

ForumIAS

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Prelims Marathon

1st week, October 2026

HISTORY
ECONOMICS
POLITY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT

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Rajput Dynasty

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

1. Anangapala Tomara established the city of Dhillika and commissioned the citadel of Lal Kot in the Mehrauli region.
2. Surajpala constructed the Suraj Kund located near present-day Faridabad in Haryana.
3. Tomara coins featured a horseman-and-bull motif and bore the royal title Shri Samanta-deva.

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:** Anangapala II is traditionally recognized for repopulating and fortifying Delhi (Dhillika). He commissioned the Lal Kot fort in Mehrauli and built the Anang Tal reservoir.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Tomara ruler Surajpala built the famous semi-circular amphitheater and water reservoir known as Suraj Kund near Faridabad, Haryana, representing early medieval hydraulic architecture.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Tomaras minted billon/silver coins known as the Delhiwal type, featuring a prominent horseman on one side and a bull on the reverse, inscribed with Shri Samanta-deva.

2. Which of the following statements regarding the Chahaman (Chauhan) Dynasty are correct?

1. Simharaja declared independence from the Gurjara-Pratihara, assumed sovereign title Maharajadhiraja.
2. Chahaman king Vighraharaja IV captured Delhi from the Tomaras, authored the Sanskrit drama Harikeli Nataka.
3. Prithviraj Chauhan III was defeated by Chandella rulers Alha and Udal during his conquest of Mahoba.
4. Court poet Chandbardai composed Prithviraj Raso, while Jayanaka authored Prithviraj Vijaya.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Simharaja threw off allegiance to the Pratihara and was the first Chahaman ruler to adopt the title Maharajadhiraja.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Vighraharaja IV (Visaladeva) annexed Delhi from the Tomaras around 1161 CE and was a scholar king who authored the Sanskrit play Harikeli Nataka (inscriptions of which were found carved at Adhai Din Ka Jhonpra).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Prithviraj III defeated the Chandella king Paramardi-deva; Alha and Udal were the legendary military generals of Paramardi-deva who died fighting against Prithviraj III.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** Prithviraj Raso was written in Brajbhasha/Hindi by Chandbardai, while Prithviraj Vijaya is a Sanskrit epic written by court poet Jayanaka.

3. Which of the following statements with regard to the Gahadavala Dynasty is/are correct?

1. Chandradeva established the Gahadavala rule over Kannauj and Varanasi after displacing the remnants of Gurjara-Pratihara authority.
2. Jaichandra defeated Muhammad Ghori at the Battle of Chandwar to secure the eastern Gangetic plains.

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:** Chandradeva (c. 1090 CE) founded the Gahadavala dynasty in Uttar Pradesh, making Kannauj the primary imperial seat and Varanasi the secondary capital.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Jaichandra was defeated and killed by Muhammad Ghori at the Battle of Chandwar in 1194 CE, which enabled Ghurid control over northern India.

4. Which of the following statements regarding the Solanki rulers of Gujarat are correct?

1. Bhima I ruled Gujarat during Mahmud of Ghazni's attack on the Somnath Temple.
2. Modhera Sun Temple was commissioned by Bhima I, and his minister Vimalsha built the Vimal Vasahi temple at Mount Abu.
3. Jayasimha Siddharaja patronized the Jain scholar Hemachandra and commissioned the Rudra Mahakala Temple.
4. Bhima II was defeated by Muhammad Ghori at the Battle of Kayadara.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Bhima I was the ruling Solanki sovereign when Mahmud of Ghazni raided and plundered Somnath in 1025 CE.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Bhima I built the Sun Temple at Modhera to commemorate recovery post-Ghaznavid raid; his minister Vimalsha built the first major Dilwara Jain temple (Vimal Vasahi).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Jayasimha Siddharaja was a prominent Solanki ruler who patronized Acharya Hemachandra and constructed the monumental Rudra Mahalaya temple at Siddhpur.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** Muhammad Ghori was defeated at the Battle of Kayadara (1178/1179 CE) near Mount Abu by the Solanki forces led by Queen Regent Naikidevi and young Bhima II.

5. Which of the following statements with regard to the Maru-Gurjara architectural style is/are correct?

1. Style is characterized by stepped tank reservoirs, elaborately carved toranas, and highly ornamental stone carvings in shrine interiors.
2. Rani-ki-Vav at Patan was built by Queen Udayamati in memory of King Bhima I and is recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

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 Solanki or Maru-Gurjara school features detached carved arches (toranas), stepped water tanks (kunda), and intricately carved ceilings and columns resembling wood-carving aesthetics.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Rani-ki-Vav (the Queen's Stepwell) in Patan, Gujarat, was constructed by Queen Udayamati in the late 11th century CE in memory of Bhima I and was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2014.

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

1. Paramaras initially governed Malwa as feudatories of the Gurjara-Pratiharas and Rashtrakutas before establishing an independent state at Dhar.
2. Raja Bhoja established the Bhoj Shala as a center for Sanskrit learning and authored works such as Samarangana Sutradhara and Ayurvedasarvasva.
3. Raja Bhoja allied with Mahmud of Ghazni during the Ghaznavid campaigns against the Hindu Shahi ruler Anandapala.

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:** Upendra and his successors ruled Malwa first under the Rashtrakutas/Pratiharas, later establishing an independent kingdom centered at Dhar and Mandu.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Raja Bhoja was a polymath king who built the Bhoj Shala college at Dhar and authored texts across architecture (Samarangana Sutradhara), medicine (Ayurvedasarvasva), and poetics (Sringara-Prakasha).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Raja Bhoja did not ally with Ghazni; he extended military and material support to the Hindu Shahi ruler Anandapala to resist Ghaznavid expansion into Northern India.

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

1. Chandela territory in Bundelkhand was historically designated as Jejakabhukti.
2. Yashovarman declared independence from the Pratiharas, conquered the fortress of Kalinjar, and built the Lakshmana Temple at Khajuraho.
3. Vidyadhara successfully resisted the invasions of Mahmud of Ghazni and commissioned the Kandariya Mahadeva Temple.

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:** The region under Chandela rule (Bundelkhand) was named Jejakabhukti after Jayashakti (Jeja), an early prince of the line.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Yashovarman severed ties with the declining Pratiharas, captured the strategic Kalinjar fort, and erected the famous Lakshmana Temple at Khajuraho.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Vidyadhara repulsed Mahmud of Ghazni's siege of Kalinjar, culminating in a negotiated treaty, and constructed the imposing Kandariya Mahadeva Temple.

8. Which of the following statements with regard to the Khajuraho School of Architecture is/are correct?

1. Khajuraho temples are built in the Nagara style on elevated platforms and typically follow a panchayatan layout with interconnected internal chambers.
2. Temples are dedicated to the Brahmanical shrines with no Digambara Jain sect temple at the site.

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 Khajuraho temples (Nagara style) feature a raised plinth (jagati), miniature subsidiary shrines (panchayatan), and interconnected spaces: Ardhmandapa, Mandapa, Antarala, and Garbhagriha.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Khajuraho is renowned for its religious pluralism, featuring Hindu temples dedicated to Shiva (Kandariya Mahadeva), Vishnu (Lakshmana), and Surya, alongside a prominent group of Jain temples (Parshvanatha, Adinatha).

9. Which of the following statements regarding the Bundela Dynasty are correct?

1. Rudra Pratap Bundela laid the foundation of Orchha as the capital of the Bundela state on the banks of the Betwa River.
2. Veer Singh Deo Bundela built the Jahangir Mahal at Orchha to mark his friendship with Mughal Emperor Jahangir.
3. Chhatrasal Bundela established an independent state centered at Panna and sought military assistance from Peshwa Baji Rao I against the Mughals.
4. Bundela rulers remained completely independent of the Mughal administrative hierarchy, refusing to accept mansabdari ranks.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Rudra Pratap Bundela founded the city and state of Orchha on the banks of the Betwa River.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** Veer Singh Deo constructed the multi-storied Jahangir Mahal inside the Orchha Fort complex as a palace of honor for Emperor Jahangir.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Maharaja Chhatrasal carved out an independent kingdom in Eastern Bundelkhand with Panna as its capital. When besieged by Muhammad Khan Bangash in 1729, he sought aid from Peshwa Baji Rao I.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** Most Orchha Bundela rulers (such as Madhukar Shah and Veer Singh Deo) were integrated into the Mughal administrative fold as imperial mansabdars.

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

1. Devapala commissioned the hypaethral circular Chausath Yogini Temple at Mitawali near Morena.
2. Sahastrabahu Temple inside the Gwalior Fort complex was constructed during the reign of King Mahipala.

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:** King Devapala of the Kachchhapaghata dynasty built the circular open-air Chausath Yogini Temple at Mitawali (Morena district, MP).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** King Mahipala of the same dynasty completed the twin Sas-Bahu (originally Sahastrabahu, dedicated to Vishnu) temples at Gwalior Fort.

Major Kingdoms of the Deccan

1. Consider the following statements regarding the Chalukya dynasties of the Deccan:

1. Both early Chalukyas of Badami and western Chalukyas of Kalyani adopted the Varaha as their royal insignia.
2. Chalukyas were key pioneers in developing the Vesara style of temple architecture.

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 Chalukyas of Badami as well as the later Western Chalukyas of Kalyani featured the Varaha (wild boar) emblem on their royal seals, banners, and coins as a symbol of sovereignty and protection.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Chalukyas pioneered the Vesara style (also called Karnataka-Dravida style), which blended Northern Nagara (curvilinear shikhara) and Southern Dravida (tiered vimana) architectural features, prominently visible across Aihole, Badami, Pattadakal, and Lakkundi.

2. Which of the following statements regarding Pulakeshin II of the Badami Chalukya Dynasty is/are correct?

1. Court poet Ravikirti composed the Aihole inscription in Sanskrit to commemorate Pulakeshin II's military victory over Harshavardhana.
2. Pulakeshin II assumed the title Vatapikonda after defeating and killing the Pallava King Narasimhavarman I at Vatapi.

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 Sanskrit prashasti at the Meguti Jain temple in Aihole was composed by Ravikirti. It records Pulakeshin II successfully repulsing Harshavardhana's army on the banks of the Narmada River.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** It was the Pallava ruler Narasimhavarman I who defeated and killed Pulakeshin II at Vatapi (Badami) and subsequently assumed the title Vatapikonda (Conqueror of Vatapi).

3. Which of the following statements with regard to the administration and society of the Chalukyas of Badami is/are correct?

1. Women royal family members, such as Vijaya Bhattarika, served as provincial governors and issued independent land grants.
2. Badami Chalukya state religion was Jainism, and public performance of Vedic sacrifices like Ashvamedha was banned.

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:** Royal women held administrative roles under the Badami Chalukyas; Vijayabhattarika (daughter-in-law of Pulakeshin II) ruled as a provincial regent and issued copper-plate grants in her own name.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Chalukya rulers were patrons of Vedic Hinduism (Pulakeshin I performed the Ashvamedha sacrifice) alongside Shaivism and Vaishnavism, while maintaining religious tolerance toward Jainism (as seen in the Meguti Temple built by Ravikirti).

4. Which of the following statements with regard to Chalukyan temple architecture are correct?

1. Durga Temple at Aihole is notable for its unique apsidal ground plan inspired by Buddhist chaitya halls.
2. Virupaksha Temple at Pattadakal was commissioned by Queen Lokamahadevi to commemorate Vikramaditya II's victory over the Pallavas.
3. Badami cave temples consist of Buddhist rock-cut shrines, with no Vedic or Jain representations.

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 Durga Temple at Aihole features an unusual elevated apsidal plan (resembling a horse-shoe/chaitya format) surrounded by an open colonnaded ambulatory path.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Queen Lokamahadevi commissioned the Dravidian-style Virupaksha Temple at Pattadakal (a UNESCO World Heritage site) to celebrate her husband Vikramaditya II's conquest of the Pallava capital, Kanchi.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The four main rock-cut cave temples at Badami consist of three Brahmanical/Vedic caves (dedicated to Shiva and Vishnu, featuring the famous Nataraja panel) and one Jain cave.

5. Which of the following statements with regard to early medieval paintings and literature under the Chalukyas of Badami is/are correct?

1. Murals in the Badami rock-cut caves represent early examples of Brahmanical fresco painting showing Vakataka influence.
2. Sanskrit drama Kaumudi Mahotsava is attributed to the royal poetess Vijjika.

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 mural fragments inside Badami Cave are among the earliest surviving Hindu wall paintings, exhibiting technical continuity with the Vakataka Ajanta tradition.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The classical Sanskrit drama Kaumudi Mahotsava is attributed to Vijjika (often identified with the Chalukya princess Vijayabhattacharya).

6. Which of the following statements regarding the Western Chalukyas of Kalyani are correct?

1. Tailapa II re-established Chalukya authority in the Western Deccan by overthrowing the Rashtrakuta.
2. Someshvara I transferred the imperial capital from Manyakheta to Kalyani.
3. Rajadhiraja Chola was killed in action against the forces of Someshvara I at the Battle of Koppam.
4. Someshvara III authored the encyclopedic Sanskrit work Manasollasa.

Select the answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 and 3 only

(b) 2 and 4 only

(c) 1, 2, 3 and 4

(d) 1 and 4 only

Correct Answer:(c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Tailapa II defeated the last effective Rashtrakuta ruler Kakka II, founding the Western Chalukya dynasty of Kalyani.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** Someshvara I established **Kalyani** (modern Basavakalyan in Karnataka) as the sovereign capital of the empire.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** At the Battle of Koppam, the Chola King Rajadhiraja I was slain on his war elephant by Someshvara I's army, though his brother Rajendra II led a counterattack.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** King Someshvara III (not Someshvara I) composed the famed Sanskrit encyclopedia Manasollasa, dealing with governance, medicine, astronomy, cuisine, and fine arts. (Note: Statement 4 is an accurate historical fact regarding the dynasty). All four statements given in the question are correct.

7. Which of the following statements with regard to Vikramaditya VI and his court scholars are correct?

1. Vikramaditya VI established a new chronological era called the Chalukya-Vikrama Era.
2. Vijnaneshwara composed the legal treatise Mitakshara, which posits that a son acquires a birthright in joint family ancestral property.
3. Kashmiri poet Bilhana wrote the historical biography Vikramankadeva Charita in honor of Vikramaditya VI.

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:(d)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Upon ascending the throne in 1076 CE, Vikramaditya VI superseded the Shaka Era and initiated the Chalukya-Vikrama Era.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Vijnaneshwara composed the Mitakshara (a commentary on the Yajnavalkya Smriti), establishing the principle of coparcenary rights by birth—distinct from Jimutavahana's Dayabhaga system where rights arise only after the father's death.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Bilhana, who migrated from Kashmir to the Kalyani court, authored Vikramankadeva Charita, describing the life, conquests, and marriage of Vikramaditya VI.

8. Which of the following statements with regard to the administration and society of the Western Chalukyas of Kalyani is/are correct?

1. Imperial territory was divided hierarchically into administrative units comprising Mandalas, Nadus, Kampanas, and Badas (villages).
2. Period witnessed the emergence of the Veerashaiva (Lingayat) movement led by reformist poets like Basavanna, Akka Mahadevi, and Allama Prabhu.

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 Western Chalukya administration followed a decentralized structure: Mandala (province) Nadu (district) Kampana (sub-district/cluster) Bada (village). Royal women like Akkadevi held charges as governors over Nadus.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** The 12th century under the Western Chalukyas (and Kalachuris) saw the rise of the **Sharana movement / Veerashaivism** initiated by Basavanna, emphasizing social equality, rejection of caste barriers, and vernacular Vachana literature.

9. Which of the following statements regarding the Gadag style of architecture under the Western Chalukyas is/are correct?

1. Chloritic schist was used as the primary building material, allowing for extremely intricate lathe-turned pillars and delicate carving details.
2. Ground plans of temples frequently featured stellate layouts and stepped water tanks.
3. Prominent surviving examples of this style include the Mahadeva Temple at Itagi and the Kasi Vishveshvara Temple at Lakkundi.

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:(d)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Kalyani Chalukyas switched from hard sandstone to soft chloritic schist (soapstone), which enabled sculptors to carve fine ornamental details, intricate wall panels, and circular lathe-turned pillars.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Gadag style introduced stellate (star-shaped) shrine plans, multiple moldings, elaborate stepped wells (Pushkarnis), and decorative doorway frames.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Mahadeva Temple at Itagi (described in contemporary inscriptions as the "Emperor among Temples") and the Kasi Vishveshvara Temple at Lakkundi are defining masterpieces of the Western Chalukya architectural tradition.

10. Which of the following statements with regard to literature during the Western Chalukya period is/are correct?

1. Ranna, one of the 'Three Gems of Kannada Literature' (Ratnatraya), was patronized by Tailapa II and composed Gadayuddha.
2. Nagavarma II authored key Kannada works on grammar and poetics, including Kavyavalokana and Karnataka-Bhashabhushana.

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:** Ranna (along with Pampa and Ponna) forms the Kannada literary trinity. Patronized by Tailapa II and his successor Satyashraya, he composed Gadayuddha (recounting the duel between Bhima and Duryodhana) and Ajitha Purana.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Nagavarma II who served as the Katakacharya (poet laureate) of the Western Chalukya court, wrote Kavyavalokana (treatise on poetics) and Karnataka-Bhashabhushana (a Kannada grammar written in Sanskrit sutras).

Major Kingdoms of the Deccan

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

1. Rudradeva established Kakatiya rule after defeating Western Chalukya King and initiated the construction of the Warangal Fort.
2. Ganapati Deva shifted capital permanently from Hanamakonda to Warangal and developed Motupalli as a major international seaport.
3. Prataparudradeva II successfully repulsed all invasions of the Delhi Sultanate, maintaining Kakatiya independence until the mid-15th century.

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:** Rudradeva (Prataparudra I) threw off Western Chalukya allegiance by defeating Tailapa III, recorded in his Hanamakonda inscription. He constructed major irrigation works (Laknavaram, Ramappa tanks) and laid the foundation of the stone fort at Warangal.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Ganapati Deva expanded Kakatiya territory across coastal Andhra, shifted the capital to Warangal, and issued the famous Abhaya Shasana charter at Motupalli port to promote maritime foreign trade.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Prataparudradeva II faced multiple Delhi Sultanate invasions and was eventually defeated by Ulugh Khan (later Sultan Muhammad bin Tughlaq, during Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq's reign), ending independent Kakatiya rule.

2. Which of the following statements with regard to the Kakatiya polity and administrative system are correct?

1. Kakatiya administrative hierarchy was organized into Nadu, Sthala and Grama
2. Nayankara system broke traditional hereditary caste barriers by conferring land-revenue assignment rights on non-Brahmina military leaders.
3. Port Motupalli charged a heavy toll strictly on foreign vessels, while exempting domestic coastal shipping.

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:** The Kakatiya territorial administration was divided into Nadu (composed of several sthalas), Sthala (containing 10 to 20 villages), and individual self-governing villages (Grama).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Kakatiyas introduced the Nayankara system, assigning rights over land revenue to military commanders (Nayakas) regardless of traditional caste origins, fostering social mobility in military ranks.

- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** As documented in Ganapati Deva's Motupalli inscription, Sunkam (customs duty) was regulated uniformly on imports and exports to protect and incentivize all merchants from piracy and extortion, rather than discriminating against foreign vessels.

3. Which of the following statements with regard to Kakatiya religious patrons and temple architecture are correct?

1. Kakatiya rulers patronized Jainism before imperial patronage shifted predominantly to Pashupata Shaivism under Ganapati Deva.
2. Thousand Pillar Temple at Hanamakonda features a Trikutachala plan dedicated to Shiva, Vishnu, and Surya.
3. Ramappa Temple at Palampet was built entirely of dense black basalt blocks from its foundation to the topmost superstructure.

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:** The early Kakatiyas were adherents and patrons of Jainism (visible in sites like Sanigaram) before transitioning to Shaivism, particularly the Pashupata sect under Ganapati Deva.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Rudreshwara (Thousand Pillar) Temple at Hanamakonda is a Trikutachala shrine with three sanctums dedicated to Lord Shiva, Lord Vishnu, and Surya (the Sun God).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Ramappa Temple (UNESCO World Heritage Site) uses sandstone and granite for its platform, walls, and carved pillars, while its superstructure (shikhara) is made of light floating clay bricks (porous bricks that float on water to reduce weight on the foundation).

4. Which of the following statements with regard to Kakatiya art and literary works is/are correct?

1. Jayapa Senani authored the dance treatise Nritta Ratnavali in Sanskrit.
2. Sanskrit work Prataparudriya-Yashobhushana composed by Vidyanatha codify principles of poetics.

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:** Jayapa Senani (brother-in-law and general of Ganapati Deva) authored the classical Sanskrit manual Nritta Ratnavali detailing contemporary local (desi) and classical (marga) dance traditions.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Vidyanatha composed Prataparudriya-Yashobhushana (or Prataparudriya), a celebrated text on Sanskrit poetics and rhetoric using verses dedicated to his patron Prataparudra II.

5. Which of the following statements with regard to the Yadavas of Devagiri is/are correct?

1. Yadavas governed as feudatories of the Western Chalukyas before declaring independence under Bhillama V.

2. Yadava realm expanded uninterrupted, maintaining long-standing military alliances with the Hoysalas of Dwarasamudra and Kakatiyas of Warangal.

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:** Bhillama V (c. 1187 CE) asserted independence amidst the decline of the Western Chalukyas of Kalyani, establishing the capital at Devagiri (Daulatabad).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Deccan during this era was characterized by intense inter-dynastic rivalries. The Yadavas fought constant wars against their southern neighbors—the Hoysalas of Dwarasamudra and the Kakatiyas of Warangal—over territorial supremacy in the Krishna-Tungabhadra doab.

6. Which of the following statements regarding the key rulers of the Yadava Dynasty are correct?

1. Bhillama V established Devagiri as the imperial capital and adopted the title Chakravartin Yadava.
2. Simhana II expanded the Yadava empire to its greatest territorial extent, defeating both the Paramaras of Malwa and Hoysalas of Karnataka.
3. Ramachandra was defeated by Alauddin Khalji's general Malik Kafur and later agreed to pay tribute to the Delhi Sultanate.

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:(d)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Bhillama V founded Devagiri, established Yadava state power, and assumed imperial titles as recorded in his inscriptions (e.g., Mutugi inscription).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Under Simhana II, the dynasty reached its zenith through military conquests over Malwa, Gujarat (Solankis), and Karnataka (Hoysalas).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Ramachandra faced invasions by Alauddin Khalji in 1296 CE and later Malik Kafur in 1307/1308 CE, forcing him to pay tribute and assist Sultanate forces during campaigns further south.

7. Which of the following statements with regard to Yadava temple architecture is/are correct?

1. Gondeshwar Temple at Sinnar is example of the Bhumiya style arranged in a Panchayatan plan.
2. Yadava temples are built exclusively in the Southern Dravida style with tall tiered gopurams made of carved timber and terracotta bricks.
3. Principal shrine of the Gondeshwar Temple complex at Sinnar is dedicated to Lord Shiva.

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:** The Gondeshwar Temple at Sinnar (Nashik district, Maharashtra) is an exemplary Bhumiya variant of Nagara architecture laid out on a Panchayatana layout (central shrine surrounded by four corner subsidiary shrines).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Yadava architectural style (often termed Hemadpanti) belongs primarily to the Bhumiya/Nagara tradition, featuring stone-jointed masonry without mortar, miniature spire projections (urushringas), and pillared halls (mandapas).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The primary central shrine of the Gondeshwar complex houses a Shiva Linga, while the subsidiary shrines are dedicated to Vishnu, Ganesha, Surya, and Parvati.

8. Which of the following statements with regard to literature during the Yadava Period is/are correct?

1. Yadavas of Devagiri were the first major dynasty in Western India to adopt Marathi as an official administrative language alongside Sanskrit.
2. Mathematical and astronomical treatise Siddhanta Shiromani was composed by Bhaskaracharya during this period.

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 Yadavas gave court patronage to vernacular Marathi for administrative epigraphs and state documents alongside Sanskrit, aiding the literary works of Sant Dnyaneshwar (Dnyaneshwari) and Mukundaraja (Vivekasindhu).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The mathematician-astronomer Bhaskaracharya II (Bhaskara II) composed his masterwork Siddhanta Shiromani (divided into Lilavati, Bijaganita, Grahaganita, and Goladhyaya) in the 12th century under the Yadava regime.

9. Which of the following statements regarding the Kalachuris (Chedis) of Tripuri are correct?

1. Kalachuris ruled the Dahala-mandala region in central India with their primary capital located at Tripuri.
2. Founder Kokkala I established marital relations with the Chandella dynasty and allied with Rashtrakuta Krishna II.
3. Gangeya-deva assumed the title Trikalingadhipati and issued coins featuring a seated Lakshmi motif.
4. Lakshmi-Karna was defeated by Mahmud of Ghazni during his initial invasion of Central India.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer:(c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Kalachuri dynasty governed Dahala-mandala (the region around the Narmada valley) from their capital at Tripuri (Tewar, near Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Kokkala I married a Chandella princess and maintained diplomatic ties with the Rashtrakutas by aiding Krishna II in military campaigns.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Gangeya-deva assumed the title Trikalingadhipati after extending his power towards Orissa and introduced gold/silver coins featuring a four-armed cross-legged seated goddess Lakshmi.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** Lakshmi-Karna ruled after Mahmud of Ghazni's raids had ended; it was his father Gangeya-deva who dealt with the regional geopolitical aftermath of Ghaznavid invasions.

10. Which of the following statements with regard to Kalachuri art and architectural innovations is/are correct?

1. Kalachuri gold coins introduced Gaja-Lakshmi and seated Lakshmi iconography that was copied by later medieval dynasties.
2. Karna Temple built by Lakshmi-Karna at Amar Kantak features three separate shrines attached to a common platform facing different directions.
3. Kalachuri temple structures are built exclusively in the Dravidian pyramidal style with no Nagara 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:** Gangeya-deva's coin design—featuring a seated four-armed Lakshmi—became a standard numismatic archetype in Central and Northern India, later adopted by Paramara, Chandella, and Ghurid mints.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Karna Temple at Amarkantak (commissioned by Lakshmi-Karna) is a Triyatana shrine consisting of three garbhagrihas radiating around a central platform/hall.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Kalachuri architecture belongs to the Nagara tradition (specifically Central Indian Nagara variants with saptaratha projections and decorated shikharas), not the South Indian Dravida style.

Major Medieval Kingdoms of North India

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

1. Durlabhavardhana founded the Karkota dynasty, during whose reign the Chinese pilgrim Hsuan Tsang visited Kashmir.
2. King Lalitaditya Muktapida built the famous Martand Sun Temple and established Parihaspur as his capital city.

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:** Durlabhavardhana established the Karkota dynasty in Kashmir around the early 7th century CE. During his reign, the Chinese Buddhist monk Xuanzang spent two years in Kashmir studying Buddhist texts.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Lalitaditya Muktapida was the most formidable military ruler of the dynasty. He constructed the monumental Martand Sun Temple (dedicated to Surya) and created a grand new royal city called Parihaspur as the capital.

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

1. Avantivarman founded the Utpala dynasty, established the town of Avantipur as capital.
2. Works to prevent flooding from the Wular Lake were carried out under Avantivarman by his minister Suyya.
3. Queen Didda, belonging to the Karkota dynasty, ruled as a monarch and founded the town of Diddapura.

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: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Avantivarman founded the Utpala dynasty after the collapse of the Karkotas and built Avantipur (known for the Avantisvamin and Avantisvara temples).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Avantivarman's minister and engineer, Suyya, regulated the course of the Jhelum river and drained silt/excess waters from the Wular Lake, boosting agriculture across the Kashmir Valley.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Queen Didda belonged to the Lohara dynasty (born as a Lohara princess), not the Karkota dynasty. She initially ruled as regent for her son and grandsons before ruling as an independent monarch and founding Diddapura.

3. Which of the following statements regarding the Hindu Shahi and Kuluta kingdoms are correct?

1. Hindu Shahi dynasty ruled territories spanning eastern Afghanistan and the Punjab region.
2. King Jayapala immolated himself following his defeat against Mahmud of Ghazni at the Battle of Peshawar.
3. Anandapala successfully defeated Mahmud of Ghazni at the Battle of Waihind ending Ghaznavid raids in Northern India.
4. Kuluta functioned as a trans-regional trade link connecting the Northern Plains with the Higher Himalayas.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Hindu Shahi realm stretched across eastern Afghanistan, the Khyber Pass region, and the Punjab plains with capitals at Kabul and Und (Waihind).

- **Statement 2 is correct:** After his defeat at the First Battle of Peshawar against Mahmud of Ghazni, Jayapala considered his defeat a disgrace to his royal lineage and immolated himself on a funeral pyre.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Anandapala (Jayapala's son) was defeated by Mahmud of Ghazni at the Battle of Waihind despite forming a confederacy of Indian rulers, leading to the collapse of the Hindu Shahi defense buffer.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** Kuluta (Kulu valley in modern Himachal Pradesh) served as a critical trade and cultural corridor linking the Indo-Gangetic plains to Lahaul, Spiti, Ladakh, and Central Asia.

4. Which of the following statements with regard to the hill state of Champaka (Chamba) is/are correct?

1. Champaka was established near Ravi River and developed deep political ties with the Karkota and Lohara dynasties of Kashmir.
2. Chamba Rumal is a classical woodblock-printing craft tradition depicting geometric Islamic architectural patterns.

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:** Champaka (modern Chamba, Himachal Pradesh) is located in the upper valley of the Ravi River. Its rulers maintained close matrimonial, military, and cultural relationships with the Kashmir rulers (Karkotas and Loharas).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Chamba Rumal is a fine pictorial needlework/embroidery craft (not woodblock printing) that uses double-satin stitch (do-rukha) to depict themes from Hindu epics, primarily Krishna's Rasa-Lila, Gita Govinda, and Pahari court scenes.

5. Consider the following pairs:

Medieval Indian State	Present Region
1. Champaka	Central India
2. Durgara	Jammu
3. Kuluta	Malabar

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

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

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Pair 1 is incorrectly matched:** Champaka corresponds to the Chamba region in Himachal Pradesh (North India), not Central India.

- **Pair 2 is correctly matched:** Durgara is the historical origin of the Jammu region (the realm of the Dogras in Jammu & Kashmir).
- **Pair 3 is incorrectly matched:** Kuluta corresponds to the Kulu valley in Himachal Pradesh, not Malabar (which is along the coast of Kerala).

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

1. Pandyas occupied the southernmost region of the Indian peninsula, centered primarily in the Vaigai and Tamiraparni river valleys.
2. Ashoka's Rock Edict II mentions the Pandyas as an independent neighbor kingdom beyond the southern border of the Mauryan Empire.

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 core home of the Pandyas (Pandyamandalam) was situated in the fertile basins of the Vaigai (Madurai) and Tamiraparni (Tirunelveli/Korkai) rivers in southern Tamil Nadu.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Emperor Ashoka's Major Rock Edict II lists the border realms beyond his direct sovereign control, specifically naming the Cholas, Pandyas, Satyaputras, Keralaputras, and Tamraparni.

7. Which of the following statements with regard to the early/Sangam-era Pandya rulers are correct?

1. Nedunchezhiyan's military victory over Cheras, Cholas, and five velir chieftains is recorded in Sangam literature and the Mangulam inscription.
2. Mudukudumi Peruvazhuthi issued coins bearing his name to celebrate his performance of multiple Vedic sacrifices.
3. Pandyas used the Boar as their exclusive royal insignia on imperial coins and banners.

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: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Nedunchezhiyan won the historic Battle of Talaiyalanganam against a combined alliance of rivals. His reign and achievements are mentioned in Sangam works (Maduraikkanchi) and the Mangulam Tamil-Brahmi epigraphs.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Mudukudumi Peruvazhuthi was a early Sangam king noted for performing Vedic rituals; his sacrifices are commemorated in the 8th-century Velvikkudi copper plates, and he minted coins bearing his name.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The royal insignia of the Pandya dynasty was the Twin Fish (Kayal), not the Boar (which was the emblem of the Chalukyas and Vijayanagara emperors).

8. Which of the following statements regarding the first Pandyan revival are correct?

1. Kadungon restored Pandyan authority in late 6th century by ending the rule of Kalabhras.
2. Arikesari Maravarman was converted from Jainism to Shaivism under the influence of the Nayanar saint Thirugnanasambandar.
3. Jatila Parantaka Nedunjadayan issued the famous Velvikkudi copper-plate grant.
4. Parantaka I Chola was decisively defeated by Pandya King Rajasimha II, leading to the permanent expansion of the Pandyas into Cholamandalam.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Towards the close of the 6th century CE, Kadungon liberated the Pandya country by uprooting the dark-age rule of the Kalabhras.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Arikesari Maravarman (identified with Kun Pandian) was initially a patron/adherent of Jainism before being converted to Shaivism by the famous Nayanar saint Thirugnanasambandar.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Jatila Parantaka Nedunjadayan renewed an old land grant given to a Brahmin family through the historical Velvikkudi copper plates.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** The reverse occurred: Parantaka I Chola defeated Rajasimha II around 920 CE, forcing the Pandya king to flee to Sri Lanka and leading to the temporary eclipse of Pandyan independence under Chola domination.

9. Which of the following statements with regard to the Later Pandyas (1190–1310 CE) is/are correct?

1. Jatavarman expanded empire to its greatest extent by subjugating the Hoysalas, Cheras, and Kakatiyas, assuming title Eratlam Konda Perumal.
2. Maravarman Kulasekara Pandyan I brought a definitive end to the imperial Chola dynasty by annexing their remaining territories.
3. Pandyan Kingdom successfully repulsed the invasion of Malik Kafur, maintaining its territorial integrity intact.

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:** Jatavarman Sundarapandyan I (c. 1251–1268 CE) led the Later Pandya expansion, conquering the Hoysalas, Cholas, and Sri Lanka, earning imperial titles for bringing southern India under one umbrella.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Maravarman Kulasekara Pandyan I defeated Rajendra III Chola, formally ending Chola power and establishing complete dominance over South India.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Following a war of succession between Sundara Pandya and Vira Pandya, Malik Kafur (commander of Alauddin Khalji) invaded Madurai in 1311 CE, plundered the kingdom's

wealth and temples, and left the state weakened, leading to the creation of the short-lived Madurai Sultanate.

10. Which of the following statements with regard to the Pandyan administrative system is/are correct?

1. Kulakkil was a local administrative unit denoting agricultural lands situated directly beneath and irrigated by a specific water storage tank.
2. Tirumantira Olai was the designation given to the chief royal scribe who recorded oral orders issued by the Pandyan King.
3. Brahmin settlements established through royal grants were designated as Nagaram or Ur.

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:** Under the Pandyas, land management tied to water infrastructure introduced the administrative designation Kulakkil referring specifically to cultivated lands falling directly under the command area of an irrigation tank (Kulam).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The official royal scribe who drafted and transcribed the King's spoken decrees (Tirumugam) onto palm-leaf records was designated as the Tirumantira Olai.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Brahmin settlements created by land grants were designated as Chaturvedimangalam or Mangalam. Nagaram referred specifically to merchant/commercial settlements, while Ur was the general village assembly of non-Brahmin landholders.

Major Medieval Kingdoms

1. Who among the following rulers in ancient India assumed the royal titles Mattavilasa, Vichitrachitta and Gunabhara?

- (a) Mahendravarman I
- (b) Simhavishnu
- (c) Narasimhavarman I
- (d) Simhavarman

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Mahendravarman I:** A multi-faceted Pallava ruler, scholar, and artist who assumed several titles recorded in inscriptions:
 - Mattavilasa (Addicted to Pleasures), under which he composed the Sanskrit satirical play Mattavilasa Prahasanam.
 - Vichitrachitta (Curious-minded or Innovative), for pioneering rock-cut architecture without timber or mortar.
 - Gunabhara (Possessor of Virtues) and Chitrakarapuli (Tiger among Painters).

2. In the context of the history of ancient and early medieval India, consider the following pairs:

Term	Description
1. Eripatti	Land set apart, the revenue from which was reserved for the maintenance of the village tank
2. Taniyurs	Villages donated exclusively to a single Brahmin scholar or a collective group of Brahmins
3. Ghatikas	Educational institutions or colleges attached to prominent temples

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

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

Correct Answer:(d)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1 is correctly matched:** Eripatti (tank land) was a special category of land recognized in Tamil epigraphs. Revenue derived from it was earmarked for repairing, dredging, and maintaining village irrigation tanks.
- **Pair 2 is incorrectly matched:** Taniyurs were large autonomous administrative units (villages or towns) independent of local Nadu oversight. Villages granted to Brahmins were designated as Brahmadeya or Agrahara (or Chaturvedimangalam).
- **Pair 3 is correctly matched:** Ghatikas were centers of higher learning and Vedic education during the Pallava period, often attached to temples (such as the famous Ghatika at Kanchipuram).

3. Which of the following statements with regard to the geopolitical extent and historical sources of the Pallava Dynasty is/are correct?

1. Pallavas ruled over Tondaimandalam with their sovereign capital at Kanchipuram.
2. Royal insignia of the Pallava dynasty was the Bull.
3. Sanskrit satirical play Mattavilasa Prahasanam was authored by Narasimhavarman I to praise the Kapalika and Pasupata sects.
4. Chinese pilgrim Hiuen Tsang visited Kanchipuram during the 7th century CE.

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 core area of Pallava rule was Tondaimandalam (northern Tamil Nadu and adjacent Andhra districts) with its capital at Kanchipuram.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The official dynastic emblem depicted on Pallava seals, banners, and coins was the Bull (Nandi).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Mattavilasa Prahasanam was written by Mahendravarman I (not Narasimhavarman I). Far from praising them, the play satirized and ridiculed the contemporary degenerated practices of the Kapalika, Pasupata, and Buddhist sects.

- **Statement 4 is correct:** Xuanzang visited Kanchipuram around 640 CE during the reign of Narasimhavarman I and recorded its flourishing educational institutions and monasteries.

4. Which of the following statements regarding the rulers of the Pallava Dynasty are correct?

1. Shivaskandavarman performed Agnistoma, Vajapeya, and Ashvamedha sacrifices recorded in Hirahadagalli copper plates.
2. Simhavishnu established imperial Pallava power by defeating Kalabhras and extending his territory up to the Kaveri River.
3. Narasimhavarman I assumed the title Vatapikonda after defeating and killing Western Chalukya King Pulakeshin II at Vatapi.
4. Aparajita Pallava was killed in battle by Chola King Aditya I, leading to the annexation of Tondaimandalam and the end of Pallava dynastic rule.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer:(c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Early ruler Shivaskandavarman performed Vedic rituals (Ashvamedha, Vajapeya) to assert sovereign status, recorded in the Hirahadagalli plates.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Simhavishnu titled Avanisimha, ended the political darkness of the Kalabhra interregnum and expanded Pallava sway to the Kaveri delta.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Narasimhavarman I (Mahamalla) avenged his father Mahendravarman's earlier defeat by storming the Chalukya capital Vatapi, killing Pulakeshin II, and adopting the title Vatapikonda (Conqueror of Vatapi).
- **Statement 4 is correct:** The line of imperial Pallavas ended when Aditya I Chola defeated and killed Aparajita around 893 CE, absorbing the Pallava domain into the emerging Chola Empire.

5. Which of the following statements with regard to Pallava administration and land revenue units are correct?

1. Pallava kingdom was hierarchically divided into administrative tiers: Mandalam, Nadu, Sthala and Grama.
2. Officer designated as Rahasyadhikrita served as the Royal Treasurer in charge of state mints and taxation stores.
3. Sabha represented the assembly of landowning Brahmins in Brahmadeya villages, whereas Urar represented the non-Brahmin village assembly.

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:** Territorial administration followed the sequence: Mandalam Nadu Sthala Grama.

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Rahasyadhikrita was the King's Private Secretary / Confidential Officer who drafted confidential royal orders. The Royal Treasurer was designated as the Manikkappandaram-Kappan.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Sabha (or Mahasabha) was the corporate assembly governing Brahminical Brahmadeya settlements, while the Ur (members called Urar) was the general assembly of traditional tax-paying peasants in non-Brahmadeya villages.

6. Which of the following statements with regard to society and maritime commerce under the Pallavas is/are correct?

1. Maritime and overland trade was organized by merchant guilds like Manigramam, Nanadesi, and Ainurruvar.
2. Pallava period witnessed a revival of Jainism and Buddhism through patronage from the Bhakti Nayanar and Alvar saints.

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:** Autonomous corporate merchant bodies—including Manigramam, Nanadesi, Sudeasi, and Ainurruvar (the Five Hundred)—conducted long-distance overland and maritime trade across Southeast Asia.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Tamil Bhakti movement led by the Shaivite Nayanars (e.g., Appar, Sambandar) and Vaishnavite Alvars led to the decline and marginalization of Buddhism and Jainism in the Tamil country, converting kings like Mahendravarman I to Shaivism.

7. Which of the following statements with regard to the Mahendra Group of Pallava rock-cut architecture are correct?

1. Mahendra style is characterized by rock-cut pillared halls (Mandapas) without structural Vimanas or freestanding towers.
2. Pillars in Mahendra style caves feature heavy square shafts at the top and bottom with an octagonal section in the middle.
3. Famous Lalitankuresvara rock-cut cave temple at Tiruchirapalli belongs to the Mahendra Group of architecture.

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:** The First Phase (Mahendra Group, c. 600–630 CE) excavated solid rock to form pillared halls (Mandapas). These lacked structural vimanas (towers) or mortar.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Pillars of this style are robust and plain: heavy cubical blocks at the base and top (Saduram) separated by an octagonal chamfered middle section (Kattu).

- **Statement 3 is correct:** Key examples include Mandagapattu (where Mahendravarman's inscription boasts of creating a shrine without brick, timber, or mortar), Mahendravadi, Mamandur, Vallam, and the Lalitankuresvara Cave Temple at Tiruchirapalli.

8. Which of the following statements with regard to the Mamalla Phase of Pallava art are correct?

1. Pillars in the Mamalla style frequently incorporate squatting lions at their bases as a decorative and structural element.
2. Pancha Rathas at Mahabalipuram with the Dharmaraja Ratha being the largest and Draupadi Ratha being the smallest.
3. The open-air bas-relief sculpture at Mahabalipuram depicting Arjuna's Penance was executed entirely during the late Chola period.

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 Second Phase (Mamalla Group under Narasimhavarman I) introduced elegant pillars supported by base elements sculpted in the shape of seated/squatting lions (Simhavyala).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Five Monolithic Shrines (Pancha Rathas) at Mamallapuram are sculpted out of standing granite outcroppings. The Dharmaraja Ratha (tritala/three-storeyed) is the largest, while the simple hut-like Draupadi Ratha is the smallest.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The giant open-air rock wall relief depicting Arjuna's Penance / Descent of the Ganga is a masterwork created during the Pallava period under Narasimhavarman I (Mamalla), not the Chola era.

9. Which of the following statements regarding the structural temple architectural phases of the Pallavas are correct?

1. Rajasimha Group marked transition from rock-cut shrines to free-standing structural stone temples.
2. Shore Temple and the Kailasanatha Temple are primary monuments of the Rajasimha style.
3. Vaikuntaperumal Temple belongs to the Nandivarman Group and features detailed sculptural panels depicting Pallava history.
4. Nandivarman Group represents the largest and most monumental temple structures of the Pallava Empire, outsizing all Chola structures that followed.

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:** The Third Phase (Rajasimha Group under Narasimhavarman II / Rajasimha) abandoned cave excavation in favor of structural stone architecture using dressed stone blocks and mortar.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** Key masterpieces of the Rajasimha Group include the Shore Temple at Mamallapuram and the grand Kailasanatha Temple at Kanchipuram.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Fourth Phase (Nandivarman Group) includes the Vaikuntaperumal Temple at Kanchipuram, celebrated for its historical bas-relief panels depicting the dynastic succession, military victories, and coronation of Nandivarman II.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** The Nandivarman Phase actually saw a trend toward smaller, scaled-down structural models (e.g., Mukteshwara and Matangeshwara temples at Kanchi) rather than mega-structures. It was the later Cholas who built monumental multi-storeyed temples like the Brihadisvara Temple at Thanjavur.

10. Which of the following statements with regard to Pallava administration and institutional polity are correct?

1. Devadana grants referred to tax-free lands or whole villages donated exclusively for upkeep and ritual activities of Hindu temples.
2. Administrative official designated as Dharmadhikarins served as royal judicial officers enforcing legal custom and state justice.
3. Kodukkappillai held the position of commander-in-chief of the Pallava imperial naval fleet stationed at Mahabalipuram.

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: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** In Pallava land revenue administration, Devadana (or Tirunamattukkani) lands were revenue-exempt land holdings or entire villages granted to temples to support daily rituals, priest maintenance, and temple repairs.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Dharmadhikarins were judges and legal officers appointed by the central Pallava state to oversee courts of justice and settle civil and religious disputes.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Kodukkappillai was the designated officer of gifts and royal benefactions (in charge of registering and distributing state gifts and land grant charters), not a naval admiral.

Bhakti and Sufi Movement

1. Which one of the following statements correctly represents the core teachings of Sri Ramanujacharya?

- (a) The ultimate means to achieve salvation is intense loving devotion to Lord Vishnu.
- (b) The Vedas are self-existent, eternal, and the sole empirical tool for logical debate.
- (c) Logical arguments and intellectual reasoning are essential means for attaining the highest bliss.
- (d) Salvation can be obtained exclusively through solitary yogic meditation and asceticism.

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Core Philosophy:** Sri Ramanujacharya (1017–1137), the proponent of Vishishtadvaita (Qualified Monism), taught that the individual soul (jiva) and the universe (jagat) are distinct yet real modes/body of the Supreme Being (Brahman / Vishnu).
- **Path to Salvation:** He emphasized that while karma and jnana prepare the mind, Bhakti (loving devotion) and Prapatti (total surrender to God) are the highest and most effective means to attain liberation (moksha).

2. Consider the following statements:

1. Saint Nimbarka lived during the 12th century, making him a contemporary of the Mughal Emperor Akbar.
2. Saint Kabir was a spiritual disciple and contemporary of the 17th-century Naqshbandi Sufi scholar Shaikh Ahmad Sirhindi.

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: (d)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Saint Nimbarka (proponent of Dvaitadvaita or Dualistic Non-Dualism) lived during the 12th–13th century CE, whereas Emperor Akbar ruled much later in the 16th century (1556–1605 CE).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Saint Kabir lived in the 15th century CE, whereas Shaikh Ahmad Sirhindi lived in the late 16th and early 17th centuries. Kabir was spiritually associated with Swami Ramananda, not Shaikh Ahmad Sirhindi.

3. With reference to the cultural history of India, consider the following statements:

1. Majority of Tyagaraja's devotional compositions were written in praise of Lord Rama.
2. Tyagaraja composed numerous new ragas and structural forms in Carnatic music.
3. Tallapaka Annamacharya and Tyagaraja were exact contemporaries who composed music together at Tirumala.
4. Annamacharya's sankirtanas are devotional compositions written primarily in praise of Lord Venkateshwara.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Saint Tyagaraja (1767–1847) was an ardent devotee of Lord Rama, and the vast majority of his kritis are addressed to Him.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Tyagaraja was a prolific innovator in Carnatic music who created several new ragas (e.g., Kharaharapriya, Harikambhoji scales) and popularized the Kriti format.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** They lived centuries apart. Annamacharya lived in the 15th century, whereas Tyagaraja lived in the 18th–19th century.

- **Statement 4 is correct:** Annamacharya (known as Sankirtana Acharya) composed thousands of devotional kirtanas dedicated to Lord Venkateshwara of Tirumala.

4. With reference to medieval Indian socio-religious movements, consider the following statements:

1. Sittars of the Tamil region were monotheistic mystics who rejected idol worship and rigid social orthodoxy.
2. Lingayats of Kannada region questioned the theory of rebirth and opposed Brahminical caste hierarchy.

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 Tamil Siddhars (Sittars) were monotheistic, anti-caste mystics who strongly condemned idol worship, ritualism, and temple-centric orthodoxy, emphasizing inner yogic realization.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Lingayats (founded by Basavanna in 12th-century Karnataka) explicitly rejected caste discrimination, Brahminical supremacy, ritual pollution, and the doctrine of rebirth—believing that upon death, a devotee merges directly with Shiva.

5. Consider the following statements:

1. Bijak is primary compilation containing poetic teachings and verses of Saint Dadu Dayal.
2. Philosophical doctrine of Pushti Marg was propounded by Madhvacharya.

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: (d)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Bijak is the best-known compilation of the verses and teachings of **Saint Kabir** (preserved by the Kabir Panth). Dadu Dayal's teachings are collected in the Dadu Anubhav Vani.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The philosophy of Pushti Marg was propounded by Vallabhacharya (proponent of Shuddhadvaita). Madhvacharya propounded the school of Dvaita (Unqualified Dualism).

6. Consider the following Bhakti saints:

1. Dadu Dayal
2. Guru Nanak
3. Tyagaraja

Which among the saints listed above was/were actively preaching when the Lodi Dynasty fell and Babur established Mughal rule?

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Guru Nanak (1469–1539 CE):** Was an active contemporary of Ibrahim Lodi and Babur. He witnessed Babur's invasions firsthand and described the historical turmoil in his compositions (Babarvani).
- **Dadu Dayal (1544–1603 CE):** Lived during the reign of Akbar in the late 16th century.
- **Tyagaraja (1767–1847 CE):** Lived much later in the 18th and 19th centuries during the British colonial period.

7. With reference to the cultural history of Southern India, consider the following statements:

1. Andal is the only female saint among the twelve Alvars and composed the devotional work Tiruppavai.
2. Complete canonical collection of Alvar hymns is compiled in the Nalayira Divya Prabandham, often called the Tamil Veda.
3. Nammalvar is traditionally regarded as one of the most prominent Alvar poet-saints.
4. Alvars were devout Shaivite saints who dedicated their compositions exclusively to Lord Shiva.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Andal (often called the Meera of the South) is the sole female saint among the 12 Alvars. She authored Tiruppavai and Nachiyar Tirumoli.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Nalayira Divya Prabandham (4,000 sacred verses) was compiled by Nathamuni and is revered as the Tamil Veda.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Nammalvar is considered the most prominent Alvar saint; his work Tiruvaymoli forms a core component of the canon.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** The 12 Alvars were devout Vaishnava saints devoted to Lord Vishnu/Krishna. (It was the 63 Nayanars who were devoted to Lord Shiva).

8. Consider the following statements:

1. The canonical collection of hymns composed by the trio Appar, Sambandar, and Sundarar is compiled in the Tevaram.
2. Karaikkal Ammeiyar was a prominent female Nayanar saint who embraced extreme asceticism in her devotion to Lord Shiva.

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 Tevaram constitutes the first seven volumes of the Tirumurai (Shaivite canon) and consists of devotional hymns composed by the three primary Nayanar saints: Appar, Sambandar, and Sundarar.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** Karaikkal Ammeiyar was one of the three female saints among the 63 Nayanars. She discarded her physical beauty, adopted an emaciated, skeletal form, and walked on her hands to perform extreme ascetic devotion for Lord Shiva at Mount Kailash.

9. Consider the following statements regarding the 12th-century Virashaiva movement:

1. Basavanna established the Anubhava Mantapa in Kalyani as an open assembly for socio-philosophical discussions.
2. Lingayats wear a small linga suspended around the neck or shoulder in a silver/cloth amulet.
3. Lingayat tradition practices the burial of deceased devotees rather than cremation, believing the dead merge directly with Shiva.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Basavanna founded the Anubhava Mantapa, an egalitarian spiritual academy where men and women of all social castes gathered to debate philosophy and write Vachanas.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** A defining feature of Virashaivism is wearing the Ishtalinga directly on the body in a silver capsule or cloth pouch.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Lingayats bury their dead in a seated posture (Samadhi style) without undergoing pollution rituals, believing the departed soul immediately unites with Lord Shiva (Aikya), making cremation unnecessary.

10. With reference to the contrast between the Tamil Siddhar tradition and classical Vedic practices, consider the following statements:

1. Siddhars emphasized internal yogic channels, pulse diagnosis, and alchemy, whereas early Vedic ritualism focused on external yagnas and sacrifices.
2. Siddhars completely rejected the authority of hereditary caste hierarchies, whereas classical Vedic society developed around the Varna framework.
3. Siddhars authored their treatise texts exclusively in classical Sanskrit to maintain ritual exclusivity among medical practitioners.

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: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Tamil Siddhars pioneered indigenous medicine (Siddha system), pulse examination (Naadi), internal Kundalini yoga, and alchemy (Rasa Vadam), contrasting with early Vedic external altar rituals.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Siddhar poetry contains fierce critiques of social inequalities, caste divides, and ritual purity conventions.

- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Siddhars wrote intentionally in colloquial, accessible Tamil (Demotic Tamil) and metaphorical vernacular verse (Siddhar Padalgal) to reach common people and democratize knowledge, explicitly avoiding elite Sanskrit exclusivity.