

ForumIAS

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Prelims Marathon

4th week, September 2026

HISTORY
ECONOMICS
POLITY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT

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Indo-Greeks-II

1. Which of the following statements with regard to the early Kushana rulers is/are correct?

1. Kushanas originated as one of the five constituent clans of the nomadic Yuezhi tribe in Central Asia.
2. Kujula Kadphises consolidated the Yuezhi tribes and minted gold coins featuring images of Lord Shiva.
3. Vima Kadphises expanded Kushana territory east of the River Indus and introduced gold coinage bearing the title Maheshvara.

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)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Kushanas were a branch of the Yuezhi (Tocharian) nomadic confederation driven out of China. They occupied Bactria, where the Kushana clan under Kujula Kadphises unified the five principalities (Xihou).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Kujula Kadphises (Kadphises I) issued Roman-style copper coins with Buddhist symbols and titles such as Dharmathida (steadfast in faith). It was Vima Kadphises, not Kujula, who introduced high-purity gold coinage depicting Lord Shiva.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Vima Kadphises (Kadphises II) extended Kushana dominion across the northwestern Indian subcontinent and was an ardent devotee of Lord Shiva, taking titles like Maheshvara and Sarvalokaisvara (Lord of the Whole World) on his coins.

2. Which of the following statements regarding Emperor Kanishka I are correct?

1. Kanishka I ascended the throne, marking the epoch of the Shaka Era officially used by the Government of India.
2. Empire of Kanishka I extended from Central Asia across the Gangetic plains as far east as Varanasi.
3. Kanishka I established Taxila as his primary imperial capital and Ujjain as his secondary capital.
4. According to Kalhana's Rajatarangini, Kanishka I conquered and held authority over Kashmir.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The ascension of Kanishka I in 78 CE marks the commencement of the Shaka Era (Saka Samvat), adopted as the Indian National Calendar in 1957.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Inscriptions and coin hoards confirm that Kanishka's domain encompassed Bactria, Gandhara, Kashmir, Mathura, and extended along the Gangetic plains up to Varanasi and Sravasti.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Kanishka's primary capital was Purushapura (modern Peshawar), and his secondary capital was Mathura (not Taxila or Ujjain).
- **Statement 4 is correct:** Kalhana's historical chronicle Rajatarangini explicitly credits Kanishka (along with Hushka and Jushka) with establishing cities and ruling over Kashmir.

3. Which of the following statements with regard to the Rabatak Inscription is/are correct?

1. Rabatak Inscription is a 23-line rock record composed in the Bactrian language using the Greek script.
2. It provides a detailed royal genealogy of Kanishka I, tracing his lineage back to Kujula Kadphises.
3. The inscription was discovered in the Gandhara region near Rawalpindi, Pakistan.

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)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Discovered in 1993, the Rabatak inscription is carved in the Bactrian language (an Eastern Iranian language) written using Greek characters.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The text explicitly lists Kanishka's imperial predecessors in chronological sequence: Kujula Kadphises (great-grandfather), Vima Taktu (grandfather), and Vima Kadphises (father).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The inscription was found at Rabatak, near Surkh Kotal in Baghlan Province, Afghanistan, not near Rawalpindi in Pakistan.

4. Which of the following statements regarding Kushana governance and religious policy are correct?

1. Kushana emperors adopted the title Devaputra modeled after Chinese imperial tradition.
2. Kanishka I convened the Fourth Buddhist Council at Kundalavana in Kashmir, presided over by Vasumitra.
3. Ashvaghosha, the author of the epic Sanskrit biography Buddhacharita, served as a court scholar under Kanishka I.
4. Kushana coinage exclusively depicted Buddhist deities, strictly excluding Vedic, Iranian, and Greek gods.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Kushana rulers assumed divine titles like Devaputra (Son of God) to legitimize their monarchical power, influenced by the Chinese concept of the Son of Heaven.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Fourth Buddhist Council met at Kundalavana (Kashmir) under Kanishka's patronage. Presided over by Vasumitra with Ashvaghosha as vice-president, it codified Mahayana doctrines and produced the Mahavibhasha Shastra.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Ashvaghosha was a key literary figure in Kanishka's court, writing pioneering Classical Sanskrit works including Buddhacharita, Saundarananda, and Sariputraprakarana.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** Kushana coins are celebrated for their religious eclecticism, displaying a wide range of deities including Greek (Helios, Selene), Iranian/Zoroastrian (Mithra, Athsho), Hindu (Shiva, Skanda), and Buddhist figures.

5. Which of the following statements with regard to economy and science during the Kushana period is/are correct?

1. Kushanas controlled major segments of the Silk Road, deriving revenue through transit tolls and long-distance trade with the Roman Empire.
2. Charaka, who authored and revised key portions of the foundational Ayurvedic medical text Charaka Samhita, was attached to the court of Kanishka I.
3. The gold coins issued by the Kushana empire were lower in metallic purity compared to the coins of the later Gupta Empire.

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)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Controlling trade routes linking China, Central Asia, India, and the West, the Kushanas prospered as key intermediaries along the Silk Road network, facilitating trade with Rome.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Charaka, revered as a founding authority in Indian medicine (Ayurveda), served as the court physician (Rajavaidya) to Emperor Kanishka I.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Kushana gold coins (Dinaras) maintained a higher gold purity percentage than Gupta gold coins, which saw a progressive increase in alloy content in later reigns.

6. Which ancient city served as a primary hub for Kushana monumentality, where Kanishka I constructed a monumental relic stupa praised by Chinese pilgrims?

- (a) Purushapura
- (b) Mathura
- (c) Taxila
- (d) Sravasti

Correct Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- Purushapura (modern Peshawar) was Kanishka's principal capital. He built a multi-tiered wooden stupa there to house sacred relics of the Buddha. Chinese pilgrims like Faxian and Xuanzang documented its grandeur, and its base was excavated at Shah-ji-ki-Dheri, yielding the famous bronze Kanishka Relic Casket.

7. The practice of military governorship was first introduced in India by the:

- (a) Shakas
- (b) Parthians
- (c) Mughals
- (d) Greeks

Correct Answer: (d)

Detailed Explanation:

- The Greeks (Indo-Greeks) were the first to introduce the institution of military governorship in India. They appointed administrative-military heads termed Strategos to govern newly annexed provinces and maintain garrison control.

8. In which one of the following regions was Dhanyakataka, which flourished as a prominent Buddhist centre under the Mahasanghikas, located?

- (a) Gandhara
- (b) Kalinga
- (c) Magadha
- (d) Andhra

Correct Answer: (d)

Detailed Explanation:

- Dhanyakataka (modern Dharanikota / Amaravati in the Guntur district) was located in the Andhra region along the lower Krishna River. It served as an administrative center for the Satavahanas and a major stronghold of the Mahasanghika Buddhist sect (specifically the Chaityaka school), famous for the Amaravati Stupa.

9. Which of the following statements regarding the three ancient Sangam academies and their literary legacy is/are correct?

1. All three Sangam academies were convened at the ancient capital city of Kapadapuram under the patronage of the Chola monarchs.
2. The Tolkappiyam, authored by Tolkappiyar, is the sole surviving literary work attributed to the Second Sangam.
3. No literary works from the First Sangam have survived, as tradition holds that its texts were lost along with its original seat of assembly.

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: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Sangams flourished under the royal patronage of the Pandya kings, not the Cholas. Furthermore, the First and Third Sangams were held at Madurai, while only the Second Sangam was convened at Kapadapuram.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Out of the extensive literature traditionally associated with the Second Sangam at Kapadapuram, only the Tamil grammatical treatise Tolkappiyam has survived to the present day.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The First Sangam (Muthal Sangam), traditionally believed to have been attended by gods and legendary sages like Agastya, left behind no surviving literary texts.

10. Which of the following statements regarding the structural classification and themes of Sangam literature are correct?

1. Patinenmelkanakku collection represents the oldest surviving stratum of Tamil poetry.
2. Patinenkilkanakku comprises eighteen post-Sangam works that focus mainly on ethics and moral codes, including texts like the Thirukkural and Naladiyar.
3. Tamil poetry, Aham deals with public human experiences such as statecraft, and social ethics.
4. Puram focuses on abstract inner emotions and personal human relationships.

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, 2, 3 and 4

Correct Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Patinenmelkanakku (Eighteen Major Works), comprising the Ettuthokai (Eight Anthologies) and Pattupattu (Ten Idylls), constitutes the earliest extant body of Tamil heroic poetry.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Patinenkilkanakku (Eighteen Minor Works) belongs mostly to the post-Sangam period and is predominantly didactic, housing famous moral compositions such as Thiruvalluvar's Thirukkural, Palamoli, and Naladiyar.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Aham (Inner) deals with personal, subjective human emotions, specifically love, intimacy, and domestic life not public affairs or heroism.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** Puram (Outer) deals with external, objective aspects of human life, such as warfare, royal genealogy, heroism, social ethics, and philanthropy. Statements 3 and 4 swap the definitions of Aham and Puram.

Sangama Age

1. Which of the following statements with regard to the Megalithic culture in India is/are correct?

1. Megalithic Age served as the protohistoric foundation that preceded and transitioned into early historic Tamilakam.
2. Megalithic sites in India are restricted to the peninsular state of Tamil Nadu.

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 Megalithic culture of South India laid the material and technological foundations (especially iron usage and agrarian settlements) for the Sangam Age, making it the recognized protohistoric phase of South India.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Megalithic sites are spread extensively across South and Central India, including Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Maharashtra, as well as parts of North-East and North India (e.g., Kashmir, Vindhyan region).

2. Consider the following pairs:

Archeological Site	Architectural Feature
1. Adichanallur	Urn burials with iron grave goods
2. Brahmagiri	Cists and stone circles

3. Burzahom	Megalithic menhirs and pit dwellings
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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:** Adichanallur (Tamil Nadu) is an extensive urn-burial (Thazhi) Megalithic site yielding iron weapons, bronze objects, and Black and Red Ware pottery.
- **Pair 2 is correctly matched:** Brahmagiri (Karnataka) is a prominent Megalithic site known for cist graves surrounded by stone circles, documented by Sir Mortimer Wheeler.
- **Pair 3 is correctly matched:** Burzahom (Kashmir) features Neolithic pit dwellings as well as later Megalithic standing stones (menhirs).

3. With reference to the material culture of the Megalithic people of South India which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Megalithic people extensively used iron tools and iron ploughshares, whereas the Indus Valley people did not possess iron technology.
2. Megalithic burials show evidence of horse trappings and equine domestication, whereas the Harappan civilization was not.
3. Megalithic sites are characterized by Black and Red Ware (BRW) pottery, whereas the Indus Valley civilization relied on NBPW.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Megalithic culture belonged to the Iron Age, featuring widespread iron metallurgy (sickles, axes, swords). The Indus Valley Civilization was a Bronze Age culture and had no knowledge of iron.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Megalithic graves frequently yield horse bits, iron stirrups, and equine skeletal remains. In contrast, the Harappan culture shows no widespread evidence of horse domestication or equine warfare equipment.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Black and Red Ware (BRW) is indeed characteristic of the Megalithic culture. However, Harappans used Red Ware with black painted designs (Black-on-Red Ware). Northern Black Polished Ware (NBPW) belongs to the Second Urbanization phase of Northern India (c. 600–200 BCE), not the Indus Valley Civilization.

4. Consider the following information:

Archaeological Site	State	Description
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1. Chandraketugarh	West Bengal	Terracotta art and riverine trading center
2. Inamgaon	Maharashtra	Chalcolithic farming settlement
3. Mangadu	Kerala	Megalithic urn burial site
4. Salihundam	Andhra Pradesh	Prominent Buddhist site on the Vamsadhara River

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

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Row 1 is correctly matched:** Chandraketugarh is in West Bengal (Ganges delta region), renowned for fine Mauryan and Sunga terracotta figurines and riverine commerce.
- **Row 2 is correctly matched:** Inamgaon is a major Chalcolithic site on the Ghod River in Maharashtra, displaying house structures, burial practices, and agrarian remnants.
- **Row 3 is correctly matched:** Mangadu is a well-known Megalithic site in Kollam district, Kerala, yielding iron artifacts and pottery inside urn burials.
- **Row 4 is correctly matched:** Salihundam is a major hillock Buddhist site in Srikakulam district, Andhra Pradesh, situated near the banks of the Vamsadhara River.

5. Which of the following statements with regard to the Palai landscape in Sangam literature is/are correct?

- 1. Palai eco-zone represents arid tracts, symbolizing themes of hardship, unfaithfulness, and elopement.
- 2. Presiding deity of the Palai region was Mayon, worshipped as the protector of pastoral communities.

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:** In the Athinai system, Palai represents dry, parched lands where the primary occupations were highway robbery and cattle lifting, symbolizing distress and separation/elopement.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The presiding deity of Palai was Korravai (the goddess of war and victory). Mayon (Vishnu) was the presiding deity of the Mullai (pastoral/forest) landscape.

6. Which of the following statements with regard to the Sangam Tinai eco-zones is/are correct?

- 1. Kurinji represents the mountainous region associated with secret love affairs and the worship of Murugan.
- 2. Marudham represents the fertile agricultural plains associated with domestic life, prosperity, and the deity Indra.

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:** Kurinji signifies the hilly, forested terrain. Its dominant theme is Punardal (secret union of lovers), and its presiding deity is Murugan (Seyon).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Marudham denotes irrigated river valleys and agrarian fields. Its theme revolves around Udal (sulking and marital discord/reconciliation), and its deity is Vendan/Indra (god of rain and abundance).

7. With reference to the political structure of early historic Tamilakam, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Three crowned kings Cheras, Cholas, and Pandyas exercised supreme authority over the whole of Tamilakam, eliminating minor chieftains.
2. Sangam monarchs took elevated titles such as Vendhan, Ko, and Iraivan, reflecting tendencies toward divine kingship.
3. Muvendar maintained active maritime commercial contacts with the Mediterranean world and military conflicts with Sri Lanka.

Select the correct 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: (b)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is incorrect: The Muvendar did not eliminate local lineage rulers. A prominent class of minor chieftains known as Velirs (e.g., Pari, Adiyaman) held considerable administrative and territorial power, often balancing alliances between the three major crowns.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Kings were addressed using royal titles like Vendhan (crowned king), Ko (king/god), and Iraivan (sovereign/divine protector), showing royal sacralization.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Sangam texts and Roman coin hoards testify to active Indo-Roman trade at western and eastern ports. Military campaigns between Tamil kingdoms and northern Sri Lanka are documented in indigenous Tamil works and Sri Lankan chronicles like the Mahavamsa.

8. With reference to the Chera kingdom of the Sangam Age, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Cheran Senguttuvan is credited with establishing the Pattini cult dedicated to the worship of Kannagi as the ideal of chastity.
2. Chera kingdom was headquartered at Uraiyur, with Puhar serving as its primary sea outlet on the Bay of Bengal.
3. The classic Tamil epic Silappadikaram was composed by Ilango Adigal, who was traditionally regarded as the brother of Cheran Senguttuvan.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Cheran Senguttuvan (the "Red Chera") is famous for introducing the worship of Kannagi (Pattini cult) and conducting a northern expedition to bring stones from the Himalayas to carve her idol.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The capital of the Cheras was Vanji (Karuvur), and their major ports were Musiri (Muziris) and Tondi on the Arabian Sea coast. Uraiur and Puhar were the capital and port of the Cholas, not the Cheras.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Silappadikaram was authored by Prince Ilango Adigal, identified in traditional accounts as the brother of Cheran Senguttuvan.

9. With reference to the Chola kingdom of the Sangam Age, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Karikala Chola established his supremacy over rival powers by defeating a coalition of Cheras, Pandyas, and eleven minor chieftains at the Battle of Venni.
2. Karikala Chola built the Kallanai (Grand Anicut) across the Kaveri River, one of the earliest water-diversion structures for irrigation in India.
3. Pugalur inscription found near Karur records three generations of early Chola kings.

Select the correct 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 Battle of Venni was a major military victory where Karikala defeated the combined armies of the Chera king, the Pandya king, and eleven Velir chieftains, consolidating Chola hegemony over the Kaveri delta.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Karikala Chola is credited with building flood embankments along the Kaveri River and constructing the Kallanai Dam (Grand Anicut) to divert water for agricultural irrigation in Cholamandalam.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The 1st-century CE Pugalur inscription (near Karur) refers to three generations of Chera rulers (Ko Athan Cheral Irumporai, Perum Cheral Irumporai, and Elango Irumporai), not Chola rulers.

10. With reference to the Pandya kingdom of the Sangam Age, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. King Nedunchezhiyan defeat combined coalition of Cheras, Cholas, and five chieftains at the Battle of Talaiyalanganam.
2. Port of Korkai, in the Pandya territory, was internationally renowned for its pearl fishery and Indo-Roman trade.
3. Literary tradition of the Pandyas shows absence of agricultural irrigation, relying exclusively on rainfed dryland farming.

Select the correct 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:** Nedunchezhiyan (known as Talaiyalanganathu Seruvendra Pandyan) achieved a major victory at Talaiyalanganam against the joint forces of the two rival crowns (Chera and Chola) and five Velir chieftains.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Korkai (at the mouth of the Tamraparni River) was the primary port of the Pandyas, famous for its rich pearl fisheries mentioned in both indigenous Sangam poems and foreign classical accounts (such as the Periplus of the Erythraean Sea).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Sangam literature and archaeological evidence document the construct of irrigation tanks, sluices, and canals (Kavin) in the Pandya realm to foster paddy cultivation along the Tamraparni and Vaigai river basins.

Sangam Age-II

1. Which of the following statements regarding the political structure and administrative bodies of the Sangam Age kingdoms are correct?

1. Kingdoms of the Sangam Age functioned under hereditary monarchies, where rulers assumed titles like Vendhan.
2. King held absolute powers without any advisory bodies or ministerial assistance.
3. Aimperunguzhu was a five-member ministerial cabinet that managed key administrative affairs.
4. Perayam was an eight-member council of elders that assisted the monarch in executive governance.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Kingship was hereditary in early historic Tamilakam, and the monarch was titled Vendhan, Ko, or Iraivan.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Monarchy was not absolute or autocratic; kings relied on structured advisory and executive bodies for administration.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Aimperunguzhu served as a five-member cabinet comprising ministers responsible for critical state matters.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** The Perayam was an eight-member administrative assembly of elders that advised the king.

2. Which of the following statements with regard to the military organization during the Sangam Age is/are correct?

1. Army of the Sangam kingdoms consisted of four classic divisions: Padati, cavalry Turangini, Gaja and chariots.

2. Sangam monarchs directed war strategies strictly from fortified capitals and were prohibited from leading troops on the battlefield.

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:** Sangam military forces were structured around four divisions (Nalpadai): infantry, cavalry, war elephants, and chariots.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Kings personally commanded armies on the battlefield. Defeat or injury in battle often led to ritual fasts unto death (Vattakirutal).

3. Which of the following statements with regard to administrative and legal features of the Sangam Age is/are correct?

1. Velirs were local feudatory chieftains who ruled smaller territories while acknowledging the supreme sovereignty of the major crowns.
2. Internal security and surveillance were maintained using an organized network of spies known as Orrars.
3. Diplomatic missions and inter-state relations were conducted through envoys termed Thuthars.

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 Velirs (e.g., Pari, Adiyaman) ruled autonomous chieftaincies and provided military aid to the Muvendar.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Law and order was maintained with the help of an intelligence network employing Orrars (spies).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Foreign policy and alliance negotiations were handled by Thuthars (ambassadors/envoys).

4. Consider the following information:

Administrative Unit	Category	Description
1. Mandalam	Territorial Division	Major province/realm like Chola Mandalam
2. Ur	Settlement Type	General town or urban center
3. Perur	Settlement Type	Large or populous village

4. Sirur	Settlement Type	Small rural hamlet
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In which of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Row 1:** Mandalam represented the largest territorial province (e.g., Chera Mandalam).
- **Row 2:** Ur referred to a town or urban habitat.
- **Row 3:** Perur designated a larger, well-populated agrarian village.
- **Row 4:** Sirur denoted a smaller hamlet or small village.

5. In the context of the Sangam Age, the term Vattakirutal refers to which one of the following practices?

- (a) A land revenue assessment technique executed by royal village assemblies.
- (b) A ritual suicide practiced by defeated or dishonored kings and warriors facing north.
- (c) A maritime trade ceremony performed prior to overseas voyages.
- (d) A coronation ritual performed during the ascension of Chera monarchs.

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Vattakirutal** was a ritual practice where a defeated king or warrior sat facing north and starved himself to death to wash away dishonor or battle wounds in the back.

6. Consider the following information:

Social Class	Functional Role	Primary Activity
1. Arasar	Ruling Class	Chieftains and royalty
2. Anthanar	Priestly Class	Custodians of rituals and literature
3. Vanigar	Merchant Class	Inland and maritime trade
4. Vellalar	Agrarian Class	Landowners and cultivators
5. Kadaiyiar	Laboring Class	Agricultural laborers and bonded workers

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

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Row 1:** Arasar formed the ruling aristocrats and kings.

- **Row 2:** Anthanar performed religious duties and preserved ritual knowledge.
- **Row 3:** Vanigar conducted commercial trade in urban trade hubs.
- **Row 4:** Vellalar represented the dominant farming and landholding class.
- **Row 5:** Kadaisiyar (and Adimai) formed the lowest tier consisting of farm workers and laborers.

7. Consider the following information:

Community Group	Socio-Occupational Identity	Functional Context
1. Thiraiyars	Seafaring Community	Coastal regions (Neythal) and maritime transport
2. Maravars	Warrior Tribe	Dry tracts (Palai), martial activities and cattle raiding
3. Nagars	Border Guards	Frontier defense and outpost sentries
4. Kadambars	Forest Dwellers	Hill regions (Kurinji), hunting and forest foraging

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

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- All four rows are matched correctly: Thiraiyars were seafarers; Maravars were martial communities in drylands; Nagars guarded borders; Kadambars were forest-dwelling hunter-gatherers.

8. Which of the following statements with regard to the forest-dwelling communities during the Sangam Age is/are correct?

1. Indigenous groups like the Irulas, Vedars, Pulaiyars, and Todas were integrated into the Sangam social structure while maintaining forest-based livelihoods.
2. Sangam state strictly prohibited forest tribes from living in fringe areas, forcing complete urbanization across Tamilakam.

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:** Communities like the Irulas, Vedars, and Pulaiyars lived on the geographical fringes of agrarian society, pursuing foraging and pastoral lifestyles.

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Sangam society accommodated diverse ecological lifestyle zones (Tinais); forest dwellers were not forced into urban centers.

9. Which of the following statements regarding the status of women in Sangam society are correct?

1. Women held a respected position in society, with several actively participating in scholarly discourse and public life.
2. Female intellectuals like Avvaiyar, Nachchellaiyar, and Kakkaipadiniyar contributed significantly to Sangam poetry.
3. Prostitution was an officially banned practice under Sangam legal codes.
4. Sati was practiced among certain elite warrior families as a mark of devotion.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Women enjoyed social freedom, access to education, and respected status in elite and literary circles.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Over 30 female poets, including Avvaiyar and Kakkaipadiniyar, authored poems included in the Sangam anthologies.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Prostitution was a recognized institution in Sangam urban society; courtesans (Parattiyar) are mentioned in Sangam literature without legal prohibition.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** Sati (Tippayadal) was practiced, particularly among high-ranking martial and royal families.

10. Which of the following statements with regard to trade and commerce in the Sangam Age is/are correct?

1. Korkai was a major southern port famous for pearl fisheries and maritime trade.
2. Puhar (Kaveripattinam) served as a primary coastal trade emporium at the mouth of the Kaveri River.
3. The classical term Yavanapriya was used in ancient trade contexts to denote high-quality Indian silk exported to China.

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:** Korkai was the primary port of the Pandyas, renowned for pearl harvesting and Indo-Roman trade.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Puhar (Kaveripattinam) was the key Chola port city, featuring docks, warehouses, and foreign merchant quarters.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Yavanapriya (dear to the Greeks/Romans) referred to black pepper, which was heavily imported by the Roman Empire from western ports like Muziris.

Medieval Regional Kingdoms Administration and Sangam Age Art

1. Which of the following statements regarding religion and deities during the Sangam Age are correct?

1. Murugan was regarded as the chief deity, predominantly associated with hill regions.
2. Mayon was worshipped as the fierce war goddess of victory in the drylands.
3. Korravai was revered as a dark-skinned pastoral deity protecting herdsmen in the forest regions.
4. Varuna was invoked as the sea god, reflecting the maritime activities of the coastal tracts.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Murugan (Seyon) was the primary indigenous deity of Tamilakam, worshipped chiefly in the Kurinji (hilly) eco-zone as the god of war, youth, and fertility.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Mayon (Vishnu) was the pastoral god of the Mullai (forest) region, not the war goddess of Palai.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Korravai was the fierce goddess of war and victory worshipped in the Palai (arid/dryland) region, not a pastoral deity.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** Varuna was the god of oceans and water bodies associated with the Neythal (coastal/maritime) landscape.

2. Which of the following statements regarding worship rituals and cultural practices in the Sangam Age are correct?

1. Nadukal were memorial structures erected and worshipped to honor warriors killed in battle.
2. Sangam period was characterized by large stone-vaulted temples and elaborate Brahminical priestly rituals.
3. Pattini cult, centered on the worship of Kannagi as the deity of chastity, was instituted by Chera Senguttuvan.
4. Worship of Kannagi as Pattini Devi remained restricted to the Kaveri delta and failed to spread outside Tamilakam.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Nadukal (or Veerakkal) were hero stones planted in memory of fallen heroes, often inscribed with details of their valor and worshipped as sacred objects.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Structural brick or stone temples were almost non-existent; religious life was largely outdoor, tree-, river-, or hill-centered symbolic worship without complex priestly mediation.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Chera King Senguttuvan introduced the Pattini cult following the legendary events narrated in Silappadikaram.

- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** The Pattini cult spread extensively into Sri Lanka (where she is worshipped as Goddess Pattini) and Kerala, demonstrating wide regional diffusion.

3. Which of the following statements with regard to religious developments during and after the Sangam Age is/are correct?

1. Early Vedic rituals and Brahminical influence entered Tamil society through royal sacrifices and patronage in kingly courts.
2. Jainism and Buddhism experienced a sharp decline during the Kalabhra interregnum.
3. Non-ritualistic heterodox sects gained significant traction among urban merchants and elite circles during this transition.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Brahminical practices gained ground as Sangam monarchs performed Vedic sacrifices (e.g., Rajasuya) and patronized priests.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Jainism and Buddhism actually **flourished** during the Kalabhra period (300–600 CE), marked by rich literary output like ethical didactic texts (Patinenkilkanakku).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Heterodox traditions attracted merchants and common folk due to their emphasis on ethics, literacy, and non-ritualistic monastic organization.

4. Which of the following statements with regard to the decline of the Sangam Age is/are correct?

1. End of the Sangam Age was precipitated by inter-dynastic conflicts and the rise of the Kalabhras.
2. Kalabhra period was historically termed a Dark Age due to absence of Buddhist and Jain literary production.
3. Kalabhra rule in South India was eventually displaced by the Pallavas in the north and resurgent Pandyas in the south.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The tripartite conflict among Cheras, Cholas, and Pandyas weakened them, allowing the Kalabhras to establish authority across Tamilakam.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Early historians called it a Dark Age primarily due to the lack of royal monuments and inscriptions, NOT a lack of literature. In fact, major Tamil literary works (including Jain and Buddhist texts) were produced during this era.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** By the late 6th century CE, Simhavishnu (Pallava) and Kadungon (Pandya) defeated the Kalabhras and re-established classical monarchies.

5. Which of the following statements regarding the Tripartite Struggle for Kannauj are correct?

1. Struggle was fought among the Gurjara-Pratiharas, Palas, and Rashtrakutas to secure control over the Gangetic trade route.
2. Pratihara King Vatsaraja scored an absolute victory over Rashtrakuta ruler Dhruva Dharavarsha, securing permanent annexation of Kannauj.
3. Mihir Bhoja strengthened Pratihara dominance over North India following successive military campaigns.
4. Prolonged war weakened all three participating dynasties, accelerating political fragmentation in Northern India.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Kannauj was the prized strategic hub on the Uttarapatha controlling Gangetic commerce and political hegemony over North India.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Dhruva Dharavarsha (Rashtrakuta) actually defeated Vatsaraja (Pratihara) and forced him to retreat into the Rajasthan desert.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Bhoja I (Mihir Bhoja) re-established Pratihara supremacy over Kannauj and broad swathes of North-West India.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** Constant military overextension drained the resources of all three powers, paving the way for regional feudal fragmentation.

6. Consider the following historical events/milestones:

1. Establishment of Pallava power in South India under Mahendravarman I
2. Founding of the Pala dynasty in Bengal by Gopala
3. Peak of Gurjara-Pratihara power under King Bhoja (Mihir Bhoja)
4. Imperial Chola consolidation under Parantaka I

What is the correct chronological order of the above events, starting from the earliest?

- (a) 1 – 2 – 3 – 4
- (b) 2 – 1 – 4 – 3
- (c) 1 – 3 – 2 – 4
- (d) 3 – 1 – 2 – 4

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Mahendravarman I (Pallava):** 7th century CE.
- **Gopala (Pala Founder):** Mid-8th century CE.
- **Mihir Bhoja (Pratihara):** 9th century CE.
- **Parantaka I (Chola):** 10th century CE.

Thus, the correct chronological sequence is 1 – 2 – 3 – 4.

7. In early medieval Indian administration (under Palas and Pratiharas), what was the correct descending order of administrative territorial divisions?

- (a) Bhukti Mandala/Visaya Pattala
- (b) Pattala Visaya Bhukti
- (c) Mandala Pattala Bhukti

(d) Bhukti Pattala Visaya

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Bhukti:** The largest administrative province governed by an Uparika (Governor).
- **Mandala / Visaya:** Districts within a Bhukti, headed by a Visayapati.
- **Pattala:** Sub-districts/clusters of villages below the Visaya level, above individual village units.

8. In the context of early medieval Indian agrarian administration, the terms Bhogapati and Samanta denote:

- (a) Guild leaders managing silk export unions at maritime trade ports.
- (b) Feudal landholders and revenue intermediaries who exercised local judicial and administrative dominance.
- (c) Foreign mercenary captains recruited into the imperial palace guard.
- (d) Head priests in charge of managing temple land grants (Agraharas).

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- During the early medieval period, the expansion of royal land grants led to decentralized governance. Bhogapatis (revenue collectors enjoying village yields) and Samantas (feudal chiefs/vassals) dominated rural administration and military levies at the local village level.

9. Which of the following statements with regard to the art and architectural traditions of the Gurjara-Pratiharas is/are correct?

- 1. Gurjara-Pratihara architecture contributed to the early development of the Nagara style featuring curvilinear shikharas and pancharatha temple layouts.
- 2. Bateswar group of temples in Madhya Pradesh and the Baroli temple complex in Rajasthan belong to the Pratihara architectural style.
- 3. Pratihara sculptors avoided animal incarnations of Vishnu

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:** Pratihara temple architecture developed key elements of the Northern Nagara style, including carved shikharas, open pavilions, and multi-projection plan layouts (triratha, pancharatha).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Major architectural sites include the Bateswar Temples (Morena, MP), Baroli Temples (Rajasthan), and the Mahavira Jain Temple at Osian (Rajasthan).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Pratihara art featured rich Vaishnava iconography, notably the colossal Varaha (Boar incarnation of Vishnu), which was also depicted on King Mihir Bhoja's coin issues (Adivaraha silver coins).

10. Which of the following statements with regard to early medieval court literature and foreign accounts is/are correct?

1. Rajashekhara, author of Kavyamimansa and Karpuramanjari, served as the court poet of the Gurjara-Pratihara rulers.
2. Arab merchant Sulaiman recorded in his accounts that no kingdom in India was safer from highway robbery than the realm of the Pratihara king Mihir Bhoja.

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:** Rajashekhara was the court poet and guru of Pratihara King Mahendrapala I and his son Mahipala. He authored celebrated Sanskrit/Prakrit works like Kavyamimansa, Karpuramanjari, Bala Ramayana, and Bala Bharata.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The 9th-century Arab traveler Sulaiman (in his work Silsilat-ut-Tawarikh) praised Mihir Bhoja (referred to as King Baura) for his efficient administration, military strength, and the high level of public safety against bandits throughout his empire.

Rashtrakutas and Pala Dynasty

1. Which of the following statements regarding the origin and early rulers of the Rashtrakuta Dynasty are correct?

1. Dantidurga founded the dynasty by defeating Chalukyan ruler Kirtivarman II and performed the Hiranyagarbha ritual.
2. Krishna I expanded Rashtrakuta control over Karnataka and commissioned the monolithic Kailasanath Temple at Ellora.
3. Dhruva incorporated the river symbols of Ganga and Yamuna into the Rashtrakuta imperial emblem following his northern campaigns.
4. Govinda III was defeated by Pratihara ruler Nagabhata II, leading to the loss of Manyakheta as the imperial capital.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Dantidurga overthrew Kirtivarman II of Badami Chalukyas and performed the Hiranyagarbha (great golden womb) ritual at Ujjain to assert Kshatriya status.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Krishna I succeeded Dantidurga, consolidated territory in Karnataka and Konkan, and commissioned the famous rock-cut Kailasanath Temple at Ellora.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** King Dhruva invaded North India during the Tripartite Struggle, defeated Pratihara Vatsaraja and Pala Dharmapala, and adopted the figures of the rivers Ganga and Yamuna into his royal standard.

- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** Govinda III did not lose Manyakheta; he actually defeated Nagabhata II and received tribute from as far south as Ceylon (Sri Lanka). The Sanjan inscription records his horses drinking from the waters of the Himalayas.

2. Which of the following statements regarding Amoghavarsha I and Krishna III are correct?

1. Amoghavarsha I assumed the titles Nripatunga and Vira-Narayana.
2. Amoghavarsha I authored Kavirajamarga, the earliest available work on Kannada poetics.
3. Amoghavarsha I was a patron of Jainism and took Jalasamadhi in the Tungabhadra River.
4. Krishna III was defeated at the Battle of Takkolam by Chola ruler Parantaka I.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Amoghavarsha I held titles including Nripatunga, Vira-Narayana, and Atishayadhavala.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Kavirajamarga is the oldest surviving landmark work on poetry and rhetoric in the Kannada language, authored by Amoghavarsha I (with input from court poet Srivijaya).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Embracing Jainism under the guidance of Acharya Jinasena, he spent his last years in spiritual retreat and entered ritual immersion (Jalasamadhi) in the Tungabhadra River.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** Krishna III defeated Chola king Parantaka I at the Battle of Takkolam, after which he erected a pillar of victory and a temple at Rameshwaram.

3. Consider the following information regarding Rashtrakuta administrative divisions:

Administrative Tier	Governing Official	Functional Scope
1. Rashtra	Rashtrapati	Principal imperial province
2. Bhukti	Uparika	Provincial sub-division / district cluster
3. Visaya	Visayapati	Local administrative district
4. Grama	Gaulmika / Headman	Basic village unit

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

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Row 1:** Rashtra was the largest administrative division governed by a Rashtrapati.
- **Row 2:** Bhukti (or Suba) was an intermediate administrative unit placed under an Uparika.
- **Row 3:** Visaya (or Mandala) formed the district-level unit administered by a Visayapati.

- **Row 4:** Grama represented the lowest tier, overseen by a village headman (Gaulmika or Gramakuta).

4. Which of the following statements with regard to official designations under the Rashtrakutas is/are correct?

1. Mahasandhivigrahi acted as the minister for foreign affairs and peace/war negotiations, while Dandanayaka functioned as the military commander.
2. Nad-gavundas were hereditary village-level priests appointed by royal decree to oversee judicial trials.

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:** In Rashtrakuta administration, Mahasandhivigrahi was the minister of state for external affairs and diplomatic treaties, and Dandanayaka was the commander of armed forces.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Nad-gavundas (and Desa-gramakutas) were hereditary revenue officers and local land officials (precursors to the later Deshmukhs/Deshpandes), not judicial priests.

5. Consider the following information regarding early medieval architectural monuments:

Monument	Associated Site	Key Sculptural Feature
1. Kailasanath Temple	Ellora Caves, Maharashtra	Monolithic rock-cut shrine built by Krishna I
2. Dashavatara Temple	Ellora Caves	Features relief of Vishnu as Narasimha slaying Hiranyakashipu
3. Maheshamurti Bust	Elephanta Caves	25-foot three-faced colossal relief of Shiva
4. Shore Temple	Badami	Built by Dantidurga to celebrate the Hiranyagarbha ritual

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

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Row 1:** Kailasanath Temple at Ellora (Cave 16) is a monolithic rock-cut Vesara architectural marvel executed under Krishna I.
- **Row 2:** Dashavatara Temple at Ellora contains an inscription of Dantidurga and prominent Vaishnava sculptures, including Narasimha.
- **Row 3:** The colossal 25-foot Maheshamurti (Trimurti representation of Shiva as Creator, Preserver, and Destroyer) is the central icon of Elephanta Caves.

- **Row 4:** The Shore Temple is located at Mamallapuram (Tamil Nadu) and was built by the Pallavas (Narasimhavarman II), not at Badami by Dantidurga.

6. Which of the following statements regarding Rashtrakuta art and literature are correct?

1. Relief of Ravana shaking Mount Kailasa is a prominent artistic feature of the Kailasanath Temple at Ellora.
2. Kannada poet Pampa composed the Adipurana in Champu style and authored the Vikramarjuna Vijaya.
3. Ponna, one of the three gems of early Kannada literature, composed the Jain epic Shanti Purana.
4. Amoghavarsha I authored the Sanskrit religious treatise Prasnotaramalika.

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) 2, 3 and 4 only

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The dramatic multi-dimensional panel showing Ravana shaking Mount Kailasa is one of the most celebrated sculptural reliefs at Ellora Cave 16.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Adikavi Pampa (court poet of Rashtrakuta feudatory Arikesari II) wrote Adipurana (life of Rishabhanatha) in Champu (mixed prose and verse) and Vikramarjuna Vijaya (Pampa Bharata).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Ponna, patronized by Krishna III, earned the title Kavichakravarti for writing Shanti Purana.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** Amoghavarsha I authored Prasnotaramalika (also called Prashnottara Ratnamalika), a Sanskrit philosophical work written in a question-and-answer format.

7. Which of the following statements regarding the rulers of the Pala Dynasty are correct?

1. Gopala I founded the Pala Dynasty and built a Buddhist monastic university at Odantapuri.
2. Dharmapala founded Vikramashila University and the Somapura Mahavihara in Bengal/Bangladesh.
3. Devapala extended control toward Kamarupa (Assam) and maintained diplomatic relations with the Sailendra rulers of Java/Sumatra.
4. Mahipala I successfully repelled Rajendra Chola's northern expedition and dismantled all Chola encampments in Bengal.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Gopala I was elected king by local notables to end political anarchy (matsyanyaya) and founded the Odantapuri monastery.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Dharmapala established Vikramashila University (Bhagalpur) and Somapura Mahavihara (Paharpur, Bangladesh) as major centers of Mahayana and Vajrayana learning.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Devapala expanded Pala territory into Assam and Orissa and granted five villages for the upkeep of a monastery built at Nalanda by King Balaputradeva of the Sailendra Dynasty (Sumatra).

- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** Mahipala I defended against Rajendra Chola's expedition (c. 1021–1023 CE), but the Chola army successfully reached the Ganga River and carried back sacred water; Rajendra Chola was not completely repulsed without tactical gain.

8. The innovation of creating the office of Prime Minister with comprehensive administrative powers alongside the sovereign is explicitly detailed in which of the following epigraphic records?

- (a) Badal Pillar Inscription
- (b) Khalimpur Copper Plate
- (c) Sanjan Copper Plate
- (d) Aihole Inscription

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- The Badal Pillar Inscription (placed by Garga and his descendant Darbhapani/Kedaramisra) details the hereditary line of Brahmin ministers who served as Prime Ministers under Pala kings (Dharmapala and Devapala), demonstrating that executive governance was exercised through this ministerial office.

9. Consider the following information regarding administrative departments and officials under the Pala Empire:

Function	Official	Role
1. Public Accounts & Records	Maha-akshapatalika	Keeper of royal records and state accounts
2. Judicial Administration	Mahadandanayaka	Chief justice and legal adjudicator
3. Palace Police & Security	Mahapratihara	Chief usher / head of royal palace security
4. Secret Intelligence	Khola	Intelligence agents and secret couriers

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

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Row 1:** Maha-akshapatalika headed the imperial accounts and record-keeping department (Akshapala).
- **Row 2:** Mahadandanayaka functioned as the head of judiciary and law enforcement officers.
- **Row 3:** Mahapratihara managed palace protocol, entry, and personal security of the sovereign.
- **Row 4:** Khola served as intelligence operatives collecting secret reports across imperial territory.

10. In Pala military administration, the commander of royal bodyguards protecting the king was designated as:

- (a) Baladhyaksha
- (b) Angaraksha
- (c) Kottapala

(d) Dasgramika

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- In the Pala military setup, Angarakshas served as elite personal bodyguards directly protecting the monarch. Baladhyaksha was an infantry/army commander, Kottapala was a fort commander, and Dasgramika was a local revenue official over ten villages.

Pala and Sena Dynasty

1. Which of the following statements with regard to the Pala Empire is/are correct?

1. Pala state was organized into Bhuktis, which were subdivided into Vishayas, Mandalas, and Patakas.
2. Pala economy functioned exclusively on overland trade routes through Tibet and Central Asia.
3. Tamralipti and Saptagram served as important port towns facilitating maritime commerce with South-East Asia during this period.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Pala imperial administration was divided into provinces called Bhuktis, which were further partitioned down to Vishayas, Mandalas, and smaller territorial units like Patakas, Khandalas, and Chaturakas.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Maritime trade was central to Pala economic prosperity. The Palas maintained active maritime trade and diplomatic links with the Sailendra Dynasty of South-East Asia (Java and Sumatra).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Ports located in the Bengal delta, particularly Tamralipti and Saptagram, were vital nodes for maritime trade routes linking Eastern India with South-East Asian mercantile networks.

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

1. Dhiman and Bitapal were famous sculptors and painters of the Pala period who excelled in casting metal images.
2. Somapuri Mahavihara and Vikramashila University were founded by the first Pala ruler, Gopala I.

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:** Dhiman and his son Bitapal were celebrated 9th-century artists from Bengal during the reigns of Dharmapala and Devapala. They were renowned for their bronze casting, metal sculptures, and miniature paintings, which bore Gupta stylistic influences.

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Gopala I founded the monastery at Odantapuri, but Dharmapala founded Vikramashila University and the Somapuri Mahavihara (Paharpur, Bangladesh).

3. Which of the following statements with regard to Pala-period literature is/are correct?

1. Biography Ramacharitam, composed by Sandhyakar Nandi, uses double meanings to simultaneously narrate stories of Rama and the Pala King Ramapala.
2. Gauda riti literary style was banned in Eastern India during the reign of the Pala kings.

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:** Sandhyakar Nandi composed Ramacharitam in the shlesha (double entendre) style, where each verse can be interpreted as either the mythological story of Rama or the historical struggle of Pala ruler Ramapala to suppress the Kaivarta rebellion.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Gauda riti (a distinct poetic style characterized by elaborate compound words and ornate figures of speech) developed and flourished in Eastern India during the Pala era.

4. Which of the following statements with regard to the Sena Dynasty are correct?

1. Sena rulers originally migrated to Bengal from Karnataka and are described in the Deopara inscription as Brahma-Kshatriyas.
2. Hemanta Sena was the real founder of the empire built the dual capitals at Vikrampur and Vijayapura.
3. Achievements of Vijaya Sena were commemorated by the court poet Umapati Dhara in the Deopara Prashasti.

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:** The Senas originated in Karnataka (South India) and settled in Bengal. The Deopara Prashasti describes them as Brahma-Kshatriyas (Brahmins who adopted the martial profession of Kshatriyas).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Vijaya Sena not Hemanta Sena was the real founder who overthrew the Pala dynasty in Bengal and established dual capitals at Vikrampur and Vijayapura.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Umapati Dhara authored the Deopara Prashasti, an epigraphic eulogy celebrating Vijaya Sena's military conquests and public works.

5. Which of the following statements with regard to Ballal Sena and Lakshmana Sena are correct?

1. Ballal Sena introduced Kulinism, an orthodox social system, into Bengal and composed the Sanskrit works Danasagara and Abhutsagara.
2. Lakshmana Sena was a devout patron of Vaishnavism who patronized Jayadeva, author of the Gita Govinda.

3. Lakshmana Sena successfully repelled the invasion of Bakhtiyar Khalji at Nabadwip, driving the Ghurid forces out of Bengal.

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:** King Ballal Sena codified the caste hierarchy in Bengal through Kulinism and authored two famous Sanskrit texts: Danasagara (on gifts/charity) and Adbhutsagara (on astronomy/omens).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Lakshmana Sena assumed the title Paramvaishnava. His court was graced by eminent literary figures including Jayadeva (Gita Govinda) and Halayudha (his chief minister).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** In Bakhtiyar Khalji launched a swift cavalry raid on Nabadwip. Caught by surprise, Lakshmana Sena was forced to abandon his palace and retreat into Eastern Bengal (Vikramপুর).

6. Which of the following statements with regard to the Pala-Sena architectural and sculptural style is/are correct?

1. Pala-Sena school developed curved sloping roofs modeled after traditional bamboo huts, known as the Bangla roof.
2. Pala-Sena sculptors relied on soft wood, avoiding metal and stone due to regional material shortages.

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:** A notable contribution of Bengal regional architecture was the Bangla roof (sloping/curved eaves imitating thatch-and-bamboo village huts), which later influenced Sultanate and Mughal architectural forms.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Black basalt stone (from the Rajmahal hills) and metal alloy (octo-alloy/bronze) were the primary materials used in high-finish, lustrous Pala-Sena sculptures.

7. Consider the following dynasties:

1. Hoysala
2. Gahadavala
3. Kakatiya
4. Yadava

How many of the above dynasties established their independent kingdoms in the early eighth century?

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- All four listed dynasties established their independent sovereign kingdoms after the 10th/11th centuries CE:
 - **Hoysalas:** Emerged in the 10th–11th centuries CE (capital at Dwarasamudra).
 - **Gahadavalas:** Established control over Kannauj in the late 11th century CE (under Chandradeva).
 - **Kakatiyas:** Gained independent sovereignty in the 12th century CE (under Prola II/Rudra I).
 - **Yadavas of Devagiri:** Established an independent power in the late 12th century CE (under Bhillama V).

8. Consider the following pairs:

King	Dynasty
1. Nannuka	Chandela
2. Jayashakti	Paramara
3. Nagabhata II	Gurjara-Pratihara
4. Bhoja	Rashtrakuta

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:** Nannuka was the founder of the Chandela dynasty of Jejakabhukti.
- **Pair 2 is incorrectly matched:** Jayashakti (from whom the region Jejakabhukti derived its name) was a Chandela king, not a Paramara.
- **Pair 3 is correctly matched:** Nagabhata II was a prominent ruler of the Gurjara-Pratihara dynasty who rebuilt the Somnath temple.
- **Pair 4 is incorrectly matched:** Mihir Bhoja (or Bhoja I) was a famous Gurjara-Pratihara king (or Raja Bhoja of Paramara dynasty), not a Rashtrakuta ruler.

9. Which of the following statements regarding the Somnath Temple are correct?

1. Somnath Temple is one of the twelve sacred Jyotirlinga shrines of Lord Shiva.
2. Detailed account of the Somnath Temple and its wealth was recorded by the Persian scholar Al-Biruni.

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:** Somnath Temple (located at Prabhas Patan, Veraval in Gujarat) is traditionally considered the first among the twelve Jyotirlinga shrines of Shiva.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Islamic scholar Al-Biruni, who accompanied Mahmud of Ghazni to India, left a detailed description of the architecture, rituals, and wealth of the Somnath Temple in his work Tarikh-i-Hind.

10. With reference to the Chausath Yogini Temple situated near Morena, consider the following statements:

1. It is a circular stone temple built during the reign of the Kachchhapaghata Dynasty.
2. It is the only circular temple constructed in ancient and medieval India.
3. It was built to promote the Tantric worship of Yoginis in the region.
4. Its circular design gave rise to the popular belief that it inspired the architecture of the old Indian Parliament building.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Chausath Yogini Temple (Mitawali, Morena district, MP) was constructed in the 14th century by King Devapala of the Kachchhapaghata Dynasty.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** It is not the only circular temple in India. Other prominent circular temples exist, such as the Chausath Yogini temples at Hirapur and Ranipur Jharial in Odisha.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The temple contains 64 peripheral chapels intended for Yoginis, dedicated to the esoteric Tantric cult.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** Its hypaethral circular design with a central pavilion closely resembles the design of the old Indian Parliament building (Samvidhan Sadan), leading to popular consensus regarding its influence on Sir Edwin Lutyens and Herbert Baker.