

ForumIAS

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Prelims Marathon

24th to 30th April, 2023

*HISTORY
ECONOMICS
POLITY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT*

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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.

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- 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/>

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.

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- 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.newsbharati.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

Kingdoms of Deccan and Pallava and Chola dynasty

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

1. Pushyabhutis : Thaneswar
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 Thaneswar 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.

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 Uditia of Jalandhara.

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- 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.

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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

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

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

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

Ancient name	:	Present location
1. Pragyoitishpur	:	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 Pragyoitishpur/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

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

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

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.

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.

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- 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

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 km² 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

Delhi Sultanate (Political And Administrative Policies)

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 [FOURTH WEEK] 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 Dehlvi.

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

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 km² 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

Delhi Sultanate

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

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

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 km² 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

Revision

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 Dagh 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

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 man 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

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 Feroz 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.
- Feroz 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

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