

ForumIAS

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Prelims Marathon

2nd week, September 2026

HISTORY
ECONOMICS
POLITY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT

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Jainism Art and Architecture

1. Consider the following classical works:

1. Yogasastra
2. Parishishtaparvan
3. Trishashti Shalaka Purusha Charitra

Which of the works given above were authored by the 12th-century Shvetambara scholar Hemachandra Suri under the patronage of the Chaulukya king Kumarapala?

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

Answer: (d)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statements 1, 2, and 3 are all correct:** Hemachandra Suri, known as Kalikalarvajna (the omniscient of the Kali Age), authored all three works during the Chaulukya period in Gujarat:
 - **Yogasastra:** A systematic handbook on Jain ethics, householder duties, and monastic discipline written for King Kumarapala.
 - **Parishishtaparvan (Sthaviravalicharita):** An appendix work detailing the history of early Jain Sthaviras (elders) and their contemporary rulers, including Chandragupta Maurya.
 - **Trishashti Shalaka Purusha Charitra:** A major Sanskrit epic recounting the biographies of the 63 illustrious personalities (Shalakapurushas) of Jain cosmology.

2. Consider the following statements regarding the 9th-century Digambara scholar Acharya Jinasena:

1. Initiated the composition of the epic Trishashtilakshana Mahapurana, detailing Jain cosmology, philosophy, and early Tirthankara biographies.
2. Trishashtilakshana Mahapurana was fully completed by Acharya Jinasena himself before his death during the reign of the Rashtrakuta king Amoghavarsha 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: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Acharya Jinasena (9th century CE), a prominent Digambara monk under Rashtrakuta patronage, authored the Adi Purana (the first part of Trishashtilakshana Mahapurana), which details the lives of Rishabhadeva and King Bharata alongside Jain cosmology.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Jinasena was unable to complete the work before his death. The latter portion (Uttarapurana), completing the narrative of the remaining Tirthankaras, was finished by his chief disciple, Gunabhadra.

3. Which of the following statements with regard to the 10th-century scholar Nemichandra Siddhanta Chakravarti is/are correct?

1. He authored Dravyasamgraha, a concise treatise on Jain metaphysics categorizing the six substance types.

2. He composed Gommatasara, an analytical work on karma philosophy written specifically for Chavundaraya, the commander of the Western Ganga Dynasty.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Nemichandra composed Dravyasamgraha in Prakrit, systematically detailing the Jiva (soul) and Ajiva (non-soul) categories, along with the six fundamental substances (Dravyas).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Gommatasara (comprising Jivakanda and Karmakanda) was composed by Nemichandra for his royal patron, Chavundaraya (who commissioned the Gommateshwara statue at Shravanabelagola). The text offers an exhaustive synthesis of Jain karma theory.

4. Which of the following statements with regard to medieval Jain Sanskrit literature is/are correct?

1. Nayachandra Suri composed the Hammira-Mahakavya, a Sanskrit historical poem.
2. Somadeva Suri authored the Nitivakyamrita, a treatise on statecraft, political ethics, and social organization modeled on classical political philosophy.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Hammira-Mahakavya was written by the 12th-century Jain scholar Nayachandra Suri. It serves as an important historical source on the Chahamanas of Ranthambore and their resistance against Alauddin Khalji.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Nitivakyamrita (Nectar of Political Maxims) was written in the 10th-century CE by the Jain monk Somadeva Suri under Rashtrakuta patronage, outlining secular statecraft, judicial duties, and ethical governance for rulers.

5. Which of the following statements regarding royal patronage to Jainism during ancient Indian history is/are correct?

1. During the Mahajanapada era, Vardhamana Mahavira secured royal support from rulers of regional monarchies, including Magadha, Videha, and Anga.
2. Samprati, the grandson of Emperor Ashoka, was a devout patron of Shvetambara Jainism who actively funded the construction of Jain shrines across Western and Eastern India.
3. Chandragupta Maurya converted to Jainism under the influence of Bhadrabahu and accompanied him in migrating to Shravanabelagola.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Royal patronage during Mahavira's lifetime came from rulers like Bimbisara and Ajatashatru of Magadha, Chetaka of Licchavi (Vaisali), and Udayana of Vatsa.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Classical Jain tradition records that Chandragupta Maurya abdicated his throne, embraced Digambara asceticism under Acharya Bhadrabahu, migrated to Karnataka, and practiced Sallekhana at Chandragiri Hill (Shravanabelagola).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Mauryan ruler Samprati (grandson of Ashoka) was converted by Suhastin and is remembered in Jain tradition as a major royal builder of temples and patron of monastic missions in Western and Eastern India.

6. Which of the following statements with regard to post-Mauryan and Gupta era Jain developments is/are correct?

1. King Kharavela of Kalinga, a staunch patron of Jainism, constructed monastic rock-cut caves on the Udayagiri and Khandagiri hills as recorded in the Hathigumpha inscription.
2. During the Gupta period, royal patronage became the sole source of funding for Jainism, while merchant guilds completely ceased sponsoring religious art or iconography.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** King Kharavela of Kalinga patronized Jainism, built rock-cut shelters (Layana) for Jain ascetics at Udayagiri-Khandagiri, and recorded his military and religious deeds in the Hathigumpha Brahmi inscription.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** During the Gupta period, there was a major institutional shift toward merchant guild patronage (Sresthis and Sarthavahas). Merchant communities, rather than kings alone, became the primary financial backbone funding Jain iconography, temples, and manuscript copying.

7. Which of the following statements regarding the medieval patronage and decline of Jainism are correct?

1. The colossal Gommateshwara statue at Shravanabelagola was commissioned by the Chola Emperor Rajaraja I to commemorate his conquest of Karnataka.
2. The Solanki rulers of Gujarat banned all forms of Jain temple construction to promote Shaivism under King Kumarapala.
3. The rise of the devotional Bhakti movement in South India led to the total physical extinction of Jain communities across Western India by the 12th century.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (d)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Gommateshwara statue was commissioned by **Chavundaraya**, the military commander and minister of the Western Ganga Dynasty (), not Rajaraja I of the Chola Empire.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Solanki/Chaulukya rulers of Gujarat were major patrons of Jainism. King Kumarapala was converted to Jainism by Acharya Hemachandra, promulgated laws banning animal slaughter (Ahimsa), and actively constructed Jain temples.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Although the Nayanar/Alvar Bhakti movement reduced royal Jain patronage in South India, Jainism never became extinct in Western India. It survived continuously through wealthy merchant guild communities in Gujarat and Rajasthan.

8. Which of the following statements with regard to the post 12th century developments of Jainism in India is/are correct?

1. The decline of royal court patronage was compensated by strong internal community organization, specifically among trading and merchant classes.
2. The destruction of major monastic library centers during northern invasions led Jain communities to emphasize manuscript preservation in remote desert regions like Jaisalmer.
3. The emergence of the Shaiva and Vaishnava Bhakti movements in South India contributed to a decline in royal patron conversion to Jainism.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (d)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** After royal court patronage waned, Jainism maintained its financial and institutional resilience through lay merchant communities (Mahajans), who financed monastic orders, rituals, and pilgrimage networks.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Threat to urban monastic centers spurred the establishment of subterranean underground scriptural repositories (Jnana Bhandaras) in desert cities like Jaisalmer and Patan, preserving thousands of ancient manuscripts.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** In South India (Tamil Nadu and Karnataka), popular Hindu Bhakti movements led by Alvars, Nayanars, and Virashaivas challenged Jain monastic dominance, leading to a shift in royal patronage back to Shaivism and Vaishnavism.

9. Consider the following pairs:

Cave Complex	Architectural	State	Primary Historical Feature
1. Hathigumpha Cave		Odisha	Inscribed rock shelter containing the 17-line biographical record of King Kharavela
2. Rani Gumpha		Odisha	Two-storeyed rock-cut monastic cave complex featuring extensive relief friezes

3. Baghagumpha	Odisha	Rock-cut cave sculptured on the exterior to resemble the open mouth of a tiger
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In which of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

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

Answer: (d)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Row 1 is correctly matched:** Hathigumpha (Elephant Cave) at Udayagiri contains the historical Brahmi inscription detailing the yearly conquests and religious acts of the Kalinga king Kharavela.
- **Row 2 is correctly matched:** Rani Gumpha (Queen's Cave) at Udayagiri is the largest, double-storeyed monastery cave in the complex, decorated with carved relief panels depicting royal processions and Jain legends.
- **Row 3 is correctly matched:** Baghagumpha (Tiger Cave) at Udayagiri is carved with the entrance façade shaped like a tiger's upper jaw and open mouth, serving as a residential cell for Jain ascetics.

10. Which of the following statements regarding rock-cut Jain caves across India are correct?

1. Caves at Ellora in Maharashtra represent the Jain group of rock-cut temples, featuring large sculptures of Tirthankaras and Samavasarana motifs.
2. The Sittanavasal Arivar Koil cave temple in Tamil Nadu contains rock-cut architecture and classical ceiling murals depicting lotus ponds and Jain ascetics.
3. Cave No. 4 at Badami in Karnataka is a cave temple dedicated to Jainism, housing relief sculptures of Parshvanatha and Lord Bahubali.
4. The Kanheri Caves in Mumbai were constructed by the Rashtrakuta Dynasty as the central headquarters for Digambara Jain manuscript preservation.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Ellora Caves 30–34 (e.g., Indra Sabha and Jagannath Sabha) belong to the Jain faith, showcasing carved Tirthankaras, Matanga Yaksha, and Siddhaiki Yakshi.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Sittanavasal (Pudukkottai, Tamil Nadu) is a 5th-century Jain rock-cut monastery with fresco-secco ceiling paintings depicting the Khatika-bhumi (lotus pond) scene.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Badami Cave 4 (carved in the late 6th-century under the Chalukyas of Badami) is dedicated to Jainism, featuring high-relief sculptures of Adinatha, Parshvanatha, and Bahubali.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** The Kanheri Caves in Mumbai are a large complex of Buddhist rock-cut monuments, not Digambara Jain repositories.

Jainism, Philosophy and Miscellaneous etc.

1. Which are the five fundamental Vows of Jainism practiced as Mahavratas?

1. Ahimsa
2. Satya
3. Asteya
4. Aparigraha
5. Brahmacharya

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (b) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- (c) 1, 3 and 5 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **All 5 vows are included:** The first four vows Ahimsa (non-violence), Satya (truthfulness), Asteya (non-stealing), and Aparigraha (non-possession/non-attachment) were originally formulated by the 23rd Tirthankara, Parshvanatha.
- The fifth vow, Brahmacharya (chastity/celebrity), was added by Vardhamana Mahavira (24th Tirthankara).
- When practiced strictly without exception by Jain monks and nuns, they are called Mahavratas (Great Vows). When practiced with practical leniency and modified limits by householders (Sravakas), they are termed Anuvratas (Lesser Vows).

2. According to the Jain philosophy, which of the following are classified among the Seven Elements?

1. Jiva
2. Ajiva
3. Asrava
4. Bandha
5. Samvara
6. Nirjara
7. Moksha

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 3, 4, 6 and 7 only
- (b) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 only
- (c) 2, 4, 5 and 7 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Option 5 is incorrect:** Samvara (Stoppage of Karmic Influx)
- Jain metaphysics posits that liberation requires a precise understanding of the seven essential fundamentals (Tattvas):
 1. **Jiva:** Conscious, living entities possessing Chetana (awareness).
 2. **Ajiva:** Non-conscious, non-living substances (Matter, Time, Space, Motion, Rest).
 3. **Asrava:** The continuous flow or influx of fine karmic material particles into the soul caused by mental, verbal, and physical activities.

4. **Bandha:** The binding/attachment of karmic particles onto the pure soul due to passions (Kashayas).
5. **Samvara:** The blocking or halting of new karmic matter influx through self-control and ethical vows.
6. **Nirjara:** The purging, burning off, or gradual shedding of accumulated past karmas through severe penance (Tapas).
7. **Moksha:** The total, permanent liberation of the soul from all karmic bondage.

3. Which of the following statements regarding the classification of Karma in Jain philosophy is/are correct?

1. Ghati Karmas do not damage the intrinsic qualities of the soul, but dictate physical body attributes, lifespan, status, and sensory experiences
2. Aghati Karmas directly obstruct the inherent spiritual qualities of the soul, including supreme knowledge and perception.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Ghati Karmas (destructive karmas) directly impair the soul's natural faculties. They consist of four types: Jnanavaraniya (obscuring knowledge), Darsanavaraniya (obscuring perception), Mohaniya (deluding right belief and conduct), and Antaraya (obstructing innate power).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Aghati Karmas (non-destructive karmas) do not obscure the pure nature of the soul itself, but govern physical embodiment and earthly existence. They comprise Vedaniya (pleasure/pain experiences), Nama (body structure), Ayu (lifespan length), and Gotra (family/social status).

4. Consider the following pairs:

Term	Tradition	Philosophical Meaning
1. Arihant	Jainism	Omniscient conqueror who has destroyed the four inner destructive Karmas
2. Arhat	Buddhism / Jainism	Worthy spiritual master who has attained enlightenment and overcome inner passions
3. Nirgrantha	Jainism	An ascetic who has completely untied all internal and external bonds or attachments

In which of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Row 1 is correctly matched:** Arihant (literally destroyer of enemies) in Jainism refers to an embodied soul that has eliminated all four Ghati Karmas, attained Kevala Jnana (omniscience), and teaches the spiritual path.
- **Row 2 is correctly matched:** Arhat (literally worthy one) is used in both Buddhist and Jain traditions for an enlightened teacher who has overcome desire and worldly delusion.
- **Row 3 is correctly matched:** Nirgrantha (literally free from bonds/knots) was the historical designation used during Mahavira's period for Jain monks who renounced all worldly possessions and emotional attachments.

5. Which of the following statements with regard to royal patronage of Jainism across ancient Indian history is/are correct?

1. In North India, rulers such as Bimbisara and Ajatashatru of Magadha, along with Kharavela of Kalinga, extended royal patronage to Jainism.
2. King Harshavardhana of Kanauj officially converted to Digambara Jainism and made it the mandatory state religion across Northern India in the 7th-century CE.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Early northern Indian monarchs like Bimbisara and Ajatashatru (Haryanka Dynasty) maintained strong diplomatic and personal ties with Vardhamana Mahavira. Later, King Kharavela of Kalinga (1st-century BCE) actively patronized Jainism, carving monastic caves and restoring Jain relics.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Harshavardhana was predominantly a patron of Mahayana Buddhism and Shaivism (convening the Kanauj Assembly and Prayag Assembly). He never converted to Jainism nor declared it a state religion.

6. Which of the following are classified among the sub-sects or traditional divisions of the Digambara sect of Jainism?

1. Bisapantha
2. Terapantha
3. Taranapantha
4. Gumanapantha
5. Totapantha
6. Mula Sangha
7. Sthanakvasi

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- (a) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 only
- (b) 1, 3, 5 and 7 only
- (c) 2, 4, 6 and 7 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 are Digambara sub-sects:**
 - **Major Digambara sects:** Bisapantha (supports ritual worship of Tirthankaras with flowers/saffron and Bhattarakas), Terapantha (Digambara variant avoiding flowers/liquids and Bhattaraka authority), Taranapantha/Samaiyapantha (an iconoclastic sub-sect opposing idol worship, focusing purely on scriptures).
 - **Minor Digambara sects:** Gumanapantha, Totapantha, and the ancient monastic lineage Mula Sangha.
- **Item 7 is incorrect:** Sthanakvasi is an iconoclastic sub-sect of the Shvetambara tradition (founded by Lavaji in the 17th-century), not Digambara.

7. Which of the following sub-sects belong to the Shvetambara tradition of Jainism?

1. Murtipujaka
2. Sthanakvasi
3. Terapanthi

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **All 3 belong to Shvetambara Jainism:**
 1. **Murtipujaka (Deravasi/Mandirmargi):** Traditional Shvetambara group that supports temple rituals, idol consecration, and decorating Tirthankara idols with clothes and ornaments.
 2. **Sthanakvasi:** An iconoclastic Shvetambara reform movement (originating in the 17th-century) that rejects image/idol worship and temple building, performing prayers in simple prayer halls (Sthanakas). Monks wear a cloth mouth-mask (Muhapatti) permanently.
 3. **Terapanthi (Shvetambara):** Founded by Acharya Bhikshu as a non-image worshipping offshoot of Sthanakvasis, organized under a single supreme spiritual head (Acharya).

8. Which of the following statements with regard to classical Jain logical and philosophical treatises is/are correct?

1. Nyayavatara, a foundational treatise on Jain epistemology and logic, was authored by Siddhasena Divakara.
2. Nyayadeepika, a logical manual explaining Jain epistemological principles, was composed by Dharmabhushana.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Nyayavatara (The Descent of Logic), written in Sanskrit by Siddhasena Divakara (5th century CE), is the earliest formal, systematic exposition of Jain logic, addressing valid means of knowledge (Pramana) and viewpoints (Naya).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Nyayadeepika is an authoritative work on Digambara Jain logic composed in Sanskrit by the medieval scholar Dharmabhushana Yati.

9. Which of the following statements with regard to ancient Jain literary works is/are correct?

1. Pravachanasara, composed by Acharya Kundakunda, is an early Digambara text analyzing ascetic conduct, knowledge, and metaphysics.
2. Mahapurana, covering Jain cosmology and legends of Tirthankaras, was initiated by Acharya Jinasena.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Pravachanasara (Essence of the Teaching) was authored in Prakrit by Acharya Kundakunda. It is a foundational text of Digambara Jainism divided into sections covering Jnana (knowing), Jneya (the known world), and Charitra (ascetic conduct).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Mahapurana was composed by Acharya Jinasena (Adi Purana) and completed by his disciple Gunabhadra (Uttarapurana) during the Rashtrakuta rule, presenting the comprehensive history of the 63 Shalakashapurushas.

10. Which of the following statements regarding Jain scriptural literature are correct?

1. Shvetambara canon consists of texts such as the Angas, Upangas, Prakirnakas, Chedasutras, Mulasutras, and Chulikasutras.
2. Digambara tradition considers the ancient original Agamas lost, rejecting the authority of the Shvetambara canon.
3. Kasayapahuda, composed by Gunadhara, is a primary canonical work in the Buddhist Abhidhamma Pitaka describing the political treaties of the Mauryan Empire.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Shvetambara canonical corpus (Agamas) comprises 45–46 works (12 Angas, 12 Upangas, 10 Prakirnakas, 6 Chedasutras, 4 Mulasutras, and 2 Chulikasutras like Nandi Sutra and Anuyogadvara Sutra), composed primarily in Ardhamagadhi Prakrit.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Digambara tradition holds that the original 14 Purvas and 12 Angas were forgotten and lost over time following the Magadha famine. Digambaras rely instead on early post-canonical treatises, chief among them being the Shatkhandagama (authored by Pushpadanta and Bhutabali).

- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Kasayapahuda (Treatise on Passions) authored by Acharya Gunadhara is a foundational Digambara Jain text analyzing karmic bondage caused by internal passions (Kashayas). It is not a Buddhist text nor does it deal with secular Mauryan political treaties.

Mauryan Empire

1. Which of the following statements regarding the foundation of the Mauryan Empire is/are correct?

1. Chandragupta Maurya established the empire after defeating Dhanananda.
2. Classical Greek historical accounts referred to Chandragupta Maurya by the name Sandrocottus.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Chandragupta Maurya, aided by Chanakya (Kautilya), overthrew the unpopular Nanda ruler Dhanananda to establish the Mauryan Dynasty at Pataliputra.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Greek scholars such as Megasthenes, Arrian, and Strabo recorded Chandragupta Maurya's name as Sandrocottus (or Androcottus), an identification later confirmed by Sir William Jones.

2. Consider the following statements regarding the geographical extent of Chandragupta Maurya's realm:

1. His conquests brought Northern India, North-Western borderlands, and parts of the Deccan under unified Mauryan control.
2. Kingdom of Kalinga on the eastern coast was annexed into the Mauryan Empire during Chandragupta Maurya's reign.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Chandragupta built a vast empire spanning Bengal, Bihar, Northern India, North-West India (up to the Hindu Kush), and parts of Western India and the Deccan.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Kalinga remained independent during Chandragupta Maurya's reign. It was annexed much later by his grandson, Emperor Ashoka, during the famous Kalinga War.

3. Which of the following statements with regard to Chandragupta Maurya is/are correct?

1. He defeated Seleucus I Nicator, leading to a treaty that secured Northwestern territories.
2. Megasthenes was dispatched as a Seleucid ambassador to the court at Pataliputra following the peace treaty with Seleucus I.

3. In his final years, Chandragupta abdicated the throne, embraced Digambara Jainism, and performed the ritual vow of Sallekhana at Shravanabelagola.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** In , Chandragupta defeated Seleucus I Nicator (Alexander's successor in Asia). Under their treaty, Seleucus ceded eastern satrapies (Aria/Herat, Arachosia/Kandahar, Gedrosia/Balochistan, Paropamisadae/Kabul) in exchange for 500 war elephants.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Megasthenes was sent by Seleucus I as a resident ambassador to the Mauryan court in Pataliputra, where he recorded detailed accounts of Indian life.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** According to Jain tradition, Chandragupta abdicated in favor of his son Bindusara, traveled south with Acharya Bhadrabahu to Shravanabelagola (Karnataka), and starved himself to death via the ascetic practice of Sallekhana.

4. Which of the following statements with regard to Megasthenes account in Indica is/are correct?

- 1. Described a specialized six-board administrative system tasked with overseeing the municipal governance of Pataliputra.
- 2. He correctly identified the absence of social stratification in Mauryan society, reporting a completely classless social structure.
- 3. Recorded that India had never experienced famine and claimed that the institution of slavery was non-existent in Indian society.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Megasthenes outlined Pataliputra's urban administration, managed by 30 commissioners divided across six boards of five members each (handling industrial arts, foreigners, vital statistics, trade/commerce, manufactured goods, and tax collection).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Megasthenes did not report a classless society; instead, he mistakenly classified Indian society into seven distinct occupational classes (Philosophers, Farmers, Herdsmen, Artisans, Soldiers, Spies, and Councillors).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Due to a lack of deep cultural understanding, Megasthenes made certain erroneous generalizations: he claimed that slavery did not exist in India (confusing domestic Indian servitude with harsh Greek slavery) and that famines never occurred due to double-cropping systems.

5. Which of the following statements regarding Emperor Bindusara is/are correct?

- 1. Bindusara succeeded Chandragupta Maurya and ruled the empire during the early 3rd century BCE.
- 2. Classical Sanskrit works refer to him as Amitraghata, which corresponds to the Greek title Amitrochates.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Bindusara succeeded his father Chandragupta Maurya.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** He held the title Amitraghata (literally slayer of foes or destroyer of enemies), which was transliterated into Greek historical texts as Amitrochates or Allitrochates.

6. Which of the following statements regarding the rule of Bindusara are correct?

1. He expanded Mauryan territorial holdings deep into the southern peninsula, conquering lands between the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal.
2. Patanjali's Mahabhasya explicitly credits Bindusara with leading the naval invasion of Sri Lanka.
3. He successfully conquered and annexed the kingdom of Kalinga into the Mauryan realm.
4. Classical texts mention his philosophical correspondence requesting sweet wine, dried figs, and a sophist from Western Hellenistic rulers.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Bindusara expanded Mauryan influence southwards across the Deccan plateau, earning credit in ancient traditions for conquering the land between the two seas (Peninsular India).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Patanjali's Mahabhasya does not record any naval conquest of Sri Lanka by Bindusara.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Kalinga was not annexed by Bindusara; it remained independent until Ashoka's campaign.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** Athenaeus records that Bindusara wrote to Antiochus I Soter (Seleucid king) requesting sweet wine, dried figs, and a Greek philosopher/sophist. Antiochus sent the wine and figs, but replied that Greek law prohibited selling a philosopher.

7. Consider the following statements regarding foreign diplomacy during Bindusara's reign:

1. The Seleucid ruler Antiochus I sent Deimachos as an official ambassador to Bindusara's court at Pataliputra.
2. Ptolemaic Egypt maintained diplomatic contact with the Mauryan court during this era, dispatching an envoy named Dionysius.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Deimachos of Plataea succeeded Megasthenes as the ambassador sent by Seleucid King Antiochus I to Bindusara's court.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Ptolemy II Philadelphus, the ruler of Ptolemaic Egypt, also dispatched a diplomatic ambassador named Dionysius to the Mauryan court at Pataliputra.

8. With reference to the religious patronage of early Mauryan rulers, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Chandragupta Maurya adopted Jainism in his later years under the influence of Acharya Bhadrabahu.
2. Bindusara extended active patronage to the Ajivika sect, a heterodox tradition associated with Makkhali Gosala.
3. Emperor Ashoka converted to Buddhism following the Kalinga War and actively sponsored its propagation.

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 is correct:** Chandragupta Maurya converted to Jainism, abdicated his throne, and migrated to Karnataka with Bhadrabahu.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Bindusara favored the Ajivika sect, a fatalistic heterodox movement founded by Makkhali Gosala that believed in Niyati (absolute determinism/destiny).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Emperor Ashoka embraced Buddhism after witnessing the devastation of the Kalinga War subsequently convening the Third Buddhist Council and spreading Dhamma.

9. Which one of the following gives the correct chronological order of the ruling dynasties of ancient Magadha, from the earliest to the latest?

- (a) Haryanka Dynasty — Shishunaga Dynasty — Nanda Dynasty — Mauryan Empire
(b) Shishunaga Dynasty — Haryanka Dynasty — Mauryan Empire — Nanda Dynasty
(c) Haryanka Dynasty — Nanda Dynasty — Shishunaga Dynasty — Mauryan Empire
(d) Nanda Dynasty — Haryanka Dynasty — Shishunaga Dynasty — Mauryan Empire

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- The historical sequence of imperial Magadhan dynasties is as follows:
 1. **Haryanka Dynasty:** Founded by Bimbisara; included Ajatashatru and Udayin.
 2. **Shishunaga Dynasty:** Founded by Shishunaga; temporarily shifted the capital to Vaishali and destroyed Avanti.
 3. **Nanda Dynasty:** Founded by Mahapadma Nanda; built a vast standing army.
 4. **Mauryan Empire:** Founded by Chandragupta Maurya after overthrowing the Nandas.

10. Which of the following statements with regard to the rulers of the Haryanka Dynasty is/are correct?

1. Bimbisara consolidated early Magadhan power through strategic matrimonial alliances and annexed the kingdom of Anga.

2. Ajatashatru fortified Rajagriha against potential Avanti invasions and patronized the First Buddhist Council at the Saptaparni Cave.
3. Udayin shifted the imperial capital of Magadha from Rajagriha to Pataliputra due to its strategic position at the confluence of the Ganga and Son rivers.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Bimbisara expanded Magadha by forming matrimonial alliances with Kosala, Vaishali, and Madra, and by annexing Anga (Eastern Bihar).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Ajatashatru fortified his capital Rajagriha, defeated the Vajji confederacy using advanced siege engines (Rathamusala and Mahasilakantaka), and sponsored the First Buddhist Council at Rajagriha shortly after Buddha's Mahaparinirvana.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Udayin established the city of Pataliputra at the strategic confluence of the Ganga and Son rivers and relocated the capital there from Rajagriha.

Mauryan Empire-II

1. Which of the following statements regarding the early rulers of Magadha and Avanti is/are correct?

1. Brihadratha dynasty was overthrown by Pulika, who assassinated King Ripunjaya and placed his own son, Pradyota, on the throne.
2. Jarasandha, a celebrated epic ruler was the son of Brihadratha and was killed by Bhima in single combat.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Pauranic sources state that Ripunjaya, the last king of the ancient Brihadratha line of Magadha, was assassinated by his minister Pulika (Punika). Pulika then installed his son Pradyota as king, establishing the Pradyota dynasty which ruled over Avanti and Magadha.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Jarasandha was the legendary ruler of Magadha and the son of Brihadratha. According to the Mahabharata, he was slain by Bhima in a wrestling match arranged by Krishna.

2. Which of the following statements with regard to the Shishunaga Dynasty is/are correct?

1. Shishunaga served as the viceroy of Kasi before establishing his dynasty.
2. Kakavarna permanently transferred the capital back to Pataliputra and patronized the Second Buddhist Council held at Vaishali.
3. Shishunaga Dynasty was brought to an end when its last ruler, Mahanandin, was overthrown in a palace revolution.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (d)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Shishunaga was initially a viceroy (Amatya) at Kasi before usurping power in Magadha. His greatest political achievement was defeating the Pradyotas of Avanti, permanently absorbing Avanti into the Magadhan empire.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Kalasoka succeeded Shishunaga, shifted the royal residence permanently to Pataliputra, and presided over the Second Buddhist Council at Vaishali around .
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The line ended with Mahanandin (Nandivarman), who was overthrown by Mahapadma Nanda in a palace coup, paving the way for the Nanda Dynasty.

3. Which of the following statements regarding the Nanda Dynasty are correct?

1. Mahapadma Nanda assumed the titles Sarvakshatrantaka and Ekarat after conquering neighboring kingdoms.
2. Hathigumpha inscription records that a Nanda king conquered Kalinga, brought back an image of a Jina, and constructed an irrigation canal.
3. Dhana Nanda was a popular Buddhist patron king who exempted the peasantry from agricultural taxes during Alexander's invasion.
4. Classical Greek writers referred to Dhana Nanda by the names Agrammes or Xandrames.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Mahapadma Nanda expanded Magadhan rule across Northern India, earning the epithets Sarvakshatrantaka and Ekarat for uprooting the Kshatriya dynasties of Kuru, Panchala, Kasi, and Surasena.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Hathigumpha inscription in Odisha records that a Nanda king (Nandaraja) invaded Kalinga, carried off a prized Jina idol (Jinasana), and excavated an aqueduct/canal.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Dhana Nanda was widely unpopular due to his oppressive taxation system, financial extortions, and anti-Kshatriya stance, which contributed to his overthrow by Chandragupta Maurya.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** Greek texts document Dhana Nanda as Agrammes or Xandrames, describing his vast standing army of 200,000 infantry, 20,000 cavalry, and 3,000 war elephants.

4. Which of the following statements with regard to Ashoka's ascension to the Mauryan throne is/are correct?

1. Prior to his accession, Ashoka served as the Mauryan viceroy governing the strategic provinces of Taxila and Ujjain.

2. His formal coronation took place immediately upon the death of Bindusara without any internal contestation.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** As a prince, Ashoka gained administrative and military experience as viceroy of both Taxila (where he suppressed a revolt) and Ujjain.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Ashoka's coronation was delayed by four years, indicating a succession conflict among his brothers.

5. Which of the following statements regarding the titles of Emperor Ashoka is/are correct?

- 1. The title Dharmashoka appears in the Sarnath stone inscription, while the term Buddhaskya is recorded in the Maski rock edict.
- 2. Titles Devanampiya and Piyadassi were exclusively used by Ashoka and not adopted by any other ruler in South Asian history.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Sarnath inscription designates him as Dharmashoka, and the Maski edict uses Buddhaskya alongside his personal name Ashoka.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Devanampiya was not exclusive to Ashoka; it was also adopted by his grandson Dasharatha Maurya (as seen in the Nagarjuni cave inscriptions) and by King Tissa of Sri Lanka.

6. Which of the following statements regarding the inscriptions that explicitly confirm Ashoka's name is/are correct?

- 1. The Maski Minor Rock Edict in Karnataka was the first inscription discovered that explicitly linked the title Devanampiya to the personal name Ashoka.
- 2. The Kanganahalli relief sculpture inscription in Karnataka explicitly labels a portrait panel with the stone label Ranyo Ashoka.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Discovered by C. Beadon in , the Maski Edict cleared historical ambiguity by reading "Devanampiyasa Asokasa", directly identifying Devanampiya as King Ashoka.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Excavations at Kanganahalli (Sannati complex, Karnataka) revealed a stone sculpture depicting Emperor Ashoka with his chief queen, bearing the Brahmi inscription Ranyo Ashoka.

7. With reference to the consequences of the Kalinga War, consider the following statements:

1. Kalinga War led to the transition of Ashoka's state policy from Bherighosha to Dhammaghosha.
2. Major Rock Edict XIII provides a detailed account of the destruction, casualties, and remorse experienced by Ashoka following the Kalinga campaign.
3. After the war, Ashoka abolished the Mauryan standing army and disbanded frontier garrisons across some parts.

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: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** As recorded in his rock edicts, the trauma of the Kalinga War caused Ashoka to replace territorial expansion (Bherighosha) with ethical propagation (Dhammaghosha).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Major Rock Edict XIII explicitly describes the Kalinga War, noting 100,000 slain, 150,000 driven away, and Ashoka's profound repentance.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** While Ashoka renounced aggressive warfare, he did not abolish the standing army or disband border defenses; he retained military force to maintain order and warned forest tribes (Atavikas) against rebellion.

8. Consider the following pairs regarding concepts in ancient Indian history:

Term	Primary Context	Characteristic Feature
1. Dhammamahamatras	Mauryan Administration	Special civil-religious officers appointed in Ashoka's 13th regnal year to enforce ethical conduct
2. Ahimsa in Ashokan Dhamma	Ethical Code	Total prohibition of animal sacrifices and restriction of slaughter in the royal kitchen
3. Samavaya	Religious Harmony	Promotion of mutual concord and tolerance among all religious sects

In which of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

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

Answer: (d)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Row 1 is correctly matched:** Dhammamahamatras were a new cadre of officers created by Ashoka to propagate moral order, ensure welfare, and reduce injustice in judicial punishments.
- **Row 2 is correctly matched:** Major Rock Edict I banned sacrificial slaughter of animals and reduced royal dietary consumption of meat.
- **Row 3 is correctly matched:** Major Rock Edict XII emphasizes Samavaya (concord), advocating restraint in speech (Vachoguti) and respect for all religious traditions (Pasanda).

9. Which of the following statements with regard to Ashoka's patronage of Buddhism is/are correct?

1. Ashoka formally became a lay Buddhist follower and visited Bodh Gaya on a pilgrimage.
2. He dispatched his son Mahendra and daughter Sanghamitra to Sri Lanka with a sapling of the sacred Bodhi Tree to establish the Theravada order.
3. He convened the Third Buddhist Council at Pataliputra under the presidency of Moggaliputta Tissa to purge heresy from the Sangha.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (d)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Ashoka converted to Buddhism as an Upasaka. His Major Rock Edict VIII describes his pilgrimage (Dhammayata) to Bodh Gaya in his regnal year.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Cylon chronicles (Mahavamsa and Dipavamsa) record that Ashoka sent his children, Mahendra and Sanghamitra, to Sri Lanka (during King Devanampiya Tissa's rule) to establish the Buddhist monastic order.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Ashoka sponsored the Third Buddhist Council at Pataliputra, chaired by Moggaliputta Tissa, which compiled the Kathavatthu (part of the Abhidhamma Pitaka) and dispatched missionary delegations across Asia and the Mediterranean.

10. Which of the following statements regarding the later years of Ashoka's reign and the Mauryan decline is/are correct?

1. Ashoka ruled for nearly four decades until his death.
2. Following Ashoka's death, the empire remained a centralized and territorially intact under a single ruler for over a century.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Ashoka enjoyed a long reign of approximately 37 years, maintaining internal stability and peace.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Upon Ashoka's death, the Mauryan Empire fragmented into western and eastern halves among weak successors (such as Kunala, Dasharatha, and Samprati). The empire

collapsed within 50 years, culminating in the assassination of the last ruler, Brihadratha, by Pushyamitra Shunga.

Mauryan Administration

1. According to Kautilya's Arthashastra, which of the following are recognized as constituent elements of the state under the Saptanga Theory?

1. Svamin
2. Amatya
3. Janapada
4. Durga
5. Kosa
6. Bali
7. Mitra

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7 only
- (b) 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 only
- (c) 2, 4, 5 and 7 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- Kautilya defines the state as an organic body composed of seven essential elements (Saptanga Theory):
 1. **Svamin (The Ruler/King):** The sovereign head and decision-maker.
 2. **Amatya (Ministers/Officials):** The executive machinery assisting in daily governance.
 3. **Janapada (Territory & Population):** The land resources and dutiful subjects.
 4. **Durga (Fortified Capital):** Infrastructure ensuring strategic defense.
 5. **Kosa (Treasury):** Financial strength collected through legitimate revenue.
 6. **Bala/Danda (Army/Force):** Military power to maintain internal law and external protection.
 7. **Mitra (Ally/Friend):** Foreign partners essential for external security and diplomatic balance.
- All seven constitute the elements of the state as outlined in the Arthashastra.

2. With reference to the Mauryan political structure, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Mantriparishad served as an advisory body to assist the king in state policy, but ultimate sovereign authority remained with the monarch.
2. High-ranking members of the council were paid fixed annual salaries in cash.
3. Arthashastra mandated that decisions of the Mantriparishad were binding on the emperor in matters of foreign alliances.

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 is correct:** The Mantriparishad advised the emperor on policy formulation, executive appointments, and emergency measures. However, final decision-making power rested exclusively with the king.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** A notable innovation of Mauryan administration was paying state officials and ministers fixed cash salaries in Panas (silver coins), ensuring centralized control.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The council's advice was essential for administrative consultation, but it was not legally binding on the king. Kautilya explicitly emphasizes the supreme executive prerogatives of the Svamin.

3. Consider the following pairs regarding Mauryan administrative designations:

Administrative Designation	Primary Functional Role
1. Samaharta	Chief Collector General responsible for revenue assessment and collection
2. Mahamatras	High-ranking department heads reporting directly to the throne
3. Amatyas	Cadre of civil servants handling judicial and executive administration
4. Sannidhata	Chief Military Commander in charge of elephant troops

In how many of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Row 1 is correctly matched:** The Samaharta was the Chief Revenue Officer tasked with overseeing revenue assessment and state expenditures across the realm.
- **Row 2 is correctly matched:** Mahamatras were high officials who headed key executive departments (e.g., Dhammamahamatras, Stradhyaksha-mahamatras).
- **Row 3 is correctly matched:** Amatyas formed the general civil service cadre from which ministers, governors, and senior administrators were selected.
- **Row 4 is incorrectly matched:** The Sannidhata was the Chief Treasurer and Keeper of the Royal Storehouses (in charge of the treasury and storehouses), whereas the commander of the army was designated as the Senapati.

4. Which of the following statements regarding the office of the Sannidhata in the Mauryan state is/are correct?

1. Responsible for the custody of the royal treasury, minting operations, and the management of grain storehouses.
2. Tasked with the direct collection of agricultural taxes from individual village peasants across the provinces.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Sannidhata was the Chief Custodian/Treasurer of the empire, responsible for maintaining financial reserves, royal storehouses (Kosthagara), armories (Ayudhangara), and prisons.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Direct tax assessment and collection were managed by the Samaharta through district officers (Sthanikas and Gopas), not by the Sannidhata.

5. Which of the following statements with regard to the Mauryan military administration is/are correct?

1. As recorded by Megasthenes, military affairs were managed by a central commission composed of six boards of five members each.
2. The army included dedicated branches overseeing transport, supply logistics, and naval operations.
3. Regular soldiers and officers received fixed cash salaries directly from the state treasury.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Classical sources (such as Megasthenes and Strabo) record that the Mauryan military was administered by a council of 30 members divided into six five-member boards.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The six military boards supervised: (1) Infantry, (2) Cavalry, (3) War Elephants, (4) Chariots, (5) Navy, and (6) Transport/Commissariat logistics.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Mauryas maintained a large professional standing army paid directly in cash (Panas), eliminating reliance on feudal levies.

6. Which of the following statements with regard to the Mauryan judicial system is/are correct?

1. Dharmasthiya courts functioned as civil courts handling property disputes, contracts, and marital issues.
2. Kantakasodhana courts functioned as criminal courts dealing with civic crimes, state security, fraud, and corruption.
3. Appellate jurisdiction rested with local village councils, whose decisions could not be overturned by the Chief Justice.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Dharmasthiya courts adjudicated civil matters such as land titles, debts, inheritance, and personal law under three Dharmasthas (judges).

- **Statement 2 is correct:** Kantakasodhana (removal of thorns) courts handled criminal acts, anti-state offenses, merchant fraud, labor violations, and official corruption under three Pradeshttris.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The judicial hierarchy was centralized: local and district courts answered to provincial courts, with the ultimate judicial authority resting with the emperor assisted by the Chief Justice (Dharmadhikari).

7. Which of the following statements with regard to the Mauryan espionage system is/are correct?

1. Secret agents operating within the network were broadly classified as Gudhapurushas and functioned under the oversight of the Mahamatyapasarpa.
2. The espionage network was strictly restricted to monitoring foreign borders and prohibited from surveillance of civil servants or imperial princes.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Arthashastra details an intelligence service employing secret agents (Gudhapurushas) controlled by the Mahamatyapasarpa (Minister of Secret Service). Agents were categorized as stationary (Samstha) or itinerant (Sanchara).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The intelligence apparatus conducted internal surveillance across all levels of society, including ministers, provincial governors (Kumaras), tax collectors, and public sentiment, to prevent corruption and subversion.

8. Which of the following statements with regard to Mauryan diplomatic envoys is/are correct?

1. A full-fledged ambassador empowered with discretionary negotiation powers was designated as a Nisrihartha-duta.
2. An envoy restricted strictly to transmitting specific instructions without powers of independent negotiation was termed a Parimitartha-duta.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Arthashastra categorizes diplomatic envoys into three grades based on their authority. The highest rank, Nisrihartha-duta, possessed full plenipotentiary powers to negotiate treaties independently.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The second rank, Parimitartha-duta, had limited authority and could not negotiate beyond the precise instructions issued by the sovereign. (The third rank, Sasanahara-duta, acted solely as a royal messenger carrying decrees).

9. Consider the following information regarding Mauryan provinces:

Province	Capital	Modern Geographical Region
1. Uttarapatha	Taxila	North-Western Frontier
2. Avantipatha	Ujjain	Western India
3. Dakshinapatha	Suvarnagiri	Southern Deccan
4. Kalinga	Tosali	Eastern Coastal Region

In which of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Row 1 is correctly matched:** Uttarapatha (North-Western Province) had its administrative headquarters at Taxila, managing trans-continental trade routes.
- **Row 2 is correctly matched:** Avantipatha (Western Province) was governed from Ujjain, overseeing trade routes to western sea ports.
- **Row 3 is correctly matched:** Dakshinapatha (Southern Province) was managed from Suvarnagiri (near Andhra Pradesh/Karnataka border), controlling gold-mining areas.
- **Row 4 is correctly matched:** Kalinga (Eastern Coastal Province) was centered at Tosali (Dhuli), established after its annexation by Ashoka.

10. Consider the following statements regarding the sub-provincial administrative units of the Mauryan Empire:

1. District level administration was headed by officers designated as Pradesikas and Rajukas.
2. Gopa was in charge of a small cluster of villages, keeping records of land boundaries, crop yields, and population census.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Provinces were subdivided into districts (Aharas or Vishayas), managed by administrative officers like Pradesikas (executive/tax heads) and Rajukas (surveyors and judicial officers).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Below the district, a Gopa managed a group of 5 to 10 villages, maintaining detailed records of land usage, tax liabilities, caste profiles, and census data under the supervision of the Sthanika.

Mauryan Administration

1. Which of the following statements with regard to Mauryan district administration is/are correct?

1. Rajukas were district-level officers responsible for judicial duties and land measurement.
2. Pradeshtis functioned as the chief treasury heads responsible for managing state storehouses.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Rajukas were key administrative officers at the district level (Vishaya or Ahara) tasked with land measurement, revenue assessment, and judicial administration (granted judicial powers by Ashoka).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Pradeshtis were executive officers in charge of criminal justice (Kantakasodhana courts) and revenue collection monitoring, whereas the chief treasury and storehouse head was the Sannidhata.

2. Which of the following statements with regard to local governance in the Mauryan Empire is/are correct?

1. Intermediate units of five to ten villages were headed by the Gramika, who was elected by the imperial council.
2. At the grass-roots level, village administration was managed by the Sthanika, who was independent of state supervision.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (d)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Intermediate units of 5 to 10 villages were administered by the Gopa and Sthanika (district-subdivision officer). The Gramika was the head of an individual village, not an intermediate multi-village unit.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The village headman (Gramika) was assisted by a local Council of Elders, but he operated under strict state oversight through regular administrative reporting to Gopas and Sthanikas.

3. Which of the following statements regarding the Mauryan fiscal system are correct?

1. Bhaga was the primary land revenue assessment levied on produce, ranging between one-fourth to one-sixth.
2. Hiranya referred to land tax paid exclusively in agricultural grain rather than cash.
3. Pindakara was a composite tax levied collectively on a group of villages.
4. The Sitadhyaksha was the superintendent responsible for supervising state-owned agricultural lands.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Bhaga was the main land revenue share paid by peasants, fixed between 1/6th and 1/4th of the produce.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Hiranya was a tax paid in cash (gold/coins), unlike taxes paid in kind (Bhaga).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Pindakara was a land tax assessed collectively on whole villages rather than individual cultivators.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** The Sitadhyaksha managed Crown lands (Sita), overseeing cultivation, state farms, and agricultural infrastructure.

4. Which of the following statements with regard to the demographic census under the Mauryas is/are correct?

1. The census was institutionalized as a permanent and regular administrative feature in both rural and urban areas.
2. In villages, local officials recorded details including population counts, occupations, castes, and livestock numbers.
3. The Mauryan state prohibited the deployment of secret agents (Gudhapurushas) in census verification to maintain administrative transparency.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Mauryas maintained a permanent census system, village officials tracked rural demographics, while municipal boards (Nagarakas) tracked urban residents and foreign visitors.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Village records maintained by Gopas detailed household counts, occupational structures, caste demographics, landholdings, and livestock.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Spies (Gudhapurushas) were explicitly deployed to cross-check census data submitted by officials to prevent tax evasion and false reporting.

5. Which of the following statements with regard to the Mauryan economic system is/are correct?

1. The state exercised direct control and monopoly over key economic sectors, including mining, arms manufacturing, and forest resources.
2. Private trade and agricultural activities operated entirely free of state-imposed prices or market regulations.
3. Revenue collection was streamlined by establishing state-managed workshops and mints.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Mauryan economy was highly centralized; the state held monopolies over strategic assets such as mines (Akaradhyaksha), salt, timber, and weapon production.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Private commerce was heavily regulated; state officials (Samsthadhyaksha) fixed profit margins, checked weights and measures, and monitored market prices.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The state ran its own production units, royal farms, and central mints (Lakshanadhyaksha) to maximize state revenue.

6. Which of the following statements with regard to Mauryan trade and merchants is/are correct?

1. Srenis regulated production standards, wages, and prices within their respective crafts.
2. The chief executive head of a merchant guild or trade association was designated as the Setthi.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Guilds (Srenis) functioned as autonomous economic units that set quality standards, determined wage structures, and regulated product pricing.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The prominent head of a merchant guild or trade organization was known as the Setthi or Sresthin.

7. With reference to Mauryan administrative officers, the Loha-Adhyaksha was primarily responsible for which of the following duties?

- (a) Management of state agricultural lands and irrigation dams
(b) Supervision of iron manufacture, metallurgy, and strategic weapon production
(c) Collection of customs duties at international land borders
(d) Maintenance of royal storehouses and grain reserves

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- In Kautilya's administrative framework, the **Loha-Adhyaksha** was the Superintendent of Metals/Iron, tasked with overseeing iron production, metallurgical operations, and arms manufacture.

8. Which of the following statements with regard to industries and crafts under the Mauryas is/are correct?

1. The state maintained public workshops for weaving, metallurgy, and shipbuilding alongside private craft enterprises.
2. Artisans and craftsmen were completely exempt from state taxation and forced labor obligations.
3. Textile manufacturing was a major industry, encompassing cotton, silk, and woollen goods.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 3 only

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Mauryan state ran state-owned workshops (Karmantas) for strategic industries (weapons, shipyards, textiles) while taxing private artisans.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Artisans were not exempt; they paid taxes in cash, kind, or through obligatory labor (Visti) performed for the state.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Textile production was highly developed under the supervision of the Sutradhyaksha (Superintendent of Weaving), producing fine cotton, silk, and wool.

9. Which of the following statements with regard to Mauryan commercial regulation is/are correct?

1. Samsthadhyaksha was the official responsible for monitoring market operations, preventing fraud, and ensuring fair pricing.
2. Sulka was a toll tax or customs duty levied on goods brought to state-controlled market checkpoints.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Samsthadhyaksha (Superintendent of Markets) regulated trade, controlled profit margins, checked fraudulent practices, and ensured fair market operations.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Sulka was an import/customs duty or toll tax collected on commodities at urban entrances and state toll houses under the supervision of the Sulkadhyaksha.

10. Consider the following information regarding Mauryan economic officials:

Official Designate	Administrative Department
1. Panyadhyaksha	Superintendent of Trade and Commerce
2. Akaradhyaksha	Superintendent of Mines
3. Pautavadhyaksha	Superintendent of Weights and Measures
4. Sulkadhyaksha	Collector of Tolls and Customs Duties

In how many of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

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

Answer: (d)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Row 1 is correctly matched:** Panyadhyaksha controlled state trading, commodity supply, and pricing of state-owned goods.
- **Row 2 is correctly matched:** Akaradhyaksha managed mining operations and prospect analysis for mineral wealth.
- **Row 3 is correctly matched:** Pautavadhyaksha inspected and standardized weights and measures across market centers.
- **Row 4 is correctly matched:** Sulkadhyaksha levied customs, excise, and toll taxes (Sulka) on incoming merchandise.