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Detailed
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1. Ans: A

Exp:

- The **Godavari is the largest Peninsular River system**. It is also called the **Dakshin Ganga**.
 - ◆ It rises from **Trimbakeshwar near Nasik in Maharashtra** and flows for a length of about 1465 km before outfalling into the **Bay of Bengal**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
 - ◆ The Godavari basin extends over states of **Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Odisha** in addition to smaller parts in Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Union territory of Puducherry.
- **Tributaries:**
 - ◆ The Purna, Pranhita, Indravathi and Sabari are important left bank tributaries
 - ◆ The **Pravara, Manjira and Maner are right bank tributaries**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

2. Ans: D

Explanation:

- **Prafulla Chandra Ray (1861-1944)** was a well-known Indian scientist and teacher and one of the first “modern” Indian chemical researchers.
- He was also known as “**Father of Indian Chemistry**”. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- He discovered the **stable compound Mercurous Nitrite in 1895**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- As a nationalist he also wanted the Bengalis to come up in the world of enterprise.
 - ◆ He himself set an example by establishing a chemical firm called the **Bengal Chemical and Pharmaceutical Works (1901)**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

3. Ans: D

Exp:

- **Jataka tales** are works of literature that are about **Gautam Buddha’s previous births**. These births are his lives in which he was human as well as animal forms.
- **Sanchi stupas** are noteworthy for their gateways as they contain **ornamented depiction of incidents from the life of the Buddha and his previous incarnations as Bodhisattvas**.
 - ◆ Sanchi Stupa is located in Sanchi, Madhya Pradesh. It was originally **built in the 3rd century BCE by the Mauryan emperor Ashoka** and is believed to **house ashes of the Buddha**.
 - ◆ The **Great Monkey Jataka and Six-tusked Elephant Jataka** are some finest examples of **Jataka Tales sculpture in Sanchi**.

- Hence, **option D is correct**.

4. Ans: D

Exp:

- **VIRAASAT** is a Sari festival that celebrates **75 handwoven Sarees of India, organised by the Ministry of Textiles**.

Sarees	State
Banarasi	Uttar Pradesh
Paithani	Maharashtra
Kanjeevaram	Tamil Nadu
Kasavu	Kerala
Jamdani	West Bengal
Bandhani	Gujarat
Muga	Assam
Phulkari	Punjab
Kalamkari	Rajasthan

Kasavu belongs to Kerala, Muga to Assam and Kalamkari belongs to Rajasthan. Hence, **none of the pairs are correctly matched, therefore, option D is correct**.

5. Ans: A

Exp:

- The **Jagannath Temple (Puri, Odisha)** is believed to have been constructed in the **12th century by King Anantavarman Chodaganga Deva** of the Eastern Ganga Dynasty. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
 - ◆ Jagannath Puri temple is called ‘Yamanika Tirtha’ where, according to the Hindu beliefs, the power of ‘Yama’, the god of death has been nullified in Puri due to the presence of Lord Jagannath.
- **This temple was called the “White Pagoda”** and is a part of Char Dham pilgrimages (Badrinath, Dwaraka, Puri, Rameswaram). Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.
 - ◆ The temple is known for its unique architecture, which includes a massive compound wall and a large temple complex with multiple towers, halls, and shrines.
- Jagannath Temple is not listed in UNESCO’s list of World Heritage Sites.
 - ◆ Sun Temple, Konark is the only such site from Odisha. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

6. Ans: D

Exp:

Konark Temple:

- Konark Sun Temple, **located in the East Odisha near the sacred city of Puri**.
- Built in the **13th century by King Narasimhadeva I (AD 1238-1264)**. Its scale, refinement and conception represent the strength and stability of the **Eastern Ganga Empire** as well as the value systems of the historic milieu. Hence **statement 2 is correct**.

- The temple is designed in the shape of a **colossal chariot and is dedicated to the Sun God.**
- The Konark temple is **widely known not only for its architectural grandeur** but also for the intricacy and profusion of sculptural work.
- It marks the highest point of achievement of Kalinga architecture depicting the grace, the joy and the rhythm of life in all its wondrous variety.
- It was declared a **UNESCO world heritage site** in 1984. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- Sailors once called this **Sun Temple of Konark, the Black Pagoda** because it was supposed to draw ships into the shore and cause shipwrecks. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- Konark is the invaluable link in the history of the diffusion of the cult of Surya, which originating in Kashmir during the 8th century, finally reached the shores of Eastern India.

7. Ans: D

Exp:

Recently, the Wall of Peace, a great work of modern mural art on the 700-feet long compound wall of Government Vocational Higher Secondary School at Cherpulassery (Kerala), was inaugurated.

- Indian Mural Paintings are paintings made on the walls of caves and palaces.
- The **earliest evidence of the murals** is the beautiful **frescoes painted on the caves of Ajanta and Ellora**, the Bagh caves and Sittanvasal cave. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- In the old scripts and literature, there was much evidences of mural paintings.
 - ◆ According to **Vinaya Pitaka**, the noted courtesan of Vaishali – Amrapali **employed painters to paint the kings**, traders and merchants of that time **on the walls of her palace.** **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

8. Ans: D

Exp:

- Jainism came to prominence in the 6th century B.C., when Lord Mahavira propagated the religion.
 - ◆ The word **Jaina** comes from the term **Jina**, meaning **conqueror.** **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- There were 24 great teachers called Tirthankaras - people who had attained all knowledge (Moksha) while living and preached it to the people.

- ◆ **Tirthankara** is a **Sanskrit word meaning 'Ford maker'**, i.e., one who is able to ford the river, to cross beyond the perpetual flow of earthly life.
- ◆ The first Tirthankara was Rishabhatha and the last was Lord Mahavira.
- Jainism attaches utmost importance to ahimsa or non-violence.
 - ◆ It preaches 5 mahavratas (the 5 great vows):
 - Ahimsa (Non-violence)
 - Satya (Truth)
 - Asteya or Acharya (Non-stealing)
 - Aparigraha (Non-attachment/non-possession)
 - Brahmacharya (Celibacy/Chastity)
 - ◆ Among these 5 teachings, the **Brahmacharya (Celibacy/Chastity) was added by Mahavira.** **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

9. Ans: C

Exp:

- **Birth:**

- ◆ He was born as Narendranath Datta on 12th January 1863.
- ◆ Therefore, every year on 12th January National Youth Day is celebrated to observe the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - In 1893, upon the request of Maharaja Ajit Singh of the Khetri State, he took the name 'Vivekananda.'

- **Contributions:**

- ◆ Introduced the world to the Indian philosophies of Vedanta and Yoga.
 - He preached 'neo-Vedanta', an interpretation of Hinduism through a Western lens, and believed in combining spirituality with material progress.
- ◆ Laid the greatest emphasis on education for the regeneration of our motherland. Advocated a man-making character-building education.
- ◆ Best known for his speech at the World Parliament of Religion in Chicago in 1893.

- **Associated Organizations:**

- ◆ He was the chief disciple of the 19th-century mystic Ramakrishna Paramhansa and established the Ramakrishna Mission in 1897.
- ◆ Ramakrishna Mission is an organization which works in the area of value-based education, culture, health, women's empowerment, youth

and tribal welfare and relief and rehabilitation.

Hence, statement 2 is correct.

- In 1899, he established the Belur Math, which became his permanent abode.

10. Ans: C

Exp:

- Theyyam is a **popular ritual form of dance worship in Kerala and Karnataka, India. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- It consisted of thousand-year-old traditions, rituals and customs.
- The people consider Theyyam itself as a channel to a god and they thus seek blessings from Theyyam.
- Each **Theyyam is a man or a woman** who attained divine status by performing heroic deeds or by leading a virtuous life. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
- Most **Theyyams are believed to be the incarnations of Shiva or Shakti** (the consort of Shiva). Or they have strong associations with these principal deities of Hinduism. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- There are over 400 theyyams. Some of these are very important.

11. Ans: D

Exp:

- **Jyotirao Phule:**
 - ◆ He was an Indian **social activist, thinker, anti-caste social reformer and writer from Maharashtra.**
 - He is also known as **Jyotiba Phule.**
 - ◆ **Education:** In 1841, Phule was enrolled at the **Scottish Missionary High School (Pune)**, where he completed education.
 - ◆ **Ideology:** His Ideology was based on: **Liberty; Egalitarianism; Socialism.**
 - Phule was influenced by **Thomas Paine's book titled The Rights of Man** and believed that the only solution to combat the social evils was the enlightenment of women and members of the lower castes.
 - ◆ **Major Publications:** Tritiya Ratna (1855); Powada: Chatrapati Shivajiraje Bhosle Yancho (1869); Gulamgiri (1873), Shetkarayacha Aasud (1881).
 - ◆ **Title of Mahatma:** He was bestowed with the **title of Mahatma on 11th May, 1888** by a Maharashtrian social activist **Vithalrao Krishnaji Vandekar.**
 - ◆ **Hence, option D is correct.**

12. Ans: B

Exp:

- **Tramjatra (tram's journey)** is a moving tram carnival that was started back in **1996 jointly by enthusiasts from Melbourne and Kolkata.**
- At the time, **Kolkata**, the only Indian city where the tram still runs, was home to about two dozen routes.
 - ◆ Today the number of routes that remain operational has shrunk to just two.
- The **2023 event**, therefore, will be more about impressing the **West Bengal** government to preserve the tram.
- **Therefore, option B is correct.**

13. Ans: D

Exp:

Dokra Metalcraft:

- In 2018, Dokra craft from West Bengal was presented with the **Geographical Indication (GI) tag.** West Bengal's Lalbazaar is an art hub and becoming a center for dokra, a popular metalcraft. **Hence, option D is correct.**
- It is a **form of ancient bell metal craft** practiced by the Ojha metalsmiths living in states like Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, West Bengal and Telangana.
- Dhokra or Dokra, is also known as **bell metal craft.**
- The name '**Dhokra**' comes from the **Dhokra Damar tribes**, who are the traditional **metal smiths of West Bengal.**
 - ◆ Their technique of lost wax casting is named after their tribe, hence Dhokra metal casting.
 - The Dokra artifacts are **made in brass and are unique in that the pieces do not have any joints.** The method is combining metallurgical skills with wax techniques employing the lost wax technique, a unique form where mould is used only once and broken,
 - Q making this art the only one-of-its-kind in the world.



14. Ans: C

Exp:

- It is the most ancient branch of extant Buddhism today. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It remains closest to the original teachings of the Buddha.

- Theravada Buddhism **developed in Sri Lanka** and subsequently spread to the rest of Southeast Asia. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

◆ It is the dominant form of religion in **Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.**

15. Ans: B

Exp:

- The **Benin Bronzes** are a group of over 3,000 sculptures and artworks from the ancient **Kingdom of Benin** in present-day Nigeria. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- It dates back to at least the **16th century.**
- The **Kingdom of Benin** is also known as the Edo Kingdom. The **Kingdom of Benin** prospered from the **1200s to the 1800s C.E.** in **western Africa**, in what is now **Nigeria.** **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- These artifacts provide insight into the **culture of the Benin Kingdom** as well as its relationships with neighboring states. Some of these pieces also point to the kingdom's relationship with Europeans.

16. Ans: A

Exp:

- **Aoleang** is the main festival of the **Konyaks tribes** from northern **Nagaland.** **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is celebrated in the first week of **April** every year, this year **Mon District** will be witnessing the celebration from **1st - 6th April.**
- **Register of Indigenous Inhabitants of Nagaland (RIIN)** is a **Government of Nagaland's** initiative to prevent outsiders from obtaining **fake indigenous certificates.** **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

17. Ans: D

Exp:

- **Sri Sita Ramachandraswamy Temple** is a Hindu temple dedicated to **Sri Rama** located in the town of **Bhadrachalam** in **Bhadradri Kothagudem district of Telangana.** It is one of the **Divya Kshetrams** on the banks of the **Godavari River** and is popularly known as **Dakshina Ayodhya.** **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Ramappa Temple**, often referred to as the **Rudreshwara Temple**, is a Hindu temple built in the **Kakatiya style** in **Telangana, India**, and is devoted to the **deity Shiva.** It is a **UNESCO world heritage site.** **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

18. Ans: A

Exp:

Dhanu Jatra

- Recently, the **Dhanu Jatra** - considered to be the **world's largest open-air theatre**, began. It came into

existence in Bargarh (Odisha) in 1947-48 as part of the celebration of the country's Independence and is held annually.

◆ The Yatra **relates to the episode of Lord Krishna's visit to Mathura (UP)** to witness the ceremony of **'Bow' organised by Kansa** as described in the **'Bhagavata Purana'.** The **fest continues for 7-11 days** preceding **Pausa Purnima** (falling in Dec-Jan every year).

◆ A similar festival, **Jagannath Rath Yatra** (also called **Chariot Festival**) is also held in Orissa.

- **Hence, option A is correct.**

19. Ans: A

Exp:

- Keeladi is a tiny hamlet in the Sivaganga district in south Tamil Nadu. It is about 12 km south-east to the temple city of Madurai.
- The excavations here from 2015 prove that an **urban civilization existed in Tamil Nadu** in the **Sangam age** on the banks of the **Vaigai river.** **Hence Option A is correct and Option C is not correct.**
- The unearthed Keeladi artefacts have led academics to describe the site as part of the **Vaigai Valley Civilization.** The findings have also invited **comparisons with the Indus Valley Civilization** while acknowledging the **cultural gap of 1,000 years** between the two places. **Hence, option B is not correct.**
- According to Tamil Nadu State Archaeology Department (TNSDA) Keeladi has all the characteristics of an urban civilization, with brick structures, luxury items and proof of internal and **external trade.** **Hence, option D is not correct.**

20. Ans: D

Exp:

- The opening ceremony of the **Rising Sun Water Fest-2022** was conducted amidst the pristine surroundings of **Umiam Lake (man-made reservoir) at Meghalaya.**
- Members of the **Garo tribal community perform Wangala dance** on the occasion of **'The Rising Sun Water Fest-2022'.**
 - ◆ **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Wangala is also known as the **Festival of Hundred Drums** and is celebrated with **different forms of dances** on the tunes of folk songs played on **drums and primitive flute** made of buffalo horns.
 - ◆ **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The festival is celebrated in **honour of the Sun God** and marks the **end of the long harvest season.**



◆ Hence, statement 3 is correct.

- The celebration also signifies the **end of a long toil period in the field for the Garo tribe** before the start of the winters.

21. Ans: C

Exp:

- A **World Heritage Site** is a place that UNESCO lists for its **special cultural or physical significance**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- The list of World Heritage Sites is maintained by the international **'World Heritage Programme'**, administered by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- In 2021, 'Liverpool — Maritime Mercantile City' in the United Kingdom was deleted from the World Heritage List due to "the irreversible loss of attributes conveying the outstanding universal value of the property". Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.
 - ◆ India is home to a total of 3691 monuments and sites. Of these 40 are designated as UNESCO World Heritage Sites.
 - ◆ Including places like the Taj Mahal, **Ajanta Caves and Ellora Caves**. **World Heritage Sites also include natural sites like the Kaziranga National Park in Assam**.
 - Harappan city of Dholavira in Gujarat as India's 40th world heritage site.
 - Ramappa Temple (Telangana) was India's 39th World Heritage Site.
 - Khangchendzonga National Park, Sikkim has been inscribed as India's first and only "Mixed World Heritage Site". Hence, **statement 4 is correct**.

22. Ans: B

Exp:

- **Visva-Bharati University** was founded by **Rabindranath Tagore** in **1921** with the aim of creating a center of learning that would bring together the best of **Eastern and Western cultures** and **foster a spirit of universalism**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- **Tagore** saw the university as a way to promote **Indian culture and values** and to provide a space for young people to explore **new ideas and perspectives**.
- **Visva-Bharati University** is poised to receive the "heritage" designation from **UNESCO**, which would make it the **world's first university** to hold the distinction of being a "living heritage university". Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

23. Ans: C

Exp:

- The government has proposed the Ambedkar Circuit in 2016 which is also known as the Panchteerth. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- The five cities in the tourist circuit as announced by the government are:
 - ◆ **Janma Bhoomi**- Ambedkar's birthplace in Madhya Pradesh's Mhow.
 - ◆ **Shiksha Bhoomi**- The place in London where he stayed while studying in the UK.
 - ◆ **Deeksha Bhoomi**- The place in Nagpur where he embraced Buddhism.
 - ◆ **Mahaparinirvan Bhoomi**- The place of his demise in Delhi. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
 - ◆ **Chaitya Bhoomi**- the place of his cremation is in Mumbai.

24. Ans: B

Exp:

- The Gupta Empire stretched across **northern, central and parts of southern India** between **320 and 550 CE**.
 - ◆ The period is noted for its achievements in the **arts, architecture, sciences, religion, and philosophy**.
 - ◆ It began a period of overall prosperity and growth that continued for the next two and half centuries which came to be **known as a Golden Age in India's history**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- The efficiency of their **martial system was well known**. The large kingdom was divided into smaller **pradesha** (provinces). Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- **Gold and silver coins** were issued in great numbers, which is a general indicator of the health of the economy.
 - ◆ Trade and commerce flourished both within the country and outside. **Silk, cotton, spices, medicine, priceless gemstones, pearls, precious metal and steel** were exported by sea. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.
- During this period there was growth in science, literature and philosophy such as:
 - ◆ **Varahamihira** wrote Brihatsamhita and also contributed to the fields of astronomy and astrology.
 - ◆ Genius mathematician and astronomer **Aryabhata** wrote Surya Siddhanta which covered several aspects of geometry, trigonometry and cosmology.

- ◆ **Shanku** devoted himself to creating texts about Geography. Hence, **statement 4 is correct.**

25. Ans: A

Exp:

- **Basaveshwara was a 12th-century poet and philosopher**, who is celebrated and held in high regard, especially by the Lingayat community, as he was the founder of Lingayatism.
 - ◆ The term Lingayat denotes a person who wears a personal linga, an iconic form of God Shiva, on the body which is received during the initiation ceremony.
- **Main Teachings:** His spiritual discipline was based on the **principles of Arivu** (true knowledge), **Achara** (right conduct), and **Anubhava** (divine experience) and it brought a social, religious and economic revolution in the 12th century.
 - ◆ This path advocates a holistic approach to Lingayat yoga (union with the divine). Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ This comprehensive discipline encompasses bhakti (devotion), jnana (knowledge), and kriya (action) in a well-balanced manner.
 - ◆ Basaveshwara gave two more very **important socio-economic principles.**
 - ◆ **Kayaka (Divine work):**
 - According to this, every **individual in society should take up the job of his choice** and perform it with all sincerity.
 - ◆ **Dasoha (Equal distribution):**
 - **There must be an equal income for equal work.** Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**
 - The worker (Kayakajeevi) may lead his day-to-day life by his hard-earned income. But he should not preserve the money or property for tomorrow. He must utilize the surplus money for society and the poor.

26. Ans: C

Explanation:

- The site of **Mohenjo Daro**, literally meaning 'Mound of the Dead' is one of the important sites of **Indus Valley Civilization (IVC).**
- It flourished in the Indus Valley between **roughly 3,300 BC and 1,300 BC**, with its '**mature**' phase spanning the period 2,600 BC to 1,900 BC.
- Excavation of **Mohenjo Daro was started in 1920** and continued in phases until 1964-65, even now only a small part of the site has been excavated.

- The prehistoric antiquity of Mohenjo Daro was established by **Rakhal Das Banerji** of the **Archaeological Survey of India in 1922.**
- Hence, **option C is correct.**

27. Ans: B

Exp:

- India's Constitution has been translated into **OI Chiki script** for the first time.
- The OI Chiki script, also known as **OI Chemet', OI Ciki, OI**, and sometimes as the **Santali alphabet**, is the official writing system for Santhali, an **Austroasiatic language** recognized as an official regional language in India.
- Bodo, Dogri, Maithili, and **Santhali** were added by the **92nd Amendment Act of 2003** which came into force in 2004.
- Hence, **option B is correct.**

28. Ans: B

Exp:

- **About Guru Ravidas:**
 - ◆ Guru Ravidas Jayanti was celebrated on 9th February, 2020.
 - ◆ Ravidas Jayanti is **celebrated on Magh Purnima**, the full moon day in the month of Magh according to the Hindu lunar calendar.
 - ◆ Guru Ravidas was a 14th-century saint and reformer of the **Bhakti movement** in North India. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct.**
 - It is believed that he was born in Varanasi in a cobbler's family.
 - ◆ He gained prominence due to his belief in one God and his unbiased religious poems. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
 - He dedicated his whole life to the abolition of the caste system and openly despised the notion of a Brahminical society.
 - His devotional songs made an instant impact on the Bhakti Movement and around 41 of his poems were included in '**Guru Granth Sahib**', the religious text of the Sikhs.

29. Ans: C

Exp:

- **Maulana Abul Kalam Azad**, originally named **Muhyuddin Ahmad**, was born in 1888 in **Mecca, Saudi-Arabia.**
- He was a **proponent of Hindu Muslim unity**, opposed to Partition.

- In 1912, he started a **weekly journal in Urdu called Al-Hilal** which played an important role in forging **Hindu-Muslim unity** after the bad blood created between the two communities in the aftermath of **Morley-Minto reforms (1909)**.

- ◆ Under the 1909 reforms, the provision of **separate electorates for Muslims was resented by Hindu**.

- The government regarded **Al-Hilal as a propagator of secessionist views and banned it** in 1914.
- Maulana Abul Kalam Azad then started another weekly called **Al-Balagh** with the same mission of **propagating Indian nationalism and revolutionary ideas** based on Hindu-Muslim unity.
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

30. Ans: C

Exp:

- **Statue of Prosperity** is the statue of **Nadaprabhu Kempegowda**. He was the **chieftain under the Vijayanagara Empire** of the 16th century. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ As per the **'World Book of Records'**, it is the **first and the tallest bronze statue** of a founder of a city.
- **Renowned sculptor and Padma Bhushan** awardee **Ram Vanji Sutar** has designed the statue. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ Sutar had built the **'Statue of Unity'** in Gujarat and the statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Bengaluru's **'Vidhana Soudha'**.

31. Ans: C

Exp:

- **Intangible cultural heritage** is the **practices, expressions, knowledge and skills** that **communities, groups** and sometimes **individuals** recognise as part of their **cultural heritage**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **The living cultural heritage can be expressed in one of the following forms:**
 - ◆ Oral Traditions
 - ◆ Performing Arts
 - ◆ Social Practices
 - ◆ Rituals and Festive events
 - ◆ Knowledge and Practices concerning nature and the universe
 - ◆ Traditional Craftsmanship
- UNESCO releases heritage textile crafts of India:
 - ◆ Toda embroidery and Sungudi from Tamil Nadu
 - ◆ Himroo weaves from Hyderabad, **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- ◆ Bandha tie and dye weaving from Sambalpur in Odisha
- ◆ Kunbi weaves from Goa
- ◆ Mashru weaves and Patola from Gujarat
- ◆ Himroo from Maharashtra
- ◆ Garad-Korial from West Bengal

32. Ans: A

Exp:

- **Rakhigarhi** is the **largest Harappan site** in the Indian subcontinent. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ Other large sites of Indus valley Civilization (Harappan civilization) in the Indian sub-continent are Harappa, Mohenjodaro and Ganveriwala in Pakistan and Dholavira (Gujarat) in India.
- At Rakhigarhi, excavations are being done to trace its beginnings and to study its gradual evolution from 6000 BCE (Pre-Harappan phase) to 2500 BCE.
 - ◆ The site was **excavated by Amarendra Nath of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The recent excavation of the Harappan site of Rakhigarhi by **ASI** has revealed the structure of some houses, lanes and drainage system.
 - ◆ The ASI excavations also revealed pieces of copper and gold jewellery, terracotta toys, besides thousands of earthen pots and seals.
 - ◆ Also, DNA samples were collected from two unearthed human skeletons and sent for scientific examination, the outcome might tell about the ancestry and food habits of people who lived in the Rakhigarhi region thousands of years ago.

33. Ans: D

Exp:

Major Types of Theyyam:

- **Vishnumoorthi:** There are **only two Vaishnava Theyyams – Daivatar and Vishnumoorthi**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ These Theyyams are believed to be the incarnations of Lord Vishnu.
 - ◆ This Theyyam narrates the story of Palanthai Kanna who was a great devotee of Lord Vishnu.
- **Gulikan:** Gulikan is believed to be an incarnation of Yama, the Hindu god of death and justice.
 - ◆ According to Indian mythology, Gulikan was one of the most important warriors of Lord Shiva.
- **Kuttichathan:** It is the **theyyam of Brahmin caste**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

- ◆ Kuttichathan theyyam is considered to have originated for Lord Shiva in Vishnu Maaya.

34. Ans: A

Exp:

- The term Lingayat denotes a person who wears a personal linga, an iconic form of god Shiva, on the body which is received during the initiation ceremony.
- Lingayats are the **followers of the 12th-century social reformer-philosopher poet, Basaveshwara. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Basaveshwara was against the caste system and Vedic rituals.
- The **Lingayats are strict monotheists.** They enjoin the worship of only one God, namely, Linga (Shiva). **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The word 'Linga' does not mean Linga established in temples, but universal consciousness qualified by the universal energy (Shakti).
- Lingayats had been classified as a Hindu subcaste called "Veerashaiva Lingayats" and they are considered to be Shaivites.

35. Ans: B

Exp:

- **Kashi Tamil Sangamam** celebrates many aspects of the historical and civilisational connection between **India's North and South.**
- This programme is part of **Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat** initiative. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The Kashi Tamil Sangamam is in sync with **National Education Policy (NEP), 2020's** emphasis on integrating the wealth of Indian Knowledge Systems with modern systems of knowledge.
- **IIT Madras and Banaras Hindu University (BHU)** are the two implementing agencies for the programme. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

36. Ans: A

Exp:

Chisti:

- Chishtiya Order was **founded in India by Khwaja Moin-Uddin Chishti.**
- It **emphasised the doctrine of the unity of being with God** (wahdat al-wujūd) and members of the order were also pacifists. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- They **rejected all material goods as distractions from the contemplation of God.**
- They abstained from connection with the secular state.
- The **members of the Suhrawardi order, unlike the Chishtis, accepted maintenance grants from the Sultans. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

37. Ans: A

Exp:

- Mahavir was born to **King Siddhartha of Kundagrama** and Queen Trishala, a Lichchavi princess in the year 540 BC in the **Vajji kingdom**, identical with modern day Vaishali in Bihar. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Mahavira belonged to the **Ikshvaku dynasty. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- There are several historians who believe that he was born in a place called Ahalya bhumi and the land has not been plowed for hundreds of years by the family that owns it.
- Lord Mahavir was named Vardhamana, which means "one who grows".
- He abandoned worldly life at the age of 30 and attained 'kaivalya' or omniscience at the age of 42.
- Mahavira taught ahimsa (non-violence), Satya (truth), asteya (non-stealing), brahmacharya (chastity) and aparigraha (non-attachment) to his disciples and his teachings were called Jain Agamas.
- Ordinary people were able to understand the teachings of Mahavira and his followers **because they used Prakrit. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- It is believed that the Mahavira passed away and attained moksha (liberation from the cycle of birth and death) at the age of 72 in 468 BC at a place called Pavapuri near modern Rajgir in Bihar.

38. Ans: C

Exp:

Traditional New Year Festivals

● Vishu:

- ◆ It is a Hindu festival celebrated in the Indian state of Kerala, Tulu Nadu region in Karnataka, Mahé district of Union Territory of Pondicherry, neighbouring areas of Tamil Nadu and their diaspora communities. Hence, pair 1 is not correctly matched.
- ◆ The festival marks the first day of Medam, the ninth month in the solar calendar in Kerala.
- ◆ It therefore always falls in the middle of April in the Gregorian calendar on 14th or 15th April every year.

● Puthandu:

- ◆ Also known as Puthuvarudam or Tamil New Year, is the first day of the year on the Tamil calendar and is traditionally celebrated as a festival. **Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.**



- ◆ The festival date is set with the solar cycle of the lunisolar Hindu calendar, as the first day of the Tamil month Chithirai.
- ◆ It, therefore, falls on or about 14th April every year on the Gregorian calendar.
- **Bohag Bihu:**
 - ◆ Bohag Bihu or Rongali Bihu also called **Xaat Bihu** (seven Bihus) is a traditional aboriginal ethnic festival **celebrated in the state of Assam** and other parts of northeastern India by the indigenous ethnic groups of Assam. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**
 - ◆ It marks the beginning of the Assamese New Year.
 - ◆ It usually falls in the 2nd week of April, historically signifying the time of harvest.
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

39. Ans: A

Exp:

- A **World Heritage Site** is a place that is listed by UNESCO for its special cultural or physical significance.
 - ◆ The list of World Heritage Sites is maintained by the international 'World Heritage Programme', **administered by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee.**
 - ◆ This is embodied in an international treaty called the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, **adopted by UNESCO in 1972. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- India is home to a total of **3691 monuments and sites.** Of these **40 are designated as UNESCO World Heritage Sites.**
- Including places like the Taj Mahal, **Ajanta Caves and Ellora Caves.** World Heritage Sites also include natural sites like the **Kaziranga National Park in Assam.**
 - ◆ Harappan city of **Dholavira** in Gujarat as India's 40th world heritage site.
 - ◆ **Ramappa Temple (Telangana)** was India's 39th World Heritage Site.
 - ◆ **Khangchendzonga National Park, Sikkim** has been inscribed as India's first and the only "Mixed World Heritage Site". **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

40. Ans: A

Exp:

- A **megalith** is a large stone that has been used to construct a prehistoric structure or monument, either alone or together with other stones.
 - ◆ Megaliths were **constructed either as burial sites or commemorative** (non-sepulchral) memorials.

- ◆ The former are sites with actual burial remains, such as **dolmenoid cists** (box-shaped stone burial chambers), **cairn circles** (stone circles with defined peripheries) and **capstones** (distinctive mushroom-shaped burial chambers found mainly in Kerala).
- In India, **archaeologists trace the majority of the megaliths to the Iron Age (1500 BC to 500 BC)**, though some sites precede the Iron Age, **extending up to 2000 BC. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Megaliths are spread across the Indian subcontinent. The majority of megalithic sites are found in Peninsular India, concentrated in the states of **Maharashtra** (mainly in Vidarbha), **Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

41. Ans: B

Exp:

- The Sangeet Natak Akademi is **India's national academy for music, dance and drama. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- It is presently an **Autonomous Body of the Ministry of Culture**, Government of India and is fully funded by the Government for implementation of its schemes and programmes. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Akademi establishes and looks after institutions and projects of national importance in the field of the performing arts. Few important ones are:
 - National School of Drama, New Delhi was set up in 1959
 - **Jawaharlal Nehru Manipur Dance Academy in Imphal-1954**
 - Kathak Kendra (National Institute of Kathak Dance) in New Delhi-1964
 - ◆ National Projects of Support to Kutiyattam (Sanskrit theatre of Kerala), Chhau dances of eastern India, Sattriya traditions of Assam, etc. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

42. Ans: A

Exp:

Buddhism

- Started in India over 2,600 years ago, **Buddhism is a religion based upon the teachings**, life experiences of its founder **Siddhartha Gautam.**
 - ◆ The essence of Buddhism is the **attainment of enlightenment or nirvana** which was not a place but an experience that could be attained in this life.



- Some **Famous Buddhish Texts** are:
 - ◆ Vinaya Pitaka (rules applicable to monastic life)
 - ◆ Sutta Pitaka (main teaching or Dhamma of Buddha)
 - ◆ Abhidhamma Pitaka (a philosophical analysis and systematisation of the teaching).

● Therefore, option A is correct.

43. Ans: B

Exp:

Guru Tegh Bahadur:

- Guru Tegh Bahadur was the ninth Sikh Guru, often venerated as the **'Protector of Humanity' (Srishti-di-Chadar) by the Sikhs.**
- Known as a great teacher, Guru Tegh Bahadur was also an **excellent warrior, thinker, and poet, who wrote detailed descriptions of the nature** of God, mind, body, and physical attachments among other spiritual things.
- His writings are housed in the sacred text, **'Guru Granth Sahib,'** in the form of 116 poetic hymns.
- He was also an avid traveler and played a key role in setting up preaching centers throughout the Indian subcontinent.
- During one such mission, he founded the town of Chak-Nanki in Punjab, which later became a part of Punjab's Anandpur Sahib.
- In the year 1675, Guru Tegh Bahadur was executed in Delhi under the orders of the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb.
- Hence, option B is correct.

44. Ans: C

Exp:

Feroz Shah Tughlaq:

- He was born in 1309 and ascended the throne of Delhi after the demise of his cousin Muhammad-bin-Tughlaq.
- He was the **third ruler of the Tughlaq dynasty** that ruled over Delhi from 1320 to 1412 AD. Tughlaq was in power from 1351 to 1388 AD. Hence statement 1 is correct.
- He was the one who **started the imposition of Jaziya.** Jaziya' or 'Jizya' implies a per capita yearly taxation historically levied in the form of financial charge on permanent non-Muslim subjects of a state governed by Islamic law to fund public expenditures of the state. Hence statement 2 is correct.
- He provided the principle of inheritance to the armed forces where the officers were permitted to rest and send their children to the army in their place. However, they were not paid in real money but by land.

- The British called him the 'father of the irrigation department' because of the many gardens and canals that he built.

45. Ans: B

Exp:

Coins in Gupta Period:

- **Gupta coinage (4th-6th centuries AD) followed the tradition of the Kushans,** depicting the king on the obverse and a deity on the reverse; the deities were Indian, and the legends were in Brahmi.
 - ◆ The **Satavahana coins carried the motifs of fauna** like elephants, lions, bulls, horses, etc. often **juxtaposed against motifs from nature** like hills, trees, etc. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
 - ◆ The silver coins of the Satavahanas carried portraits and bilingual legends, which were inspired by the Kshatrapa types.
- The earliest Gupta coins are attributed to Samudragupta, Chandragupta II and Kumaragupta and **their coins often commemorate dynastic succession** as well as **significant socio-political events, like marriage alliances,** the horse sacrifice, or for that matter artistic and personal accomplishments of royal members (Lyrist, Archer, Lion-slayer etc.). Hence, statement 2 is correct.

46. Ans: B

Exp:

- Gautam Buddha was born as **Siddhartha Gautama** in circa **563 BCE,** in a royal family in **Lumbini** which is situated near the Indo-Nepal border. Hence, pair 1 is not correctly matched.
 - ◆ His family belonged to the **Sakya clan** which ruled from **Kapilvastu, Lumbini.**
- At the age of 29, Gautama left home and rejected his life of riches and **embraced a lifestyle of asceticism** or extreme self-discipline.
- After 49 consecutive days of meditation, Gautam attained Bodhi (**enlightenment**) under a pipal tree at **Bodhgaya, Bihar.** Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.
- Buddha gave his **first sermon** in the village of **Sarnath,** near **Varanasi** in Uttar Pradesh. This event is known as Dharma Chakra Pravartana (turning of the wheel of law). Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.
- He **died** at the age of 80 in 483 BCE at **Kushinagara,** Uttar Pradesh. The event is known as **Mahaparinibban or Mahaparinirvana.** Hence, pair 4 is not correctly matched.
- He is believed to be the **eighth** of the ten incarnations of Lord Vishnu (Dashavatar).
- Here, **Pair 2 and Pair 3 are correctly matched.** Hence, option B is correct.

