

ForumIAS

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Prelims Marathon

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HISTORY
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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT

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Central Asian Contacts and Their Results

1. With reference to building activities and pottery during the Saka-Kushan phase, consider the following statements:

1. The use of burnt bricks for flooring and tiles for both flooring and roofing became a distinct advance in building construction.
2. The typical red ware pottery of this period, characterized by sprinklers and spouted channels, shows similarities with artifacts found in Soviet Central Asia.
3. The introduction of brick-wells as a construction feature is also a characteristic of this period.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Statement 1: Correct. The Saka-Kushan phase registered a distinct advance in building activities, including the use of burnt bricks for flooring and tiles for both flooring and roofing.

Statement 2: Correct. The typical pottery is red ware, both plain and polished, and the distinctive pots are sprinklers and spouted channels. These remind scholars of red pottery found in Kushan layers in Soviet Central Asia.

Statement 3: Correct. The period is also marked by the construction of brick-wells.

2. With reference to irrigation facilities during the period of Central Asian contacts, consider the following statements:

1. The most famous Saka ruler, Rudradaman I, is known for undertaking major repairs to the Sudarshana Lake in Kathiawar, which was used for irrigation.
2. Archaeological evidence confirming the construction and use of irrigation facilities by the Kushan rulers is primarily found in the Gangetic basin.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Statement 1: Correct. Rudradaman I (Saka ruler) is famous for the repairs he undertook to improve the Sudarshana lake in Kathiawar, which was in use for irrigation since the time of the Mauryas.

Statement 2: Incorrect. The document mentions that archaeological traces of irrigation facilities by Kushans have been discovered in parts of Afghanistan, Pakistan and Western Central Asia, not primarily in the Gangetic basin.

3. Which of the following elements of military technology and attire were introduced in India as a result of the contacts with the Sakas and Kushans?

1. The widespread use of reins and saddles for horses.
2. The use of heavy armour, spears, and lances by foreign horsemen.

3. New attire, including trousers, turbans, and long coats.
4. The introduction of a toe stirrup made of rope.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

The Sakas and Kushans introduced:

1. **Better cavalry and the use of the riding horse on a large scale.** They made common the use of **reins and saddles**.
2. Foreign horsemen were **heavily armoured**, and fought with **spears and lances**.
3. They introduced **turban, tunic, trousers, and heavy long coat**.
4. They **possibly used some kind of a toe stirrup** made of rope.

4. With respect to the assimilation of foreign rulers into Indian society, consider the following statements:

1. The lawgiver Manu assigned the Sakas and Parthians to the rank of **Vratya Kshatriyas** (Kshatriyas who had fallen from their duties), facilitating their absorption.
2. The absorption of foreigners into Indian society on a large scale in the post-Maurya period led to the abolition of the Upanayana ceremony for women.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Statement 1: Correct. The foreigners were absorbed as the warrior class, Kshatriyas. The lawgiver Manu stated that the Sakas and Parthians were the Kshatriyas who had fallen from their duties, which is why they are sometimes termed Vratya Kshatriyas.

Statement 2: Correct. The document's notes mention that one impact on Indian society during this time was the Abolition of Upanayana to female.

5. With reference to trade and economy during the Kushan rule, consider the following statements:

1. Kushans were the first rulers in India to issue gold coins, though in limited quantity.
2. The Kushan Empire controlled a vital part of the Silk Route, which served as a major source of revenue through tolls levied from traders.
3. Besides the revenue from the Silk Route, a significant source of gold for India during this period was the Altai mountains in Central Asia.

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Statement 1: Incorrect. The Indo-Greeks were the first to issue gold coins in India. However, the Kushans were the first to issue gold coins on a wide scale.

Statement 2: Correct. The Kushans controlled the Silk Route, which passed through their empire, and the tolls levied were a source of great income.

Statement 3: Correct. India received a good deal of gold from the Altai mountains in Central Asia, as well as through trade with the Roman empire.

6. With reference to the polity and administration introduced by the Central Asian rulers, consider the following pairs:

| System/Practice | Associated Group |
|---|------------------|
| 1. 'King of Kings' Title | Kushans |
| 2. Satrap System | Indo-Greeks |
| 3. Military Governorship (Strategos) | Sakas |
| 4. Hereditary Dual Rule (Father and Son ruling jointly) | Kushans |

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one pair
- (b) Only two pairs
- (c) Only three pairs
- (d) All four pairs

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- Pair 1: **Correct.** The Kushans adopted the pompous title of **king of kings**.
- Pair 2: **Incorrect.** The **satrap system** of government was introduced by the Kushans and Sakas (the empire was divided into numerous satrapies under a satrap).
- Pair 3: **Incorrect.** The practice of **military governorship** (governors called **strategos**) was introduced by the **Greeks**.
- Pair 4: **Correct.** Curious practices such as **hereditary dual rule** (two kings ruling simultaneously, like father and son) were introduced by these foreign rulers, suggesting less centralization.

7. With reference to the impact of Central Asian contacts on Science and Technology, consider the following statements:

1. Indian astronomy and astrology were influenced by the Greeks, from whom the term horasastra (used for astrology) was derived.
2. The process of glass making saw an unparalleled growth during this period.
3. The ancient Indian practice of naming medicine aushadhi was adopted by Indian physicians from Greek terminology.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Statement 1: Correct. Indian astronomy and astrology profited from contact with the Greeks, and the term horasastra (for astrology in Sanskrit) was derived from the Greek term horoscope.

Statement 2: Correct. The document states that the glass making process made an unparalleled growth in this period.

Statement 3: Incorrect. Ancient Indian physicians relied mainly on plants, which were called oshadi in Sanskrit, and the resulting medicine came to be known as aushadhi. The document explicitly states that Indian medicine did not owe much to the Greeks.

8. With reference to the Gandhara and Mathura schools of art during the period of Central Asian contacts, consider the following statements:

1. The Gandhara art was purely indigenous, whereas the Mathura art showed strong Hellenistic influence.
2. The Mathura school is famous for producing the headless erect statue of Kanishka and images of Vardhamana Mahavira using red sandstone.
3. A key feature of the Gandhara school was the fashioning of the Buddha's hair in the Graeco-Roman style.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Statement 1: Incorrect. The Greek rule introduced Hellenistic art features in the north-west, giving rise to the Gandhara art. The Mathura school was primarily a centre of indigenous art.

Statement 2: Correct. Mathura is famous for the headless erect statue of Kanishka and produced several stone images of Vardhamana Mahavira. Its products were made of red sandstone.

Statement 3: Correct. Gandhara art produced images of the Buddha in the Graeco-Roman style, and the hair of the Buddha was fashioned in the Graeco-Roman style.

9. Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

| Term/Work | Description/Author |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1. Buddhacharita | Biography of the Buddha written by Asvaghosha. |
| 2. Yavanika | A Sanskritized form of the Ionian people. |
| 3. Inscription of Rudradaman | Earliest specimen of kavya style in chaste Sanskrit. |

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Pair 1: Correct. Asvaghosha wrote the Buddhacharita, which is a biography of the Buddha.

Pair 2: Incorrect. The word yavanika referred to the curtain introduced in Indian theatre, which was borrowed from the Greeks. Yavana was the Sanskritized form of Ionian.

Pair 3: Correct. The earliest specimen of kavya style is found in the inscription of Rudradaman (Saka ruler) in Kathiawar (c. A.D. 150), which was the first long inscription composed in chaste Sanskrit.

10. With respect to the religious history of India during the period of Central Asian contacts, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The Greek ambassador Heliodorus set up a pillar near Vidisa in honour of Vishnu.
2. The Mahayana form of Buddhism arose primarily because the foreign converts found the existing philosophical doctrines of Buddhism too puritanical and abstract.
3. Kushan coins frequently bear the images of both Siva and the Buddha.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Statement 1: Correct. The Greek ambassador Heliodorus set up a pillar in honour of Vishnu near Vidisa.

Statement 2: Correct. The foreigners wanted something concrete and intelligible, finding the original form of Buddhism too puritanical and abstract. This led to the development of the Mahayana (Great Wheel) form, which included the worship of the Buddha's image.

Statement 3: Correct. The Kushan rulers worshipped both Siva and the Buddha, and the images of these two gods appeared on the Kushan coins.

Gupta Empire

1. With reference to the early rulers of the Gupta dynasty, consider the following titles and their bearers:

1. **Maharaja** : Srigupta
2. **Maharajadhiraja** : Ghatotkacha
3. **Vikramaditya**: Samudragupta
4. **Mahendraditya** : Kumaragupta I

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1: Correct.** Srigupta, the founder, took the title of **Maharaja**.
- **Pair 2: Incorrect.** Ghatotkacha also took the title of **Maharaja**. The title **Maharajadhiraja** was taken by **Chandragupta I**.
- **Pair 3: Incorrect.** The title **Vikramaditya** was taken by **Chandragupta II** and later by Skandagupta. Samudragupta's titles included Kaviraja and Napoleon of India.
- **Pair 4: Correct.** Kumaragupta I took the title **Mahendraditya** (and Shaktaditya).

2. With reference to Chandragupta I, consider the following statements:

1. He is considered the founder of the Gupta Era, beginning in 3-3 CE.

2. He was the first Gupta king to adopt the policy of war and conquest, expanding the empire into the Deccan.
3. He issued coins in the joint names of his queen, Kumaradevi, and himself.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Correct.** Chandragupta I is considered the founder of the **Gupta Era (3 - 3 CE)**.
- **Statement 2: Incorrect.** **Samudragupta**, his son and successor, **followed the policy of war and conquest**, including the campaign into the Deccan (Group D rulers). Chandragupta I's empire was limited to UP, Bengal, and parts of modern Bihar.
- **Statement 3: Correct.** He issued coins in the joint names of his queen, **Kumaradevi (Licchavi's Princess)**, and himself.

3. Which of the following descriptions or titles is correctly associated with Samudragupta?

1. His court poet Harisena wrote the Prayag Prashasti in Sanskrit as Champu Kavya (Prose + Poetry).
2. He adopted the policy of political conciliation (grahanamokshanugraha) during his southern campaign.
3. Chinese sources mention that he granted permission to Meghavarman (Sri Lanka) to build a Buddhist temple at Bodh Gaya.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Correct.** The **Prayag Prashasti** on the Allahabad Pillar was written by his court poet **Harisena** in Sanskrit as **Champu Kavya**.
- **Statement 2: Incorrect.** The policy of political conciliation during the southern campaign was adopted by his commander **Virasena**, not Samudragupta himself.
- **Statement 3: Correct.** Chinese sources confirm that **Meghavarman (Sri Lanka)** sought permission from Samudragupta to build a Buddhist temple at Bodh Gaya.

4. With reference to Chandragupta II, consider the following:

1. He used a marriage alliance with the Vakataka kingdom, controlling it indirectly, which helped him eliminate the Western Shakas.
2. The Chinese traveler Fa-Hien visited his court and wrote Fo-Khow-Ki (Records of Buddhist Countries).
3. The famous Iron Pillar inscription in Delhi is believed to have been originally erected by him at Udaygiri (Vidisa).

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Correct.** He married his daughter, **Prabhavati**, to the Vakataka prince, Rudrasena II. After Rudrasena's death, Prabhavati ruled, allowing Chandragupta II to indirectly control the Vakataka kingdom, which aided him in defeating the Western Shakas (Sakari).
- **Statement 2: Correct.** **Fa-Hien** visited the empire during his reign and wrote Fo-Khow-Ki.
- **Statement 3: Correct.** The **Iron Pillar inscription (Delhi)** is believed to have been erected by him at Udaygiri (Vidisa) and later transferred to Mehrauli.

5. With reference to the reign of Kumaragupta I (4 CE - 5 CE), which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. He was the founder of the famous Nalanda University.
2. The Mandor (Dashpur) inscription records the migration of silk weavers from Lata (Gujarat) to Dasapura.
3. The first attack of the Huns from Central Asia was successfully repelled by him.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Correct.** He is credited with the **foundation of Nalanda University**.
- **Statement 2: Correct.** The Mandor inscription, written by Vatsabhata, refers to the **migration of silk weavers from Lata (Gujarat) to Dasapura**.
- **Statement 3: Incorrect.** The Huns' attack during Kumaragupta I's reign was made unsuccessful by **prince Skandagupta**, not Kumaragupta I himself.

6. Consider the following statements regarding Skandagupta:

1. He took the title of Vikramaditya after defeating the Huna leader Toramana.
2. The Bhitari Pillar inscription provides a clear genealogy of the Gupta dynasty.
3. His governor, Parnadatta, was responsible for repairing the Sudarshan Lake.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Correct.** He took the title of **Vikramaditya** after defeating Toramana (probably Huna).
- **Statement 2: Correct.** The **Bhitari Pillar inscription** (Ghazipur, UP) refers to the **Gupta Genealogy**.
- **Statement 3: Correct.** The **Girnar inscription** mentions that his governor **Parnadatta repaired the Sudarshan Lake**.

7. With reference to the Gupta economy, consider the following pairs:

| Term | Description |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Kulyavapa | A system for land measurement |
| 2. Ghati-yantra | A type of large reservoir or tank |
| 3. Pattavastra | A variety of silk cloth |

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1: Correct.** Kulyavapa was a system of **land measurement** , along with Nivartana and Dronavapa.
- **Pair 2: Incorrect.** Ghati-yantra (or Arghatta) was a **Water Wheel** used for irrigation. Tadaga was the term for a reservoir.
- **Pair 3: Correct.** Pattavastra was a variety of **silk cloth** (along with Kshauma) .

8. With reference to the Gupta administration, consider the following statements:

1. The village landholders were called Gramapati , Kutumbis , and Mahattaras.
2. The Sandhi-Vigrahika was the officer-in-charge for the supply of offensive and defensive weapons.
3. The King's right to demand forced labour was known as Visthi.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Incorrect.** Gramapati was the **Village's headman**. Kutumbis and Mahattaras were village landholders. The statement incorrectly groups the 'headman' with 'landholders'.
- **Statement 2: Incorrect.** The Sandhi-Vigrahika was the **Minister in charge of peace and war**. The officer in charge of weapon supply was the Ranabhandagarika.
- **Statement 3: Correct.** The tax or right of the King to demand forced labour was called **Visthi**.

9. Which of the following books is/are correctly matched with its author from the Gupta period?

1. Mrichchhakatika: Shudraka
2. Kamasutra: Vatsyayana
3. Amara Kosha: Vararuchi
4. Pancha Siddhantika: Varahamihira

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1: Correct.** *Mrichchhakatika* was written by **Shudraka**.
- **Pair 2: Correct.** *Kamasutra* was written by **Vatsyayana**.
- **Pair 3: Incorrect.** *Namalinganushasanam*, also known as **Amara Kosha**, was written by **Amarasimha**, who was a lexicographer. **Vararuchi** was a Grammarian who wrote *Prakrit Prakasha*.
- **Pair 4: Correct.** *Pancha Siddhantika* was written by the astronomer **Varahamihira**.

10. With respect to the society of the Gupta Empire, as per the observations of Fa-Hien and epigraphic evidence, consider the following statements:

1. Fa-Hien noted the prevalence of the Devadasi system and that the remarriage of widows was unfavorable.
2. The first epigraphic evidence of Sati practice is found in the Eran Inscription of Bhanugupta.
3. The emergence of Vratya Kshatriyas was due to the inter-marriage between the different Varnas, known as Varna-Samkara.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Correct.** Fa-Hien's observations include the prevalence of the **Devadasi system** and that the **remarriage of widows was unfavorable**.
- **Statement 2: Correct.** The **Eran Inscription of Bhanugupta** provides the **1st Epigraphic evidence of Sati Practice**.
- **Statement 3: Incorrect.** The emergence of Jatis (castes) was due to **Varna-Samkara** (inter-marriage between varnas). The **Vratya Kshatriyas** were families of Greek and Scythian origin, effectively semi-Kshatriyas.

Gupta and Post-Gupta Dynasties

1. Consider the following statements regarding the Vakataka kingdom:

1. The dynasty was referred to as Vindhhyakas in the Puranas.
2. Though primarily a Brahmin ruling family, they provided patronage to other religions, as evidenced by the later phases of the Ajanta Caves.
3. The *Vaidharbhariti* style, a sophisticated form of Sanskrit literary composition, flourished in their courts.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Correct.** The Vakataka kingdom (250 AD-500 AD) was known as **Vindhhyakas** in the **Puranas**.

- **Statement 2: Correct.** The Vakatakas were **Brahmin Rulers** but supported other religions, including the extensive patronage of the Buddhist **Ajanta Caves**.
- **Statement 3: Correct.** The **Vaidharbhariti** style, known for its smooth and easy composition, was patronized in the Vakataka court.

2. Which of the following statements correctly describes a ruler from the Pravarapura-Nandivardhana Branch of the Vakatakas?

- (a) Rudrasena II married Prabhavatigupta and adopted Vaishnavism, which marked the peak of Gupta influence over the branch.
- (b) Prithvisena II was the last known ruler and successfully secured the northern boundary against the invading Hunas.
- (c) Pravarasena II is credited with composing the *Setubandha* (*Ravanavaha*), a work in Maharashtri Prakrit.
- (d) Rudrasena I was compared to Yudhister for his ethical conduct and was the first to adopt the title of Dharma-Maharaja.

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **(a) Incorrect.** Rudrasena II adopted Vaishnavism, but his wife, **Prabhavatigupta**, ruled as the **regent** after his death, during which time Gupta influence was strong.
- **(b) Incorrect.** Prithvisena II faced invasions from the **Nala** dynasty and the **Vatsagulma** branch.
- **(c) Correct.** **Pravarasena II** composed the *Setubandha* (*Ravanavaha*) in **Maharashtri Prakrit** and has the largest number of Vakataka inscriptions belonging to his reign.
- **(d) Incorrect.** The title **Dharma-Maharaja** was adopted by **Sarvasena** of the Vatsagulma branch.

3. Consider the following statements about the Vatsagulma Branch of the Vakatakas:

- 1. Its founder, Sarvasena, adopted the title Dharma-Maharaja and authored the text *Harivijaya*.
- 2. Harisena, the last great ruler of this branch, is historically significant for commissioning the famous at Ajanta.

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)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Correct.** **Sarvasena** was the founder of the Vatsagulma Branch, authored **Harivijaya**, and adopted the title **Dharma-Maharaja**.
- **Statement 2: Correct.** **Harisena** was the last great ruler and is credited with providing patronage for the later Vakataka phase of the **Ajanta Caves**, including Cave No. 16.

4. With reference to the Ikshvakus (c. 225 AD), who succeeded the Satavahanas in the Andhra region, consider the following statements:

- 1. They were originally subordinate rulers of the Satavahanas, bearing the administrative title Mahatalavara.
- 2. The religious life of their court was characterized by a distinct division: rulers practiced Brahmanism, while royal women significantly patronized Buddhist stupas and monuments at Nagarjunakonda.

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)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Correct.** Ikshvakus were originally **feudatories** of the Satavahanas and held the title **Mahatalavara**.
- **Statement 2: Correct.** The rulers adhered to **Brahmanism**, but their consorts, like Princess **Chamtisiri**, were patrons of Buddhism and erected **Buddhist buildings** at **Nagarjunakonda**.

5. Consider the following statements regarding the Early Kalachuris (or Chedis):

1. The era that later became known as the Kalachuri-Chedi era was started by the Abhira king Ishwarsena.
2. The earliest coin found at the Ellora Caves was issued by their king Krishnaraja.
3. Their rule was confined to the western part of the Deccan, particularly the region of Mahishmati.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Correct.** The **Kalachuri-Chedi era** was started by the **Abhira king Ishwarsena**.
- **Statement 2: Correct.** The earliest coin found at **Ellora**, in front of Cave No. 21, was issued by **Krishnaraja**.
- **Statement 3: Correct.** Their association with **Mahishmati** and the **Elephanta** and **Ellora Caves** suggests their rule covered a vast area in the Western Deccan.

6. With reference to the Western Ganga Dynasty (of Talakad, Karnataka), consider the following pairs of administrative and tax terms:

| Term | Function/Meaning |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. Sarvadhikari | Prime Minister |
| 2. Mahapradhan | Chief Minister |
| 3. Sulika | Duties on import |

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1: Correct.** The **Sarvadhikari** was the **Prime Minister**.
- **Pair 2: Correct.** The **Mahapradhan** was the **Chief Minister**.
- **Pair 3: Correct.** **Sulika** was the term for **Duties on import** (customs duties).

7. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Kadamba Dynasty (of Banwasi)?

1. The Talagunda inscription belongs to the reign of crown prince Santivarman and attests to the founder Mayurasharma's martial beginnings.
2. Ravivarman is credited with extending the Kadamba Kingdom to the Narmada River in the north after military conquest.
3. Their architecture is distinguished by the Stepped Pyramid structure known as Kadamba Shikara.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Correct.** The Talagunda inscription of crown prince Santivarman mentions Mayurasharma's martial origins as a Brahmin.
- **Statement 2: Correct.** Ravivarman is credited with extending his Kingdom to the Narmada River.
- **Statement 3: Correct.** The Kadamba Shikara, a Stepped Pyramid with a Stupika, was their unique architectural style.

8. With reference to the Kalabhras and their rule in South India, consider the following statements:

1. The period of their rule is referred to as a Dark Age because they completely suppressed all religious patronage, especially to Jainism and Buddhism.
2. The Tamil grammar work Yapperunkalam mentions a Kalabhra king named Achutha Kalappalan.
3. They were ultimately overthrown by the combined forces of the Pallava ruler Simhavishnu and the Pandya ruler Kadungon.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Incorrect.** They are called the Dark Age rulers due to a lack of sources, but they extended patronage to Buddhism and Buddhist monasteries.
- **Statement 2: Correct.** The Tamil grammar Yapperunkalam refers to a Kalabhra king, namely Achutha Kalappalan.
- **Statement 3: Correct.** They were overthrown by the combined efforts of the Pallavas (Simhavishnu) and the Pandyas (Kadungon).

9. With respect to the Maukharis of Kannauj, consider the following statements:

1. The Asirgarh Copper seal provides the complete genealogy of the Maukhari rulers starting from Maharaja Hari-varman.
2. Isanavarman was the first Maukhari king to adopt the title Maharajadhiraja following victories over the Andhras and the Gaudas.
3. The dynasty's independent existence ended when Grahavarman was killed by the Malava king Devagupta.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Correct.** The **Asirgarh Copper seal** gives the names of rulers starting from **Maharaja Hari-varman**.
- **Statement 2: Correct.** **Isanavarman** was the first to adopt the title **Maharajadhiraja** after defeating the **Andhras** and the **Gaudas**.
- **Statement 3: Correct.** **Grahavarman** (last Maukhari king) was killed by the Malawa king **Devagupta**.

10. Consider the following pairs related to the post-Gupta era dynasties:

| Dynasty | Association/Contribution |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1. Maitrakas of Valabhi | The founder, Bhattarka , was a military general who constructed the Valabhi University , a major centre for Hinayana Buddhism . |
| 2. Kamarupa (Varman) | King Pushyavarma assumed the title Maharajadiraja and is mentioned in the Nalanda seal as a contemporary of Samudragupta . |
| 3. Later Guptas of Magadha | The rule began after the decline of the main Gupta line and culminated in the conquest of Kannauj by Adityasena . |

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1: Correct.** The **Maitrakas** were founded by **Bhattarka**, and **Valabhi University** was a renowned **Hinayana centre**.
- **Pair 2: Correct.** King **Pushyavarma** is the founder and is mentioned in the **Nalanda seal** with the title **Maharajadiraja** under **Samudragupta's** suzerainty.
- **Pair 3: Correct.** The **Later Guptas** were a regional power. **Adityasena** was a powerful ruler who performed the **Ashwamedha sacrifice** and conquered **Kannauj**.

Pushyabhuti/Vardhana Dynasty and the Early Medieval South Indian Dynasties

1. Which of the following titles were adopted by Prabhakarvardhana, the first notable ruler of the Pushyabhuti dynasty?

1. **Maharajadhiraja**
2. **Hunaharina-kesari**
3. **Parama-bhattaraka**

How many of the titles given above are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Title 1: Correct.** Prabhakarvardhana adopted the title Maharajadhiraja and was the first to use titles of sovereign status, signifying the end of the Gupta-era subordinate relationship.
- **Title 2: Correct.** Hunaharina-kesari (Lion to the Huna deer) is a title attributed to him by Banabhatta in Harshacharita, recognizing his military successes against the Hunas and Gurjaras.
- **Title 3: Incorrect.** Parama-bhattaraka was a title adopted by his son, **Harshavardhana**.

2. With reference to the military career and political consolidation under Harshavardhana, consider the following statements:

1. He successfully avenged the death of his brother, Rajyavardhana, by defeating the Gauda king Shashanka and capturing his capital, Karnasuvarna.
2. He adopted the title Sakala Uttara Pathanatha (Lord of the whole North) but was decisively defeated by the Chalukya king Pulakesin II on the banks of the River Narmada.
3. He adopted the Mahayana form of Buddhism and founded the great religious assembly known as the Mahamoksha Parishad at Prayag.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Incorrect.** While Harsha succeeded his brother Rajyavardhana, who was killed by Shashanka, Harsha was unable to achieve a decisive victory over Shashanka during the latter's lifetime.
- **Statement 2: Correct.** Harsha's campaign south was halted by Pulakesin II at the River Narmada. The title Sakala Uttara Pathanatha is associated with his pan-Indian claims.
- **Statement 3: Correct.** Harsha became a follower of Mahayana Buddhism and is known for holding the quinquennial Mahamoksha Parishad assembly at Prayag (Allahabad).

3. Consider the following administrative terms from Harshavardhana's reign:

| Term | Meaning/Position |
|----------------|---------------------|
| 1. Bhukti | Provincial Governor |
| 2. Uparika | A Province |
| 3. Mahasamanta | Feudatory ruler |

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1: Incorrect.** Bhukti refers to a **Province** (territorial division). The Provincial Governor was the Uparika or Rājasthaniya.
- **Pair 2: Incorrect.** Uparika refers to the **Provincial Governor**.
- **Pair 3: Correct.** Mahasamanta refers to a Feudatory ruler, indicating the rise of a decentralized structure post-Gupta.

4. Which of the following is the most accurate description of the social and penal conditions during Harsha's reign, as observed by the Chinese traveler Hiuen-Tsang (Xuanzang)?

- (a) The caste system was largely non-existent, and the Brahmins served as agricultural labourers.
- (b) The punishment system was characterized by extreme severity, with frequent use of physical mutilation and the death penalty.
- (c) The people were generally honest, and the death penalty was generally abolished, often replaced by banishment or a life sentence.
- (d) Sati was a prominent custom among all social classes, and the state derived its main revenue from trade taxes.

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Hiuen-Tsang's accounts** note that the **people were generally honest** and the penal system was lenient. The death penalty was generally abolished and replaced by banishment or life imprisonment.
- (a) Incorrect. The **four Varnas** (caste system) were prevalent.
- (b) Incorrect. The penal system was lenient, not severe.
- (d) Incorrect. Sati was prevalent, but the main source of state revenue was land revenue (1/6th of the produce).

5. Consider the following literary works and their authors:

1. Nagananda: Harshavardhana
2. Harshacharita: Banabhatta
3. Mattavilasa Prahasana: Pulakesin II

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1: Correct.** Harshavardhana is credited with writing three plays: Nagananda, Ratnavali, and Priyadarshika.
- **Pair 2: Correct.** Harshacharita, a biography of Harsha, was written by his court poet, Banabhatta.
- **Pair 3: Incorrect.** Mattavilasa Prahasana (A Farce of Drunken Sport) was written by the Pallava king Mahendravarman I.

6. The Chalukya king Pulakesin II, who adopted the title Dakshinapatheshvara (Lord of the South), successfully halted Harsha's expansionist march. Which of the following sources confirms this victory?

- (a) The Mandasor Inscription of Yashodharman
- (b) The Aihole Inscription of Pulakesin II

- (c) The Talgunda Pillar Inscription of the Kadambas
- (d) The Prayag Prashasti of Samudragupta

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- The Aihole Inscription (634 CE) was composed by the court poet **Ravikirti** for Pulakesin II. It explicitly details the defeat of Harsha (Harsha was no longer 'harsh' - harshe natmane na ratihi) near the River Narmada.

7. Which of the following statements correctly describes the contribution of the Chalukyas of Badami to Indian architecture?

- (a) They primarily built rock-cut cave temples, eschewing structural temples entirely.
- (b) They were responsible for establishing the Dravidian style of architecture, particularly the vimanas and gopurams.
- (c) They evolved the Vesara style, characterized by a hybrid blend of Nagara (North Indian) and Dravida (South Indian) features.
- (d) Their architectural legacy is confined to monolithic rock-cut Rathas at Badami and Aihole.

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **(c) Correct.** The Chalukyas (along with the Rashtrakutas) are credited with evolving the Vesara (or Central Indian) style, which is a blend of Northern and Southern architectural elements, notably seen in the Pattadakal complex.
- **(a) Incorrect.** They built both rock-cut and structural temples (e.g., Ladh Khan Temple).
- **(b) Incorrect.** The Dravida style was established by the Pallavas.
- **(d) Incorrect.** They built structural temples as well.

8. With reference to the Pallava Dynasty of Kanchipuram, consider the following statements:

1. The famous monolithic rock-cut Rathas at Mahabalipuram were constructed during the reign of Mahendravarman I.
2. Narasimhavarman I defeated the Chalukyas, captured their capital Vatapi, and adopted the title Vatapikonda (Conqueror of Vatapi).
3. The Dravidian style of temple architecture, which later became dominant in the South, essentially began during the Pallava reign.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Incorrect.** Mahendravarman I started the **rock-cut** cave temple phase. The Rathas (monolithic temples) at Mahabalipuram were constructed under his son, **Narasimhavarman I** (Mamalla).
- **Statement 2: Correct.** Narasimhavarman I is one of the greatest Pallava kings and is famous for conquering the Chalukya capital Vatapi and adopting the title Vatapikonda.

- **Statement 3: Correct.** The Pallava period is considered the foundation and evolutionary phase of the Dravidian style, moving from rock-cut caves to monolithic rathas and finally to structural temples.

9. With reference to the local administration during the Imperial Chola period, consider the following statements:

1. The Ur was a general assembly of adult males in non-Brahmadeya (non-Brahmin) villages.
2. The Sabha was a specialized assembly in Brahmadeya villages and included highly educated members from Vellala (agricultural) groups.
3. The Nagaram assembly was dominated by members from Valangai (right-hand faction) groups, who were primarily agriculturalists.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Correct.** Ur was the general village assembly, primarily in villages with peasant proprietors (non-Brahmadeya).
- **Statement 2: Correct.** Sabha was an exclusive assembly of Brahmins in Brahmadeya villages, known for its powerful committees. The Vellalas (agricultural groups) did participate in the Sabha or its committees in some areas, as confirmed by Chola inscriptions.
- **Statement 3: Incorrect.** Nagaram was the assembly of **merchants and traders**. Valangai (Right-Hand Faction) and Idangai (Left-Hand Faction) were social divisions, with Valangai mainly comprising agricultural groups and Idangai mainly artisan/trading class.

10. Consider the following pairs of cultural contributions associated with the Imperial Chola period:

| Cultural Contribution | Associated Patron/Compiler |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Nataraja Bronze Sculpture | Chola Sthapati (Artists) |
| 2. Ramayana by Kamban | Rajendra I (Chola King) |
| 3. Divya Prabandham compilation | Nathmuni (Alvar-Vaishnav Saint) |

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1: Correct.** The famous four-handed Nataraja Bronze Sculpture is a distinctive feature of Chola art.

- **Pair 2: Incorrect.** Ramayana was composed by Kamban during the Chola period, but not directly under the patronage of Rajendra I. It is believed to have been composed during the reign of Kulothunga III.
- **Pair 3: Correct.** The Divya Prabandham (collection of Alvar hymns) was compiled by the saint Nathmuni during the Chola period.

Early Medieval Dynasties-II

1. Which of the following statements correctly describes the Rashtrakuta dynasty's involvement in the Tripartite Struggle for Kannauj?

- (a) Amoghavarsha I allied with the Pratiharas against the Palas and was the first Rashtrakuta ruler to successfully capture Kannauj.
- (b) Dantidurga was the first Rashtrakuta king to achieve a major victory against the Pratiharas in the North, though the capital remained Kannauj.
- (c) Govinda III and Indra III both successfully defeated and intimidated the Pratihara rulers, thereby making the Rashtrakutas the single dominant power in the Deccan.
- (d) Krishna III briefly captured Kannauj but was immediately forced to retreat south due to the rise of the Later Cholas.

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **(a) Incorrect.** Amoghavarsha I focused mainly on consolidating his empire and was not actively involved in the struggle. Govinda III first captured Kannauj.
- **(b) Incorrect.** Dantidurga's early victories were primarily against the Chalukyas and Kalinga.
- **(c) Correct.** The Rashtrakutas did not settle in Kannauj, but Govinda III defeated the Pratiharas, and Indra III captured Kannauj and defeated the Pratihara king Mahipala, cementing Rashtrakuta power in the Deccan and its ability to influence the North.
- **(d) Incorrect.** Krishna III's main military focus was against the Cholas in the South.

2. With reference to the Yadavas of Devagiri (c. 1187–1317 AD), consider the following statements:

1. The Yadavas rose to power by serving as feudatories of the Western Chalukyas (of Kalyani) before declaring independence.
2. Mahadeva was the last Yadava ruler, who was defeated by the invading armies of Alauddin Khilji.
3. The Hemadpanti style of architecture, developed by their minister Hemadri, is characterized by its distinct use of mortarless stone construction.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Correct.** Bhillama V, the founder, was a powerful feudatory of the Western Chalukyas before establishing the independent Yadava kingdom.
- **Statement 2: Incorrect.** Ramachandra (or Ramadeva) was the king defeated by Malik Kafur (under Alauddin Khilji). His son and grandson were the last rulers.

- **Statement 3: Correct.** The Hemadpanti style (associated with the Yadava minister Hemadri) is known for its unique construction using dry stones (without mortar).

3. Which of the following is the most accurate statement regarding the Kakatiya dynasty's contribution to agriculture and architecture?

- (a) They primarily built rock-cut temples, imitating the Rashtrakuta style, to demonstrate their religious zeal.
- (b) Their architectural style, characterized by four colossal gateways (toranas), is best represented by the Ramappa Temple.
- (c) They were pioneers in water management, constructing numerous tanks and reservoirs like the Pakkal and Ramappa tanks, which supported the regional economy.
- (d) They introduced Telugu as the official administrative language, entirely replacing Sanskrit in their royal inscriptions.

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **(a) Incorrect.** They built structural temples.
- **(b) Incorrect.** Toranas (gateways) are characteristic of the Warangal Fort, not the Ramappa Temple.
- **(c) Correct.** The Kakatiya kings are historically renowned for their tank construction activities (like Pakkal and Ramappa tanks), which were central to sustaining the agricultural base of the Telangana region.
- **(d) Incorrect.** Sanskrit remained important, and their most famous inscription, the Motupalli Pillar inscription, is bilingual.

4. Which of the following titles and achievements are correctly associated with the Hoysala king Vishnuvardhana?

1. Maleparol Ganda (Lord of the Great Mountains)
2. Defeat of the Cholas and establishment of an independent Hoysala kingdom
3. Patronage of Jainism throughout his entire reign

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Correct.** Vishnuvardhana adopted the title Maleparol Ganda after subduing the local tribal chiefs (Malepas).
- **Statement 2: Correct.** Vishnuvardhana defeated the Cholas at Talakad (1116 AD), captured Gangavadi, and formally established the independent Hoysala state, though the kingdom's foundations were laid by his predecessors.
- **Statement 3: Incorrect.** Vishnuvardhana was a Jain initially but was converted to Vaishnavism by Ramanujacharya, leading to the construction of Vaishnava temples like Chennakesava at Belur.

5. With reference to the judicial and military administration of the Hoysala kingdom, consider the following:

| Term | Role/Function |
|------|---------------|
|------|---------------|

| | |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Sandhivigrahi | Minister of War and Peace |
| 2. Dandanayaka | Chief Commander and head of Justice |
| 3. Perggade | Village accountant or headman |

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1: Correct.** Sandhivigrahi (or Maha Sandhivigrahi) was the minister for Foreign Affairs, War, and Peace.
- **Pair 2: Correct.** Dandanayaka was a highly powerful and flexible title, often denoting a Chief Commander or a senior judicial officer (head of Justice).
- **Pair 3: Incorrect.** Perggade was a Supervising officer or chief official at the village or provincial level, often managing revenue. The village headman was typically the Gaunda or Gramani.

6. Which of the following statements most accurately reflects the religious and economic developments during the Rashtrakuta period?

- (a) Jainism declined significantly as the Rashtrakuta rulers were exclusive followers of Brahmanism.
(b) Arab traders enjoyed religious freedom and exemption from trade taxes, boosting the kingdom's maritime income.
(c) The Rashtrakuta period marked a decline in the Temple Economy, with royal patronage shifting entirely to Jain Basadis.
(d) The capital Manyakheta became a major center for the Digambara sect of Jainism, a reflection of royal patronage.

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **(a) Incorrect.** Amoghavarsha I was a devoted Jain, and Jainism flourished under Rashtrakuta patronage.
- **(b) Incorrect.** Arab traders did enjoy religious freedom and settled on the western coast, but they were generally not exempted from taxes; they simply paid duties.
- **(c) Incorrect.** Temple construction and the Temple Economy remained robust, as evidenced by Ellora and Elephanta.
- **(d) Correct.** Amoghavarsha I was a Jain, and under his reign and his successors, the capital Manyakheta became a strong center for the Digambara sect of Jainism.

7. With reference to the later Chola period (post-Rajendra I), consider the following pairs of literary works and their language:

| Work | Language |
|-------------------|----------|
| 1. Periya Puranam | Sanskrit |

| | |
|----------------------|---------|
| 2. Kamban's Ramayana | Tamil |
| 3. Kavirajamarga | Kannada |

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1: Incorrect.** Periya Puranam (a historical account of the Shaiva saints) was composed by Sekkilhar in Tamil, during the reign of Kulottunga II.
- **Pair 2: Correct.** Kamban's Ramayana (Ramavataram) is considered a classic of Tamil literature from the Later Chola period.
- **Pair 3: Correct.** Kavirajamarga is the first poetic work in Kannada literature, written by Amoghavarsha I of the Rashtrakuta dynasty, which falls under the Early Medieval Deccan history.

8. Which of the following is the most significant literary development associated with the Yadava and Hoysala courts?

- (a) The flourishing of Sanskrit classical drama, which replaced the regional Bhakti literature.
- (b) The rise of the Vachana literature in Kannada, patronized by Hoysala rulers like Vishnuvardhana.
- (c) The development of early Marathi literature, especially Bhakti poetry, under the Yadavas.
- (d) The decline of Jain literary activity due to strong Vaishnava and Shaiva influence in both kingdoms.

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **(a) Incorrect.** Bhakti literature was dominant.
- **(b) Incorrect.** Vachana literature is associated with the Virashaiva movement under Basavanna during the Later Chalukya period, not primarily Hoysala royal patronage.
- **(c) Correct.** The Yadava dynasty is historically crucial for the beginning of Marathi literature. Saints and poets like Dnyaneshwar (author of Dnyaneshwari) and Namdev flourished under Yadava rule, making Marathi the main cultural language of the region.
- **(d) Incorrect.** Jainism continued to receive patronage, especially from the Hoysalas before Vishnuvardhana's conversion.

9. The Hoysaleswara Temple at Halebid (Dwarasamudra) is best known for which of the following architectural features?

- (a) Its massive pyramidal Vimana (tower) covered with stucco figures, towering over the entrance.
- (b) The Hoysala 's emblem depicting Sala fighting a tiger displayed prominently on the temple.
- (c) The construction from granite rock with plain, undecorated walls and minimal carvings.
- (d) The presence of two shrines (dvikuta) on a single star-shaped jagati (platform) with continuous narrative friezes.

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **(a) Incorrect.** Hoysala Vimanas were detailed, but not primarily characterized by pyramidal stucco figures (which is Dravida).
- **(b) Incorrect.** The Hoysala emblem is Sala fighting a **lion** or man-lion, not a tiger.
- **(c) Incorrect.** Hoysala temples are made of soapstone and are known for excessive, minute carving.
- **(d) Correct.** The Hoysaleswara Temple is a Dvikuta (two shrines) structure, built on a star-shaped platform (jagati), and its exterior is covered with horizontal bands of intricate sculptures known as friezes.

10. The Kulottunga I Chola administration (1070–1122 CE) is historically significant for its economic policy due to which of the following actions?

- (a) He conquered Sri Lanka and imposed heavy taxes on its trade, increasing the Chola kingdom's revenue by 50%.
- (b) He abolished several minor and vexatious taxes, earning him the title Sungam Tavirtta Cholan (Chola who abolished tolls).
- (c) He appointed a special Revenue Committee dominated by Brahmins to double the land tax in the Kavery Delta region.
- (d) He shifted the primary source of revenue from land taxes to taxes on temple donations and guild profits.

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **(a) Incorrect.** He adopted a conciliatory approach toward Sri Lanka, granting them complete freedom.
- **(b) Correct.** Kulottunga I is famous for his revenue reforms, particularly abolishing tolls or transit duties (Sungam), and earned the title Sungam Tavirtta Cholan.
- **(c) Incorrect.** His policy was one of tax abolition, not increasing land tax.
- **(d) Incorrect.** Land tax remained the primary source of Chola revenue.

Early Medieval Dynasties in North India

1. With reference to Yashovarman of Kannauj (c. 700–740 AD), consider the following statements:

1. He established a temporary alliance with Lalitaditya Muktapida of Kashmir to counter the growing threat from Tibet.
2. The Prakrit poem Gaudavahoby Vakpati is an important historical source, detailing his victory over the Gaudaking Jivita Gupta II.
3. The playwright Bhavabhuti, known for Uttara-Rama-Charitra, was patronized at his court.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Correct.** The alliance was forged to defeat the Tibetans, though the alliance later broke, leading to Yashovarman's defeat by Lalitaditya.
- **Statement 2: Correct.** Gaudavahoby is the primary source of information about Yashovarman's conquest of Gauda (Bengal).

- **Statement 3: Correct.** The famous playwright Bhavabhuti(also known as Srikantha) was one of the many scholars patronized by Yashovarmana.

2. With reference to the Karakotadynasty of Kashmir(625 AD-855 AD), consider the following statements:

1. The founder, Durlabhavardhana, extended his empire to include territories in the Punjaband parts of Gandhara.
2. Lalitaditya Muktapida's reign is considered the peak of the Karakotadynasty, marked by the construction of the colossal Martand Sun Temple.
3. The Nilamata Purana, which details the history and culture of Kashmir, is believed to have been commissioned during this dynasty.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Incorrect.** While Durlabhavardhanawas the founder, the major territorial expansion, especially of Punjaband Kashmir, was achieved by the subsequent powerful rulers, particularly Lalitaditya.
- **Statement 2: Correct.** Lalitaditya(c. 724–760 AD) was the most powerful ruler, known for conquering Yashovarmanaand his military might. The Martand Sun Templeis his most famous construction.
- **Statement 3: Correct.** The Nilamata Purana, an important text on Kashmiritrade traditions, is generally associated with the Karakotaperiod.

3. The decline of the Utpaladynasty (855 AD-939 AD) in Kashmir, which succeeded the Karakotas, was primarily due to:

- (a) A concerted invasion by the Eastern Gangaruler Anantavarman Chodaganga.
- (b) The outbreak of a major Buddhist-Hinducivil conflict over control of Shankaracharya Hill.
- (c) The rise of a powerful local feudatoryclass known as the Damarasand the succession of weak rulers.
- (d) The assassination of the last ruler, Partha, by the Arabinvaders from Sindh.

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- The Utpaladynasty, which followed the Karakotas, saw a period of political instability. The two major factors leading to their decline and the transition to the Loharadynasty were:
 1. The rise of powerful local feudal chiefs known as the **Damaras**, who wielded significant military and political power.
 2. A series of weak rulersand internal strife.
- (a), (b), and (d) are incorrect historical events for Kashmirat that time.

4. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Gurjara-Pratiharadynasty?

1. They successfully repelled the Arabincursions from Sindhinto North Indiaduring the 8th century AD.
2. Mihira Bhoja(Bhoja I) was the greatest ruler, whose reign was confirmed by the accounts of the Arab traveler Sulaiman.

3. Their empire disintegrated into several smaller Rajput states, including the Chandela and Kalachuris, in the 10th and 11th centuries.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Correct.** The Pratiharas (Nagabhata I and Nagabhata II) were instrumental in checking the expansion of Arab power eastward from Sindh.
- **Statement 2: Correct.** Mihira Bhoja (836–885 AD) was the most powerful ruler. Sulaiman (an Arab traveler) confirms the stability and power of his kingdom.
- **Statement 3: Correct.** As the Pratihara Empire declined, its feudatories, such as the Chandela of Bundelkhand, Kalachuris of Tripuri, Paramaras of Malwa, and Chauhans of Shakambhari, asserted independence.

5. With reference to the Pal dynasty of Bengal, consider the following statements:

1. The dynasty was established after the local notables elected Gopala as king, ending a period of anarchy known as Matsyanyaya.
2. Dharmapala and Devapala were active participants in the Tripartite Struggle for control over Kannauj.
3. The Pal rulers were fervent patrons of Jainism and sponsored the construction of several Basadis in their capital Pataliputra.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Correct.** The Pal dynasty emerged following a period of chaos (Matsyanyaya or the law of the fish) in Bengal, when Gopala was elected by the people.
- **Statement 2: Correct.** Dharmapala and his son Devapala were crucial rivals of the Pratiharas and Rashtrakutas in the long struggle for the strategic city of Kannauj.
- **Statement 3: Incorrect.** The Pal rulers were staunch patrons of **Buddhism** (especially Mahayana and Tantric forms) and Shaivism. They established great Buddhist centers like Vikramashila and Odantapuri.

6. Which of the following correctly describes the Pala and Sena dynasties' contribution to art and literature in Bengal?

- (a) The Pala school of art was characterized by Bronze casting, while the Sena school focused on Mural paintings.
(b) Jayadeva (author of Gita Govinda) was a prominent court poet of the Pal king Gopala.
(c) The Sena dynasty rulers revived Sanskrit learning and literature, leading to a decline in vernacular Buddhist literature.
(d) Pala sculpture, marked by black basalt stone and stylized forms, was primarily secular in nature.

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **(a) Incorrect.** Both Pala and Sena schools are famous for Bronze and Stone sculptures, and the Pala school is famous for miniature paintings on palm leaves.
- **(b) Incorrect.** Jayadeva was patronized by the Sena ruler **Lakshmana Sena**, not Gopala (Pala).
- **(c) Correct.** The Sena rulers were ardent Hindu patrons (especially Shaiva and Vaishnava) and shifted the emphasis back to classical Sanskrit literature, including works like Haladhara's *Danasagara* and *Adbhutasagara*. This shift coincided with the decline of Buddhist scholarship in Bengal.
- **(d) Incorrect.** Pala sculptures were primarily Buddhist and Hindu religious figures.

7. With reference to the Sena dynasty (c. 1095–1250 AD) of Bengal, consider the following statements:

1. They replaced the Pala dynasty and established their rule in Bengal and Bihar.
2. Ballala Sena authored the *Danasagara* and introduced the practice of Kulinism to regulate the social status of Brahmins and Kshatriyas.
3. The dynasty was finally overthrown by the invasion of Muhammad bin Bakhtiyar Khalji.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Incorrect.** The Sena dynasty replaced the Palas but ruled only Bengal and parts of Bihar for a time. Their control of Bihar was limited compared to the Palas.
- **Statement 2: Correct.** Ballala Sena (1160–1178 AD) is known for his literary contributions (*Danasagara* and *Adbhutasagara*) and for establishing Kulinism (a rigid stratification of Brahmins and Kayasthas) in Bengal.
- **Statement 3: Correct.** Lakshmana Sena was the last major ruler, and his capital Nadia (or Lakhnauti) was captured by Bakhtiyar Khalji in 1202 AD, marking the end of organized Sena power.

8. Which of the following is the most accurate statement regarding the Kalchuris (Chedis) of Tripuri (c. 8th–13th century AD)?

- (a) Their rule was confined to the Malwa region and they were the perpetual feudatories of the Gurjara-Pratiharas.
- (b) Their ruler Gangadeva was renowned for his patronage of Jainism and the construction of numerous Jain temples.
- (c) They emerged as a major independent power under Gangadeva and Karna, claiming paramountcy in Central India by defeating Chandela and Chalukyas.
- (d) Their greatest architectural contribution was the Khajuraho group of temples, which they built in alliance with the Chandelas.

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **(a) Incorrect.** Their core region was Dahala (Jabalpur region) with capital at Tripuri.
- **(b) Incorrect.** They were primarily Shaivite patrons.

- **(c) Correct.** The Kalchuris gained great power, especially under Gangeyadeva (c. 1015–1041 AD) and his son Karna (c. 1041–1073 AD), who defeated several neighbors, including the Chandelas and Chalukyas, and were briefly the most powerful kingdom in Central India.
- **(d) Incorrect.** Khajuraho was built by the **Chandelas**.

9. With reference to the Chandeladynasty of Jejakabhukti (Bundelkhand), consider the following statements:

1. They initially served as feudatories of the Gurjara-Pratihara before declaring independence under Yashovarman.
2. The famous Khajuraho group of temples, known for the Kandariya Mahadeva Temple, was built during their peak period.
3. Vidyadhar was the last powerful Chandelaruler who offered strong resistance to Mahmud of Ghazni.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Correct.** Nanuka (founder) was a Pratihara feudatory, but Yashovarman (c. 925–950 AD) became the first independent sovereign ruler.
- **Statement 2: Correct.** The Chandelas are globally famous for the magnificent Khajuraho temples, primarily constructed between 950 and 1050 AD. The Kandariya Mahadeva Temple is the largest among them.
- **Statement 3: Correct.** Vidyadhar (c. 1003–1035 AD) was the most powerful Chandel king and was the only North Indian ruler to successfully defy the armies of Mahmud of Ghazni.

10. The Eastern Gangadynasty of Kalinga (Orissa) is primarily remembered for its architectural contribution under the king Anantavarman Chodaganga. Which of the following monuments did he commission?

- (a) The Sun Temple at Konark.
- (b) The Jagannath Temple at Puri.
- (c) The Lingaraja Temple at Bhubaneswar.
- (d) The Rajarani Temple at Bhubaneswar.

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **(a) Incorrect.** The Konark Sun Temple was built much later by Narasimhadeva I of the Eastern Gangadynasty.
- **(b) Correct.** Anantavarman Chodaganga (c. 1077–1147 AD) was the founder of the imperial phase of the Eastern Gangadynasty and is credited with initiating the construction of the famous Jagannath Temple at Puri.
- **(c) Incorrect.** The Lingaraja Temple was primarily built by the Somavamsi dynasty.
- **(d) Incorrect.** The Rajarani Temple was built by the Somavamsis.

Early Medieval North India-IV

1. With reference to the Paramara ruler Bhoja (c. 1010–1055 CE), who ruled from Dhar, consider the following statements:

1. He was a formidable scholar and writer, known for works on Poetics (Saraswati Kanthabharana) and Architecture (Samarangana Sutradhara).
2. He established a college for Sanskrit studies, the Bhoj Shala, which was dedicated to the Goddess Saraswati.
3. His kingdom was simultaneously threatened by the Kalachuris of Tripuri and the Solankis of Gujarat, resulting in a tripartite war.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Correct.** Bhoja was a polymath. His works like Saraswati Kanthabharana (Poetics) and Samarangana Sutradhara (Architecture/Engineering) attest to his vast knowledge.
- **Statement 2: Correct.** He founded the Bhojpur city and the Bhoj Shala, a major center for Sanskrit learning and temple dedicated to Saraswati (later converted).
- **Statement 3: Correct.** Towards the end of his reign, Bhoja faced a severe challenge from an alliance of the Kalachuri king Karna and the Solanki king Bhima I, which led to his death and the temporary collapse of the Paramara power.

2. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Solanki (or Chalukya) dynasty of Gujarat?

1. The Modhera Sun Temple was built during the reign of Bhima I to commemorate his victory over Mahmud of Ghazni at Somnath.
2. The Solankis were devoted patrons of Jainism, and the scholar Hemachandra was patronized by Siddharaja Jayasimha.
3. Mularaja was the founder of the dynasty and established his capital at Anhilwara.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Incorrect.** The Modhera Sun Temple was built by Bhima I, but it was built after Mahmud of Ghazni's attack on Somnath (1026 CE), and the attack was a defeat for Bhima I, not a victory.
- **Statement 2: Correct.** Jainism greatly flourished under the Solankis. Hemachandra was the most influential Jain scholar of the time, patronized by Siddharaja Jayasimha and Kumarpala.
- **Statement 3: Correct.** Mularaja is the widely accepted founder of the Solanki dynasty in the mid-10th century CE, with Anhilwara as the capital.

3. The historical narrative regarding the Tomaras of Delhi and Haryana is primarily known through which of the following accounts?

- (a) Kalhana's Rajatarangini, which mentions the Tomara control over Indraprastha.
- (b) Prithviraj Raso by Chand Bardai, which describes the Tomaras as the original founders of Dhillika (Delhi) and its transfer to the Chauhans.
- (c) Alberuni's Kitab-ul-Hind, which details the Tomara administration and revenue system.
- (d) Merutunga's Prabandha-Chintamani, which chronicles the Tomara-Solanki rivalry over the Gurjara region.

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **(b) Correct.** The most famous literary source for the Tomaras is Chand Bardai's Prithviraj Raso. It specifically details how the Tomaras founded the city of Delhi (Dhillika) and were later subjugated by the Chauhans (Chahamanas), who then controlled Delhi before the Ghurid invasions.
- **(a), (c), and (d) Incorrect.** Rajatarangini focuses on Kashmir. Alberuni's work mentions Kannauj and Pratihars. Merutunga focuses on Gujarat.

4. With reference to the Gahadavala dynasty of Kannauj (c. 1089–1194 CE), consider the following statements:

1. The founder, Chandradeva, capitalized on the decline of the Pratihars and established the capital at Kanyakubja.
2. The Gahadavala rulers were the only North Indian dynasty to impose a special tax called Turushka Danda to fund defense against Islamic invaders.
3. The dynasty was finally defeated and ended by Muhammad Ghori in the Battle of Chandawar against the ruler Jayachandra.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Correct.** Chandradeva established the dynasty following the collapse of Pratihara and Kalachuri power, making Kannauj his capital.
- **Statement 2: Correct.** Inscriptions confirm the levy of the Turushka Danda (or Turushka Toll), a special tax likely collected to meet the expenses of warfare against Turushka (Turkish) invaders.
- **Statement 3: Correct.** Jayachandra (Gahadavala) was defeated and killed by Muhammad Ghori in the Battle of Chandawar (1194 CE), leading to the fall of Kannauj.

5. Which of the following statements correctly describe the Hindu Shahi dynasty of Ohind (Waihand)?

- (a) They were the first major dynasty to move their capital from Peshawar to Waihand due to pressure from the Ghaznavids.
- (b) They were originally a Buddhist dynasty but converted to Shaivism under Jayapala to unite the Kabul region against the Turkish invaders.
- (c) The most determined resistance to Subuktigin and Mahmud of Ghazni was offered by the kings Jayapala and Anandapala.
- (d) Their greatest victory was at the Battle of Waihand (1001 CE), where they decisively defeated Mahmud of Ghazni.

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **(a) Incorrect.** Their capital was moved from Waihand to Bhimnagar and then to Lahore due to Turkish pressure.
- **(b) Incorrect.** They were a Hindu dynasty (likely Brahmana) who succeeded the Kabul Shahi (Turkish Shahi).
- **(c) Correct.** Jayapala and his son Anandapala led a long and determined, though ultimately unsuccessful, struggle against the invasions of Subuktigin and Mahmud of Ghazni.
- **(d) Incorrect.** Jayapala was decisively defeated by Mahmud at the Battle of Waihand (1001 CE).

6. The decline of the Pala Empire after the reign of Devapala led to a temporary revival under which ruler, often regarded as the last great Pala king, and what was his primary achievement?

- (a) Mahipala I: Re-established authority over Bengal and Bihar and successfully resisted the Chola invasion under Rajendra I.
- (b) Vigrahapala III: Signed a crucial peace treaty with the Kalachuris and restored Nalanda university.
- (c) Ramapala: Suppressed the internal Kaivarta revolt and brought the Pala kingdom to its last period of military strength.
- (d) Gopala: United the Pala feudatories to defeat the Sena king Vijaya Sena and restore Buddhist rule.

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **(c) Correct.** Ramapala (c. 1077–1120 CE) is considered the last major Pala ruler. He successfully suppressed the Kaivarta revolt (Varendra rebellion) in North Bengal, restoring Pala glory before the final decline.
- **(a) Incorrect.** Mahipala I was defeated by Rajendra I.
- **(d) Incorrect.** Gopala was the founder. The Senas eventually defeated the Palas.

7. With reference to the development of Science and Technology in Ancient and Early Medieval India, consider the following pairs:

| Field | Scholar | Major Contribution/Work |
|----------------|----------------|--|
| 1. Astronomy | Brahmagupta | Calculation of the length of the Solar Year at 365.258 days (Brahma Sphuta Siddhanta). |
| 2. Mathematics | Bhaskaracharya | Postulated the concept of differential calculus in Siddhanta Shiromani. |
| 3. Medicine | Vagbhata | Authored the Ashtanga Hridaya Samhita, summarizing Ayurvedic principles. |

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1: Incorrect.** While Brahmagupta (Brahma Sphuta Siddhanta) was a major figure in Astronomy, Aryabhata (who calculated the solar year at 365.258 days) and Varahamihira were also key figures. Brahmagupta's work mainly focuses on Mathematics (Zero properties) and Astronomy.

- **Pair 2: Correct.** Bhaskaracharya (Bhaskara II) wrote Siddhanta Shiromani (12th century), which contains the Lilavati (Maths) and Bijaganita (Algebra) and famously touched upon the concept of differential calculus (known as Tatkalika Gati).
- **Pair 3: Correct.** Vagbhata (c. 6th–7th century AD) is considered one of the three great authorities of Ayurveda (Trinath), and his work, Ashtanga Hridaya Samhita, is a crucial compendium.

8. With reference to the two main Schools of Hindu Law (Mitakshara and Dayabhaga) that governed property rights during the Early Medieval period, the fundamental difference lies in the concept of Coparcenary. This is best summarized as:

- (a) Mitakshara recognized daughter's right to property by birth, while Dayabhaga denied this right.
- (b) Mitakshara applies the rule of Survivorship, where a son acquires an interest in the Ancestral property by birth, whereas Dayabhaga requires partition upon the father's death.
- (c) Dayabhaga permitted the alienation (sale/gift) of joint property by the coparcener during the father's lifetime, which Mitakshara strictly prohibited.
- (d) Mitakshara allowed for the partition of property only when the widow consented, while Dayabhaga allowed it unilaterally.

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **(b) Correct.** The core difference: Mitakshara (prevalent in most of India) grants the son a right in the Ancestral Property by birth (Rule of Survivorship). Dayabhaga (prevalent in Bengal and Assam) holds that the son acquires interest only after the father's death, until which the father remains the sole owner.
- **(a) Incorrect.** Both schools originally denied the daughter a birthright in coparcenary property.
- **(c) Incorrect.** Mitakshara restricts alienation of property without the consent of all coparceners. Dayabhaga allows the son to dispose of his share even while the father is alive, as the property is deemed separate until partition.

9. Consider the following differences between the Mitakshara and Dayabhaga schools:

| Feature | Mitakshara School | Dayabhaga School |
|------------------------|--|--|
| 1. Widow's Inheritance | Inherits the property in default of a close heir but cannot alienate it. | Does not inherit property but gets maintenance. |
| 2. Basis of Succession | Based on Propinquity (nearness of blood). | Based on the right to offer Pinda (funeral cakes) to the deceased. |
| 3. Geographical Area | Prevalent in Bihar and Orissa (except Assam). | Prevalent in Bengal and Assam. |

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1: Correct.** Mitakshara's rule is that the widow inherits in default of a close heir but cannot alienate the property. Dayabhaga is more liberal, allowing the widow to inherit the property and giving her powers of alienation.

- **Pair 2: Incorrect.** This is **reversed**. Mitakshara succession is based on **Propinquity** (nearness of blood), while Dayabhaga succession is based on the **Pinda** (religious efficacy).
- **Pair 3: Incorrect.** Mitakshara is prevalent across India **except** Bengal and Assam. Dayabhaga is prevalent only in Bengal and Assam.

10. The Khajuraho group of temples, built by the Chandelas, is a unique example of Central Indian temple architecture. Which of the following statements correctly highlights its specific architectural distinction?

- (a) The temples are built of sandstone and stand on a massive, flat Jagati (platform), providing a functional Pradakshinapatha (circumambulatory path).
- (b) The temples are characterized by single-towered Shikhara (Nagara style) and lack the mandapas found in Western Indian temples.
- (c) The complex features a rare blend of Hindu (Shaiva and Vaishnava), Jain, and Buddhist shrines built by the same rulers.
- (d) The main Shikhara is surrounded by several smaller replica towers (Urusingas), giving the effect of a mountain range, such as in the Kandariya Mahadeva temple.

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **(a) Incorrect.** While the temples use sandstone and a platform, the Jagati in Khajuraho does **not** provide the main Pradakshinapatha. The circumambulatory path is **inside** the temple.
- **(b) Incorrect.** Khajuraho temples have multiple mandapas (e.g., ardha, maha, garbha) on a common axis.
- **(c) Incorrect.** The complex features Hindu and Jain temples but **not** Buddhist shrines.
- **(d) Correct.** This feature, where the central Shikhara (tower) is buttressed and multiplied by a cluster of smaller towers (Urusingas), is a definitive characteristic of the Khajuraho architecture, best exemplified by the majestic Kandariya Mahadeva temple.