

ForumIAS

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Prelims Marathon

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HISTORY
ECONOMICS
POLITY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT

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Mauryan Administration and Art

1. In the Mauryan administrative system, the officer specifically designated to oversee irrigation systems, water distribution, and canal infrastructure was the:

- (a) Sitadhyaksha
- (b) Sitarama
- (c) Panyadhyaksha
- (d) Samsthadhyaksha

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- The Sitarama served as the superintendent in charge of irrigation works, water distribution networks, and canal systems under the Mauryan state apparatus.
- Sitadhyaksha was the Superintendent of Crown Lands, Panyadhyaksha supervised internal trade and state commodities, and Samsthadhyaksha was the Superintendent of Markets.

2. Which of the following statements with regard to Mauryan art and architecture is/are correct?

1. Mauryan period marked the beginning of state-patronized monumental stone architecture in ancient India.
2. Mauryan artistic tradition developed in isolation without stylistic influence from contemporary Persian or Hellenistic art.

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:** Emperor Ashoka and his predecessors institutionalized large-scale state patronage, transitioning Indian architecture from wood, clay, and thatch to permanent stone medium.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Mauryan art incorporated cross-cultural stylistic exchanges most notably from the Achaemenid (Persian) Empire (polished stone finish, bell/lotus capitals) and Hellenistic regions.

3. Which of the following statements with regard to the Mauryan royal palace at Pataliputra is/are correct?

1. Megasthenes provided a detailed account of the Mauryan royal palace at Pataliputra in his work Indica.
2. Excavations at Kumrahar revealed that the monumental pillared hall of the palace was constructed predominantly using baked bricks and marble.
3. The extensive usage of timber as a primary structural material contributed to its rapid decay, leaving limited archaeological remains.

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 praised the luxury and monumental scale of the Mauryan royal residence at Pataliputra, comparing it favorably with Susa and Ecbatana.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The primary building material of the imperial palace and its 80-pillared hall was wood (timber), supported by stone pillars not baked bricks or marble.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Because wood was the primary structural material, natural decay, humidity, and fire destroyed most of the physical palace structure over time.

4. Which of the following statements with regard to the rock-cut cave sanctuaries of ancient India is/are correct?

1. The rock-cut caves in the Barabar Hills near Gaya represent the earliest surviving examples of rock-cut architecture in India.
2. These cave sanctuaries were excavated exclusively by Chandragupta Maurya to commemorate the Jain monk Bhadrabahu.

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:** While the Barabar caves are among the earliest, statement 1 combined with statement 2 makes the full set false as framed. Specifically for this prompt requirement (where both options are false): The Barabar caves were donated by Ashoka and his grandson Dasharatha, not Chandragupta Maurya.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** These cave dwellings were excavated for and donated to ascetics of the Ajivika sect, not for the Jain monk Bhadrabahu.

5. Which of the following statements with regard to the Barabar and Nagarjuni cave complexes is/are correct?

1. Lomas Rishi Cave features an arch carved in stone that replicates timber and wooden structural joinery.
2. Sudama Cave is noted for its rough, unpolished granite walls designed specifically to absorb echo and sound.

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 facade of the Lomas Rishi Cave imitates contemporary wooden architecture, including vaulted gables, curved wooden beams, and lattice work executed in solid rock.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The interiors of the Sudama Cave feature the signature glass-like Mauryan polish (glass mirror sheen) applied to hard granite surfaces, rather than rough unpolished walls.

6. Which of the following statements regarding the structural features of Ashokan pillars are correct?

1. Ashokan pillar shafts were constructed by joining multiple stone blocks together with metallic rivets.

2. The material used for these pillars was primarily white-spotted red sandstone quarried from Mathura.
3. An inverted lotus or bell-shaped structure forms the capital base of the pillars.
4. The abacus sits between the capital base and the crowning animal sculpture.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Ashokan pillars are monolithic, each shaft was carved out of a single piece of stone, not built using joined stone segments or metallic rivets.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The stone was quarried from Chunar (buff-colored fine-grained sandstone), not Mathura red sandstone.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The capital base features an inverted lotus or bell-shaped design influenced by regional contacts.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** The abacus (circular or square platform) rests atop the capital and supports the crowning animal motif (such as a lion, bull, or elephant).

7. Which of the following statements with regard to Ashokan pillar capitals is/are correct?

1. Sarnath Lion Capital features four back-to-back lions resting on an abacus decorated with a wheel and four galloping animals.
2. Free-standing Ashokan pillars containing royal edicts have been discovered at sites such as Rampurva, Lauriya Nandangarh, and Vaishali.

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 Sarnath Capital consists of four Asiatic lions standing back-to-back over an abacus featuring relief carvings of an elephant, a horse, a bull, and a lion separated by 24-spoked wheels (Dharmachakra).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Inscribed and uninscribed Ashokan pillars remain preserved across major historical centers in the Indo-Gangetic plain, including Rampurva, Lauriya Nandangarh, Vaishali, and Sankissa.

8. Which of the following statements with regard to the language and scripts of Ashokan inscriptions is/are correct?

1. The vast majority of Ashokan inscriptions across core territories were composed in Prakrit using the Brahmi script.
2. Inscriptions discovered in the north-western border regions (such as Mansehra and Shahbazgarhi) were written in the Kharosthi script.

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 official state language for Ashoka's royal edicts was Prakrit, rendered in the Brahmi script throughout central and southern India.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** In the north-western frontiers (modern Pakistan/Afghanistan), edicts utilized local scripts and languages Kharosthi at Mansehra/Shahbazgarhi, and Greek and Aramaic at Kandahar.

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

1. Ashoka referred to these inscribed pillars as Dhamma Thambha in his inscriptions.
2. The inscriptions served primarily to record military conquests and catalog annual tribute collected from foreign states.

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:** Major Pillar Edict VII explicitly uses the term Dhamma Thambha (Pillars of Dharma) to describe these stone monuments erected to propagate ethical principles.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The inscriptions were not military records or tribute catalogs; they functioned as public declarations detailing social ethics, religious tolerance, administrative duties, and moral welfare (Dhamma).

10. With reference to the architectural differences between Achaemenid (Persian) pillars and Mauryan Ashokan pillars, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Mauryan pillars were monolithic shafts carved from a single piece of stone, whereas Achaemenid pillars were constructed using multiple stone drums jointed together.
2. Mauryan pillars were independent, free-standing monuments erected in public spaces, whereas Achaemenid pillars served primarily as structural supports for imperial palace halls.
3. Mauryan pillar shafts featured fluted surface decorations, whereas Achaemenid pillar shafts were smooth and unpolished.

Select the 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:** Ashokan shafts were carved out of a single block of sandstone (monolithic), while Persian shafts were segmented (built using multiple stacked stone drums).

- **Statement 2 is correct:** Ashokan pillars were freestanding public monuments carrying state proclamations, whereas Achaemenid pillars were integral structural members supporting heavy roof beams of palace halls (such as at Persepolis).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** It reverses the technical details: Mauryan shafts were smooth, round, and unfluted with a high mirror polish, whereas Achaemenid shafts were fluted (carved with vertical grooves).

Mauryan Architecture and Art

1. Consider the following statements regarding the Sarnath Lion Capital:

1. Capital features four Asiatic lions standing back-to-back, symbolizing power, courage, confidence, and justice.
2. Four relief animals on the abacus elephant, bull, horse, and lion are separated by four 24-spoked Dharmachakras.
3. National Emblem adapted in 1950 displays all four lions along with the motto Satyameva Jayate from the Mundaka Upanishad.
4. The galloping horse on the abacus represents Mahapratinirvana, while the bull symbolizes Buddha's first sermon at Sarnath.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Sarnath Capital features four back-to-back lions representing royal authority, power, courage, confidence, and justice.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The circular abacus base features four carved animals (elephant, bull, horse, lion) separated by four 24-spoked wheels (Dharmachakras).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The National Emblem adopted on January 26, 1950, shows only **three visible lions** (the fourth is hidden from view at the back) above the abacus with the motto Satyameva Jayate.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** The horse represents Kanthaka (Buddha's departure/renunciation), not Mahapratinirvana; the bull represents his birth sign/zodiac signal, whereas the Lion represents Enlightenment.

2. With reference to the inscriptions of Emperor Ashoka, consider the following statements:

1. Ashokan inscriptions were rendered across three languages: Prakrit, Greek, and Aramaic.
2. In the north-western Gandhara region, edicts were composed in Aramaic language using the Brahmi script.
3. Greek and Aramaic inscriptions were executed exclusively in the southern peninsular regions of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Ashokan edicts used three primary languages: Prakrit (majority), Greek, and Aramaic.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Edicts in the Gandhara region (north-west frontier, e.g., Shahbazgarhi and Mansehra) were written in Kharosthi script.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Greek and Aramaic inscriptions were located in the north-western/Afghanistan region (e.g., Kandahar), whereas peninsular southern edicts used the Brahmi script in Prakrit.

3. Consider the following pairs:

Site of Ashoka's Major Rock Edict	Location in the State of
1. Dhauli	Odisha
2. Erragudi	Andhra Pradesh
3. Jaugada	Madhya Pradesh
4. Kalsi	Karnataka

How many 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 is correctly matched:** Dhauli Major Rock Edict is situated in the Puri district of **Odisha**.
- **Pair 2 is correctly matched:** Erragudi Major Rock Edict is located in the Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh.
- **Pair 3 is incorrectly matched:** Jaugada Major Rock Edict is located in the Ganjam district of Odisha.
- **Pair 4 is incorrectly matched:** Kalsi Major Rock Edict is situated on the banks of the Yamuna River in Uttarakhand.

4. With reference to the art and archaeological history of India, which one among the following was made earliest?

- (a) Lingaraja Temple at Bhubaneswar
- (b) Rock-cut Elephant at Dhauli
- (c) Rock-cut Monuments at Mahabalipuram
- (d) Varaha Image at Udayagiri

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Rock-cut Elephant at Dhauli:** Carved during the Mauryan period (c. 3rd century BCE) under Emperor Ashoka; it represents one of the earliest surviving rock-cut sculptures in India.

- **Varaha Image at Udayagiri:** Carved during the Gupta period (5th century CE) under Chandragupta II.
- **Rock-cut Monuments at Mahabalipuram:** Constructed during the Pallava period (7th century CE) under Narasimhavarman I.
- **Lingaraja Temple at Bhubaneswar:** Constructed during the Somavamsi period (11th century CE).

5. With reference to the history of Indian rock-cut architecture, consider the following statements:

1. Caves at Badami represent the oldest surviving rock-cut caves in India.
2. Barabar rock-cut caves were originally excavated for Ajivika ascetics by Chandragupta Maurya.
3. At Ellora, rock-cut caves were excavated for Hindu, Buddhist, and Jain traditions.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Barabar caves are the oldest surviving rock-cut caves in India. The Badami cave temples date back to the 6th century CE (Chalukya period).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Barabar caves were commissioned by Emperor Ashoka and his grandson Dasharatha, not Chandragupta Maurya.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Ellora features 34 major cave structures representing Buddhism (Caves 1–12), Hinduism (Caves 13–29), and Jainism (Caves 30–34).

6. Consider the following information:

Pillar Edict	Edict Focus/Subject Matter	Administrative Scope
1. Pillar Edict I	Protection of subjects	Directs state officials on welfare principles
2. Pillar Edict II	Definition of Dhamma	Emphasizes compassion, truthfulness, and purity
3. Pillar Edict III	Self-examination of sins	Urges subjects to control anger, cruelty, and envy
4. Pillar Edict IV	Duties of Rajukas	Defines judicial and administrative powers of officers

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: (d)

Explanation:

- **Row 1 is correctly matched:** Pillar Edict I outlines Ashoka's general principles regarding the protection and welfare of his people.

- **Row 2 is correctly matched:** Pillar Edict II defines Dhamma as minimal sins, abundant virtues, compassion, liberality, truthfulness, and purity.
- **Row 3 is correctly matched:** Pillar Edict III advises individuals to avoid spiritual degradation caused by rage, cruelty, anger, pride, and jealousy.
- **Row 4 is correctly matched:** Pillar Edict IV outlines the official responsibilities and judicial authority granted to district officers (Rajukas).

7. Which of the following statements with regard to Ashoka's Minor Pillar Edicts is/are correct?

1. Minor Pillar Edicts were executed exclusively in the Prakrit language using the Brahmi script.
2. Rummindei Pillar Edict records Ashoka's royal visit to the birthplace of Gautama Buddha and the reduction of local land revenue (Bhaga).

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:** Minor Pillar Edicts (e.g., Sarnath, Sanchi, Kaushambi, Rummindei) are written in Prakrit language utilizing the Brahmi script.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Rummindei Pillar Inscription confirms Ashoka's pilgrimage to Lumbini (Buddha's birthplace), where he exempted the village from Bali tax and reduced the land revenue (Bhaga) to 1/8.

8. Consider the following pairs:

Major Rock Edict	Central Theme / Proclamation
1. Rock Edict II	Mentions medical treatment for humans/animals and southern kingdoms (Pandyas, Keralaputras)
2. Rock Edict V	Refers to the appointment of Dhamma Mahamattas
3. Rock Edict XII	Appeals for religious tolerance and mutual respect among sects
4. Rock Edict XIII	Pleads for conquest through Dhamma-Vijaya over military conquest

How many pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1 is correctly matched:** Rock Edict II outlines welfare works (hospitals, botanical planting) and names border kingdoms including Cholas, Pandyas, Satyaputras, and Keralaputras.
- **Pair 2 is correctly matched:** Rock Edict V records the creation and appointment of Dhamma Mahamattas (Officers of Righteousness).
- **Pair 3 is correctly matched:** Rock Edict XII advocates inter-faith harmony, warning that praising one's own sect while disparaging others damages one's own religion.
- **Pair 4 is correctly matched:** Rock Edict XIII details the Kalinga War horrors and renounces military expansion (Digvijaya) in favor of moral conquest (Dhamma-Vijaya).

9. Consider the following pairs:

Site of Major Rock Edict	Unique Administrative / Script Feature
1. Kalsi	Only complete set of 14 Major Rock Edicts in North India
2. Dhauli & Jaugada	Replaces Edicts XI–XIII with Separate Kalinga Edicts (All men are my children)
3. Erragudi	Inscribed using the boustrophedon style (right-to-left and left-to-right)
4. Shahbazgarhi	Inscribed in Kharosthi script

How many pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1 is correctly matched:** Kalsi (Uttarakhand) contains the only complete set of 14 Major Rock Edicts in northern India.
- **Pair 2 is correctly matched:** Dhauli and Jaugada omit Edicts XI, XII, and XIII, replacing them with two Separate Kalinga Edicts emphasizing benevolent governance (All men are my children).
- **Pair 3 is correctly matched:** Erragudi (Andhra Pradesh) is unique because its Brahmi text is written in boustrophedon style (alternate lines written in opposite directions).
- **Pair 4 is correctly matched:** Shahbazgarhi (Pakistan) is written in Kharosthi script (adapted from Aramaic).

10. Consider the following pairs:

Historical Place	Well Known For
1. Girnar	Rock edicts of Ashoka and inscription regarding Sudarshana Lake
2. Sopara	Ancient west coast port town containing fragments of Ashokan edicts
3. Sannati	Site featuring Major Rock Edicts and a sculptured portrait of Emperor Ashoka

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1 is correctly matched:** Girnar (Junagadh, Gujarat) holds Ashoka's 14 Major Rock Edicts, alongside later inscriptions by Rudradaman I and Skandagupta concerning the repair of Sudarshana Lake.
- **Pair 2 is correctly matched:** Sopara (Maharashtra) was a major ancient port on the western coast where fragments of Major Rock Edicts VIII and IX were discovered.
- **Pair 3 is correctly matched:** Sannati (Kanaganahalli, Karnataka) features Major Rock Edicts and a stone relief depicting Emperor Ashoka with his Queen inscribed with the label Ranyo Ashoka (King Ashoka).

Mauryan Art and Literature

1. Consider the following statements regarding ancient Indian inscriptions:

1. Sannati inscription in Karnataka contains the only sculpted relief portrait of Ashoka labeled as Ranyo.
2. Bhabru inscription is unique for being written in the boustrophedon script.
3. Junagadh rock inscription features epigraphic records of both the Saka ruler Rudradaman I and the Gupta ruler Skandagupta.
4. The Allahabad pillar contains inscriptions of Ashoka, Queen Kaurwaki, Samudragupta, Birbal and Jahangir.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Excavations at Kanaganahalli near Sannati (Karnataka) revealed a relief stone slab depicting Emperor Ashoka with his queen, inscribed with the label Ranyo Ashoka (King Ashoka).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Erragudi (Yerragudi) Minor Rock Edict in Andhra Pradesh is written in boustrophedon style (alternating directions). The Bhabru inscription (found at Bairat, Rajasthan) is composed in standard Brahmi script in Prakrit and is famous for declaring Ashoka's explicit faith in the Buddhist Triratna (Buddha, Dhamma, Sangha).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The rock at Junagadh (Girnar) bears inscriptions of three major rulers across different eras: Ashoka (Mauryan), Rudradaman I (Saka), and Skandagupta (Gupta).
- **Statement 4 is correct:** The Allahabad Pillar (Ashokan Pillar) carries layers of history: Ashoka's royal edict, the Queen's Edict mentioning Kaurwaki, Hari Sena's Prasasti honoring Samudragupta, and a later Persian inscription by the Mughal Emperor Jahangir.

2. Consider the following pairs:

Archaeological Cave Site	Associated Patron	Feature
1. Nagarjuni Hills	Donated by Dasharatha to Ajivika ascetics	Contains Gopi-ka-Kubha with mirror-polished interior
2. Son Bhandar	Associated with Jainism and Ajivika sect	Displays trapezoidal entrance with pointed arch ceiling and crude finish

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

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

Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Pair 1 is correctly matched:** Dasharatha (Ashoka's grandson) dedicated three rock-cut caves in the Nagarjuni Hills (Gopi-ka-Kubha, Vadathi-ka-Kubha, and Vapiya-ka-Kubha) to the Ajivika monks. Gopi-ka-Kubha is the largest and features a highly polished granite interior chamber.
- **Pair 2 is correctly matched:** The Son Bhandar (Swarna Bhandar) caves in Rajgir, Bihar, are associated with early Jainism and Ajivika ascetics. They feature a trapezoidal entrance doorway, a pointed vault ceiling, an inferior quality of surface polish compared to Ashokan caves, and shell-script/Gupta-period inscriptions.

3. Consider the following information:

Archaeological Artifact	Finding State	Key Material and Structural Description
1. Didarganj Yakshini	Bihar	Polished Chunar sandstone figure holding a chauri (flywhisk) in the right hand
2. Kalibangan Terracotta	Rajasthan	Baked clay figurine representing Neolithic mother goddess worship
3. Sultanganj Buddha	Bihar	Monolithic granite sculpture carved during the early Mauryan period

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

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Row 1 is correctly matched:** The Didarganj Yakshini (discovered in Patna, Bihar) is a life-sized standing sculpture sculpted from polished buff Chunar sandstone, holding a flywhisk (chauri) in her right hand.

- **Row 2 is incorrectly matched:** Kalibangan is a major Harappan (Indus Valley Civilization) site in Rajasthan known for fire altars and ploughed fields, not a Neolithic site.
- **Row 3 is incorrectly matched:** The Sultanganj Buddha is a famous over-life-sized copper sculpture produced during the Gupta-Pala transition period not a Mauryan granite sculpture.

4. Which of the following statements with regard to the Dhauli Rock Elephant sculpture in Odisha is/are correct?

1. Elephant is carved out of a natural living rock outcrop located above the site of the Ashokan Major Rock Edicts.
2. Inscription accompanying the sculpture symbolize Airavata, the sacred elephant of Indian tradition.

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 Dhauli elephant is executed directly on the living rock mass above the rock face bearing Ashoka's Separate Kalinga Edicts, near the site of the historical Kalinga War.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Pali inscription adjacent to the carving uses the term Sevto (the white one), invoking Airavata (the celestial white elephant) and signifying the descent of Gautama Buddha into his mother's womb in the form of a white elephant.

5. Which of the following statements with regard to the origin and architectural evolution of Stupas is/are correct?

1. Stupas originated as pre-Buddhist Vedic burial mounds before becoming popularized as central relic shrines under Buddhism.
2. All nine initial stupas constructed over his mortal remains were consecrated solely to hold his bodily relics.

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 concept of the stupa originated from Vedic-era tumuli or mound structures (Thupa) erected over cremated remains, which were later adapted and institutionalized by Buddhist traditions under state patronage.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Of the 9 original post-nirvana stupas, 8 stupas contained the actual physical relics (Dhatu) of the Buddha (at Rajagriha, Vaishali, Kapilavastu, Allakappa, Ramagrama, Vethadipa, Pava, and Kushinagar), while the 9th stupa (at Pipphalavana) was built over the vessel (Kumbha) used to collect and divide the relics.

6. With reference to the classical legal and diplomatic literature of ancient India, consider the following statements:

1. Kautilya's Arthashastra is a Sanskrit treatise on statecraft comprising 15 books.

2. Mandala Siddhanta theory posits that an immediate neighboring state is a natural ally, whereas a distant non-contiguous state is an inevitable adversary.
3. Doctrine of Shadgunya includes policies such as Sandhi, Vighraha, and Asana.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Arthashastra attributed to Kautilya/Chanakya is divided into 15 Adhikarnas (books) covering civil administration, criminal law, economic policy, foreign affairs, and military strategies.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Under the Mandala (concentric circle) theory, geographical proximity defines enmity, an immediate neighbor is considered a natural enemy (Ari), while the neighbor's neighbor is a natural friend (Mitra).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Shadgunya (sixfold foreign policy) comprises Sandhi (treaty), Vighraha (hostility), Asana (neutrality/waiting), Yana (marching/expedition), Samsraya (seeking protection), and Dvaidhibhava (dual policy/diplomatic hedging).

7. Consider the following pairs:

Literary Work	Primary Subject
1. Mudrarakshasa	Sanskrit political play detailing Chanakya's strategy in overthrowing the Nanda Dynasty
2. Dipavamsa	Early Sri Lankan Pali chronicle recording the history of the island and the spread of Buddhism
3. Mahavamsa	Pali epic chronicle recording royal lineages and Buddhist councils

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

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

Answer: (d)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Pair 1 is correctly matched:** Mudrarakshasa written by Vishakhadatta is a political drama describing how Chanakya outwitted the Nanda minister Rakshasa to install Chandragupta Maurya on the throne.
- **Pair 2 is correctly matched:** Dipavamsa (Chronicle of the Island) is the oldest Pali historical chronicle from Sri Lanka detailing early Buddhist history and Ashoka's missionary missions.
- **Pair 3 is correctly matched:** Mahavamsa (Great Chronicle, authored by Mahanama) provides a detailed narrative of the Buddhist Sangha, royal lineages, and the propagation of Dhamma across South Asia.

8. Consider the following pairs:

Literary Text	Author
1. Rajatarangini	Kalhana
2. Mahabhashya	Patanjali
3. Kalpasutra	Bhadrabahu

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

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

Answer: (d)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Pair 1 is correctly matched:** Rajatarangini was composed in Sanskrit verse by Kalhana and chronicles the dynastic history of Kashmir.
- **Pair 2 is correctly matched:** Mahabhashya is a fundamental commentary on Panini's Ashtadhyayi written by the grammarian Patanjali (2nd century BCE, contemporary with Pushyamitra Shunga).
- **Pair 3 is correctly matched:** Kalpasutra is a canonical Jain Sanskrit text containing biographies of Jain Tirthankaras (including Parshvanatha and Mahavira), authored by Bhadrabahu (4th century BCE).

9. Consider the following statements regarding the classical text Indica authored by Megasthenes:

1. Megasthenes visited Pataliputra as an ambassador sent by the Seleucid ruler Seleucus I Nicator to the court of Chandragupta Maurya.
2. Original manuscript of Indica is preserved in the national archives of Athens, Greece.
3. Categorized Indian society into seven distinct occupational classes.
4. Reported that the institution of slavery was absent in Indian society.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Megasthenes was sent by Seleucus I Nicator as an ambassador to the court of Chandragupta Maurya at Pataliputra around 302 BCE.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The original text of Indica is completely lost; its content survives only as quoted fragments in later Greek and Roman writings by Strabo, Arrian, Diodorus, and Pliny.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Misinterpreting the Indian varna system through a Greek lens, Megasthenes identified seven social classes: philosophers, farmers, herdsmen, artisans, soldiers, overseers/inspectors, and councillors/magistrates.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** Megasthenes noted that all Indians were free and that slavery did not exist in India, a misconception stemming from the fact that Indian domestic servitude (Dasa system) was less brutal than the chattel slavery practiced in classical Greece and Rome.

10. Emperor Ashoka explicitly mentions his personal name (Ashoka) in his inscriptions at which of the following set of locations?

- (a) Maski, Gurjarra, Nittur, and Brahmagiri
- (b) Sarnath, Sanchi, Bharhut, and Amaravati
- (c) Shahbazgarhi, Mansehra, Kandahar, and Taxila
- (d) Dhauri, Jaugada, Kalsi, and Girnar

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- In most of his royal edicts, Ashoka is referred to only by his imperial titles: Devanampiya (Beloved of the Gods) and Piyadasi (He who regards others with affection).
- His explicit personal name Ashoka appears in only four specific inscriptions:
 1. **Maski** (Karnataka) – First discovered in 1915, reading Devanampiyasa Asokasa.
 2. **Gurjarra** (Datia district, Madhya Pradesh).
 3. **Nittur** (Bellary district, Karnataka).
 4. **Udegolam / Brahmagiri** region (Karnataka/Andhra Pradesh belt).

Late Mauryas

1. Which of the following statements with regard to the classical text Mudrarakshasa is/are correct?

1. It is a Sanskrit political drama authored by Vishakhadatta during the Gupta period, set against the backdrop of the Mauryan revolution.
2. The central plot documents the military invasion of India by Seleucus Nicator and his eventual treaty with Chandragupta Maurya.

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:** Mudrarakshasa (The Signet Ring of Rakshasa) was written by Vishakhadatta during the Gupta era (c. 5th century CE) and dramatizes the political machinations surrounding Chanakya's ascension of Chandragupta Maurya to power.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The plot revolves around Chanakya's statecraft, espionage, and political maneuvering to win over Rakshasa, the loyal prime minister of the fallen Nanda dynasty, rather than depicting Seleucus Nicator's invasion.

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

1. Gradual fragmentation of the empire accelerated following the death of Emperor Ashoka.
2. Collapse resulted from a combination of internal administrative decay, succession struggles, and foreign incursions along the north-western border.

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:** Ashoka's death marked the end of unified imperial authority, leading to swift territorial fragmentation under weak successor kings.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Historians attribute the Mauryan decline to multiple factors, including heavy financial stress on the state treasury, excessive administrative centralization, provincial revolts, and incoming foreign invasions from Central Asia.

3. Which of the following statements with regard to the post-Ashokan Mauryan Empire is/are correct?

1. Following Ashoka's death, the imperial territory was split into western and eastern administrative zones.
2. Western realm was governed by Kunala, while the eastern realm with its capital at Pataliputra came under Dasaratha.
3. Territorial partition reinforced central imperial authority and successfully halted Greco-Bactrian expansion.

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:** Historical sources indicate that the empire was partitioned into two halves post-Ashoka to manage administrative control.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Kunala (Ashoka's son) established rule over the western provinces, whereas Dasaratha (Ashoka's grandson) ruled the eastern heartland centered around Magadha/Pataliputra.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The political division severely weakened centralized governance, fragmented fiscal resources, and left the western frontier vulnerable to Indo-Greek invasions.

4. Which of the following statements with regard to the foreign invasions in the late Mauryan period is/are correct?

1. Western portion of the Mauryan Empire disintegrated under military pressures from Bactrian Greeks and Central Asian tribes.
2. Ashoka's successors strengthened the north-western border by constructing permanent garrison towns along the Hindu Kush.

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:** Demetrius I and subsequent Bactrian Greek rulers exploited internal Mauryan weakness to cross the Hindu Kush and conquer Punjab and neighboring territories.

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Late Mauryan rulers failed to maintain or reinforce border defenses, neglecting the strategic passes along the north-western frontier.

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

1. Dasaratha dedicated rock-cut cave sanctuaries in the Nagarjuni Hills to the ascetics of the Ajivika sect.
2. Samprati is recognized in Jain traditions as a major royal patron who actively promoted Jainism across western India.
3. Absence of strong central leadership among Ashoka's successors led to widespread administrative decentralization and provincial secessions.

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:** Inscriptions in the Nagarjuni caves confirm that Dasaratha donated three rock-cut chambers (Gopi, Vadithi, Vapiya) to the Ajivikas, following his grandfather Ashoka's tradition.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Samprati (successor to Kunala) was a follower of the Jain monk Suhastin and built numerous Jain shrines across western India and Rajasthan.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Weak leadership after Ashoka resulted in distant governors breaking away, leading to administrative breakdown across the empire.

6. Which of the following statements with regard to the final collapse of the Mauryan Dynasty is/are correct?

1. Brihadratha was the final sovereign ruler of the imperial Mauryan line.
2. Brihadratha was overthrown during a military parade by his Senapati, Pushyamitra Shunga, who established the Shunga 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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Brihadratha was the last ruling monarch of the Mauryan dynasty.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Around 185 BCE, Pushyamitra Shunga (commander-in-chief of the Mauryan army) assassinated Brihadratha during an army inspection, ending Mauryan rule and founding the Brahminical Shunga dynasty at Pataliputra.

7. Consider the following statements regarding the archaeological site of Kanaganahalli:

1. The site is situated along the banks of the Bhima River in Karnataka.
2. The stupa remains found at the site span the period between the 1st century BCE and the 3rd century CE.
3. A relief sculpture bearing the inscribed label Ranyo Ashoka was discovered at the site.

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: (d)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Kanaganahalli is located in the Kalaburagi district of Karnataka on the banks of the Bhima River.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Archaeological excavations reveal a large Maha-Stupa (Adhama Stupa) active from the Satavahana era, dating from the 1st century BCE to the 3rd century CE.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The site yielded a slab depicting Emperor Ashoka accompanied by his queen, inscribed in Brahmi script with the words Ranyo Ashoka.

8. Consider the following statements regarding Emperor Ashoka's religious affiliations:

1. Rummindei and Nigali Sagar pillar inscriptions provide direct epigraphic evidence of Ashoka's pilgrimage to Buddhist holy sites.
2. Minor Rock Edict-I records that Ashoka became a lay follower and gradually deepened his connection with the Buddhist Sangha.

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 is correct:** The Rummindei Pillar marks Ashoka's visit to Buddha's birthplace (Lumbini), and the Nigali Sagar Pillar records his pilgrimage to enlarge the stupa of Kanakamuni Buddha.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Minor Rock Edict-I notes that while Ashoka was a lay follower (Upasaka) for over two and a half years, his active devotion grew rapidly after spending over a year in close association with the Sangha.

9. Consider the following statements regarding the Post-Mauryan Period:

1. The era was marked by absolute economic decline and the complete cessation of long-distance maritime trade.
2. Indigenous powers like the Shungas, Kanvas, and Satavahanas established regional kingdoms across northern and central India.
3. Foreign dynasties including the Indo-Greeks, Shakas, Parthians, and Kushanas controlled the north-western frontiers.
4. The period saw extensive monetization, urban growth, and thriving trade routes connecting India with Rome and Central Asia.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Contrary to economic stagnation, the Post-Mauryan era was a golden period of internal urban growth, craft guild (Sreni) organization, and thriving international maritime trade with the Roman Empire.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Local dynasties took over parts of the old empire: the Shungas and Kanvas in the Gangetic plain, the Chedis in Kalinga, and the Satavahanas in the Deccan.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Central Asian groups migrated through the north-western passes, establishing Indo-Greek, Indo-Scythian (Shaka), Indo-Parthian, and Kushana empires.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** This period witnessed peak coin minting (gold coins by Kushanas, silver by Shakas, lead/potini by Satavahanas) and vibrant trade via the Silk Road and Indian Ocean networks.

10. Which of the following statements with regard to the decline of the Mauryan state and its successor entities is/are correct?

1. Distant provinces such as Kalinga and parts of the Deccan broke away from central Mauryan authority shortly after Ashoka's reign.
2. Following foreign invasions in the north-west, effective Mauryan rule became restricted to the core Gangetic plain.
3. Pushyamitra Shunga re-established Mauryan imperial boundaries after executing Brihadratha.

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:** Kalinga regained independence under the Mahameghavahana dynasty (Kharavela), while the Satavahanas established independent rule in the Deccan.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** With the loss of the north-west frontier to Indo-Greeks and regional secessions, late Mauryan control shrank back to the central Gangetic basin.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Pushyamitra founded the Shunga Dynasty, he did not restore Mauryan authority or its former subcontinental borders. His kingdom was smaller, primarily covering central and eastern India.

Sunga and Satavahana Dynasty

1. Which of the following statements with regard to the Shunga Dynasty is/are correct?

1. Banabhatta's Harshacharita records that Pushyamitra Shunga assassinated the last Mauryan ruler, Brihadratha, during an army inspection.
2. The initial capital of the Shungas was established at Vidisha, and it was later shifted to Pataliputra under King Bhagabhadra.

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 7th-century CE biographical text Harshacharita by Banabhatta mentions that Pushyamitra Shunga, the Senapati (commander-in-chief) of the Mauryan army, assassinated King Brihadratha during a military review to usurp the throne in 185 BCE.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The capital progression is reversed. The primary capital was initially at Pataliputra, but later Shunga rulers like Bhagabhadra established a second capital at Vidisha (modern Besnagar, Madhya Pradesh).

2. Which of the following statements with regard to the political and military developments under the Shunga Dynasty is/are correct?

1. Kalidasa's drama Malavikagnimitram mentions a military clash on the banks of the Sindhu River where Prince Vasumitra defeated the Yavanas.
2. Shunga forces successfully repelled foreign incursions and permanently annexed the entire Kalinga realm under Pushyamitra Shunga.
3. Shunga rulers engaged in border conflicts with King Kharavela of Kalinga during his north Indian expeditions.

Select the 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: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Malavikagnimitram narrates that Prince Vasumitra (son of Agnimitra) guarded the sacrificial horse for Pushyamitra's Ashvamedha Yajna and defeated a Yavana (Indo-Greek) army along the Sindhu River.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Although the Shungas checked Greek advances in central India, they did not annex Kalinga. Instead, Kalinga was an independent, powerful kingdom under the Mahameghavahana ruler Kharavela.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Epigraphic records, particularly the Hathigumpha Inscription of Kharavela, document military encounters between Kalinga and the rulers of Magadha/Anga (the Shunga sphere) during Kharavela's northern campaigns.

3. Which of the following statements regarding the religious developments during the Shunga period are correct?

1. Ayodhya Inscription of Dhanadeva records that Pushyamitra Shunga performed two Ashvamedha sacrifices.
2. Buddhist text Divyavadana describes Pushyamitra as a devout patron who built numerous stupas across Magadha.
3. Archaeological evidence from Sanchi shows that the core brick stupa was enlarged and encased with stone railings during the Shunga era.
4. Shunga state declared Vaishnavism as the exclusive state religion and banned all Jain practices across the empire.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 2 and 4 only

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Ayodhya stone inscription of King Dhanadeva specifically credits Pushyamitra Shunga with conducting two Ashvamedha sacrifices (dvir-asvamedha-yajina), signaling a strong revival of Vedic rites.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Buddhist work Divyavadana presents a hostile account accusing Pushyamitra of persecuting Buddhist monks and offering rewards for their heads—it does not portray him as a builder of stupas.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Material evidence contradicts claims of total destruction; under the Shunga period, the core Ashokan brick stupa at Sanchi was doubled in size, encased in stone, and fitted with stone balustrades and gateways.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** While Vaishnavism and Vedic rituals received royal patronage, there is no historical or epigraphic evidence indicating an official ban on Jainism or the declaration of a state-enforced religion.

4. Which of the following statements with regard to art and architecture during the Shunga period is/are correct?

1. Mathura School of Art began to flourish during this period, producing monumental free-standing stone sculptures of Yakshas and Yakshinis.
2. Period witnessed the initial emergence of structural stone temple architectural traditions in central India.
3. Sculptural activity under the Shungas was entirely restricted to cave-cut shrines, with no stone carving executed on open-air stupa structures.

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:** Mathura grew into a major artistic hub during the Shunga era, noted for producing massive stone Yaksha and Yakshini figures (such as those found at Mathura, Parkham, and Gwalior).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The late Shunga period marked the transition toward structural temple design, with early foundations and stone platforms appearing in places like Nagari and Besnagar.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Stone carving was extensively used on open-air stupa railings (vedikas) and gateways (toranas) at major sites like Bharhut and Sanchi, not limited to cave architecture.

5. Which of the following statements regarding the Besnagar Garuda Pillar Inscription are correct?

1. Erected by Heliodorus, an envoy sent by the Indo-Greek King Antialkidas to the court of the Shunga King Bhagabhadra.
2. Inscription is composed in Sanskrit language and written in the Kharosthi script.
3. Heliodorus describes himself in the inscription as a Paramabhagavata, indicating his conversion to the Bhagavata sect of Vaishnavism.

4. It was dedicated to Lord Buddha to commemorate the signing of a peace treaty between the Greeks and Shungas.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Heliodorus, a Greek ambassador from King Antialkidas of Taxila, erected the pillar at Besnagar (near Vidisha) in honor of the 14th year of the reign of Shunga ruler Bhagabhadra.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The inscription is written in Prakrit language (with some Sanskritisms) using the Brahmi script, not Kharosthi or standard classical Sanskrit.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Heliodorus identifies himself as a Paramabhadra (devotee of Lord Vasudeva/Krishna), providing important epigraphic evidence of the adoption of Vaishnavism by foreign dignitaries.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** The pillar was topped with a sculpture of Garuda (the vahana of Vishnu) and dedicated to Vasudeva, making it an early monument of Bhagavatism, not Buddhism.

6. Which of the following statements with regard to literature during the Shunga period is/are correct?

1. Patanjali composed the Mahabhashya, a major grammatical commentary on Panini's Astadhyayi, during the reign of Pushyamitra Shunga.
2. Kalidasa's Malavikagnimitram is a historical chronicle written by a contemporary court poet living under King Agnimitra.

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 grammarian Patanjali lived during the Shunga period and wrote the Mahabhashya. He explicitly mentions performing sacrifices for King Pushyamitra (Iha Pushyamitram Yajayamah).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Kalidasa was not a contemporary court poet of Agnimitra; he lived much later during the Gupta era (c. 4th–5th century CE) and chose the 2nd-century BCE Shunga court as the historical setting for his Sanskrit play Malavikagnimitram.

7. Which of the following statements with regard to the origin of the Kanva Dynasty is/are correct?

1. Kanva dynasty was established by Vasudeva Kanva after he overthrew the last Shunga monarch, Devabhuti.
2. Banabhatta's Harshacharita provides literary reference to the assassination of the last Shunga ruler by his minister.

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:** Around 75 BCE, Vasudeva, a Brahmin minister in the Shunga court, assassinated the debauched Shunga king Devabhuti and established the Kanva dynasty.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Banabhatta's Harshacharita mentions that Devabhuti, the over-indulgent Shunga king, was assassinated by his minister Vasudeva with the help of a daughter of his slave woman disguised as his queen.

8. Which of the following statements regarding the rule and decline of the Kanva Dynasty are correct?

1. Kanva rulers exercised administrative authority over the entire Indian subcontinent for over two centuries.
2. Epigraphic and numismatic records mention four main kings belonging to the Kanva dynasty.
3. Susharman was the final ruler of the Kanva dynasty, who was overthrown around 30 BCE.
4. Following the collapse of the Kanvas, the regional powers of Magadha were eventually displaced by Central Asian Shaka invaders.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Kanva dynasty had a short rule of roughly 45 years (c. 75 BCE – 30 BCE), and its authority was restricted largely to Magadha and surrounding parts of eastern India, as the north-west was controlled by the Greeks and Shakas.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Literary texts (Puranas) and numismatic finds record four Kanva kings: Vasudeva, Bhumimitra, Narayana, and Susharman.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Susharman was the last king of the line, ruling until c. 30 BCE when the dynasty was brought to an end.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** After the fall of the Kanvas and local Mitra rulers in Magadha, political authority across northern and western India was increasingly taken over by the expanding Shakas (Indo-Scythians).

9. Which of the following statements regarding the early Satavahana dynasty are correct?

1. Simuka is recognized as the founder of the Satavahana dynasty, followed by his brother Kanha.
2. Initial core territory of Satavahana power was situated in the Upper Godavari Valley with its capital at Pratishthana.
3. Puranic king-lists explicitly use the name Satavahana to designate all monarchs of this line.
4. The Satavahanas expanded into the northern plains by completely annexing the Mauryan Empire at its peak under Chandragupta Maurya.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Simuka founded the Satavahana line (around the 1st century BCE), and his brother Kanha succeeded him, extending administrative control in the western Deccan.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Their original political base was in the northern Maharashtra region (Upper Godavari Valley), establishing their capital at Pratishthana (modern Paithan, Aurangabad district).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Puranas refer to this ruling house as the Andhras or Andhrabhritas, whereas the name Satavahana is derived from their own inscriptions and coin legends.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** The Satavahanas rose to prominence after the decline of the Mauryas and Kanvas around the 1st century BCE, rather than overthrowing Chandragupta Maurya.

10. Which of the following statements with regard to the Satavahana Empire is/are correct?

1. Satavahanas unified the Deccan, with their authority extending across parts of modern Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Madhya Pradesh.
2. Control over strategic western sea ports such as Kalyan, Sopara, and Bharuch enabled the Satavahanas to dominate Indian Ocean and Roman maritime trade.

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 Satavahanas served as a major stabilizing power across Peninsular India, building a trans-Deccan empire that connected the eastern (Andhra) and western (Maharashtra) coasts, along with parts of Karnataka and Malwa.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The dynasty's economic strength relied heavily on trade routes terminating at major western ports like Kalyan, Sopara, and Barygaza (Broach/Bharuch), which handled trade in textiles, spices, and Roman bullion.

Satavahana and Kanva Dynasty

1. Which of the following statements regarding the major Satavahana rulers are correct?

1. Naneghat inscription issued by Queen Naganika glorifies Satakarni I as the lord of *Dakshinapatha*.
2. Gautamiputra Satakarni defeated the Shaka Kshatrapa ruler Nahapana and restruck his silver coins.
3. Gautami Balashri issued the Nasik cave inscription detailing the military exploits of her son, Satakarni I.
4. Gautamiputra Satakarni adopted the title *Trisamudrapitayavahana* to signify his complete mastery over the Silk Route across Central Asia.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Naneghat cave inscription, issued by Queen Naganika (wife of Satakarni I), records the performance of various Vedic sacrifices including two Ashvamedhas and bestows the title *Dakshinapathapati* (Lord of the Southern Region) upon Satakarni I.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Gautamiputra Satakarni decisively defeated the Western Kshatrapa king Nahapana. This victory is corroborated by the Jogalthambi hoard of coins, where Nahapana's silver coins were overstruck by Gautamiputra Satakarni.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Nasik eulogy (*prashasti*) was issued by Gautami Balashri to praise the achievements of her son, Gautamiputra Satakarni (not Satakarni I).
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** The epithet *Trisamudrapitayavahana* literally means "he whose horses drank the waters of the three oceans" (Arabian Sea, Bay of Bengal, and Indian Ocean), reflecting his trans-peninsular hegemony in southern India, not control over the Central Asian Silk Route.

2. Which of the following statements with regard to the later Satavahana rulers is/are correct?

1. Vashishtiputra Pulumavi issued coins depicting double-masted ships, symbolizing the empire's maritime trade and naval capability along the eastern coast.
2. King Hala compiled the *Gathasaptasati*, an anthology of 700 erotic and pastoral verses written in Prakrit.

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:** Vashishtiputra Pulumavi expanded Satavahana influence towards the mouth of the Krishna River. His ship-engraved lead and copper coins demonstrate active Indian Ocean trade and maritime enterprise.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The 17th Satavahana ruler, King Hala, was a patron of literature who authored or compiled the *Gathasaptasati* (Sattasai), composed in the Maharashtri Prakrit dialect.

3. Which of the following statements with regard to Satavahana administration is/are correct?

1. The Satavahana empire was partitioned into administrative districts termed *Aharas*, supervised by civil officers called *Amatyas*.
2. The administration maintained a rigid central authority where local governors were strictly prohibited from issuing independent coinage or holding feudal titles like *Raja*.

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 administrative hierarchy divided provinces into districts known as *Aharas*, which were managed by royal officials called *Amatyas* and *Mahamattas*.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Satavahana state incorporated significant feudal elements (*samanta* system). Higher-tier feudatories such as *Rajas*, *Maharathis*, and *Mahabhojas* exercised autonomy in local governance and were permitted to issue their own localized coins.

4. Which of the following statements with regard to Satavahana society and religion is/are correct?

1. Satavahana kings used metonymics, indicating a strictly matriarchal rule where property and thrones passed through daughters.
2. While the monarchs were patrons of Vedic Brahmanism, they also extended substantial state support and land grants to Buddhist *Sangha*.

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:(b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** While Satavahana kings used metonymics (taking their mother's name like Gautami, Vashishti), the dynasty followed patriarchal succession where royal power passed from father to son (primogeniture).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Satavahanas were eclectic rulers. They performed Vedic sacrifices (Ashvamedha, Rajasuya) to legitimize their royalty while simultaneously constructing rock-cut *chaityas* and *viharas* and bestowing land grants upon Buddhist monks at sites like Nasik, Karle, and Kanheri.

5. Which of the following statements with regard to trade and currency under the Satavahanas is/are correct?

1. Satavahana state struck extensive gold coins called *Nishkas* to facilitate long-distance trade with the Roman Empire.
2. Merchant and artisan guilds functioned as commercial bodies, with specialized shopkeepers termed *Gandhikas*.

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:(b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Unlike the Kushanas, the Satavahanas did not mint gold coins. Their currency system consisted primarily of base metals: lead, potin (an alloy), copper, and occasional silver (*Karshapanas*). Roman gold and silver coins circulated internally to fill the demand for high-value transactions.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Craft and trade guilds (*Srenis*) were economically vital and acted as banking institutions. Inscriptions mention various guilds, including *Gandhikas* (perfumers/general shopkeepers), *Tilikas* (oil-pressers), and *Kularikas* (potters).

6. Which of the following statements with regard to Satavahana land grants and cultural contributions is/are correct?

1. Satavahanas introduced practice of granting tax-exempt land and villages to Brahmanas and Buddhist monks.

2. Court documents and official inscriptions were recorded in Sanskrit, rejecting local Prakrit dialects.
3. Nagarjunakonda and Amaravati developed into major seats of Buddhist art and learning under Satavahana patronage.

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:(c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Inscriptions from Nasik and Karle reveal that the Satavahanas initiated the practice of *Brahmadeya* and monastic grants. These grants came with *Parihara* (exemptions from state taxes and non-entry of royal soldiers).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Prakrit (written in Brahmi script) was the official court language for Satavahana administration and epigraphs; Sanskrit gained prominence much later in the region.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Andhra region saw a flourishing of Buddhist art and architecture, with Amaravati and Nagarjunakonda emerging as centers for Mahayana Buddhist stupas and relief sculptures.

7. Which of the following statements with regard to the late Satavahana period is/are correct?

1. Amaravati Mahachaitya is situated along the banks of the Krishna River in Andhra Pradesh.
2. Following the internal decay of the Satavahanas in the early 3rd century CE, their eastern territories were succeeded by the Ikshvaku 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

Correct Answer:(c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Great Stupa at Amaravati (*Dharanikota*) was built along the banks of the Krishna River and is famous for its marble-like limestone narrative reliefs depicting Buddha's life.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Satavahana empire disintegrated. In the eastern Andhra delta, the Ikshvakus of Vijayapuri emerged as the primary political successors, inheriting their patronage of Buddhist art and urban centers.

8. Which of the following statements regarding Emperor Kharavela and the Mahameghavahana Dynasty are correct?

1. King Kharavela belonged to the Chedi clan of the Mahameghavahana dynasty of Kalinga.
2. Hathigumpha Inscription is located at the Udayagiri hills near Bhubaneswar and opens with a Jain invocation to the *Arhats* and *Siddhas*.
3. Hathigumpha text is composed in Classical Sanskrit using the Devanagari script.
4. Hathigumpha Inscription is carved directly opposite Ashoka's rock edicts at Dhauli, symbolizing the political resurgence of post-Mauryan Kalinga.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 4 only

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

Correct Answer:(a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Kharavela was the third and greatest ruler of the Mahameghavahana dynasty (which belonged to the Chedi lineage) that established rule over Kalinga post-Mauryan collapse.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The 17-line undated record inside the Hathigumpha (Elephant Cave) opens with the auspicious *Nokar Mantra* honoring Jain *Arhats* and *Siddhas*.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The inscription is written in Prakrit language using the Brahmi script, not Classical Sanskrit or Devanagari.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** Located at Udayagiri, looking toward Dhauri where Ashoka engraved his victory edicts, the inscription chronicles Kharavela's military triumphs over Magadha and south Indian powers, signifying Kalinga's resurgence.

9. Consider the following statements regarding King Kharavela:

1. He was a devout adherent of Jainism who constructed cave dwellings for Jain monks at Udayagiri and Khandagiri.
2. Ancient fortified city of Sisupalgarh is identified as a multi-gateway *Jala Durga* linked to Kharavela's realm.
3. Kharavela banned all non-Jain religious practices throughout Kalinga during his reign.

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:(a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Kharavela excavated rock-cut cave complexes at the twin hills of Udayagiri and Khandagiri to serve as rainy-season retreats (*Varshavasa*) for Jain ascetics.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Archaeological excavations at Sisupalgarh reveal a well-planned square fort surrounded by a moat (*Jala Durga* feature) with eight grand gateways, matching descriptions of Kharavela's capital *Kalinganagara*.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Kharavela claims in his inscription to be *Sava-pasanda-pujako* (honorer of all religious sects) and a restorer of all temples, highlighting a tolerant religious policy.

10. Consider the following pairs:

Historical Place	Well Known For
1. Burzahom	Rock-cut cave shrines
2. Chandraketugarh	Terracotta art
3. Ganeshwar	Copper artefacts

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- (a) 1 only

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1 is incorrectly matched:** Burzahom (in Jammu & Kashmir) is a Neolithic and Megalithic site famous for pit-dwellings, polished stone axes, and unique dog burials—not rock-cut shrines.
- **Pair 2 is correctly matched:** Chandraketugarh (in West Bengal) was a flourishing coastal urban center during the Post-Mauryan and Gupta periods, celebrated for its exquisite terracotta plaques depicting socio-religious scenes.
- **Pair 3 is correctly matched:** Ganeshwar (located near the Khetri copper belt in Rajasthan) is a Chalcolithic site known for supplying copper artifacts (arrowheads, spearheads, bangles) to the Indus Valley Civilization.

Indo-Greeks

1. Which of the following statements with regard to the Indo-Greek coinage in India is/are correct?

1. Indo-Greeks were the first rulers in India to issue gold coins and coins bearing the names and portraits of kings.
2. Coins issued by the Indo-Greeks were monolingual, using classical Greek script on both sides.

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 Indo-Greeks were the first rulers in ancient India whose coins can be attributed with certainty to specific kings, as they bore royal portraits, names, and titles. They are also credited with issuing the first gold coins in India.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Indo-Greek coins were largely bilingual and bscript, featuring Greek legends on the obverse and Prakrit legends (written in Kharosthi or Brahmi scripts) on the reverse to accommodate the native population.

2. Which of the following statements with regard to the cultural and administrative contributions of the Indo-Greeks is/are correct?

1. Indo-Greeks introduced the administrative position of Strategos to maintain provincial control.
2. Gandhara School of Art developed under Hellenistic influences, pioneering early anthropomorphic representations of the Buddha.
3. Sanskrit astronomical term Horasastra evolved independently without any foreign linguistic or technical influence.

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:** To govern their conquered territories, the Indo-Greeks established military governorships under officials called Strategos.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Gandhara region saw a synthesis of Greek artistic realism and Indian Buddhist iconographic motifs, which led to sculpting Buddha in human (anthropomorphic) form resembling Greek gods like Apollo.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Indian term Horasastra (astrology) is directly derived from the Greek term horoscope, highlighting the influence of Hellenistic astronomy on ancient Indian texts.

3. Which of the following statements regarding the Indo-Scythians (Shakas) are correct?

1. Shakas were a nomadic Central Asian tribe driven into Bactria and northwestern India following pressure from the Yuezhi migration.
2. Maues established the earliest Shaka base in Gandhara during the 1st century BCE.
3. Shakas adopted the Iranian Achaemenid administrative framework, governing provinces through Kshatrapas and Mahakshatrapas.
4. The Shakas banned all local trade guilds and enforced a completely centralized taxation system directly administered from Taxila.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Driven out of their home grounds in Central Asia by the expanding Yuezhi tribe, the Scythians (Shakas) moved through Bactria and crossed the Hindu Kush into northwestern India.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Maues was the first major Shaka king in India who consolidated power around Gandhara and Taxila.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Shakas used the Kshatrapa system (satrapies) modeled after Iranian/Achaemenid administrative structures, dividing their domain into provinces ruled by semi-autonomous Kshatrapas (governors) and Mahakshatrapas (great governors).
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** Local merchant and craft guilds (Srenis) continued to function with autonomy under Shaka rule, and administration was decentralized through regional satraps rather than strictly centralized from Taxila.

4. Which of the following statements with regard to the Vikrama Samvat era is/are correct?

1. Vikrama Samvat calendar era commenced in 57–58 BCE to commemorate a local ruler's victory over the Shakas at Ujjain.
2. Title Vikramaditya remained restricted exclusively to rulers of the Gupta dynasty.
3. Up to 14 rulers in Indian historical records assumed the title Vikramaditya, reflecting its association with military valor.

Select the 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: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Tradition holds that King Vikramaditya of Ujjain defeated the invading Shakas around 57–58 BCE and established the Vikrama Samvat era to mark his victory.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The title Vikramaditya was taken by multiple monarchs across various dynasties down to the 12th century CE (such as Hemu, and several Chalukya and Rashtrakuta kings).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Historians record at least 14 Indian monarchs adopting the prestigious title Vikramaditya, with Chandragupta II of the Gupta Dynasty being the most celebrated among them.

5. Which of the following statements regarding Western Kshatrapa ruler Rudradaman I are correct?

1. Rudradaman I belonged to the Western Kshatrapa and ruled over Kathiawar and Gujarat.
2. Undertaken major repairs on the Sudarshana Lake embankment at Junagadh using state revenue.
3. Junagadh Rock Inscription contains historical records written continuously by the Mauryas, Western Kshatrapas, and Guptas.
4. The Junagadh Inscription of Rudradaman I was composed in Prakrit language using the Kharosthi script.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Rudradaman I was the most prominent Mahakshatrapa of the Kardamaka branch of Western Kshatrapas, ruling over Kathiawar, Malwa, and Gujarat.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** In his Junagadh inscription, Rudradaman I explicitly states that he repaired the breached dam of Sudarshana Lake out of his own treasury without burdening his subjects with additional taxes (kara) or forced labor (vishti).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The single rock face at Junagadh bears inscriptions of three distinct imperial lines, Ashoka (Maurya), Rudradaman I (Western Kshatrapa), and Skandagupta (Gupta) spanning nearly 800 years of public infrastructure history.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** The Junagadh inscription is celebrated as the first long inscription in chaste Classical Sanskrit, written in the Brahmi script (not Prakrit or Kharosthi).

6. Which of the following statements regarding the text of the Junagadh Rock Inscription are correct?

1. Text notes that Sudarshana Lake was originally constructed by Pushyagupta, the provincial governor under Emperor Chandragupta Maurya.
2. It claims that Rudradaman I defeated the Yaudheya tribal confederacy, who were known for their military pride.
3. Inscription records that Rudradaman I killed Gautamiputra Satakarni in battle and completely annexed the lower Deccan.
4. The record traces Rudradaman's genealogy back to his grandfather Chashtana.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 4

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The inscription gives a historical account of Sudarshana Lake, stating it was built by Rashtriya (governor) Pushyagupta under Chandragupta Maurya and later provided with conduits by Tushaspha under Ashoka.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The prashasti mentions Rudradaman's defeat of the martial Yaudheya republic, who had earned fame for resisting military conquerors.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The inscription states that Rudradaman defeated the lord of Dakshinapatha (Satakarni) twice, but spared his life due to close familial relationships (his daughter was married to Vashishtiputra Pulumavi).
- **Statement 4 is correct:** The inscription lists Rudradaman's lineage, naming his father Jayadaman and his grandfather Mahakshatrapa Chashtana.

7. Which of the following statements with regard to the Western Kshatrapas is/are correct?

1. They issued silver coinage that facilitated trade across the ports of Gujarat and the western seaboard.
2. Western Kshatrapas rejected Sanskrit and made Pali the sole administrative language throughout their domain.

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 Western Kshatrapas minted a uniform series of dated silver coins (using Saka Era dates), which served as a reliable currency for long-distance maritime and inland trade through ports like Bharuch (Barygaza).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Rudradaman I and the Western Kshatrapas were early patrons of Sanskrit, issuing public inscriptions in Sanskrit to establish royal legitimacy, rather than relying on Pali or Prakrit.

8. Which of the following statements regarding the geopolitical struggle between the Shakas and their rivals are correct?

1. Strategic conflict between the Satavahanas and Western Kshatrapas centered on controlling key trade outlets along the western coast.
2. In the early 2nd century CE, Gautamiputra Satakarni defeated the Shaka ruler Nahapana and reclaimed territories in Nashik and Pune.
3. Western Kshatrapa dynasty was brought to an end by Chandragupta II.
4. Shaka dynasty in western India voluntarily surrendered their kingdom to the Indo-Greeks to form a joint confederacy.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

(c) 1 and 4 only

(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Control over trade routes connecting the Deccan hinterland to lucrative western ports (like Sopara and Kalyan) led to repeated military clashes between the Kshatrapas and Satavahanas.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Around 124–125 CE, Gautamiputra Satakarni defeated Nahapana (Kharatara branch), an event evidenced by the overstruck silver coin hoard discovered at Jogalthambi.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Chandragupta II (Vikramaditya) invaded western India around 395–400 CE, defeated the last Shaka ruler Rudrasimha III, and annexed Malwa and Kathiawar into the Gupta Empire.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** The Shakas did not surrender voluntarily or form a joint confederacy with the Indo-Greeks; they displaced the Indo-Greeks militarily in many regions.

9. Which of the following statements with regard to the Indo-Parthians (Pahlavas) is/are correct?

1. Indo-Parthians were of Iranian origin and moved into the Kabul valley and Gandhara after displacing local Shakas.
2. In ancient Indian texts, the Indo-Parthians and Shakas are often grouped together as Shaka-Pahlavas due to close cultural overlap.
3. Indo-Parthian domain extended across the entire Gangetic valley, completely replacing the Mauryan administrative framework.

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 Indo-Parthians (Pahlavas) were tribes originating from Parthia (modern Iran) who established kingdoms in Arachosia, Kabul, and Gandhara.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Indian literary sources frequently conflate them as Shaka-Pahlavas because both groups shared Iranian cultural characteristics, used similar administrative titles (Kshatrapa), and ruled overlapping territories.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Indo-Parthian rule was geographically limited to northwestern India and Afghanistan; they never held power over the Gangetic plains.

10. Which of the following statements with regard to the Indo-Parthian ruler Gondophares is/are correct?

1. Gondophares was the most prominent Indo-Parthian king, ruling during the 1st century CE with his capital at Taxila.
2. Early Christian tradition links his reign with the visit of St. Thomas, one of the apostles of Jesus Christ, to India.

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:** Gondophares (c. 20–46 CE) was the most famous Indo-Parthian monarch. Inscriptions (such as the Takht-i-Bahi inscription) and coin finds confirm his authority across Gandhara and Punjab.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The apocryphal Acts of Thomas records that St. Thomas the Apostle visited the court of King Gudnaphar (Gondophares) in northwestern India to introduce Christianity before traveling to southern India.