

ForumIAS

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# Prelims Marathon

July, 2023

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*HISTORY  
ECONOMICS  
POLITY  
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT*

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FORUMIAS



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## *Indian Polity – Non- Constitutional Bodies*

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**Q.1) The National Human Rights Commission chairperson and members are appointed by the president on the recommendations of a six-member committee. Which of the following is/are part of committee?**

1. The chairman of rajya sabha
2. The speaker of lok sabha
3. The central home minister

**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 chairperson and members are appointed by the president on the recommendations of a six-member committee consisting of the prime minister as its head, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, leaders of the Opposition in both the Houses of Parliament and the Central home minister.

**Source:** Laxmikanth's Polity

**Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding National Human Rights Commission:**

1. The chairperson and members hold office for a term of three years or until they attain the age of 70 years.
2. They are not eligible for re-appointment.

**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 chairperson and members hold office for a term of three years or until they attain the age of 70 years, whichever is earlier.

- They are eligible for re-appointment.
- After their tenure, the chairperson and members are not eligible for further employment under the Central or a state government.

**Source:** Laxmikanth's Polity

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**Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding National Human Rights Commission:**

1. Its headquarters is at Delhi and it can also establish offices at other places in India.
2. It is vested with the power to regulate its own procedure.

**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 commission's headquarters is at Delhi and it can also establish offices at other places in India. It is vested with the power to regulate its own procedure.

It has all the powers of a civil court and its proceedings have a judicial character.

**Source:** Laxmikanth's Polity

**Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding National Human Rights Commission:**

1. It has its own nucleus of investigating staff for investigation into complaints of human rights violations.
2. It is not empowered to inquire into any matter after the expiry of one year from the date on which the act constituting violation of human rights is alleged to have been committed.

**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 commission has its own nucleus of investigating staff for investigation into complaints of human rights violations.

- Besides, it is empowered to utilize the services of any officer or investigation agency of the Central government or any state government for the purpose.
- It has also established effective cooperation with the NGOs with first-hand information about human rights violations.
- The commission is not empowered to inquire into any matter after the expiry of one year from the date on which the act constituting violation of human rights is alleged to have been committed.
- In other words, it can look into a matter within one year of its occurrence.

**Source:** Laxmikanth's Polity

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**Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding Protection of Human Rights Act (1993):**

1. It provides for the establishment of Human Rights Court in every district for the speedy trial of violation of human rights.
2. These courts can be set up by the state government only with the concurrence of the Chief Justice of the High Court of that state.

**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 Protection of Human Rights Act (1993) also provides for the establishment of Human Rights Court in every district for the speedy trial of violation of human rights.

- These courts can be set up by the state government only with the concurrence of the Chief Justice of the High Court of that state.
- For every Human Rights Court, the state government specifies a public prosecutor or appoints an advocate (who has practiced for seven years) as a special public prosecutor.

**Source:** Laxmikanth's Polity

**Q.6) The Central Information Commission was established by the Central Government in?**

- a) 2005
- b) 2006
- c) 2008
- d) 2010

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The Central Information Commission was established by the Central Government in 2005.

It was constituted through an Official Gazette Notification under the provisions of the Right to Information Act (2005).

**Source:** Laxmikanth's Polity

**Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding Central Information Commission:**

1. The Commission consists of a Chief Information Commissioner and not more than ten Information Commissioners.
2. They are appointed by the Prime Minister.

**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 Commission consists of a Chief Information Commissioner and not more than ten Information Commissioners.

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- The Commission, when constituted initially, had five commissioners including the Chief Information Commissioner.
- At present (2019), the Commission has six Information Commissioners apart from the Chief Information Commissioner.
- They are appointed by the President on the recommendation of a committee consisting of the Prime Minister as Chairperson, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and a Union Cabinet Minister nominated by the Prime Minister.

**Source:** Laxmikanth's Polity

**Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding chairman and members of the Central Information Commission:**

1. They shall hold office for such term as prescribed by the Central Government or until they attain the age of 65 years.
2. They are not eligible for reappointment.

**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 Chief Information Commissioner and an Information Commissioner shall hold office for such term as prescribed by the Central Government or until they attain the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier. They are not eligible for reappointment.

**Source:** Laxmikanth's Polity

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

- a) Hyderabad
- b) Bangalore
- c) Varanasi
- d) Patna

**ANS: A**

**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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**Q.10) The Karikili Bird Sanctuary is recently seen in news located at?**

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Kerala
- c) Goa
- d) Odisha

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The Karikili Bird Sanctuary is adjacent to a small village called Karikili situated 8 km north of Vedanthangal and lies partly in Maduranthangam Taluk, Chengalpattu District, and Tamil Nadu.

- It is constituted of two rain-fed non-perennial irrigation tanks spread over an area of 58.442 ha.
- It exhibits a flat topography with undulating and gentle slopes in parts and is situated 100 m above MSL.
- Rainfall fluctuates greatly from year to year varying from 400 mm to almost 1700 mm, flooding the area in the months of monsoon (October to December).
- Karikili lake was declared as sanctuary vide G.O.M.S. No. 332 Environment and Forests (FRV) Department dated 23rd May 1989 under section 18 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act ,1972.

**Source:** <https://tnswa.org/karikili-bird-sanctuary>

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## *Indian Polity – Non - Constitutional Bodies*

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**Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC):**

1. It is the main agency for preventing corruption in the Central government.
2. In 2009, it was conferred statutory status.

**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 Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) is the main agency for preventing corruption in the Central government.

- It was established in 1964 by an executive resolution of the Central government.
- Thus, originally the CVC was neither a constitutional body nor a statutory body.
- Later, in 2003, the Parliament enacted a law conferring statutory status on the CVC.

**Source:** Laxmikanth's Polity

**Q.2) Which of the following recommended the establishment of Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)?**

- a) Sarkaria Committee
- b) Santhanam Committee
- c) Punchi Committee
- d) Goswami Committee

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) is the main agency for preventing corruption in the Central government.

- It was established in 1964 by an executive resolution of the Central government.
- Its establishment was recommended by the Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption (1962–64).

**Source:** Laxmikanth's Polity

**Q.3) The “Public Interest Disclosure and Protection of Informers’ Resolution” (PIDPI) is related to which of the following?**

- a) Enforcement Directorate
- b) Central Bureau of Investigation
- c) Central Vigilance Commission
- d) National Investigation Agency

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** In 2004, the CVC has been designated as the agency to receive and act on complaints or disclosure on any allegation of corruption or misuse of office from whistle blowers

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under the “Public Interest Disclosure and Protection of Informers’ Resolution” (PIDPI), which is popularly known as “Whistle Blowers” Resolution.

The Commission is also empowered as the only designated agency to take action against complainants making motivated or vexatious complaints.

**Source:** Laxmikanth’s Polity

**Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC):**

1. It is a multi-member body consisting of a Central Vigilance Commissioner (chairperson) and not more than five vigilance commissioners.
2. They hold office for a term of six years or until they attain the age of sixty five years.

**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 CVC is a multi-member body consisting of a Central Vigilance Commissioner (chairperson) and not more than two vigilance commissioners.

- They are appointed by the president by warrant under his hand and seal on the recommendation of a three member committee consisting of the prime minister as its head, the Union minister of home affairs and the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha.
- They hold office for a term of four years or until they attain the age of sixty five years, whichever is earlier.
- After their tenure, they are not eligible for further employment under the Central or a state government.

**Source:** Laxmikanth’s Polity

**Q.5) Which of the following is/are comes under the jurisdiction of Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)?**

1. Members of All India Services serving in connection with the affairs of the Union.
2. Officers of the rank of Scale V and above in the Public Sector Banks.
3. Officers in Grade B and above in Reserve Bank of India, NABARD and SIDBI.

**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 jurisdiction of the CVC extends to the following:

- Members of All India Services serving in connection with the affairs of the Union and Group A officers of the Central Government.
- Officers of the rank of Scale V and above in the Public Sector Banks.
- Officers in Grade D and above in Reserve Bank of India, NABARD and SIDBI.



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- Chief Executives and Executives on the Board and other officers of E-8 and above in Schedule 'A' and 'B' Public Sector Undertakings.

**Source:** Laxmikanth's Polity

**Q.6) Which of the following statements is/are correct about the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)?**

1. It is not a statutory body.
2. Its establishment was recommended by Santhanam Committee.
3. It derives its powers from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946.

**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 establishment of the CBI was recommended by the Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption (1962–1964).

- The CBI is not a statutory body.
- It derives its powers from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946.

**Source:** Laxmikanth's Polity

**Q.7) The motto "Industry, Impartiality and Integrity Mission" is related to which of the following?**

- a) Enforcement Directorate
- b) Central Bureau of Investigation
- c) Central Vigilance Commission
- d) National Investigation Agency

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The motto of CBI is "Motto: Industry, Impartiality and Integrity".

**Source:** Laxmikanth's Polity

**Q.8) The institution of Ombudsman was first created in which of the following country?**

- a) Norway
- b) New Zealand
- c) Sweden
- d) Switzerland

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The institution of Ombudsman was first created in Sweden in 1809.

'Ombud' is a Swedish term and refers to a person who acts as the representative or spokesman of another person.

**Source:** Laxmikanth's Polity

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

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Simlipal is a tiger reserve in the Mayurbhanj district in the Indian state of Odisha covering 2,750 km<sup>2</sup>.

It is part of the Mayurbhanj Elephant Reserve, which includes three protected areas—Similipal Tiger Reserve, Hadgarh Wildlife Sanctuary with 191.06 km<sup>2</sup> and Kuldiha Wildlife Sanctuary with 272.75 km<sup>2</sup>.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

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

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Nagarahole, spread over Mysore and Kodagu is covering an area of 847.981 Sq km.

- Nagarahole is an important Tiger Reserve in Karnataka and is a major hub of conservation under Project Tiger and Project Elephant.
- The Protected Area supports large assemblages of carnivores and herbivores: Tiger, Leopard, Asiatic wild dog and Sloth bear, Asiatic Elephant, Gaur, Sambar, Chital, Muntjac, Four horned antelope, Wild pig, Mouse deer and South-western langur.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

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## *Indian Polity – Non- Constitutional Bodies*

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**Q.1) Which of the following institutional device/s is/are created to deal with the redressal of grievances?**

1. The Ombudsman System
2. The Administrative Courts System
3. The Procurator System

**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 success of democracy and the realization of socio-economic development depend on the extent to which the citizens' grievances are redressed.

Therefore, the following institutional devices have been created in different parts of the world to deal with the redressal of these grievances:

- The Ombudsman System
- The Administrative Courts System
- The Procurator System

**Source:** Laxmikanth's Polity

**Q.2) The "File to Field" grievance redressal system is implemented in which of the following state?**

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** File to Field programme is implemented in Kerala. In this innovative scheme, the administrator goes to the village/area and hears public grievances and takes immediate action **wherever possible.**

**Source:** Laxmikanth's Polity

**Q.3) Which of the following is/are formed to check corruption and redress citizens' grievances in India?**

1. Public Servants (Enquiries) Act, 1850
2. Indian Penal Code, 1860
3. Special Police Establishment, 1941

**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 existing legal and institutional framework to check corruption and redress citizens' grievances in India consists of the following:

- Public Servants (Enquiries) Act, 1850
- Indian Penal Code, 1860
- Special Police Establishment, 1941
- Delhi Police Establishment Act, 1946
- Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988

**Source:** Laxmikanth's Polity

**Q.4) Which of the following is the first state to establish the Lokayukta?**

- a) Kerala
- b) Odisha
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Tamil Nadu

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Even much before the enactment of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act (2013) itself, many states had already set up the institution of Lokayuktas.

- It must be noted here that the institution of lokayukta was established first in Maharashtra in 1971.
- Although Odisha had passed the Act in this regard in 1970, it came into force only in 1983.

**Source:** Laxmikanth's Polity

**Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding the National Investigation Agency (NIA):**

1. It was constituted in 2009 under the provisions of the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008.
2. It is the central counter-terrorism law enforcement agency in the country.

**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 National Investigation Agency (NIA) was constituted in 2009 under the provisions of the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008 (NIA Act).

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- It is the central counter-terrorism law enforcement agency in the country.
- The NIA was established in the backdrop of the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks, popularly known as the 26/11 incident.
- This national horror led to the realization of the need for a separate federal agency to deal with terror-related crimes in the country.

**Source: Laxmikanth's Polity**

**Q.6) Which of the following offense/s is/are come/s under the jurisdiction of National Investigation Agency (NIA)?**

1. Bomb blasts
2. Cyber-terrorism
3. Hijacking of aircrafts and ships

**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 NIA is empowered to probe terror attacks including bomb blasts, hijacking of aircrafts and ships, attacks on nuclear installations and use of weapons of mass destruction. In 2019, the jurisdiction of the NIA was extended.

Consequently, the NIA is also empowered to probe the offences relating to human trafficking, counterfeit currency or bank notes, manufacture or sale of prohibited arms, cyber-terrorism and explosive substances.

**Source: Laxmikanth's Polity**

**Q.7) In which of the following year Disaster Management Act was passed?**

- a) 1999
- b) 2001
- c) 2004
- d) 2005

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The Government of India, recognizing the importance of disaster management as a national priority, had set up a High Powered Committee in 1999 and a National Committee in 2001 after the Gujarat earthquake, to make recommendations on the preparation of disaster management plans and suggest effective mitigation mechanisms.

However, after the Indian Ocean tsunami of 2004, the Government of India took a defining step in the legislative history of the country by enacting the Disaster Management Act, 2005.

**Source: Laxmikanth's Polity**

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**Q.8) The 97<sup>th</sup> constitutional amendment deals with which of the following?**

- a) Co-operative societies
- b) Delimitation commission
- c) Goods & Services Tax council
- d) National Commission of other backward classes

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The 97th Constitutional Amendment Act of 2011 gave a constitutional status and protection to co-operative societies.

**Source:** Laxmikanth's Polity

**Q.9) The maximum number of directors of a cooperative society consists of?**

- a) 12
- b) 15
- c) 18
- d) 21

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The board shall consist of such number of directors as may be provided by the state legislature.

But, the maximum number of directors of a co-operative society shall not exceed twenty-one.

**Source:** Laxmikanth's Polity

**Q.10) The "Ashtamudi Lake" is recently seen in news is located at?**

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Ashtamudi Lake, in the Kollam District of the Indian state of Kerala.

- It possesses a unique wetland ecosystem and a large palm-shaped water body, second only in size to the Vembanad estuary ecosystem of the state.
- Ashtamudi means 'eight braids' in the local Malayalam language.

**Source:** FORUMIAS

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## *Indian Polity*

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**Q.1) “Part – IXB” of Indian constitution deals with which of the following?**

- a) Cooperative societies
- b) Panchayats
- c) Municipalities
- d) Cantonment boards

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The 97th Constitutional Amendment Act of 2011 gave a constitutional status and protection to co-operative societies.

In this context, it made the following three changes in the constitution:

- It made the right to form co-operative societies a fundamental right (Article 19).
- It included a new Directive Principle of State Policy on promotion of co-operative societies (Article 43-B).
- It added a new Part IX-B in the Constitution which is entitled “The Co-operative Societies” (Articles 243-ZH to 243-ZT).

**Source:** Laxmikanth’s Polity

**Q.2) Which of the following provision/s is/are covered under part XVII of Indian constitution?**

- 1. Language of the union
- 2. Language of the judiciary
- 3. Regional languages

**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:** Part XVII of the Constitution deals with the official language in Articles 343 to 351. Its provisions are divided into four heads—Language of the Union, Regional languages, Language of the judiciary and texts of laws and Special directives.

**Source:** Laxmikanth’s Polity

**Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding the official language of the Union:**

1. Hindi written in Devanagari script is to be the official language of the Union.
2. Devanagari form of numerals is used for the official purposes of the Union.

**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:** Hindi written in Devanagari script is to be the official language of the Union. But, the form of numerals to be used for the official purposes of the Union has to be the international form of Indian numerals and not the Devanagari form of numerals.

**Source:** Laxmikanth's Polity

**Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding official languages act:**

1. It was enacted in 1972.
2. The act provides for the continued use of English, in addition to Hindi, for all official purposes.

**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: A**

**Explanation:** In 1955, the president appointed an Official Language Commission under the chairmanship of B.G. Kher.

- The commission submitted its report to the President in 1956.
- The report was examined by a committee of Parliament constituted in 1957 under the chairmanship of Gobind Ballabh Pant.
- However, another Official Language Commission (as envisaged by the Constitution) was not appointed in 1960.
- Subsequently, the Parliament enacted the Official Languages Act in 1963.
- The act provides for the continued use of English (even after 1965), in addition to Hindi, for all official purposes of the Union and also for the transaction of business in Parliament.

**Source:** Laxmikanth's Polity



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**Q.5) Which of the following state/s is/are adopted Hindi as its official language?**

1. Maharashtra
2. Madhya Pradesh
3. Haryana

**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 Constitution does not specify the official language of different states. In this regard, it makes the following provisions:

- The legislature of a state may adopt any one or more of the languages in use in the state or Hindi as the official language of that state.
- Until that is done, English is to continue as official language of that state. Under this provision, most of the states have adopted the major regional language as their official language.
- For example, Andhra Pradesh has adopted Telugu, Kerala– Malayalam, Assam– Assamese, West Bengal–Bengali, Odisha–Odia.
- The nine northern states of Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Haryana and Rajasthan have adopted Hindi.

**Source:** Laxmikanth's Polity

**Q.6) The eighth schedule of Indian constitution deals with?**

- a) Languages
- b) Anti defection
- c) Judicial review
- d) Delimitation commission

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** At present (2019), the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution specifies 22 languages (originally 14 languages).

**Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding Committee of Parliament on Official Language:**

1. It was set up in 1976.
2. It comprises of 30 members of Parliament, 20 from Lok Sabha and 10 from Rajya Sabha.

**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 Official Languages Act (1963) provided for the setting up of a Committee of Parliament on Official Language to review the progress made in the use of Hindi for the official purpose of the Union.

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- Under the Act, this Committee was to be constituted after ten years of the promulgation of the Act (i.e., 26th January, 1965).
- Accordingly, this Committee was set up in 1976.
- This Committee comprises of 30 members of Parliament, 20 from Lok Sabha and 10 from Rajya Sabha.

**Source: Laxmikanth's Polity**

**Q.8) Which of the following is/are classical language/s?**

1. Hindi
2. Telugu
3. Tamil

**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:** In 2004, the Government of India decided to create new category of languages called as "classical languages".

- In 2006, it laid down the criteria for conferring the classical language status.
- So far (2019), the six languages are granted the classical language status.

**Table 65.1 Languages conferred with Classical Language Status**

Sl. No.	Languages	Year of Declaration
1.	Tamil	2004
2.	Sanskrit	2005
3.	Telugu	2008
4.	Kannada	2008
5.	Malayalam	2013
6.	Odia	2014

**Source:** Laxmikanth's Polity

**Q.9) The kabartal wetland is recently seen in news located at?**

- a) Uttar Pradesh
- b) Madhya Pradesh
- c) Arunachal Pradesh
- d) Bihar

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The Kabartal Wetland (locally known as Kanwar Lake) is Asia's largest oxbow lake situated in the Begusarai district of Bihar.

- It is a residual oxbow lake, formed due to the meandering of Gandak River, a tributary of Ganga.

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- Covering the majority of the Indo-Gangetic plains in northern Bihar, this lake was declared a Ramsar site in 2020, making it the first wetland in Bihar to be included in the Ramsar convention.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

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

- a) Kerala
- b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Karnataka
- 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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## *Indian Polity*

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**Q.1) The public service (civil services or government services) in India is/are classified into?**

1. All India Services
2. Central Services
3. State Services

**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 public services (civil services or government services) in India are classified into three categories—all-India services, Central services and state services.

**Source:** Laxmikanth's Polity

**Q.2) In which of the following year the Indian Forest Service was added to All India Service?**

- a) 1947
- b) 1956
- c) 1966
- d) 1972

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** In 1947, the Indian Civil Service (ICS) was replaced by IAS, and the Indian Police (IP) was replaced by IPS and was recognized by the Constitution as all-India services. In 1966, the Indian Forest Service was established as the third all-India service.

**Source:** Laxmikanth's Polity

**Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding All India Services:**

1. The members of these services are recruited and trained by the Central government but are assigned to different states for work.
2. They serve the Central government on deputation and after completing their fixed tenure they go back to their respective states.

**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 All-India Services Act of 1951 authorized the Central government to make rules in consultation with the state governments for the regulation of recruitment and service conditions of the members of all-India services.

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- The members of these services are recruited and trained by the Central government but are assigned to different states for work.
- They belong to different state cadres; the Centre having no cadre of its own in this regard.
- They serve the Central government on deputation and after completing their fixed tenure they go back to their respective states.

**Source:** Laxmikanth's Polity

**Q.4) The part XIV of the Constitution is deals with which of the following?**

- All India Services
- Trade, Commerce & Intercourse within India
- Relation between union & states
- Official Languages

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Articles 308 to 314 in part XIV of the Constitution contain provisions with regard to all-India services, Central services and state services.

**Source:** Laxmikanth's Polity

**Q.5) Which article of Indian constitution provides safeguards to civil servants?**

- Article 308
- Article 309
- Article 310
- Article 311

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Safeguards to Civil Servants: Article 311 places two restrictions on the above doctrine of pleasure.

- In other words, it provides two safeguards to civil servants against any arbitrary dismissal from their posts.
- A civil servant cannot be dismissed or removed by an authority subordinate to that by which he was appointed.
- A civil servant cannot be dismissed or removed or reduced in rank except after an inquiry in which he has been informed of the charges against him and given a reasonable opportunity of being heard in respect of those charges.

**Source:** Laxmikanth's Polity

**Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding All India Services:**

1. Rajya Sabha can pass a resolution to recommend the president to create a new All India Service.
2. Such resolution in the Rajya Sabha should be supported by one – third of the members present and voting.

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

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The Parliament can create new all India services (including an all-India judicial service), if the Rajya Sabha passes a resolution declaring that it is necessary or expedient in the national interest to do so.

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- Such a resolution in the Rajya Sabha should be supported by two-thirds of the members present and voting.
- This power of recommendation is given to the Rajya Sabha to protect the interests of states in the Indian federal system.

**Source:** Laxmikanth's Polity

### **Q.7) The Part XII of the Constitution of India deals with?**

- a) Finance & Contracts
- b) Scheduled & Tribal areas
- c) Emergency provisions
- d) Amendment of the constitution

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Articles 294 to 300 in Part XII of the Constitution deal with the property, contracts, rights, liabilities, obligations and suits of the Union and the states.

In this regard, the Constitution makes the Union or the states as juristic (legal) persons.

**Source:** Laxmikanth's Polity

### **Q.8) Which constitutional amendment bi-furcated the combined commission of SC's & ST's into two separate bodies?**

- a) 76<sup>th</sup> constitutional amendment
- b) 81<sup>st</sup> constitutional amendment
- c) 89<sup>th</sup> constitutional amendment
- d) 92<sup>nd</sup> constitutional amendment

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The Constitution provided for a combined National Commission for SCs and STs. The 89th Amendment Act of 2003 bi-furcated the combined commission into two separate bodies.

**Source:** Laxmikanth's Polity

### **Q.9) The famous "U.N. Dhebar" committee is related to?**

- a) Scheduled tribes
- b) Scheduled castes
- c) Other backward classes
- d) Economically weaker sections

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The President is required to appoint a commission to report on the administration of the scheduled areas and the welfare of the STs in the states.

- He can appoint such a commission at any time but compulsorily after ten years of the commencement of the Constitution.
- Hence, a commission was appointed in the year 1960. It was headed by U.N. Dhebar and submitted its report in 1961.
- After four decades, the second commission was appointed in 2002 under the chairmanship of Dilip Singh Bhuria. It submitted its report in 2004.

**Source:** Laxmikanth's Polity

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

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Navegaon National Park is a National park located in the Arjuni Morgaon subdivision of Gondia district in state of Maharashtra, India.

The Dr Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary, Navegaon is home to almost 60% of the bird species found in entire Maharashtra. Every winter, flocks of migratory birds visit the lake.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

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## *Indian Polity*

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**Q.1) Which of the following is/are types of political parties in the modern democratic states?**

1. Reactionary parties
2. Liberal parties
3. Conservative parties

**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:** Political parties are voluntary associations or organised groups of individuals who share the same political views and who try to gain political power through constitutional means and who desire to work for promoting the national interest.

There are four types of political parties in the modern democratic states, viz.,

- (i) reactionary parties which cling to the old socio-economic and political institutions;
- (ii) conservative parties which believe in the status-quo;
- (iii) liberal parties which aim at reforming the existing institutions; and
- (iv) Radical parties which aim at establishing a new order by overthrowing the existing institutions.

**Source:** Laxmikanth's Polity

**Q.2) Which of the following country/countries is/are practicing multi party system?**

1. United States of America
2. France
3. Italy

**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:** Multi-party system in which there are a number of political parties leading to the formation of coalition governments, as for example, in France, Switzerland and Italy.

**Source:** Laxmikanth's Polity



**Q.3) Which of the following privilege/s is/are enjoyed by the political party registered with election commission?**

1. Access to electoral rolls.
2. Allocation of the party symbols.
3. Provision of time for political broadcasts on the state-owned television.

**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 recognition granted by the Commission to the parties determines their right to certain privileges like allocation of the party symbols, provision of time for political broadcasts on the state-owned television and radio stations and access to electoral rolls.

**Source:** Laxmikanth's Polity

**Q.4) How many star campaigners for a registered political party?**

- a) 10
- b) 20
- c) 30
- d) 40

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The recognized parties need only one proposer for filing the nomination. Also, these parties are allowed to have forty "star campaigners" during the time of elections and the registered unrecognized parties are allowed to have twenty "star campaigners".

**Source:** Laxmikanth's Polity

**Q.5) Which of the following condition/s for recognition of party as national party?**

1. If it secures four per cent of valid votes polled in any four or more states at a general election to the Lok Sabha or to the legislative assembly.
2. If it wins four seats in the Lok Sabha from any state or states.
3. If it is recognized as a state party in four states.

**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:** At present (2019), a party is recognized as a national party if any of the following conditions is fulfilled:

- If it secures six per cent of valid votes polled in any four or more states at a general election to the Lok Sabha or to the legislative assembly; and, in addition, it wins four seats in the Lok Sabha from any state or states; or
- If it wins two per cent of seats in the Lok Sabha at a general election; and these candidates are elected from three states; or

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- If it is recognized as a state party in four states.

**Source: Laxmikanth's Polity**

**Q.6) Which of the following condition/s for recognition of party as state party?**

1. If it secures six per cent of the valid votes polled in the state at a general election to the legislative assembly of the state.
2. If it wins 2 seats in the assembly of the state concerned.
3. If it secures four per cent of the valid votes polled in the state at a general election to the Lok Sabha from the state concerned.

**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:** At present (2019), a party is recognized as a state party in a state if any of the following conditions is fulfilled:

- If it secures six per cent of the valid votes polled in the state at a general election to the legislative assembly of the state concerned; and, in addition, it wins 2 seats in the assembly of the state concerned; or
- If it secures six per cent of the valid votes polled in the state at a general election to the Lok Sabha from the state concerned; and, in addition, it wins 1 seat in the Lok Sabha from the state concerned; or
- If it wins three per cent of seats in the legislative assembly at a general election to the legislative assembly of the state concerned or 3 seats in the assembly, whichever is more; or
- If it wins 1 seat in the Lok Sabha for every 25 seats or any fraction thereof allotted to the state at a general election to the Lok Sabha from the state concerned; or
- If it secures eight per cent of the total valid votes polled in the state at a General Election to the Lok Sabha from the state or to the legislative assembly of the state. This condition was added in 2011.

**Source: Laxmikanth's Polity**

**Q.7) Which national party has clock as its party symbol?**

- a) Nationalist Congress Party
- b) Indian National Congress
- c) All India Trinamool Congress
- d) Bahujan Samaj Party

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Nationalist Congress Party has clock symbol.

**Source:** Laxmikanth's Polity

**Q.8) Which of the following is/are reason/s for emergence of regional parties?**

1. Cultural and ethnic pluralism of the Indian society.
2. Economic disparities and regional imbalances in the development.
3. Desire of certain sections or areas to maintain separate identity due to historical factors.

**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:** There are multiple reasons for the emergence of regional parties in India. These are as follows:

- Cultural and ethnic pluralism of the Indian society.
- Economic disparities and regional imbalances in the development.
- Desire of certain sections or areas to maintain separate identity due to historical factors.
- Self-interest of the deposed Maharajas and dispossessed Zamindars.
- Failure of national politics to meet the regional aspirations.

**Source:** Laxmikanth's Polity

**Q.9) The "Kamlang Wildlife Sanctuary" is recently seen in news located at?**

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The Kamlang Wildlife Sanctuary is a small sanctuary located in the southeastern part of Lohit District in Arunachal Pradesh.

- This reserve though small it has varieties of animal species like Tiger, Hollock gibbon, Elephant, Stump tailed macaque, Boar, Civets, Capped Langur, Deer, Hornbills and flying squirrels etc.
- With over 61 species of mammals and 105 species of birds this sanctuary in Arunachal is a definite place to visit on your next wildlife holiday in Arunachal Pradesh.

**Source:** FORUMIAS

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**Q.10) The “Rudrasagar Lake” is often seen in news located at?**

- a) Madhya Pradesh
- b) Rajasthan
- c) Tripura
- d) Mizoram

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Rudrasagar Lake is situated in the Melaghar Block under Sonamura Sub-Division in the West Tripura District in Tripura, India.

- It is an artificial lake built by an Ahom King – Lakshmi Singha, in memory of his father King Rudra Singha.
- The Rudrasagar Lake was approved as a Ramsar Site on November 8, 2005, by India’s Ministry of Environmental and Forest.
- The Lake is also called Twijilikma and is a natural sedimentation reservoir.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

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## *Indian Polity – Revision*

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**Q.1) The part XV of Indian constitution deals with?**

- a) Finance commission
- b) Electoral system
- c) Inter – state council
- d) Human rights commission

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Articles 324 to 329 in Part XV of the Constitution make the provisions with regard to the electoral system in our country.

**Source: Laxmikanth's Polity**

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

1. The Constitution provides for an independent Election Commission in order to ensure free and fair elections in the country.
2. At present, the commission consists of a chief election commissioner and four election commissioners.

**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 Constitution (Article 324) provides for an independent Election Commission in order to ensure free and fair elections in the country.

- The power of superintendence, direction and conduct of elections to the Parliament, the state legislatures, the office of the President and the office of the Vice President is vested in the Commission.
- At present, the commission consists of a chief election commissioner and two election commissioners.

**Source: Laxmikanth's Polity**

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

1. There is to be only one general electoral roll for every territorial constituency for election to the Parliament and the state legislatures.
2. No person is to be ineligible for inclusion in the electoral roll on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex or any of them.

**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 is to be only one general electoral roll for every territorial constituency for election to the Parliament and the state legislatures.

- Thus, the Constitution has abolished the system of communal representation and separate electorates which led to the partition of the country.
- No person is to be ineligible for inclusion in the electoral roll on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex or any of them.

**Source:** Laxmikanth's Polity

**Q.4) Article 323B of the Indian constitution deals with?**

- a) Election disputes
- b) Special officer for linguistic minorities
- c) Reservation for ST's & SC's
- d) Grants in aid to union territories

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Article 323B empowers the appropriate legislature (Parliament or state legislature) to establish a tribunal for the adjudication of election disputes.

It also provides for the exclusion of the jurisdiction of all courts (except the special leave appeal jurisdiction of the Supreme Court) in such disputes.

**Source:** Laxmikanth's Polity

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

1. Elections for the Lok Sabha and every state Legislative Assembly have to take place every five years, unless called earlier.
2. President can dissolve Rajya Sabha and call a General Election before five years is up.

**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:** Elections for the Lok Sabha and every state Legislative Assembly have to take place every five years, unless called earlier.

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The President can dissolve Lok Sabha and call a General Election before five years is up, if the Government can no longer command the confidence of the Lok Sabha, and if there is no alternative government available to take over.

**Source:** Laxmikanth's Polity

**Q.6) Article 81 and 170 of Indian constitution is recently seen in news deals with?**

- a) Lok sabha and state legislature maximum seats
- b) Ordinance power of President & Governor
- c) Writs of Supreme court & High court
- d) Veto powers of President & Governor

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Articles 81 and 170 of the Constitution of India lay down the maximum number of seats in Parliament and in Legislative Assemblies of States and also certain principles to be followed in allocating seats in the House of People among the States and in the State Legislative Assemblies, but have left the actual allocation of such seats to be provided by the law.

**Source:** Laxmikanth's Polity

**Q.7) Which of the following is/are provision/s of the Representation of the People Act, 1950?**

- 1. Allocation of seats in the House of the People, the State Legislative Assemblies and the State Legislative Councils.
- 2. Delimitation of Parliamentary, Assembly and Council Constituencies.
- 3. Manner of filling seats in the Council of States to be filled by representatives of union territories.

**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 Representation of the People Act, 1950 makes the following provisions relating to the elections:

- Allocation of seats in the House of the People, the State Legislative Assemblies and the State Legislative Councils.
- Delimitation of Parliamentary, Assembly and Council Constituencies.
- Election officers like chief electoral officers, district election officers, electoral registration officers and so on.
- Electoral rolls for Parliamentary, Assembly and Council constituencies.
- Manner of filling seats in the Council of States to be filled by representatives of union territories.
- Local authorities for purposes of elections to the State Legislative Councils.
- Barring the jurisdiction of civil courts.

**Source:** Laxmikanth's Polity

**Q.8) Which of the following is/are provision/s of the Representation of the People Act, 1951?**

1. Qualifications and disqualifications for membership of Parliament and State Legislatures.
2. Notification of general elections.
3. Administrative machinery for the conduct of elections.

**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 Representation of the People Act, 1951 contains provisions relating to the following electoral matters:

- Qualifications and disqualifications for membership of Parliament and State Legislatures
- Notification of general elections
- Administrative machinery for the conduct of elections
- Registration of political parties
- Conduct of elections
- Free supply of certain material to candidates of recognised political parties

**Source:** Laxmikanth's Polity

**Q.9) The "Ramgarh Visdhari Tiger Reserve" is recently seen in news located at?**

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Ramgarh Visdhari Tiger Reserve lies in the southeastern part of Rajasthan in Bindi district with representation of both Vindhyan and Aaravalli elements.

- It is in continuation with the buffer area of Ranthambore tiger reserve in the North-eastern side and Mukundara Hills tiger reserve in the southern side.
- Mez, a tributary of Chambal River passes through the tiger reserve. The terrain is mostly rugged and hilly.
- The area is confined to bio-geographic classification 4A which is the 'Semi-arid' Zone of India. The habitat is dominated by Dhok (*Anogeissus pendula*) trees.

**Source:** [https://ntca.gov.in/assets/uploads/briefnote/Ramgarh\\_Visdhari.pdf](https://ntca.gov.in/assets/uploads/briefnote/Ramgarh_Visdhari.pdf)



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

- a) Bihar
- b) Jharkhand
- c) Chhattisgarh
- d) Odisha

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The Guru Ghasidas National Park is a beautifully protected reserve stretched into an area of 1440.71 sq kilometres.

- The park is one of the unique national parks in the area and is a must visit when travelling to the state of Chhattisgarh.
- It is located in the Koriya District of Chhattisgarh and was initially a part of the Sanjay National Park in Madhya Pradesh.
- However, after the formation of Chhattisgarh, 60% of the park landed in the Koriya district and this part was renamed Guru Ghasidas National Park.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

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## *History – Pre – History Phase*

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

1. Events occurring before the invention of writing are considered the domain of pre – history.
2. It is generally represented by three stone ages.

**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 English word ‘history’ comes from the Greek historia, meaning “inquiry, knowledge acquired by investigation”.

- It corresponds to the study of the past and throws light on various past events of significance which shaped and evolved human experiences.
- History is further divided into pre-history, proto-history, and history.
- Events occurring before the invention of writing are considered the domain of pre – history, which is generally represented by the three stone ages.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.2) Which of the following is an example of proto – history?**

- a) Indus valley civilization
- b) Mauryan culture
- c) Sramanic traditions
- d) Satavahanas culture

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Generally, it refers to a period between prehistory and history, during which a culture or civilization has not yet developed writing but are mentioned in the written records of a contemporary literate civilization.

For example, the script of the Harappan civilization remains un-deciphered; however, since its existence is noted in Mesopotamian writings, it is considered a part of proto-history.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.3) The “Pallavaram hand-axe” was probably the first Paleolithic tool discovered in India by?**

- a) Robert Bruce Foote
- b) Max Muller
- c) Alexander Cunningham
- d) Sir Mortimer Wheeler

**ANS: A**

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

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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 hand-axe.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.4) Which of the following is/are characteristic/s of Paleolithic age?**

1. It was developed in ice age.
2. The Paleolithic man of India are said to have belonged to the Negrito race.
3. It was spread in practically all parts of India.

**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 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.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.5) The “Muchchatla Chintamani Gavi” upper Paleolithic site is located at?**

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The lower Paleolithic people spread across the Kashmir, Rajasthan and also in the Bhimbetka region and Belan Valley near Mirzapur.

While the upper Paleolithic population spread in the cave sites of Kurnool and Muchchatla Chintamani Gavi in Andhra Pradesh and the middle Paleolithic people spread in the Narmada and Tungabhadra valley and the Potwar plateau.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.6) The Homo sapiens was first appeared in the following period?**

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Homo sapiens first appeared at the end of upper Paleolithic phase. Coincided with the last phase of the Ice Age, when the climate became comparatively warm and less humid.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding Mesolithic period:**

1. It belongs to the Holocene era.
2. The Mesolithic man lived on hunting, fishing, food gathering, and in later stages, also domesticated animals.

**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 Mesolithic Age represents the intermediate stage in Stone Age Culture.

- Both Mesolithic and Neolithic Cultures belong to the Holocene era (which succeeded the Pleistocene era around 10,000 years ago).
- The Mesolithic man lived on hunting, fishing, food gathering, and in later stages, also domesticated animals.

**Source: Poonam Dahiya**

**Q.8) The “microliths” was associated with which of the following period?**

- a) Upper Paleolithic
- b) Mesolithic
- c) Neolithic
- d) Chalcolithic

**ANS: B**

**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: Poonam Dahiya**

**Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding Mesolithic rock art:**

1. Mesolithic rock art highly concentrated in south India.
2. No snakes are depicted in Mesolithic Paintings.

**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 Mesolithic era initiated rock art in pre-history. In 1867, the first rock paintings in India were discovered at Sohaghat (Kaimur Hills, UP).

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- 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:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.10) The famous “Loktak Lake” is often seen in news located at?**

- a) Manipur
- b) Mizoram
- c) Meghalaya
- d) Tripura

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Loktak Lake is a freshwater lake in Northeast India. It is the largest freshwater lake in South Asia.

It is a pulsating lake, with a surface area varying from 250 sq km to 500 sq km during the rainy season with a typical area of 287 sq km. The lake is located at Moirang in Manipur state, India.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

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## *Pre – History & Harappan Civilization*

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**Q.1) Which of the following was/were the innovation/s introduced by Neolithic period?**

1. Invention of pottery.
2. Emergence of self sufficient communities.
3. They depended on polished stones other than quartzite for making tools.

**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:** Neolithic period significance in pre-history can be gauged by the fact that V. Gordon Childe termed the Neolithic phase as Neolithic Revolution. It introduced a lot of innovations such as:

- Advent of food production: The Neolithic man cultivated land and grew fruits & corn like ragi and horse gram (kulathi). He domesticated cattle, sheep, and goats.
- Innovations in technology: The Neolithic man innovated in the production of stone tools, producing implements such as polished, pecked, and ground stone tools. They depended on polished stones other than quartzite for making tools.
- Invention of pottery: The Neolithic era communities first made pottery by hand and then with the help of the potter's wheel.
- Emergence of self-sufficient village communities: In the later phases of the Neolithic era, people led a more settled life.

**Source: Poonam Dahiya**

**Q.2) The famous “Chopani – Mando” Neolithic site situated at?**

- Himachal Pradesh
- Assam
- Kashmir
- Uttar Pradesh

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Chopani-mando is an important archaeological site, which indicates transition of humans from food gathering society to food production society.

It is situated in Belan river valley in modern Allahabad district of Uttar Pradesh state, India.

**Source: Poonam Dahiya**

**Q.3) Maski, Brahmagiri, Piklihal and Budihal are famous Neolithic sites are located in which of the following state?**

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Maski, Brahmagiri, Piklihal (proof of cattle herding), Budihal (community food preparation and feasting), and Tekkalakota in Karnataka.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding chalcolithic age:**

- 1. It marked the emergence of the use of metal along with stone tools.
- 2. Chalcolithic people are acquainted with horses.

**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 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.
- Chalcolithic people domesticated cows, sheep, goats, pigs and buffaloes, and hunted deer.
- **They ate beef but did not like pork and were also not acquainted with horses.**

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

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

- 1. It was the first urban civilization in South Asia.
- 2. Its occupied area was larger than the civilizations of Mesopotamia and Egypt.

**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 civilization was the first urban civilization in South Asia, contemporaneous with the civilizations of Mesopotamia and Egypt.

Of the three aforementioned civilizations, the Harappan civilization occupied most area (about 8,00,000 sq km).

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding urban planning of “Harappan Civilization”:**

1. The harappan cities were divided into citadel and lower town.
2. City planning roughly followed a grid pattern and streets ran from north and cut at right angles.

**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 – This part occupied a smaller area, and was frequently situated to the west of the city. Rulers of the city lived here. It also contained public buildings, granaries, and important workshops.
- Lower Part – The common citizenry lived and carried on their professional lives in this part of the city.

City planning roughly followed a grid pattern and streets ran from north and cut at right angles.

**Source: Poonam Dahiya**

**Q.7) Which of the following statements is/are correct about Harappan town planning?**

1. The main street being ten metres wide and dividing the town into rectangular and square blocks.
2. The streets have lamp posts at regular intervals.
3. They used dry bricks across all Harappan structures.

**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:** 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: Poonam Dahiya**



**Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding harappan society:**

1. More female figurines have been uncovered in comparison to male figurines in harappan cities.
2. The red black pottery was famous in harappan cities.

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

- Primarily red black pottery (red ware pottery painted with black designs, usually that of trees and circles) was popular.
- Some of these pots were used for storing grain or water, while some perforated pots were probably used for brewing fermented alcoholic beverages.
- 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.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.9) Which of the following metal/s was/were known by harappans?**

1. Iron
2. Gold
3. Silver

**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:** 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.
- It is rather interesting that the number of pure copper artifacts was far greater than alloyed bronze ones, but it does not mean technological backwardness rather points towards cultural preference in all likelihood.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

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

**Q.10) The “Ghosu Bird sanctuary” is recently seen in news located at?**

- a) West Bengal
- b) Nagaland
- c) Tripura
- d) Bihar

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Ghosu Bird sanctuary is one of the most scenic wildlife sanctuaries in Nagaland.

- With an area of around 650 hectares, this sanctuary is home to some of the most endangered birds in India.
- The city is located by the bank of river Langki, and it is situated in the Zunheboto area of Nagaland.
- Some of the most seen birds in the Ghosu bird sanctuary are barred cuckoo dove, common wood pigeon, wedge-tailed green pigeon, emerald dove and many more.
- Apart from birds, several wild animals are also seen in the forest. Some of them are civets, pangolin, and Himalayan black bear, Hog Badger, Himalayan Serow and many more.

**Source:** FORUMIAS

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## *Harappa & Vedic Civilizations*

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**Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding Harappa script:**

1. It was pictographic and logo-syllabic.
2. 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: Poonam Dahiya**

**Q.2) Which of the following place/s ancient sea port/s of Harappa civilization?**

1. Rangpur
2. Somnath
3. Balakot

**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:** A dockyard has been excavated in Lothal and sea ports have been found at Rangpur, Somnath and Balakot.

**Source: Poonam Dahiya**

**Q.3) Which of the following metal/s was/were imported by Harappans?**

1. Gold
2. Copper
3. Lapis Lazuli

**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 metals imported by Harappans are gold, copper, tin, lapis lazuli, jade and lead.

**Source: Poonam Dahiya**

**Q.4) Which of the following crop/s was/were grown by the Harappans?**

1. Wheat
2. Rice
3. Barley

**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 grew wheat (especially in Mehrgarh), barley, horse gram, peas, melon, watermelon, sesame, dates, millets, grapes, henna (mehndi), garlic, mustard, rice (Lothal).

**Source: Poonam Dahiya**

**Q.5) In which of the following Harappa city the remains of horse were found?**

- a) Kalibangan
- b) Surkotda
- c) Ropar
- d) Banawali

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Remains of horses at Surkotda and dogs with men in graves at Ropar have been discovered.

**Source: Poonam Dahiya**

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

**Q.6) Who among the following gave the “Arctic Region Theory” to explain the origins of Aryans?**

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The “Arctic Region Theory” was given by Dr. Bal Gangadhar Tilak. Homeland is the Northern Arctic region, as the Vedas speak about 6 months each of long days and long nights, which happen only in the Arctic region.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.7) Which of the following is/are part/s of vedas?**

- 1. Samhita
- 2. Brahmana
- 3. Aranyaka

**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 word Veda has been derived from the root ‘vid’, which means to know/knowledge.

- They hold the status of Shruti (which has been heard) and have been transmitted orally for many centuries.
- Later, they were written down, and the earliest surviving manuscript belongs to the 11th century.
- There are four Vedas and every Veda generally has four parts: Samhita, Brahmana, Aranyaka, and Upanishad.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding Rig Veda:**

- 1. It is a collection of 1,028 hymns, divided into 10 Mandals (books).
- 2. Rig Veda has been included by the UNESCO in the list of literature signifying World Human Heritage.

**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 Rig Veda is a collection of 1,028 hymns, divided into 10 Mandals (books).

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They are the earliest compositions and hence, they depict the life of the Early Vedic people in India.

Recently, the Rig Veda has been included by the UNESCO in the list of literature signifying World Human Heritage.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.9) Which of the following is the upveda of rig veda?**

- a) Ayurveda
- b) Gandharva Veda
- c) Dhanur Veda
- d) Shilpa Veda

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The priests related to the Rig Veda are Kotri or Motri, and the Upveda of the Rig Veda is the Ayurveda.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.10) The famous Dhrupada raga sung by Tansen was related to which of the following?**

- a) Rig Veda
- b) Sama Veda
- c) Yajur Veda
- d) Atharva Veda

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The Sama Veda is the collection of verses mostly taken from the Rig Veda, but arranged in a poetic form to facilitate singing.

- It is a collection of 1,810 melodies, and also contains the famous Dhrupada raga, later sung by Tansen.
- The Upveda of the Sama Veda is the (Gandharva Veda).
- Recensions (Shakhas) of the Sama Veda are Kauthuma, Jaiminiya (Talavakara), and Ranayaniya.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

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## *History – The Mahajanapadas*

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

1. It was known as era of second urbanization.
2. The centre of economic and political activity was shifted from North West India to eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

**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 Urbanization’ 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).

**Source:** poonam Dahiya

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

1. Most of the Mahajanapadas were situated in the north of Vindhyas.
2. According to Anguttara Nikaya, the land between Himalayas and Narmada was divided into 22 Mahajanapadas.

**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:** Most of the Mahajanapadas were situated in the north of Vindhyas, between Bihar in the east to the north-west frontier of the subcontinent.

- From c. 600 BCE, the political history of India is the history of struggles between these states for supremacy.
- According to Buddhist texts, Anguttara Nikaya (the land between Himalayas and Narmada) was divided into 16 independent states (Mahajanapadas).

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.3) Which of the following was the southernmost mahajanapada?**

- a) Avanti
- b) Assaka
- c) Vatsa
- d) Matsya

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Assaka was the only Mahajanapada situated to the south of the Vindhya Range, and was in Dakshinapatha.



**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.4) Which of the following Mahajanapada was divided into two parts by the Sarayu River?**

- a) Kosala
- b) Maghadha
- c) Kashi
- d) Anga

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Sarayu river divided the Kosala state into two parts: Northern part's capital: Shravasti and Southern part's capital: Kushavati.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya



**Q.5) Which of the following was/were the Gana-Sanghas?**

1. Malla
2. Kosala
3. Anga

**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:** 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.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding “Gana-Sanghas”:**

1. The Gana-Sanghas had a government by assembly.
2. Most of the ganas were located in or near the Himalayan foothills in eastern 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:** 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.
- 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.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

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

1. Bimbisara was the founder of the Haryanka dynasty.
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: 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.

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- 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:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.8) Who among the following was arranged the first “Buddhist council”?**

- a) Ajatashatru
- b) Bimbisara
- c) Kalpataru
- d) Chellana

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Ajatashatru 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. Ajatashatru arranged the first Buddhist council.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.9) Who among the following was called as first empire builder of India?**

- a) Bimbisara
- b) Ajatashatru
- c) Mahapadma Nanda
- d) Shishunaga

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Mahapadma Nanda also called Ugrasena in Pali texts, because of his large army. The first empire builder of India, and claimed to be the ekarat, the sole sovereign who destroyed all other ruling princes, and sarva-kshatrantaka, uprooter of the Kshatriyas.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.10) Which of the following is the largest tiger reserve in India?**

- a) Bandipur
- b) Bandhavgarh
- c) Pench
- d) Nagarjunsagar-Srisailam

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The largest tiger reserve in India is the Nagarjunsagar-Srisailam Tiger Reserve. Located in the Nallamala forest, the reserve spreads over five districts, Kurnool District, Prakasam District, Guntur District, Nalgonda District and Mahabub Nagar district.

**Source:** FORUMIAS

## *History – The Mahajanapadas*

**Q.1) The “Mahashilakantaka and Rathamusala” of Ajatashatru period was known for?**

- a) Shiva temples
- b) Buddhist caves
- c) War machines
- d) Forts

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Ajatashatru used two innovative military weapons:

- War engine, which was used to those stones like catapults (Mahashilakantaka).
- Chariot with mace for mass-killing (Rathamusala).

**Source: Poonam Dahiya**

**Q.2) Which Magadha ruler founded the capital city of Pataliputra (modern Patna)?**

- a) Kala Asoka
- b) Udayabhadra
- c) Shishunaga
- d) Mahapadma Nanda

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Udayabhadra (Udayin) (460 BCE – 444 BCE): Founded the new capital at Pataliputra (modern Patna), situated at the confluence of Ganga and Son rivers.

- Pataliputra had a very strategic location as it lay at the centre of the Magadhan kingdom, which then extended from the Himalayas in the north to the Chhotanagpur Hills in the south.
- Probably was murdered at the instigation of Palaka, the king of Avanti.

**Source: Poonam Dahiya**

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

1. Magadha was the first state to use elephants on a large scale against its neighbours.
2. The capital city Rajagriha was surrounded by five hills, which helped it to provide natural fortification and was almost impregnable.

**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 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.

- Also, both of its capitals, Rajgriha and Patliputra, were situated at strategic points.

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- Girivraja or Rajagriha was surrounded by five hills, which helped it to provide natural fortification and was almost impregnable.
- Similarly, Pataliputra was more like a water fort, since it was situated at the confluence of the rivers Son and Ganga.
- Magadha was the first state to use elephants on a large scale against its neighbours.
- Elephants could be used in storming fortresses and in marching over areas lacking roads or other means of communication.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.4) Which of the following Mahajanapada is not situated in northwest India?**

- 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 Mahajanapads of Kamboja, Madra, and Gandhara were continuously fighting with each other.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.5) Which of the following is/are have Persian origin/influence?**

1. Kharoshthi script
2. Sigloi coins
3. Asoka's Bell-shaped capitals

**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 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:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.6) The term “Pura” of Mahajanapada was associated with?**

- a) Fortified Town
- b) Market Town
- c) Capital City
- d) Buddhist Village

**ANS: A**

**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:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.7) Which of the following product/s was/were exported during Mahajanapada period?**

- 1. Ivory products
- 2. Textile goods
- 3. Pots

**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:** Generally crafts were hereditary, and the son used to learn his family trade from his father.

Craft products like textile goods, ivory products, pots, etc., were exported over long distances by merchants.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.8) The “port city of Tamralipti” is associated with which of the following state?**

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Tamralipta or Tamralipti was a port city and capital of Suhma Kingdom in ancient India, located on the coast of the Bay of Bengal.

The Tamluk town in present-day Purba Medinipur, West Bengal, is generally identified as the site of Tamralipti.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

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

**Q.9) The terms “Kammikas and Shaulkikas” were associated with which of the following?**

- a) Customs officials
- b) Gold smiths
- c) Weavers
- d) Priests

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** 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 travelers.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding “Manas Tiger Reserve”:**

- 1. It spans across four districts of Assam.
- 2. It has a unique distinction of being a Natural World Heritage Site, a Tiger Reserve, an Elephant Reserve, a Biosphere Reserve and an Important Bird Area.

**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:** Manas Tiger Reserve (MTR) spans across the districts of Kokrajhar, Chirang, Buxa and Udalguri in north-west Assam.

- To the north, it is separated from the Royal Manas National Park of Bhutan by the River Manas and its tributaries- Beki and Hakua; while to the west, it is separated from the Buxa Tiger Reserve of West Bengal by the River Sankosh.
- The area has a unique distinction of being a Natural World Heritage Site, a Tiger Reserve, an Elephant Reserve, a Biosphere Reserve and an Important Bird Area.
- Evolutionarily, it is the entry point of tigers into India. It forms part of a large tiger conservation landscape which includes Buxa-Nameri-Pakke-Namdapha tiger reserves and protected areas of Bhutan and Myanmar.

**Source:** <https://ntca.gov.in/assets/uploads/briefnote/manas.pdf>

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## *Buddhism, Jainism & Ajivikas*

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

<b>Religious personality</b>		<b>Region</b>
1. Confucius	:	China
2. Zoroaster	:	Egypt
3. Parmenides	:	Iran

**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:** 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.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.2) The Buddhism & Jainism focused on which of the following?**

- 1. Non violence
- 2. Frugality
- 3. Charity

**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:** 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:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.3) Which of the following was/were the cause/s of Intellectual Awakening in 6<sup>th</sup> century BC?**

1. The emergence of territorial identities.
2. The Vedic religion was not fully organized.
3. The grievance of Kshatriyas.

**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:** Sixth century BCE was a period of intense intellectual ferment. There are several reasons for the emergence of this ferment.

- State formation and the rigidity of the Vedic religion constrained the liberty of thought and action.
- The emergence of territorial identities accelerated the process of sociopolitical and economic changes.
- The elite class, disillusioned with the system in place, began to move in protest towards the heterodox religions blossoming in Magadha or middle Ganges plains.
- As the Vedic religion was not fully organised, its reach did not permeate into the society and hence people did not find it difficult to follow the newly emerging religious sects.
- With urbanisation and expansion of trade, new classes of merchants and bankers such as sethis sought higher social status appropriate to their economic status.
- The grievance of Kshatriyas was that they were denied a staged life of ashramas, a privilege permitted only to Brahmins in the Vedic texts.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya & Tamil Nadu NCERT

**Q.4) Which of the following was/were the follower/s of the Ajivikas sect?**

1. Makkhali Gosala
2. Nanda Vaccha
3. Kisa Samkicca

**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 Ajivikas are believed to have evolved from one of the many ascetic groups of the times.

- According to Buddhist records, Nanda Vaccha was considered the founder of the Ajivika sect.
- He was succeeded by Kisa Samkicca, followed by Makkhali Gosala, who was the third and the greatest of the Ajivikas.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT



**Q.5) Which religion has the “niyati or fate” as the basic principle?**

- a) Jainism
- b) Buddhism
- c) Zoroastrianism
- d) Ajivikas

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The Ajivikas were naked ascetics. The basic principle of the Ajivikas was niyati or fate: they believed that nothing in this world could be changed as everything was predetermined.

- Everyone has to pass through a series of transmigrations to put an end to pain.
- According to Ajivikas, there were six inevitable factors in life, viz. gain and loss, joy and sorrow, and life and death.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

**Q.6) Which of the following was/were the follower/s of the “Lokayata school of thought”?**

- 1. Ajita Kesakambalin
- 2. Carvaka
- 3. Purana Kassapa

**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 term “lokyata” signifies materialist thought. Indian materialism has also been named Carvaka after one of the two founders of the school.

- Carvaka and Ajita Kesakambalin are said to have established Indian materialism as a formal philosophical system.
- Carvakas developed the concept of skepticism and believed in the pursuit of knowledge through experience. They questioned the authority of Vedas.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

**Q.7) The “Bhagavatisutra” text is related to which of the following?**

- a) Jainism
- b) Buddhism
- c) Lokayata
- d) Ajivikas

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** There was intense rivalry among the various heterodox sects. This is evident from the various religious accounts of the period.

- Buddhist and Jaina texts not only mention other heterodox sects but also belittle them.
- For example, Bhagavatisutra, a Jaina text, provides a poor account of Makkhali Gosala.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

**Q.8) Who among the following was called as “Nirgranthas”?**

- a) Jains
- b) Buddhists
- c) Ajivikas
- d) Materiliasts

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Among the various sects, the sect led by Vardhamana Mahavira (referred to as Nigantha Nataputta by Buddhist texts) bloomed into a religion called Jainism.

It was earlier known as Nirgranthas (free from bonds). Mahavira was known as Jina (conqueror) of the soul and hence his sect came to be known as Jainism.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

**Q.9) Who among the following was the founder of the Jaina Sect?**

- a) Risabha
- b) Ajitanatha
- c) Aristanemi
- d) Vardhamana Mahavira

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** According to Jaina tradition, Risabha was the founder of the sect. He is considered the first Tirthankara.

Yajur Veda mentions three of the Tirthankaras, viz., Risabha, Ajitanatha and Aristanemi. Mahavira organized his members into monastic and lay followers.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

**Q.10) The “Sthaviravadins” was related to which of the following sect?**

- a) Buddhism
- b) Jainism
- c) Ajivikas
- d) Lokayatas

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The Second Buddhist Council met at Vaishali a century after Buddha’s death. The Buddhist Order split into two later.

One was called the Sthaviravadins or ‘Believers in the Teachings of the Elders’ and the other known as Mahasanghikas or ‘Members of the Great Community’.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

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## *Revision*

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**Q.1) The famous Paleolithic site “Hunsgi valley” is located at?**

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Lower Paleolithic tools are found in most parts of India, except in a few regions of the Ganges valley, southern Tamil Nadu and in the hilly areas of the Western Ghats. Athirampakkam, Pallavaram and Gudiyam near Chennai, Hunsgi valley and Isampur in Karnataka, and Bhimbetka in Madhya Pradesh are some important Paleolithic sites where the Acheulian tools are found.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

**Q.2) Which of the following was/were the main features of the Indian Middle Paleolithic period?**

- 1. Tools are smaller.
- 2. Decrease in the use of hand axes in relation to other tools.
- 3. Use of core preparation techniques in stone tool production.

**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 Middle Paleolithic people occupied open-air, cave and rock shelter sites. They were hunter-gatherers. The main features of the Indian Middle Paleolithic period include the following:

- The tools became smaller.
- The decrease in the use of hand axes in relation to other tools.
- Use of core preparation techniques in stone tool production.
- Use of chert, jasper, chalcedony and quartz as raw materials.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

**Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding “Mesolithic period”:**

1. It occurs in all eco-zones from the coasts to the hills.
2. Hunting wild animals and gathering plant food and fishing were people’s main occupation 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: C**

**Explanation:** Mesolithic sites are found in most parts of India. They occur in all eco-zones from the coasts to the hills: sand dunes, rock shelters, deltaic regions, lake areas, forested territories, hilly and mountainous areas, rocky terrains and coastal environments.

Hunting wild animals and gathering plant food and fishing were people’s main occupation during this age. Agriculture was not practiced in the early stages.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

**Q.4) The famous Neolithic site “Burzahom” is located at?**

- a) Kashmir
- b) Rajasthan
- c) Gujarat
- d) Himachal Pradesh

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Neolithic culture in Kashmir region was contemporary to the Harappan civilisation. Burzahom, an important site of this culture, provides evidence for the Megalithic and Early Historic Periods.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

**Q.5) Which of the following was/were the feature/s of town planning in Harappan period?**

1. Fortification
2. Drainage system
3. A civic authority

**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:** Harappa (Punjab, Pakistan), Mohenjo-Daro (Sindh, Pakistan), Dholavira, Lothal, and Surkotada (Gujarat, India), Kalibangan and Banawali (Rajasthan, India), and Rakhigarhi (Haryana, India) are the major cities in the Harappan period.

- Fortification, wellplanned streets and lanes and drainages are noticed in the Harappan towns.
- A civic authority perhaps controlled the planning of the towns.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

**Q.6) The famous “Great Bath” is related to which of the following site?**

- a) Harappa
- b) Mohenjo-Daro
- c) Rakhigarhi
- d) Lothal

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The site of Mohenjo-Daro had a planned town, built on a platform. It has two distinct areas. One is identified as a citadel and another as the lower town.

- The houses had bathrooms paved with burnt bricks and proper drains. Some houses had stairs indicating the existence of an upper floor.
- The houses had multiple rooms. Many of the houses had a central courtyard with rooms all around.
- The Great Bath is a tank situated within a courtyard. The corridors were present on all four sides and stairs are seen on the northern and southern sides.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

**Q.7) Which of the following is/are crop/s grown by Harappans?**

- 1. Wheat
- 2. Chickpea
- 3. Lentil

**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:** Agriculture was an important source of subsistence for the Harappans.

The Harappans cultivated diverse crops such as wheat, barley, lentil, chickpea, sesame and various millets.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

**Q.8) The term “Zebu” of Harappan civilization was related to?**

- a) Agriculture
- b) Cattle
- c) Town Planning
- d) Religion

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Pastoralism was also practised by the Harappans. They domesticated sheep, goat and fowl.

- They had knowledge of various other animals including buffalo, pig and elephant.
- But horse was not known to them. The Harappan cattle are called Zebu. It is a large breed, often represented in their seals.
- They also ate fish and birds. Evidence of boar, deer and gharial has been found at the Harappan sites.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

**Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding “Vedas”:**

1. The language of the Vedas is described as Vedic Sanskrit.
2. The Vedic texts were memorized and orally transmitted by Brahmins from generation to generation.

**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 Vedas (Vid = to know, Vidya) are one of the earliest known texts to have been composed in India.

- The language of the Vedas is described as Vedic Sanskrit. The Vedas are four: Rig is the oldest and the others being Yajur, Sama and Atharva.
- The Vedic texts were memorized and orally transmitted by Brahmins from generation to generation.
- They were written down in the later period, after the introduction of writing.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

**Q.10) The “Zend Avesta” is related to which of the following?**

- a) Zoroastrianism
- b) Jainism
- c) Buddhism
- d) Hinduism

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The Zend Avesta is a Persian/Iranian text of Zoroastrianism. This book speaks about the lands and gods of the people speaking the Indo-Iranian languages.

It has references to the regions of northern and north-western parts of India. It has terms which show linguistic similarity with the Vedas.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

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## *The Mauryan Empire*

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**Q.1) The “Sandrakottus” name was related to which of the following?**

- a) Chandragupta Maurya
- b) Ashoka
- c) Bimbisara
- d) Ajatashatru

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Contemporary accounts by Greek historians show that Chandragupta was a youth living in Taxila when Alexander invaded India.

Greek historians have recorded his name as “Sandrakottus” or “Sandrakoptus”, which are evidently modified forms of Chandragupta.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

**Q.2) Who among the following has written the famous “Indica”?**

- a) Megasthenes
- b) Seleucus
- c) Porus
- d) Alexander

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The final agreement between the two was probably not too acrimonious, since Chandragupta gave Seleucus 500 war elephants, and Seleucus sent an ambassador to Chandragupta’s court.

- This ambassador was Megasthenes, and we owe much of the information that we have about Chandragupta to Indica, the account written by Megasthenes.
- The original of this work is lost, but many Greek historians had reproduced parts of his account describing the court of Chandragupta and his administration.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

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

1. Kautilya is also known as vikram gupta.
2. He wrote the famous text “Arthashastra”.

**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:** 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.

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- He is celebrated as the author of the Arthashastra, a treatise on political strategy and governance.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

**Q.4) Who among the following became ascetic and went to Chandragiri near Sravanabelagola, in Karnataka?**

- Chandragupta
- Bindusara
- Asoka
- Kala Asoka

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Chandragupta's son Bindusara succeeded him as emperor in 297 BCE in a peaceful and natural transition.

- We do not know what happened to Chandragupta. He probably renounced the world.
- According to the Jain tradition, Chandragupta spent his last years as an ascetic in Chandragiri, near Sravanabelagola, in Karnataka.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

**Q.5) With reference to the Mauryan administration, the term "samaharta" related to?**

- Personal bodyguards
- Revenue collector
- Fort keepers
- Forest guards

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Revenue collection was the responsibility of a collector-general (samaharta) who was also in charge of exchequer that he was, in effect, like a minister of finance.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

**Q.6) Which of the language/s was/were used by the Ashokan edict/s?**

- Pali
- Brahmi
- Prakrit

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

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The history of Ashoka is reconstructed on the basis of his inscriptions. In his inscriptions, Brahmi, Kharosthi, Prakrit, Aramaic, and Greek languages (deciphered by James Prinsep in c.1837 CE) have been used.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya



**Q.7) The “Bheri Ghosha (war drum) replaced by Dhamma Ghosha” was mentioned in which of the following major rock edict?**

- a) First rock edict
- b) Fourth rock edict
- c) Ninth rock edict
- d) Thirteenth rock edict

**ANS: B**

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

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.8) In which of the following place/s pillar edict/s was/were found?**

- 1. Lauriya-Araraj
- 2. Nigali Sagar
- 3. Topra

**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:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.9) Which of the following symbol/s is/are found on Ashokan pillars?**

- 1. Lotus
- 2. Bull
- 3. Lion

**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:** Poonam Dahiya

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

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Sariska Tiger Reserve is a tiger reserve in Alwar district, Rajasthan, India.

- It stretches over an area of 881 km<sup>2</sup> comprising scrub-thorn arid forests, dry deciduous forests, grasslands, and rocky hills.
- This area was a hunting preserve of the Alwar state and was declared a wildlife sanctuary in 1958.

**Source:** FORUMIAS

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## *History – Political & Cultural Developments in BC 200*

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**Q.1) The Patanjali, the notable grammarian who wrote the Mahabhasya was a contemporary of?**

- a) Asoka
- b) Brihadratha
- c) Pushyamitra Sunga
- d) Bindusara

**ANS: C**

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

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

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

1. The Indo-Greeks were the first to invade India in 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC.
2. They were the first to issue gold coins.

**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:** As we have discussed in the earlier chapter, with the construction of Chinese Wall, the Scythians were pushed back from the China and they turned their attention towards the neighbouring Greeks and Parthians.

- In the beginning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BCE, the Indo-Greeks were the first to invade India.
- They occupied a large part of north-western India, much larger than that conquered by Alexander, and it is believed that they pushed forward to as far as Ayodhya and Pataliputra.
- They were the first to issue gold coins and much of their lineage is determined on the basis of excavated coins which include coins of silver, copper, and nickel as well.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.3) Who among the following was converted the Indo – Greek king “Milinda”?**

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Milinda 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).

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The text claims that impressed by the answers, the king accepted Buddhism as his religion.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.4) Which of the following dynasty was called as “moon tribe”?**

- Shakas
- Indo – Greeks
- Kushans
- Satavahanas

**ANS: C**

**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.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.5) Which of the following was/were associated with king “Kanishka”?**

- His kingdom has two capitals.
- He started the Shaka era.
- He held the third Buddhist Council.

**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:** Kanishka had two capitals: Purushapura (present day Peshawar) and Mathura: He built a giant stupa to house the Buddha’s relics in the city of Purushapura.

- The building was still intact with all its magnificence when the Chinese pilgrim Fa-Hien visited the area later in the early fifth century CE.
- Started the Shaka era (78 CE), which is accepted as the beginning of his reign, and which is now used by the Government of India for its calendar.
- Held the fourth Buddhist council at Kundalavana (near Srinagar in Jammu and Kashmir) under the presidency of Vasumitra.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.6) Which of the following was/were correctly matched?**

<b>Author</b>	<b>:</b>	<b>Work</b>
1. Ashvagosha	:	Buddhacharita
2. Charaka	:	Sasruta
3. Vasumitra	:	Mahavibhasa

**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 Kanishka patronised great scholars and eminent personalities of that era such as:

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- 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:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.7) Who among the following propounded the “Sunyavada School”?**

- a) Nagarjuna
- b) Vasumitra
- c) Charaka
- d) Ashvagosha

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Nagarjuna is often termed an Indian Einstein who proposed the Theory of Relativity in his time in the form of a Sutra, the Prajna Parimata Sutra.

He was also a great exponent of the Mahayana doctrine and propounded the Madhyamaka (also known as Sunyavada School) which focuses on sunyata or emptiness.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.8) In which of the following place, headless statue of Kanishka depicting him as a warrior been found?**

- a) Mathura
- b) Ayodhya
- c) Kashi
- d) Agra

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Kanishka also patronised the Gandhara and Mathura schools of sculpture. At Mathura, a headless statue of Kanishka depicting him as a warrior been found.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.9) The famous king “Nahapana” was belongs to which of the following dynasty?**

- a) The Kshaharatas
- b) Arjunayanas
- c) Malavas
- d) Yaudheyas

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The king “Nahapana” belongs to the Kshaharatas.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.10) Sudarshan Lake from Chandragupta Maurya's reign was located at?**

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Rudradaman I 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:** Poonam Dahiya

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## *History – Early Historic Period of South India*

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

1. Its society was based on “matrilineal or matriarchal”.
2. They were 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: B**

**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:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.2) Who among the following was 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”?**

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Gautamiputra Satakarni 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:** Poonam Dahiya

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**Q.3) Who among the following authored the “Gatha Sattasai”?**

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

**ANS: C**

**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:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.4) Which of the following was/were the prominent Buddhist site/s under Satavahana dynasty?**

- 1. Amaravati
- 2. Nagarjunakonda
- 3. Nashik

**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:** Nagarjunakonda and Amravati in Andhra Pradesh and Nashik and Junar areas of Maharashtra became important Buddhist sites under the Satavahanas and their successors, the Ikshvakus.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.5) Who among the following was the author of “Tolkappiyam”?**

- a) Hala
- b) Agathiyar
- c) Tolkappiyar
- d) Bhikshu-Raja

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The Tolkappiyam (a book on Tamil grammar and poetics written by Tolkappiyar).

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.6) Who among the following was called as fifth veda?**

- a) Tirukkural
- b) Melkannakku
- c) Kilkanakku
- d) Tolkappiyam

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Sangam literature can be divided into two groups: narrative and didactic. The narrative texts are called Melkannakku (18 Major Works consisting of eight anthologies and ten



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idylls), and are considered works of heroic poetry in which heroes are glorified and perpetual wars and cattle raids are frequently mentioned.

The didactic works are called Kilkanakku (18 Minor Works). A large number of Tamil didactic works such as Tiruvalluvar's Tirukkural (famous work on ethics, philosophy, polity, and love, **and considered the fifth Veda of Tamil Nadu**).

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.7) Which of the following was considered as the “Odyssey of Tamil poetry”?**

- a) Silappadikaram
- b) Manimekalai
- c) Tirukkural
- d) Gatta Sattasai

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Tamil epics such as Silappadikaram (considered the brightest gem of early Tamil literature which deals with love story of Kovalan, who prefers a courtesan Madhavi of Kaveripattnam to his noble wedded wife Kannagi).

Manimekalai (a sequel to Silappadikaram and is considered the ‘Odyssey of Tamil poetry’, which deals with the adventures of the daughter born of the union of Kovalan and Madhavi and her subsequent conversion to Buddhism) were written in the period between the 5th and 6th centuries.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.8) The famous valley “Tamrapani” is located at?**

- a) Indonesia
- b) Male
- c) Sri Lanka
- d) Cambodia

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** 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:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.9) Which dynasty has the fish symbol insignia of royalty?**

- a) Cheras
- b) Cholas
- c) Pandayans
- d) Satavahanas

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:**

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<b>Kingdom</b>	<b>Capital</b>	<b>Emblem</b>	<b>Premium Port</b>
The Pandyas (covers modern Tirunelveli, Madurai, Ramnad districts and south Travancore).	Madurai	Fish	Korkai
The Cholas (covers modern Tanjore and Trichinopoly district of Tamil Nadu)	Uraiyur	Tiger	Puhar (modern Kaveripattanam)
The Cheras (covers mostly Kerala coast)	Vanji/Karuvur	Bow	Tondi and Muchiri

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.10) Who among the following was constructed a dam on the Kaveri River?**

- a) Karikala
- b) Tondaiman Ilandiraiyan
- c) Udiyanjeral
- d) Nedunjeliyan I

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The Chola king Karikala of the Sangam age is credited with constructing a dam on the river Kaveri. It is considered to be the earliest dam in the country.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

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## *History – The Guptas & Vakatakas*

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**Q.1) Who among the following was the founder of the Gupta dynasty?**

- a) Chandragupta – I
- b) Sri Gupta
- c) Maharaja Ghatotkacha
- d) Samudragupta

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Maharaja Gupta/Sri Gupta (Founder of Gupta Dynasty).

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

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

- 1. They have a strong central government.
- 2. Feudalism as an institution began to take root during their 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: C**

**Explanation:** The Gupta kingdom emerged as a great power and achieved the political unification of a large part of the Indian subcontinent.

- It featured a strong central government, bringing many kingdoms under its hegemony.
- Feudalism as an institution began to take root during this period.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.3) Who among the following was written the “Devichandraguptam and Mudrarakshasam”?**

- a) Vishakadutta
- b) Kamandaka
- c) Harisena
- d) Kalidasa

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Devichandraguptam and Mudrarakshasam by Vishakadutta provide details about the rise of the Guptas.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.4) Which of the following were navaratnas of Chandra gupta II?**

1. Kalidasa
2. Harisena
3. Amarasimha

**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:** Chandra gupta II court had nine jewels or navaratnas, that is, nine eminent people in various fields of art, literature and science.

This included the great Sanskrit poet Kalidasa, the Sanskrit scholar Harisena, the lexicographer Amarasimha, and the physician Dhanvantari.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

**Q.5) Fahien, the Buddhist scholar from China, visited India during the reign of?**

- a) Sri Gupta
- b) Chandra Gupta I
- c) Samudra Gupta
- d) Chandra Gupta II

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Fahien, the Buddhist scholar from China, visited India during the reign of Chandra Gupta II.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

**Q.6) Who among the following was founded the “Nalanda University”?**

- a) Chandra Gupta I
- b) Samudra Gupta
- c) Chandra Gupta II
- d) Kumara Gupta I

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Chandragupta II was succeeded by his son Kumara Gupta I, who founded the Nalanda University.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.7) The “Vishnukundin empire” belong to which of the following?**

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The Vakatakas had matrimonial ties with the imperial Guptas (Rudrasena II of the royal Vakataka family was married to Prabhavatigupta, the daughter of Chandragupta II of the

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imperial Gupta family), the Nagas of Padmavati, the Kadambas of Karnataka, and the Vishnukundins of Andhra.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

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

1. The rock-cut Buddhist viharas and chaityas of the Ajanta Caves were built under the patronage of the Vakataka king, Harisena.
2. The Vakataka kingdom spread the brahminical culture to southern 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:** Culturally, the Vakataka kingdom is important because it became a channel to spread Brahminical culture to southern India.

- The Vakatakas are noted for having been patrons of the arts, architecture, and literature.
- Their legacy in terms of public works and monuments has made significant contributions to Indian culture.
- The rock-cut Buddhist viharas and chaityas of the Ajanta Caves (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) were built under the patronage of the Vakataka king, Harisena.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.9) Who among the following was “composer of the Allahabad prashasti (inscriptions of praise)”?**

- a) Vishakadutta
- b) Kamandaka
- c) Harisena
- d) Kalidasa

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Individuals holding the ranks of kumaramatyas sometimes had additional designations as well, and such ranks were hereditary.

For example, Harisena, composer of the Allahabad prashasti (inscriptions of praise), was a kumaramatya, sandhivigrahika and mahadandanayaka, and was the son of Dhruvabhuti, a mahadandanayaka.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

**Q.10) The term “bhukti” was related to which of the following?**

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The Gupta Empire was divided into provinces known as deshas or bhuktis. They were administered by governors who were usually designated as uparikas.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

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## *History – Contributions of Buddhism & Jainism*

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**Q.1) Who among the following was called as “maker of fords”?**

- a) Ajivika
- b) Jains
- c) Buddhists
- d) Lokayatas

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** According to Jain tradition, Mahavira was not the founder of Jainism, but the last of the 24 Tirthankaras or ‘maker of fords’ (ford means a shallow place in river or stream to allow one to walk across).

According to Jaina tradition, Risabha was the founder of the sect. He is considered the first Tirthankara.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

**Q.2) Which of the following is/are Jain text/s?**

- 1. Acharrangasutra
- 2. Sutrakritanga
- 3. Kalpasutra

**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 Jaina monks not only wrote religious treatises but also promoted secular literature. Acharrangasutra, Sutrakritanga, and Kalpasutra are the earliest Jaina texts.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

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

- 1. On the death of Bhadrabahu, Shulabhadra held a Great Council at Pataliputra, which compiled the Jaina canon.
- 2. Most of the early Jaina texts were written in Ardha-Magadhi language.

**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:** On the death of Bhadrabahu, Shulabhadra held a Great Council at Pataliputra, which compiled the Jaina canon.

Most of the early Jaina texts were written in Ardha-Magadhi, the language of the common people.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

**Q.4) Which of the following is/are tenet/s of Jainism?**

1. Non – violence
2. Non existence of god
3. Performing austerities

**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 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.5) Consider the following statements regarding Jainism:**

1. It is an egalitarian religion.
2. Women Jains can attain salvation.

**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:** Jainism is an egalitarian religion. It does not sanction any inequality based on birth.

- It is one's deeds that determine one's status in society and not birth.
- Jainism believes that "by one's action one becomes a Brahmin, a Kshatriya, or a Vaishya, or a Sudra."
- Pride based on birth is considered a sin.
- Women were admitted into the monastic order. However, as a woman one cannot attain salvation.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

**Q.6) In which of the following place, Buddha gave his first sermon?**

- a) Rajgriha
- b) Kapilavastu
- c) Sarnath
- d) Pataliputra

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** After 49 days of meditation, he attained enlightenment, at the age of 35. Thereafter, he came to be called Buddha or the Enlightened. He then delivered his first sermon in a deer park in Sarnath.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

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**Q.7) Arrange the following life events of Buddha in chronological order:**

1. Parinirvana
2. Mahabhiraskramana
3. Dharmachakra-parivartana

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

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** 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 favorite 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.
- After 49 days of meditation, he attained enlightenment, at the age of 35. Thereafter, he came to be called Buddha or the Enlightened.
- He then delivered his first sermon in a deer park in Sarnath near Varanasi. This event is described as Dharmachakra-parivartana or 'wheel of the great law'.
- At the age of 80, he passed away in Kusinagara. This is known as Parinirvana.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

**Q.8) Which of the following was/were the disciple/s of Buddha?**

1. Ananda
2. Sariputta
3. Rishabha

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

1. Mahasanghikas
2. Sthaviravadins
3. Sarvastivadins

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

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

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

**Q.10) The “Hinayana school of Buddhism” is/are famous in which of the following country/countries?**

1. Burma
2. Thailand
3. Sri Lanka

**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:** Hinayana or the Lesser Vehicle became popular in Sri Lanka, Burma, Thailand and other South-east Asian countries.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

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## *History – Early Medieval India*

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**Q.1) Which of the following was/were the feature/e of early medieval period?**

1. Feudalism
2. Political fragmentation
3. Formation of states at regional level

**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 term ‘early medieval’ denotes the intermediate period between the ‘ancient’ and the ‘medieval’.

This period in India is marked by feudalism, political fragmentation, and the formation and proliferation of various states at regional level.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.2) Who among the following wrote the Harshacharita?**

- a) Vishakadatta
- b) Kalidasa
- c) Banabhatta
- d) Hala

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Two major historical sources which provide information regarding the Pushyabhuti dynasty are the Harshacharita, a biography of Harsha written by Harsha’s court poet and travelogues of the Chinese pilgrim Hsuan Tsang/Xuanzang.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.3) Who among the following was the author of “Si-Yu-Ki”?**

- a) Fa hein
- b) Hsuan Tsang
- c) Minander
- d) I – Tsang

**ANS: B**

**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:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.4) Which of the following drama/s was/were wrote by “Harshavardhan”?**

1. Priyadarshika
2. Ratnavali
3. Nagananda

**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 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:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.5) Who among the following is NOT part of writers Harshavardhan court?**

- a) Kalidasa
- b) Mayura
- c) Bhartrihari
- d) Matanga Divakara

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Banabhatta (author of Harshacharita and Parvatiparinay), Mayura (author of Mayurashataka), renowned grammarian Bhartrihari (author of Vakapadiya), and Matanga Divakara were the accomplished writers at Harshavardhan court.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.6) “Ravikirti” was a court poet of which of the following?**

- a) Pulkeshin II
- b) Kirtivarman I
- c) Pulkeshin I
- d) Dantidurga

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Pulakesin II most powerful and famous king of Western Chalukyas dynasty, who achieved many military successes.

His eulogy was written by his court poet Ravikirti in the Aihole Inscription, which describes his victories against the Kadambas of Banavasi, Alupas and Gangas of Mysore.

He also led expeditions against eastern Deccan kingdoms, south Kosala and Kalinga.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

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

**Q.7) The famous “Virupaksha Temple” is located in which of the following state?**

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** 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:** Poonam Dahiya

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

- a) Assam
- b) Uttar Pradesh
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Andhra Pradesh

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** In the second half of the 8th century, the Eastern Chalukyas established themselves in Vengi in Andhra Pradesh.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.9) The place “Dharanikota” is associated with which of the following?**

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** On the ruins of the Satavahanas, in the eastern part of the peninsula (especially in the Krishna–Guntur region), arose the Ikshvakus.

- They were probably a local tribe who adopted the exalted name of the Ikshvakus to demonstrate the antiquity of their lineage.
- Many monuments and copper plate inscriptions at Nagarjunakonda and Dharanikota (Andhra Pradesh) belonged to them.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

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

**Q.10) The “Tondaimandalam” land is situated between which of the following rivers?**

- a) Krishna and Godavari
- b) Godavari and Indravati
- c) Pennar and Vellar
- d) Malprabha and Ghatprabha

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The term Pallava means ‘creeper’, which is a Sanskrit version of the word tondi and in Tamil they are synonymous to robber.

So, the Pallavas were probably a pastoral local tribe who established their authority in the land of creepers called Tondaimandalam (the land between the north Penner and north Vellar rivers), mostly comprising of southern Andhra Pradesh and northern Tamil Nadu with their capital at Kanchi.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

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## *History – Revision*

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

1. Chandragupta Maurya defeated the Greek king the Alexander.
2. Seleucus sent the Megasthenes to Chandragupta's court.

**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:** After the death of Alexander, Seleucus had established his kingdom extending up to Punjab.

- Chandragupta defeated him in a battle some time before 301 BCE and drove him out of the Punjab region.
- The final agreement between the two was probably not too acrimonious, since Chandragupta gave Seleucus 500 war elephants, and Seleucus sent an ambassador to Chandragupta's court.
- This ambassador was Megasthenes, and we owe much of the information that we have about Chandragupta to Indica, the account written by Megasthenes.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

**Q.2) In which of the following script/s was/were the asokan editc/s written?**

1. Brahmi script
2. Kharosthi script
3. Aramaic script

**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 Asokan edicts were written mostly in the Brahmi script and in Magadhi and Prakrit.

The Kandahar inscriptions are in Greek and Aramaic, while the two inscriptions in north-west Pakistan are in Kharosthi script.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

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

1. It was conducted under the king Asoka.
2. Buddhism was divided into Hinayana and Mahayana sects under this 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: A**

**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.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

**Q.4) Which of the following was NOT a province of mauryan kingdom?**

- a) Ujjain
- b) Taxila
- c) Tosali
- d) Tamraparni

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** At the head of the administration was the king. He was assisted by a council of ministers and a purohita or priest, who was a person of great importance, and secretaries known as mahamatriyas.

The capital region of Pataliputra was directly administered. The rest of the empire was divided into four provinces based at Suvarnagiri (near Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh), Ujjain (Avanti, Malwa), Taxila in the northwest, and Tosali in Odisha in the southeast.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

**Q.5) With reference to Mauryan administration, the term "rajukas" was related to?**

- a) Kings bodyguards
- b) Rural administrators
- c) District heads
- d) Bonded labor

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Ashoka's rule gives us an alternative model of a righteous king and a just state. He instructed his officials, the yuktas (subordinate officials), rajukas (rural administrators) and pradesikas (heads of the districts) to go on tours every five years to instruct people in dhamma (Major Rock Edict 3).

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

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

- a) Trade transit station
- b) Stupa Abacus at Kandahar
- c) Roman map
- d) Gold tower

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The following Greek and Latin sources inform us about the long distance cultural and commercial connections.

- The Periplus of Erythrean Sea, an ancient Greek text of the first century CE.
- Pliny the Elder’s Natural History, first century CE
- Ptolemy’s Geography, second century CE
- Vienna Papyrus G 40822, a Greek document datable to the second century CE.
- A Roman Map called Peutingerian Table

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

**Q.7) Who among the following was not part of muvendar, ‘the three crowned kings’?**

- a) Pallavas
- b) Cheras
- c) Cholas
- d) Pandyas

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Though the three Tamil ruling families were known to Asoka in the third century BCE itself, some individual names are known only from the Sangam poems of the first century and later.

Known as muvendar, ‘the three crowned kings’, the Cheras, Cholas and Pandyas controlled major agrarian territories, trade routes and towns.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

**Q.8) Which of the following land is used for fishing and salt making?**

- a) Palai
- b) Marutham
- c) Neythal
- d) Kurinji

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** According to the thinai concept, Tamilagam was divided into five landscapes or eco-regions namely Kurinji, Marutam, Mullai, Neytal and Palai.

Each region had distinct characteristics – a presiding deity, people and cultural life according to the environmental conditions, as follows:

- Kurinji: hilly region: hunting and gathering
- Marutham: riverine tract: agriculture using plough and irrigation.
- Mullai: forested region: pastoralism combined with shifting cultivation
- Neythal: coastal land: fishing and salt making.
- Palai: parched land. Unsuitable for cultivation and hence people took to cattle lifting and robbery.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT



**Q.9) Which of the following was/were referred as “Manimegalai”?**

1. Maratha mechanics
2. Malva smiths
3. Magadha artisans

**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 names of persons mentioned in inscriptions on pottery reveal the presence of non-Tamil speakers, mostly traders, in certain craft centres and towns.

- Traders from faraway regions were present in the Tamil country.
- Manimegalai refers to Magadha artisans, Maratha mechanics, Malva smiths and Yavana carpenters working in cooperation with Tamil craftsmen.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

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

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Jaldapara National Park is a national park situated at the foothills of the Eastern Himalayas in Alipurduar District of northern West Bengal, India, and on the banks of the Torsa River.

Jaldapara is situated at an altitude of 61 m and is spread across 216.51 km<sup>2</sup> of vast grassland with patches of riverine forests.

**Source:** FORUMIAS

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## *History – Period from 850 to 1200 CE: South India*

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**Q.1) The famous emperor “Amoghavarsha I” was belong to which of the following dynasty?**

- a) Palas
- b) Shakas
- c) Chalukyas
- d) Rashtrakutas

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Amoghavarsha I (c.814–878 CE): One of the most famous of the Rashtrakutas, who built a new capital city, that of Manyakheta (modern Malkhed).

- He defeated the invading Eastern Chalukyas at Vingavalli and assumed the title Viranarayana.
- Also made peace with the Western Gangas by giving them two of his daughters in marriage.
- It is interesting to note that unlike his father, he preferred to maintain friendly relations with his neighbours, the Gangas, the Eastern Chalukyas and the Pallavas with whom he also cultivated marital ties.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.2) Who among the following was the founder of the “chola dynasty”?**

- a) Sundara chola
- b) Uttama Chola
- c) Vijayalaya
- d) Arvuimola

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The Cholas, famous in Indian history for their local self-government, founded a mighty empire in southern India during c. 850–1200 CE.

The founder of the Chola dynasty was Vijayalaya (9th century CE).

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

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

- a) Sri Lanka
- b) Maldives
- c) Malaya Peninsula
- d) Cambodia

**ANS: C**

**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.

He led a naval expedition against the Sailendra Empire (Malaya peninsula) and expanded Chola trade with China.

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

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.4) Who among the following constructed the Brihadesvara temple, dedicated to Shiva at Thanjavur?**

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** In c.1010 CE Rajaraja I 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:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.5) Who among the following was assumed the title of “Gangaikondachola”?**

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** In 1022 CE, Rajendra I 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:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.6) The classic writer Kamban (who wrote Ramayana in Tamil) was contemporary to?**

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The classic writer Kamban (who wrote Ramayana in Tamil) was at Kollutung I court.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

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

**Q.7) With reference to Cholas administration, the term “ko” was associated with?**

- a) Rural administration
- b) Council of Minister
- c) High Priest
- d) King

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The Chola inscriptions generally refer to the king as ko, perumal, perumal adigal (the great one), raja-rajadhiraja and ko-konmai kondan (king of kings).

The king had all the authority rested in him and had a council of ministers to advise him.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.8) With reference to Cholas administration, the term “pugas” was associated with?**

- a) Slave Labor
- b) Agriculture farmers
- c) Guilds
- d) Spies

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The administration was also greatly facilitated by the shrenis or pugas (guilds), which were like some autonomous corporate organisations having persons belonging to the same craft.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.9) With reference to Cholas society, the term “Vellallas” was associated with?**

- a) Farming groups
- b) Town merchants
- c) King bodyguards
- d) Fortified towns

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The Cholas 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:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.10) The term “agrahatta” was associated with which of the following?**

- a) Persian wheel
- b) Persian horses
- c) Brahmin guilds
- d) Feudal lord

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** There was an expansion in the agrarian economy of Cholas 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:** Poonam Dahiya

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*History – Period from 1000 CE to 1200 CE:  
North India*

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**Q.1) Which of the following is/are part of the Rajput clan/s?**

1. The Pratiharas
2. The Chahamanas
3. The Chandellas

**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:** Certain clans also claimed agnikula origins for themselves, referring to a myth wherein these clans emerged out of the sacrificial fire of sage Vashishta on Mount Abu.

The four Agnikula Rajput clans were:

- The Pratiharas.
- The Chahamanas/Chauhans of Ajmer.
- The Chandellas of Bundelkhand.
- The Paramaras of Malwa.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.2) Who among the following was called as “Rai Pithora”?**

- a) Prithviraj Chauhan
- b) Ajayaraja II
- c) Vighraha raja IV
- d) Simharaja

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The most famous of all Chauhans, is popularly known as Prithviraj Chauhan or Rai Pithora in the folk legends.

He scored victories over all his neighbours, including the Chandella king Paramardi, Chalukya Bhima II and Gahadvala Jayachandra.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.3) Which of the following temple/s was/were constructed by chandellas?**

1. Kandariya Mahadeva Temple
2. Lakshmana Temple
3. Vishvanatha Temple

**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 Chandellas are well-known for their art and architecture, most notably for the fully developed Nagara- style temples at their original capital Khajuraho.

The Lakshmana Temple (c. 930–950 CE), the Vishvanatha Temple (c. 999-1002 CE), and the Kandariya Mahadeva Temple (c. 1030 CE) were constructed during the reigns of Chandella rulers Yashovarman, Dhanga, and Vidyadhara respectively.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.4) The “Rani-ki vav” - UNESCO’s World Heritage Site was belong to the which dynasty?**

- a) The Chamars
- b) The Solankies
- c) The Pratiharas
- d) The Chandellas

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The Solanki Rajputs are also known as the Chalukya family of Gujarat, which was different from the earlier Chalukyan dynasty of Badami.

- It ruled parts of Gujarat and Kathiawar between c.950 and 1300 CE. Bhima I built the Sun temple of Modhera.
- His wife Udaymati built the Rani-ki vav (Queen’s step well) in his memory, which is on the list of UNESCO’s World Heritage Sites.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.5) Who among the following wrote the famous historical chronicle “Rajatarangini”?**

- a) Kalhana
- b) Kalidasa
- c) Amir Khusro
- d) Pampa

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Much of the history of Kashmir and North-west India is deduced from the legendary and historical chronicle Rajatarangini (which means ‘the river of kings’).

It was probably written in 12th century CE in Sanskrit by a Kashmiri Brahmana called Kalhana, though not much is known about him apart from what is written in the book.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.6) The famous “Utpala dynasty” ruled which of the following region?**

- a) Assam
- b) West Bengal
- c) Bundhelkhand
- d) Kashmir

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** From the 8th to 10th century CE, the Kashmir region was ruled over by the Hindu Utpala dynasty.

The kingdom was established by Avanti Varman, ending the rule of the Karkota dynasty in 855 CE.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

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

- 1. Vijaya Sena was the founder of the sena dynasty.
- 2. It ruled Bengal area over a century.

**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 Sena Dynasty was a Hindu dynasty that ruled Bengal for little over a century (c. 1097–1225 CE).

Vijaya Sena(c.1095–1158 CE): Founder of the dynasty who had an unusually long reign of over 60 years, which restored peace and prosperity to Bengal and made a deep impression among its people.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.8) Who among the following built the famous Jagannath Temple of Puri?**

- a) Lakshamana Sena
- b) Ballal Sena
- c) Anantavarman Chodaganga
- d) Narsimhadeva

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Anantavarman Chodaganga (c.1076–1150 CE): He assumed the title of Trikingadhipathi in 1076 CE, that is, the ruler of the three Kalingas, which comprises of Kalinga proper (South), Utkal (North), and Kosal (West), and probably was the first king to rule all three divisions of Kalinga.

- He was a religious person as well as a patron of art and literature.
- Credited for having built the famous Jagannath Temple of Puri in Odisha.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

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

**Q.9) Mitakshara, a commentary on Yagnavalkya Smriti wrote by?**

- a) Kalhana
- b) Bilhana
- c) Vijnaneshwara
- d) Tikkana

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Vijnaneshwara, the noted jurist in Vikramaditya VI of Kalyani Chalukyas court, wrote Mitakshara, a commentary on Yagnavalkya Smriti (on Hindu family law).

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.10) The famous work “Siddhanta Shiromani” wrote by?**

- a) Mahaviracharya
- b) Bhaskar II
- c) Bilhana
- d) Al Biruni

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Bhaskara II (c.1114– 1185 CE), the greatest mathematician of medieval India and astronomer, was born in Bijapur in modern Karnataka.

His main work, the Siddhanta Shiromani, (Sanskrit for “Crown of Treatises”).

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya



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## *History – Rise of Islam & Heterodox Schools of Philosophy*

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**Q.1) Which of the following is/are characteristic/s of “Bhakti Movement”?**

1. They used pali and prakrit languages.
2. The bhakti saints went from place to place carrying their message of love and devotion.
3. The bhakti saints belonged to both upper castes and lower castes and also included women saints.

**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 word Bhakti comes from the root bhaj, which means to share or participate. Thus, the word ‘bhakta’ implies one who shares or participates in the divine.

- These saints rejected austerities and spoke and wrote in local languages such as Tamil and Telugu, which not only made them popular but also allowed common people to join the Bhakti movement.
- They looked upon religion not as matter of cold, formal worship but based on a living bond between the god and the worshipper.
- These saints went from place to place carrying their message of love and devotion. They belonged to both upper castes and lower castes and also included women saints.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.2) The famous “Lingayat or Vir Shaiva movement” took place at?**

- a) Assam
- b) Uttar Pradesh
- c) Gujarat
- d) Karnataka

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Another popular movement which arose during the 12th century was the Lingayat or Vir Shaiva movement.

Its founder was Basava and his nephew Channabasava, who lived at the court of the Kalachuri kings of Karnataka.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.3) The “Sittar” ideology belongs to which of the following region?**

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** It is also pertinent to mention the Siddhas (or Sittars) of Tamil Nadu, who held contrasting views with the Bhakti tradition, although some of their ideologies are considered to have originated during the first Sangam Age.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.4) The “tantra movement” was belongs to which of the following?**

- a) Jainism
- b) Lokayata
- c) Nath Panthis
- d) Alwars

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** In the period that the Bhakti movement was gaining popularity in south India, Tantra was gaining traction in northern India.

- They too denounced the caste system and the privileges claimed by the Brahmanas. Tantra, like Bhakti, was open to all.
- The most famous Hindu Yogi who adopted these practices was Goraknath and his followers came to be called Nath Panthis.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.5) In which of the following philosophical school, reference of god was taken?**

- a) Samkhya
- b) Yoga
- c) Nyaya
- d) Uttara Mimansa

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Hindu philosophy is generally classified into six orthodox or classical schools (astika) and three heterodox (nastika) schools.

- The basic difference between these two branches of philosophy schools is based on the recognition of the Vedas: the orthodox schools recognise the authority of the Vedas, while the heterodox schools do not believe in the authority of Vedas.
- Out of these nine systems, eight are atheistic as there is no place for God in them and only the Uttara Mimansa, which is also called Vedanta, has a place for God in it.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.6) Which of the following school was founded by the kapila?**

- a) Samkhya
- b) Yoga
- c) Nyaya
- d) Uttara Mimansa

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Samkhya: Literally means 'count', oldest school of philosophy, founded by Kapila. Samkhya is strongly dualist as its philosophy regards the universe as consisting of two realities, Purusha (consciousness) and Prakriti (matter), which is further composed of three basic gunas (elements), namely, Tamas, Rajas, and Sattva.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.7) Which of the following philosophical school is also called as "School of Analysis"?**

- a) Samkhya
- b) Yoga
- c) Nyaya
- d) Uttara Mimansa

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Nyaya: Also known as School of Analysis, which developed as a system of logic by Gautama. Its principles are mentioned in Nyaya Sutras.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.8) Which of the following philosophical school propounded the atomic theory and can be marked as the beginning of the physics in ancient India?**

- a) Samkhya
- b) Yoga
- c) Nyaya
- d) Vaisheshika

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Vaisheshika: This school propounded by Kanada gives importance to discussion of dravya or material elements.

- This school propounded the atomic theory and can be marked as the beginning of the physics in ancient India.
- Earth, water, fire, air, and ether (sky) are the aggregates, which combined give rise to new objects.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

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

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

1. Islam lays an emphasis upon the belief in one God (Allah).
2. The Quran is considered as the supreme authority in Islam.

**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:** In the 7th century CE, a new religion called Islam was founded in Arabia by Muhammad (c.570–632 CE), an Arab merchant from the city of Mecca who would later be known as the Prophet Muhammad.

Islam lays an emphasis upon the belief in one God (Allah) and its holy book, the Quran, which is considered as the supreme authority in Islam as, according to Muslims, it was revealed by Allah to the Prophet Muhammad.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

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

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Namdapha National Park is a 1,985 km<sup>2</sup> large protected area in Arunachal Pradesh of Northeast India. The park was established in 1983.

With more than 1,000 floral and about 1,400 faunal species, it is a biodiversity hotspot in the Eastern Himalayas.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

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## *History – Delhi Sultanate*

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**Q.1) Which of the following dynasties/dynasty was/were part of Delhi Sultanate?**

1. Shah Dynasty
2. Slave Dynasty
3. Sayyid's 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: C**

**Explanation:** Five different dynasties—the Slave, the Khalji, the Tughlaq, the Sayyids, and the Lodhi's are collectively referred to as the Delhi Sultanate.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.2) Which of the following dynasty was also called as “Mameluk dynasty”?**

- a) Slave dynasty
- b) Khilji dynasty
- c) Lodhi dynasty
- d) Sayyid's dynasty

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The Slave dynasty was also called the Mameluk dynasty. 'Mameluk' was the Arabic word meaning 'owned', used to distinguish the important Turkish slaves chiefly meant for military service from the lower slaves, who were used as domestic labour or artisans.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.3) Who among the following was called as “Lakh Baksh”?**

- a) Qutbuddin Aibak
- b) Iltutmish
- c) Balban
- d) Tajuddin Yalduz

**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 was known as 'Lakh Baksh' or giver of lakhs for his magnanimity, as he gave a lot of liberal donations.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

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

1. He belongs to Qutbi dynasty.
2. He shifted his capital from Lahore to Delhi.

**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:** Iltutmish (c.1210–1236 CE): The real consolidator of Turkish rule in India. He belonged to the Ilbari tribe and hence his dynasty also known as the Ilbari dynasty.

- Legends describe that his half-brothers sold him as a slave to Aibak, who made him his son-in-law by giving his daughter in marriage to him.
- Later, Aibak appointed him as the Iqtadar of Gwalior. After becoming Sultan, he shifted his capital from Lahore to Delhi.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.5) Who among the following was organized the “turkan-i-chahalgani”?**

- a) Qutbuddin Aibak
- b) Iltutmish
- c) Balban
- d) Tajuddin Yalduz

**ANS: B**

**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:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.6) The “sijada and paibos” customs were brought by?**

- a) Balban
- b) Raziya Sultan
- c) Iltutmish
- d) Nasiruddin Mahmud

**ANS: A**

**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.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

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

**Q.7) Which of the following ordinance/s was/were passed by the Alauddin Khilji?**

1. Confiscating the properties of the nobles.
2. The use of liquor and intoxicants was prohibited.
3. Social gatherings and festivities without the permission of Sultan were forbidden.

**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:** According to Barani, the author of Tarikh-i-Firuz Shahi, 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 re-organised 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:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.8) Which of the following was/were constructed by the Alauddin Khilji?**

1. Alai Darwaza
2. Hauz Khas
3. Alai Minar

**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 Sultan Alauddin was illiterate, he patronized 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:** Poonam Dahiya

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

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

**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:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.10) The term “munhiyans” was associated with which of the following?**

- a) Spies
- b) Personal bodyguards
- c) Farmers
- d) Slaves

**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:** Poonam Dahiya



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## *History – Delhi Sultanate*

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

1. Yadavas of Bihar
2. Kakatiyas of Warangal
3. Hoysalas of 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: C**

**Explanation:** Conquest of Deccan and South India: This region was ruled by four important dynasties – Yadavas of Devagiri, Kakatiyas of Warangal, Hoysalas of Dwarasamudra, and the Pandyas of Madurai.

The expeditions to the south were sent under Malik Kafur, a trusted commander of Alauddin who held the office of the Naib.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.2) The term “barids” was associated with which of the following?**

- a) Intelligence officers
- b) Farmers sowing on kings lands
- c) Domestic slaves
- d) Prisoners of war

**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:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.3) Which of the following measure/s was/were taken by Alauddin Khilji?**

1. The department of Diwani Riyasat was created by him.
2. No hoarding was allowed and even during the famine the same price was maintained.
3. The sale of liquor and intoxicants was prohibited and gambling was banned.

**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 supply of grain was ensured by holding stocks in government store houses. Regulations were issued to fix the price of all commodities.

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

- No hoarding was allowed and even during the famine the same price was maintained.
- A separate department called Diwani Riyasat was created under an officer called Naib-i-Riyasat.
- Every merchant was registered under the Market Department.
- The sale of liquor and intoxicants was prohibited and gambling too was banned.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

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

1. Alauddin Khalji was the first Sultan of Delhi who ordered for the measurement of land.
2. Land revenue was collected in cash in order to enable the Sultan to pay the soldiers in cash.

**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:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.5) The term “Kismat-i-Khuti” was associated with which of the following?**

- a) Headman’s cess
- b) Pasture tax
- c) Pilgrimage tax
- d) Temple tax

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** State demand was one fifth of the produce and along with it house tax (Grahi) and pasture tax (Chari) were imposed, but Kismat-i-Khuti (Headman’s cess) was abolished.

- His land revenue reforms provided a basis for the future reforms of Sher Shah and Akbar.
- He centralized administration and even confiscated religious endowments and free lands (Inam and Wakt).

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

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

**Q.6) Which of the following dynasty was known as “Quaraunah Turks”?**

- a) Slave dynasty
- b) Khilji dynasty
- c) Tughlaq dynasty
- d) Sayyid’s dynasty

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The Tughlaqs were also known as the Quaraunah Turks as the father of Ghazi Malik was a Qaraunah Turk in origin.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq:**

1. He was the first sultan to start irrigation works.
2. He built a strong fort called Tughlaqabad near Delhi.

**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:** 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:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.8) The “Diwan-i-amir-i-kohi” department was established by Mohammad Bin Tughlaq was related to?**

- a) Agriculture
- b) Army
- c) Communications
- d) Revenue

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Mohammad Bin Tughlaq set up a new department of Agriculture, Diwan-i-amir-i-kohi.

- He 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:** Poonam Dahiya

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

**Q.9) Who among the following sultan was chosen as Sultan by the nobles?**

- a) Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq
- b) Mohammad Bin Tughlaq
- c) Firoz Shah Tughlaq
- d) Nasiruddin Muhammad

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Firoz Shah Tughlaq (c.1351–1388 CE): He had the unique distinction of being chosen as Sultan by the nobles. So, his policy aimed to appease the nobles, the army, and theologians.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.10) The term “Sharb” was associated with which of the following?**

- a) Irrigation tax
- b) Hoarding tax
- c) Slave tax
- d) Pasture tax

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Firoz Shah Tughlaq was the first Sultan to impose Sharb (irrigation tax).

But at the same time, he built number of canals and also set up a separate department of public works.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

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## *History – Provincial Kingdoms of Deccan & Southern India*

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**Q.1) The famous duo “Harihara & Bukka” was associated with which of the following?**

- a) Bahamanis kingdom
- b) Vijayanagara Kingdom
- c) Kandesh kingdom
- d) Malwa Kingdom

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Harihara and Bukka (c.1336–1377 CE): Founders of the Sangama dynasty of Vijayanagar kingdom.

- According to legends, they belonged to a family of five brothers and were originally feudatories of the Kakatiyas of Warangal and after their fall, they served as ministers in the Kampili state (modern Karnataka).
- When Kampala was overrun by Muhammad bin Tughlaq for giving refuge to a Muslim rebel, the two brothers were imprisoned and converted to Islam. Later, they returned to the Hindu fold at the initiative of the saint Vidyananya.
- They also proclaimed their independence and to commemorate the memory of their guru, the brothers founded a new city of Vidyanagar or Vijayanagara (meaning city of victory) on the south bank of river Tungabhadra.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.2) The term “Pattanulkars” was associated with which of the following?**

- a) Silk weavers
- b) Agriculturalists
- c) Gold smiths
- d) City administrators

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** There were well-established trade and commerce networks, and regular migration of artisans occurred from one region to another, as evident in the migration of the silk weavers — Pattanulkars — from the Gujarat region to the Vijayanagar state in the 15th century.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.3) Arrange the dynasties of Vijayanagara Kingdom in chronological order:**

1. Sangama
2. Saluva
3. Tuluva

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

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The Vijayanagar kingdom constituted four dynasties — Sangama (c.1336–1485 CE), Saluva (c.1485–1503 CE), Tuluva (c.1503–1570 CE) and Aravidu (till the end of the 17th century).

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

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

<b>Author</b>	<b>:</b>	<b>Text</b>
1. Krishnadevaraya	:	Amukthamalyada
2. Gangadevi	:	Manucharitam
3. Allasani Peddanna	:	Maduravijayam

**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:** There are varied sources for the study of the Vijayanagar kingdom, such as literary and archaeological sources, as well as numismatics. Krishnadevaraya's Amukthamalyada, Gangadevi's Maduravijayam, and Allasani Peddanna's Manucharitam are some of the indigenous literature of this period.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.5) Who among the following traveler was from Persia?**

- a) Abdur Razzak
- b) Ibn Batuta
- c) Domingo Paes
- d) Nicolo de Conti

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Many foreign travelers' valuable accounts on the socioeconomic conditions of the Vijayanagar kingdom are also available, since they visited the Vijayanagar kingdom. This includes the Moroccan Ibn Batuta, Venetian Nicolo de Conti, Persian Abdur Razzak, and the Portuguese Domingo Paes.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

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

**Q.6) The famous “Hazare Rama temple” was constructed by which of the following?**

- a) Deva Raya I
- b) Harihara II
- c) Bukka Raya
- d) Hasan Gangu

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The noted Hazare Rama temple, an excellent example of Deccan architecture, was constructed during Deva Raya I rule.

The credit for making the capital city of the Vijayanagar kingdom one of the biggest cities in the 15th century goes to him.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.7) Who among the following poet/s was/were present at the court of Deva Raya II?**

- 1. Srinatha
- 2. Gunda Dimdima
- 3. Bilhana

**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:** Some of the most noted Kannada poets of the medieval period, such as Chamarasa and Kumara Vyasa gained patronage of Deva Raya II.

The Sanskrit poet Gunda Dimdima, and gifted Telugu poet Kavisarvabhauma (Emperor among Poets) Srinatha, author of Haravilasam, was also present at his court.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.8) The famous traveler “Ferno Nuniz” came to vijayanagara kingdom during the reign of?**

- a) Krishna Deve Raya
- b) Achyuta Deva Raya
- c) Vira Narasimha Raya
- d) Deva Raya II

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Achyuta Deva Raya (c.1529 –1542 CE): Was the younger brother of Krishna Deva Raya, who handpicked him to be his successor. A Portuguese traveller, Ferno Nuniz, came to India during his reign.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.9) The battle of “Rakshasa Thangadi” was associated with which of the following?**

- a) Vijayanagara kingdom
- b) Hoyasala Kingdom
- c) Pandyan Kingdom
- d) Kakatiya Kingdom

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The Deccan states (Bijapur, Ahmadnagar, Golkonda and Bidar, except Berar) thus formed a confederacy and inflicted a crushing blow on the Vijayanagar armies at Bannihatti in the battle of Talaikotta in c.1565 CE. This battle is also known as Rakshasa Thangadi.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.10) The term “Palaiyagars or Poligars” was related to which of the following?**

- a) Gold smiths
- b) Army officers
- c) Intelligence officers
- d) Temple priests

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** One of the important characteristics of the Vijayanagar administration was the amara- nayaka system.

- The top-grade officers of the army were known as Nayaks or Palaiyagars or Poligars.
- Interestingly, these officers were granted land (called amaram) in lieu of their services while soldiers were usually paid in cash.
- The nayaka was responsible for expanding agricultural activities in his amaram (area).
- He collected taxes in his area and with this income maintained his army, horses, elephants, and weapons of warfare that he had to supply to the raya or the Vijayanagar ruler.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya



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## *History – Revision*

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**Q.1) The “amara – nayaka” system was associated with which of the following?**

- a) Bahamanis kingdom
- b) Vijayanagara Kingdom
- c) Kandesh kingdom
- d) Malwa Kingdom

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** One of the important characteristics of the Vijayanagar administration was the amara- nayaka system.

- The top-grade officers of the army were known as Nayaks or Palaiyagars or Poligars.
- Interestingly, these officers were granted land (called amaram) in lieu of their services while soldiers were usually paid in cash.
- The nayaka was responsible for expanding agricultural activities in his amaram (area).
- He collected taxes in his area and with this income maintained his army, horses, elephants, and weapons of warfare that he had to supply to the raya or the Vijayanagar ruler.
- The nayaka was also the commander of the forts.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.2) Which of the following dynasty of vijayanagara kingdom were the followers of Shaivaites?**

- a) Sangama
- b) Saluva
- c) Tuluva
- d) Aravidu

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The Sangama rulers were chiefly Shaivaites and Virupaksha was their family deity while other dynasties were Vaishnavites.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.3) Which of the following is/are the characteristic/s of vijayanagara architecture?**

1. Raya gopurams
2. Kalayana mandapam
3. Horse motif on pillars

**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 temple building activity further gained momentum during the Vijayanagar rule.

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

- The chief characteristics of the Vijayanagar architecture were the construction of tall Raya Gopurams or gateways and the Kalyanamandapam with carved pillars in the temple premises.
- The sculptures on the pillars were carved with distinctive features. The horse was the most common motif found on these pillars.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.4) Which of the following temple/s was/were constructed under vijayanagara style?**

1. Vittalaswamy
2. Ekamparanatha
3. Varadharaja

**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 most important temples of the Vijayanagar style were found in the Hampi ruins or the city of Vijayanagar.

- Vittalaswamy and Hazara Ramaswamy temples were the best examples of this style.
- The Varadharaja and Ekamparanatha temples at Kanchipuram stand as examples for the magnificence of the Vijayanagara style of temple architecture.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.5) Who among the following was the founder of the “Bahamani Sultanate” kingdom?**

- a) Alauddin Hasan Bahman Shah
- b) Muhammad Shah I
- c) Taj-ud-din Firoz Shah
- d) Ahmah Shah Wali

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Alauddin Hasan Bahman Shah (c.1347–58 CE): Founder of the Bahmani Sultanate who was an Afghan adventurer, who began his career as a general serving under the Sultan Muhammad bin Tughlaq.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.6) Which of the following was/were part of “Deccan Sultanates”?**

1. Nizam Shahis of Ahmadnagar
2. Qutb Shahis of Golconda
3. Barid Shahis of Bidar

**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:** After c.1518 CE, the Sultanate broke up into five states: the Nizam Shahis of Ahmadnagar, the Adil Shahis of Bijapur, the Qutb Shahis of Golconda, and the Imad Shahis of Berar and the Barid Shahis of Bidar, which are collectively known as the “Deccan Sultanates”.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

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

**Q.7) Which of the following state built the world's second largest dome (Gol Gumbaz)?**

- a) Nizam Shahis
- b) Qutb Shahis
- c) Barid Shahis
- d) Adil Shahis

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Adil Shahis of Bijapur: Founded by Yusuf Adil Shah. Mohd. Adil Shah built the world's second largest dome (Gol Gumbaz of Bijapur).

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding "Amir Khusrau":**

- 1. He introduced many new ragas such as Ghora and Sanam.
- 2. He evolved a new style of light music known as qawwalis by blending the Hindu and Iranian systems.

**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:** New musical instruments such as the sarangi and the rabab were introduced during this period.

- Amir Khusrau introduced many new ragas such as Ghora and Sanam.
- He evolved a new style of light music known as qawwalis by blending the Hindu and Iranian systems.
- The invention of sitar is also attributed to him.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.9) Which of the following was/were the historian/s of "Delhi Sultanate" period?**

- 1. Hasan Nizami
- 2. Minhaj-us-Siraj
- 3. Ziauddin Barani

**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 Delhi Sultans patronised learning and literature. Many of them had great love for Arabic and Persian literature.

- 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.

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

- Minhaj-us- Siraj wrote Tabaqat-i-Nasari, a general history of Muslim dynasties up to c.1260 CE.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.10) Who among the following created a new style of poetry “Sabaq- i-Hind”?**

- Amir Khusrau
- Minhaj-us- Siraj
- Hasan Nizami
- Ziauddin Barani

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Amir Khusrau (c.1252–1325 CE) was the most famous Persian writer of this period. He wrote a number of poems.

He experimented with several poetical forms and created a new style of Persian poetry called Sabaq- i-Hind or the Indian style.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya