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Prelims Practice Series

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1

Historical Sources of Ancient India

1. **Directions:** The following item consists of two statements, Statement I and Statement II. Examine these statements carefully and select the correct answer using the code given below: **CAPF (ACs) Exam 2018**

Code:

- (a) Both the statements are individually true and Statement II is the correct explanation of Statement I.
- (b) Both the statements are individually true but Statement II is not the correct explanation of Statement I.
- (c) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
- (d) Statement I is false but Statement II is true

Statement I: For early societies, historians retrieve information about elite families mostly from inscriptions.

Statement II: Satavahana inscriptions generally end with the term Putra, a Prakrit word meaning 'son'.

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- ❑ The inscriptions depicted, the relationship between a king and his subjects, especially the rural population. The kings frequently tried to fill their coffers by demanding high taxes, and peasants particularly found such demands oppressive. **Hence, statement I is true.**
- ❑ Histories of the Gupta rulers have been reconstructed from literature, coins and inscriptions, including Prashastis, composed in praise of kings in particular, and patrons in general, by poets.
- ❑ While historians often attempt to draw factual information from such compositions, those who composed and read them often treasured them as works of poetry rather than as accounts that were literally true.
- ❑ There are the names of several generations of Satavahana rulers, recovered from inscriptions. The uniform title Raja, also the following word, which ends with the term Putra, a Prakrit word meaning 'son'. The term Gotami-puta means 'son of Gotami'.

- ❑ Names like Gotami and Vasithi are feminine forms of Gotama and Vasistha, Vedic seers after whom gotras were named. The inscriptions' name ended with Puta and not Putra. **Hence, statement II is false.**

Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.

2. The famous Travelogue 'Si-Yu-Ki' is linked with:

UPPCS (Mains) 2016

- (a) Fahien (b) Al Biruni
(c) Megasthenes (d) Hiuen Tsang

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- ❑ Hiuen Tsang is associated with Si-Yu-Ki, a famous travelogue.
- ❑ It has the records of his travel along with Buddhist records.

Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.

3. The only inscribed stone portrait of Emperor Ashoka has been found at:

CDS Exam (I) 2014

- (a) Sanchi (b) Amaravati
(c) Kanaganahalli (d) Ajanta

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- ❑ Kanaganahalli is an ancient Buddhist site located in Karnataka.
- ❑ A stone portrait of Ashoka with label 'Rayo Ashoka' in Brahmi script surrounded by female attendants and his queen has been found here.
- ❑ An ancient Buddhist Mahastupa has also been found here.

Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.

4. The Chinese traveller Yuan Chwang (Hiuen Tsang) who visited India recorded the general conditions and culture of India at that time. In this context, which of the following statements is/are correct? **UPSC CSE (Pre) 2013**

1. The roads and river-routes were completely immune from robbery.
2. As regards punishment for offences, ordeals by fire, water and poison were the instruments for determining the innocence or guilt of a person.

2

Prehistoric Period

1. Which among the following sites provides evidence of domestication of animals in the Mesolithic period?

UPPCS (Pre) 2018

- (a) Odai (b) Bori
(c) Bagor (d) Lakhnia

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- The early period of Mesolithic age was based on hunting, fishing and food gathering. Slowly, domestication of animals and cultivation of crops made their way into human life.
- The earliest evidence of domestication of animals has been provided by Adamgarh in Madhya Pradesh and Bagor in Rajasthan.

Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.

2. In ancient India, Mehrgarh was a

CISF AC (EXE) LDCE 2017

- (a) neolithic site in the Bolan Valley
(b) graveyard of the Delhi Sultans
(c) kingdom in the Deccan area
(d) fort in Rajasthan

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- The archaeological site of Mehrgarh is a Neolithic site in the Bolan Valley (Pakistan). Neolithic age or New Stone Age in India spanned from around 7,000 BC to 1,000 BC.
- Development of settled agriculture and the use of tools and weapons made of polished stones are some of the important characteristics of Neolithic age.

Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.

3. Three human skeletons in a single grave were recovered at

UPPCS (Pre) 2016

- (a) Sarai Nahar Rai
(b) Damdama
(c) Mahadaha
(d) Langhnaj

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- Damdama is a Mesolithic site in the Pratapgarh district of Uttar Pradesh. Three human skeletons in a single grave were recovered here.
- It was excavated by researchers at Allahabad University between 1982 to 1987. The analysis did not reveal bones of any domestic animal among thousands of bone fragments.

Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.

4. From which rock shelter of Vindhya, a maximum number of human skeletons have been found

UPPCS (Pre) 2016

- (a) Morahana Pahar (b) Ghagharia
(c) Bagahi Khor (d) Lekhahia

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- Lekhahia is a Mesolithic site in Uttar Pradesh, India. It yielded a large number of skeletons. Some of its findings are pre-microlithic.
- Some of these skeletons were relatively in pristine condition while most of the others were wrapped.

Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.

5. Consider the following places: CISF AC (EXE) LDCE 2014

1. Bhimbetka
2. Badami
3. Khajuraho

At which of the above places prehistoric cave paintings are found?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- Bhimbetka caves which are surrounded by the northern boundaries of Vindhya mountain ranges near Bhopal, have more than 600 caves that have the oldest prehistoric paintings in India. Hence, 1 is correct.
- Out of the 24 world heritage sites in India, Bhimbetka caves have been recognised as one of the oldest by UNESCO.

3

Indus Valley Civilization

1. Which one of the following statements about the Harappan script is **not** correct? **CAPF (ACs) Exam 2020**

- (a) It has about four hundred signs
- (b) It was written from right to left
- (c) It has been found on bone rods and jewellery
- (d) It refers to the people of Meluhha

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- ❑ The Harappan script is yet to be deciphered. It is mainly pictographic and not alphabetical.
- ❑ The number of signs is between 400 and 600 of which 40 or 60 are basic and the rest are their variants.
- ❑ The script was mostly written from right to left. In a few long seals, the boustrophedon method writing in the reverse direction in alternative lines was adopted.
- ❑ Some relate language of the Harappans to that of Dravidians while other scholars provide a different view connecting the Harappan script with that of Brahmi.

Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.

2. Which of the following is/are the distinctive artefacts of the Harappan Civilisation? **CAPF (ACs) Exam 2020**

- 1. Steatite seal
- 2. Bricks of a standardized ratio
- 3. Gold bangles
- 4. Silver spittoon

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- ❑ Jewellery such as bangles, bracelets, fillets, girdles, anklets, earrings and finger-rings were worn by women, which were made of gold, silver, copper, bronze and semiprecious stones. **Hence, 3 is correct.**

- ❑ Hoards of jewellery found at Mohenjodaro and Lothal include necklaces of gold and semi-precious stones, copper bracelets and beads, gold earrings and head ornaments, faience pendants and buttons, and beads of steatite and gemstones. **Hence, 1 is correct.**

- ❑ Also, the bricks were made in a standardized ratio. **Hence, 2 is correct.**

Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.

3. From which one of the following factory sites were limestone and chert blades mass produced and sent to various Harappan settlements in Sindh?

CDS Exam (I) 2020

- (a) Sukkur and Rohri Hills
- (b) Khetri in Rajasthan
- (c) Chagai Hills
- (d) Hills of Baluchistan

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- ❑ From Sukkur and Rohri Hills in Sindh, limestone and chert blades mass were produced.
- ❑ A very important exposition of one of the most important underlying elements – used to make fire, crucial items like weights and much more, the chert blades of Ancient Indus civilization were connected to, in particular the Rohri Hills (north of Mohenjodaro in Sindh).

Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.

4. Which one of the following is **not** a Harappan site?

UPSC CSE (Pre) 2019

- (a) Chanhudaro
- (b) Kot Diji
- (c) Sohgaura
- (d) Desalpur

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- ❑ Kot Diji (now in the Sindh region of Pakistan) was an early Harappan site on the east bank of the Indus river and was excavated between 1955 and 1957.
- ❑ Chanhudaro in Pakistan and Desalpur in Gujarat are mature Harappan sites.

1. Which of the following are prescribed as the duties of Vaishyas according to the Dharmashastras?

CAPF (ACs) Exam 2020

1. Studying the Vedas
2. Engaging in trade

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- The Dharmasutras and Dharmashastras contained rules about the ideal 'occupations' of the four categories or Varnas.
- Brahmanas were supposed to study and teach the Vedas, perform sacrifices, and give and receive gifts. **Hence, 1 is not correct.**
- Kshatriyas were to engage in warfare, protect people and administer justice, study the Vedas, get sacrifices performed, and make gifts.
- The Vaishyas were expected to engage in agriculture, pastoralism and trade. **Hence, 2 is correct.**
- Shudras were assigned only one occupation – that of serving the three 'higher' Varnas.

Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.

2. Which of the following is a Samhita of Shukla Yajurveda?

UPPCS (Pre) 2018

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| (a) Vajasanami | (b) Maitrayani |
| (c) Taittiriya | (d) Kathak |

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Yajurveda contains two branches – Shukla and Krishna. Shukla Yajurveda is available in the poetic form and Krishna Yajurveda contains both poetic as well as prose form. Vajasanami is the Samhita of Shukla Yajurveda.

Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.

3. According to the Manusmriti, women acquire wealth through which of the following means?

CDS Exam (II) 2018

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| (a) Purchase | (b) Investment |
| (c) Token of affection | (d) Inheritance |

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- The Manusmriti, also known as Manav Dharma Shastra, is the early work on 'Brahminical Dharma in Hinduism'.
- According to Manusmriti, the women had the right over the gifts given to her during her marriage. It was called the Stridhana or woman's wealth. This wealth could be inherited by her children later.

Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.

4. With reference to the difference between the culture of Rigvedic Aryans and Indus Valley people, which of the following statements is/are correct?

UPSC CSE (Pre) 2017

1. Rigvedic Aryans used the coat of mail and helmet in warfare whereas the people of Indus Valley Civilization did not leave any evidence of using them.
2. Rigvedic Aryans knew gold, silver and copper whereas Indus Valley people knew only copper and iron.
3. Rigvedic Aryans had domesticated the horse whereas there is no evidence of Indus Valley people having been aware of this animal.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- Use of coat of mail and helmet by Aryans is evident in the Rigvedic Age, while the same is not evident in the Indus Valley Civilization. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Vedic age marks the advent of iron, whereas Indus Valley Civilization was part of Chalcolithic age, i.e., copper, thereby it reflects that the Harappans were not aware of

5

Mahajanapadas

1. Which one of the following is **not** listed as one of the sixteen mahajanapadas in the pre-Mauryan period ?

CAPF (ACs) Exam 2020

- (a) Kuru
- (b) Vatsa
- (c) Gandhara
- (d) Kalinga

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

The sixteen Mahajanapadas enumerated in the Anguttara Nikaya are:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kasi | <input type="checkbox"/> Kuru |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kosala | <input type="checkbox"/> Panchala |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Anga | <input type="checkbox"/> Matsya or Machcha |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Magadha | <input type="checkbox"/> Surasena |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vajji | <input type="checkbox"/> Assaka |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Malla | <input type="checkbox"/> Avanti |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chedi | <input type="checkbox"/> Gandhara |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vatsa | <input type="checkbox"/> Kamboja |

Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.

2. Matsya Mahajanapada of 6th Century BC was located in:

UPPCS (Pre) 2017

- (a) Western Uttar Pradesh
- (b) Rajasthan
- (c) Bundelkhand
- (d) Rohilkhand

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- Matsya is among the sixteen Mahajanapadas that existed in ancient India, as described in the hindu epic 'Mahabharata' and 6th BCE Buddhist text 'Anguttara Nikaya'.
- Matsya Mahajanapada was located in the Jaipur district of Rajasthan.

Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.

3. The town of Kalpi is situated on the bank of the river—
UPPCS (Mains) 2015

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| (a) Ganga | (b) Yamuna |
| (c) Narmada | (d) Krishna |

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- Kalpi is a historical city located on the bank of river Yamuna in the Jalaun district of Uttar Pradesh.
- It was built during the 4th century BC by King Vasudeva.

Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.

4. Which one of the following statements about ancient Indian Mahajanapadas is correct? CDS Exam (I) 2014

- (a) All Mahajanapadas were oligarchies where power was exercised by a group of people.
- (b) All Mahajanapadas were located in eastern India.
- (c) No army was maintained by the Mahajanapadas.
- (d) Buddhist and Jaina texts list sixteen Mahajanapadas.

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- Early Buddhist and Jaina texts list sixteen Mahajanapadas.
- The sixteen Mahajanapadas enumerated in the 'Anguttara Nikaya' are Kasi, Kosala, Anga, Magadha, Vajji, Malla, Chedi, Vatsa, Kuru, Panchala, Machcha, Surasena, Assaka, Avanti, Gandhara and Kamboja.
- Most Mahajanapadas were ruled by kings, some known as Ganas or Sanghas, some were oligarchies, where power was shared by a number of men, often collectively called Rajas.
- Amongst the most important Mahajanapadas include Vajji, Magadha, Koshala, Kuru, Panchala, Gandhara and Avanti, which were spread over, north, central, western and eastern parts of the country.
- Both Mahavira and the Buddha belonged to such ganas.
- Each Mahajanapada had a capital city, which was often fortified; for protecting these fortified cities army was maintained by the Mahajanapadas.

Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.

6

Rise of Magadha and Mauryan Empire

1. In which of the following relief sculpture inscriptions is 'Ranyo Ashoka' (King Ashoka) mentioned along with the stone portrait of Ashoka? **UPSC CSE (Pre) 2019**

- (a) Kanganahalli (b) Sanchi
(c) Shahbazgarhi (d) Sohgaoura

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- ❑ The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) unearthed a panel at Kanaganahalli in Karnataka that depicts the emperor Ashoka with his queen surrounded by several women.
❑ This slab is inscribed in Brahmi script with the words 'Ranyo Ashoka', which means 'Ashoka the Great'.

Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.

2. Consider the following statements: **CDS Exam (II) 2019**

1. According to *Mahavamsa*, Ashoka turned to the Buddha's dhamma when his nephew Nigrodha preached the doctrine to him.
2. *Divyavadana* ascribes Ashoka being drawn to the Buddha's teaching to the influence of Samudra, a merchant-turned monk.
3. *Dipavamsa* speaks of Samudra, the 12-year-old son of a merchant, as the key figure in Ashoka's coming under the influence of the Buddhist dhamma.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- ❑ As per Mahavamsa, Ashoka realized the path of Ahimsa and Buddhism on meeting Nigrodha, the son of Ashoka's elder brother, who was killed by Ashoka. Surprisingly, Nigrodha remained calm and composed, showing no anger or hatred towards Ashoka. Moreover, he started discussing Buddhism with Ashoka. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
❑ As per Divyavadana, Ashoka imprisoned Samudra, a Buddhist monk who saved himself using his miraculous powers. Ashoka was highly impressed and converted into Buddhism. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

❑ As per Ashokavadana and not Dipavamsa, Samudra was a merchant's son, and was a 12-year-old boy when he met Ashoka. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.

3. Match List-I with List-II and select the correct answer using the codes given below: **UPPCS (Pre) 2018**

List-I (Samudra Gupta's Contemporary Kings)	List-II (Their Kingdoms)
A. Dhananjaya	1. Avamuka
B. Nilaraja	2. Kanchi
C. Ugrasena	3. Kushalpura
D. Vishnugopa	4. Palaka

Code:

	A	B	C	D
(a)	1	2	3	4
(b)	2	1	4	3
(c)	3	1	4	2
(d)	4	3	2	1

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The correctly matched list is as follows:

Contemporary Kings of Samudragupta	Their Kingdoms
Dhananjaya	Kushalpura
Nilaraja	Avamukta
Ugrasena	Palaka
Vishnugopa	Kanchi

Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.

4. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer using the code given below the Lists:

List I (Official)	CAPF (ACs) Exam 2017 List II (Office held)
A. Samahartri	1. Chief of the Palace Guards
B. Samnidhatri	2. Chief collector of revenue
C. Sansthadyaksha	3. Treasurer
D. Antaravamshika	4. Superintendent of markets

7

Post Mauryan Period

1. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

CAPF (ACs) Exam 2020

- The Satavahanas ruled over parts of western India and the Deccan
- The Satavahanas repaired and rebuilt Sudarshana Lake

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- Satavahanas ruled over parts of western India and the Deccan (2nd century BCE-2nd century CE). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Sudarshan lake was first repaired by Rudraman, without imposing any tax on his subjects. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.

2. Which of the following rulers were identified through matronymics (names derived from that of the mother)?

CDS Exam (I) 2020

- (a) Mallas of Pava (b) Videhas of Mithila
(c) Yaudheyas (d) Satavahanas

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

In the case of the Satavahanas, we know that succession to the throne was generally patrilineal, but Satavahana rulers were identified through metronymics (names derived from that of the mother).

Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.

3. Consider the following statements pertaining to the Satavahanas:

CAPF (ACs) Exam 2019

- Satavahana rulers were identified through metronymics
- Satavahana succession to the throne was generally patrilineal

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- The Satavahana king, Satakarni called himself as Gauthamiputra Satakarni which meant Gauthami's son Satakarni. 'Gauthami' referred to his mother, Gauthami Balashri. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- In the case of the Satavahanas, succession to the throne was generally patrilineal. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.** **Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

4. Name the site that gives us valuable information about India's maritime links on the Coromandel coast.

CDS Exam (II) 2019

- (a) Bharukachchha (b) Karur
(c) Arikamedu (d) Anuradhapura

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- Arikamedu was identified as the Port of Podouke, known as an "emporium" in the Periplus of the Erythraean Sea and Ptolemy. Presently, the site is located in the union territory of Puducherry (Coromandel Coast).
- Based on the excavations, Sir Mortimer Wheeler, a British archaeologist concluded that Arikamedu was a Greek (Yavana) trading post that traded with Rome since the reign of Augustus.
- Merchants traded goods such as gems, pearls, spices and silk from this port.
- According to Wheeler, Indo-Roman trade lasted for about two hundred years, till 200 CE.

Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.

5. Which of the following inscription give the information about two Ashwamedha Yajnas performed by the king Pushyamitra Shung?

UPPCS (Pre) 2018

- (a) Saranath inscription
(b) Besnagar inscription
(c) Ayodhya inscription
(d) Hathigumpha inscription

8

Sangam Age

1. Amarasimha is the name of a:

CAPF (ACs) Exam 2015

- (a) famous lexicographer of ancient India
- (b) Rajput king of Chalukya lineage
- (c) poet mentioned by Kautilya in his *Arthashastra*
- (d) dance form of Odisha

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Amarasimha was an Indian lexicographer, who compiled the Amarakosa. He was a Buddhist and possibly a contemporary of Kalidasa.

Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.

2. In Sangam Literature 'Tolkappiyam' is a text of—

UPPCS (Mains) 2014

- (a) Tamil poetry
- (b) Tamil grammar
- (c) Tamil architecture
- (d) Tamil polity

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

In Sangam Literature, "Tolkappiyam" is a text of Tamil grammar. It is treatise of grammar and poetry written in formula style.

Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. Consider the following statements:

1. The Sangams flourished under the royal patronage of the Cholas.
2. No literary work of the first Sangam is available.
3. Ettuthogai is a part of Sangam literature.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2
- (b) 2 and 3
- (c) 1 and 3
- (d) All the above

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- ❑ As per Tamil legends, there existed three Sangams (Academy of Tamil poets) in ancient Tamil Nadu popularly called Muchchangam which flourished under the royal patronage of the Pandyas. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- ❑ The first Sangam, held at then Madurai, was attended by gods and legendary sages but no literary work of this Sangam is available. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- ❑ Eight Collections (Ettuthogai) in the literature, is a classical Tamil poetic work that forms part of the Eighteen Greater Texts (Patiṇṇmēlkaṇakku) anthology series of the Sangam Literature. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.

2. Consider the following statements

1. Vellalas were the agricultural labourers who worked as tanners in animal skin.
2. Arasar were territorial administrative and military governors appointed by the Nayaka rulers.
3. Polygars were the ruling class during the reign of Cholas and Pandyas.
4. Pariyars were referred to as rich peasants who usually hold civil and military offices.

Select the correct code:

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (b) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (c) All the above
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- ❑ In ancient South India, pariyars were low class agriculture labourers who also worked in tanneries. Presently this group can be found in Sri Lanka and in southern India, especially Tamil Nadu. **Hence, statement 4 is not correct.**
- ❑ The Sangam literature contains references to the caste system of Tamil culture, which contained certain 'low-born' groups referred to as Pulaiyar. Captains of army were invested with title of enadi.
- ❑ Vellalas were referred to as rich peasants who usually hold civil and military offices and arasar were the ruling

1. Which one of the following statements about the famous text of *Panchatantra* is correct? **CDS Exam (I) 2020**
- It is a philosophical text reflecting the debates of the time and refuting rival positions.
 - It is a text ushering in linguistics as a formal science.
 - It is a text discussing developments in various spheres of natural sciences.
 - It is a text showing through illustration what should and should not be done.

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- Panchatantra, a set of animal fables, was composed by Vishnu Sharma during the Gupta Period.
- 'Panch' means five and 'tantra' means ways or strategies.
- With morals attached, each story of the Panchatantra depicts what should be done and what should not be done.
- Also, many stories have animals as characters playing the roles of kings and the common people.

Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.

2. With reference to forced labour (Vishti) in India during the Gupta period, which one of the following statements is correct? **UPSC CSE (Pre) 2019**
- It was considered a source of income for the State, a sort of tax paid by the people.
 - It was totally absent in the Madhya Pradesh and Kathiawar regions of the Gupta Empire.
 - The forced labourer was entitled to weekly wages.
 - The eldest son of the labourer was sent as the forced labourer.

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- In Gupta Age, Vishti was a form of forced labour extracted by either state provincial governor or local chief. It was a forced labour in lieu of tax.
- The fact that most of the inscriptions referring to vishti come from the Madhya Pradesh and Kathiawar regions suggests that this practice was more prevalent in these areas.

Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.

3. With reference to Hath Yog, which of the following statement is/are correct? **UPPCS (Pre) 2019**
- Hath Yog was practised by Nathpanthis.
 - Hath Yog technique was also adopted by the Sufis.
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- Hath yoga, in India was practised by Nathpanthis. It combined the ideas from Buddhism, Shaivism and Yoga traditions in India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Hatha yoga has a much more complicated psycho-physical set of techniques. It combined vedanta, yoga, and western spiritual techniques. The technique was also adopted by the Sufis such as breath control. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.

4. Which one of the following statements about the Gupta period is *not* correct? **CAPF (ACs) Exam 2017**
- Forced labour (Vishti) became more common than before in this period
 - A passage in the *Vishnu Purana* refers to the Guptas enjoying all the territories along the Ganga up to Prayaga
 - The Mehrauli inscription suggests that Chandragupta fought against a confederacy of enemies in Bengal and also led a campaign into the Punjab
 - Saurashtra was not a part of the Gupta Empire

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- During the Gupta period, Vishti referred to forced labour that was extracted by either state, provincial governor or local chief. It was also mentioned on Gupta era copper inscriptions that enlist variety of taxes. It became more common than ever before and was considered as a source of tax for the state.
- A passage in the Vishnu Purana suggests that the Gupta territories comprised the region of Prayag, Saket, and

1

Early Medieval Empires

1. Consider the following statements about merchant guilds of South India: **NDA & NA Exam (II) 2018**

1. Ayyavole merchant guild was originally established in Aihole.
2. Manigraman merchant guild was subordinated to the Anjuvannam merchant guild in the 13th century.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- Ayyavole merchant guild was established in Aihole. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It provides for the trade links with communities in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. They were mentioned in the 9th century inscriptions.
- Aihole was a Chalukya city of Badami. A place with many temples and Brahmins. Some of these temples and Brahmins were involved in trade.
- Manigraman guilds initially appeared in Kerala coast in the 9th century and gradually flourished in Tamil Nadu in Pallava and Chola period.
- Manigraman merchant guild was not subordinated to the Anjuvannam merchant guild (a guild of West Asian traders) in the 13th century. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.

2. In the context of the history of India, consider the following pairs: **UPSC CSE (Pre) 2016**

Term	Description
1. Eripatti	— Land, revenue from which was set apart for the maintenance of the village tank
2. Taniyurs	— Villages donated to a single Brahmin or a group of Brahmins

3. Ghatikas — Colleges generally attached to the 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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- Eripatti was a type of land during the time of Pallavas, revenue from which was set apart for maintenance of village tanks. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- Taniyurs were very large villages which were administered as a single unit in the Chola Empire. **Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.**
- In 7th-8th centuries, Ghatikas were the learning centres attached to a temple. They provided Brahmanical education in Sanskrit medium. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**

Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.

3. Consider the following statements about Rashtrakuta Kings: **NDA & NA Exam (I) 2016**

1. They were ardent patrons of Shaivism and did not support other forms of religion.
2. They promoted only Sanskrit scholars and gave them large grants.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- The Rashtrakuta dynasty was founded by Dantidurga who ruled over the Deccan and neighbouring areas of India from about 755 to 975 CE. Manyakheta or Malkhed was the capital of the Rastrakutas near Sholapur.

2

Age of Conflicts (1000-1200 CE)

1. Which Arab scientist could be given the credit of christening the mathematical discipline of algorithms?

CDS Exam (I) 2019

- (a) Al-Khwarizmi
- (b) Ibn al-Haytham
- (c) Ibn Rushd
- (d) Ibn Sina

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

□ Al-Khwarizmi was also recognized as Muhammad Ibn Musa. He was a Persian scholar who created works in different fields like Mathematics, Astronomy, and Geography under the patronage of the Caliph Al-Ma'mun of the Abbasid Caliphate.

□ His work on Arithmetic was translated into Latin in the 12th century, and although the original is lost, the Latin translation *Algoritmi de numero Indorum* ("The al-Khwarizmi on the Indian numbers") still exists. Its title gave rise to the mathematical term "Arithmetic".

Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.

2. Given below are two statements, one is labeled as Assertion (A) and the other as Reason (R).

UPPCS (Pre) 2018

Assertion (A): Turkish invasions on India were successful.

Reason (R): There was no political unity in North India.

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

- (a) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
- (b) Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
- (c) (A) is true, but (R) is false.
- (d) (A) is false, but (R) is true.

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

□ Prominent reasons behind the success of Turkish invasions in India were:

- Presence of many kingdoms of varying size and strength

○ Constant indulgence in warfare and conflicts

○ Turks were bold, brave and materialistic in outlook, and Muhammad Ghori fought two battles with Prathviraj Chauhan in the battlefield of Tarain. **Hence, Assertion (A) is true.**

□ Division of India into small kingdoms such as Hindu-shahi kingdom in north-western region, Pratiharas of western India and Rajput kingdoms, which were further divided among them were ruling over north and central India and this lack of political unity made the task of conquering India easy for Turkish rulers. **Hence, Reason (R) is true.**

Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).

Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.

3. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer using the code given below the Lists:

NDA & NA Exam (II) 2015

List I

(Dynasty)

- A. Chalukyas
- B. Hoysalas
- C. Pandyas
- D. Eastern Gangas

List II

(Architecture)

- 1. Sun Temple, Konark
- 2. Pattadakal Temples
- 3. Kesava Temple, Somnathpur
- 4. Eastern gopura of Chidambaram Temple

Code:

	A	B	C	D
(a)	1	3	2	4
(b)	1	2	3	4
(c)	2	4	3	1
(d)	2	3	4	1

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

□ **Chalukyas:** The Pattadakal temple was dedicated to the Hindu gods Brahma, Shiva, and Vishnu. Pattadakal has some of the oldest Chalukyan free-standing

3

Delhi Sultanate

1. Who among the following Sultans succeeded in finally breaking and destroying the power of Turkan-i-Chihalgani?

CDS Exam (I) 2020

- (a) Iltutmish
- (b) Balban
- (c) Alauddin Khilji
- (d) Muhammad bin Tughluq

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- ❑ Balban was not prepared to share power with anyone while claiming to act as a champion of the Turkish nobility.
- ❑ He realized that 'Group of Forty' was one of the greatest obstacles in the way of the Sultan's absolute despotism.
- ❑ In order to make the throne safe for himself and for his successors, Balban decided to destroy the 'Group of Forty'.
- ❑ Balban promoted junior Turks to important positions to reduce the significance of the 'Group of Forty'.
- ❑ Iltutmish organised Turkan-i-Chihalgani, a band of loyalist officers and Balban destroyed it.

Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.

2. Who among the following Mongol leaders/commanders did not cross Indus to attack India?

CDS Exam (I) 2020

- (a) Chenghiz Khan
- (b) Tair Bahadur
- (c) Abdullah
- (d) Qutlugh Khwaja

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- ❑ Mongol forces led by Chenghiz Khan in pursuit of Sultan Muhammad pushed into Azerbaijan, defeated Russian forces at the Crimea and encircled the Caspian Sea. Another wing followed the Sultan's son, Jalaluddin, into Afghanistan and the Sindh province.
- ❑ At the banks of the Indus, Chenghiz Khan considered returning to Mongolia through North India and Assam, but the heat, the natural habitat and the ill portents reported by his Shaman soothsayer made him change his mind.

❑ Iltutmish was affected by the menace of Mongol invasion. The Mongol Emperor Chenghiz Khan, chasing the fugitive ruler of Khwarizm, Jalaluddin Mingburnu, had reached Afghanistan.

❑ Subsequently, Mingburnu sought refuge to Iltutmish. However, he was denied the same owing to the risk of the invasion of a dangerous and powerful invader like Chenghiz. This step of Iltutmish prevented the Mongol attack on Hindustan. The infant Turkish Sultanate of Delhi was, thus, saved from a great disaster.

Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.

3. Ibn Batuta went to China as the envoy of which one of the following Delhi Sultans? **CDS Exam (II) 2020**

- (a) Alauddin Khilji
- (b) Muhammad bin Tughluq
- (c) Iltutmish
- (d) Firoz Shah Tughluq

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Ibn Batuta was a Moroccan traveler who visited India during the reign of Muhammad-bin-Tughlaq. His book Rehla (the Travelogue) throws a lot of light on the period of Muhammad-bin-Tughlaq and the geographical, economic and social conditions in India. He went to China as the envoy of the emperor Muhammad bin Tughluq in 1342.

Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.

4. Who wrote the book of travels called Rihla?

CISF AC (EXE) LDCE 2020

- (a) Ibn Battuta
- (b) Al-Biruni
- (c) Shaikh Ali Hazin
- (d) Abdur Razzaq

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Ibn Battuta's book of travels, called Rihla, written in Arabic, provides extremely rich and interesting details about the social and cultural life in the subcontinent in the fourteenth century.

Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.

4

Mughal Empire and the Rise of Marathas

1. Consider the following statement about sulh-i-kul:
CAPF (ACs) Exam 2020

1. It means 'absolute peace'
2. It provided for freedom of expression to all religions and schools of thought
3. The ideal of sulh-i-kul was implemented through state policies

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- ❑ While Akbar was at Fatehpur Sikri during the 1570s, he started discussions on religion with the ulama, Brahmanas, Jesuit priests who were Roman Catholics, and Zoroastrians. These discussions took place in the Ibadat Khana.
- ❑ He was interested in the religion and social customs of different people.
- ❑ Akbar's interaction with people of different faiths made him realise that religious scholars who emphasised ritual and dogma were often bigots, and their teachings created divisions and disharmony amongst his subjects.
- ❑ This eventually led Akbar to the idea of sulh-i-kul or "universal peace". **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- ❑ In sulh-i-kul, all religions and schools of thought had freedom of expression. This idea of tolerance did not discriminate between people of different religions in his realm. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- ❑ Abul Fazl helped Akbar in framing a vision of governance around this idea of sulh-i-kul, so that these principles did not undermine the authority of the state. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- ❑ This principle of governance was followed by Jahangir and Shah Jahan as well.
Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.

2. Which one of the following statements about the religious policies of the Mughal kings is *not* correct?

CAPF (ACs) Exam 2020

- (a) The tax on pilgrimage was abolished in 1563, and the jizya tax on non-Muslim Subjects was abolished in 1564
- (b) Akbar issues instructions to his officers to follow the policy of religious toleration
- (c) Not all Mughal emperors gave grants for the building and maintenance of places of worship
- (d) Grants were issued for the repair of a number of temples in the reigns of Shah Jahan and Aurangzeb, after they had been destroyed during war.

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- ❑ Every Mughal Emperor gave grants to sustain the building and maintenance of places of worship.
- ❑ Even when temples were damaged during war, grants were later on issued by emperors for their repair, as we know from the reigns of Shah Jahan and Aurangzeb.

Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.

3. Which of the following statements about 'Mughal Mansab' system are correct? CDS Exam (I) 2020

1. 'Zat' rank was an indicator of a Mansabdar's position in the imperial hierarchy and the salary of the Mansabdar.
2. 'Sawar' rank indicated the number of horsemen the Mansabdar was required to maintain.
3. In the seventeenth century, Mansabdars holding 1000 or above 'Sawar' rank were designated as nobles (Umara).

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- ❑ The word Mansab means rank, dignity or office. The word Mansab is of Arabic origin meaning rank or position. The system hence, determined the rank of a government official and also other military generals.
- ❑ The 'Mansab' of a noble implies-(a) Salary of the officer (b) Status of the officer and (c) Number of soldiers, horses and elephants etc., maintained by an officer.

5

Vijayanagar and Bahmani Kingdoms

1. Of the following visitors, who compared medieval Vijayanagar with Rome? **CISF AC (EXE) LDCE 2020**

- (a) Nicolo de Conti (b) Afanasy Nikitin
(c) Domingo Paes (d) Fernao Nuniz

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- ❑ A large number of inscriptions of the kings of Vijayanagara and their Nayakas recording donations to temples as well as describing important events have been recovered.
- ❑ Several travellers visited the city and wrote about it.
- ❑ Notable among their accounts are those of an Italian (Rome) trader named Nicolo de Conti, an ambassador named Abdur Razzaq sent by the ruler of Persia, a merchant named Afanasii Nikitin from Russia, all of whom visited the city in the fifteenth century, and those of Duarte Barbosa, Domingo Paes and Fernao Nuniz from Portugal, who came in the sixteenth century.

Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.

2. The Vijayanagara Kings ruled in the name of which of the following Gods? **CISF AC (EXE) LDCE 2020**

- (a) Rama (b) Vishnu
(c) Vithoba (d) Virupaksha

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- ❑ Vijayanagara was inspired by the existence of the shrines of Virupaksha and Pampadevi.
- ❑ In fact the Vijayanagara Kings claimed to rule on behalf of the God Virupaksha.
- ❑ All royal orders were signed "Shri Virupaksha", usually in the Kannada script.
- ❑ Rulers also indicated their close links with the gods by using the title "Hindu Suratrana".
- ❑ This was a Sanskritisation of the Arabic term Sultan, meaning king, so, it literally meant Hindu Sultan.

Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.

3. The ruins of Vijayanagara (Hampi) were brought to public light in the year 1800 by the following British surveyor and engineer: **NDA & NA Exam (II) 2019**

- (a) James Prinsep (b) Colin Mackenzie
(c) James Rennell (d) Charles Metcalfe

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Colin Mackenzie, an employee of the English East India Company unveiled the ruins of Vijayanagar (Hampi) in 1800 AD. The first survey map of the site was prepared by him.

Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.

4. Who among the following travellers was from Italy and visited Vijayanagar Kingdom in the 15th century?

NDA & NA Exam (II) 2018

- (a) Nikitin
(b) Fa-Hien
(c) Bernier
(d) Nicolo Conti

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

An Italian trader named Nicolo de Conti, an ambassador named Abdur Razzaq sent by the ruler of Persia, a merchant named Afanasii Nikitin from Russia, all of whom visited the city in the fifteenth century, and those of Duarte Barbosa, Domingo Paes and Fernao Nuniz from Portugal, who came in the sixteenth century, visited the Vijayanagar Kingdom.

Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.

5. Which one of the following was a very important seaport in the Kakatiya Kingdom? **UPSC CSE (Pre) 2017**

- (a) Kakinada
(b) Motupalli
(c) Machilipatnam (Masulipatnam)
(d) Nelluru

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- ❑ Kakatiya dynasty ruled around the present day Andhra region from about 12th to 14th century AD.
- ❑ Around 1289 AD, Marco Polo visited the Kakatiya Kingdom under the reign of Rubramba. He recognized Kakatiya Kingdom as the kingdom of Mutfili – naming it after Motupalli, which was the most prosperous seaport of the Kakatiyas.

Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.



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1

India in the 18th Century and the Advent of Europeans

1. Who was the first Nawab Wazir of Awadh in the 18th century? **CDS Exam (II) 2018**

- (a) Nawab Safdarjung
- (b) Nawab Saadat Ali Khan
- (c) Nawab Shuja-ud-Daula
- (d) Nawab Saadat Khan

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- ❑ Nawab Saadat Khan was the first Nawab Wazir of Awadh. In 1724, he came from Persia and established the state of Awadh at a time when the Mughal Empire was shrinking.
- ❑ Awadh was among the three states that were carved out of the old Mughal Provinces in the eighteenth century, and stood out very prominently.
- ❑ All the three states, i.e., Awadh, Bengal, and Hyderabad were founded by members of the high Mughal nobility, who had been governors of large Provinces. All three had attained high mansabdari positions and enjoyed the trust and confidence of the emperors.
- ❑ The region and their first Nawab Wazirs are –

Saadat Khan	Awadh
Murshid Quli Khan	Bengal
Asaf Jah	Hyderabad

Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.

2. Which one of the following crops was introduced by the Portuguese in India? **NDA & NA Exam (II) 2018**

- (a) Opium
- (b) Coffee
- (c) Betel leaf
- (d) Chilli

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- ❑ In Ancient times, good attempts were made by the Portuguese in Indian Agriculture.
- ❑ They introduced crops like tobacco, pineapple, papaya, cashew nuts and chilli to the Indian sub-continent.

Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.

3. Where did the French East India Company first establish its factory in India? **NDA & NA Exam (II) 2018**

- (a) Calicut
- (b) Surat
- (c) Pondicherry
- (d) Masulipatnam

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

The first French factory in India was established at Surat in 1668 which was followed by the factory at Masulipatnam in 1669 after gaining the permission from the ruler of Golkonda.

Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.

4. The place of English East India Company settlement in Madras was known as: **NDA & NA Exam (II) 2018**

- (a) Fort William
- (b) Fort St. George
- (c) Elphinstone Circle
- (d) Marble Palace

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

In 1639, the King of Chandragiri gave the Company a place to establish their factory near Madras, known by the name of Fort St. George.

Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.

5. In which of the following places the Dutch established their trading centre in India? **UPPCS (Pre) 2017**

- (a) Nagapattinam, Chinsura, Machilipatnam
- (b) Surat, Bharuch, Agra
- (c) Cochin, Ahmedabad, Patna
- (d) All the above

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

The Portuguese were followed by the Dutch who established their first factory in Masulipatnam in 1605. Other factories of Dutch establishment in India are:

Surat	1616 AD
Agra	1621 AD
Patna	1632 AD
Chinsura	1653 AD
Nagappattinam	1658 AD
Kochin	1663 AD

Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.

3

Economic and Administrative Policies under the British

1. Which of the following Statements correctly explains the impact of Industrial Revolution on India during the first half of the nineteenth century? **UPSC CSE (Pre) 2020**

- (a) Indian handicrafts were ruined.
- (b) Machines were introduced in the Indian textile industry in large numbers.
- (c) Railway lines were laid in many parts of the country.
- (d) Heavy duties were imposed on the imports of British manufactures.

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- ❑ The Industrial Revolution brought severe consequences to the Indian society. One of the most important consequences of British rule was the decline and destruction of urban and rural handicraft industries.
- ❑ The discovery of steam power and its practice from the year 1815 created a threat to the Indian textile industry. The inventions of the spinning mule and power loom became more and more efficient because of steam power. Consequently, it had greatly reduced the cost of British textile and made it internationally competitive.
- ❑ To support British textile industry, heavy duties were imposed on the export of Indian textiles. Indian farmers were forced to produce cotton so that it can fuel English factories.
- ❑ However, there were some positive effects of the Industrial Revolution also. For example:
 - The introduction of factories and assembly lines;
 - Electricity development;
 - Railroads (First Railway in India: from Bombay to Thane in 1853).
- ❑ All these things contributed to faster and more efficient production of goods and materials. But, these developments took place mainly in the second half of the 19th century.

Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.

2. In 1797, under a clause of which one of the following settlements, Raja of Burdwan's estate was auctioned when he failed to pay the revenue to the East India Company? **Combined Geo-Scientist (Pre) Exam 2020**

- (a) Taluqdari
- (b) Ryotwari
- (c) Permanent
- (d) Mahalwari

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- ❑ The Permanent Settlement (also known as Permanent Settlement of Bengal) was introduced firstly in the province of Bengal and Bihar. After its success in these regions, it was introduced in Madras and Varanasi respectively.
- ❑ It was an agreement between the East India Company and landlords (zamindars) to fix the revenue collection. These landlords or zamindars were recognized as the owners of the land with hereditary rights.
- ❑ The revenue was collected by zamindars from the natives. This created a gulf between the zamindars and the natives and created a class loyal to Britishers.
- ❑ Under this settlement, the zamindar had to pay 10/11th portion of the revenue to the British and could keep 1/10th portion to himself. Though zamindars were loyal to British, not every zamindar got the benefit of this settlement.

Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.

3. What was the consequence of Permanent Settlement on rural society in Bengal? **NDA & NA Exam (I&II) 2020**

- (a) The zamindars invested capital and enterprise to improve agriculture along lines of British yeoman farmers.
- (b) A group of rich peasants known as jotedars succeeded in consolidating their position in the villages.
- (c) The ryots prospered as a result of fixed revenue levy imposed on them.
- (d) The system of Collectorate introduced by the Company for exercising supervisory control on zamindars failed to take off.

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- ❑ The Permanent Settlement of Bengal was introduced by Lord Cornwallis in 1793. Under this system, an agreement was sealed between the company and the zamindars to fix land revenue. The officials hoped that it would lead to the emergence of a class of yeomen farmers and rich landowners who would have the capital and enterprise to improve agriculture, but the result was different.

5

Peasant, Tribal and Other Movements

1. With reference to the history of India, “Ulgulan” or the Great Tumult is the description of which of the following events?

UPSC CSE (Pre) 2020

- (a) The Revolt of 1857
- (b) The Mappila Rebellion of 1921
- (c) The Indigo Revolt of 1859-60
- (d) Birsa Munda’s Revolt of 1899-1900

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- ❑ Birsa Munda (1875-1900) was born in the Munda tribe which inhabited the Chotanagpur area Bengal Presidency (Present-day Jharkhand). He is often referred to as ‘Dharti Abba’ or the Earth Father.
- ❑ Birsa Munda led the rebellion that came to be known as Ulgulan (revolt) or the Munda rebellion against the British government who imposed feudal state system.

- ❑ He awakened the masses and sowed the seeds of revolt in them against the landlords as well as the Britishers.
- ❑ His struggle against the exploitation and discrimination against tribals led to the passing of the Chotanagpur Tenancy Act in 1908, which restricted the passing of land from the tribal people to non-tribals.

Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.

2. Which one of the following groups of movements/revolts/ rebellions/riots is in chronological order (starting from the earliest)? **Combined Geo-Scientist (Pre) Exam 2020**

- (a) Santhal uprising, Tebhaga movement, Deccan riots
- (b) Kol rebellion, Santhal uprising, Deccan riots
- (c) Santhal uprising, Tebhaga movement, Kol rebellion
- (d) Kuka revolt, Deccan riots, Santhal uprising

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Santhal uprising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Year: 1855-56 ❑ Region: Present-day Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal ❑ Leadership: Sidhu and Kanhu Murmu ❑ Reason: Exorbitant tax rates, forceful deprivation of property, abuse and violence and willful trampling of their crops by zamindars and British made Santhals bonded laborers ❑ Result/effect: The revolt was very intense and massive in scale. It was violently suppressed by the British.
Tebhaga movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Year: 1946-50 ❑ Region: Dinajpur, Rangpur, Jalpaigudi, Midnapore, Khulna ❑ Leadership: Krishna Vinodi Rai, Avni Lahiri, Sunil Sen, Bhawani Sen, Moni Singh ❑ Reason: It was decided to pay 1/3rd only to the landlords ❑ Result/effect: Suhrawardi ministry took steps to address the problems and passed regulation
Deccan riots	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Year: 1875 ❑ Region: Poona, Ahmadnagar, Sholapur and Satara in Maharashtra ❑ Leadership: Baba Sahab and Deshmukh ❑ Reason: Vicious circle of Mahajan’s oppression, increase in revenue by 50% ❑ Result/effect: Social boycott of Mahajans, passage of Deccan Peasant and Relief Act, 1879
Kol rebellion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Year: 1831-32 ❑ Region: Chhotanagpur area ❑ Leadership: None

(Contd...)

1. Which one of the following towns was **not** a centre of the Revolt of 1857? **CDS Exam (II) 2020**

- (a) Ayodhya (b) Agra
(c) Delhi (d) Kanpur

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- ❑ The Revolt of 1857 was an armed uprising in Northern and Central India against the British Colonial government. It is also referred to as the Sepoy Mutiny or India's First War of Independence. It was started at Meerut, as a mutiny of sepoys of the British East India Company's army.
- ❑ The main centers of revolt were- Delhi headed by General Bakht Khan, Kanpur headed by Nana Saheb, Ayodhya by Maulvi Ahmadullah, Arrah by Kunwar Singh, Lucknow by Begum Hazrat Mahal and Jhansi by Rani Laxmibai. Agra was not the centre of the Revolt of 1857.

Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.

2. The Azamgarh Proclamation refers to **CDS Exam (II) 2020**

1. the declaration by the rebels of 1857
2. the statement by the leader of the underground movement in the Revolt of 1942

Which of the statements given above is/are **not** correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- ❑ In 1857, soon after the sepoys rose against the East India Company, the Delhi Gazette carried a proclamation issued in the name of the Mughal emperor, Bahadur Shah Zafar popularly called the Azamgarh Proclamation.
- ❑ The proclamation included denouncements of the "tyranny and oppression of the British, the rights of zamindars were guaranteed, just and attractive pay was guaranteed to soldiers, commercial class was promised that when the badshahi regime was restored, they would

enjoy "gratis", the use of "government steam-vessels and steam carriages for the conveyance" of their all-important merchandise. It was meant to win the support from influential quarters. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- ❑ Azamgarh Proclamation was issued on 25th August, 1857. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.

3. During the revolt of 1857, who mobilised the headmen of Eighty Four Villages (chaurasee des)?

CISF AC (EXE) LDCE 2020

- (a) Maulvi Ahmadullah Shah
(b) Shah Mal
(c) Nana Sahib
(d) Rao Tula Ram

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Shah Mal mobilised the headmen and cultivators of chaurasee des, moving at night from village to village, urging people to rebel against the British.

Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.

4. Who among the following was popularly called Danka Shah in the years 1856 - 57? **CISF AC (EXE) LDCE 2020**

- (a) Shah Mal
(b) Ahmadullah Shah
(c) Zahir Dehlvi
(d) Ghulam Hussain

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- ❑ Maulvi Ahmadullah Shah was one of the many maulvis who played an important part in the revolt of 1857.
- ❑ Educated in Hyderabad, he became a preacher when young.
- ❑ In 1856, he was seen moving from village to village preaching jihad (religious war) against the British and urging people to rebel.
- ❑ He moved in a palanquin, with drumbeaters in front and followers at the rear. He was, therefore, popularly called Danka Shah – the maulvi with the drum (danka).

Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.

7

Rise of Indian Nationalism

1. The British Committee of the Indian National Congress was founded in **CAPF (ACs) Exam 2020**

- (a) 1889 (b) 1892
(c) 1898 (d) 1901

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- ❑ The British Committee of the Indian National Congress was founded in 1889.
- ❑ Congress had this British Committee based in London, acting as a lobby group in Britain.
- ❑ Dadabhai Naoroji, when he was an MP in London, attended this group's meetings, and was associated with their parliamentary pressure group.
- ❑ In 1890, the Committee began to produce 'India', a free monthly journal summarising Indian news for the British press and politicians.
- ❑ India became a weekly subscribed journal, 1898-1921. Its editors included Henry Cotton (1906-19) and Henry Polak (1919-20).

Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.

2. During the 19th century, who among the following wrote the Satapatra Series? **CDS Exam (II) 2020**

- (a) M.G. Ranade
(b) B.G. Tilak
(c) Bankim Chandra Chatterjee
(d) G.H. Deshmukh

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

G.H. Deshmukh was an Indian activist, thinker, social reformer and writer from Maharashtra in the 19th century. He wrote the Satapatra series and worked for the upliftment of the depressed classes.

Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.

3. Which one of the following was not a demand made by the Congress moderates? **CDS Exam (II) 2020**

- (a) Universal Adult Franchise
(b) Repeal of the Arms Act
(c) Extension of Permanent Settlement
(d) Higher jobs for Indians in the army

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- ❑ Moderates were the national leaders who dominated congress policies from 1885-1905. They were the believers of liberalism and their political activity involved constitutional agitation within the confines of law.
- ❑ Their demands were:
 - Extension of legislative council so as to gain popular control of administration.
 - Removal of restriction on freedom of the press and the speech.
 - Abolition of Arms Act as it breaches the freedom of people.
 - Separation of Judiciary from executive.
 - Higher jobs for Indians in the Army.
 - Universal Adult Franchise was demanded at the later period along with voting rights for women by the moderates.
- ❑ Their demands did not include extension of permanent settlement, as they were highly vocal about the economic exploitation of India and further permanent settlement encouraged the Zamindari system which became one of the main reasons for the impoverishment of peasants.

Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.

4. Who among the following formed the National Liberation Federation (Liberal Party)? **CDS Exam (II) 2020**

- (a) Motilal Nehru and C. R. Das
(b) Muhammad Ali and C. R. Das
(c) T. B. Sapru and M. R. Jayakar
(d) M. R. Jayakar and C. R. Das

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

There was a confrontation between moderates and extremists in the congress over the Mont-Ford Reforms of 1919. The moderates welcomed it and the extremist opposed it which created a schism in the congress. The moderate leaders like Surendra Nath Banarjee, Tej Bahadur Sapru, M.R. Jayakar left the congress and formed a new organisation named Indian National Liberation Federation in 1919.

Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.

8

Indian National Movement (1905-1916)

1. Who founded the 'Seva Samiti' at Allahabad in 1914?

CDS Exam (I) 2020

- (a) Hridayanath Kunzru (b) G.K. Gokhale
(c) Shri Ram Bajpai (d) T.B. Sapru

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- ❑ Seva Samiti was an organization founded by a prominent member of the Servants of India Society, Hridayanath Kunzru.
- ❑ Founded in 1914 at Allahabad, the Seva Samiti had as its objective to organise social service during natural disasters like floods and epidemics, to promote the spread of education, cooperation, sanitation, to uplift depressed classes, reform criminals and rescue the fallen.

Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.

2. Who among the following formed the Seva Samiti Boy Scouts Association in 1914? **CDS Exam (II) 2020**

- (a) Hriday Nath Kunzru (b) S. G. Vaze
(c) Annie Besant (d) Shri Ram Bajpai

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Hriday Nath Kunzru, a prominent member of the Servants of India Society formed Seva Samiti Boy Scouts Association in 1914 at Allahabad with an objective to organise social service in the event of disaster, promotion of education, upliftment of downtrodden and depressed class etc.

Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.

3. After the First World War, the Triveni Sangh was formed by **CDS Exam (II) 2020**

- (a) the Jats and Gujjars
(b) the Rajputs and Yadavs
(c) the Jats and Yadavs
(d) the Ahirs and Kurmis

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- ❑ Sardar Jagdev Singh, Yadunandan Prasad Mehta and Shivpujan Singh, representing the three major backward

classes of Bihar – Yadav (Ahir), Koeri and Kurmi respectively founded the Triveni Sangh on 30 May 1933 in Shahabad.

- ❑ It aimed at generating a feeling of self-respect among the depressed and backward castes and protecting them from the upper-caste landlords, Pandits and Purohits. Triveni Sangh also wanted to unite the backward classes politically and do away with the monopoly of the Congress, which, at that point in time, was mainly an organization of the savarnas.

Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.

4. Who serialized the autobiography called Amar Katha between 1910 and 1931? **CISF AC (EXE) LDCE 2020**

- (a) Binodini Das
(b) Girish Chandra Ghosh
(c) Rabindranath Tagore
(d) M.G. Ranade

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- ❑ Between 1910 and 1913 Binodini Das serialised her autobiography, Amar Katha (My Story).
- ❑ A remarkable personality, she exemplified the problem women faced in recasting their roles in society.
- ❑ She was a professional in the city, working in multiple spheres – as an actress, institution builder and author – but the patriarchal society of the time scorned her assertive public presence.

Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.

5. With reference to Swadeshi Movement, consider the following statements: **UPSC CSE (Pre) 2019**

1. It contributed to the revival of the indigenous artisan crafts and industries.
2. The National Council of Education was established as a part of Swadeshi Movement.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

9

Emergence of Gandhi

1. Which one of the following statements is **not** correct about Khilafat movement?

Combined Geo-Scientist (Pre) Exam 2020

- (a) It was led by Muhammad Ali and Shaukat Ali
- (b) It demanded that Turkish Sultan must retain control over the Muslim sacred places in the erstwhile Ottoman Empire
- (c) Khalifa must be left with sufficient territory to enable him to defend the Islamic faith
- (d) The Congress did not support the movement

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- ❑ The British had promised a respectable treatment to the Caliph of Ottoman Turkish Empire to avoid hurting the sentiments of the Muslims during the First World War as Caliph was considered to be the religious and temporal head of the Muslims.
- ❑ A Khilafat Committee was formed in October 1919, under the leadership of the Ali brothers (Shaukat Ali and Muhammad Ali), Maulana Azad, Ajmal Khan and Hasrat Mohani, to force the British Government to change its attitude towards Turkey.
- ❑ Three central demands of the Khilafat movement were:
 - The Turkish Sultan or the Khalifa's control over all the Muslim sacred places should be retained.
 - Khalifa or the Caliph should be left with sufficient territories after territorial arrangements to enable him to defend the Islamic faith.
 - The Arab lands known as the Zyariat-ul-Arab i.e. Arabia, Syria, Iraq, Palestine etc must remain under Muslim sovereignty.
- ❑ The congress supported the movement and Mahatma Gandhi Sought to Conjoin it to the Non-cooperation Movement.

Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.

2. Where did Gandhiji initially forge the techniques of Satyagraha?

NDA & NA Exam (I-II) 2020

- (a) England
- (b) South Africa
- (c) North Africa
- (d) India

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- ❑ Gandhiji initially forged the technique of Satyagraha in South Africa in response to the unjust laws, which were against nationals of Asian origin. It was based on truth and non violence.
- ❑ For example, his campaign against Registration Certificate (1906), which demanded Indians to carry certificate of registration with their fingerprints all the time or his campaign against Poll tax and Invalidation of Indian Marriages.
- ❑ Further in India, Gandhiji used for the first time the technique of Satyagraha in Champaran (Bihar) against the Tinkathia system.

Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.

3. **Direction:** The following item consist of two statements, Statement I and Statement II. Examine these two statements carefully and select the correct answer using the code given below: **CDS Exam (II) 2019**

Code:

- (a) Both the statements are individually true and Statement II is the correct explanation of Statement I.
- (b) Both the statements are individually true but Statement II is not the correct explanation of Statement I.
- (c) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
- (d) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

Statement I: The United Provinces during Non-Cooperation became one of the strongest bases of the Congress.

Statement II: The literary outcrop of Non-Cooperation in Bengal was quite meagre compared to the days of the Swadeshi agitation.

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- ❑ Non-Cooperation Movement saw nation-wide protest and agitation, of which United Province became the centre stage. Provincial Congress Committees on linguistic basis were setup by the Congress along with ward committees. Several Congress leaders such as Motilal Nehru, Jawaharlal Nehru, Acharya Narendra Dev and

1. Who among the following wrote The Philosophy of the Bomb? **CDS Exam (II) 2020**

- (a) Sukhdev
- (b) Chandrashekhar Azad
- (c) Bhagwati Charan Vohra
- (d) Bhagat Singh

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The Philosophy of the Bomb is written by Bhagwati Charan Vohra, a member of the Hindustan Socialist Republican Army. He is remembered for bombing the special train carrying the Viceroy of India, Lord Irwin, in 1929 along with Yashpal.

Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.

2. Who among the following was **not** associated with the Kakori Conspiracy Case? **CAPF (ACs) Exam 2019**

- (a) Ramprasad Bismil
- (b) Rajendra Lahiri
- (c) Ashfaqulla Khan
- (d) Surya Sen

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- Hindustan Republican Association (HRA) required huge financial resources to carry out its activities against the British atrocities.
- Its leader Ram Prasad Bismil opined that the political activities must be funded by political loots.
- His idea was supported by other HRA members like Ashfaqulla Khan, Rajendra Lahiri, Chandrashekhar Azad, Sachindra Bakshi, Keshab Chakravarty, Manmathnath Gupta, Murari Lal Gupta (Murari Lal Khanna), Mukundi Lal (Mukundi Lal Gupta) and Banwari Lal.
- Therefore, HRA looted government treasury from a train at Kakori.

Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.

3. Which of the following statements about Bhagat Singh is/are **not** true? **CAPF (ACs) Exam 2019**

- 1. Bhagat Singh was influenced by Socialist Ideas.
- 2. He was a member of the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association.

3. Bhagat Singh threw a bomb in the Central Legislative Assembly in 1929 with the objective to kill as many people as possible.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- Bhagat Singh and Batukeshwar Dutt threw a bomb in the Central Legislative Assembly in Delhi on 8th April 1929. The bombs were purposely made harmless as they were meant to make “the deaf hear”. **Hence, statement 3 is not true.**
- This was intended to highlight the aims of the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA) and also to protest against the introduction of the Public Safety Bill and the Trade Disputes Bill, which had been drafted to counter the revolutionary activities, trade unionism and curtail other civil liberties of the people.
- HSRA saw itself as being at the forefront of this revolution, spreading the word (socialism) and acting as the armed section of the masses. **Hence, statement 1 is true.**
- Bhagat Singh and Dutt made no attempt to escape and courted arrest while shouting ‘Inquilab Zindabad’.
- In 1929, police raided HSRA’s bomb factory in Lahore, wherein Bhagat Singh was a member, and the subsequent trial came to be known as Lahore Conspiracy Case. **Hence, statement 2 is true.**
- Bhagat Singh and his comrades undertook a long fast to protest against the inhuman practices of discrimination against Indian prisoners.
- On the 63rd day of the fast, Jatin Das, a Bengali revolutionary breathed his last.
- The Lahore Conspiracy Case culminated in the execution of Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru by hanging while others were given harsh sentences.

Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.

11

Freedom Struggle in the 1920s and 1930s

1. The Gandhi-Irwin Pact included which of the following?
UPSC CSE (Pre) 2020

1. Invitation to Congress to participate in the Round Table Conference
2. Withdrawal of ordinances promulgated in connection with the Civil Disobedience Movement
3. Acceptance of Gandhiji's suggestion for enquiry into police excesses
4. Release of only those prisoners who were not charged with violence

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- ❑ The Delhi Pact (5 March, 1931), also known as the Gandhi-Irwin Pact, placed the Congress on an equal footing with the government.
- ❑ Lord Irwin, the Viceroy and Governor-General of India (1926-1931), on behalf of the British government, agreed with Mahatma Gandhi on the following:
 - immediate release of all political prisoners not convicted of violence;
 - remission of all fines not yet collected;
 - return of all lands not yet sold to third parties;
 - lenient treatment to those government servants who had resigned;
 - right to make salt in coastal villages for personal consumption (not for sale);
 - right to peaceful and non-aggressive picketing; and
 - withdrawal of emergency ordinances.

Hence, 2 and 4 are correct.

- ❑ The viceroy, however, turned down two of Gandhiji's demands:
 - public inquiry into police excesses, and
 - commutation of death sentence of Bhagat Singh and his comrades to life sentence.

Hence, 3 is not correct.

❑ Gandhiji on behalf of the Congress agreed:

- to suspend the civil disobedience movement, and
- to participate in the next Round Table Conference on the constitutional question around the three lynchpins of federation, Indian responsibility and reservations and safeguards that may be necessary in India's interests. **Hence, 1 is correct.**

Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.

2. Which one of the following is **not** correct about Mahatma Gandhi's Dandi Yatra or Salt March? **CAPF (ACs) Exam 2020**

- (a) It was the first national activity in which women participated in large numbers
- (b) Gandhiji allowed the women's participation at the request of Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay
- (c) The march was fully covered by the Western press
- (d) The march began after the failure of the First Round Table Conference in London

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

The First Round Table Conference began in November 1930 and ended in January 1931 whereas the Dandi Yatra of Gandhiji, began in March 1930. On 12th March, 1930, Gandhi, along with a band of 78 members of Sabarmati, marched from his headquarters in Ahmedabad to Dandi.

Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.

3. On 31st December, 1929, in which one of the following Congress Sessions, proclamation of 'Poorna Swaraj' was made? **CDS Exam (I) 2020**

- (a) Ahmedabad (b) Calcutta
- (c) Lahore (d) Lucknow

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- ❑ In December 1929, under the Presidency of Jawaharlal Nehru, the Congress Session at Lahore formalised the demand of 'Poorna Swaraj' or full independence for India.
- ❑ It was declared that 26th January, 1930 would be celebrated as the Independence Day, when people were to take a pledge to struggle for complete independence.

Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.

1. With whom did Subhash Chandra Bose form an alliance to destroy the Holwell Monument in Calcutta during 1939-40?
CDS Exam (II) 2020

- (a) The Communist Party of India
- (b) The Muslim League
- (c) The Hindu Mahasabha
- (d) The Unionist Party

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Subhash Chandra Bose formed an alliance with the Muslim League to destroy Holwell Monument in Calcutta during 1939-40. He along with the Muslim League organised mass protests in Calcutta calling for the 'Holwell Monument' commemorating the Black Hole of Calcutta, which then stood at the corner of Dalhousie Square, to be removed.

Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.

2. The basis of the failed Gandhi-Jinnah Talks of 1944 was:
CISF AC (EXE) LDCE 2020

- (a) Wavell Plan
- (b) Partition of India
- (c) Rajagopalachari Formula
- (d) Cabinet Mission Proposals

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- ❑ In May 1944, Gandhi ji proposed talks with Jinnah on his Two-Nation theory and negotiating on issue of partition. The Rajagopalachari Formula (CR Formula) acted as the basis for the negotiations.
- ❑ Gandhi and Jinnah met in September 1944, to ease the deadlock. Gandhi placed the Rajagopalachari Formula as his proposal to Jinnah. Negotiations continued for two years and ultimately failed.

Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.

3. According to which one of the following plans/reports, the decision with regard to the partition of Punjab and Bengal was to be taken on the basis of voting of the Members of the respective Legislative Assemblies?

CAPF (ACs) Exam 2019

- (a) Nehru report
- (b) Cripps mission plan
- (c) Beveridge report
- (d) Mountbatten plan

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Main Provisions of Mountbatten Plan (June 3, 1947)

- ❑ The Legislative Assemblies of Bengal and the Punjab, each to meet in two parts—one representing the Muslim majority districts and the other the rest of the districts.
- ❑ The Muslim majority districts were specified. Each part was required to decide by a simple majority whether the province was to be partitioned or not.
- ❑ If partition of the province was opted for, each part of the Assembly had to determine if it would like to join the Constituent Assembly already established or a new Constituent Assembly separately established and composed of representatives of those areas which decided not to participate in the existing Assembly.
- ❑ The Muslim majority area of Sylhet in Assam had to decide by Referendum whether the district in question would like to remain part of Assam or join East Bengal which would form part of Pakistan.
- ❑ Referendum was to be held in the NWFP to decide whether that province would like to opt for India or join Pakistan. The referendum was to be held under the aegis of the Governor-General and in consultation with the provincial government.
- ❑ The Princely states would join either Pakistan or India. Accession of Hyderabad to Pakistan ruled out.
- ❑ In case of Bengal, Punjab and Assam opted for partition, an independent Boundary Commission was to be appointed, to draw the dividing lines between the two parts of the provinces.
- ❑ Both the states – India and Pakistan were to be assigned dominion status in the initial stages, seek membership of the British Commonwealth of the Nations, though they were to be entitled to leave the British Commonwealth at a later date, if they so desired.

Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.

13

Constitutional Developments during British Raj

1. Who among the following gave evidence before the Joint Select Committee on the Government of India Bill, 1919 in favour of female franchise? **CDS Exam (II) 2020**

1. Mrs. Annie Besant
2. Mrs. Sarojini Naidu
3. Mrs. Hirabai Tata

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- In 1919 several pleas and reports indicating support for women to have the vote were presented by suffragists to the India Office and before the Joint Select Committee of the House of Lords and Commons. Sarojini Naidu led a deputation of 14 leading women from throughout India to present the demand to include women's suffrage.
- The delegation also included Annie Besant, Parvati Ammal, Mrs. Guruswamy Chetty, Nalinibai Dalvi, Dorothy Jinarajadasa, Dr. Nagutai Joshi Srimati Kamalabai Kibe, Mrs. Z. Lazarus, Mohani, Srimati S. Naik, Srimati Srirangamma, and Mrs. Hirabai Tata.

Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.

2. Consider the following statements about 'the Charter Act of 1813': **UPSC CSE (Pre) 2019**

1. It ended the trade monopoly of the East India Company in India except for trade in tea and trade with China.
2. It asserted the sovereignty of the British Crown over the Indian territories held by the Company.
3. The revenues of India were now controlled by the British Parliament.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- The Charter Act of 1813 was the second Charter passed by the British House of Commons for controlling the financial affairs of the East India Company.

- Although the Act renewed the Charter for a further period of twenty years, it took away the exclusive privileges of the Company to trade in India. Some of its provisions are as follows:

- It ended the trade monopoly of the East India Company in India except for trade in tea and trade with China. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It also asserted sovereignty of the British Crown over the Indian territories held by the Company. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It defined for the first time the constitutional position of British Indian territories. The Company retained the possession of territories and revenues for 20 years more without prejudice to the British Crown. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- It granted permission to the missionaries to come to India and engage in religious proselytization.
- The Act provided for a financial grant towards the revival of Indian literature and the promotion of science. It set aside ₹1 Lakh for education.

Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.

3. Why did the early nationalists oppose the Council Act of 1892? **CAPF (ACs) Exam 2019**

- (a) The number of members of the Imperial Legislative Council was increased
- (b) The number of members of Provincial Councils was increased
- (c) The Councils were given the right to discuss the annual budgets
- (d) The Act did not give the Indians control over the public funds

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Indian Councils Act, 1892**

- This act is seen as the beginning of Parliamentary democracy in India. The reforms passed in the British Parliament in 1892 mainly dealt with powers, responsibilities and constitution of Indian legislative councils.

Other Developments during British Raj

1. The Hunter Commission (1882) was appointed to survey the state of education in India **CDS Exam (I) 2020**
- (a) deprecated University education
 - (b) overruled the Despatch of 1854
 - (c) endorsed the Despatch of 1854 with greater emphasis on primary education
 - (d) criticized the grants-in-aid system of schooling

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- ❑ Lord Ripon appointed the Hunter Commission (1882-83) to review the progress made upon the recommendations of the Education Policy in the aftermath of 1854.
 - ❑ It was mandated to restrict itself only to the primary and secondary education.
 - ❑ Its recommendations were:
 - The commission emphasised for special attention to the extension and improvement of primary education and education to be imparted in the vernacular language.
 - Control of primary education should be entrusted to the District and Municipal Boards and the medium of education must be in the local language.
 - The secondary education must have two divisions: One must prepare the students for the University level entrance exams while the other must focus on imparting vocational and business skills to prepare them for professional life.
 - Encouragement of the private enterprise in the field of education.
 - It also drew attention to inadequate facilities for women's education, especially outside presidency towns and made recommendations for its growth.
 - ❑ The recommendations of this commission led to the unprecedented growth of secondary level and college level education system.
 - ❑ Subsequently, it led to the foundation of the University of Punjab in 1882 and the University of Allahabad in 1887.
- Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

2. Who among the following was one of the founders of the Indian Society of Oriental Art? **CDS Exam (I) 2020**
- (a) Rabindranath Tagore
 - (b) Abanindranath Tagore
 - (c) Dwarakanath Tagore
 - (d) Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyaya

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- ❑ Abanindranath Tagore was the founder of the 'Indian Society of Oriental Art'.
- ❑ To create awareness that Modern Indians could benefit from this rich past, Abanindranath was the main Artist and creator of an important journal, 'Indian Society of Oriental Art'.
- ❑ In this manner, he was also the first major supporter of Swadeshi values in Indian art, which best manifested in the creation of Bengal School of Art.
- ❑ Art historian Partha Mitter writes, "The first generation of the students of Abanindranath engaged in recovering the lost language of Indian Art."

Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.

3. Henry T. Colebrooke was a Professor of Sanskrit in which one of the following institutions? **CDS Exam (I) 2019**
- (a) Fort William College
 - (b) Serampore Mission
 - (c) KashiVidyapith
 - (d) Asiatic Society

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Henry Thomas Colebrooke in 1805 was appointed as an honorary professor for the subjects of Hindu Law and Sanskrit at the Fort William College.

Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.

4. Match List-I with List-II and select the correct answer using the code given below the Lists: **CDS Exam (I) 2019**

List-I (Author)

List-II (Book)

A. Sekhar Bandyopadhyay

1. Jawaharlal Nehru: A Biography, Vol-I, 1889-1947

Governor Generals and Viceroy

1. Wellesley established the Fort William College at Calcutta because
UPSC CSE (Pre) 2020

- (a) He was asked by the Board of Directors at London to do so
- (b) He wanted to revive interest in oriental learning in India
- (c) He wanted to provide William Carey and his associates with employment
- (d) He wanted to train British civilians for administrative purpose in India

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- ❑ To train British officials, Fort William College was established by Lord Richard Wellesley, Governor-General of Bengal (1798 to 1805) in 1800. The college aimed to create civil servants who would be familiar with Indian languages, History, Culture and local laws.
- ❑ Alongside, they would also receive training in Western languages and the art of administration.

Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.

2. Who believed that the Russian designs were 'an imminent peril to the security and tranquility' of the Indian Empire in 1836?
CDS Exam (I) 2020

- (a) Lord Auckland
- (b) Lord Palmerston
- (c) Lord Canning
- (d) Alexander Burnes

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- ❑ The relations between Britain and Russia were not very good, when Lord Auckland (1836-1842) arrived as the Governor-General of India.
- ❑ Russia was trying to make Afghanistan and Persia as its stronghold.
- ❑ The British feared Russian attack on India. Thus, they also tried to increase their influence in Afghanistan.
- ❑ Thereby, Lord Auckland believed Russians to be an imminent peril to the security and tranquility of the Indian Empire.

Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.

3. Who was the Viceroy of India at the time of Gandhiji's Dandi March?
NDA & NA Exam (I&II) 2020

- (a) Lord Irwin
- (b) Lord Linlithgow
- (c) Lord Reading
- (d) Lord Willingdon

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- ❑ The refusal of Gandhiji's eleven demands by Viceroy Lord Irwin in 1930 started the Civil Disobedience with the famous Dandi March, wherein Gandhiji asked people to do civil disobedience of the salt law wherever possible.
- ❑ Later, in order to pacify the movement, Lord Irwin suggested a round table conference which resulted into the Gandhi-Irwin Pact of 1931.

Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.

4. Who among the following started the Indian Agriculture Service?
CDS Exam (II) 2019

- (a) Lord Curzon
- (b) William Bentinck
- (c) Lord Minto
- (d) Lord Rippon

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- ❑ During the severe famines of 1899–1900, Lord Curzon, the then Viceroy of India, was convinced that the Government of India must urgently concentrate on the agriculture sector to overcome the damages caused by frequent famines.
- ❑ Thus, Indian Agriculture Research Institute (Pusa Institute) was established in Pusa, Bihar in 1905. The institute was originally called Agriculture Research Institute (ARI). Its name was changed to the Imperial Institute of Agricultural Research in 1911, and to the Imperial Agricultural Research Institute in 1919.
- ❑ The reason for its establishment in north Bihar was the proximity to indigo plantations, which were in need of revival after German synthesis of aniline in 1899.
- ❑ An All India Board of Agriculture was established in 1905 with a view to bring provincial governments more in touch with one another and making suitable recommendations to colonial government. Along with these measures, the Indian Agriculture Service was also constituted.

Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.

1

Indian Architecture

1. Who among the following in 1856 has taken the first detailed photographs of the archaeological remains at Hampi?
CISF AC (EXE) LDCE 2020

- (a) Colin Mackenzie
- (b) Alexander Greenlaw
- (c) John Marshall
- (d) J.F. Fleet

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- ❑ Alexander Greenlaw took the first detailed photographs of archaeological remains at Hampi in 1856.
- ❑ The ruins at Hampi were brought to light in 1800 by an engineer and antiquarian named Colonel Colin Mackenzie.

Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.

2. Building 'Kalyaana Mandapas' was a notable feature in the temple construction in the kingdom of

UPSC CSE (Pre) 2019

- (a) Chalukya
- (b) Chandela
- (c) Rashtrakuta
- (d) Vijayanagara

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- ❑ Temples of Vijayanagara, centred around Hampi, have the feature of 'Kalyaana Mandapa'.
- ❑ One of the greatest monuments of the Vijayanagara period, which dates back to the 16th century, is the Vitthala Temple.
- ❑ The Kalyana Mandapa, an open pavilion, was used for ceremonies involving the symbolic marriage of the temple's deity to his consort. Its interior is surrounded by impressive columns and contains a platform in the centre for the performance of sacred dances.

Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.

3. Which of the following temples is also known as Khajuraho of Vidarbha?
UPPCS (Pre) 2019

- (a) Markandeshwar
- (b) Kailash
- (c) Manudevi
- (d) Bhimasankar

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- ❑ Markandeshwar temple in Maharashtra is also known as Khajuraho of Vidarbha.
- ❑ It was constructed by the Rashtrakuta dynasty from 8th to 12th century in the Nagara style of temple architecture. The temples belong to Saiva, Vaishnava and Shakti faith.

Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.

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

UPSC CSE (Pre) 2018

1. White marble was used in making Buland Darwaza and Khankah at Fatehpur Sikri.
2. Red sandstone and marble were used in making Bara Imambara and Rumi Darwaza at Lucknow.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- ❑ Buland Darwaza was built in 1601 AD by Akbar to commemorate his conquest of Gujarat. It is 40 metres high and 35 metres wide. The gateway is made of red sandstone and not with white marble. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- ❑ Shaikh Salim Chishti (1478-1572) was one of the most revered Sufi saints of the Mughal period. His Khanqah (Khankah), or hospice is located near Fatehpur Sikri – which is a simple prayer hall. In 1571, Akbar commissioned tomb of Sufi saint Shaikh Salim Chishti within the Friday Mosque complex at Fatehpur Sikri, which is a white marble structure ornamented and inspired by Gujarati tomb architecture, and includes Hindu, Jain and Islamic elements. Thus, it is the tomb of Shaikh Salim Chishti which saw the use of white marble.
- ❑ In 1784, the province of Awadh was struck by a famine of an unprecedented scale. The ruler of Awadh, Nawab Asaf-ud-Daula, came up with a novel way of generating employment. He summoned the best architects of the time and commissioned them to design a grand prayer hall for the city of Lucknow – the Bara Imambara. The whole building was made of Lucknowi bricks and lime

2

Indian Sculptures

1. In the Gandhara School of Art, initially blue schist and green phyllite were used. When did stucco completely replace stone as the main material used by Gandhara School sculptors?

CDS Exam (II) 2020

- (a) 1st century CE (b) 2nd century CE
(c) 3rd century CE (d) 5th century CE

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- ❑ The Gandhara School of art had developed around the 1st century AD during the reign of Kushan emperor, Kanishka.
- ❑ In the initial phase, the Gandhara School of art sculptures were made by using material such as green phyllite and gray-blue mica schist. While stucco (lime plaster) was used increasingly after the 3rd century CE.
- ❑ Gandhar School of art is well known for the first sculptural representations of the Buddha in human form.

Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.

2. Depiction of the descent of the river Ganga from heaven in the form of relief sculpture on rock is at

CAPF (ACs) Exam 2018

- (a) Ellora (b) Mahabalipuram
(c) Sanchi (d) Amaravati

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- ❑ Mahabalipuram is an important coastal town from the period of the Pallavas. This large sculptural panel, one of the largest and oldest known in the world, is nearly thirty metres long and fifteen metres high.
- ❑ It is dotted with several important rock-cut and free-standing structural temples mostly made in the seventh and eighth centuries.
- ❑ There is a natural cleft in the rock which has been cleverly used by its sculptors as a channel for water to flow down.
- ❑ While some scholars believe that it is the story of the descent of the Ganga from heaven to earth, others believe that the main story is of Kiratarjuniya or Arjuna's penance, a poetic work by Bharvi which is known to have been popular in the Pallava court.

- ❑ Other scholars have interpreted the symbolism behind the sculptures to show that the whole tableau was created to be a Prashasti, or something to praise the Pallava king, who, they say, would have sat enthroned in the tank in front of this extraordinary backdrop.

Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.

3. In Gandhara School of Art, the image of which of the following deities is a prominent feature?

Engineering Services (Pre) Exam 2016

- (a) Buddha (b) Krishna
(c) Mahavira (d) Shiva

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- ❑ In post Mauryan empire three prominent schools of the sculpture came into prominence in three different regions of India namely Gandhara, Mathura, and Amravati schools.
- ❑ The Gandhara School of Art has its origin in Greco tradition, which was further merged with the regional or local art of that time. The main characteristic of Gandhara School of art is first sculptural representation of Buddha in human form.
- ❑ Initially, Gandhara School of art was developed in the western frontiers of Punjab. It was patronized by both Shaka and Kushan rulers.
- ❑ Major centers of Gandhara school of art were Jalalabad (Eastern Afghanistan), Hadda (ancient region of Gandhara), Begram (Parwan province of Afghanistan) & Taxila (Pakistan).

Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.

4. With reference to the Indian history of art and culture, consider the following pairs: **UPSC CSE (Pre) 2014**

Famous work of sculpture Site

1. A grand image of Buddha's : Ajanta
Mahaparinirvana with numerous celestial musicians above and the sorrowful figures of his followers below

3

Indian Paintings

1. The famous Mughal painting, depicting Jahangir embracing the Safavid King Shah Abbas, was painted by which one of the following Mughal painters?

CDS Exam (I) 2020

- (a) Abd al-Samad
- (b) Abu'l Hasan
- (c) Dasavant
- (d) Bishandas

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- ❑ Abu'l Hasan painted the scene portraying the two rulers – Jahangir and the Safavid Shah Abbas in friendly embrace. Both the kings are depicted in their traditional costumes.
- ❑ The figure of Safavid King Shah is based upon portraits made by Bishandas, who accompanied the Mughal embassy to Iran in 1613.
- ❑ This gave a sense of authenticity to a scene which is fictional, as the two rulers had never met.

Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.

2. Who among the following Mughal Emperors shifted emphasis from illustrated manuscripts to album and individual portrait?

UPSC CSE (Pre) 2019

- (a) Humayun
- (b) Akbar
- (c) Jahangir
- (d) Shah Jahan

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- ❑ During Akbar's reign, many manuscripts were illustrated, of which 'Razmnama', the Persian translation of the 'Mahabharata' is one among the prominent ones.
- ❑ It was during Jahangir's reign that manuscripts became less important and individual portraits became more prominent.

Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.

3. The well-known painting "Bani Thani" belongs to the

UPSC CSE (Pre) 2018

- (a) Bundi school
- (b) Jaipur school
- (c) Kangra school
- (d) Kishangarh school

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

❑ **Kishangarh School**

- Bani Thani painting belongs to the Kishangarh School. Kishangarh School (18th century) of Indian painting emerged in the Princely State of Kishangarh (Central Rajasthan).
- The school is clearly distinguished by its individualistic facial type and its religious intensity. The sensitive, refined features of the men and women are drawn with pointed noses and chins, deeply curved eyes, and serpentine locks of hair.
- The brilliant series of paintings on the Radha-Krishna theme were due largely to the inspiration of Raja Savant Singh (reigned 1748–57). He was a poet also, who wrote under the name of Nagari Das.
- The master artist largely responsible for transmitting the romantic and religious passions of his patron (i.e., Raja Savant Singh) into new and fresh visual images was Nihal Chand.

❑ **Kangra School**

- Around mid-18th century, as forces of Nadir Shah (1739) and Ahmad Shah Abdali (1744-1773) pillaged the Mughal capital of Delhi and surrounding areas, the birth of the Kangra School of painting at Haripur-Guler under the patronage of Raja Govardhan Chand (1744-1773) took place as he provided asylum to refugee artists trained in the Mughal style of painting.
- Kangra painting is named after Kangra (Himachal Pradesh), a former Princely State.
- These artists who were traditionally trained in the Mughal style (which predominately featured flattering portraits of their patrons and hunting scenes), now incorporated themes from the love poetry of Jayadeva, Bihari and Keshav Das who wrote ecstatically of the love of Radha and Krishna.

❑ **Bundi School**

- Between 17th-19th century, Bundi School of painting developed in the Princely State of Bundi and its neighbouring principality of Kotah (now Kota) both in present-day Rajasthan.

4

Crafts and Coinage

1. The book 'Venushipla' by Chitracharya Upendra Maharathi Relates to which of the following form of arts?

UPPCS (Pre) 2019

- (a) Jewellery (b) Painting
(c) Bamboo Art (d) Marble Carving

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Chitracharya Upendra Maharathi wrote the book 'Venushipla' which deals with the bamboo art.

Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.

2. Consider the following pairs: UPSC CSE (Pre) 2018

Craft	Heritage of
1. Puthukkuli shawls	— Tamil Nadu
2. Sujni embroidery	— Maharashtra
3. Uppada Jamdani saris	— Karnataka

Which of the pairs given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- ❑ **Puthukkuli Shawls:** The embroidered textile of the Todas is used as a mantle/shawl or cloak and is called Putkuli in the Toda native language. It is made by Todas of Nilgiri Hills in Tamil Nadu. Locally called Pugur, meaning flower, the fine and intricate Toda embroidery is done by tribal men and women on shawls. **Hence, pair 1 is correct.**
- ❑ **Sujni Embroidery:** Also known as Sujani, it is a form of embroidery originating from the Bhusura village of Bihar in India. In ancient times, it was considered as a form of quilting wherein old saris and dhotis were used as a

creative canvas, the cloth was folded twice or thrice and then simple stitches were done on these used clothing to add newness to them. **Hence, pair 2 is not correct.**

- ❑ **Uppada Jamdani Saris:** These are diaphanous silk saris that trace their origin to Uppada in Andhra Pradesh. Jamdani itself is a hand woven fabric that is also known as muslin. The word Jamdani roughly translates to flower vase (where 'Jam' means flower and 'Dani' means vase). It is also said that this technique of weaving has Bengali roots. **Hence, pair 3 is not correct.**

Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.

3. Consider the following towns of India:

UPSC CSE (Pre) 2014

1. Bhadrachalam 2. Chanderi
3. Kancheepuram 4. Karnal

Which of the above are famous for the production of traditional sarees/fabric?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- ❑ Chanderi (Madhya Pradesh) and Kancheepuram (Tamil Nadu) are famous for the production of traditional fabrics/sarees.
- ❑ Chanderi in Ashoknagar district of Madhya Pradesh is famous for sarees made of a mix of silk and cotton. Kancheepuram in Tamil Nadu is famous for sarees that are distinguished by their wide contrast border.

Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. With reference to 'Deendayal Hastkala Sankul', consider the following statements:

1. The foundation of Deendayal Hastkala Sankul laid on 7th November 2014 under the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India.
2. It includes a crafts museum to showcase the handloom & handicraft product and is a world class

training centre for traditional handicrafts established at Varanasi.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

1. With reference to Manipuri Sankirtana, consider the following statements: **UPSC CSE (Pre) 2017**

1. It is a song and dance performance.
2. Cymbals are the only musical instruments used in the performance.
3. It is performed to narrate the life and deeds of Lord Krishna.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- ❑ Manipuri dance has a large repertoire of dance forms, however, the most popular ones are Ras, Sankirtana and Thang-Ta.
- ❑ The Kirtan form of congregational singing accompanying the dance is known as Manipuri Sankirtana in Manipur. It is practiced primarily by the Vaishnava community in Manipur. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- ❑ Through the performances, the performers narrate the stories of Lord Krishna. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- ❑ The male dancers play the Pung and Kartal while dancing. The masculine aspect of dance – the Choloms are a part of the Sankirtana tradition. The Pung and Kartal Choloms are performed at all social and religious festivals. In a typical performance, two drummers and about ten singers-dancers perform in a hall or domestic courtyard encircled by seated devotees. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- ❑ The Manipuri Sankirtana is inscribed on the Representative List of the UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.

2. Consider the following pairs: **UPSC CSE (Pre) 2014**

1. Garba : Gujarat
2. Mohiniyattam : Odisha
3. Yakshagana : Karnataka

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

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- ❑ Garba is a dance form which originated in Gujarat. Dancers move in a circular movement around a lit lamp or an idol of Goddess Durga, which signifies the cycle of life from birth to death with only Goddess Durga being permanent or eternal. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- ❑ Mohiniyattam is the classical solo dance form of Kerala, which literally means the dance of 'Mohini', the celestial enchantress of the Hindu mythology. This dance form was structured into the present day classical format by the Travancore kings, Maharaja Kartika Tirunal and his successor Maharaja Swati Tirunal (18th-19th century AD). **Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.**
- ❑ Yakshagana literally means the song (Gana) of the Yaksha (nature spirits), and is a native dance form of Karnataka, which was first introduced in Udupi by Madhvacharya's disciple Naraharitirtha, who was the minister in the Kalinga Kingdom. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**

Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.

3. With reference to the famous Sattriya dance, consider the following statements: **UPSC CSE (Pre) 2014**

1. Sattriya is a combination of music, dance and drama.
2. It is a centuries-old living tradition of Vaishnavites of Assam.
3. It is based on classical Ragas and Talas of devotional songs composed by Tulsidas, Kabir and Mirabai.

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- ❑ Sattriya is a classical dance of Assam, which comprises of dance-drama performances based on Ekasarana tradition (i.e., Krishna-centric Vaishnavism cult) which was organized by 15th century Bhakti saint, Srimanta Sankardeva. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

1. With reference to Mian Tansen, which one of the following statements is **not** correct? **UPSC CSE (Pre) 2019**

- (a) Tansen was the title given to him by Emperor Akbar.
- (b) Tansen composed Dhrupads on Hindu Gods and Goddesses.
- (c) Tansen composed songs on his patrons.
- (d) Tansen invented many Ragas.

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- ❑ Mian Tansen (born as Ramtanu Misra) was a prominent Indian classical music composer, musician and vocalist, known for a large number of compositions, and also an instrumentalist, who popularised and improved the Plucked Rabab (of Central Asian origin).
- ❑ He began his career and spent most of his adult life in the court and the patronage of the Raja Ramchandra Singh of Bandavagarh (Rewa Princely State). He was among the Navaratnas (nine jewels) at the court of the Mughal Emperor Akbar, who gave him the title 'Mian', meaning 'learned man'.
- ❑ The title "Tansen" was given to him by Raja Vikramjit of Gwalior.
- ❑ His musical compositions covered many themes, and employed Dhrupad. Most of these were derived from the Hindu Puranas, composed in Braj Bhasha, and written in praise of Gods and Goddesses. He also composed songs for his patrons, especially Akbar and Rewa Kings.
- ❑ Kalpadruma is a compilation of 300 of his Dhrupads that were in Gauhar Bani (one of the four basic Drupad styles). He invented many Ragas like night Raga – Darbari Kanhra, morning Raga – Mian Ki Todi, mid-day Raga – Mian ki Sarang, seasonal Raga – Mian ki Malhar.

Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.

2. With reference to cultural history of India, consider the following statements: **UPSC CSE (Pre) 2018**

- 1. Most of the Tyagaraja Kritis are devotional songs in praise of Lord Krishna.
- 2. Tyagaraja created several new ragas.

- 3. Annamacharya and Tyagaraja are contemporaries.
- 4. Annamacharya kirtanas are devotional songs 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 3
- (d) 2, 3 and 4

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Tyagaraja

- ❑ Saint Tyagaraja was born on 4th May 1767 in the village of Thiruvaiyaru in the Thanjavur district of Tamil Nadu. He lived a long and austere life, like a saint, and passed away on January 6, 1847. He was one of the principal composers of the Carnatic trinity.
- ❑ Tyagaraja took music training from Sonti Venkataramayya. He created several new Ragas. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- ❑ He was an ardent devotee of Lord Rama. In Lord Rama's praise and honour, he wrote numerous musical operas, and about twenty four thousand songs. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- ❑ Three outstanding composers of Carnatic music of the 18th century are collectively known as the Trinity of Carnatic music. They include-Tyagaraja (1767-1847), Syama Sastri (1763-1827) and Dikshitar (1775-1835).

Annamacharya

- ❑ Annamacharya (1408-1503) was a 15th century Hindu saint born to Lakkamamba and Narayana Suri. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - ❑ He is the earliest known Indian musician to compose songs called Sankirtanas in praise of the Lord Venkateswara, a form of Vishnu. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**
- Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

3. Consider the following passage and identify the person:

Born in April 1932, she was a renowned Hindustani classical vocalist. She was recognized as an innovative exponent of the Jaipur Gharana. She was awarded Padma Bhushan and Padma Vibhushan. She was also a Fellow of Sangeet Natak Akademy. She died in April 2017.

CAPF (ACs) Exam 2017

7

Martial Arts in India

1. With reference to India's culture and tradition, what is 'Kalaripayattu'?

UPSC CSE (Pre) 2014

- (a) It is an ancient Bhakti cult of Shaivism still prevalent in some parts of South India
- (b) It is an ancient style bronze and brasswork still found in southern part of Coromandel area
- (c) It is an ancient form of dance-drama and a living tradition in the northern part of Malabar
- (d) It is an ancient martial art and a living tradition in some parts of South India

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- ❑ Kalaripayattu means 'practicing the arts of the battlefield'.
- ❑ Considered to be more than 2000 years old, it is practiced widely in Kerala and in the fringes of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu and also in Sri Lanka.
- ❑ It is probably the oldest form of martial arts in India and across the world and is believed to have been founded

by Parasurama. It is said to be forerunner of Chinese martial art (Kung-fu) as the Buddhist monk Bodhidharma took this art from India to China.

- ❑ It finds reference in the Dhanurveda (an Upveda) also known as the Indian Science of Warfare. It is also referenced in the Sangam literature.
- ❑ The art reached its zenith during the hundred years of war between the Cholas, Pandyas and Cheras. During the 13th and 16th centuries, the art was incorporated into many religions as well.
- ❑ It primarily emphasises on footwork patterns and the ability to strike at vital points. It includes strikes, kicks and the use of weapons. It is a silent combat, where style matters the most and it is not accompanied by any music or drumming.
- ❑ The demonstration of Kalaripayattu includes physical exercise and mock duel (armed and unarmed). It is practiced by women also.

Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. With reference to a traditional martial art called Gatka, consider the following statements:

1. It is a style of stick fighting between two or more practitioners.
2. It is believed to be a battle technique created by Sikh warriors during the martial period of great Sikh Gurus.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- ❑ Gatka, a martial art originated in the state of Punjab and is associated with the Sikh community.
- ❑ It is a style of stick fighting between two or more practitioners. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

❑ It is believed to be a battle technique created by Sikh warriors during the martial period of great Sikh Gurus. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

❑ Gatka is a moderate version of the deadlier Shastra Vidya, the fighting style of the fearsome Akali Nihangs.

Therefore, option (c) is the correct option.

2. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding 'Silambam'?

1. It is a weapon-based martial art form.
2. It has been included in the UNESCO's Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage.
3. It is an ancient martial art of Tamil Nadu even mentioned in the Sangam Literature.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (c)

8

Language and Literature

1. Tulsidas was the author of **CAPF (ACs) Exam 2020**

1. Ramcharitmanas
2. Padavali
3. Kavitavali

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- Tulsidas was an author of Ramacharit Manas and Kavitavali.
- He was a great poet and a devotee of Rama.
- He has depicted Rama as the incarnation of God and believed that man could reach him only through Bhakti or devotion.

Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.

2. Who among the following is the author of the Kiratarjuniya?

CAPF (ACs) Exam 2020

- (a) Magha (b) Bharavi
(c) Bhasa (d) Bhavabhuti

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Kiratarjuniya or Arjuna's penance, a poetic work by Bharavi is known to have been popular in the Pallava court. In the annals of Indian art there is perhaps no better example of the representation of the elephant than that in the Arjuna's penance scene.

Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.

3. Why was the Sittar poetry of Tayauma-navar famous?

CAPF (ACs) Exam 2019

- (a) The writings were nationalist compositions
(b) The writings were romantic epics
(c) The writings were devotional songs
(d) The writings were protests against the caste system

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Tayaumanavar (1706-44) was one of the best exponents of sittar poetry in Tamil, in line with other sitar poets, he protested against the abuses of temple-nile and the caste system.

Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.

4. 'Chandimangala' was composed in which one of the following languages during the 16th century CE?

CDS Exam (II) 2019

- (a) Sanskrit (b) Tamil
(c) Bengali (d) Oriya

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- The Chandimangala is an important subgenre of mangalkavya, the most significant genre of 16th century Bengali literature.
- The text eulogizes Chandi or Abhaya, primarily a folk goddess, but subsequently identified with Puranic goddess Chandi.
- It comprises two unrelated narratives. The narrative of Kalketu and Phullara is known as the Akhetik Khanda (hunter section), and the narrative of Dhanapati and his wives, Lahana and Khullana is known as the Banik Khanda (merchant section).

Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.

5. Who is the author of the 16th century Sanskrit text, the Vraja Bhakti Vilasa which focuses on the Braj region in North India?

CDS Exam (II) 2019

- (a) Todar Mal (b) Narayana Bhatta
(c) Chaitanya (d) Rupa Goswami

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- Narayana Bhatta was the disciple of Shri Krishna Dasa Brahmachari.
- He was completely attached to Braj region.
- Quoting Varaha Purana, he compiled Vraja Bhakti Vilasa, a detailed guidebook of Braja Mandala.
- In this book he reveals his identity as Narada Muni. For this and other books he is known by the Brajavasis as the Vrajacharya.

Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.

10

Bhakti and Sufi Movements

1. Which one of the following statements about the Bhakti Movement in South India is *not* correct?

CAPF (ACs) Exam 2020

- (a) The Nalayira Divyaprabandham was also known as the Tamil Veda
- (b) Andal was an Alvar
- (c) Karaikkal Ammaiyar was a devotee of Vishnu
- (d) Metal images of the saints, Appar and Sundarar, were made and then consecrated in a Shiva temple

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- ❑ Nalayira Divyaprabandham is a collection of 4000 Tamil verses composed by the 12 Alvars. It is also known as the Tamil Veda and was compiled by Nathamuni.
- ❑ Andal was the only female Alvar, who saw herself as the beloved of Lord Vishnu.
- ❑ A woman named Karaikkal Ammaiyar, a devotee of Shiva, adopted the path of extreme asceticism in order to attain her goal. Her compositions were preserved within the Nayanar tradition.
- ❑ Chola ruler, Parantaka I, consecrated metal images of Bhakti Saints such as Appar, Sambandar and Sundarar, etc., in a Shiva temple. These images were later carried in processions during the festival of these saints.

Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.

2. Consider the following statements: **UPSC CSE (Pre) 2019**

1. Saint Nimbarka was a contemporary of Akbar.
2. Saint Kabir was greatly influenced by Sheikh 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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- ❑ Nimbarka was a 13th century philosophical saint who founded the devotional sect called Nimbarkas or Nimandi, or Nimavats. He worshipped the deity Krishna and his consort, Radha. On the other hand, Akbar ruled

between mid-16th century and early 17th century. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

- ❑ Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi was an Islamic scholar who lived between the mid-16th to 17th century. He was a Hanafi jurist and a prominent member of the Naqshbandi Sufi order during the Mughal period.
- ❑ Saint Kabir was a 15th century mystic poet, who is known for being critical of both Hinduism and Islam. He was strongly influenced by Ramananda, a 14th century Vaishnava devotional poet. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.

3. Who were the Nayanars? **CDS Exam (II) 2019**

- (a) Those who were immersed in devotion to Vishnu
- (b) Those who were devotees of Buddha
- (c) Leaders who were devotees of Shiva
- (d) Leaders who were devotees of Basवेशwara

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- ❑ The Bhakti cult originated in the form of a movement in the Tamil country, sometime back in the sixth century. It began as a reaction against the growing influence of Buddhism and Jainism. This movement spread in South India for about three centuries and was popularised by Lord Shiva's saints called Nayanars and Vaishnava saints called Alvars.
- ❑ Nayanars were the devotees of Lord Shiva. They traveled from place to place singing hymns in Tamil. They belonged to various sects, including Brahmins, Harijan and nobles.

Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.

4. Who were Alvars? **CDS Exam (II) 2019**

- (a) Those who immersed in devotion to Vishnu
- (b) Devotees of Shiva
- (c) Those who worshipped abstract form of God
- (d) Devotees of Shakti

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- ❑ Alvars were the devotees of Lord Vishnu and his Avatars (incarnations).

1. Consider the following pairs: **UPSC CSE (Pre) 2018**

Tradition

State

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Chapchar Kut festival | — Mizoram |
| 2. Khongjom Parba ballad | — Manipur |
| 3. Thang-Ta dance | — Sikkim |

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

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- ❑ Chapchar Kut is one of the oldest festivals of Mizoram and has a great cultural significance. It is an annual harvest festival celebrated in the month of March. People perform the colourful Cheraw dance. Chapchar Kut literally means a festival held during the period when the bamboos and trees that have been cut down are awaited to become dry to be burnt for jhumming. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- ❑ Khongjom Parba is a style of ballad singing from Manipur using Dholak (drum) which depicts stories of heroic battle fought by Manipuris against the British Empire in 1891. **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**
- ❑ Thang-Ta is a popular term for the ancient Manipuri martial art known as Huyen Lallong. Thang-Ta is a sword and spear dance where 'Thang' means 'sword' and 'Ta' means 'spear'. **Hence, pair 3 is not correctly matched. Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

2. Consider the following pairs: **UPSC CSE (Pre) 2017**

Traditions

Communities

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| 1. Chaliha Sahib Festival | — Sindhis |
| 2. Nanda Raj Jaat Yatra | — Gonds |
| 3. Wari-Warkari | — Santhals |

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

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- ❑ Chaliha Sahib is the festival of the Sindhis. This festival, in which devotees fast for 40 days, originated in Sindh (now in Pakistan). People pay offerings and prayers to Lord Jhulelal. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- ❑ Nanda Devi Raj Jaat Yatra can be traced back to the 15th century and is considered among the toughest pilgrimages. It is a festival celebrated by the people of Garhwal and Kumaon regions of Uttarakhand. Held during 'Bhadrapad' (months of August-September), the Yatra is meant to celebrate Nanda Devi's journey from her maternal home to her husband's abode. The Gonds are the tribal community which is mostly found in the states of Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Odisha and parts of Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh. **Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.**
- ❑ Wari-Warkari is an annual pilgrimage to Pandharpur – the seat of the Hindu God Vithoba in Maharashtra in honour of the deity. Palakhis carrying the Paduka (foot prints) of various saints from the Warkari sect are taken from their respective shrines to Pandharpur. On the other hand, Santhals are spread over eastern states of Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Odisha. **Hence, pair 3 is not correctly matched.**

Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.

3. Which among the following was the Theme State in the 30th Surajkund International Crafts Mela?

CAPF (ACs) Exam 2016

- (a) Chhattisgarh
- (b) Kerala
- (c) Telangana
- (d) Bihar

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- ❑ Surajkund is the reservoir of 10th century, located on the Delhi Ridge of Aravalli Range. During the spring season every year, a traditional crafts festival is held here which is attended by all states. It was first started in 1987.
- ❑ Traditional craftsmen from all states participate in this annual festival. The theme, specific to a state of India, is



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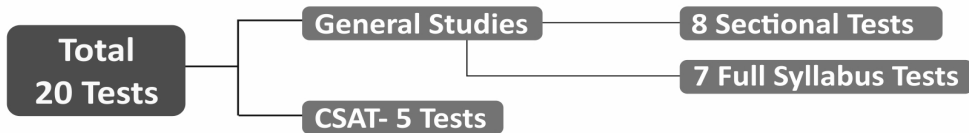
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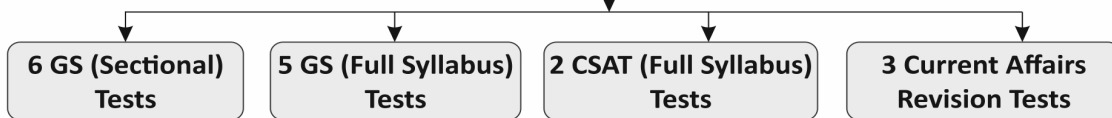
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Miscellaneous

1. In the context of Indian history, the Rakhmabai case of 1884 revolved around: **UPSC CSE (Pre) 2020**

1. women's right to gain education
2. age of consent
3. restitution of conjugal rights

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- ❑ Rakhmabai (1864 – 1955) made her mark in history due to the legal case she was involved in, which contributed to the enactment of the Age of Consent Act, 1891.
 - ❑ In 1885, after 12 years of marriage, her husband sought “restitution of conjugal rights”. Rakhmabai was ordered to go live with her husband or spend six months in jail. **Hence, 3 is correct.**
 - ❑ Rakhmabai refused to live with the man she was married as a child, as she had no say in the marriage. Rakhmabai wrote to Queen Victoria. The Queen overruled the court's verdict and dissolved the marriage.
 - ❑ The ripples that the case created, led to the influence the passage of the Age of Consent Act, 1891, which made child-marriages illegal across the British Empire. **Hence, 2 is correct.**
 - ❑ Though Rakhmabai became the first woman doctor to practice medicine in British India, the case was not related to the women's right to gain education. **Hence, 1 is not correct.**
Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.
2. Indigo cultivation in India declined by the beginning of the 20th century because of: **UPSC CSE (Pre) 2020**
- (a) peasant resistance to the oppressive conduct of planters
 - (b) its unprofitability in the world market because of new inventions
 - (c) national leaders' opposition to the cultivation of indigo
 - (d) Government control over the planters

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- ❑ Indigo is a blue dye which comes from the indigo plant. During the rule of the East India Company, and later during British Raj, it was widely grown in India. It was often called as the “Blue Gold” and was widely traded in European market.
- ❑ There was a significant increase in the indigo production during the 18th and 19th centuries in Bengal and Bihar due to the increasing demand and production. However, in the beginning of the 20th century, with the invention of cheaper and less times-consuming synthetic indigo, the demand for the cultivation of indigo went significantly down. Synthetic indigo made natural indigo non-profitable for farmers as well as for traders.

Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.

3. With reference to the history of India, consider the following pairs: **UPSC CSE (Pre) 2020**

1. Aurang – In-charge of treasury of the State
2. Banian – Indian agent of the East India Company
3. Mirasidar – Designated revenue payer to the State

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

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

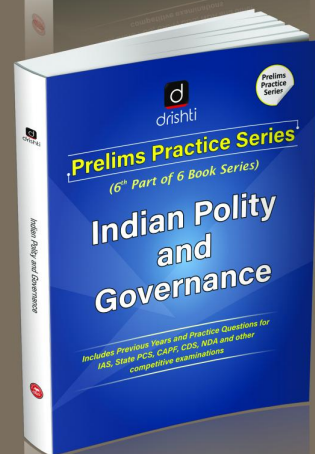
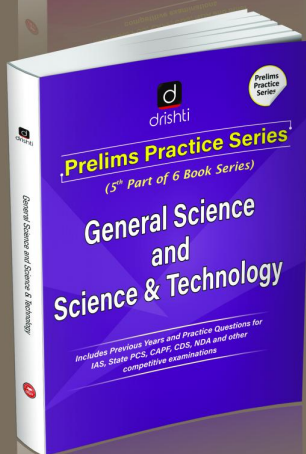
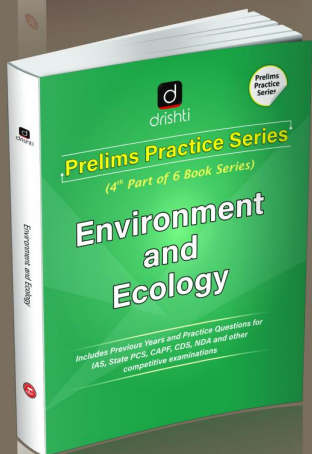
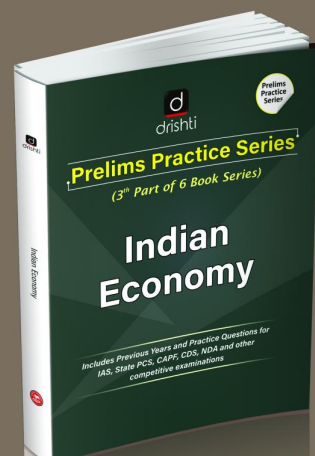
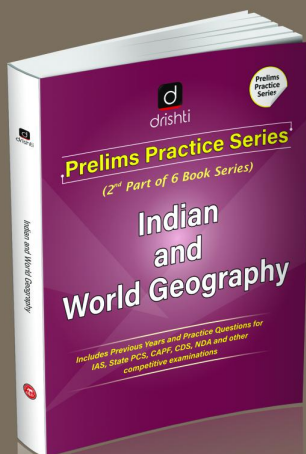
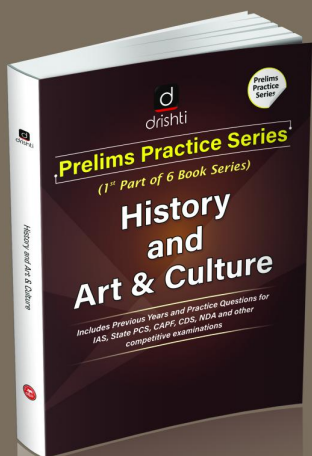
- ❑ **Aurang:** It is a Persian term for a warehouse where goods are collected before being sold. **Hence, pair 1 is not correctly matched.**
- ❑ **Banian:** The word Bania (also Vania) is derived from the Sanskrit vanij, meaning ‘a merchant’. The term is widely used to identify members of the traditional mercantile or business castes of India. Banias were bankers, moneylenders, traders, and shopkeepers. During the British rule, Banians acted as intermediaries for European merchants in Bengal. **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**



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