In this inscription, he is described as the destroyer of the Shakas, Pahlavas, and the Yavanas, as the up-rooter of the Kshaharatas and as the restorer of the glory of the Satvahanas.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2023**

**Q.3) Who among the following authored the Gatha Sattasai, which is a collection of 700 erotic poems in the Maharashtri Prakrit dialect?**

- a) Chanda Satakarni
- b) Vasisthiputra Vijaya Satkarni
- c) Yajnashri Satakarni
- d) Hala

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The successors of Yajnashri Satakarni included Gautamiputra Vijaya Satakarni, Chanda Satakarni, Vasisthiputra Vijaya Satkarni, Pulumavi, and Hala (probably the 17th king in the line, also a great poet who authored the Gatha Sattasai, which is a collection of 700 erotic poems in the Maharashtri Prakrit dialect).

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.4) Which of the following pair/s is/are correctly matched?**

- 1. Vakatakas : Deccan
- 2. Kadambas : Mysore
- 3. Abhiras : Maharashtra

**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 the mid 3rd century CE, the Satavahana dynasty came to an end and various forces came into power in their stead: the Vakatakas in the Deccan, the Kadambas in Mysore, the Abhiras in Maharashtra, and the Ikshvakus in Andhra emerged as the main rulers.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.5) The terms “kataka and skandhavaras” is associated with which of the following?**

- a) Military camps
- b) Merchant guilds
- c) Agricultural labors
- d) Bonded labors

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The military character of the Satavahanas is also evident with the use of terms like kataka and skandhavaras in their inscriptions, which denote military camps and settlements attached to a particular king and also served as administrative centres.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2023**

**Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding “Mauryan Administration”:**

1. The Satavahana king was represented as the upholder of dharma.
2. The military and feudal traits are found in the administration of the Satavahanas.

**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 Satavahana king was represented as the upholder of dharma and he generally strove for the royal and divine ideal set forth in the dharmashastras.

- The Satavahanas retained some of the administrative units of Ashokan times. The kingdom was divided into subdivisions called aharas or rashtras, meaning districts.
- There were also officers called amatyas/mahamatras who were perhaps ministers or advisors of the king.
- But, unlike Mauryan times, certain military and feudal traits are found in the administration of the Satavahanas.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

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

1. The official language of the Satavahanas was Sanskrit.
2. The Karle Chaitya in the western Deccan belongs to Satavahana era.

**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:** During the Satavahana phase, many chaityas (sacred shrines) and viharas (monasteries) were cut out of the solid rock in the north-western Deccan or Maharashtra with great precision and skill.

- The Karle Chaitya in the western Deccan belongs to this era.
- The Nashik inscriptions of Nahapana and Gautamiputra Satakarni, which are on the walls of the three viharas, is another important architectural site belonging to this period.
- The official language of the Satavahanas was Prakrit, though the script was Brahmi.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2023**

**Q.8) “Agattiyam”, which was the first known book on Tamil grammar, was written by?**

- a) Agathiyar
- b) Tolkappiyar
- c) Tiruvalluvar
- d) Kannagi

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Apart from these poems, the first two books of the Tolkappiyam (a book on Tamil grammar and poetics written by Tolkappiyar) are also a part of the corpus of Sangam Literature.

- There is also mention of the Agattiyam, which was the first known book on Tamil grammar.
- It was supposedly written by the sage Agathiyar, and is believed to be lost beyond redemption.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.9) The term “Vendar” was associated with which of the following?**

- a) Merchant guilds
- b) Crowned kings
- c) Village head
- d) Slave labors

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The southern end of the Indian peninsula situated south of the Krishna River was divided amongst three early kingdoms and a large number of chieftains wherein the chieftainship was hereditary.

The important vendar (crowned kings) who dominated the Tamilakam region during the Sangam Age were the Pandyas in the valleys of the Tamrapani (Sri Lanka) and Vaigai, the Cholas in the lower Krishna valley, and the Cheras on the Kerala coast.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

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

- a) Uttar Pradesh
- b) Bihar
- c) Chhattisgarh
- d) West Bengal

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The Dudhwa National Park is a national park in the Terai belt of marshy grasslands in northern Uttar Pradesh, India.

It stretches over an area of 490.3 km<sup>2</sup>, with a buffer zone of 190 km<sup>2</sup>. It is part of the Dudhwa Tiger Reserve in the Kheri and Lakhimpur districts.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

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## *Gupta Empire*

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**Q.1) The word Dinara used for the gold coins in the Gupta inscription is derived from which of the following Language?**

- a) Sanskrit
- b) Greek
- c) Chinese
- d) Latin

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The word Dinara used for the gold coins in the Gupta inscription is derived from Latin. The main purpose behind the choice of Gupta coin designs seems to have been one of political propaganda.

**Source: Tamil Nadu Board**

**Q.2) Who among the following was given the title of “SAKARI”?**

- a) Sri Gupta
- b) Ghatotkacha
- c) Chandragupta II
- d) Samudragupta

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The Gupta inscriptions mention that Chandragupta II succeeded his father, Samudragupta. He inherited the military genius of his father and extended the Gupta empire by conquest of his own. He annexed the territories of Sakas of Malwa, Gujarat and Saurashtra. For this he was given the title of “Sakari” or Conqueror of Sakas.

**Source: Tamil Nadu Board**

**Q.3) Which of the following Gupta ruler defeated the Hunas?**

- a) Samudragupta
- b) Chandragupta II
- c) Kumargupta
- d) Skandgupta

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Skandgupta was the Gupta ruler who defeated the Hunas. Soon after his accession, Skandagupta had to face the Hun as who had already proved themselves to be terror to both Europe and Asia. About the middle of die fifth cent my AD, one branch of the Hun as known as White Hun as occupied die Oxus valley and threatened both Persia and India. They conquered Gandhara and threatened the very existence of the Gupta Empire. Skandgupta inflicted such a terrible defeat upon the Hun as that they dared not disturb the empire for nearly half a century.

**Source: Tamil Nadu Board**

**Q.4) Considering the following pairs:**

<b>Book</b>	<b>Author</b>
1. Surya Siddhanta	Aryabhatta
2. Ritusamhara	Kalidasa
3. Brihat Samhita	Brahmagupta

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

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:**

- The Gupta period witnessed a brilliant activity in the sphere of mathematics, astronomy, astrology and medicine. Aryabhatta was a great mathematician and astronomer. He wrote the book Aryabhatiya and Surya Siddhanta. It deals with mathematics and astronomy. It explains scientifically the occurrence of solar and lunar eclipses. Aryabhatta was the first to declare that the earth was spherical in shape and that it rotates on its own axis.
- The court of Chandragupta II was adorned by the celebrated Navratnas. Kalidasa remain the foremost among them. His master-piece was the Sanskrit drama Shakuntala. It is considered one among the 'hundred best books of the world'. He wrote two other plays - the Malavikagnimitra and Vikramorvasiya. His two well-known epics are Raghuvamsa and Kumarasambhava. Ritusamhara and Meghaduta are his two lyrics.
- Varahamihira composed Pancha Siddhantika, the five astronomical systems. He was also a great authority on astrology. His work Brihadsamhita is a great work in Sanskrit literature. It deals with a variety of subjects like astronomy, astrology, geography, architecture, weather, animals, marriage and omens. His Brihadjataka is considered to be a standard work on astrology.

**Source: Tamil Nadu Board**

**Q.5) The Satashashtri-Samhita is the nickname of which of the following texts?**

- a) Rigveda
- b) Mahabharata
- c) Ramayana
- d) Ashtadhyayi

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:**

The Mahabharata is a major Sanskrit epic written by Vyasa and is considered one of the two major epics, the other being Ramayana.

It is also called Jaisamhita and Satashasri Samhita and has one lakh verses.

It narrates the struggle between the two main noble families of Pandavas and Kauravas.

**Source: Tamil Nadu Board**

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2023**

**Q.6) Mudrarakshasam, which provide details about the rise of the Guptas has been authored by who among the following?**

- Kamandaka
- Amarsimha
- Vishakadutta
- Kalidasa

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The Mudrarakshasa ('The Signet of the Minister') is Vishakhadatta's Sanskrit-language drama about the ascension of King Chandragupta Maurya to power in India. The play is creative writing, although it is not wholly fictitious. It has been dated from the late fourth century to the eighth century CE.

**Source: Tamil Nadu Board**

**Q.7) Consider the following statements with respect to taxation during Gupta period:**

- Halivakara is a plough tax paid by every cultivator owning a plough.
- Klipta and Upakilpta is related to sale and purchase of cows.

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

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:**

Tax	Nature
Bhaga	King's customary share of the produce normally amounting to one-sixth of the produce paid by cultivators
Bhoga	Periodic supply of fruits, firewood, flowers, etc., which the village had to provide to the king
Kara	A periodic tax levied on the villagers (not a part of the annual land tax)
Bali	A voluntary offering by the people to the king, but later became compulsory. It was an oppressive tax.
Udianga	Either a sort of police tax for the maintenance of police stations or a water tax. Hence, it was also an extra tax.
Uparikara	Also an extra tax. Scholars give different explanations about what it was collected for.
Hiranya	Literally, it means tax payable on gold coins, but in practice, it was probably the king's share of certain crops paid in kind.
Vata-Bhuta	Different kinds of cess for maintenance of rites for the winds ( <i>vata</i> ) and the spirits ( <i>bhuta</i> )
Halivakara	A plough tax paid by every cultivator owning a plough
Sulka	A royal share of merchandise brought into a town or harbour by merchants. Hence it can be equated with the customs and tolls.
Klipta and Upakilpta	related to sale and purchase of lands.

**Source: Tamil Nadu Board**



**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2023**

**Q.8) "Khila" is a term that was used for which of the following type of land during Gupta period?**

- a) Cultivable Land
- b) Habitable Land
- c) Pastoral Land
- d) Waste Land

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:**

Kshetra	Cultivable land
Khila	Waste land
Aprahata	Jungle or waste land
Vasti	Habitable land
Gapata Saraha	Pastoral land

**Source: Tamil Nadu Board**

**Q.9) Consider the following pairs:**

<b>Term</b>	<b>Post</b>
1. Dandanayakas	High ranking Judicial Officer
2. Mahashvapati	Commander of the cavalry
3. Sandhivigrahika	Minister for peace and war

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

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:**

<b>Officer</b>	<b>Function</b>
Mahabaladhikrita	Commander-in-Chief
Mahadandanayak	Chief Justice
Mahapratihar	Maintenance of Royal Palace
Mahasandhivigrahak	Post-war conciliation
Dandapashika	Police department head
Bhandagaradhikreta	Head of Royal treasury
Mahapaksha-patalik	Head of account department
Vinayasthitisansathapak	Head of education department
Sarvadyaksha	Inspector for all central department
Mahashvapati	Controller of cavalry
Mahamahipilapati	Controller & executor of elephantry
Vinayapura	Official to present different guests at the King's court
Yuktapurusha	Office to keep account of war booty

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2023**

Khadyatpakika	Inspector of Royal Kitchen
Ranabhandagarika	Officer in charge of Army Stores
Mahanarpati	Head of infantry

**Source: Tamil Nadu Board**

**Q.10) Who among the following travelled India during Gupta period?**

- a) Fahien
- b) Hiuen Tsang
- c) Ptolemy
- d) I-Tsing

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:**

Fa-Hien who is also known as Faxian was a Chinese Buddhist devotee who was the wanderer who travelled to India during the term of Chandragupta-II.

It is known that he visited several other Asian countries, not only India, in order to explore Buddhism and Buddhist texts. After completion of his journey, he went back to China on a merchant ship that he boarded from the port of Tamralipti.

While going back to China, he left a detailed account of the reign of Chandragupta II. Fa-hein doesn't give a detailed account of the rule of Chandragupta even after spending six years in his empire. This is because he was so much dedicated towards Buddhism, their books and miracles of Lord Buddha that he had no time left for others.

He had described in detail about Patliputra.

**Source: Tamil Nadu Board**

## *Revision*

**Q.1) Which one of the following pairs denoting various forms of 'Bhakti' is not correctly matched?**

- |             |   |                                |
|-------------|---|--------------------------------|
| a) Saguna   | : | Belief in Gods with attributes |
| b) Nirguna  | : | Belief in Gods without         |
| c) Alvares  | : | Believed in devotion of Shakti |
| d) Nayanars | : | Believed in devotion of Shiva  |

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:**

- The Bhakti movement was an important historical religious movement in medieval Hinduism that sought to bring religious reforms to all strata of society by adopting the method of devotion to achieve salvation.
- Saguna represented those poet-saints who composed verses extolling a god with attributes or form.
- Nirguna represented those poet-saints who extolled god without and beyond all attributes or form. They are also known as Monotheistic Bhakti saints.
- Nayanars were devoted to Lord Shiva and his avatars.
- Alvares were devoted to Lord Vishnu and his avatars.

**Source: UPSC CDS**

**Q.2) Who among the following composed 'Prayag Prashasti' of Samudragupta?**

- Harishena
- Chand Bardai
- Vishakadutta
- Kalidasa

**ANS: A**

**Explanation: Allahabad Prashasti:**

- It is also known as Prayag Prashasti.
- It is a pillar inscription of Samudragupta found at Allahabad and written in Sanskrit.
- It was composed by Harisena.
- It is one of the important epigraphic sources to know about the political history of the Guptas.
- There are thirty-three lines in total.
- Line 22 of the inscription especially describes the conquests of Samudragupta over the frontier states.
- Lines 13-15 of the inscription refer to the conquests of Samudragupta in his first Aryavarta war in which he defeated three important rulers namely, Achyuta, Nagasena, and Ganapatinaga of the Naga Dynasty.
- Lines 19-20 described his South India Campaign.
- Line 23 refers to Samudragupta violently exterminating a number of kings of Aryavarta.

**Source: UPSC NDA**

**Q.3) Which one of the following is not one of the 'Tripitikas'?**

- a) Abhidhamma
- b) Acharanga
- c) Vinaya
- d) Sutta

**ANS: B**

**Explanation: Tripitakas:**

- The Vinaya Pitaka consists of rules of conduct and discipline applicable to the monastic life of the monks and nuns.
- The Sutta Pitaka consists of the main teaching or Dhamma of Buddha. It is divided into five Nikayas or collections:
  - Digha Nikaya
  - Majjhima Nikaya
  - Samyutta Nikaya
  - Anguttara Nikaya
  - Khuddaka Nikaya
- The Abhidhamma Pitaka is a philosophical analysis and systematization of the teaching and the scholarly activity of the monks.
- Other important Buddhist texts include Divyavadana, Dipavamsa, Mahavamsa, Milind Panha etc.

**Source: Tamil Board**

**Q.4) Mahavira preached that to attain moksha, one has to follow triratnas. Which one of the following is not one of the triratna?**

- a) Non-Violence
- b) Right Faith
- c) Right Knowledge
- d) Right conduct

**ANS: A**

**Explanation: The Three Jewels of Jainism:**

- The aim of Jain life is to achieve liberation of the soul.
- This is done by following the Jain ethical code, or to put it simply, living rightly by following the three jewels of Jain ethics.
- There are three parts to this: right faith, right knowledge and right conduct. The first two are very closely connected.

**Source: Tamil Board**

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2023**

**Q.5) Consider the following pairs:**

<b>Jain text</b>	<b>Author</b>
1. Mahapurana	Jinasena
2. Kalpasutra	Bhadrabahu
3. Ratna Malika	Amoghavarsha

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

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:**

- Jain scholars have made an important contribution in literature field. The Jain texts were written in Prakrit, but at some places these texts were also written in the local languages. They were finally compiled in sixth century AD at Valabhi in Gujarat.
- The Angas, the twelve books containing the teachings of Mahavira, are a great source of knowledge. The Mahapurana composed by Jinasena, Kalpasutra compiled by Bhadrabahu and Ratna Malika by the Rashtrakuta ruler, Amoghavarsha are outstanding literary works.

**Source: ICSE Total History**

**Q.6) Who among the following abandoned the policy of 'bherigoshha' and 'digvijay' and embraced the policy of 'dhammagoshha'?**

- a) Kanishka
- b) Harshavardhan
- c) Ashoka
- d) Chandragupta Maurya

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:**

- Ashoka abandoned the policy of physical possession in favor of cultural conquest, that policy has been named Bherighosa and Dhammaghosa.
- He replaced the policy of Bherighosha with Dhammaghoshha.
- Bherighosha, the literal meaning is "the sound of war drums.
- Dhammaghoshha means "the sound of peace signifying conquest through dhamma" instead of through war.
- Major Rock Edict XIII speaks about this change of policy in the Ashokan realm.
- Ashoka inscribed in the fourth great rock edict that due to his dhammaniti, religious discipline has increased. What was earlier Bherighosh has now turned into Dhammaghosh.

**Source: ICSE Total History**

**Q.7) Consider the following statements about Chola kingdom:**

1. Their symbol was bow and arrow.
2. The capital of the Sangam Cholas was Uraiyur.

**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 Cholas were one of the three main Tamil kingdoms of South India that were a part of the pre and post-Sangam period (600 BCE – 300 CE).
- Tiruchirapalli (Uraiyur) and Kaveripattinam were their early capitals. According to the Tamil Etymology the large availability of the rich food in the empire gave the name Chola. The Sangam Literature have mentioned numerous Chola kings who had surnames like Valavan, Senni, Kill and Cholan. The Chola flag symbol was the Jumping Tiger.

**Source: ICSE Total History**

**Q.8) The second Buddhist council held during the reign of which one of the following?**

- a) Kanishka
- b) Ashoka
- c) Kalashoka
- d) Ajatshatru

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The Second Buddhist Council was held at Vaisali (or Vaishali), an ancient city in what is now the state of Bihar in northern India, bordering Nepal under the patronage of King Kalasoka while it was presided by Sabakami. This Council probably was held about a century after the first one, or about 383 BCE.

**Source: ICSE Total History**

**Q.9) In the olden days, Punjab was known by which of the following name?**

- a) Garta
- b) Dvigatta
- c) Trigarta
- d) Ravi

**ANS: C.**

**Explanation: Trigarta:**

- In the olden days, Punjab was known as Trigarta.
- It was a kingdom as mentioned in the ancient scripture Mahabharata.
- Mahabharata talks about two different Trigarta kingdoms—one towards the west near the Sivi Kingdom and the second north to the Kuru Kingdom.
- Trigarta is the territory surrounding Satluj, Beas, and Ravi rivers.
- It is believed that the Trigarta kings were allies of the antagonist Duryodhana.
- They had attacked the Virata kingdom when the Pandavas were living there in anonymity.

**Source: ForumIAS**

**Q.10) Which of the following Vedic God is known as 'Vritrahanta'?**

- a) Varun
- b) Indra
- c) Rudra
- d) Brahma

**ANS:B**

**Explanation: The Vedic God Indra is known as 'Vritrahanta'.**

- The Rig Vedic Aryans worshipped the natural forces like earth, fire, wind, rain and thunder.
- They personified these natural forces into many gods and worshipped them.
- Indra was the most important God of the Aryans and was lord of war.
- 250 hymns have been devoted to only Indra in Rigveda which is highest for any of the Gods.
- Indra is mentioned as son of Dyaus.
- He is considered as the rain God (responsible for causing rain).
- He is also called as Purandhara (breaker of forts), Maghavan (bounteous), and Vritrahanta (Slayer of Vritra, chaos).
- He killed a demon Vritra so he is known as Vritrahanta.

**Source: NCERT**

## *Ancient History*

**Q.1) What is the ancient name for the river Sutlej?**

- a) Askini
- b) Vitasta
- c) Shutudri
- d) Parushni

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Sutlej is one of the famous rivers in northern India.

- It is one of the five rivers which gives the name 'Punjab' which means the land of five rivers. Sutlej enters India near Shipki La Pass and after travelling through many Himalayan valleys, it joins with Beas River in Punjab and later with Chenab in Pakistan before landing into Indus.
- River Sutlej was once known as Sutudri. It is the longest river among famous five rivers of Punjab.

**Source: The Wonder That Was India**

**Q.2) 'Satyameva Jayate' in the national emblem is adopted from which of the following upanishads?**

- a) Katha Upanishada
- b) Kena Upanishada
- c) Chandogya Upanishada
- d) Mundaka Upanishada

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The Mundaka Upanishad is an ancient Sanskrit Vedic text, embedded inside Atharva Veda. The Mundaka Upanishad is the source of the phrase Satyameva Jayate, which is the national motto of India. It appears in its national emblem with four lions.

**Source: UPSC PYQ**

**Q.3) Who among the following was Mentor of Gautam Buddha?**

- a) Alara Kalama
- b) Kapila
- c) Vishwamitra
- d) Vasistha

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Gautam Buddha, the great spiritual leader, philosopher, mendicant, meditator, and religious leader was born as a prince. But the lavish lifestyle did not attract him much.

- One day, when he was still the prince, he went out to see his kingdom on their chariot. On his way, he witnessed the worldly sorrows of poverty, illness, and death and got amazed that why wasn't he aware of all these till now.



**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2023**

- It moved him to such an extent that on that same night he left his family and his palace in the search of the truth. He meditated for a long time without food and water when he understood that what he was doing wasn't correct.
- After he became an ascetic, he met Alara Kalama, who became his teacher and taught him the right way to meditate at Vaishali. He taught him the "dhyanic" style of meditation.

**Source: The Wonder That Was India**

**Q.4) Who was the first European to translate the Bhagavad Gita into English?**

- William Jones
- Charles Wilkins
- James Princep
- Alexander Cunningham

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Charles Wilkins was an English typographer and Orientalist, and founding member of The Asiatic Society. He is famous in history because he was the first translator of Bhagawat Gita into English. It was published in 1785 and is commonly known as Wilkin's Gita.

**Source: NCERT**

**Q.5) Mantras form an important part of the prayers in the Vedic religion. It represents a meaningful combination of Sanskrit words which are written and sung in a particular grammar and meter respectively. The Gayatri mantra is one of the well-known mantras. It is mentioned in which of the following texts?**

- Rigveda
- Ramayana
- Mundaka Upanishada
- Samaveda

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The Gayatri mantra is found in the oldest Vedic literature, the Rig Veda (3.62.10). But, we don't recite the mantra since it is not the complete version. We recite a more detailed version of the mantra, which is termed as Brahma Gayatri. It is the expanded form of Gayatri mantra.

The expansion of the few words has been added as per the description of Taittiriya Aranyaka (2.11.1-8).

**Source:** <https://www.google.com/amp/s/indianexpress.com/article/religion/decoding-gayatri-mantra-5186700/lite/>

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2023**

**Q.6) Consider the following pairs:**

**School of Philosophy**

1. Nayaya Shastra
2. Yoga Shastra
3. Purvamimansa
4. Sankya Shastra

**Founder**

- Gautam  
Patanjali  
Bhadarayana  
Kapila

**How many pairs mentioned above is/are correctly matched?**

- a) One pair only
- b) Two pairs only
- c) Three pairs only
- d) All four pairs

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:**

Shad Dharshan	Founder	Core Philosophy
Samkhya	Kapila	postulates that everything in reality stems from purusha (self, soul or mind) and prakriti (matter, creative agency, energy).
Yoga	Patanjali	Yogic techniques control body, mind & sense organs, thus considered as a means of achieving freedom or mukti.
Nyaya	Gouthama	Nyaya Philosophy states that nothing is acceptable unless it is in accordance with reason and experience. Nyaya is considered as a technique of logical thinking.
Vaisheshika	Kanada	Vaisheshika School is known for its insights in naturalism. It is a form of atomism in natural philosophy. believes in complete authority of Vedas.
Purva Mimamsa	Jaimini	emphasis on the power of yajnas and mantras.
Uttara Mimamsa or Vedanta	Vyasa	monistic school of philosophy that believes world is unreal and the only reality is Brahman

**Source: NCERT**

**Q.7) Nepali translation of Valmiki Ramayana is written by who among the following?**

- a) Tulsidas
- b) Vimal Suri
- c) Kamban
- d) Aadikavi Bhanubhakta

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The oldest version is generally recognized to be the Sanskrit version attributed to the sage Valmiki.

- The Ramayana has spread to many Asian countries outside of India, including Burma, Indonesia, Cambodia, Laos, Philippines, and China. The original Valmiki version has been adapted or translated into various regional languages.
- The “Ramacharitamanasa” written by Tulsidas in the 16th century is the Ramayana version popular in North India.
- The Marathi “Bhavartha Ramayana” written by Eknath in the 16th century.

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2023**

- The Assamese “Katha Ramayana” or “Kotha Ramayana” in 15th century by Madhava Kandali.
- The “Sri Ranganatha Ramayanamu” was adapted by Buddha Reddy and is the Telugu version of the Ramayana.
- The Tamil “Kambaramayanam”, a popular version, written by poet Kamban in the 12th century.
- The Nepali language “Bhanubhakta Ramayan” written by Bhanubhakta Acharya in the 19th century. The Nepal Bhasa “Siddhi Ramayan” written by Siddhidas Mahaju in the 20th century.
- An Urdu language version is called the “Pothi Ramayana” and was written in 17th century.

**Source:** <https://www.news Bharati.com/Encyc/2022/7/13/Adikavi-Jayanti.html>

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

**Philosophy**

1. Visishtadvaita
2. Dvaitadvaita
3. Dvaita

**Propounded by**

- Ramanuja
- Vallabhacharya
- Madhvacharya

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

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:**

- The Vedanta, or Uttara Mimamsa, school concentrates on the philosophical teachings of the Upanishads (mystic or spiritual contemplations within the Vedas), rather than the Brahmanas (instructions for ritual and sacrifice). The school separated into six sub-schools, each interpreting the texts in its own way and producing its own series of sub-commentaries:
  - Advaita (Adi Shankara): It states that both the individual self (Atman) and Brahman are the same, and knowing this difference causes liberation.
  - Visishtadvaita (Ramanuja): It believes that all diversity is subsumed to a unified whole.
  - Dvaita (Madhvacharya): It considers Brahman and Atman as two different entities, and Bhakti as the route to eternal salvation.
  - Dvaitadvaita (Nimbarka): It states that the Brahman is the highest reality, the controller of all.
  - Shuddhadvaita (Vallabhacharya): It states that both God and the individual self are the same, and not different.
  - Achintya Bheda Abheda (Chaitanya Mahaprabhu): It emphasizes that the individual self (Jivatman) is both different and not different from Brahman.

**Source: NCERT**

**Q.9) Which among the following is not one of Vedanga?**

- a) Shiksha
- b) Jyotisha
- c) Yoga
- d) Kalpa

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Vedangas literally mean the limbs of the Vedas.

- They are six in number. Just like the limbs of the body, they perform various supportive and augmenting functions in the study, preservation and protection of the Vedas and the vedic traditions.
- The six Vedangas are Siksha, Chhanda, Vyakarana, Nirukta, Jyotisha and Kalpa.
  - Shiksha = phonetics,
  - Vyakarana = grammar,
  - Chandas = metre,
  - Nirukta = etymology,
  - Kalpa = ritual,
  - Jyotishya = astronomy

**Source: Tamil Nadu Board**

**Q.10) Tattvavada is a school of Vedantic thought that promulgates theism, realism and plurality. Who among the following founded it?**

- a) Ramanujam
- b) Madhavacharya
- c) Valhacharya
- d) Adi Shankracharya

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Tattvavada is a school of Vedantic thought that promulgates theism, realism and plurality. It was founded by Madhvāchāryā as a direct reaction against the tenets of Advaitā.

**Source: ICSE**

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## *Kingdoms of Deccan and Pallava and Chola dynasty*

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**Q.1) Which of the following pair/s is/are correctly matched?**

1. Pushyabhutis : Thaneshwar
2. Maukharis : Kannauj
3. Pallavas : Madurai

**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 period from c. 600–750 CE in north India, dominated by the Pushyabhutis of Thaneshwar and the Maukharis of Kannauj, and correspondingly, the period from c. 600–750 CE in South India which included three major states, that of the Pallavas of Kanchi, the Chalukyas of Badami and the Pandyas of Madurai.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.2) Who among the following was referred as “Siladitya”?**

- a) Rajya Vardhana
- b) Prabhakar Vardhana
- c) Harsha Vardhana
- d) Grahavarman

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Harsha’s reign was marked by many military victories and he brought most of north India under his control as he brought the five ‘Indies (regions)’ — Punjab, Kannauj, Bengal, Orissa, Mithila and assumed the title of ‘Siladitya’ (as mentioned in travel records of Chinese traveler Xuanzang (Hsuan Tsang)).

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

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

1. The Chinese pilgrim Hsuan Tsang visited India during the reign of Harsha Vardhan.
2. Hsuan Tsang was the author of Si-Yu-Ki.

**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 Chinese pilgrim Hsuan Tsang, who is also known as the Prince of Travelers and author of Si-Yu-Ki, visited India during 629–644 CE.

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2023**

He earned Harsha's friendship and left a vivid account of the beauty, grandeur, and prosperity of Kannauj.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.4) Which of the following drama/s is/are written by Harsha Vardhan?**

1. Priyadarshika
2. Ratnavali
3. Parvatiparinay

**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:** Harsha was a great patron of the arts and learning. He was very talented himself as it is believed that he wrote three dramas Priyadarshika, Ratnavali (both romantic comedies), and Nagananda (based on Bodhisattva Jimutavahana).

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.5) Which of the following is/are the court writer/s of Harsha Vadhana?**

1. Banabhatta
2. Mayura
3. Bhartrihari

**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:** Harsha Vardhan established a large monastery at Nalanda. Banabhatta (author of Harshacharita and Parvatiparinay), Mayura (author of Mayurashataka), renowned grammarian Bhartrihari (author of Vakapadiya), and Matanga Divakara were the accomplished writers at his court.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.6) The term "skandhavaras" was associated with which of the following?**

- a) Military camps
- b) Trade guilds
- c) Artisans
- d) Slave labors

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The leading feudatories of Harsha were Bhaskaravarmana of Kamarupa, Dhruvabhatta of Vallabhi, Purnavarman of Magadha, and Udit of Jalandhara.

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2023**

- He had the support of a large army, which was also supplemented by contributory forces from feudatories in the times of need.
- The army consisted of infantry, cavalry, chariots, and elephants. The power shifted to military camps known as skandhavaras.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.7) In which of the following area/s Chalukyan architecture was/were developed?**

1. Aihole
2. Badami
3. Pattadakal

**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:** Most of the Chalukyan temple-building activity were concentrated in a relatively small area of Aihole, Badami, Pattadakal and Mahakuta in modern Karnataka state.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.8) The famous “Virupaksha Temple” was located in which of the following state?**

- a) Karnataka
- b) Andhra Pradesh
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Goa

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The mature phase of Badami Chalukyan architecture includes the structural temples at Pattadakal, which were built in the 8th century and are now a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

- There are ten temples at Pattadakal, six in southern Dravida style and four in the northern Nagara style.
- Well known among these are the Sangamesvara Temple, the famous Virupaksha Temple of Karnataka which contains a lot of representations from the Mahabharata, and the Mallikarjuna Temple built in the southern style.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.9) “North Button Island National Park” is recently seen in news is located at?**

- a) West Bengal
- b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Andaman & Nicobar Islands
- d) Lakshadweep

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** North Button Island National Park is a national park in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands along the coast of India.

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2023**

The park is about 44 square miles and home to many creatures such as the dugong and the dolphin. North Button Island National Park was set up in 1979 and situated in the Andaman district.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

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

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Blackbuck National Park is a national park in India located at Velavadar in the Bhavnagar District of Gujarat state, India. Established in 1976 in the Bhal region of Saurashtra, the park is located around 42 km from the district headquarters city of Bhavnagar.

**Source: FORUMIAS**



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## *Early Medieval developments in India and Indian Culture in South East Asia*

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**Q.1) The tripartite struggle for “Kannauj” took place between which of the following kingdom/s?**

1. Pratiharas
2. Palas
3. Satavahanas

**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 tripartite struggle continued between the Palas, Rashtrakutas and Pratiharas and the area of Bihar and modern east U.P remained a bone of contention between them, though Bihar, in addition to Bengal, remained mostly under the control of the Palas for most of the time.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.2) Who among the following founded the philosophical school Yogacara- Svatantrika-Madhyamika?**

- a) Nagarjuna
- b) Asanga
- c) Dharmakirti
- d) Santarakshita

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The renowned 8th century Buddhist scholar, Santarakshita, who is also considered as an abbot of Nalanda, belonged to Dharmapala reign.

- Santarakshita founded the philosophical school known as Yogacara- Svatantrika-Madhyamika, which united the Madhyamaka tradition of Nagarjuna, the Yogacara tradition of Asanga and the logical and epistemological thought of Dharmakirti.
- He was also instrumental in the introduction of Buddhism and the Sarvastivadin monastic ordination lineage to Tibet.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2023**

**Q.3) Which of the following pair/s is/are correctly matched?**

<b>Ancient name</b>	<b>:</b>	<b>Present location</b>
1. Pragyoytishpur	:	Assam
2. Utkala	:	Gujarat
3. Suvarnadweep	:	Lakshadweep Islands

**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:** Devapala (c. 810–850 CE): Extended the empire to include Pragyoytishpur/Kamarupa (Assam), parts of Orissa (Utkala) and modern Nepal.

- He claimed to have extracted tribute from the whole of northern India, from the Himalayas to the Vindhyas, and from the eastern to the western oceans.
- According to Buddhist tradition, the Sailendra dynasty king, Balaputradeva (ruler of Suvarnavipa which corresponds to the Indonesian Archipelago, including Malaya, Java, Sumatra and other neighbouring islands), requested him to grant five villages to the monastery at Nalanda.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

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

- 1. He was the founder of the Rashtrakuta kingdom.
- 2. The rock-cut Kailashnatha Temple at Ellora was built during his reign.

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

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Dantidurga (c. 733–756 CE): Feudatory of the Chalukya king, Kirtivarman II, who later founded the Rashtrakuta kingdom by taking control of the northern regions of the Chalukya empire and thus ascended to the throne in c.733 CE. However, the Rashtrakutas as a kingdom rose in power from c.753 CE.

The magnificent rock-cut Kailashnatha Temple at Ellora (near Aurangabad, Maharashtra) was built during Krishna I rein.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.5) Which of the following Rashtrakutan king wrote the Kavirajamarga and Prashnottara Ratnamalika?**

- a) Amoghavarsha I
- b) Govind III
- c) Dantidurga
- d) Dhruva

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Amoghavarsha I was a patron of literature and was an accomplished scholar in Kannada and Sanskrit himself.

He wrote the Kavirajamarga – the earliest Kannada work on poetics and the Prashnottara Ratnamalika in Sanskrit, which is considered as a writing of high merit and was later translated into the Tibetan language.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.6) The term “Bhukti” was associated with which of the following?**

- a) Province
- b) District
- c) Cluster of villages
- d) Village

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Bhukti (provinces) under the supervision of Uparika who was expected to collect land revenue and maintain law and order.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.7) Who among the following was constructed the Rajarajeshwara or Brihadesvara temple, dedicated to Shiva at Thanjavur?**

- a) Uttama Chola
- b) Vijayalaya
- c) Aditya I
- d) Rajaraja I

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** /Rajaraja I (c.985–1014 CE): Greatest Chola ruler, who helped raise the Chola Empire to become the largest dominion in South India till the 13th century.

- In c.1010 CE he constructed the Rajarajeshwara or Brihadesvara temple, dedicated to Shiva at Thanjavur (Tanjore).
- This temple is also called the Rajaraja temple as the Cholas were in the habit of installing the images of kings and queens in the temples in addition to the deity.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2023**

**Q.8) With reference to Chola administration, the term “Ur” was related to?**

- a) Province
- b) District
- c) Mandal
- d) Village

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Ur: The general assembly of the local residents of nonbrahmadeya villages (or vellanvagai villages) to discuss matters without any formal rule or procedure.

- Nothing much is known about the composition of the Ur but, generally the members were less than ten.
- It dealt with various matters related to land maintenance such as land sale, gift, and tax exemptions.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

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

- a) Chhattisgarh
- b) Himachal Pradesh
- c) Uttar Pradesh
- d) Sikkim

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Located amidst 34 kms of long and scenic kanger valley, a biosphere reserve, Kanger Valley National Park is one of the most beautiful and picturesque national parks of India.

- Known for its scenic beauty and the rich biodiversity, Kanger Valley attained the status of a national in 1982.
- Besides wildlife and plants, there are many tourist attractions inside the park such as the Kotumsar Caves, Kailash Caves, Dandak Caves and Tiratgarh Waterfalls of **Chhattisgarh.**

**Source: FORUMIAS**

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

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

**ANS: A**

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

- 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**

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## *Early Medieval developments in India and Indian Culture in South East Asia*

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**Q.1) With reference to the chola dynasty in early medieval in India, the “Sailendra Empire” was related to which of the following?**

- a) Cambodia
- b) Vietnam
- c) Malaya peninsula
- d) Andaman & Nicobar Islands

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Arumolivarman/Rajaraja I (c.985–1014 CE): Greatest Chola ruler, who helped raise the Chola Empire to become the largest dominion in South India till the 13th century. He led a naval expedition against the Sailendra Empire (Malaya peninsula) and expanded Chola trade with China.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.2) Who among the following called as “Gangaikondachola”?**

- a) Rajaraja I
- b) Rajendra I
- c) Rajadhiraja
- d) Virarajendra

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Rajendra I (c.1014–1044 CE): Son of Rajaraja I, who carried forward his father’s expansionist policy and continued the Chola territorial expansion.

- In 1022 CE, he led an expedition to the north, crossed the Ganga following the same route which was taken by the great conqueror Samudragupta and defeated the Pala ruler, Mahipal I and the Western Chalukyas.
- To commemorate this occasion, he assumed the title of Gangaikondachola (meaning ‘the Chola conqueror of Ganga’) and established a new capital named Gangaikondacholapuram (meaning ‘the city of the Chola conqueror of the Ganga’) near the mouth of the river Kaveri.
- He built a Shiva temple here and excavated a tank called Chodagarg.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

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

- a) Farming groups
- b) Trade guilds
- c) Slave labors
- d) Bonded labors

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The chola society was divided on caste lines and the status of the Paraiyar (untouchables) continued to be pathetic.

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2023**

The Vellallas (farming groups) were identified with the Shudra varna but since they were land holders and were an economically powerful group they did not suffer from much discrimination or lower social status.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.4) With reference to chola economy, the term “agrahatta” is related to?**

- a) Persian wheel
- b) Community farming
- c) Agriculture tax
- d) Tax on artisans

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** There was an expansion in the agrarian economy and various factors attributed to it such as extension of the margin of agriculture through land reclamation, the spread of irrigation techniques, and an expansion in the range of crops.

The use of agrahatta (Persian wheel) also facilitated the already established smooth irrigation networks of tanks, canals, wells and sluices.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.5) The giant statue of Gomateswar is located in which of the following state?**

- a) Andhra Pradesh
- b) Karnataka
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Kerala

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The art of sculpture attained high standard during this period as evident in the giant statue of Gomateswar at Sravan Belgola, Karnataka.

- The Chola period is noted for the aesthetic and technical finesse of its metal sculpture.
- The dancing figure of Shiva called the Nataraja belongs to this period and is considered to be a bronze masterpiece.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.6) Which of the following is called as fifth veda?**

- a) Kamban's Ramayana
- b) Vikramarjuna-vijaya
- c) Tirumurais
- d) Kathasaritasagara

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** There was also growth in literature of general parlance languages along with Sanskrit during this period.

- A number of Alvars (devotees of Vishnu) and Nayannars (devotees of Shiva) flourished in the Tamilakam between the 6th and 9th centuries who composed a lot in Tamil and other regional languages.

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2023**

- The writings of these saints have been collected into 11 volumes under the name Tirumurais in the early 12th century and were considered to be so sacred that they were deemed the Fifth Veda.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.7) Who among the following is NOT part of famous trinity of kannada poetry?**

- Pampa
- Ranna
- Ponna
- Nanniah

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The famous trinity of Pampa (who composed Vikramarjuna-vijaya, known popularly as Pampa Bharat), Ponna, and Ranna were the three most prized jewels of Kannada poetry.

Nanniah, who lived at the court of a Chalukyan king, started the Telugu version of the Mahabharata, which was completed in the 13th century by Tikkanna.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

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

1. It was built by the Cambodian king Surya Varman II.
2. It is dedicated to Lord Shiva.

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

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** One of the most famous temples dedicated to Vishnu is the Angkorvat temple built in the 12th century by Surya Varman II, the king of Kambuja (Cambodia).

It is surrounded by a moat, filled with water. It has a huge gopuram (gateway) and number of galleries, the walls of which are decorated with sculptures based on themes drawn from the Mahabharat and the Ramayana.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.9) “The Palamau Tiger Reserve: is often seen in news is located at?”**

- Jharkhand
- Orissa
- Tamil Nadu
- Bihar

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The Palamau Tiger Reserve is one of the nine original tiger reserves in Jharkhand, India and the only one in this state.

It forms part of Betla National Park and Palamau Wildlife Sanctuary. As of 2022, the reserve is reported to be largely under Naxal control.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2023**

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

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Dehing Patkai National Park is located in the Dibrugarh and Tinsukia districts of Assam and covers an area of 231.65 km<sup>2</sup> rainforest.

It was declared a wildlife sanctuary on 13 June 2004. On 13 December 2020 Government of Assam upgraded it into a national park.

**Source: FORUMIAS**



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## *Delhi Sultanate (Political And Administrative Policies)*

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**Q.1) Which of the following is/are dynasty/dynasties of Delhi Sultunate?**

1. Ilbari dynasty
2. Sayyid dynasty
3. Ghori dynasty

**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:** As we have discussed in the last chapter, invasions by Mahmud of Ghazni and Mohd. Ghori into India ultimately resulted in the establishment of the Delhi Sultanate. Five different dynasties—the Slave, the Khalji, the Tughlaq, the Sayyids, and the Lodhi's are collectively referred to as the Delhi Sultanate.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.2) Who among the following is called as “Lakh Baksh”?**

- a) Qutub-ud-din Aibak
- b) Iltutmish
- c) Aramshah
- d) Alauddin Khalji

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Qutub-ud-din Aibak (c.1206–10 CE): Founder of the Slave dynasty; considered by many scholars as the real founder of Muslim rule in India.

- He did not issue any coins and was formally recognised after three years.
- Known as ‘Lakh Baksh’ or giver of lakhs for his magnanimity, as he gave a lot of liberal donations.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding “Iqtadar” under Iltutmish:**

1. Every Iqtadars had to maintain law and order and collect revenue from the land assigned to him.
2. The Iqtadars were not transferable.

**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:** Iltutmish divided his empire into Iqtas (assignment of land in lieu of salary). Every Iqtadars had to maintain law and order and collect revenue. After deducting own salary and expenses, they had to send the surplus to central government. As a matter of fact, the Iqtadars were transferable.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

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

1. Qutub – Ud – Din – Aibak organized turkan-i-chahalgani, a new class of ruling elite of forty powerful military leaders, the Forty.
2. Iltutmish abolished the turkan-i-chahalgani.

**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:** Iltutmish organized turkan-i-chahalgani, a new class of ruling elite of forty powerful military leaders, the Forty.

- These were Turkish amirs (nobles) who advised and helped the Sultan in administering the Sultanate.
- After the death of Iltutmish, this group assumed great power in its hands. For a few years they decided on the selection of Sultans one after the other. The group was finally eliminated by Balban.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.5) Who among the following was introduced the “sijada and paibos”?**

- a) Iltutmish
- b) Muhammad bin Tughlaq
- c) Balban
- d) Qutub – Ud – Din – Aibak

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Balban introduced rigorous court discipline and new customs such as sijada (prostration) and paibos (kissing the Sultan’s feet) to prove his superiority over the nobles.

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2023**

In order to impress the people with the strength and awe of his government, Balban maintained a magnificent court and also introduced the Persian festival of Nauroz.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.6) Which of the following measure/s introduced by Alauddin Khalji to control nobles?**

1. He confiscated the properties of the nobles.
2. The intelligence system was reorganized and report directly to Sultan.
3. The use of liquor and intoxicants was prohibited.

**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:** Alauddin was convinced that the general prosperity of the nobles, inter-marriages between noble families, inefficient spy-system, and drinking liquor, were the basic reasons for the rebellions. Therefore, he passed four ordinances.

- He confiscated the properties of the nobles.
- The intelligence system was reorganized and all the secret activities of the nobles were immediately reported to the Sultan.
- The use of liquor and intoxicants was prohibited.
- Social gatherings and festivities without the permission of Sultan were forbidden.

By such harsh measures, his reign was free from rebellions.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.7) Which of the following is/are built by Alauddin Khalji?**

1. Capital city at Siri
2. Alai Darwaza
3. Hauz Khas

**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:** Although the Alauddin Khalji was illiterate, he patronised poets like Amir Khusrau and Mir Hasan Dehvi.

He also built a famous gateway known as Alai Darwaza, Hauz Khas, Mahal Hazaar Satoon, Jamait Khana Mosque, Alai Minar, and constructed a new capital at Siri.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2023**

**Q.8) Who among the following was called as Tuti-i-Hind (Parrot of India)?**

- a) Amir Khusrau
- b) Mir Hasan Dehlvi
- c) Ain-ul- Mulk
- d) Malik Kafur

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Alauddin adopted the title of Sikander-i-Azam and gave Amir Khusrau the title of Tuti-i-Hind (Parrot of India).

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.9) “Mahavir Harina Vanasthali National Park” is recently seen in news is located at?**

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Mahavir Harina Vanasthali National Park is a deer national park located in Vanasthalipuram, Saheb Nagar, Hyderabad, Telangana, India. It is spread over 3605 acres. It is the largest green lung space in the city of Hyderabad.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

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

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Bhitarkanika National Park is a 145 km<sup>2</sup> large national park in northeast Kendrapara district in Odisha in eastern India.

- It was designated on 16 September 1998 and obtained the status of a Ramsar site on 19 August 2002.
- The area is also been designated as second Ramsar site of the State after the Chilika Lake.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

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## *Delhi Sultanate*

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

1. Alauddin Khalji was the first Sultan to have a large permanent standing army and paid them in cash from the royal treasury.
2. Chehra and Dagh System were introduced by Alauddin Khalji.

**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:** Alauddin was the first Sultan to have a large permanent standing army and paid them in cash from the royal treasury.

- He imported horses and according to historian Ferishta, he recruited 4,75,000 cavalymen.
- An innovative Chehra and Dagh System were introduced by him wherein the Chehra (detailed description of each soldier) and Dagh (branding of horses) was maintained.
- In order to ensure maximum efficiency, a strict review of the army from time to time was carried out.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.2) With reference to market reforms introduced by Alauddin Khalji, which of the following market/s was/were introduced by Alauddin Khalji?**

1. Grain market
2. Cloth and groceries market
3. Market for slaves

**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:** Since Alauddin wanted to maintain a large army, he therefore lowered and fixed the price of the commodities of daily use. Alauddin Khalji established four separate markets in Delhi:

- Grain market (Mandi) for grain.
- Cloth and groceries market (Sarai Adl) for cloth, sugar, dried fruits, butter, and oil.
- Market for horses, slaves, cattle, etc.
- Market for miscellaneous commodities.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2023**

**Q.3) The terms “barids and munhiyans” were related to which of the following?**

- a) Secret spies
- b) Slave labors
- c) Agricultural workers
- d) Trade guilds

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** To ensure implementation, each market was under the control of a superintendent called Shahna-i- Mandi who was assisted by an intelligence officer.

Apart from Shahna-i-Mandi, Alauddin received daily reports of the market from two other independent sources, barids (intelligence officer) and munhiyans (secret spies).

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

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

1. Alauddin Khalji was the first Sultan of Delhi who ordered for the measurement of land.
2. Biswa was the standard unit of measurement.

**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:** Alauddin Khalji was the first Sultan of Delhi who ordered for the measurement of land.

- Even the big landlords could not escape from paying land tax. Land revenue was collected in cash in order to enable the Sultan to pay the soldiers in cash.
- The state officials measured the cultivated land and fixed land revenue accordingly. Biswa was the standard unit of measurement.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.5) Who among the following was the first Delhi Sultanate to start irrigation works?**

- a) Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq
- b) Mohammad Bin Tughlaq
- c) Nasiruddin Khusrau Shah
- d) Feroz Shah Tughlaq

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq (c.1320–25 CE): Founder of the Tughlaq dynasty and the first Sultan to take the title of Ghazi/ Slayer of Infidels.

- First sultan to start irrigation works. Built a strong fort called Tughlaqabad near Delhi.
- Dispatched his son, Jauna Khan / Mohammad Bin Tughlaq, to re-establish authority in Warangal (Kakatiyas) and Madurai (Pandayas).

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2023**

**Q.6) “Safarnama Rehla” was authored by which of the following?**

- a) Ibn Batuta
- b) Amir Khusrau
- c) Firoz Tughlaq
- d) Jauna Khan

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** During Mohammad Bin Tughlaq reign, the famous traveller Ibn Batuta (author of Safarnama Rehla) came to India in c.1334 CE and acted as a Qazi at Delhi for eight years.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.7) With reference to Delhi Sultanate, “takkavi loans” is related to?**

- a) Agriculture loans
- b) Industrial loans
- c) Slavery loans
- d) Guild loans

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Set up a new department of Agriculture, Diwan-i-amirkohi. Mahmud Bin Tughlaq launched a scheme by which takkavi loans (loans for cultivation) were given to the farmers to buy seed and to extend cultivation.

A model farm under the state was created in an area of 64 square miles, for which the government spent seventy lakh tankas.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.8) With reference to Delhi Sultanate, “Diwan-i-Bandagan” is related to which of the following?**

- a) Department of forts
- b) Department of agriculture
- c) Department of slavery
- d) Department of Spies

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Firoz Shah Tughlaq also developed royal factories called karkhanas in which thousands of slaves were employed, organised under the Diwan-i-Bandagan (department of slaves).

The officer-in-charge was the Wakil-i-dar. He increased the number of slaves by capturing the defeated soldiers and young persons.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

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

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Rajaji National Park is an Indian national park and tiger reserve that encompasses the Shivaliks, near the foothills of the Himalayas. It is spread over 820 km<sup>2</sup> and includes three districts of Uttarakhand: Haridwar, Dehradun and Pauri Garhwal.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

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

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Mouling National Park is a national park located in the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh, spread primarily over the Upper Siang district and parts of the West Siang and East Siang district. It was the second national park to be created in the state, after Namdapha National Park in 1972.

**Source: FORUMIAS**



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## *Revision*

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**Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding “Delhi Sultanate”:**

1. Sultan was the ultimate authority for the military, legal, and political matters.
2. There was clear law of succession during this 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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The title of ‘Sultan’ was started by Turkish rulers and Mahmud of Ghazni was the first to assume the title of Sultan.

- The Delhi Sultanate was an Islamic state with its religion as Islam. The Sultans considered themselves as representatives of the Caliph.
- The office of the Sultan was the most important in the Sultanate and he was the ultimate authority for the military, legal, and political matters.
- There was no clear law of succession during this period. All the sons had equal claim to the throne.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.2) Who among the following was the first to pay his soldiers salary in cash?**

- a) Alauddin Khalji
- b) Mahummad Bin Tughlaq
- c) Feroz Shah Tughlaq
- d) Balban

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Alauddin introduced the Chehra and Daggh system, so that along with a descriptive roll of each soldier, a system of branding of the horses was also in place which would allow only good quality horses to be part of muster. He was also the first Sultan to pay his soldiers salary in cash.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2023**

**Q.3) Which of the following pair/s is/are correctly matched?**

1. Diwan-i-Arz : Military department
2. Diwan-i-Wizarat : Finance department
3. Diwan-i-Rasalat : Religious affairs

**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 Sultan was assisted by a number of ministers who headed different departments and aided in administration. The post of Naib was the most powerful one.

- The Naib practically enjoyed all the powers of the Sultan and exercised general control over all the departments.
- Next to him, was the Wazir, who headed the finance department, called Diwan-i-Wizarat.
- The military department was called Diwan-i-Arz. It was headed by the Ariz-i-mumalik who was responsible for recruiting the soldiers and administering the military department.
- Diwan-i-Rasalat was the department of religious affairs, which dealt with pious foundations and gave stipends to deserving scholars and men of piety.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.4) With reference to Delhi sultanate administration, the officer “amil” was headed by?**

- a) Iqtas
- b) Shiqs
- c) Paragana
- d) Village

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The provinces under the Delhi Sultanate were called iqtas. They were initially under the control of the nobles.

- But the governors of the provinces were called the muqtis or walis. They were to maintain law and order and collect the land revenue.
- The provinces were further divided into shiqs, which was under the control of the shiqdar, and the next division was pargana, comprising a number of villages and was headed by the amil.
- The villages were grouped into units of 100 or 84 (traditionally called chaurasi). The village remained the basic unit of the administration.
- The village headman was known as muqaddam or chaudhri. The village accountant was called patwari.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2023**

**Q.5) Which of the following pair/s is/are correctly matched?**

1. Iqta land : Land assigned to officials
2. Khalisa land : Land assigned to religious leaders
3. Inam land : Land under the direct control of the Sultan

**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:** After consolidating their position in India, the Delhi Sultans introduced reforms in the land revenue administration. The lands were classified into three categories:

- Iqta land – Lands assigned to officials as iqtas instead of payment for their services.
- Khalisa land – Land under the direct control of the Sultan and the revenues collected were spent for the maintenance of royal court and royal household.
- Inam land – Land assigned or granted to religious leaders or religious institutions.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.6) Who among the following was created the separate agricultural department, Diwan-i-Kohi?**

- a) Muhammad bin Tughlaq
- b) Feroz Shah Tughlaq
- c) Alauddin Khalji
- d) Sikander Lodhi

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Sultans like Muhammad bin Tughlaq and Firoz Tughlaq took efforts to enhance agricultural production by providing irrigational facilities and by providing takkavi loans.

- They also encouraged the farmers to cultivate superior crop like wheat instead of barley.
- Firoz encouraged the growth of horticulture. Muhammad bin Tughlaq created a separate agricultural department, Diwan-i- Kohi.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.7) The term “Sarais” associated with which of the following?**

- a) Forts
- b) Agriculture storage pits
- c) Rest houses
- d) Ammunition points

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Sarais or rest houses on the highways were maintained for the convenience of the travelers.

There were also arrangements for posts to be carried very quickly from one part of the country to another with the help of relays of horses and runners who were posted every few kilometres.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2023**

**Q.8) Who among the following was the author of “Tarikh-i-Firoz Shahi”?**

- a) Hasan Nizami
- b) Minhaj-us-Siraj
- c) Ziauddin Barani
- d) Shams Siraj Afif

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The Delhi Sultans patronised learning and literature. Many of them had great love for Arabic and Persian literature.

- Learned men came from Persia and Persian language got encouragement from the rulers.
- Besides theology and poetry, the writing of history was also encouraged. Some of the Sultans had their own court historians.
- The most famous historians of this period were Hasan Nizami, Minhaj-us-Siraj, Ziauddin Barani, and Shams Siraj Afif.
- Barani’s Tarikh-i-Firoz Shahi contains the history of Tughlaq dynasty. Minhaj-us- Siraj wrote Tabaqat-i-Nasari, a general history of Muslim dynasties up to c.1260 CE.

**Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT**

**Q.9) “Chakrasila Wildlife Sanctuary” is recently seen in news is located at?**

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Chakrashila Wildlife Sanctuary is a wildlife sanctuary falling under Kokrajhar district and some adjacent areas of Dhubri district of Assam, India.

- It is famous for the golden langur and is the second protected habitat for golden langur in India.
- Chakrashila Hill was first declared as reserve forest in 1966 and on 14 July 1994 it was recognized with the status of sanctuary by the Government of Assam.
- A local environmental activist group, Nature's Beckon played a vital role for this recognition.

**Source:** <https://dhubri.assam.gov.in/tourist-place-detail/271>

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

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Kanha National Park, also known as Kanha Tiger Reserve, is a vast expanse of grassland and forest in the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh.

- Tigers, jackals and wild pigs can be spotted in Kanha Meadows. The elevated plateau of Bamhnidadar is home to birds of prey.
- Animals often gather at the watering holes of Sondar Tank and Babathenga Tank. The park’s flora and fauna are documented in the park's Kanha Museum.

**Source: FORUMIAS**