

ForumIAS

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## Prelims Marathon

3<sup>rd</sup> Week May, 2025

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HISTORY  
ECONOMICS  
POLITY  
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT

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## The Guptas

1. Consider the following statements regarding the Gupta dynasty:
    1. The Gupta Empire rose to prominence in the region corresponding to present-day Uttar Pradesh.
    2. Chandragupta II was also known as Vikramāditya and was a devotee of Lord Vishnu.
- 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

**Answer: C. Both 1 and 2**

**Explanation:**

- The Guptas are believed to have emerged in a region near present-day Uttar Pradesh.
- Chandragupta II is also known as Vikramāditya and was a devotee of Vishnu; the Garuḍa symbol associated with Vishnu appears on his inscriptions.

**Source: NCERT and Ancient India – NCERT (R.S.Sharma)**

2. Consider the following statements about the Gupta Empire:
  1. The Prayāga Praśasti describes Samudragupta's military conquests and his support for art and learning.
  2. According to the Viṣṇu Purāṇa, the Gupta Empire extended to southern India and included regions such as Kerala and Tamilakam.

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

**Answer A. 1 only**

**Explanation:**

- The Prayāga Praśasti, authored by Harisena, praises Samudragupta's military prowess and his patronage of the arts, learning, and trade. It also mentions his depiction as a veena player on his coins.
- The **Viṣṇu Purāṇa** mentions core Gupta regions like **Anugaṅga, Prayāga, Sāketa, and Magadha**—primarily in **north India**. It does **not** mention southern regions like Kerala or Tamilakam as part of the Gupta Empire.

**Source: NCERT and Ancient India – NCERT (R.S.Sharma)**

3. Consider the following statements about the Gupta Empire:
  1. The title *mahārājadhirāja* used by Gupta rulers signified a claim to greater authority than earlier titles such as *mahārāja* or *rājan*.
  2. The Gupta Empire followed a strictly centralized administrative model, with little power given to local rulers or chieftains.
  3. Matrimonial alliances were used as a strategy to strengthen political ties.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only  
B. 2 and 3 only  
C. 1 and 3 only  
D. 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: C. 1 and 3 only**

**Explanation:**

- Gupta rulers used grand titles like *mahārājadhirāja*, *samrāt*, and *chakravartin* to assert superiority over earlier rulers who used simpler titles.
- The Gupta administration was **not strictly centralized**. They divided the empire into provinces and granted land to local rulers, priests, and chieftains. This **decentralized model** allowed efficient tax collection and local governance.
- Matrimonial alliances, such as that of **Prabhāvatī Gupta** with the **Vākātaka** prince, were used strategically. After her husband's early death, she ruled as regent and maintained strong ties with the Guptas.

Source: NCERT and Ancient India – NCERT (R.S.Sharma)

4. Consider the following statements regarding the administrative structure of the Gupta Empire:

1. The title Kumaramatyā referred to a high-ranking officer, often associated with the royal family and could hold multiple designations simultaneously.
2. The Sandhivigrahika was primarily responsible for judicial administration across provinces.

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

Answer: **A. 1 only**

Explanation:

- The title *Kumaramatyā* denoted a high-ranking officer, often equivalent in status to a prince, and could be associated with the king, revenue department, or provinces. Individuals like Harisena held multiple designations (e.g., *Kumaramatyā*, *Sandhivigrahika*, and *Mahadandanayaka*).
- The *Sandhivigrahika* (or *Mahasandhivigrahika*) was **not responsible for judicial administration**. Instead, they dealt with **peace and war**, handling **correspondence with other states, alliances, treaties, and possibly initiating wars**. Judicial or military duties were handled by officials like *Dandanayaka* or *Mahadandanayaka*.

Source: NCERT and Ancient India – NCERT (R.S.Sharma)

5. Consider the following statements regarding the administrative structure of the Gupta Empire:

1. The provinces of the Gupta Empire were called *bhuktis* and were administered by officials known as *uparikas*.
2. At the village level, functionaries such as *gramika* and *gramadhyaksha* were chosen by the villagers themselves.
3. The term *vishyapati* referred to the officer in charge of a province.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: **A. 1 and 2 only**

Explanation:

- Provinces were called *deshas* or *bhuktis*, and they were administered by *uparikas* who were appointed directly by the king. These officials had military powers and sometimes held the title *maharaja*.

- At the village level, administrative functionaries like *gramika* and *gramadhyaksha* were **chosen by the villagers**, indicating an element of local self-governance.
- The term *vishyapati* referred to the **district-level officer**, not a provincial one.

Source: NCERT and Ancient India – NCERT (R.S.Sharma)

6. Consider the following statements regarding the economy and agrarian structure during the Gupta period:

1. The officer known as *akshapataladhikrita* was responsible for maintaining royal records.
2. The *Paharpur copper plate inscription* indicates that even after land grants, the king retained certain prerogatives over the land.
3. *Kshetra* and *Khila* referred to pastoral and jungle lands, respectively, as per Gupta land classification.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: **A. 1 and 2 only**

Explanation:

- The *akshapataladhikrita* is clearly mentioned as the keeper of royal records in Gupta inscriptions.
- The *Paharpur copper plate* confirms that although land was granted, the **king retained proprietary rights** and certain prerogatives over it.
- As per the classification:
  - **Kshetra** = Cultivable land
  - **Khila** = Waste land
  - **Aprahata** = Jungle or uncultivated land
  - **Vasti** = Habitable land
  - **Gapata Saraha** = Pastoral land

Source: NCERT and Ancient India – NCERT (R.S.Sharma)

7. Consider the following statements regarding mining and metallurgy during the Gupta period:

1. The Mehrauli Iron Pillar, attributed to Chandragupta II, is a testament to the advanced iron metallurgy of the Gupta era.
2. Mining and metallurgy were one of the most flourishing industries during the Gupta period.
3. Only iron and copper were used during the Gupta period, and other metals like lead and tin were introduced much later.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: **A. 1 and 2 only**

Explanation:

- The **Mehrauli Iron Pillar** near the Qutb Minar, associated with **Chandragupta II**, is well-known for its **rust-resistant properties** and is a key example of Gupta-era metallurgical excellence.
- **Mining and metallurgy was one of the most flourishing industries** during the Gupta period, with extensive use of various metals and skilled craftsmanship.

- **There was a wide range of metals in use during the Gupta period, including gold, copper, tin, lead, brass, bronze, antimony, red chalk, and red arsenic—not just iron and copper.**

Source: NCERT and Ancient India – NCERT (R.S.Sharma)

8. Consider the following statements regarding trade and commerce during the Gupta period:

1. The *sresthi* was a settled merchant with local influence.
2. Guilds were major institutions of production and commerce, operated autonomously, and even performed judicial functions among their members.
3. Ports like Kalyan on the western coast and Tamralipti on the eastern coast were major Gupta-era trade centers.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: **D. 1, 2 and 3**

Explanation:

- The *sresthi* was a wealthy, settled trader influential in local commercial life.
- Guilds were prominent in economic activities, internally autonomous, drafted their own laws, acted as **banks**, and even **rendered justice** to their members—subject to royal approval.
- Several ports including **Kalyan (Calliena)**, **Tamralipti**, **Chaul**, and others were key to trade with **Persia, Byzantium, Arabia, Sri Lanka, China, and Southeast Asia.**

Source: NCERT and Ancient India – NCERT (R.S.Sharma)

9. Consider the following statements regarding Gupta period art and architecture:

1. The Gupta period saw the emergence of both Nagara and Dravida styles of temple architecture.
2. Rock-cut cave complexes at Ajanta, Ellora, and Bagh are prominent examples of Gupta-era architecture.
3. The Dravida style is identified by the curvilinear *shikhara* above the sanctum, a major innovation of southern temple design.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: **A. 1 and 2 only**

Explanation:

- **The Gupta period initiated both Nagara and Dravida styles**, marking it as a formative phase in Indian temple architecture.
- Rock-cut cave groups at **Ajanta, Ellora, and Bagh** are cited as major examples of Gupta architectural innovation in cave design and ornamentation.
- The **curvilinear shikhara** is actually a hallmark of the **Nagara style**, not the **Dravida style**. The Dravida style is typically associated with **tiered pyramidal structures**, especially in southern India.

Source: NCERT and Ancient India – NCERT (R.S.Sharma)



10. Consider the following statements regarding literary developments during the Gupta period:

1. The *Amarakosa* was compiled by Amarasimha, one of the navaratnas in Samudragupta's court.
2. The Mahabharata and Ramayana were given their final classical Sanskrit form during the Gupta period.
3. Prakrit remained the sole language of royal epigraphy and literary works in the Gupta Empire.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only  
B. 2 and 3 only  
C. 1 and 3 only  
D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: A. 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- *Amarakosa*, a **Sanskrit thesaurus**, was compiled by **Amarasimha**, who is listed among the **navaratnas** at Samudragupta's court.
- The **Ramayana** and **Mahabharata** received their **final classical Sanskrit form** during the **Gupta period**.
- The **Guptas made Sanskrit the official language**, and **epigraphic records were written in Sanskrit, not Prakrit**. Prakrit was used in literature and theatre, particularly by common characters in dramas, but it was **not the sole language** of royal inscriptions or literary production.

Source: NCERT and Ancient India – NCERT (R.S.Sharma)

### Harshvardhan dynasty (Cultural, political, administrative aspects)

1. Consider the following statements regarding the Vardhana dynasty:

1. The Harshavardhana Dynasty was founded by Pushyabhuti.
2. Harshavardhana shifted his capital from Thanesar to Kanauj to safeguard against threats from the northwest.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 only  
B. 2 only  
C. Both 1 and 2  
D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Explanation:

- The Harshavardhana Dynasty, also known as the Pushyabhuti Dynasty, was founded by Pushyabhuti.
- Harshavardhana **shifted his capital from Thanesar to Kanauj** due to its **strategic location** and **agricultural richness**, and to **protect from northwestern threats**.

Source: NCERT and Ancient India – NCERT (R.S.Sharma)

2. Consider the following statements regarding the administration under Harshavardhana:

1. The centralised administration under Harsha extended uniformly across the Indian subcontinent.
2. The Mantri Parishad (Council of Ministers) during Harsha's reign played a key role in both succession and foreign policy.
3. Skandagupta held multiple important positions, including Commander-in-Chief and Minister for Foreign Relations during Harsha's reign.

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

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: B. 2 and 3 only**

**Explanation:**

- According to historian Burton Stein, **centralised administration did not extend beyond the central Gangetic plain** even under powerful rulers like the Guptas and Harsha. The rest of the empire was governed through **subordinate rulers and feudatories**.
- The **Mantri Parishad** (Council of Ministers) **assisted the king**, played a role in the **selection of the ruler**, and was involved in **framing foreign policy**.
- **Skandagupta** (not to be confused with the Gupta emperor of the same name) served as **Minister for Foreign Relations, Commander-in-Chief, Chief Cavalry Officer, and Chief Commandant of the Elephant Force** under Harsha.

**Source: NCERT and Ancient India – NCERT (R.S.Sharma)**

3. With reference to the fiscal administration under Harshavardhana, consider the following statements:

1. *Bhaga* was a land tax paid in kind, typically collected as one-sixth of the agricultural produce.
2. *Hiranya* was a cash tax levied on farmers and merchants.
3. *Bali* was a tax imposed specifically for religious charities during Harsha's reign.

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

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. All three statements

**Answer: A. 1 and 2 only**

**Explanation:**

- *Bhaga* was a **land tax paid in kind**, usually **one-sixth of the produce**.
- *Hiranya* was a **cash tax** paid by **farmers and merchants**.
- There is **no reference to the tax Bali** during Harsha's reign.

**Source: NCERT and Ancient India – NCERT (R.S.Sharma)**



4. Consider the following statements regarding the administration and society during Harsha's reign:

1. Mimamsakas were appointed to dispense justice, and punishments such as maiming and banishment were commonly used.
2. According to Hiuen Tsang, the empire witnessed strong law enforcement and general avoidance of the death penalty.
3. Cavalry officers were known as *Baladhikritas*, and ordinary soldiers were called *Brihadisvaras*.

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

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: A. 1 and 2 only**

**Explanation:**

- Mimamsakas were indeed appointed to **dispense justice**, and **banishment, maiming, and trial by ordeal** were standard punishments.
- **Hiuen Tsang** observed that **perfect law and order** prevailed, **corporal punishments** were used, but the **death penalty was generally avoided**.
- The **cavalry officers** were called **Brihadisvaras**, and **ordinary soldiers** were known as **Chatas and Bhatas**. The statement has interchanged these roles.

**Source: NCERT and Ancient India – NCERT (R.S.Sharma)**

5. Consider the following statements regarding the status of women as described by Hieun Tsang:

1. Sati was practised during the reign of Harshas.
2. All women, including those of higher classes, strictly followed the purdah system.

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

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: A. Only 1**

**Explanation:**

- Hiuen Tsang mentions that *Sati* was in practice during his time in India. He specifically refers to the case of **Yasomatidevi**, the wife of Prabhakara Vardhana, who immolated herself after her husband's death—an example of the Sati practice.
- While Hieun Tsang observed that women **wore purdah**, he clearly noted that the **higher-class women did not strictly follow the purdah system**. For instance, **Rajyasri**, a royal woman, did not wear purdah while attending his discourse. This indicates that the purdah system was not universally followed among all classes.

**Source: NCERT and Ancient India – NCERT (R.S.Sharma)**

6. Consider the following statements about Harsha's contributions to art and literature:

1. Temples and monasteries functioned as centres of learning during the reign of Harsha.
2. Bana, the court poet of Harsha, wrote Priyadarsika and Rathnavali.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: A. Only 1**

**Explanation:**

- Harsha patronised cultural activities, and a quarter of the state's revenue was spent on them.
- Temples and monasteries functioned as centres of learning
- Priyadarsika, Rathnavali, and Nagananda were written by Harsha himself, not by Bana. Bana wrote Harshacharita and Kadambari.

**Source: NCERT and Ancient India – NCERT (R.S.Sharma)**

7. Consider the following statements regarding the Buddhist Assembly at Prayag during Harsha's reign:

1. Harsha convened the Mahamoksha Parishad at Prayag every five years to promote Buddhist teachings.
2. He distributed wealth only to Buddhist monks during the four-day assemblage.
3. Hiuen Tsang noted that Harsha maintained religious harmony and respected both Vedic and Buddhist traditions.

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

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: B. 1 and 3 only**

**Explanation:**

- Harsha **regularly convened quinquennial (every five years) assemblies** known as **Mahamoksha Parishad at Prayag**.
- Harsha **did not distribute wealth only to Buddhist monks**; he also **distributed gifts and charities to Vedic scholars and the poor**, treating all creeds equally.
- Hieun Tsang **emphasised the religious harmony and freedom of worship** in Harsha's kingdom. Harsha showed **equal respect to both Buddhist monks and Vedic scholars**.

**Source: NCERT and Ancient India – NCERT (R.S. Sharma)**

8. Consider the following statements regarding key officials during Harsha's reign:

1. Skandagupta held multiple portfolios, including Minister for Foreign Relations and War, and Chief Commandant of the Elephant Force.
2. Mahaprathihara was responsible for maintaining diplomatic correspondence with foreign powers.
3. Banu was in charge of keeping official records.

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

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: B. 1 and 3 only**

**Explanation:**

- **Skandagupta** held multiple important positions such as **Minister for Foreign Relations and War, Commander-in-Chief, Chief Cavalry Officer, and Chief Commandant of the Elephant Force.**
- **Mahaprathihara** was **not responsible for foreign affairs**; he was the **Chief of the Palace Guard**, in charge of palace security, not diplomacy.
- **Banu** was the **Keeper of Records**, responsible for maintaining documentation and archives.

**Source: NCERT and Ancient India – NCERT (R.S. Sharma)**

9. With reference to the military administration under Harshavardhana, consider the following statements:

1. Harsha's army comprised the four traditional divisions known as *chaturanga*.
2. Ordinary soldiers in Harsha's army were known as *Brihadisvaras* and *Baladhikritas*.
3. Hieun Tsang provides details about the recruitment and payment of Harsha's army.

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

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: A. 1 and 3 only**

**Explanation:**

- Harsha's army consisted of the four divisions of the traditional *chaturanga*: **elephants, cavalry, infantry, and chariots or auxiliary units**, as noted by Hieun Tsang.
- *Brihadisvaras* and *Baladhikritas* were **officers**, not ordinary soldiers. Ordinary soldiers were called **Chatas** and **Bhatas**.
- The Chinese pilgrim **Hieun Tsang** (Xuanzang) does mention **details about the strength of each army division**, as well as the **recruitment system and payment** under Harsha's rule.

**Source: NCERT and Ancient India – NCERT (R.S. Sharma)**

10. With reference to the reign of Harshavardhana, consider the following statements:

1. Harsha maintained diplomatic and cordial relations with China.
2. Hieun Tsang, the Chinese pilgrim, visited India during Harsha's reign and documented the socio-religious conditions of the time.
3. Harsha patronised Buddhism and convened major Buddhist assemblies at Kanauj and Prayag.

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

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: D. 1, 2 and 3**

**Explanation:**

- Harsha maintained **cordial diplomatic relations** with China; he even sent emissaries to the Chinese court.
- **Hieun Tsang (Xuanzang)** visited India during Harsha's reign and recorded **detailed accounts of political, religious, and social conditions**.
- Harsha was a **patron of Mahayana Buddhism** and organised grand **Buddhist assemblies at Kanauj and Prayag**, showcasing religious tolerance and state support.

**Source: NCERT and Ancient India – NCERT (R.S.Sharma)**

### Western chalukyas

1. With reference to the Chalukyas, consider the following statements:

1. Pulikesin I founded the city of Badami and performed the asvamedha sacrifice.
2. Pulikesin II defeated Harshavardhana and established his authority over parts of central and 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

**Answer: B. 2 only**

**Explanation:**

- Pulikesin I fortified a hill near Badami and declared independence from the Kadambas, but **the city of Badami was founded by his son Kirtivarman**, not by Pulikesin I.
- Pulikesin II defeated **Harshavardhana on the banks of the Narmada**, and his **suzerainty was accepted by the rulers of Malwa, Kalinga, and eastern Deccan**.

**Source: NCERT and Ancient India – NCERT (R.S.Sharma)**

2. Consider the following statements regarding the Aihole inscription:

1. It was composed by the court poet Ravikirti.
2. It records the military achievements of Parameshwaravarman I.
3. It is written in Sanskrit and belongs to the Chalukyan period.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

**Answer:** B. 1 and 3 only

**Explanation:**

- The **Aihole inscription** was composed by **Ravikirti**, the court poet of **Pulakesin II**, a prominent ruler of the **Chalukya dynasty**.
- The Aihole inscription **does not refer to Parameshwaravarman I**, who was a **Pallava king**.
- Instead, it praises the **military conquests of Pulakesin II**, including his victory over **Harshavardhana**, and records various other political and military achievements of the Chalukyas.
- The inscription is **written in Sanskrit** and **belongs to the Early Chalukya period** during the reign of **Pulakesin II (c. 610–642 CE)**.

**Source:** NCERT and Ancient India – NCERT (R.S.Sharma)

3. With reference to the administration under the Chalukyas of Badami, consider the following statements:

1. The principle of primogeniture was strictly followed in dynastic succession.
2. The royal insignia of the Chalukyas was the wild boar, symbolising the Varaha avatar of Vishnu.
3. Chalukya kings often took high-sounding titles like *Dharma Maharajadhiraja*, similar to Pallava rulers.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer:** (b) 2 only

**Explanation:**

- Primogeniture (eldest son succeeding) **was not strictly followed** by the Chalukyas.
- The **wild boar was the royal insignia** of the Chalukyas, representing **Varaha**, an avatar of Vishnu.
- **High-sounding titles like "Dharma Maharajadhiraja" were used by Pallava rulers**, not by the Chalukyas.

**Source:** NCERT and Ancient India – NCERT (R.S.Sharma)

4. Which of the following statements best describes the administrative practices of the Chalukya dynasty?

- (a) The heir apparent was trained mainly in martial arts and warfare.
- (b) The Chalukya kings governed based solely on personal discretion.
- (c) Chalukya kings derived legitimacy by adhering to dharma-shastras and niti-shastras.
- (d) Royal titles like *Maharajadhiraja* were unique to the Chalukyas.

**Answer:** (c) Chalukya kings derived legitimacy by adhering to dharma-shastras and niti-shastras.

**Explanation:**



- The heir apparent was trained in **multiple disciplines** – literature, law, philosophy, and martial arts, not just warfare.
- The kings **claimed to rule according to dharma-shastra and niti-shastra**, not personal will.
- Chalukya kings derived legitimacy by adhering to dharma-shastras and niti-shastras.
- Titles like *Maharajadhiraja* were **commonly used by Pallava kings**, not unique to Chalukyas.

Source: NCERT and Ancient India – NCERT (R.S.Sharma)

5. With reference to the role of royal women in early South Indian dynasties, consider the following statements:

1. Chalukya royal women were sometimes appointed as provincial governors.
2. Pallava queens actively participated in governance and coin issuance.
3. Queen Rangapataka is associated with the Pallava dynasty and is mentioned in an inscription at Kailasanatha temple.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b) 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

- Chalukya queens, especially from **Jayasimha I's line**, were appointed as **provincial governors**.
- **Pallava queens did not participate in administration or issue coins**. Their role was largely limited to religious endowments.
- **Queen Rangapataka**, wife of **Rajasimha Pallava**, is mentioned in an **inscription in Kailasanatha temple, Kanchipuram**.

Source: NCERT and Ancient India – NCERT (R.S.Sharma)

6. With reference to the administrative system of the Chalukyas, consider the following statements:

1. The Chalukya inscriptions mention a council of ministers headed by the *Pradhana*.
2. The *Mahasandhi-vigrahika* was responsible for foreign affairs.
3. The administrative divisions of the Chalukya state included Vishayam, Rastram, Nadu, and Grama.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (b) 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- Inscriptions **do not explicitly mention a council of ministers**, though they mention ministerial designations.
- The *Mahasandhi-vigrahika* was indeed the **minister of foreign affairs**.
- The Chalukya administrative divisions were **Vishayam, Rastram, Nadu, and Grama**, as per the epigraphs.

Source: NCERT and Ancient India – NCERT (R.S.Sharma)



7. With reference to the provincial and district administration of the Chalukyas, consider the following statements:

1. Provincial governors were often members of the royal family and used titles such as *raja* and *maha-samanta*.
2. The administrative unit below the *vishaya* was called *pukti*, headed by the *pogapati*.
3. The *vishayapati* was a village-level official responsible for collecting taxes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only**

**Explanation:**

- Provincial governors were often **royal princes** and assumed titles like *raja*, *maha-samanta*, etc.
- The **unit below vishaya** was *pukti*, and its head was known as *pogapati*.
- *Vishayapati* was the **head of a vishaya (district-level unit)**, not a village official.

**Source: NCERT and Ancient India – NCERT (R.S.Sharma)**

8. With reference to religious patronage under the Chalukyas of Badami, consider the following statements:

1. The Chalukyas supported both orthodox and heterodox sects, including Jainism and Buddhism.
2. Chalukya rulers bore religious titles like *Parama Vaishnava* and *Parama Maheswara*.
3. Hiuen Tsang mentions the presence of Mahayana and Hinayana followers in Chalukya territory.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: (d) 1, 2 and 3**

**Explanation:**

- Chalukyas supported **both Brahmanical faiths (Saivism, Vaishnavism)** and **heterodox sects** like **Jainism and Buddhism**.
- Chalukya rulers bore religious titles like **Parama Vaishnava** and **Parama Maheswara**, reflecting dual patronage.
- **Hiuen Tsang** reported that **both Mahayana and Hinayana Buddhists** lived in Chalukya domains.

**Source: NCERT and Ancient India – NCERT (R.S.Sharma)**

9. Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched with respect to Chalukya contributions to religion and literature?

Personality/Place	Contribution
1. Ravikirti	Jain poet and court scholar of Pulikesin II
2. Gunaputra	Jain monk appointed as master by Prince Krishna
3. Saptavataṛam	A Kannada grammar text written in the 7th century
4. Aihole Inscription	Composed in Sanskrit and attributed to Chalukya rule

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

**Answer: (b) 1, 2 and 4 only**

**Explanation:**

- *Ravikirti*, the court poet of *Pulikesin II*, was a **Jain scholar**.
- *Gunaputra*, a **Jain monk**, was appointed as **master by Prince Krishna**.
- *Saptavataṛam* was a **grammar work in Sanskrit, not Kannada**.
- The **Aihole inscription** is in **Sanskrit**, an important cultural language of the Chalukyas.

**Source: NCERT and Ancient India – NCERT (R.S.Sharma)**

10. With reference to Chalukya temple architecture, consider the following statements:

1. Chalukyas were the first in the Deccan to use soft sandstone in temple construction.
2. Aihole is primarily known for cave temples, whereas Pattadakal is known for structural temples.
3. Virupaksha temple at Pattadakal was built by Queen Lohamahadevi to commemorate the victory over Kanchipuram.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**Answer: (c) 1 and 3 only**

**Explanation:**

- Chalukyas introduced the **technique of using soft sandstone** for temple construction in the **Deccan**.
- **Aihole is known for structural temples**, not cave temples (though it has preserved mandapa-type caves); **Badami** is known for both **structural and cave temples**.
- The **Virupaksha temple** at Pattadakal was commissioned by **Queen Lohamahadevi** to mark **Vikramaditya II's conquest of Kanchipuram**.

**Source: NCERT and Ancient India – NCERT (R.S.Sharma)**

## Chola dynasty

1. With reference to the rise of the Chola Empire, consider the following statements:
1. Vijayalaya Chola established the Chola kingdom by capturing Tanjavur from the Pallavas.
  2. The Chola state derived its economic strength primarily from the fertile Kaveri valley.
  3. The Chola administration excluded local landed magnates from state functions to centralize power.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only  
B. 2 and 3 only  
C. 1 and 3 only  
D. 1, 2, and 3

**Answer: A. 1 and 2 only**

**Explanation:**

- Vijayalaya Chola captured Tanjavur from Muttarayas, marking the rise of Chola power.
- The Chola state's economic base was the fertile and resource-rich Kaveri valley.
- The Chola administration **included** local landed magnates by giving them titles and responsibilities, not excluding them.

**Source: NCERT and Ancient India – NCERT (R.S.Sharma)**

2. With reference to the Chola administrative and village structure, consider the following statements:

1. Nattars were the representatives of the *nadu* and primarily comprised landholders.
2. Devadana, Palliccanda, Kanimurruttu, and Vettapperu were tax-exempt villages.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 only  
B. 2 only  
C. Both 1 and 2  
D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: C. Both 1 and 2**

**Explanation:**

- Nattars represented the *nadu* and were key landholding figures in the locality.
- These were categories of tax-free or tax-exempt villages under the Chola land grant system.

**Source: NCERT and Ancient India – NCERT (R.S.Sharma)**

3. With reference to the village assemblies and social structure during the Chola period, consider the following statements:

1. *Ur* referred to an assembly of non-Brahmana landholders responsible for managing village land affairs.
2. Brahmadeyakkilavars were associated with vellanvagai (non-Brahmana peasant) villages.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 only  
B. 2 only  
C. Both 1 and 2  
D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: A. 1 only**

**Explanation:**

- *Ur* was the term used for the assembly of non-Brahmana landholders, who carried out land supervision functions.
- Brahmadeyakkilavars were **Brahmana donees** associated with *brahmadeya* lands, **not** with *vellanvagai* peasant villages.

Source: NCERT and Ancient India – NCERT (R.S.Sharma)

4. With reference to the territorial and administrative units in Chola-period South India, consider the following statements:

1. Rich peasants exercised considerable control over the affairs of the under the supervision of the central Chola government.
2. *Valanadus* were artificially created administrative divisions during the reign of Rajaraja I.

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

Answer: C. Both 1 and 2

Explanation:

- Rich peasants exercised considerable control over the affairs of the under the supervision of the central Chola government.
- *Valanadus* were artificially created administrative units during Rajaraja I's period, unlike the organically evolved *nadus*.

Source: NCERT and Ancient India – NCERT (R.S.Sharma)

5. With reference to **Brahmadeya settlements** in the Chola period, consider the following statements:

1. The *Sabha* or *Mahasabha* was the assembly of Brahmanas in Brahmadeya villages and oversaw temple administration and resource management.
2. Brahmadeyas were royal establishments directly created and run by the Chola kings through appointed officials.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A. 1 only

Explanation:

- The Sabha or Mahasabha was the assembly of Brahmanas that handled administrative functions like temple supervision, land assignment, and record keeping.
- The *Sabha* was **not created by royal authority**; its origin is attributed to *Dharmashastric norms*. Brahmadeyas were **endowed** by kings but operated autonomously.

Source: NCERT and Ancient India – NCERT (R.S.Sharma)

6. With reference to **Nagaram settlements** in the Chola period, consider the following statements:

1. Nagarattar were the representatives of merchant communities and maintained financial records, levied taxes, and paid royal dues.
2. All Nagaram settlements were directly governed by the nadu assembly and could not function independently.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: A. 1 only**

**Explanation:**

- Nagarattar formed the representative body of merchants, kept accounts, levied taxes like *kadama* and *nagaraviniyogam*, and paid dues in gold and paddy.
- Some Nagaram settlements were **independent of the nadu** (functioning as *taniyur*).

**Source: NCERT and Ancient India – NCERT (R.S.Sharma)**

7. With reference to Chola temples, consider the following statements:

1. Chola temples functioned only as religious centers and did not play any significant role in the economic or social life of the region.
2. The making of bronze images was one of the most distinctive crafts associated with Chola temples.
3. The large temples built by Rajaraja and Rajendra were located in Thanjavur and Gangaikondacholapuram, respectively.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 2 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, and 3

**Answer: A. 2 and 3 only**

**Explanation:**

- Chola temples were not just religious centers. They were centers of economic, social, and cultural life, supporting various specialists like garland makers, musicians, cooks, dancers, etc.
- Bronze image-making was a highly developed and distinctive craft associated with Chola temples. These sculptures are renowned for their artistic finesse.
- Rajaraja I built the Brihadisvara Temple at Thanjavur, and Rajendra I built the temple at Gangaikondacholapuram — both are architectural marvels of the Chola period.

**Source: NCERT and Ancient India – NCERT (R.S.Sharma)**

8. Consider the following statements regarding land classifications mentioned in Chola inscriptions:

1. Vellanvagai refers to land held by non-Brahmana peasant proprietors.
2. Shalabhoga was land allocated specifically for maintaining schools or educational institutions.
3. Pallichchandam was the term used for land donations to Buddhist monasteries.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: A. 1 and 2 only**

**Explanation:**



- *Vellanvagai* was land owned by non-Brahmana peasant proprietors.
- *Shalabhoga* land was used for the maintenance of schools or educational purposes.
- *Pallichchhandam* refers to land granted to **Jaina institutions**, not Buddhist monasteries.

Source: NCERT and Ancient India – NCERT (R.S.Sharma)

9. With reference to the **naval power** of the Chola Empire, consider the following statements:

1. The Cholas were among the first South Indian dynasties to maintain a powerful navy capable of projecting influence overseas.
2. Their naval strength helped in both protecting merchant shipping and spreading Indian culture to Southeast Asia.

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

Answer: C. Both 1 and 2

Explanation:

- The Cholas developed a **strong naval force**, projecting power across the Bay of Bengal.
- Their navy **protected maritime trade** and facilitated the **spread of Indian culture, religion, and trade networks** to Southeast Asia, including Sri Lanka and beyond.

Source: NCERT and Ancient India – NCERT (R.S.Sharma)

10. With reference to the Chola Empire, consider the following statements:

1. The Chola economy was significantly supported by the cotton trade.
2. Urban centres like Puhar emerged as major commercial hubs due to prosperous trade.
3. Chola cities were primarily known for import of luxury goods from Central Asia.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A) 1 and 2 only
- B) 2 and 3 only
- C) 1 and 3 only
- D) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: A) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- The Chola economy derived considerable wealth from the cotton trade, particularly through textile production and exports.
- Urban centres such as **Puhar (Kaveripattanam)** developed as vital commercial ports due to the flourishing maritime trade.
- Chola trade was largely **export-oriented**, especially in textiles, and focused on Southeast Asia and other maritime regions. The import of Central Asian luxury goods was not a primary feature of their urban economy.

Source: NCERT and Ancient India – NCERT (R.S.Sharma)



## The Vijayanagar Empire

### 1. Consider the following statements about the Vijayanagar Empire

1. Harihara and Bukka earlier worked for the Kakatiya rulers.
2. The capital was first at Anegondi and later shifted to Hosapattana, renamed Vijayanagara.

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer B. 2 only**

**Explanation**

- Harihara and Bukka were in the service of the **Hoysala rulers**, not the Kakatiyas.
- The Vijayanagar capital was initially at **Anegondi** and later shifted to **Hosapattana**, which was renamed **Vijayanagara**.

**Source: NCERT and Ancient India – NCERT (R.S.Sharma)**

### 2. Consider the following statements about Krishnadevaraya of the Vijayanagar Empire

1. Krishnadevaraya received Portuguese military support and allowed them to build a fort at Bhatkal.
2. Krishnadevaraya reorganized and legally recognized the Nayak (nayankara) administrative system.

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- Krishnadevaraya received **military assistance from the Portuguese** and in return **granted them permission to build a fort at Bhatkal**.
- One of his key administrative reforms was the **reorganization and legal recognition of the Nayak (nayankara) system**, which helped consolidate imperial control.

**Source: NCERT and Ancient India – NCERT (R.S.Sharma)**

### 3. Consider the following statements about the decline of the Vijayanagar Empire

1. Ramaraya's divide-and-rule policy led to the unification of Deccan Sultanates, culminating in the Battle of Talikota.
2. In the Battle of Talikota, Ramaraya defeated the combined forces of the Deccan Sultanates.
3. After the fall of Vijayanagar, Tirumala, brother of Ramaraya, founded the Aravidu dynasty.

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

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

**Answer B. 1 and 3 only**

**Explanation**

- Ramaraya's **divide-and-rule policy**, where he pitted Deccan Sultanates against each other, backfired and led them to **unite against Vijayanagar**, resulting in the **Battle of Talikota (1565)**.
- The **Battle of Talikota** took place in **January 1565**. **Ramaraya was defeated**, captured, and executed — **not victorious**.
- After the fall of Vijayanagar and the death of Ramaraya, his **brother Tirumala founded the Aravidu dynasty** in **1570**, the fourth and last ruling dynasty of the empire.

Source: NCERT and Ancient India – NCERT (R.S.Sharma)

**4. Consider the following statements regarding the administrative system of the Vijayanagar Empire**

1. The chief minister of the Vijayanagar kingdom was called the mahapradhani.
2. Under the Tuluva dynasty, the importance of rajas increased due to expansion of territory.
3. Krishnadevaraya introduced the Nayak system, which reduced the administrative role of rajas.

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

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: B. 1 and 3 only**

Explanation

- The **mahapradhani** was the **chief minister** in the Vijayanagar administrative structure.
- Under the **Tuluva dynasty**, especially during Krishnadevaraya's reign, the **rajas lost their administrative and revenue status** due to the **emergence of the Nayak system**, not increased importance.
- **Krishnadevaraya reorganized the Nayak (nayankara) system**, which became the dominant administrative model, **reducing the role of rajas**.

Source: NCERT and Ancient India – NCERT (R.S.Sharma)

**5. Consider the following statements regarding the Nayak system in the Vijayanagar Empire**

1. The Nayak system was similar to the iqta system of the Delhi Sultanate, where revenue was assigned in return for military service.
2. The Nayak system became fully institutionalized during the reigns of Krishnadevaraya and Achyutadevaraya.
3. All Nayaks belonged to the warrior caste and were exclusively from Brahmana backgrounds.

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

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: A. 1 and 2 only**

Explanation

- The **Nayak system resembled the iqta system** of the Delhi Sultanate, where **revenue-yielding territories** were assigned to military leaders in return for service.
- The **system was perfected and institutionalized** during the reigns of **Krishnadevaraya and Achyutadevaraya**, as confirmed by inscriptions and foreign accounts.
- Nayaks **came from diverse backgrounds**—including **Brahmanas, non-Brahmanas, warriors, pastoral clans, peasants, and merchants**—not just Brahmana or warrior castes.

Source: NCERT and Ancient India – NCERT (R.S.Sharma)

6. Consider the following statements regarding the social and economic conditions under the Vijayanagar Empire

1. Harsh tax collection policies led to peasant revolts during the Sangama dynasty.
2. The Nayak system encouraged craft production by offering occasional tax concessions to artisans.
3. The Vijayanagar economy remained predominantly agrarian and witnessed little commercial or artisanal development.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: A. 1 and 2 only

Explanation

- A peasant revolt occurred in 1430 in central Tamil Nadu due to unjust tax demands during the Sangama dynasty. It was significant as people united across caste lines. A Vijayanagar prince intervened and reduced taxes to pacify the revolt.
- Under the Nayak system in the 16th century, local Nayakas supported craft production like weaving by giving tax concessions from time to time.
- The economy transitioned from agrarian to commercial from the 14th century onwards. There was significant growth in artisanal activity, coin circulation, and the rise of commercial centres. Artisans became important and were referred to as pattadai or kasaya-vargam.

Source: NCERT and Ancient India – NCERT (R.S.Sharma)

7. Consider the following statements regarding literature during the Vijayanagar Empire

1. Sayana, a minister of Harihara II, is known for his standard commentaries on the Vedas.
2. Krishnadeva Raya authored Amuktamalyada in Sanskrit, which narrates the story of Goda Devi (Andal).

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer A. 1 only

Explanation

- Sayana, a scholar and minister under Harihara II, is known for his commentaries on the Vedas, considered standard even today.
- Amuktamalyada was written by Krishnadeva Raya in Telugu, not Sanskrit. It narrates the story of Goda Devi (Andal).

Source: NCERT and Ancient India – NCERT (R.S.Sharma)

**8. Consider the following statements about literary developments under Krishnadeva Raya**

1. Allasani Peddanna, one of the Ashtadiggajas, was known as the 'Andhrakavita Pitamaha'.
2. Krishnadeva Raya was honoured as 'Karnataka Pitamaha' for his contributions to Kannada literature.

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer A. 1 only**

**Explanation**

- **Allasani Peddanna**, the greatest poet in Krishnadeva Raya's court, was indeed known as the 'Andhrakavita Pitamaha'.
- Krishnadeva Raya was honoured as 'Andhra Pitamaha', not 'Karnataka Pitamaha', for his patronage of **Telugu** literature.

**Source: NCERT and Ancient India – NCERT (R.S.Sharma)**

**9. Consider the following statements regarding Vijayanagar architecture**

1. The construction of tall **Raya Gopurams** and **Kalyana Mandapams** are key feature of Vijayanagar architecture.
2. The **horse** was the most frequently depicted animal in temple pillar sculptures during this period.

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer C. Both 1 and 2**

**Explanation**

- **Raya Gopurams** (grand temple gateways) and **Kalyana Mandapams** (marriage halls) are **distinctive features** of Vijayanagar temple architecture.
- The **horse** is noted as the **most common animal** carved on temple pillars during this period.

**Source: NCERT and Ancient India – NCERT (R.S.Sharma)**

**10. Consider the following statements about Vijayanagar contributions to art and architecture**

1. The **Vittalaswamy Temple** in Hampi is known for its musical pillars and stone chariot.
2. The **Hazara Temple**, built by Achyutadevaraya, is regarded as a perfect specimen of Hindu temple architecture.

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer A. 1 only**

**Explanation**

- The **Vittalaswamy Temple** is renowned for its **saptaswara (musical) pillars** and the iconic **stone chariot**, making it one of the finest examples of Vijayanagar architecture.

- The **Hazara Temple** was built during the reign of **Krishnadevaraya**, not Achyutadevaraya. It is praised for its perfection in Hindu architecture.

Source: NCERT and Ancient India – NCERT (R.S.Sharma)

### Prelims Marathon (Bhakti and Sufi Movements)

1. Which of the following activities was/were supported by “Sufism”?

1. Religious formalism
2. Orthodoxy
3. Falsehood

Select the correct option from the codes given below:

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. None

**Correct Answer: D**

**Notes:**

Sufism rejected religious formalism, orthodoxy, falsehood, and hypocrisy, aiming instead for spiritual bliss and a new world order.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

2. With reference to the Bhakti movement, the term “Thevaram” is related to which of the following?

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Gujarat
- D. Bengal

**Correct Answer: A**

**Notes:**

Thevaram comprises hymns by the three prominent Nayanmars, highlighting religious developments in Tamil Nadu.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

3. “Said to be a disciple of Ramananda, he learnt Vedanta philosophy from him” – This refers to whom?

- A. Ramanujar
- B. Kabir Das
- C. Sri Chaitanya Guru
- D. Ravi Das

**Correct Answer: B**

**Notes:**

Kabir is believed to be a disciple of Ramananda and learned Vedanta philosophy from him.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT



4. Who among the following provided Hinduism with a philosophic doctrine of Advaita to counter the heterodox religions, though it remained at the intellectual level?

- A. Ramanujar
- B. Adi Sankara
- C. Sri Chaitanya Guru
- D. Ravi Das

**Correct Answer: B**

**Notes:**

Adi Sankara's Advaita philosophy was a response to Jainism and Buddhism but remained largely intellectual.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

5. Which of the following were Sufi orders?

- 1. Mashuqs
- 2. Chistis
- 3. Qadiriya

Select the correct option from the codes given below:

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. None

**Correct Answer: B**

**Notes:**

Chistis, Suhrawardis, Qadiriya, and Naqshbandis were prominent Sufi orders; Mashuqs means "beloved" (God), not an order.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

6. Which of the following was/were features of the "Bhakti movement"?

- 1. Belief in different forms of God
- 2. Belief in freedom from the cycle of life and death
- 3. Emphasis on self-surrender for obtaining the bliss and grace of God

Select the correct option from the codes given below:

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. None

**Correct Answer: B**

**Notes:**

Bhakti movement emphasized monotheism, freedom from samsara, and self-surrender to God's grace.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT



7. Which of the following is/are traits of "Sufism"?

1. Contemplation
2. Renunciation
3. Self-denial

Select the correct option from the codes given below:

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. None

**Correct Answer: C**

**Notes:**

Sufi saints practiced ascetic exercises including contemplation, renunciation, and self-denial.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

8. The famous Bhakti saint "Chaitanya" was associated with which of the following regions?

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Andhra Pradesh
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Bengal

**Correct Answer: D**

**Notes:**

Chaitanya from Bengal influenced the Bhakti movement significantly with his devotional practices.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

9. Who among the following expounded the philosophy known as Vishistadvaita, or qualified monism?

- A. Ramanujar
- B. Kabir Das
- C. Sri Chaitanya Guru
- D. Ravi Das

**Correct Answer: A**

**Notes:**

Ramanujar developed Vishistadvaita philosophy at the peak of the Bhakti movement.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

10. Consider the following statements:

1. The Bhakti movement originated among the landholding castes.
2. The Bhakti movement was critical of Buddhists and Jains.

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

**Correct Answer: C**

**Notes:**

Bhakti movement arose among landholding castes and opposed Buddhists and Jains, competing for royal patronage.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT